

## J&K's Healthcare Sector Facing Inadequate Human Resources Crisis: Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

**Srinagar:** Jammu & Kashmir's health care sector is battling a major crisis in the face of inadequate Human Resources for Health (HRH) as a latest analysis of key state-wise parameters of registered doctors, nurses and midwives revealed that the Union Territory has scored lower than the national average of 33.5 percent and World Health Organization's (WHO) benchmark of 44.5 percent.

According to the Health Ministry Data, as per WHO's recommendation of 44.5 HRH per 10,000 population, 12 out

of 30 states in India have qualified the benchmark. However, J&K has failed to achieve the required score. The report said that analysis of key state-wise parameters of registered doctors and nurses and midwives per 10,000 population has observed that J&K has only scored 11.6 percent, substantially lower than the national average and WHO's benchmark.

The report further pointed to the fact that despite the government sector being able to provide education for more than 60% of doctors, 50% of nurses and midwives in India were employed in the private



sector, with public facilities in different states reporting high levels of vacancies against the sanctioned posts.

**THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO INCREASE** the number of medical seats at the state level to help cover the shortage of doctors through implementing various initiatives."

Based on the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 2018 data, the report said that nurse-to-doctor ratio in India was estimated to be 1.7:1, which is lower than the recommendation of 3:1 as per the Indian High Level Expert Group (HLEG).

Even though the nurse-to-doctor ratio in India was

lower than the given recommendation, a large-scale difference in the ratio was found in J&K as there were less than one nurse per doctor in the Union Territory, prompting "a need to strike the right balance between allied health professionals and doctors". According to the data, J&K has the third lowest **| More on P10**



## Kashmir's Higher Reaches Receive Snowfall

Zaid Bin Shabir

**Srinagar:** The higher reaches of Kashmir Valley on Tuesday received fresh snowfall while the rains lashed plains dipping the day temperature sharply, officials said.

Deputy Director, Meteorological Department, Mukhtar Ahmed told Kashmir Observer on Tuesday that weather is most likely to remain cloudy at most places in J&K with rain and snowfall expected in some parts of the Valley.

"The weather is likely to improve from midnight today. We're expecting a fresh spell of rain in plains from Wednesday afternoon and snowfall in higher reaches," Mukhtar Ahmed said, adding that the temperatures will come down by 4-5 degrees in Kashmir on Wednesday.

As per the Deputy Director, in Kashmir, higher reaches of Shopian and Gulmarg witnessed snowfall.

The official further said that there's no major forecast of any major rain in the coming week but a brief spell of occasional light rain with thunderstorms can't be ruled out at some places.

Meanwhile, a Met official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 7.0°C against 7.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.9°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 6.0°C against 5.0°C on the previous four consecutive nights. The temperature was 1.6°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 4.5°C against 2.6°C on the previous night and it was 3.0°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said.

Kokernag recorded a low of 6.1°C against 7.0°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C above normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 2.2°C against 4.0°C on the previous night and it **| More on P10**

## 2 Labourers From UP Killed In Shopian Grenade Attack

Press Trust Of India

**Srinagar:** Two labourers hailing from Uttar Pradesh were killed apparently in their sleep when terrorists lobbed a grenade at them on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday in militancy-infested Shopian district of South Kashmir, officials said.

The incident took place at around 12.30 am on Tuesday when the victims identified as Monish Kumar and Ram Sagar, natives of UP's Kannauj district, were sleeping in a tin shed constructed as an outhouse, the officials said, adding the duo was working in the apple orchards as labourers.

The fresh attack came two days after terrorists shot dead Kashmiri pandit Puraan Krishan Bhat outside his house at Gund village in the same district.

The labourers, who had come to the Kashmir valley two months ago, were rushed to a

hospital where they succumbed to their injuries.

Additional Director General of Police (Kashmir range) Vijay Kumar said a hybrid terrorist of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba group, who lobbed the grenade, has been arrested, along with another person who is believed to be working for banned Hizbul Mujahideen terror group.

Hybrid terrorists are unlisted radicalised youths who carry out terror strikes and slip back into their routine lives often without leaving any trace.

Talking to media in Shopian, Kumar said raids had been carried out immediately after the unfortunate news about the killings came and "we have been able to arrest two persons involved in the heinous crime while search is on for the others".

"We will soon neutralise the Lashkar-e-Taiba man who was behind this attack," he added.

The arrested **| More on P10**



A vendor takes cover under his cart during heavy rainfall in Srinagar on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

## KPs Propose Fact-Finding Delegation To Valley

Several Kashmiri migrant pandit organisations on Tuesday expressed concern over the unabated targeted killings by militants in the Valley and proposed a fact-finding delegation to assess the ground situation.

Panun Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Vichar Manch, Roots in Kashmir, Youth 4 Panun Kashmir and Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD) representatives met and discussed the situation in the valley in the aftermath of the continued attacks on minority community members, **| More on P10**

**TERRORISM IS A CURSE FOR THE CIVILISED SOCIETY.** People from every community must come together to condemn heinous acts and root out terror and its elements."

## CIVILIAN KILLINGS

## Terrorists Will Have To Pay A Very High Price: LG

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that perpetrators and those aiding and abetting terrorists have made a huge mistake by killing civilians and they will have to pay a very heavy price for their heinous act.

Sinha made these remarks during the unveiling event of a book 'The Slum Queen' by Rouble Nagi at Raj Bhawan Auditorium here on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, paid tributes to martyred civilians and urged people to come together to root out terrorism &



## NOW THERE ARE NO CALLS FOR BANDHS

in Kashmir at the behest of neighboring country. Now a common man can earn his livelihood peacefully. We have succeeded in Choking Terror funding and recruitment to a large extent."

its ecosystem. Sinha, he said, also urged every section of the society to identify those who are misguiding the people and trying to disrupt the peace and development process in the UT. **| More on P10**

## Liquor, RTD Beverage Consumption J&K Witnessed Marked Decline In Last 5 Years: Excise Data

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** Liquor and other alcoholic beverage consumption in Jammu and Kashmir has marked a major decline over the past five years with boozers drinking nearly 90,000 bottles of different brands per day this year, as per Excise Department data.

In 2017-18, the daily sales of high and low content alcoholic bottles stood at 1.61 lakh.

However, revenue generation is on the rise and is likely to reach Rs 1,900 crore at the end of the current financial year, which is more than double

compared to the figures of over Rs 845 crore in 2017-18, Excise Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma said.

Sharing the data on the abstract sale of liquor and revenue generated for the last five years with PTI, the officer said the government has been making attempts to encourage transition from high content to low content harmless alcohol among the boozers.

As per the official data, over 5.90 crore bottles of Indian made foreign liquor (IMFL), JK Special Whisky, Beer and Ready-to-Drink (RTD) were sold in 2017-18, followed **| More on P10**

## S H O R T T A K E S

### SIA Raids Social Media Handler's House

State Investigation Agency Kashmir Tuesday conducted a raid at the residence of Social Media handler in Magam area for involvement in publishing of criminal content on social media, an official said.

In a statement, the SIA said that it conducted a raid at the house of a Social Media handler at Magam involved in publishing of criminal content on the Social Media at the behest of militants/secessionist elements. On reliable information, Case FIR No. 18/2022 U/S 153-A, 505,506 IPC and 13 UA(P) Act **| More on P10**

### BSF Shoots Down Pak Drone

A Pakistani drone carrying suspected narcotics has been shot down by the Border Security Force along the International Border in Punjab's Amritsar, an official said on Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday around 8:30 pm in Chhana village of the district, a BSF spokesperson said.

This is the third such incident in the past four days at the Punjab front. "Troops of 183rd battalion deployed at border heard buzzing sound of suspected **| More on P10**

### J&K Adds Two More Corona Cases

Two more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in the Union Territory to 479252.

According to officials, one new case each was reported from the twin capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu during the last 24 hours. During the same time, they said, one more Covid-19 patient recovered from the deadly infection. Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic **| More on P10**

### Man Killed In Lightning Strike



A man died on Tuesday in a lightning strike in South Kashmir's Shopian district. Bashir Ahmad Parray was inside a cow shed in his native Budherhama village of the district on Tuesday evening when the lightning struck the structure, leaving him **| More on P10**

### Woman Crushed To Death

A middle-aged woman on Tuesday was killed after being hit by a car along Srinagar-Leh highway in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 56 year-old Mugli Begum of Chiner village of Kangan was mowed down by an i20 car in Prang area of the district, reports said.

The woman sustained critical injuries in the accident. She was immediately evacuated to Sub-district hospital (SDH) Kangan where doctors declared her brought dead. Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

### SIU Conducts Searches In Pulwama

The State Investigation Unit (SIU) team of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday conducted searches at seven different locations in South Kashmir's Pulwama district. News agency KNO quoting an official reported that SIU conducted searches at the residence of Jahangir Ganaie and Younis Ahmad Mir in Armulla Pulwama besides that they conducted searches at the residence of Farooq Ahmad Dar in Niloora Pulwama. He said that the trio has been already arrested in case under FIR number 65/22 in Police station Litter. **| More on P10**



# Healthy Carbs You Should Be Eating

Learn the best whole-food, nutrient-dense sources of carbohydrates.

### Sweet Potatoes

The intense orange color of sweet potatoes is part of what makes these tubers so healthy. They're chock-full of beta carotene, the precursor to vitamin A, which is essential for vision and a healthy immune system. You can drink your daily dose of sweet potatoes in this Sweet Potato-Pear-Cinnamon Juice.

### Legumes

Lentils and beans contain complex carbohydrates, as well as fiber and protein. These qualities make it a food that fills you up.

### Milk

Milk and other dairy products, like yogurt and cottage cheese, contain lactose — a type of sugar. Milk also delivers protein and sodium; the combination of these three components makes it a good beverage after intense workouts, according to research.

### Fruit

Fruit is the best way to satisfy your sweet tooth. Fruit gets its sweetness from fructose, which is balanced with fiber, water, phytochemicals, vitamins and minerals. While low-carb diets tend to shun sweeter fruits, like ba-



nanas and mangoes, these are actually a great source of quick energy.

### Popcorn

Popcorn is actually a whole grain and it's high in antioxidants. Since the kernels pop up so big, you get 3 1/2 cups in a 1-ounce serving (if you air pop it, that clocks in at 110 calories and 4 grams of fiber).

### Potatoes

Potatoes are an excellent source of vitamin C and potassium and offer several other necessary nutrients, as well as a good dose of fiber — 4 grams in a medium potato. Although potatoes have a high glycemic index, it's rare that you eat them solo; mashing them with milk, topping with cheese and eating the fiber-rich skin takes that glycemic index down, keeping your blood sugar from spiking.

### Whole Grains

Two sources you're probably familiar with are 100-percent whole grain pasta and bread, but explore other truly unprocessed grains — like rye, farro, oats and quinoa — for added health benefits. Each grain offers a slightly different profile: quinoa delivers "complete" protein, while oats are a great way to get cholesterol-lowering soluble fiber.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bandipora.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh E-NIT No: (133) of 2022-23 DATED:-17-10-2022.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis/percentage age basis from approved and eligible Civil registered with Union Territory J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works.

S No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of Tender document (IN Rs.)	Earnest money (IN Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Construction of drain from House Gulzar Ahmad Haji to House of Muzaffar Ahmad Wani at Ward No.15 Dachigam MC Bandipora	1.00	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	2000.00	21 Days	25-10-2022 at 4:30 PM	DEE	M-H IDMT 2022-23

Position of AAA= Accorded

1.The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1. Date of issue of Tender Notice	17-10-2022
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 17-10-2022 from 2:30 PM
3. Bid Submission Start date	17-10-2022 from 2:30 PM
4. Bid Submission End date	25-10-2022 upto 04.00 P.M.
5. Last Date for receiving the hard copy (Original DD & EMD)	Hard copies shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as lowest bidder (L1) at the time opening of tenders. The cost of tender document will be collected through e-Challan/Treasury 0059. However the successful bidders will submit the same after the opening of Bids online. Note:- All bidder must upload EMD in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora @ 2 % of advertised Cost
6. Date & time of opening of Bids (online)	25-10-2022 at 4:30 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora.

Note: The Bidder will mention the Contact No. and Bidder Name in the BoQ

2.Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents under MH-0059 in shape of Treasury Receipt favoring to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (tender inviting authority).Indicating S.No of Nit, Name of work and Earnest Money / Bid Security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B Division Bandipora (Tender receiving authority).

3. The bidder who is declared as L1 shall deposit 3% Performance security of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/ FDR Pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora (Tender inviting authority) and the 2% EMD shall be Released in favour of the successful bidder only after the receipt of 3% performance security.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

6. The earnest money shall be fortified, if:-

- Any bidder/ tendered withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate" (DSC) as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get Digital certificate from any approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in para -1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original/ photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically/ by registered post/ through courier before the date specified in para-1
- The bidder who is declared as L1 shall deposit 3% performance security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora Tender issuing authority and the 2% EMD shall be released only after the receipt of the same.
- The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms, conditions are as per PWD Form-25 (Double agreement

DIPK-11904/22

S/d. Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora

No:-EE/R&B/Bandi/

Date:-18-10-2022.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

GREEN VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

DHOBIWAN, KUNZER KASHMIR

Managing Committee

A Managing Committee of following members has been framed afresh for the school in question. It is, as such, Published for inviting objections, if any, and the same should reach office of the Principal GVPS Dhobiwan within seven days. No objections will be entertained and acknowledged after the expiry of the stipulated time.

S.N	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
1	Noor ud Din Ganie	Ghulam Mohi ud Din Ganie	Sherabad Khore Dhobiwan	MA.,B.Ed	Retired Employee	Chairman
2	Owais Ahmad Parray	Ab Fatah Parray	Dhobiwan	B.A.,B.Ed	Principal	General Secretary
3	Bilal Ahmad Wani	Gh Nabi Wani	Barzulla	B.A.,B.Ed	Unemployed	Vice- Chairman
4	Arifa Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Parray	Dhobiwan	M.A.,B.Ed	Unemployed	Treasurer/ Member
5	Nazir Ahmad Khan	Wali Muhammad Khan	Dhobiwan	12,h	Retired Employee	Parent (Member)
6	Muhammad Shafi Parray	Fatha Mohamad Parray	Dhobiwan	12th	Unemployed	Parent (Member)
7	Muhammad Yaseen Malla	Samadullah Malla	Dhobiwan	12th	Unemployed	Parent (Member)

bmj

Green Vale Public School Dhobiwan, Kunzer Kashmir

FATEHA KHWANI

With profound grief and heavy heart we inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved Hakim Tajamul Hussain of Gogji Bagh, Srinagar.

His congregational Fateha Khwani shall be held at his ancestral graveyard at Hassanabad on Wednesday at 6.30 AM after which condolences will be received throughout the day at Farhat Afza, Gogji Bagh.

BEREAVED

Justice (Rtd) Hakim Imtyaz Hussain

Syed Shabbir Hussain Rizvi

Dr Ayaz Akbar

Syed Rahil Mohsin

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR SRINAGAR

(NAAC Accredited Grade 'A')

RESULT NOTIFICATION

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Shafaq Muzaffar D/O Muzaffar Ali bearing University Registration No. 23025-AW-2010 who pursued her Integrated Ph.D programme on whole-time basis in the discipline of English, through South Campus, School of Arts Language and Literature and submitted thesis titled "Neo-colonialism and Neo-orientalism in Contemporary Afghanistan: A Study of the Select Novels of Khalcd Hosseini and Nadeem Aslam" under the supervision of Dr. Shabir Hussain, Assistant Professor, South Campus, University of Kashmir is declared qualified for the award of Ph.D Degree on October) 06, 2022.

Deputy Controller of Examination ( Secrecy-D)

Controller Of Examination

Errors & Omissions Accepted

No. F(Ph.D-English SC/Sec/KU/22

Dated: October 17, 2022

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK05-6725. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hilal Ahmad Shah

R/o Ranbir Pora Tangmarg Baramulla

TAKO

SKUAST-Kashmir Scientist

Figured Consecutively Second

Time In Stanford USA Top 2%

World Ranking

SKUAST-Kashmir Scientist Dr. Shabir Ahmad Ganai, a young face from Basic Sciences and Humanities, FoA, Wadura Figured in the World Ranking of Top 2% Scientists" in 2022 database (Published:10 October 2022) created by Stanford University, USA experts in concert with Elsevier BV and Plos Biology. This selection is framed on c-score or a percentile rank of 2% or over. This is second consecutive time for Dr. Shabir Ahmad Ganai to get Figured in this list.

fko





## Power Shutdown In Downtown Areas On 20th October

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Chief Engineer (Distribution) Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation has informed that there will be a power shutdown on 20th October of some 33 KV lines in order to facilitate works at Receiving Station Rainawari.

The power supply on 33 KV line Wanganpora-BAMK-Kathi Darwaza, Receiving Station Kathi Darwaza shall remain affected on 20th October from 10:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m. The load to remain off is 21.04 MW.

Likewise, the power supply on 33 KV line

Wanganpora-Rainawari, Receiving stations Rainawari and Khanyar shall remain affected on 20th October from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The load to remain off is 26 MW.

The decision has been taken in view of the request by the Superintending Engineer O&M KPDCL Circle 1st for the shutdown of 33KV lines in order to facilitate the works at the Receiving Station Rainawari.

