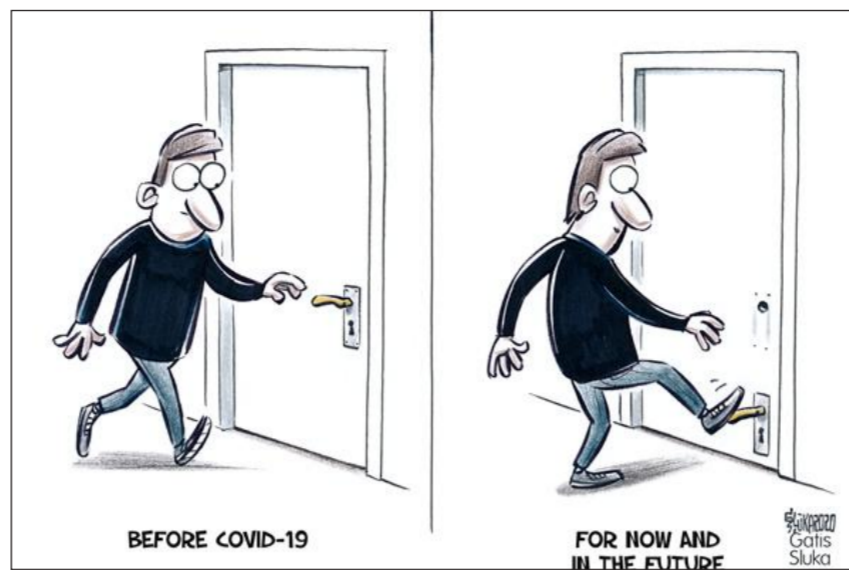


KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



Iranian, Chinese and Russian negotiators will meet next month to discuss terms of military cooperation among the top three nodes of Eurasia integration.

Lg Is Here To Stay

The current J&K administration's rule is not subject to any temporal restrictions

SIKANDAR HAYAT KHAN

There is no constitutional or statutory mechanism that necessitates the holding of an election in a time bound manner in J&K. As things stand, it is the sole discretion of the Centre

The one-year anniversary of the Central Government's move to 'integrate' the state of Jammu & Kashmir with the Indian mainland is just around the corner. Some Constitutional Amendments, legislations and other orders later, a question that takes the centerstage, is, when will the Union Territory of J&K see the light of the election day? The answer to this question takes one down a rather complicated road, which I seek to simplify through this article.

Beyond the magnum opus of August 5 i.e. Constitution Order 272, which effectively put an end to Article 370, the Centre also introduced, what is now the Reorganization Act, 2019. While the former put an end to the state's special status, the latter divided the state into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh respectively. Article 239A of the Indian Constitution (which provides for a legislature in a UT) has been extended only to the UT of J&K through section 13 of the Reorganization Act. This means, that J&K will welcome the electoral process after a two-year hiatus. The focal aspect is, when?

As of today, J&K is under the Lieutenant Governor's rule. It is pertinent to highlight that LG's rule is distinct from both President's rule as well as Governor's rule. In 2018, when the PDP-BJP coalition dismantled, what was imposed is known as the Governor's rule. Since Kashmir had its special status then, section 92 of the now dysfunctional Constitution of J&K provided that for a period of six months after the failure of the governmental machinery, the Governor rules the state. It is only on lapse of six months that the President's rule is imposed.



On reorganization, J&K was made a UT and a new designation of a Lieutenant Governor was created. In October 2019, the President vide a notification, formally revoked his rule over the UT but the Central rule has since continued in the form of LG's rule. This is the difference in the three terminologies.

Had the state not been turned into a UT, in line with Article 356 of the Constitution of India, President's rule would have to make way for compulsory elections after 3 years of imposition. However, currently, the position is governed by section 73 of the aforementioned Reorganization Act. The section

states that "if the President, on receipt of a report from the Lieutenant Governor of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, or otherwise, is satisfied,— (a) that a situation has arisen in which the administration of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or (b) that for the proper administration of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir it is necessary or expedient to do so, the President may, by order, suspend the operation of all or any of the provisions of this Act for such period as he thinks fit and make such incidental and consequential provisions as may appear to him to be necessary or expedient for administering the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the provisions of this Act."