In reference to the request by SE, The Chief Engineer states "It is hereby intimated that the said shutdown as per the proposed schedule is hereby approved for further necessary action at your end,"

## "AR,JA Posts Being Readvertised Due To Covid-19 Disruptions"

Agencies

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir on Tuesday strongly denied reports in a section of press that the recruitment process for positions of Assis-

examinations for both Assistant Registrar and Junior Assistant positions were held within a two-year time span and the Mains examination was conducted well within the six-month extension



tant Registrar/Assistant Controller and Junior Assistant was cancelled due to alleged malpractices.

In a statement, a KU spokesperson said around 5500 applications were received for positions of Assistant Registrar/Assistant Controller, and 6000 applications were received for positions of Junior Assistant. The entire recruitment process had to be completed within a span of two years which couldn't be possible due to recurring disruptions caused by Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent directions from the government not to hold any offline examinations during the pandemic period.

"In view of this constraint, it became impossible for the university to conduct examinations in offline mode for such a huge number of applicants," the spokesperson said.

"As the pandemic waned, the process was initiated and the Prelims

period granted only as a result of preceding delay due to Covid-19," the spokesperson said.

The University recently placed the matter before the Honourable LG, requesting for grant of further extension in the life of the advertisement and/or orders for re-advertising the posts. The Honourable LG approved re-advertising of the posts and the same orders have been executed by the University.

The recruitment process to these positions was cancelled only because the entire process had to be completed within a span of two years which couldn't happen due to circumstances beyond the University's control.

It is clarified that the whole process was conducted in the most transparent manner and that there was no malpractice involved at any stage as is being falsely alleged in some news reports, the spokesperson said. (GNS)



Netizens voice displeasure over the disposal of leftovers of Wazwan thrown on Safa Kadal. Pic: Social Media

## 2 Week Research Methodology Course Begins At GCW

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A two-week Refresher Course in Research Methodology (Multidisciplinary) commenced at Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road here on Tuesday.

The course is being jointly organized by Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road, a constituent college of Cluster University Srinagar and UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, University of Kashmir.

Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Qayyum Husain was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function while Director, UGC-HRDC, Kashmir University, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi was the Guest of Honour. Others present on the occasion included Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University Srinagar (CUS), Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Incharge Registrar (CUS), Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Mir and Coordinator HRDC-



Kashmir University, Dr. Sumeer Gul.

In his inaugural address, Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Qayyum appreciated the initiative of the host college, particularly Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Ruhi Jan Kanth, to organize the refresher course.

He referred to the measures suggested by National Education Policy (NEP-2020) under Continuous Professional Development (CPD) wherein teachers will get opportunities for self-improvement and learn the latest advances in their respective fields. "In this respect, refresher courses and other such programmes are important," Prof.

Qayyum said.

He advised the faculty members to avail opportunities to conduct research abroad while referring to various international faculty exchange and other programmes available for Indian scholars including Fulbright (US), Humboldt (Germany) and JSPS (Japan).

Prof. Qayyum shared his own experience as a researcher when he got the opportunity to work in reputed universities abroad and how it made him a better researcher and teacher. The Vice Chancellor referred to various steps taken by Cluster University to promote research in the

constituent colleges.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Principal of the host college, Prof. Ruhi Jan Kanth said programmes like refresher courses have assumed more relevance in the light of NEP-2020 which emphasizes on research and faculty development programmes.

"Colleges and universities have been asked to focus on research and innovation," she said while adding that the host college serves as a research hub in Home Science & Human Development and also has an Innovation and Incubation Centre to cater to the needs of young innovators.

Speaking on the occasion, Director, UGC-HRDC, Kashmir University, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi referred to the various programmes being conducted by HRDC, saying that the centre focuses on teacher training to facilitate their professional development and dissemination of quality knowledge in the classrooms.

## CJ Launches "NSTEP App" For Srinagar District

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, today paid his maiden visit to District Court Complex Moominabad, Srinagar after assuming the office as Chief Justice.

On the occasion, the Chief Justice launched an "Application" called National Services and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) for Srinagar district, an initiative of the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India. The purpose of this initiative is effective service of summons and notices in both civil and criminal

cases electronically, whereby the notice shall be generated in CIS system and such summons/notices shall be transmitted to process server on his smart phone.

The process server shall approach the concerned notice, obtain his signature on the smart phone and take the snap of the notice and forward the same to the concerned court which shall be treated as valid service of notice upon the noticee. The launch of this NSTEP service in District Srinagar is a great step so far as electronic service of processes is concerned.

Chief Justice had a detailed interaction with the Bar members including its young members.

Earlier, Chief Justice was received by Principal District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, Jawad Ahmad, all Judicial Officers and bar members.

Justice Magrey issued on spot directions for redressal of most of the issues raised by the Bar.

Responding to demand projected by the Bar members regarding filling up of the vacancies of Judges at District Headquarters, Chief Justice assured them that these vacancies will be filled up within weeks' time.

The Chief Justice had a meeting with the officers of civil and police administration to take stock of all the pending issues mostly related to infrastructure.

## CS Stresses On Providing 24x7 Water Supply In Urban Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday impressed upon the Housing & Urban Development Department (HU&DD) to work for providing round the clock quality water supply to all the urban areas here in J&K.

He made these remarks while speaking in a UT Level Steering Committee meeting of AMRUT 2.0.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary RDD; Commissioners of JMC & SMC; Chief Engineers and other concerned officers.

Dr Mehta underscored the need for providing drinking water to all the urban households meeting all quality stan-



dards and pressure. He asked them to provide a minimum of 135 litres per capita per day to all the households as mandated under National policy.

He asked them that the department should continuously work towards improving their quality of services provided to people. He told them to saturate their services in all the urban areas under the AMRUT 2.0.

Dr Mehta also stressed on

augmenting the water sources and making them sustainable for future. He asked them to take scientific measures towards this direction including planting of trees around them. He called for taking cost effective measures for successfully completing the AMRUT 2.0 in the scheduled time.

The Chief Secretary also asked them to make a Sewage/Septage plan for all urban areas

for its better management. He suggested recycling of waters for industrial or non-domestic uses.

He also asked them to formulate a robust IEC plan for the awareness of the general public. He gave in principle approval to the UT Water Action Plan and said that together with the Jal Jeevan Mission it would fulfill the goal of providing functional tap water connection to each household of J&K.

It was given out in the meeting that under AMRUT 2.0, some 2.25 lakh tap connections would be provided and more than 4 lakh connections would be augmented. Similarly around 310 MLD quantity of source water would be augmented. The department is also going to provide around 73000 sewage connections in urban areas and add/augment 54 Sewage treatment plants under AMRUT 2.0, ad was revealed in the meeting.

It is pertinent to mention here that the national mission of AMRUT has been envisaged to ensure that every household has access to a tap with the assured supply of water and a sewerage connection. It also aims at reducing pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport like walking, cycling etc.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



### HIGHWAY STATUS



Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open )  
Mughal Road - ( Closed )  
Srinagar- Leh- ( Open )



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
22 Rabi ul Awwal  
1444

### PRAYERS

FAJR	5:17
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4:15
Magrib	5:57
ISHA	7:16

### This Day In History

- 1466 - The Thirteen Years' War ends with the Second Peace of Thorn, Germany
- 1512 - Martin Luther becomes a doctor of theology (Doctor in Biblia)
- 1739 - England declares war on Spain [OS=Oct 30]
- 1812 - Napoleon's forces begin their retreat from Moscow
- 1818 - US Government & Chickasaw Indians sign a treaty
- 1859 - Wilhelm Tempel discovers diffuse nebula around Pleid star Merope
- 1912 - Tripoli (Libya) passes from Turkish to Italian control
- 1913 - At a meeting of the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) in Durban, NIC secretaries, M. C. Anglia and Dada Osman, severely criticise Mahatma Gandhi and tender their resignations
- 1915 - Russia and Italy declare war on Bulgaria
- 1916 - France extends formal recognition of the Provisional Government in Crete proclaimed Eleftherios Venizelos
- 1925 - Italian army takes Somalia
- 1926 - Russian Politburo throws out Leon Trotsky and his followers
- 1932 - British government signs trade agreement with Soviet Union
- 1935 - Mao Zedong's army reaches Shanxi
- 1944 - British Prime Minister Winston Churchill flies back to London from Moscow
- 1950 - UN forces entered Pyongyang, capital of North Korea
- 1951 - US President Harry Truman formally ends state of war with Germany
- 1953 - 1st jet transcontinental nonstop scheduled service
- 1954 - Egypt & Great Britain sign treaty; British troops departs
- 1954 - First ascent of Cho Oyu, sixth highest mountain in the world at 8,201 metres
- 1960 - France grants Mauritania independence
- 1960 - Martin Luther King Jr. arrested in Atlanta sit-in
- 1960 - US imposes embargo on exports to Cuba
- 1967 - Mariner 5 makes fly-by of Venus
- 1973 - Saudi Arabia, Libya, and other Arab states proclaim an embargo on oil exports to the United States
- 1976 - US President Gerald Ford signs 1st major revision of copyright law since 1909
- 1976 - Battle of Aishiyah, Lebanon during Lebanese Civil War.
- 1981 - Nicolaas Bloembergen & Arthur Schawlow win Nobel Prize for Physics (laser)

*From KO Archives*

## Court Orders JKB debtor's Arrest

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The additional district judge, bank cases, Srinagar, has ordered the arrest of an alleged debtor of the Jammu and Kashmir bank ltd and recovery of Rs 36,14,943.25 from him. In an order dated October 18, re-turnable on or before November 20,2000, the judge directed the station house officer (SHO), police station, Nishat, to arrest Ghulam Rasool Vakil s/o Munshi Abdul Majid Vakil of Vakil Manzil, 4th bridge, Zainakadal, Srinagar, at present residing at Ishber. Nishat (alongwith two more judgement debtors).

According to the order, Vakil was adjudged by a decree of the court in suit No 84 of 1990 dated 3.6.1999 to pay to the bank Rs 8,67,552.25 which he failed to pay to the decree holder. Adding Rs 27,34,583 as interest from the date of suit till October 20,1999 and Rs 12,808 as costs allowed, the total adds up to Rs 36,14,943.25 now. The judge directed the SHO to bring the debtor before the court unless he pays to him the decree amount.

(Kashmir Observer, October 19, 2000)



## Malaysian Media Says Israel's Mossad Behind Kidnapped Palestinian

Agenceis

Israel's intelligence agency Mossad is believed to be behind the abduction of a Palestinian man who was snatched from a street in the capital Kuala Lumpur and interrogated before being freed by police, a Malaysian news organisation has reported.

Malaysia's New Straits Times reported on Tuesday that the Palestinian computer programmer was bundled into one of two waiting cars by four men involved in the "snatch-and-grab" operation on the night of September 28.

The kidnapped man – who was not named – was beaten as he was driven to a house on the outskirts of the capital where, blindfolded and tied to a chair, he was interrogated over a video call on matters related to the Palestinian political organisation Hamas and its armed wing the Qassam Brigades.

"A video call had been set up in front of the victim. On the line were two men, believed to be Israelis, whose opening line to him was: 'You know why you are here,' the news organisation reported.

"For the next 24 hours, the victim was interrogated and beaten by the Malaysian operatives

Straits Times.

The source also said the team of kidnappers – identified as Malaysians – had "bungled" the operation as they had let a second Palestinian man get away. The Malaysian operatives had also failed to cover their faces and had not placed fake registration plates on their vehicles, the source said.

The second Palestinian man, described as a "more prized capture", was able to raise the alarm with police who traced the car registration plates to a house where the kidnappers were arrested and the man freed.

Both Palestinians have since left Malaysia, according to the report.

A "well-informed Malaysian source" confirmed to Al Jazeera Arabic that an investigation had uncovered a "Mossad cell" in the country that was involved in spying on important sites, including airports, and seeking to penetrate "government electronic companies".

The source said Mossad had employed Malaysian operatives it trained in Europe to carry out the operation, according to Al Jazeera Arabic, which also cited Malaysian media as reporting that Mossad had recruited a cell of at least 11 Malaysians focused on tracking down Palestinian activists.



when his answers were not to the Israelis' satisfaction," the news organisation added.

"The Israelis wanted to know about his experience in computer application development, Hamas' strength in developing software, members of the Al-Qassam Brigade that he knew and their strengths," a source with knowledge of the case told the New

The Palestinian Ministry of Interior and National Security in a statement posted on Facebook thanked the Malaysian authorities for rescuing the Palestinian citizen.

"They were able to expose the members of the Mossad cell and pursue and track their larger network," the statement said. "We call for the perpetrators to be held accountable and sentenced."

## Australia Reverses Recognition Of Jerusalem As Israel's Capital

Agenceis

Australia says it will no longer recognise West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, reversing a decision taken by the government of former Prime Minister Scott Morrison in 2018.

"Today the Government has reaffirmed Australia's previous and longstanding position that Jerusalem is a final status issue that should be resolved as part of any peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian people," Foreign Minister Penny Wong said in a statement.

"This reverses the Morrison Government's recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

Wong reiterated that Australia's embassy would remain in Tel Aviv and that Canberra was committed to a two-state solution "in which Israel and a future Palestinian state coexist, in peace and security, within internationally recognised borders".

She added: "We will not support an approach that under-



mines this prospect."

The status of Jerusalem is one of the biggest sticking points in attempts to reach a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel regards the entire city, including the eastern sector it annexed after the 1967 Middle East war, as its capital while Palestinian officials, with broad international backing, want occupied East Jerusalem as the capital of a future state they hope to establish in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Authority hails the move

The Palestinian Authority hailed Australia's move that will likely bring the Israeli-Palestinian issue into spotlight.

## Russia Says Annexed Ukraine Regions Are Under Its Nuclear Protection



ALL THESE TERRITORIES ARE INALIENABLE PARTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION and they are all protected. Their security is provided for at the same level as [it is for] the rest of Russia's territory."

Agenceis

London: Russia said on Tuesday that four Ukrainian regions whose annexation it proclaimed last month are under the protection of its nuclear arsenal.

The statement from the Kremlin came at a moment of acute tension, with both NATO and Russia expected to hold military exercises shortly to test the readiness of their nuclear weapons forces.

Asked by reporters if the regions were under Moscow's nuclear umbrella, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "All these territories are inalienable parts of the Russian Federation and they are all protected. Their security is provided for at the same level as [it is for] the rest of Russia's territory."

President Vladimir Putin said last month that Moscow was ready to use nuclear weapons if

necessary to defend Russia's "territorial integrity". U.S. President Joe Biden said on Oct. 6 that his threat had brought the world closer to "Armageddon" than at any time since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, when many feared a nuclear war might be imminent.

Nearly eight months into his invasion of Ukraine, some analysts believe the likelihood of Putin resorting to nuclear weapons has increased since his army suffered a series of major defeats. Putin's ally Alexander Lukashenko, the president of Belarus, warned the West last week against backing Russia into a corner.

Other analysts have argued the nuclear risk is overstated, suggesting it would be suicidal for Putin to embark on such an escalation.

NATO is conducting nuclear preparedness exercises this week and has said it expects Russia to hold its own nuclear drills immi-

nently, but Peskov said he had no information on that.

"There is an established system of notifications to inform about the conduct of exercises, and this is carried out through the channels of the Ministry of Defence," he said.

Putin last month proclaimed that the territories Moscow was taking from Ukraine would be part of Russia "for ever". But Russia does not wholly control any of the four regions and has yet to define their borders.

The annexation was condemned as illegal by Ukraine, its Western allies and an overwhelming majority of countries in the United Nations General Assembly.

Russia has lost ground in the four regions even since it claimed control over them in a lavish Kremlin ceremony on Sept. 30. Peskov said work was still under way to integrate them into Russia's legal, economic and security systems.

## Iran Slams Borrell's Jungle Metaphor, Says Multipolarity On Doorstep

Agenceis

Iran has slammed the racist "garden and jungle" metaphor used by European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell to differentiate between the West and other parts of the world, saying an era of multipolarity is "imminent".

"The garden/jungle metaphor arises from an utterly unacceptable colonial mentality which gives the West a right to invade & occupy," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said in a post on his Twitter account on Tuesday.

"That era has long gone. Multipolarity is on the doorstep," he added.

The Iranian spokesperson urged the 27-nation EU to adopt the realities or it "will continue to decline and fade."

In a controversial speech addressing the opening ceremony of the European Diplomatic Academy in Bruges, Belgium, on Thursday, Borrell referred to Europe as a "garden" and the rest of the world as a "jungle" that could "invade the garden."

Borrell then continued his racist remarks by warning that the jungle "could invade the garden" and that "the gardeners" have to go to the jungle "to protect" the garden.

The senior EU official's remarks sparked criticism from



across the world, with Canada's United Nations Ambassador Bob Rae calling it a "terrible analogy."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, staunchly condemned the comments, asserting that the "garden" of Europe was built by looting the "jungle" of the rest of the world during the colonial regime.

"To continue this analogy, the European gardener is in a vegetative state. On a serious note, Europe built that 'garden' through the barbaric plundering of the 'jungle'. Borrell could not have phrased it any better: the world's most prosperous system, created in Europe, nurtured by roots in colonies which they ruthlessly

oppressed," she penned.

The United Arab Emirates on Monday summoned the acting head of the mission at the EU delegation to the UAE, asking for an explanation of Borrell's racist comments.

The UAE Foreign Ministry said the remarks were "inappropriate and discriminatory" and "contribute to a worsening climate of intolerance and discrimination worldwide."

In a tweet on Tuesday, Qatari State Minister with the rank of Deputy Prime Minister Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari said Borrell's statements have a racist and supremacist overtone and demonstrate a decadence of values and the moral poverty of European leadership.

## PM Modi Likely To Offer Prayers At Ayodhya Ram Temple On Sunday

Agenceis

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to offer 'puja' at the Ram temple in Ayodhya on Sunday, a day ahead of Diwali, official sources have said.

During his visit to the temple town on Sunday evening, he will also attend 'Deepotsav' and 'aarti' ceremonies and inspect the ongoing construction of the Ram temple. Sources said PM Modi will also witness green and digital fireworks on the banks of Saryu river.

PM Modi is also expected to visit the famous temples at Ke-



darnath and Badrinath in Uttarakhand on Friday.

Besides performing 'puja' at the temples, he will also inspect development works at the two famous pilgrimage centres.

## Delhi To Mumbai's Nariman Point In 12 Hours By Road, Says Nitin Gadkari



Agenceis

New Delhi: Union Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari while speaking about the status of the Delhi-Mumbai Express Highway said that work on the first phase from Delhi to JNPT in Mumbai would be completed this year itself.

"My plan is to connect Nariman Point to Delhi making it a 12-hour journey," Union Minister Nitin Gadkari was quoted as saying in a Ministry of Road Transport and Highways statement on Monday evening.

Speaking about the achievements of the Road and Transport Ministry, the Union Minister said: "I was pained to know that around one crore people in the country were driving cycle-rickshaw." He added that 80 lakh people among them are driving E-rickshaws today. "400 start-ups in the country are making electric scooters, e-rickshaws etc."

The minister made the remarks while inaugurating an Organic Garden at R.D. and S.H. National College and S.W.A. Science College in Mumbai, the statement said.

Further, while sharing details of environment-friendly, recycling initiatives in the country, the Union Minister said that nothing is wasted and that with the use of appropriate technology, it can be converted from waste into wealth.

"For the last 8 years, we have been recycling sewage water of Nagpur and selling it to the Government of Maharashtra for power generation. We are earning 300 crore annually as royalty," he was quoted in the ministry's statement. He also shared details of similar projects undertaken in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

Also, reiterating the significance of green fuels, the Minister said that the Road Transport Ministry is working on the diversification of agriculture towards the energy and power sector since the year 2000.

"We are making green fuels like ethanol from sugar cane which is cost-effective, pollution free and indigenous and hence helps in reducing import of fuels."

The Union Minister added, "Ethics, economy and environment are three important pillars of our society".

## Indonesia To Demolish Malang Stadium Where Stampede Killed 133



Agenceis

Indonesian President Joko Widodo says his government will demolish and rebuild a football stadium where 133 people died in a stampede this month in one of the world's deadliest sporting disasters.

The president, popularly known as Jokowi, was speaking on Tuesday to reporters at the state palace in Jakarta after meeting Gianni Infantino, head of world football governing body FIFA.

"Kanjuruhan Stadium in Malang ... we will demolish it and rebuild according to FIFA standards," Jokowi said. "We agreed to thoroughly transform Indonesian soccer," he added, using another term to describe football.

On October 1, fans were caught in a deadly crush as they attempted to exit Kanjuruhan Stadium in East Java province's Malang city after the defeat of the home side Arema FC by Persebaya Surabaya. Many, including more than 40 minors, died of asphyxiation.

Following an investigation, officials concluded in a report published last week that the leading cause behind the incident was the police's use of tear gas in the stadium – a crowd

control measure banned by FIFA. The clouds of choking gas triggered the stampede as panicked spectators rushed to exit gates, which several witnesses told Al Jazeera were either locked or blocked by police.

The report also identified other contributing factors, including the stadium being filled beyond capacity, locked exit doors and a push by league officials to hold the game at night to secure better ratings for a local broadcaster, despite a request by police to hold a match between the fierce rivals during the daytime.

Jokowi said he had agreed with Infantino on significant changes to how the sport was managed in Indonesia.

The meeting between the two came after Indonesia and FIFA agreed to form a joint task force in the wake of the stadium tragedy, and as the country prepares to host the Under-20 World Cup next year.

Speaking alongside Jokowi, Infantino said FIFA's first priority was to ensure the safety of both players and fans in the country.

"This is a football country, a country where football is a passion for over 100 million people," he said. "We owe it to them that when they see a match they are safe and secure."

### NEWS MAKERS

## Bihar Man Arrested For Posing As High Court Judge, Trying To Influence Probe

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Bihar police arrested a man for allegedly impersonating a judge of the Patna High Court and trying to influence an investigation involving an IPS officer, which is being monitored by the state director general of police (DGP).

An officer said that the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of the state police has also launched a manhunt to nab the IPS officer who is at large.

According to preliminary investigations, the arrested person allegedly called up the DGP by posing as a high court judge recently and asked the top cop to close the case against IPS officer Aditya Kumar pertaining to his "collusion" with the liquor mafia



when he was the senior superintendent of police in Gaya.

Following an instruction from the DGP, the EOU has registered an FIR against the caller and also against the IPS officer.

The police have also arrested

three other persons, stated to be associates of the fake judge, the EOU officer said.

As many as nine mobile phones and several fake SIM cards were seized from the possession of the alleged fraudster.

## US Woman, 23, Finds Out She Is Pregnant. She Gives Birth 2 Days Later

Agenceis

A couple in the United States got the shock of their lives when they found out that they were expecting a baby, and just 48 hours later gave birth to their first child.

23-year-old Peyton Stover, who is a first-year teacher in Omaha, visited the doctor after experiencing symptoms, including fatigue, that she assumed were related to job stress. "I just thought it was normal to be tired all the time," she told KETV. However, when she started noticing changes in her body, such as swelling in her legs, her doctor

told her a baby was on the way.

"They ran the test again," Ms Stover said. "It's definitely positive. We're going to do an ultrasound," she recalled. "She looked right at the screen and said, 'You're definitely pregnant.'"

Further, the 23-year-old said that the news of her baby also came with other medical concerns. Speaking to the outlet, Ms Stover said that her kidneys and liver stopped functioning properly, following which the doctors sprung into action. "They said she needs to be admitted and then she had the baby that night," her boyfriend, Tavish Koesters, told KETV, as per New York Post.



## Mehta Launches Online HRMS System For J&K Employees



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As a significant reform encompassing different dimensions of Human Resource Management of the employees working for J&K government, the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday launched Jammu & Kashmir Human Resource Management System (JK-HRMS).

The launch was attended by all Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners in physical and virtual mode.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary maintained that the system would be beneficial in giving equal treatment to all the employees in terms of their career progression, timely filing of monthly performance reports, Property Returns and Annual Performance Reports.

Dr Mehta directed for monitoring of all these performance standards and take appropriate action against the willful defaulters. He observed that the long staying employees and employees deserving promotions should also be regulated through this management system. He complimented GAD and NIC for coming up with holistic HR management system in a very short span of time.

During the meeting, it was informed that the implementation of JK HRMS, is another achievement of the government in continuation of IT Initiatives like Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Win-

dow (SPARROW), Online Property Return System (PRS), Vigilance Clearance System (VCS), Employees Monitoring Portal (EPM) and Employees Verification System (EVS) launched for facilitation and disposal of HRM issues of employees.

It was further informed that JK-HRMS shall provide a unified dashboard for employees, wherein, vital service related details like posting and promotion, monthly salary slip, income tax remitted, GPF statement, SLI subscription can be accessed.

The portal shall also integrate Employees Monitoring Portal (EPM) and Online Property Return System (PRS). The portal shall provide a generic, product based solution for better management of service matters through electronic service record and can be accessed on URL <https://hrms.jk.gov.in>.

While highlighting the features of the JK-HRMS, all the DDOs were asked to ensure that all employees under their control register themselves on the portal and cross check their service related information integrated in the JK-HRMS, which shall be verified by the concerned Drawing & Disbursing Officers in a time bound manner.

Pertinent to mention here that this 'one-stop solution' for addressing issues related to service records of employees in electronic form has been developed collaboratively by the General Administration Department and National Informatics Center, J&K.

## Breakthrough Achieved On Under-Construction 10.2 Km Railway Tunnel In Ramban

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The digging work was completed Tuesday on a 10.2 km tunnel connecting Sumbar and Dharam villages on the 111-km under-construction Banihal-Katra Railway link, an official said.

The breakthrough on T-48 Tunnel was executed by conducting a blast under the supervision of Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Railways S P Mahi, the official said.

It is a major milestone achieved on the Kashmir rail project and with this, the digging work on most of the tunnels in Ramban and Reasi district stand completed, a railway official said.

He said this is the fourth tunnel following the 12.6km tunnel T-49 between Sumbar and Arpinchala stations, the longest tunnel of Indian Railways, which was completed in January this year.

The official said Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) is a national project which is likely to be completed by next year.

Of the 272-km USBRL project, the work on 161 km was commissioned in phases. The first phase of 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section was commissioned in October 2009, followed by the 18-km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013 and the 25-km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014.

The work on the intervening stretch of 111 km between Katra and Banihal is under progress and is likely to be completed by next year, the official said, adding the Katra-Banihal section is traversing through the hilly terrain of the lower Himalayas, where geology is a major challenge.

It has a total of 37 bridges and 35 tunnels, he said.

## Union MoS Danve Reviews Developmental Scenario In Kulgam

Observer News Service

**KULGAM:** Union Minister of State Railways, Coal & Mines, Raosaheb Patil Danve on Tuesday visited Kulgam district the under Central Government's Public Outreach Programme. He reviewed developmental scenario of the district besides reviewing implementation status of Central Sponsored Schemes.

During his visit, he chaired a meeting of officers at Rest House and took detailed review of various schemes and programmes of the government.

The Minister reviewed implementation and progress recorded under MGNREGA, PMAY, NRLM, NHM, Ayushman Bharat JSY, JSSK, PMGSY, JJM, ICDS, PMAY-U and various other schemes.

He also took department-wise extensive review of Geology & Mining, Education and other departments and sectors.

Later, the Minister laid foundation stone for construction of material recovery facility shed which will come up at an estimated cost of Rs 2.75 crore and also laid foundation stone for

development of children's park at Kulgam.

During a distribution camp at Mini-Secretariat, the Minister distributed motorised tricycles and wheel chairs among specially abled persons. He also distributed farm machinery and sanction letters to beneficiaries of PMAY-U and scholarship cheques for higher education among registered constructional workers.

The Minister also interacted with beneficiaries of various flagship schemes like PMAY, MGNREGA, NRLM and also interacted with SHG members.

While addressing the people and beneficiaries of various schemes, the Minister said that Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is consistently working for betterment and upliftment of downtrodden and poor people and people are now getting benefited directly from schemes of Government.

The Minister also interacted with several delegations and also held interaction with Project Proponents of Mining Blocks at Resthouse Chawalgam.

## Protests In Jammu Against Killing Of Two Migrant Labourers

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Several parties and organisations on Tuesday held protests here against the killing of two non-local labourers by militants in the latest targeted attack in south Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said.

Kashmiri Pandit migrants and Jammu-based reserved category employees, who have been protesting to press for relocation after a string of such attacks in recent months, said the killing of three minority community members over the past few days proved their apprehensions about the ground situation in the Valley.

Activists of Shiv Sena, Rashtriya Bajrang Dal and Shiv Sena Dogra Front held demonstrations at Bari Brahmana, Bus Stand and Rani Park in Jammu and its outskirts, respectively.

Monish Kumar and Ram Sagar, both residents of Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj, were killed in a grenade attack by terrorists while they were asleep in their rented accommodation in Shopian district in the early hours of Tuesday.

This was the second targeted attack in the district since Saturday when a Kashmiri Pandit Puran Krishan Bhat was gunned down by militants outside his ancestral house in the Chowdhary Gund.

Condemning the killing of the labourers, president of the J-K unit of Shiv Sena Manish Sahni slammed the government for its alleged failure to control the targeted killings in the Valley.

"Over two dozen migrant labourers and other minority community members have been killed by terrorists in



Kashmir since 2017. The government at the Centre and J&K administration have failed to provide a safe and secure atmosphere to the people working in Kashmir," he said.

The Kashmiri Pandit migrant employees and Jammu-based reserved category employees, who have fled the Valley in the aftermath of the killing of their colleagues in May, vowed not to return till the situation improves.

"We will not return to Kashmir till the security situation improves there. Our protest will continue," Kuldeep, a Kashmiri Pandit migrant employed under the Prime Minister's employment package for the community, said as his group continued their protest at the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner's office in Jammu.

Senior Congress leader and former minister Yogesh Sawhney termed the killing of the labourers as "unfortunate" and said such incidents reflect the failure of the government.

General Secretary Apni Party Vijay Bakaya also expressed concern at the cold-blooded

murders.

"This incident confirms the apprehension of Prime Minister Package employees that the trend of targeted killing has not ceased and the environment is still not conducive for their return and work safely in the valley," Bakaya, a Kashmiri Pandit leader, said in a statement.

He urged the LG Administration to take a "realistic and humane" view and not take coercive measures like stoppage of salary to force the PM package employees to return to duty in the Valley.

"Instead those who have come to Jammu should be treated on deputation or attached temporarily in the relief organisation or other offices for performing assigned tasks till the wave of targeted killing subsides," he said.

He reiterated that the migrant employees have been performing duties diligently since 2010.

"This is an extraordinary situation which requires an extraordinary solution," the Apni Party leader said.

## BJP Sets Up 5-Member Panel To Hold Discussions With Agitating Employees



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Tuesday announced formation of a five-member committee to hold discussions with two groups of agitating government employees who have fled from the valley and are camping in Jammu, seeking their relocation in view of targeted killings by terrorists.

Displaced Kashmiri Pandits, employed under Prime Minister's package in the valley, are on protest strike at relief commissioner's office, while all reserved categories employees are also on protest strike near Panama Chowk in the city

since May following the killing of their colleagues Rahul Bhat (revenue official) and Rajni Bala (teacher) by terrorists in their offices in central and south Kashmir, respectively.

J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina constituted the committee which will be headed by former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh, which will meet the agitating groups to work out a way out of their issues, a BJP spokesperson said.

Raina asked the committee, whose members include general secretary Devinder K Manyal, spokesperson Girdhari Lal Raina, Chand Ji Bhat and Hira Lal Bhat to hold talks

with both the groups and acquaint themselves with the exact aspirations of the stakeholders and the possible amicable solutions.

Raina made a clear point that the party stands for the respectful living and the discharge of the duties by the employees in a secure atmosphere, the spokesperson said.

He said the party would take up the points formulated by the committee with the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and at other essential platforms.

The party will stress for the time bound solutions to the issues (of the agitating employees), the spokesman said.

## PC To Hold First Ever Presidential Poll In 44 Years

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** For the first time in its 44-year-old history, Peoples Conference is holding election for the post of its president.

In a bid to strengthen internal democracy within the party and adhere to the guidelines laid by the Election Commission of India for internal democratic regulation of political parties, the party formed in 1978 is going to hold election for the post of president.

According to an order issued by the incumbent PC President Sajad Gani Lone, an Election Authority has been constituted

to finalise and conduct elections for the post of President.

"The election authority comprises Syed Basharat Bukhari as Chairman and Mansoor Hussain Suharwardy and Mohammad Ashraf Mir as the members," a party spokesman SAID.

He said the election authority will subsequently finalize the calendar of election in accordance with the party constitution.

Founded in 1978 by slain Abdul Gani Lone, Molvi Ifitkar Hussain Ansari and others, PC was part of J&K's electoral politics till 1987.

In the 1983 elections, it was

the second-highest vote-getter among regional parties after National Conference.

Jamaat-e-Islamia, a politico-religious group, which was banned by the Government of India in 2009, was the third highest vote-getter among regional parties.

Peoples Conference returned to electoral politics in 2009 when Sajad Gani Lone contested parliament elections from Baramulla Lok Sabha seat.

In the 2014 elections, PC won two seats and since then the party has been revived and strengthened by Sajad Gani Lone—(KNO)



## Commissioner For Persons With Disabilities Calls On LG

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Iqbal Lone, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities today called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and presented an Action Plan for the implementation of the various measures enshrined in Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Lone discussed with the Lt Governor the execution of short term and long-term frameworks on disability affairs for welfare of Divyangjan.

The Action plan proposed for creation of State Fund for all the emergency needs and concerns of Persons with Disabilities; setting up of the Department of Disability Studies/Affairs in J&K with a view to creating pool of academic

and rehabilitation professionals; developing Website /App for Online Grievance Redressal and Reporting Mechanism for Persons with Disabilities.

A threadbare discussion was held on the effective implementation of all related schemes including SIPDA, ADIP, Cochlear implant, Accessible India Campaign, Pension, Mobility; involving Sports department and Paralympics for Sports & recreational activities as per RPWD Act.

The Lt Governor emphasized on the close coordination of all the departments particularly, Health, Education, Tourism, Jammu & Srinagar Municipal Corporations, Urban Local Bodies across the UT for accessible infrastructure for divyangjan.

## SAD (A) President Simranjit Singh Mann Denied Entry Into J&K

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Shiromani Akali Dal (A) President Simranjit Singh Mann is on protest for the past 24 hours at Lakhanpur -- the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir bordering Punjab -- after being denied entry into the Union Territory, an official said.

Mann, a Member of Parliament from Sangrur in Punjab, was stopped on the orders of Kathua District Magistrate Rahul Pandey on Monday evening, leading to protests by the politician and his supporters besides PDP president Mehbooba Mufti who termed the move as an attempt to hide the reality.

Pandey, in his order issued under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), said it had been brought to his notice by the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) that Mann was scheduled to enter Jammu and Kashmir and his visit was likely to cause "disturbance in public tranquility".

"Therefore, I, in exercise of the powers vested in me under Section 144 CrPC do hereby prohibit Mann from entering the jurisdiction of Kathua," Pandey said in his order.

Protesting the decision, Mann refused to return and spent the night at Lakhanpur despite both Pandey and SSP Ramesh Kotwal visiting him around midnight and requesting him to return.

Mann sought from them the specific reason for being denied entry into Jammu and Kashmir, a source said, adding that the politician also threatened to violate the prohibitory orders and asked the officers to arrest him.

Party Members & I've entered J&K. Police with orders from GOI (Government of India) have stopped my entry into Kashmir without assigning any reason. I

have a constitutional right to be represented by a lawyer, which isn't being allowed. Union Home Minister (Amit) Shah says there is complete peace in J&K.

Thus I see no reason to prevent entry of a peaceful delegation, visiting and enquiring upon the people of J&K. Our party is against such tyranny and special powers given to the army, Mann wrote on twitter.



Reacting to the tweets, former chief minister Mehbooba said GOI organises guided tours of J&K for ministers & dignitaries to project normalcy' but disallows & bars people like Simranjeet Mann from entering the state to hide the reality.

The SAD(A) leader staged a dharna' along with scores of his accompanying supporters at the place throughout the day.

Criticising the Kathua administration's decision to deny him entry, Mann had earlier said, "I am a Sikh and that is why BJP and the RSS did not allow my entry into Jammu and Kashmir."

"There is no legislature in Jammu and Kashmir, which is under military rule. There is no democracy. I have come to visit the people of Kashmir to see for myself what is happening (post abrogation of Article 370). I want to highlight the real picture to the outside world," he had told reporters Monday.

The administration has beefed up security at Lakhanpur after receiving information that Mann supporters from Punjab and Kathua were planning to join him at the protest site.

Additional deployments have been made as a precautionary measure to enforce the prohibitory orders and maintain law and order, an official said.

A lawyer said Mann is moving court against the "unwarranted" decision of the Kathua administration.

## Waste, Sewage Pollutes Kishanganga River In Gurez



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** With Gurez Valley witnessing heavy influx of tourists for the last two years, Kishanganga river which passes through the enchanting valley is fast turning into a garbage dumping site as the waste is being discharged into the water body.

According to reports, in the absence of the garbage disposal facility for the tourists and people residing on the banks of the Kishanganga river, the entire waste is being dumped into the river.

"Until a few years ago, the river was one of the few uncontami-

nated water bodies in the entire Gurez valley. But with solid waste and sewage generated from homes and commercial establishments being let out into the river at several spots including Main Dawar, the river is now extremely polluted," locals said.

A local Abid Majeed said that heaps of waste piled up on the banks of Dawar.

An official, wishing not to be quoted by name, said: "If anyone is found involved in this act, strict action will be taken against him," he said, adding that the administration is taking the issue seriously—(KNO)



KASHMIR OBSERVER

Bellwether Elections

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is currently undertaking a padyatra to reconnect Congress with the people and if reports are anything to go by, it has met with a reasonably good public response. It remains to be seen whether this public outreach could translate into any electoral gains for the party in the upcoming Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. And whether Congress could emerge as a viable alternative to the BJP in 2024, the chances of which at this time look very remote. Rahul will travel through twelve states during the yatra. Himachal and Gujarat will come much later in the march, closer to the time when the two states are set to go to the polls.

But over the last year, Congress is facing some tough competition from the AAP which is trying to fill in the political space vacated by the former. With its recent landslide victory in Punjab, the AAP is on a roll. It hopes to replicate the performance in Gujarat. Kejriwal has exhibited political smarts to get his party up and running out of nowhere. He could very well do so in Gujarat. But it is also true that prime minister Narendra Modi's charisma is still fresh and abiding and that too in his home state where his remarkable journey to the top began. So, it would be next to impossible to dislodge him in Gujarat. Ditto in Himachal. With every passing year, his political appeal and constituency have grown stronger and wider while that of Congress has correspondingly shrunk.

But there are still two years to go before the general elections are held, and much can change during this time. Two years is a long time in politics. Kejriwal could very well emerge as a dark horse in Gujarat. But at the national level, only a combined opposition could be expected to take on the BJP. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar who recently quit the alliance with the BJP, is trying to forge an opposition unity and there are indications that he has had some success in the endeavour. But it won't be easy to bring all the opposition parties together on one platform, more so, with several regional leaders nursing their personal ambitions. Gujarat and Himachal election outcomes will certainly offer some hint as to what is in store in 2024. Gujarat will be more of a bellwether election. Much of the future political direction of the country would hinge on the outcome in the state.

OTHER OPINION

Noisy poll

A presidential election in a political party should ideally be a mundane affair. But this would not be the case if the party happens to be the Congress. Thus, the contest to elect the Congress president for which voting took place yesterday was far from a quiet affair. The reasons are not far to seek. After all, India's Grand Old Party was witnessing a presidential election after two decades. Eyebrows have also been raised for another reason. The Gandhis — the Congress's First Family — were officially not in the fray: the two gladiators in the arena, so to speak, were Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor. Yet, the veneer of 'inner democracy' in the Congress is unlikely to stick. The shadow of the Gandhis over Mr Kharge is believed to be rather long even though they have not endorsed him as their favoured candidate. In fact, Mr Tharoor, unable to create a splash within the Congress's electoral college, has alleged that the pitch had been queered. This was an attempt on Mr Tharoor's part to hint that Mr Kharge's candidacy had the approval of the powers that be. There has never been any doubt about the party's symbiotic relationship with the Gandhis. In fact, Rahul Gandhi, whose Bharat Jodo Yatra seems to have created ripples in the political pond, would have been the most acceptable face as party president. His reluctance to take on the post and run the party through a proxy is mysterious. The Bharatiya Janata Party would have certainly liked to poke fun at its rival on this count had it not been for its regimental structure. An outfit that is effectively a dyarchy cannot wax eloquent on inner party democracy.

The new Congress president would have his task cut out. The party organisation, riven with rivalry and blunted by defection, needs to be resuscitated. The Congress's electoral footprint has to be revived and strategic alliances with other parties stitched to make the Opposition a credible force in the next general election. Most importantly, the Congress must be able to make the foundational values of the republic — pluralism, accommodation, harmony — acceptable to an India that has remained enchanted with the rhetoric of division in the last few years. Each of this is a formidable task. Another Herculean assignment for the president would be to keep the Congress united. Calls for uniting the nation by a party that is beset with factionalism is an irony, to say the least.

Telegraph India

Saudi Arabia has politely but firmly rebutted the threats and calumnies levelled by the US political elites in the past week since the OPEC decided to cut oil production by 2 million barrels per day. On Thursday, a Foreign Ministry official in Riyadh forcefully pushed back the allegation that the OPEC decision was at Saudi initiative and was politically motivated against the US, and, worse still, to help Russia.

The Saudi official rejected the US allegations as baseless, especially the imputation that Saudi Arabia is "aligning" with Russia in the context of the Ukraine situation. The official made three substantive points:

- The OPEC+ decision constitutes the unanimous opinion of the member states and it is preposterous to attribute it to Saudi Arabia.
- Purely economic considerations lie behind the decision, which takes into account the imperatives of maintaining balance of supply and demand in the oil market and limiting the volatility.
- Saudi Arabia has taken a principled stance on the Ukraine issue, as its votes supporting two UN resolutions testify.

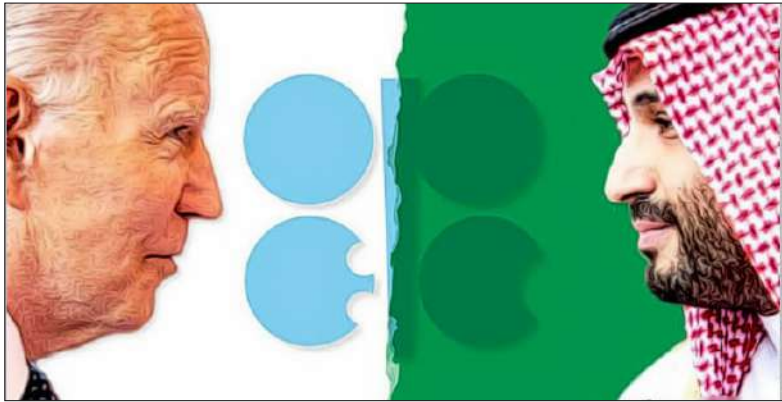
The Saudi official, inter alia, made a startling disclosure that the Biden Administration had actually tried to get Riyadh to postpone the OPEC+ decision by a month. Presumably, the rage in Washington today is not so much about the oil prices as the panic that the OPEC decision casts on the US diplomacy and foreign policy in general — and, especially, on President Biden personally — in a poor light as ineffectual and illogical, as the Republicans are highlighting.

Conceivably, the one-month delay that was sought was intended to overlap the forthcoming midterms in the US on November 8. Unsurprisingly, the Saudis didn't oblige the White House and it now becomes an unforgivable slight on the US' sense of entitlement and Biden's vanity.

Suffice it to say, the Democrats and the Biden Administration have worked themselves into a frenzy because of their fear that the price of gas can become a combustible issue that may spell doom at the midterms. Some Democrats have gone to the absurd extent of suspecting that the Saudis are deliberately interfering in the US politics to help the Republicans' electoral prospects.

The Saudi statement has pointedly rejected "any dictates, actions, or efforts to distort its (Saudi) noble objectives to protect the global economy from oil market volatility." It is a mild warning that any anti-Saudi moves will meet with resistance and will have repercussions.

The Saudi statements came within hours of an interview by Biden with the CNN on Thursday, where he warned that "There's going to be some consequences for what they've (Saudis) done, with Russia. I'm not going to get into what I'd consider and



Saudi Calls Out US Bluster

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

what I have in mind. But there will be — there will be consequences."

Later, John Kirby, a White House National Security Council spokesman, said Biden believes "it's time to take another look at this relationship and make sure that it's serving our national security interests."

Biden himself was speaking a day after the influential Democratic senator from New Jersey Bob Menendez threatened to block cooperation with Saudi Arabia. He excoriated Saudi Arabia, accusing it of helping "underwrite Putin's war through the OPEC+ cartel." Menendez ripped into the kingdom, and went on to say that the US must "immediately freeze all aspects of our cooperation with Saudi Arabia, including any arms sales and security cooperation beyond what is absolutely necessary to defend US

personnel and interests."

In good measure, Menendez added an ultimatum that he would not "green-light any cooperation with Riyadh until the Kingdom reassesses its position with respect to the war in Ukraine. Enough is enough."

Quite obviously, the White House's strategy is to obfuscate the matter by making the OPEC+ decision a geopolitical challenge to the US strategies concerning Ukraine and Russia rather than as a historic rebuff to Biden's clumsy personal diplomacy — which it is — to try to get Saudi Arabia on board his fanciful project to bring down the oil prices so that Russia's income from oil exports will be severely curtailed.

The fact of the matter is that the OPEC decision virtually derails the Biden Administration's pet project to impose a price cap on Russia's oil exports. Simply put, that hare-brained project, conceived by the US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, flounders if oil prices remain high.

Interestingly, the G7 statement last week on Ukraine and Russia did not make any references to the price cap project. On the other hand, high oil prices will further aggravate the economic crisis in Europe even as the EU is moving towards terminating all oil imports from Russia by December 5. Meanwhile, the Biden Administration is acutely conscious that the Europeans — Germany and France included — are increasingly murmuring their discontent that the Americans played them and are selling gas at vastly higher prices in the European energy market.

When an influential senator like Menendez throws down the gauntlet to Riyadh, it can be taken as signalling that some retaliatory action against Saudi Arabia is in the cards. Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Rep. Ro Khanna of California have introduced legisla-

tion that would immediately pause all US arms sales to Saudi Arabia for one year as well as halt sales of spare and repair parts, support services and logistical support.

But appearances can be deceptive. The vehemence of the rage and rave have a contrived look, a touch of bluster. Significantly, in his CNN interview, Biden stopped short of endorsing the Democratic lawmakers' call to halt weapons. Biden merely said he would look to consult with Congress on the way forward.

Whereas, Menendez has promised to use his position as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to block any future arms sales to the Saudis. Quite obviously, the anger with Saudi Arabia has become far more palpable on Capitol Hill, but will it translate into action?

The big question is how much of this bluster is with an eye on the mid-terms in November. The White House national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, told reporters that Biden was also looking at a possible halt in arms sales as part of a broader re-evaluation of the US relationship with Saudi Arabia, but that no move was imminent.

Indeed, any attempt to rebalance the relations with Saudi Arabia will have ripple effects at a time when the contours of an emerging alliance between Saudi Arabia and Russia are becoming apparent, the Iran question remains unresolved and high oil prices upset the US consumer and deepen the crisis in Europe — and, of course, so long as petrodollar remains a key pillar of the western banking system. Besides, as things stand, US influence in the West Asia is today a pale shadow of what it used to be, and alienating Saudi Arabia to a point of no return will be an exceedingly foolish thing to do.

Above all, will the military-industrial complex in the US countenance a US-Saudi break-up? Saudi Arabia is the proverbial goose that lays golden eggs. It is a terrific paymaster for the American arms industry. Geopolitical analysts often call it the US' ATM. Equally, the bottom line is that the Democrats wouldn't even be able to garner enough Republican support to pass legislation once Congress is back in session next month.

The Saudi statement concludes with a word of advice for American diplomacy in these extraordinary times of multipolarity: "Resolving economic challenges requires the establishment of a non-politicised constructive dialogue, and to wisely and rationally consider what serves the interests of all countries." (Emphasis added.) It ended recalling that "the solid pillars upon which the Saudi-US relationship had stood over the past eight decades" include mutual respect and common interests, amongst other things.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by India Punchline*



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Democracy's Persistent Relevance

Why is there need of a government? This questions can be answered in a number of ways and one such ways is: Since in an organization, group, community, society or a country in general, the people residing there have different views, beliefs or are from different backgrounds etc. In order to have unity or collectivity among them, there is need of some regulator, regulating their affairs. For this we also need some kinds of written rules (Constitution) whose laws have equal value or are equally implemented on the whole community.

A number of people living there can not rule collectively, for that we need to elect a representative (that is the choice of people) who will govern the society or country according to the laws of the Constitution. And here comes the concept of democracy. Some argue that it has its origins from Athens (Greece) and some have other perceptions; but no matter where it originated from and how it evolved, the fact is that democracy is the form of government practised by most of the countries in the present times.

The basic and simple definition of democracy as put forth by Abraham Lincoln is "the rule by the people, of the people and for the people".

The essence of democracy is that it is the people's government where the people are supreme who govern themselves by choosing their representatives. It gives an indirect representation to the people of respective state (nation state) where a representative is not elected permanently but for a fixed term.

It is that type of government where no one can dominate you; in fact people have the choice to change an elected one if they feel that he/she fails to meet their demands as well.

An important attribute or feature that makes democracy the best form of government is the periodicity/periodical elections. Free and fair elections provide an opportunity to choose our representative, whom we think are best and most suitable for our society. So the whole authority is upon the people and that is why it is the people centered government.

In a democracy, the effective and active participation of citizens is necessary. The citizens have an obligation to become informed about public issues; to watch carefully how their political leaders (representatives) use their powers; how they conduct the business of government; and to express their own opinions and interests. It gives them immense opportu-

nity to participate in the form of campaigns, rallies, etc., which have their respective meanings for which they are conducted.

Democracy gives rights to citizens; in democracy every citizen has basic/fundamental rights that cannot be denied, as they are guaranteed by the constitution. In democracy, people have (i) the right to vote according to their choices; (ii) right to freedom: freedom of expression, belief/faith, religion, etc; it gives the right to enjoy our freedom but at the same time protects us not to harm the other's freedom; and (iii) Right to make/associate with other people to form a union, forum or association, etc.—to freely assemble, protest, or express views, in any public issue, etc.

Democracy is a system of rule by laws, not by individuals; the representatives are elected by the people (on their choice); they are not above the law, but are governed by the law. No doubt, we elect a representative who enjoys certain powers on our behalf but they have certain restrictions as well. The rule of law protects the rights of citizens, maintains order and limits the power of governing body.

All (citizens) are equal before law; there is no discrimination on the basis of language, caste, creed, gender,

etc. It is the democracy that prevents the majority not to dominate the minority and gives the same and equal representation to minority as well. A recent example of this is the new president of our country (a woman belonging to a tribal community).

Democracy provides sound decision making process, which includes a lot of consultation even from the general public. It is a best form of collectivization, integratedness and union where all have the same say regardless of their status or designation or background.

Democracy is always accountable to people; if there is bad decision, the people have the power to correct their own mistakes; it provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts. One of the best examples is our country, India, where despite having a great diversity, we have unity in diversity and this is because we follow democracy. Democracy enhances dignity; it gives voice to voiceless; it provides us that environment which cannot be found in other forms of government (such as monarchy, dictatorship, etc.). Democracy promotes transparency, legitimacy, security and prosperity to its people and nation. ....

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# ADDRESSING THE NEXT PANDEMIC IN INDIA

Manjit Singh & Michael Hodin

As India struggles with the growing Omicron wave of COVID-19, another pandemic is gathering force that could someday be equally lethal. While India -- and the rest of the world -- was caught flat-footed by COVID-19, there is still time to prepare for this looming public health threat, if political and healthcare leaders act now.

Antibiotics have been hailed as the wonder drugs of the last century, helping nations conquer infections that once killed people in the millions. Yet over time, bacteria build up resistance to these wonder drugs, rendering them less effective and making new infections more deadly -- a biologically dictated race for survival that leads to antimicrobial resistance or AMR.

How serious is the problem? According to a new Lancet report, AMR kills an estimated 1.27 million people every year. The same report found there were nearly 22 AMR-attributable deaths per 100,000 annually in South Asia, the second highest of all the regions examined. Already, more than 58,000 newborns in India succumb to neonatal sepsis each year. By 2050, the total annual death toll from AMR could hit 10 million globally, nearly double the number of COVID-19 fatalities since the pandemic began nearly two years ago.

Historically, new antibiotics were developed to protect people from mutating bacteria and the resulting infections. Today, the pipeline for antibiotics is nearly empty, a result of poor government policy, lack of awareness and skewed marketplace

incentives.

Inappropriate use and overuse of antibiotics accelerate this process, making it harder and harder to defend against infections. Between 2000 and 2015, consumption of antibiotics more than doubled in India. Further, there are concerns that without appropriate policy

**BY EDUCATING PROVIDERS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF OVERPRESCRIBING and the tradeoffs associated with inappropriate prescribing, and by informing patients about the need to use antibiotics more judiciously, India can make important strides in helping to optimize existing antimicrobials, while also curbing rates of resistance**

action, global usage is projected to continue to increase by 2020, especially in LMICs. A report by the Public Health Foundation of India found that many prescriptions are handed out for illnesses that can't be treated by antibiotics at all. Even worse, antibiotics are routinely sold over the counter in India without a valid prescription.

A recent report by the Global Coalition on Aging found that India still has room for improvement

when it comes to addressing AMR. Beyond the misuse of antibiotics, the report also cites a lack of funding both for AMR research and for implementation of India's National AMR Action Plan (NAP), which expired at the end of 2021.

There are, however, several important steps India can take to alleviate the deepening AMR crisis and position itself at the front of tackling the AMR challenge.

First, the Indian government needs to fully fund the core plans of the NAP and ensure the plan is being properly implemented. As

part of this effort, the government must improve plan oversight, promote greater coordination among stakeholders, and strengthen antibiotic stewardship programs to limit inappropriate use. Further, as

only three states (Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and New Delhi) have developed standalone action plans to date, the national government should compel all state governments to develop their own AMR action plans. In the coming year, India should also continue its work to develop its new National Action

Plan, ensuring the new document is robust and comprehensive, yet practical and actionable.

Second, the government should build on current efforts to raise awareness by running large-scale campaigns to educate both care providers and patients about the growing danger of AMR. By educating providers about the dangers of overprescribing and the tradeoffs associated with inappropriate

prescribing, and by informing patients about the need to use antibiotics more judiciously, India can make important strides in helping to optimize existing antimicro-

bials, while also curbing rates of resistance.

Third, India must work to strengthen infection prevention and control by improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and behavior, particularly in rural areas. Antibiotic waste from inadequately treated sewage

(from human, veterinary, agricultural, manufacturing, and other sources) presents another serious concern that could also exacerbate AMR, and India should work to formulate a more effective regulatory framework to manage these issues.

Further, to play their part, more Indian manufacturers could consider adopting the AMR Industry Alliance's recently published AMR standard framework for good

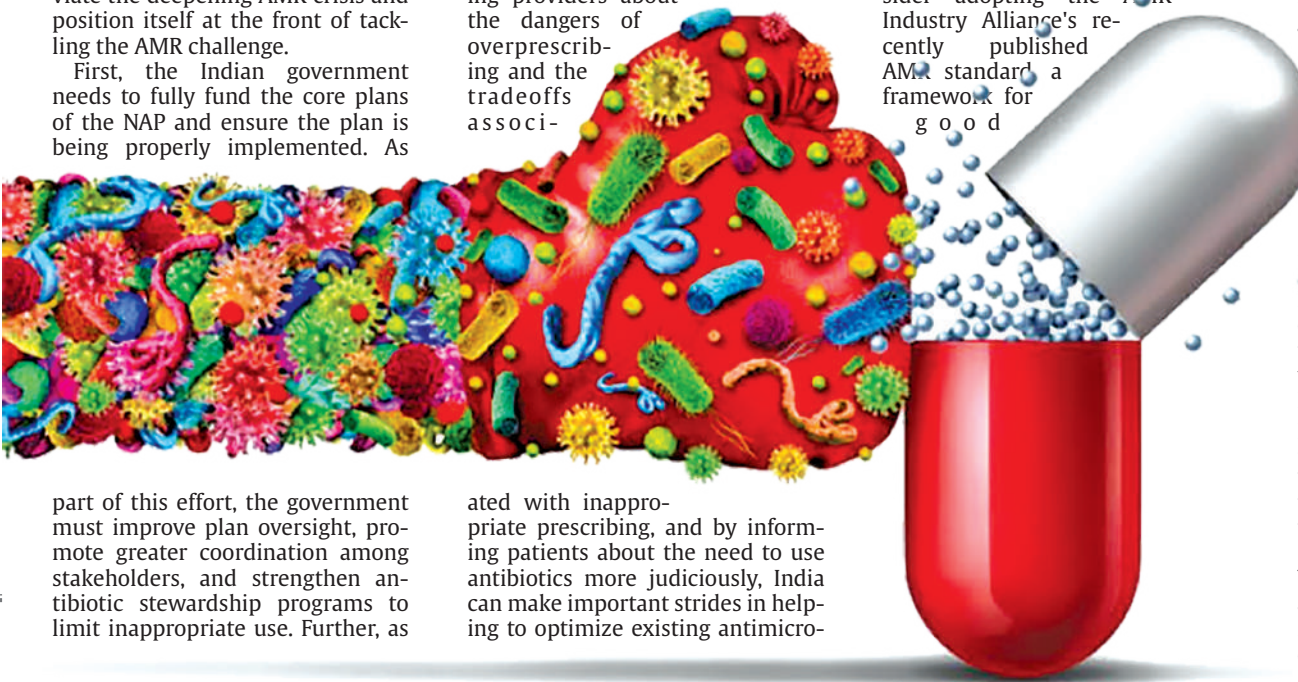
environmental management of the production of antibiotics, and science-based discharge targets. Additionally, the government should integrate environmental criteria, including AMR-relevant considerations, into its process for evaluating vendors and suppliers for contracts and tenders,

to encourage sustainable manufacturing practices more in line with Nordic countries. Finally, Indian judicial bodies, like the National Green Tribunal, can continue to compel state and federal agencies to enforce existing manufacturing and discharge standards.

In the coming years, India also has the opportunity to show its global leadership in one area critical to fighting AMR: antibiotic innovation. India has a rapidly growing economy and a strong corps of trained scientific researchers, which it can leverage to spur antimicrobial development. To help achieve this, the government should create a national innovation fund, modeled off the successful CARB-X and AMR Action Fund programs. The government can also pass regulatory reforms to expedite approval of newly developed antibiotics. Moreover, the Indian government can continue to pursue AMR research partnerships -- like the one recently forged with the United Kingdom -- to develop the next generation of treatments to defeat drug-resistant infections.

AMR has the potential to rival COVID-19 in terms of death and devastation. But this future path is not inevitable. India should act now to curb overuse of current antibiotics and restock the pipeline with new innovations that could emerge as the wonder drugs of the 21st century.

*Manjit Singh is the director of Corporate Sustainability at Centrient Pharmaceuticals and a member of the AMR Industry Alliance. Michael Hodin is Ph.D. is CEO of the Global Coalition on Aging*



# Thinking of Taking a Walk

Janet Viljoen

South Africa's new president Cyril Ramaphosa has been the talk of social media with his early morning walking routine. In addition to personal walks along a Cape Town beachfront, Ramaphosa has also led a walk in the city from the townships of Gugulethu to Athlone to promote exercise as a key part of healthy living.

While many South Africans have been bemused by the fact that the busiest man in the country has time for a morning walk, studies show that walking is a good way to tackle burgeoning rates of obesity and other lifestyle diseases. These have reached epidemic proportions in developed countries and are dangerously on the rise in developing countries like South Africa which has the highest levels in Africa. With more than 8 million people diagnosed as obese, it's joined the likes of global heavyweights such as Mexico and the US.

These diseases are linked to specific dietary and lifestyle changes which include patterns of increased eating, drinking and smoking along with reduced physical activity, and a shift to a diet high in sugar, salt and saturated fat.

There is no doubt that movement is essential for well being. The general guidelines are that 30 minutes or more of walking every day at a speed of between five and eight kilometres per hour can improve health.

And studies show that even when people don't quite manage to walk for the recommended 30 minutes a day the benefits can still accrue. This proves that some walking is better than none at all.

For those who still need convincing, here are six reasons to take up a daily outdoor walk.

## IT DOESN'T COST A THING

Walking outdoors is ideal when resources are limited, as a study in low income communities in South Africa shows. The community the research focused on was a high risk area for chronic lifestyle diseases.

The study showed how physical activity that promoted participation of rural communities is feasible -- and accessible. The activities in turn



addressed the growing burden of chronic diseases.

Walking in groups also adds an important element of safety. And it helps with motivation, as another meta-analysis which evaluated 42 studies found: when people walk in groups outdoors, they are less likely to give up too easily.

## IT PREVENTS (OR DELAYS) TYPE 2 DIABETES

The American Diabetes Association provides strong evidence of the benefits of walking for people who have pre-diabetes, Type 2 Diabetes, or even Type 1 Diabetes.

Type two diabetes is the most common and is linked to insulin resistance (or a lack of it). Type one diabetes occurs when the body does not naturally produce sufficient insulin, and generally presents in childhood. It is not necessarily related to lifestyle habits.

About 7%, or 3.85 million South Africans between the ages of 21 and

79, have diabetes. A large proportion remain undiagnosed.

## DECREASES BLOOD PRESSURE

High blood pressure is a direct risk for stroke and heart-related illnesses and threats. Walking demonstrably reduces systolic and diastolic blood pressure. Systolic blood pressure is the "first number" obtained when blood pressure is measured, and represents the pressure in the arteries at the moment the heart is actively pumping blood into the system.

Diastolic, the "second number", represents pressure in the arteries during the heart's rest period. In other words, it stands to reason that this pressure should be considerably lower than systolic and if it isn't, it represents certain risk for cardiovascular event.

The reduction can be statistically significant enough to save a life. For example, if a person's diastolic blood pressure is 90 mm Hg they would be at considerable risk of blood pres-

sure related events. Reducing the figure by 5 mm Hg shifts them from the "mild hypertension" category of risk to "high normal".

Current statistics show that one in three South African adults have high blood pressure. Ten South Africans suffer a stroke every hour.

## IT DECREASES BODY FAT

Humans were designed to move for optimal functioning, and were designed to handle walking great distances over many hours.

Walking can contribute to improved body composition, with statistically significant reductions in body fat. To put this into perspective, this doesn't include any dietary changes, and evidence shows that exercise combined with a change in diet produces greater changes to body composition than exercise alone.

## REDUCES SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION

Rates of depression have risen 20%

globally in a decade. This places depression as one of the leading causes of disability worldwide.

Walking has been recommended for managing symptoms of depression for a long time. It's been identified as an effective strategy, particularly when combined with the positive effects of sunshine and fresh air, as well as the social cohesion experienced when in a group.

## NO ADVERSE SIDE EFFECTS

Probably the best news: when individuals around the world participated in various walking programmes based on the review of these studies, no notable adverse side effects were reported.

Walking is safe for children, adults and older adults alike. The take home message here is that there is nothing to lose from trying it out, and plenty to gain.

*By arrangements with The Conversation*

Humans were designed to move for optimal functioning, and were designed to handle walking great distances over many hours. Walking can contribute to improved body composition, with statistically significant reductions in body fat



# Potential New Approach To Treat Long Covid Conditions Found

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have discovered a new approach for delivering treatments to patients suffering from serious, long-term COVID symptoms.

The team at University of Miami, US, conducted experimental studies on mice and found that placing a peptide 'net' around the spike protein of the virus reduced deaths from organ failure and also improved overall outcomes.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus uses the spike protein to enter and infect the cells.

"Despite the advances in vaccines, a significant percentage of infected patients develop long-term problems of the brain, lungs, heart, liver, or kidneys," said Michael J. Paidas, lead researcher of the study published in the journal Molecular Neurobiology.

"Our laboratory research has focused on preventing the SARS-CoV-2 virus from attaching to the cell and finding a potential therapy for infected individuals fighting the lasting effects of COVID," Paidas said.

Researchers said this is the first study to follow laboratory animals over a long period of time and identify pathological changes to the brain, heart and other organs in mice that would take many years to find in humans.

"We observed pathological changes in multiple organs and blood vessels 12



months after these mice were infected with a coronavirus model," said research assistant professor Arumugam R Jayakumar.

"However, treating the infected mice with a small-molecule synthetic peptide, patented as SPIKENET, prevented the binding of spike protein. That significantly reduced disease progression and pathological changes to the brain, heart, lungs, and other organs," Jayakumar said.

He added that the long-term COVID

study results are consistent with the research team's prior study on the acute phase of COVID infection.

While the underlying mechanisms of SARS-CoV-2-induced multi-organ failure and death are largely unknown, the inflammatory response of the immune system can lead to edema, a rapid build-up of fluid in cells damaging tissues and organs, said Paidas.

"Using our mouse model, we found

that SPIKENET treatments improved the cellular inflammatory and oxidative stress response in the acute phase of the infection," Paidas said.

"We discovered that SPIKENET also works through a novel mechanism, namely by altering aquaporins, which are critical water channels, present on cells throughout the body," he said.

The researchers found that through these three key mechanisms,

SPIKENET reduced edema and resulted in better outcomes.

"We think that SPIKENET offers a one-two punch, making it an attractive therapeutic agent," Paidas said.

"It prevents the virus from entering cells and limits the damage inflicted by the virus, thus restoring organs to a more normal physiologic state," he added.



However, treating the infected mice with a small-molecule synthetic peptide, patented as SPIKENET, prevented the binding of spike protein. That significantly reduced disease progression and pathological changes to the brain, heart, lungs, and other organs

## NASA Set To Break Sound Barrier Again For Future Air Travel

IANS

NASA aeronautical innovators are poised to break the sound barrier again, this time in a very different way that could make it possible for all of us to one day travel by air just as fast as any of the X-1 pilots who flew supersonic.

NASA's X-59, the centerpiece of the agency's Quesst mission, will enable commercial supersonic travel over land.

Lockheed Martin has designed, built and conducted initial flight tests with the aircraft and the first flight is targeted for 2023.

"That first supersonic flight was such a tremendous achievement, and now you look at how far we've come since then. What we're doing now is the culmination of so much of their work," said Catherine Bahr, an aeronautical engineer at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in California.

Through Quesst, NASA plans to demonstrate the X-59 can fly faster than sound without generating the typically loud sonic booms that led to supersonic flight over land being



banned in 1973.

The plan includes flying the X-59 over several communities to survey how people react to the quieter sonic "thump" it produces - if they hear anything at all.

"Their responses will be shared with regulators who will then consider writing new rules to lift the ban," said NASA.

"And when that happens, it will mark another historic milestone in flight, potentially opening a new era in air travel, where airline passengers might hop on a supersonic jet at breakfast time in Los Angeles to make a lunch-time reservation in New York City," it added.

Seventy-five years ago, a sonic boom thundered for the first time over the high desert of California, when the thunder came from the Bell X-1 rocket plane flying faster than the speed of sound.

It was October 14, 1947, and the joint X-1 team of NACA, Air Force (newly formed that year), and Bell engineers and pilots had broken the sound barrier -- an imaginary wall in the sky some said was impossible to penetrate.

"With the X-59 flying on the Quesst mission, I think we are ready to break the sound barrier once again," said Peter Coen, NASA's mission integration manager for Quesst.

## Mohammad Shafi Shah In our hearts forever



A year has passed since Dad passed away. The pain and longing in our hearts is indescribable in words. We lost the jewel of our lives, our patriarch who was the foundation of our family. His speech was eloquent. His manners were impeccable. His character was spotless. His love was heartfelt. His soul was empathetic. His love for our deed was exemplary. He was a tall man with his stature taller than his height. He was a radiant and handsome man and his inner beauty added to his already charismatic persona. The chinar trees remind us of him for he was as mighty as they are. The roses remind us of him for he was as gentle as they are. The mountains remind us of him for he was as lofty as they are. The autumn sunshine reminds us of him for he was as warm and cozy as it is. The stars remind us of his eyes because they twinkled like the brightest one in the sky. It may sound cliché and an over used line but we truly miss him like the deserts miss the rain. No, we don't shed tears because he is not here; instead we smile because we know he is happy and content on the other side. He lived a good life, our dear Dad. He will remain in our hearts till we breathe.

**Iltemas e dua a magfirah**  
**Muzzafar Ahmad Shah,**  
**Aijaz Ahmad Shah,**  
**Rouf Jan Shah, Shugufta Bhat**

## Before The Hon'ble High Court Of Jammu And Kashmir & Ladakh At Srinagar

In the case of:  
Government Medical College at Srinagar through its Principal and Ors.  
Vs  
Public At Large  
Caveat Notice

Be it known to the public at large/ public in general / interested persons, having locus that Government Medical College Srinagar through its Principal/Convener Rate Contract Committee is in the process of inviting NIT from registered agencies/firms under FSSAI norms for the group Diet Facility for In Patient at Government Children Hospital Bemina Srinagar". It is apprehended that some persons may approach this Hon'ble Court by filing suit, application, petition etc., and pray for some interim relief in ex parte. Therefore, under such circumstances, the instant caveat is being filed and it is prayed that in the event of any suit, petition or other case being filed by any member of public at large in the circumstances narrated above, it is humbly prayed from this Hon'ble Court that no interim order or any protective order be passed without granting the caveator an opportunity of hearing.

The address for notice to the caveator is being given hereinbelow.  
"Principal Government Medical College Srinagar, Karanagar, J&K, 190010 Srinagar

Dated 18.10.2022

DIPK-11956/22

Principal,  
GMC Srinagar and Associated Hospitals  
Rate Contract Committee  
Govt Medical College Srinagar



Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**SKIMS Medical College-Hospital**  
Bemina Srinagar (J&K)-190017  
Phone No. 0194-2492042, Fax 0194-2490071

### WRITTEN TEST FOR ENGAGEMENT OF JUNIOR RESIDENTS IN DENTISTRY

The written test for the candidates who have applied for vacant/likely vacant tenure posts of Junior Residents in response to the Advertisement Notification No: SKIMS-MC (01) Acad of 2020 Dated: 08.02.2020 & Advertisement Notification No: SKIMS-MC(05) Acad of 2022 Dated: 14.05.2022 is scheduled to be held on Sunday, 30.10.2022 at 2:30pm in the University of Kashmir.

All the candidates are hereby informed that they should collect their Admit cards from the Office of Registrar Academics, SKIMS Medical College, Bemina from 19.10.2022 to 25.10.2022 on all working days.

Allotment of Examination halls shall be notified separately on the Institutional Website.

No TA/DA shall be paid for participation in the written test.

No: SKIMS/MC/Acad/ 4147 - 55  
Dt: 18 - 10 - 2022

DIPK-NB-4476/22

Sd/-  
Prof. Irfan Robbani  
(Principal)

## Government Medical College Srinagar

10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar Kashmir, 190010 Phone No. 0914-2504114 Fax No 0194-2503115

### Advertisement Notice No. 05 of 2022 Doted: 17- 10-2022

Applications on prescribed format are invited from Medical Graduates for full time House Job in various specialties of Government Medical College Srinagar and its Associated Hospitals.

The Selection of the candidates will be made as per the Guidelines Prescribed by the Government, subject to the amendment by the Government from time to time

Preference will be given to those candidates who are completing one year's internship upto 15.10.2022 (fresh batch). Only those candidates will apply who will have permanent Registration registration certificate from the JK Medical Council or Medical Council of India, otherwise their candidature will not be entertained.

Candidates interested in applying for House Surgeon positions at Government Medical College, Srinagar should download the application form from Government Medical College, Srinagar website www.gmc.edu.in between 18.10.2022 to 31.10.2022 or can be collect from Photostat Section of Government Medical College, Srinagar. The application form should be accompanied with a bank receipt for 300/- (Rupees Three Hundred Only) from J&K Bank, branch, GMC, Srinagar of account No. 7655. Application forms complete in all respects should reach the office of the Registrar Academics upto 31.10.2022. The application forms shall be accompanied with copies of following certificates: -

1. MBBS Degree Certificate
  2. Marks certificates from 1st to final year MBBS
  3. Internship completion certificate.
  4. MCI/JK Medical Council Registration Certificate.
  5. Attempt Certificate
  6. Merit Certificate, if any.
  7. Certificate of extra-curricula ractivities/sports, if any issued by the competent authority.
  8. Domicile Certificate.
  9. Affidavit.
- The selected candidates shall be paid monthly stipend as admissible under Government Rules.

All the candidates shall be required to submit an affidavit duly attested by Judicial Magistrate alongwith application form to the effect that: -

1. he/she will not leave the House Job midway and will serve for the tenure period of atleast 06 months. In the event of his/her leaving the House Job midway, a candidate shall be required to refund the stipend already drawn by him/her on this account and no experience certificate under any circumstances shall be issued.
2. he/she shall not indulge in any kind of strike during the period of his/her tenure engagement. In the event he/she proceeds on strike, his/her tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under ESMA Act.
3. he/she shall remain disciplined during the tenure period, any kind of misconduct by him/her would be liable for termination without any prior notice.
4. he/she is not involved in any criminal activity or there is no FIR pending or registered in any criminal department or police station against him/her.

No: AR-MC/Advt/HJ/2687-2705/MC  
Dated 18-10-2022  
DIPK-11922/22

Principal/Dean  
Govt Medical College Srinagar



## Dulloo Reviews Status Of Lumpy Skin Disease In J&K

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a meeting to review measures being taken up for controlling the spread of lumpy skin disease in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, a power point presentation was presented highlighting district wise status of lumpy skin disease besides detailing controlling measures like vaccination, use of medicines, procurement of vaccines and sampling collection for testing. During the meeting threadbare discussions were held on the measures being taken up to stem the spread of disease in JK.

It was given out in the meet-

India and asked the officers to keep a control on movement of animals besides ensuring maximum vaccination to the migrating animals so that further spread of this disease is prevented.

He directed the officers for ensuring visits of expert teams to check the emerging situation and engaging maximum field staff to ensure proper vaccination. He further directed the concerned to launch awareness campaign and door to door inspections besides visits by field staff to make farmers aware about the Lumpy Skin Disease.

ACS also enquired about the availability of medicines while directing both the Directors to ensure availability of required medicines in all the affected



ing that awareness camps on Lumpy Skin Disease are being organised at different places in the UT to spread awareness among the masses.

While chairing the meeting, Dulloo stressed for strict adherence to proper protocols of treatment as per the recommendations by government of

areas so that the spread can be tackled timely and effectively.

Earlier, it was informed that till date 49477 animals have been affected with Lumpy Skin Disease, of which 43040 have recovered, so far. It also informed that 868000 doses have been administered to the cattle across J&K.

## JKTPO Participates in 54th IHGF Delhi Fair 2022



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) has participated in 54th IHGF Delhi Fair 2022 edition at Delhi, a flagship B2B event of Handloom & Handicraft sector organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).

JKTPO sponsored & facilitated 10 Handloom & Handicraft exhibitors to showcase their products to enhance their visibility during the exhibition. M/S The Pure Handicraft Sozni exhibited Sozni Shawls, Pashmina Shawls, Sozni Stoles, Sozni Suits etc., M/S Badam Pashmina Raffal Handloom Weavers Industrial Coop. Ltd. Exhibited Kani-Shawl, Raffal, Pashmina Shawls, Stoles etc., M/S N.B Shawls exhibited Shawls, Kani Shawls, Jamawar etc., M/S Rahi Handloom Weavers Co. Ltd. Exhibited Pashmina Shawls, Kani Shawls & other Handmade Products, M/S Multi Crafts Development Works H/C ICS Ltd. Exhibited Sozni & Pashmina Shawls, M/S Tsanga Teholinga Stone Jewellery & Mix Embroidery Works H/C ICS Ltd. Exhibited Pashmina Shawls,

Woolen Shawls & Jewellery, M/S New Style Handloom Weavers ICS Ltd. Exhibited Handloom Blankets & Pashmina Shawls, Sweaters, M/S Meeras Carpet Weavers Industrial Co-Operative Limited exhibited Carpets & Rugs. Jammu and Kashmir Industries Limited (JKI) & J&K State Handloom & Handicraft Dev. Corp. showcased variety of unique and range of GI products of J&K were displayed at the event viz. Pashmina Shawl, Paper Machie, Hand knotted Carpets, Sozani work, Woollens, Walnut made products etc.

54th IHGF Delhi Fair 2022 edition presents a comprehensive collection of home, lifestyle, fashion, textiles & furniture products for the season ahead from over 2000+ manufactures & exporters. Held at the plush India Expo Centre, Delhi-NCR, India, the IHGF Delhi Fair exhibits over 2000+ new product expressions and more than 300 design developments across 14 product categories. This was a one stop sourcing destination for retailers, importers, wholesalers and design professionals.

## Govt Hikes Wheat MSP By Rs 110 To Rs 2,125/Quintal

2-9 pc rise in MSP of six rabi crops



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Tuesday hiked the minimum support price (MSP) of six rabi crops by up to 9 per cent, with Rs 110 per quintal increase for wheat crop to boost domestic production and farmers' income.

Wheat MSP has been raised by 5.45 per cent to Rs 2,125 per quintal from Rs 2,015 per quintal to encourage more area under the crop amid tight government stock position owing to low procurement, fall in production and higher exports.

The decision to increase the MSP of rabi crops for 2023-24 marketing year was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said in a media briefing.

The cost of production of wheat is estimated at Rs 1,065 per quintal. The government has ensured a 100 per cent return over the cost of production in the case of wheat and mustard, he said.

Whereas in the other four rabi crops, it is between 50 to 85 per cent return over the cost of production, he added.

Asked if the hike in MSP of

rabi crops would lead to food inflation, the minister said price rise in India is under control in comparison to other countries.

According to an official release, the support price of barley was hiked by Rs 100 to Rs 1,735 per quintal for the 2022-23 crop year from Rs 1,635 per quintal in the previous year.

Among pulses, the MSP for gram has been increased by Rs 105 to Rs 5,335 per quintal from Rs 5,230, while for lentil (Masur), it was hiked by Rs 500 to Rs 6,000 from Rs 5,500 per quintal.

In the case of oilseeds, the government has increased the MSP for mustard seed by Rs 400 to Rs 5,450 per quintal for the 2022-23 crop year from Rs 5,050 in the previous year. The MSP for safflower has been raised by Rs 209 to Rs 5,650 per quintal from Rs 5,441.

The absolute highest increase in MSP has been approved for lentil (Masur) by Rs 500 per quintal, followed by rapeseed and mustard at Rs 400. In percentage terms, MSP of masur has been enhanced the maximum at 9.09 per cent.

The MSP is the rate at which the government buys grain from farmers. Currently, the government fixes MSP for 23 crops grown in both kharif and rabi seasons.

Sowing of rabi (winter) crops begins in October, immediately after the harvest of kharif (summer) crops. Wheat and mustard are major rabi crops.

In case of wheat, the government decided to hike the MSP by Rs 110 per quintal as against Rs 40-50 per quintal in the last two years, keeping in mind the need to raise the domestic production amid falling government stocks.

With prices coming under strain owing to fall in domestic wheat output and over 50 per cent fall in government procurement at 19 million tonnes in 2022-23 marketing year, the government had to ban overseas sale of the grain in May.

While wheat prices have risen in comparison to the last two years, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey on Monday said the increase in both wholesale and retail wheat prices is not "abnormal" and the government would intervene when required.

In the statement, the government said the increase in MSP for rabi crops for the 2022-23 crop year is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production, aimed at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers.

## FinMin Seeks Trade, Industry Suggestions On Taxes For 2023-24 Budget

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Kickstarting stakeholder consultation for 2023-24 Budget, the finance ministry has sought suggestions from industry and trade associations regarding direct and indirect taxes.

Along with the suggestions, the industry has to submit justification for their demand which, if found with merit, could become part of the Union Budget for 2023-24 (April-March), to be tabled in Parliament on February 1, 2023.

The deadline for sending suggestions for changes in the duty structure, rates and



broadening of tax base on both direct and indirect taxes is November 5.

"In the context of formulating the proposals for the Union Budget for 2023-24, the Ministry of Finance would like to be benefited by the suggestions and views of your association," the ministry said.

It said that since the government is working to phase out tax incentives, deductions and exemptions while simultaneously rationalising direct tax rates, the industry should point out 'positive externalities' arising out of the recommendations.

The ministry also sought industry suggestions on reducing compliance burdens, providing tax certainty and reducing litigation.

In the indirect taxes front, the request for correcting inverted duty structure for any commodity should be supported by value addition at each stage of manufacturing.



## 10-Day EDP Under Mission Youth's Tejaswini Scheme Inaugurated

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The 10-Day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) under Mission Youth's Tejaswini (The Radiant) livelihood scheme commenced today at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI). The programme inaugurated by Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat at Shopian and also e-inaugurates same programme at Kulgam & Baramulla.

The candidates will undergo a 10-Day training programme with a focus on self-development, basic business skills, business and marketing plan formulation, account management, sector-specific technical inputs and will be apprised of all the formalities involved in setting up an enterprise. The aim of the programme is to help the candidates to be self-reliant and facilitate their capacity building.

"We want young women to start their own businesses. They can become very successful entrepreneurs because of their resilience and patience. Under the leadership of Lt. Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, the government is committed to creating an enabling environ-

ment for entrepreneurship and self-employment," said Director JKEDI.

The scheme is a special endeavour of Mission Youth, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. It is aimed at providing financial assistance to young women for setting up gainful self-employment ventures suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions. It will empower and encourage women to set up income-generating units through manufacturing, services or trading activities.

Upon successful completion of the training program, these registered female candidates will receive assistance in establishing or expanding an existing business. The project report will also have provisions for the acquisition of fixed assets including Plant & Machinery, equipment, furniture & fixtures to meet working capital needs for the purchases of various products, equipment and tools.

The trained female candidates shall also be facilitated to avail of financial assistance to the extent of Rs 5.00 lakh. Through this initiative, women will be able to improve their socio-economic status and become more involved in nation-building.

## 'J&K Youth Derive Success From Mumkin Scheme'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Mumkin scheme of Mission Youth has successfully engaged and channelised energy of youth of Jammu and Kashmir through a systematic livelihood generation programme in transport sector.

Union Territory administration in partnership with Ashok Leyland has moved towards achieving the vision of Prime Minister to provide sustainable livelihood to youth under "MUMKIN" scheme for Transport Sector.

With this partnership, government aims to move towards creation of a better socio-economic ecosystem, self-employment opportunities and elimination of poverty in J&K.

As part of "MUMKIN" initiative, Lieutenant Governor distributed highly subsidized small commercial vehicles among first batch of young beneficiaries from across the Union Territory to mark the beginning of government's commitment towards livelihood generation for youth.

The 'Mumkin' is a livelihood programme designed primarily for unemployed young people in the age bracket of 18 to 35 years. Under 'Mumkin' scheme, small commercial vehicles are be-

ing provided to the youth with banking partner extending the loan facility to the extent of 100 percent for on-road price of the vehicle to be purchased.

Mission Youth, J&K, provides an amount of Rs 80,000 or 10 percent for the on-road price of the vehicle (whichever is lesser) as upfront subsidy and the vehicle manufacturers (scheme partner of government) provide an upfront special discount, not less than the amount of subsidy.

Muzafar Wani of Ramban is thankful to the administration for providing him a vehicle which helped him to secure a respectable livelihood that could fulfil the needs of his family.

Wani is satisfied with the earnings after owning a vehicle under Mumkin Scheme.

Similarly, economic status of Riyaz Raqeeb of Srinagar was elevated after receiving a Mahindra Pickup Vehicle under the 'Mumkin' scheme.

Hatib Javid of Shopian was working as daily wage labourer and could hardly bear the expenses of his family with a meagre earning.

The awareness programme of Mumkin scheme which he attended gave him a ray of hope for realizing his dream of owning a vehicle.

## SHORT TAKES

### Dir Horti Takes Stock Of Various Departmental Activities

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director Horticulture Kashmir, G. R. Mir Tuesday visited district Shopian to take stock of different departmental activities in the district.

At the outset, he visited the office of Chief Horticulture Officer Shopian where he interacted with the officers of the Department and emphasized upon them for timely completion of given targets.

He urged the officers to make proper and full expenditure under CAPEX and the centrally sponsored schemes. He also urged the officers to make frequent visits to the field and conduct awareness camps on routine basis and provide the growers the latest technical knowhow.

Later, Director visited Fruit Plant Nursery and Shopian, Advanced Centre for Horticulture Development (ACHD) Zainpora where he took stock of various nursery operations like hoeing, weeding, summer pruning etc.

On the occasion he stressed for propagation of quality fruit plants. He instructed the officers to make optimum utilization of land and other resources in the nurseries. He further stressed upon the staff to speed up nursery operations and focus on orchard and nursery sanitation.

### Secy Tourism Chairs Meeting As Part Of Jan Abhiyan

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As part of ongoing Jan Abhiyan, Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez, Tuesday chaired a meeting regarding tourism department functioning in Kashmir.

Director Tourism Kashmir, MD JKTDC, Director SKICC, MD Cable Car Corporation, Chief Executive Officers of Tourism Development Authorities in Kashmir and other concerned officers and officials of Tourism department Kashmir participated in the meeting. While as Jammu based officers including Chief Executive Officers of Tourism Development Authorities in Jammu participated online in the meeting.

Secretary, while addressing the meeting, laid emphasis on identification of 75 new offbeat tourism destinations in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. In this regard, he directed the officers to put in place all necessary preparations in synergy with other line departments for developing tourism friendly infrastructure.

Secretary asked the officials to ensure complete involvement of local youth, members of PRIs and civil society towards utilising full potential of the said identified tourist destinations. He also asked all the stakeholders to work in tandem to ensure that the set targets are achieved in full.

### 'Empowerment Of Women Artisans Can Reduce Poverty'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, Mehmoos Ahmad Shah while interacting with Women Sozni Artisans from district Ganderbal in 10th capacity building programme said that the empowerment of women artisans has the potential to not only equalize pay and meet the fair trade standards, but it can also set the stage for greater poverty reduction.

The programme was organised by the PHDCI-Kashmir in association with Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir and with the support of Department of Commerce-Ministry of Commerce & Industry Government of India.

Shah further added that in the present-day context, where the e-commerce rules the business and trade, it has become even more important that, besides providing the modern production tools and technology skills, the Kashmiri artisan community should have basic business skills wrapped with e-commerce-enabled understanding and doing business on e-platforms through their social media connect.

The capacity building programmes that we are organising in association with PHDCI is an endeavour to provide and sharpen the skills such as new design development, Merchandising Concepts, Consumer Taste, E-commerce, Quality Assurance, Packaging and Logistics, and Finance and schemes for Small Craft Businesses, he said.

### Scindia Urges States To Reduce Tax On Jet Fuel

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said there is a huge demand for air travel after the pandemic and urged eight states and Union Territories to reduce the tax on jet fuel.

Air traffic growth will be driven by smaller cities, he said while speaking at the Civil Aviation Ministers' conference in the national capital. Domestic air traffic is inching closer to pre-Covid level and in recent times, the daily passenger numbers crossed the four lakh mark twice.

Scindia said that Value Added Tax (VAT) on jet fuel is still high in eight states and Union Territories in the range of 20-30 per cent and urged them to reduce the rate. Jet fuel cost accounts for a significant part of an airline's operational costs.

The minister requested Goa, Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar and Tamil Nadu to reduce the VAT on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

"New growth to come from Tier 2 and 3 cities," he said and emphasised the need to bring down entry barriers in the context of high VAT on jet fuel in some states.

Currently, 28 states and Union Territories have VAT on jet fuel in the range of 1-4 per cent, he added.

### Air India Aims 30% Int'l Mkt Share In 5 Yrs: CEO

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Air India chief Campbell Wilson on Tuesday said the airline aims to have 30 per cent share in both domestic and international markets in the next five years.

Currently, the loss-making carrier, which was taken over by Tata group in January, has put in place the revival plan 'Vihaan.AI'.

Air India aims to have 30 per cent share in domestic and international markets in the next five years, Wilson, who is the MD and CEO, told reporters here.

Currently, the airline has a domestic market share of 10 per cent and an international market share of 12 per cent.

"Vihaan.AI" is a comprehensive transformation plan with a detailed road map for next five years.

The airline is working on "restoring the reputation" and there is evidence that progress is being made, Wilson said. It has also negotiated various contracts.

According to Wilson, the airline will triple its fleet in the next five years.

The airline will be inducting 5 wide-body Boeing and 25 Airbus narrow-body planes over the next 15 months. The aircraft being leased are 21 Airbus A320 neos, 4 Airbus A321 neos and 5 Boeing B777-200LRs.



# 7 Dead As Helicopter Ferrying Kedarnath Pilgrims Crashes Into Hillside

Press Trust of India

**Rudraprayag (U'khand):** A helicopter ferrying pilgrims from Kedarnath temple to Guptkashi crashed into a hill here amid dense fog on Tuesday, killing all seven people on board.

The chopper a Bell 407 operated by private company Aryan Aviation -- burst into flames around 11.45 am at Dev Darshini in Rudraprayag's Garud Chatti, District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh said.

The crash took place within seconds five or six seconds , according to one eyewitness of taking off from the Kedarnath helipad.

Teams from the National Disaster Response Force, disaster response forces of Uttarakhand and Delhi, and police brought the bodies to the helipad.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia condoled the deaths of the six pilgrims and the helicopter pilot.

Teams of Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AARB) and aviation regulator DGCA will probe the crash, a senior official said.

Aryan Aviation and four other operators flying on the Kedarnath Yatra route were recently fined Rs 5 lakh by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for certain violations, an official said.

Manohar Singh, a security



man deployed at Kedarnath helipad, said the helicopter crashed into the hill two kilometres away just seconds after takeoff.

"Nothing was visible immediately due to the thick blanket of fog enveloping the area but everyone ran in the direction of the huge sound of the crash," he said.

As the fog thinned, the helicopter was seen in flames and its pieces scattered all over the slopes of Garud Chatti, Singh said.

The Rudraprayag disaster management office identified the dead pilgrims as Poorva Ramanuj (26), Kriti Brar (30) and Urvi Brar (25) from Gujarat, and Sujata (56), Prem Kumar and Kala (60) from Tamil Nadu. Pilot Anil Singh (57) hailed from Maharashtra, it said.

Kriti and Urvi Brar were cousins. Kriti worked for a private company and Urvi was preparing for competitive exams, their family members said.

President Murmu said the news of the deaths in the crash near Kedarnath Dham was very sad. My deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones," she tweeted in Hindi.

"Anguished by the helicopter crash in Uttarakhand. In this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families," Prime Minister Modi was quoted as saying in a tweet by his office. He was scheduled to visit the shrine on Friday.

In August 2019, three people were killed when another private helicopter crashed in the

state. The chopper was carrying relief material for flood victims in Uttarkashi.

In June this year, the DGCA issued an advisory to helicopter operators flying on the Char Dham pilgrimage routes.

It came against the backdrop of an incident in which a helicopter bounced and turned 270 degrees while landing at the Kedarnath helipad in May.

The advisory cautioned pilots about the presence of any tailwinds while approaching to land, particularly at Kedarnath. If the tailwinds or crosswinds are beyond permissible limits, the approach must be abandoned and the helicopter must return to base, it advised.

The DGCA said the operators must ensure that helicopter pilots are qualified and well rested.

According to the Badrinath Kedarnath temple committee data, 2,42,712 pilgrims visited the Kedarnath shrine in 2021.

Most pilgrims trek for hours to reach the popular shrine. The chopper ride takes a few minutes.

The gates of the shrine were to close for winter on October 26.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia tweeted that he was deeply saddened by the loss of lives.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal too expressed grief.

## Constitution's 97<sup>th</sup> Amendment Not Applicable To Local Cooperative Societies: SC

Press Trust of India

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011, would not be applicable to the local cooperative societies but only to the multi-state cooperative societies and the societies within Union Territories.

The cooperative societies were conferred with a constitutional status by the 97th Amendment of the Constitution to ensure their effective management.

The top court said the basic principles of cooperation are that the members join as human beings and not as capitalists and the cooperative society is a form of organization wherein people associate together as human beings on the basis of equality for the promotion of the economic interest of its members.

A bench of Chief Justice of India UU Lalit, Justice S Ravindra Bhat and Justice J B Pardiwala allowed an appeal of the 'Bengal Secretariat Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank and Housing Society Ltd' challenging a Calcutta High Court order.

The High Court had upheld a civil judge order holding a plea maintainable for the execution of the arbitration award restraining it from demolishing the almost 100-year-old dilapidated administrative building of the society, situated on

Gariahat Road at Jodhpur Park of Kolkata.

"This appeal succeeds and is hereby allowed. The impugned judgment and order passed by the High Court is hereby set aside and it shall now be open to the appellant society to proceed further with its project of redevelopment in accordance with the resolutions passed by the general body from time to time.

"It is needless to clarify that the first priority should be given to demolishing the entire building as the same is in a dilapidated condition", the apex court ordered.

The society was registered in the year 1945 and was formed for the purpose of providing housing to the employees of the West Bengal Secretariat and others in accordance with the bye-laws of the society.

The bench said that it is necessary to clarify that the constitutional validity of the 97th Constitution Amendment was challenged before the Gujarat High Court, which declared that the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 inserting Part IXB containing the Articles 243ZH to 243ZT as ultra vires the Constitution of India.

It said that the verdict was of the Gujarat High Court to the top court which was upheld and the majority view declared that Part IXB of the Constitution of India would

be operative only in so far as it concerned the multi-state cooperative societies both within the various states and in the Union Territories of India.

It said, "Thus, the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 would not be applicable to the local co-operative societies, whereas the same would be applicable to the multi-state cooperative societies and the societies within the Union Territories".

The bench said that it is of the view that the Calcutta High Court is not correct in saying that the Bengal Secretariat Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank and Housing Society Ltd Society could not have entered into an agreement with a third party developer as the Act or the Rules do not provide for the same.

It said, "It is too much for the High Court to expect that all the members of the Appellant Society should on their own contribute and undertake the development of the new administrative building".

It added that in the background of the constitutional mandate, the question is not what the statute does say but what the statute must say.

"If the Act or the Rules or the bye-laws do not say what they should say in terms of the Constitution, it is the duty of the Court to read the constitutional spirit and concept into the Acts", it added.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### J&K's Healthcare

number of medical colleges in North India as UT had only 10 medical colleges during 2021-22. The report further added that J&K accounted for 1,147 UG seats per 1 lakh population in India and 837 PG seats per 1 lakh population during 2021-22.

It added that India had only 98 medical colleges in 1971-72, which reached to only 128 by 1990-91. The pace picked up and India witnessed 189 medical colleges in the next 10 years, i.e., by 2001. In 2011-12, the number of medical colleges, including private and government, was 335, which increased to 612 in 2021-22, observing an 83 per cent growth. The average annual growth of medical colleges from 2011-12 to 2021-22 was 5.9 per cent— the highest in the last five decades.

The report also mentioned that J&K accounted for 11.6 percent of doctors for every 10,000 population—more than WHO's benchmark of 10 percent per 10,000 population.

While quoting Indian Nursing Council(INC) Annual Report 2021, the data said that India has 5,162 nursing institutes – private (87%) and government (13%). Approximately 60 percent of nursing institutes are concentrated in 5 States - Maharashtra (14%), Karnataka (12%) and Madhya Pradesh (9%), Uttar Pradesh (7%) and Tamil Nadu (7%).

Lowest number of institutes were in the North Eastern states of Bihar, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. J&K had only 34 nursing institutes in 2021 which accounted for only 1 percent of the National Average. As per the analysis, J&K has 171 (1 percent) nursing seats per 100,000 population during 2020-2021.

While pointing towards the density of Allied Healthcare Professionals per 10,000 population, the data analysis revealed that J&K's share was higher than the national average as the UT's share was 15.7 percent against 8.4 percent national average.

The Data analysis stated that the disparity in the availability of doctors would grow if remedial measures were not put in place. "This despite the fact that the government has tried to increase the number of medical seats at the state level to help cover the shortage of doctors through implementing various initiatives," the analysis warned.

### Kashmir's Higher

was 0.7°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 5.6°C against 4.7°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 1.1°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Meanwhile, the authorities on Tuesday closed Mughal road due to snowfall along Pir ki Gali (PKG), keeping in view safety of passengers on the thoroughfare which connects Shopian with twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri, reports said.

### 2 Labourers From

assailant was identified as Imran Bashir Ganie from Harmen, the additional DGP said, claiming that he has also confessed about his involvement.

Meanwhile, Kannauj District Magistrate Shubhrant Kumar Shukla

said the victims, natives of Danna Purwa village under the Thatia police station area, had gone to Kashmir two months ago and were working as labourers in Shopian.

Kannauj Superintendent of Police Kunwar Anupam Singh said, "After the post-mortem of the deceased labourers is done, their bodies will be brought to Lucknow by an aircraft. From Lucknow, the bodies will reach their village by road."

The killings drew criticism from administration as well as political parties with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha saying that "words cannot adequately condemn today's barbaric terror attack on Manish Kumar and Ram Sagar from Kannauj, UP..

"...security apparatus has been directed to launch coordinated CT (counter terror) ops".

He said the Shopian district administration has deputed senior officers to make arrangements for transportation of the mortal remains of the two men to their respective villages with full honours.

"Terrorism is a curse for the civilised society. People from every community must come together to condemn heinous acts and root out terror and its elements," he added.

Former chief minister and vice president of National Conference Omar Abdullah termed the killing as "unacceptable and indefensible targeted attack against minorities in Kashmir".

"My heartfelt condolences to the families of Monish Kumar & Ram Sagar, may they find strength at the difficult time. Prayers for the souls of the deceased," he tweeted.

Another former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said it was "distressing to know that two labourers were killed in an attack. At the risk of sounding repetitive, there is no sense of security and dignity for anyone living in J-K. These issues will be resolved only when GOI acknowledges that they exist".

Veteran politician and CPM leader Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami termed the killing as "shocking" and said "two poor labourers who had come to earn their livelihood lost their lives to a despicable attack. Each one of us must raise our voice to condemn such barbaric acts of violence".

Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari said, "Deeply shocked over the killing of two labourers in Shopian. I condemn this heinous and despicable act of violence. The vicious circle of violence must stop now. The perpetrators of the attack must be held accountable and brought to justice."

People's Conference chief Sajad Lone also condemned the attack. "Waking up to the horrific news of the dastardly killing of two people who happen to be non locals. Their journey to earn a livelihood ends in blood bath at the hands of goons. These goons will rot in hell Inshallah."

### KPs Propose

including pandits, a statement issued here by the parties said.

The joint meeting took place in the aftermath of the killing of two migrant labourers and a Kashmiri pandit in two separate attacks in Shopian district of south Kashmir since Saturday.

"All the organistaions in the meeting endorsed several demands including

creation of a 'geo-political' foothold to facilitate rehabilitation of pandits in their homeland and enactment of genocide prevention bill along with setting up of special investigation teams to assist in investigating crimes of genocide," the statement said.

The parties also called for the constitution of a tribunal to look into cases related to the pandit community and relocation of Prime Minister Package employees outside the valley in order to avoid further target killings in Kashmir.

"It was also agreed to send a fact-finding committee to the valley to assess the ground situation, for community deliberation on the future course of action," the statement said.

It said the latest killings of two migrant labourers and a Kashmiri pandit a few days back in Shopian is "another setback to the return of the aborigines of Kashmir".

"The internally-displaced Hindus of Kashmir are caught up between the forces that continue to perpetrate genocide on them and the forces of denial of genocide The neutering of Article 370 and abrogation of Article 35A along with the reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories has dismantled the legal edifice of a Muslim state on the territory of secular India," the statement said.

### Terrorists Will

"I want to tell those who are trying to disrupt peace in J&K that you have made a big mistake. I assure the people they will be severely punished. We will not rest until we strike the last nail in the coffin of terrorism," the LG said.

The LG, as per the spokesperson said that there has been drastic reduction in the number of terror incidents and that security forces have intensified Counter-terror operations to crush terror ecosystem.

"Now there are no calls for bandhs in Kashmir at the behest of neighboring country. Now a common man can earn his livelihood peacefully. We have succeeded in Choking Terror funding and recruitment to a large extent," the LG said.

Earlier, the LG, the spokesperson said, commended the efforts of the author and her art foundation for empowering women, creating Job opportunities for youth and ensuring children's education.

Sinha, he said, also appreciated the work being done by them in Baramulla, Kupwara districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The book encompasses the author's transformative journey as an artist and social worker and her dedication for betterment of the lives of the underprivileged.

The spokesperson said that the LG urged the individuals and volunteer organizations to come forward and complement the government's efforts to selflessly serve the underprivileged sections of the society and for socio-economic empowerment of women and the youth.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor threw light on the golden history of women empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The world's first woman guerrilla force and countless examples of great

women leadership, sacrifice and bravery have made valuable contributions in the development of UT," the LG said.

"Today, Jammu Kashmir is moving towards regaining its lost glory of women empowerment and creating an ecosystem of women entrepreneurs," it added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, further added that in the last two years, more than 10,000 girls have become entrepreneurs and they have been provided with training, financial assistance, and market linkage.

"The handicrafts products of Women self-help groups are reaching different cities of the country and abroad through Amazon & Flipkart," Sinha said.

The LG, the spokesperson said, also spoke on the interventions like Aao School Chalen Campaign, Talaash Survey of the government to ensure that every child goes to school and other initiatives like mentorship program, necessary infrastructure for girls' education, tablets and laptops with content for children, Atal Tinkering labs, smart schools for children belonging to underprivileged section of society, increased average scholarship for children from poor families, vocational courses, Seasonal Centers for Migratory Tribal Population, enchantment of salaries of seasonal teachers etc.

"These efforts are yielding favorable results and last year enrollment drive has registered a 14.5% increase. 93,000 out of school children have been identified and being brought to school within just one year," Sinha said.

During an interaction session with the author, the spokesperson said that the LG highlighted the youth-oriented initiatives being taken by the government under the aegis of Mission Youth.

### Liquor, RTD

by over 5.87 crore in 2018-19, over 5.76 crore in 2019-20 and over 4.13 crore in 2020-21 and over 4.66 crore in 2021-22 and over 2.42 crore till September this year.

Barring marginal increase in 2021-22, otherwise there is a steady decline in the consumption of liquor in Jammu and Kashmir, the official said, adding the JK special Whisky was the most popular drink of alcoholics with its bottle share standing at 47.84 per cent followed by IMFL at 26.80 per cent, beer at 25.13 per cent and RTD at 0.22 per cent in all these five years.

The revenue generation is on the upward trend, registering Rs 1,274.97 crore in 2018-19, compared to Rs 845.82 crore in the previous financial year. The revenue generated in 2019-20 was Rs 1,320.59 crore and Rs 1,777.36 crore in 2021-22.

So far till September this year, the revenue generated was Rs 919.01 crore which is expected to reach Rs 1,900 crore at the end of this financial year.

Sharma said the IMFL share in the revenue was the highest at 48 per cent, followed by whisky at 41 per cent, beer 10.5 per cent and RTD 0.05 per cent since 2017-18 till September this year.

Jammu province was the main contributor in the revenue generation compared to Kashmir valley.

As per the data, the revenue generated in Jammu division was Rs 773.37

crore in 2017-18, Rs 1,155.24 crore in 2018-19, Rs 1,201.72 crore in 2019-20, Rs 1,272.04 crore in 2020-21, Rs 1,671.98 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 862.47 crore 2022-23 till September.

The Kashmir valley, on the other hand, contributed Rs 72.45 crore in 2017-18, Rs 119.73 crore (2018-19), Rs 118.87 crore (2019-20), Rs 81.77 crore (2020-21), Rs 105.39 crore (2021-22) and Rs 56.55 crore (till September 2022).

The excise commissioner said the revenue generated includes Rs 217 crore generated through e-auction of wine shops deposited in the month of March.

"We have issued a total of 655 licences under J&K excise policy and J&K liquor license and sales rules this year, out of which 279 have been issued under J&K EL2, popularly known as wine shops and 250 to bars with restaurants, hotels, banquets and clubs, and at institutions wherever alcohol is used for experimental, scientific purpose or for industrial purpose," Sharma said.

After the introduction of e-bidding and e-auction last year, he said 279 liquor vends were e-auctioned and the highest bidders were given the licences, generating a revenue of Rs 217 crore to the government exchequer against Rs 123 crore the previous year.

"The revenue generated is huge compared to the period before the introduction of the e-auction when only Rs 6 to 7 crore used to be realised on account of the annual renewal fee of the (wine shop) licences," he pointed out.

Sharma said there are six distilleries, 12 bottling plants and three breweries besides 52 wholesale businessmen operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our manufacturing plants are producing quality liquor and this liquor is liked by people within the country and outside as well. As many as 90 lakh bottles of beer were sold last year, while 82 lakh beer bottles were sold this year till September.

"The climate and weather conditions in Jammu and Kashmir make it unique for producing India's best beer which is sent to different parts of the country and abroad as well. Beer worth more than Rs 700 crore is exported from the Union Territory," he said.

### SIA Raids Social

was registered in Police Station SIA Kashmir and investigation was taken up. During investigation, it surfaced that the SM user was propagating anti-India and secessionist propaganda besides, profiling and intimidating specific individuals especially those who are in support of peace, order and violence-free society, by issuing virtual threats.

The spokesman further stated that the suspected person has been glamorizing militants and expressing active support to the anti-national elements by sharing incriminating photographs, videos and texts etc. on Social Media with active financial & ideological support of secessionist groups as well as the proscribed militant organizations within the valley for advocating their militant as well as secessionist activities.

The search was carried out in compliance to search warrant obtained from the Hon'ble Court of Special Judge, Designated under NIA Act

(TADA/POTA) Srinagar and during search, incriminating material which include mobile phone, SIM cards and bank documents were seized for further investigation, reads the statement.

### BSF Shoots

flying object/drone entering from Pakistan into Indian territory in the area falling near Chhana village in Amritsar district," the spokesperson said.

"As per drill, the troops tried to intercept the suspected flying object by firing. Bullet hit the drone due to which it fell down on the ground," the spokesperson said.

A quad copter carrying about 2.5 kgs of suspected narcotics was later recovered from the incident area, he said.

On October 16, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) carrying drugs was similarly neutralised at this front.

In the intervening night of October 13-14, the BSF had shot down another quad copter Pakistan drone in Gurdaspur sector of Punjab.

### J&K Adds Two

remained unchanged at 4785 in J&K— 2352 in Jammu division and 2433 in the Valley, as no fresh fatality was reported in the Union Territory.

### Man Killed In

dead on the spot, reports said. However, there were no immediate reports of any loss to livestock.

### SIU Conducts

The official added that SIU conducted searches at residences of Bilal Ahmad Sheikh of Jandwal Pulwama and Mohammad Maqbool Mala of Bandzov Pulwama.

He said that searches are going on in connection with the IED case in Pulwama district.

Notably on 16 June this year, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) material was recovered from an orchard at Aramulla in Lassipora Litter area of South Kashmir's Pulwama.

Moreover, an IED weighing around 25 to 30 Kgs was recovered on a circular road in Pulwama by a joint team of police and security forces on 10 August.

Meanwhile, as per a statement, continuing its crackdown on militant elements, today Special Investigation Unit (SIU) Pulwama conducted raids at seven different locations of district Pulwama viz Armulla, Bandzoo, Jandwal, Niloora, regarding an IED case in Pulwama in which seven (07) accused persons were involved and accordingly booked in case FIR No 65 of 2022 U/S 18,23,39 UAP Act, 4/5 Explosive substance Act registered at Police Station Litter.

During the search, SIU Pulwama seized important documents including passports, bank account pass-books, digital devices etc. "Proper SOPs were followed during the raids."

It is pertinent to mention that the accused persons are presently detained in Sub-Jail Pulwama.

The searches were conducted to collect more evidence of their involvement in other militant crimes. "Searches are aimed at eliminating the militant ecosystem in the district by identifying various overground workers and supporters of militancy."





## Election Of All DFAs/ Zones Soon: JKFA

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) on Tuesday said that its Election Committee will hold elections in all of its District Football Associations (DFAs) and Zones "soon". The decision was taken during the committee's first meeting on Monday, 17th October 2022 at Srinagar which was chaired by its Chairman Wasim Aslam.

The meeting was attended by FA members from Kashmir while members from Jammu participated through video conferencing.

"The Chairman said in his opening speech that he is in constant touch with secretaries of Districts and is busy preparing completion of outline plan for conducting free and fair elections. The dates for holding Elections of each District, Zones of Kashmir province were finalized

which will be issued shortly," the FA said.

"A resolution was passed that if any individual Associated Member, Club creates hurdles in taking the election process to its logical end by exploiting the digital technology and running anti Association campaign and try to destabilize the Election, the Committee will take disciplinary action," the FA added in its statement.

"JKFA has no agenda for or against anyone. We have been always neutral and have tried to streamline the J&K Football and take it to higher levels. The Unity of Football family needs to be kept intact, which is our paramount concern."

"No one is authorized to defame any person or any Association Member/s through Social Media, Print Media & Electronic Media," the FA said.

## Bijbehara Lifts Anantnag Rolling Cricket Cup



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Zone Bijbehara on Tuesday won the LG's Rolling Cricket Cup 2022 by defeating Zone Achabal at HSS Bijbehara.

The District Level Inter Zonal final match saw Bijbehara win the toss and elect to field with Achabal losing quick wickets. The team was bundled out for 117 runs in 18.3 overs.

Ishfaq Ahmed, Omais Maray and Nadeem scored 35, 23, 18 runs respectively.

For Bijbehara, Zahid Ahmed took 3 wickets, Umar Farooq and Owais Lefty took 2 wickets each.

In reply Bijbehara chased the target in the 19th over and lifted the cup with 3 wickets in hand. Jasif Lefty played a brilliant knock of unbeaten 54 runs.

Inayat Malik took 4 wickets while Sidiq Ahmad claimed 2 wickets for Achabal.

Additional District Development Commissioner Anantnag

Bashir Ahmad (JKAS) was the Chief Guest on the occasion and witnessed the final overs as Jasif Lefty was detected man of the match and Umar Farooq as man of the series.

Later a presentation ceremony was held where the Chief Guest distributed Prizes among the winners and the first three position holders: Bijbehara, Achabal and Anantnag.

Among others who were present on the occasion were District Youth Services and Sports Officer Anantnag, Principal Higher Secondary school Bijbehara, Staff members, members of Activities Section and good number of spectators.

Earlier, before the start of presentation ceremony, a pledge against drug abuse was administered by the players and the officials present.

The competition was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag.

# India Won't Travel To Pakistan For Asia Cup 2023

Pakistan threaten to skip 2023 World Cup



Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Tuesday made it clear that India won't travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup next year and will instead push for a neutral venue.

The 2023 edition, which will be played in the 50 over format ahead of the ODI World Cup in India, has been allotted to Pakistan.

"We have decided we will not travel to Pakistan. We will play at a neutral venue," said Shah, who also happens to be the Asian Cricket Council president, after the BCCI's Annual General Meeting (AGM) here. He was re-elected as secretary for a

second term.

The 2022 Asia Cup was held in the UAE last month after hosts Sri Lanka expressed their inability to host the event amid the economic crisis back home.

India and Pakistan only play each other in Asia Cup and global events due to political tensions between the two countries.

Both teams played twice in the Asia Cup last month and are set to clash in Melbourne on October 23 in the T20 World Cup.

**Pakistan retaliate over Asia Cup venue change**

In a strong reaction to BCCI

secretary Jay Shah's statement that India would prefer to play the Asia Cup at a neutral venue, Pakistan threatened to pull out of next year's World Cup in India.

Sources close to PCB chairman Ramiz Raja indicated that one of the options that they are mulling after Shah's statement is to pull out of the 50-over ICC World Cup in India.

The PCB sources said that Raja would be sending a strong letter to the ACC on the matter and would be demanding an emergency meeting of the ACC board to be convened in Melbourne next month to discuss Shah's statement.

## T20 WC: Netherlands Register 2nd Win, SL Win Big Against UAE

Press Trust of India

**GEELONG:** Netherlands made heavy weather of a small target before eking out a five-wicket win against Namibia in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

This is Netherlands' second victory in as many games and keeps them firmly in contention for a place in the next round.

Netherlands dished out a fine bowling effort to restrict Namibia to 121 for six before taking the game deep. They completed the task in 19.3 overs in their first round Group A match.

Sitting pretty at 92 for one, Netherlands made a harakiri towards the end to allow Namibia to make a comeback.

Vikramjit Singh (39 off 31) and Max O'Dowd (35 off 35) got Netherlands' chase off to a blazing start, sharing 59 runs for the opening wicket.

However, from 92 for one, Netherlands slumped to 101 for four, thanks to twin blows from left-arm pacer JJ Smit (2/24) in the 16th over.

Earlier, de Leede (2/18) shone with the ball as well, to help Netherlands restrict Namibia to the modest total.

Besides, Roelof van der Mer-



we (1/6), Pringle (1/15), Colin Ackermann (1/17) and Paul van Meekeren (1/18) also registered their names in the wicket column for Netherlands.

Surprised by Namibia in their tournament opener, Sri Lanka made a strong comeback, thrashing UAE by a massive 79 runs to better their net run rate, which got a beating in the first match.

Opener Pathum Nissanka hit a 60-ball 74 with the help of six boundaries and two hits over the fence to take Sri Lanka to 152 for 8.

It was a yet again an unimpressive batting display from Sri Lanka, as besides Nissanka, Dhananjaya de Silva (33) and Kusal Mendis (18) were the only

two batters to register double digit scores.

Asked to bat, Sri Lanka were cruising at one stage at 92 for 2 before leg-spinner Karthik Meiyappan (3/19) claimed a hat-trick in the 15th over, dismissing Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Charith Asalanka and Dasun Shanaka as the Islanders slumped to 117 for 5.

Despite wickets falling at the other end, Nissanka kept Sri Lanka's scoreboard ticking and was the last to be dismissed in the penultimate ball of the innings, but not before helping his team cross the 15-run mark.

Sri Lanka will take on Netherlands in a must-win last group match on Thursday, while Namibia will be up against UAE.

## New BCCI President Binny Wants To Improve Pitches

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Right after taking charge, new BCCI president Roger Binny on Tuesday said frequent injuries to top India players is a matter of concern and promised to "get to the bottom of it all".

Improving the pitches for domestic cricket is also high on his agenda.

"We will look to improve on what we can do to reduce the injuries to players," Binny told reporters here after taking over BCCI presidency from Sourav Ganguly.

"Players getting frequently injured is a concern, and we wish to get to the bottom of it all and see how it can be changed for the better."

"We have excellent doctors and trainers at the National Cricket Academy (in Bengaluru), but we must look to reduce the injuries and improve recovery," India have fielded as many as 40 players across formats in 2022, with injuries being the main reason, apart from multiple series being held simultaneously.



During his interaction, Binny also stressed on the importance of improving the pitches used for domestic cricket in India.

"There needs to be more life in the wickets at home, so that our teams would not have the problem of adjusting when travelling abroad - like in Australia, where there is more pace and bounce."

World Cup winner Binny, 67, was elected unopposed at the BCCI AGM (Annual general Meeting) alongside Jay Shah, who was re-elected as the secretary for a second successive term.

Binny, who played 27 Tests and 72 ODIs for India, takes charge ahead of the ODI World Cup in India next year.

## Cummins Replaces Finch As Australia's New ODI Captain



Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** Pace spearhead Pat Cummins was on Tuesday named as Australia's new ODI captain following Aaron Finch's retirement from the format last month.

Cummins beat the likes of Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Marsh and Alex Carey to be appointed as Australia's 27th ODI skipper.

David Warner was not considered for the job as his lifetime leadership ban still remains with Cricket Australia contemplating a change in its code of conduct.

CA on Monday confirmed that Cummins, 29, will lead Australia in next year's ODI World Cup in India.

The 29-year-old is already in charge of Australia's Test side after he was appointed to that role last year. Finch will continue to lead the T20 team.

According to CA, Cummins will become the first fast bowler to lead Australia's men's team in white-ball cricket.

CA, though, are yet to announce a vice-captain for the ODI side.

"Pat (Cummins) has done an excellent job since taking on the captaincy of the Test side and we look forward to him leading the one-day team to the 2023 World Cup in India," said Australia's chief selector George Bailey.

Australia's next ODI assignment is against England next month -- a three match series.

### MATCHDAY

## Tottenham Heads To Man United; Madrid Visits Elche

Agencies

With the Premier League's top two — Arsenal and Manchester City — inactive this week, third-place Tottenham will look to take advantage when the team heads to Manchester United for the standout match of the midweek round.

Tottenham would climb above City into second place, a point behind north London rival Arsenal, with a win.

Liverpool looks to back up its victory over City on Sunday with another home win against West Ham.

Real Madrid will look to defend its three-point Spanish league lead when it visits last-place Elche, the only winless team so far. Madrid is coming off a home win against Barcelona in the first "clásico" of the season. Elche has drawn two in a row, including at Valencia over the weekend.

## Batters Who Can Go Ballistic This T20 World Cup



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** One will need long levers to clear the long boundaries in Australia but trust these five men to make a telling impact with the bat at the T20 World Cup.

All five are in different stages of their career and with their performance over the last 12 months, they have already shown what they

are capable of doing over the next couple of weeks.

**SURYAKUMAR YADAV (INDIA)**



After making his belated India debut in March 2021, the 32-year-old Suryakumar has established himself as the team's number one batter in the shortest format.

The batter has all the shots in the book (besides inventing some of his own) and has an envious record already, having made nine fifties and a hundred in 34 T20 Internationals at a staggering strike rate of 176.81.

India will be hoping his sensational run continues in the ICC showpiece and he provides the team the extra 15-20 run cushion that it might need to cover up for a

not so inspiring bowling lineup.

**DAVID MILLER (SOUTH AFRICA)**



The 33-year-old has taken a while to realise the full potential of his power game but he has been South Africa's standout player over the

last 12 months.

The southpaw seems to have taken his game to the next level and that was first evident in the IPL earlier this year when he enjoyed his best ever season with 481 runs at an average of 68.71 for eventual winners Gujarat Titans.

He has carried that form into international cricket and in the recent series in India, he produced a memorable 106-run knock off 47 balls, albeit in a losing cause.

**MOHAMMAD NAWAZ (PAKISTAN)**



This Pakistani all-rounder has not only kept things tight with his left-arm spin since the Asia Cup last month, he has also made a couple of match-

winnings contributions with the bat. Skipper Babar Azam has been using him as a surprise package in the middle-order and Nawaz has not disappointed.

His 25-ball 42 took the game away from India in the Asia Cup before he lifted the team out of a precarious situation to come up with a 22-ball 38 at number four to win the tri-series final against New Zealand last week.

His contributions with the ball can't be ignored as well. In 48 T20s, he has taken 44 wickets with an impressive economy rate of 7.38.

**TIM DAVID (AUSTRALIA)**



The Singapore-born David is the quintessential T20 nomad who broke into the Australian team after displaying his six-hitting prowess in

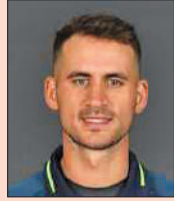
leagues around the world. The 6ft 5in batter who has never played first class cricket, fetched a handsome Rs 8.25 crore contract from Mumbai Indians ahead of IPL 2022, indicating how much his stock has risen in the last one year.

If Australia are to defend their World Cup title at home, David will be expected to finish games alongside Matthew Wade.

In his debut series for Australia last month, David smashed a 27-ball 54 against India in Hyderabad. He followed that up with a couple of 40s against the West Indies and

England at home, setting him up nicely for the World Cup. When in full flow, no boundary is long enough for the 26-year-old.

**ALEX HALES (ENGLAND)**



Hales, who made his T20 debut for England way back in 2011, has a chance at redemption after a roller coaster ride that saw him missing the 2019 ODI World Cup due to a failed drug test. Back in the national setup after three years, Hales would be eager to make the most of his big break, having made the squad as a replacement player for injured Jonn Bairstow.

Hales' talent was never in question, and not surprisingly, he has made his presence felt since scoring a 53 in his international return last month.





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