On a simple reading of this provision, it can be ascertained that the power of the LG to impose his/her rule over the UT of J&K is not subject to any temporal (time-based) restrictions as the case would have been if the J&K had been left a state without special status. Therefore, on receipt of a report of LG or even otherwise, Central rule through LG may continue as per the discretion of the President. Notwithstanding the legality of these laws, the current position is amply clear. There is no constitutional or statutory mechanism that necessitates the holding of an election in a time bound manner in J&K. As things stand, it is the sole discretion of the Centre. Furthermore, even upon the installation of a democratically elected government, the Centre through LG retains the power to topple the government, if 'situations' warranting such toppling arise.

Iran-China Pact Turbocharges New Silk Roads

China will invest \$400 billion in Iran's energy and infrastructure but nothing in the strategic pact allows for a Chinese troop presence or island handover

PEPE ESCOBAR

TWO of the US's top 'strategic threats' are getting closer and closer within the scope of the New Silk Roads — the leading 21st century project of economic integration across Eurasia. The Deep State will not be amused.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi blasted as 'lies' a series of rumours about the 'transparent roadmap' inbuilt in the evolving Iran-China strategic partnership.

That was complemented by president Rouhani's chief of staff, Mahmoud Vezi, who said that 'a destructive line of propaganda has been initiated and directed from outside Iran against the expansion of Iran's relations with neighbours and especially (with) China and Russia.'

Vezi added, 'this roadmap in which a path is defined for expansion of relations between governments and the private sectors is signed and will continue to be signed between many countries.'

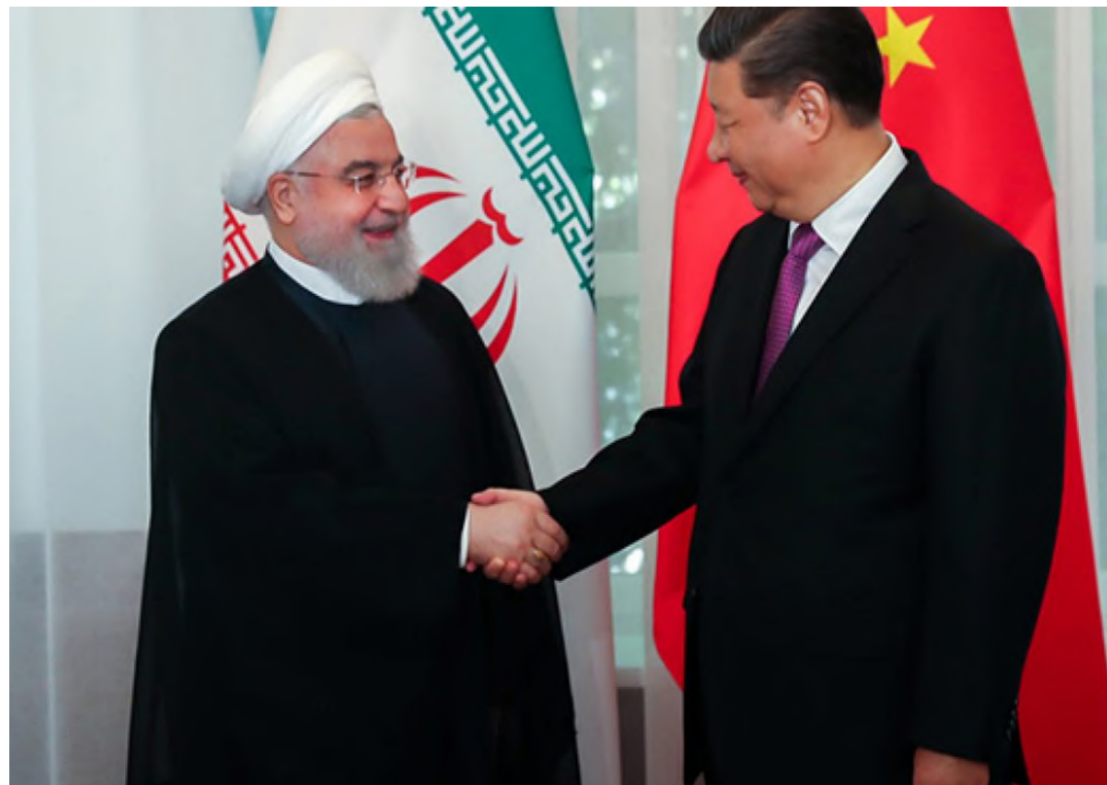
To a great extent, both Mousavi and Vezi were referring to a sensationalist report which did not add anything that was not already known about the strategic partnership, but predictably dog-whistled a major red alert about the military alliance.

The Iran-China strategic partnership was officially established in 2016, when president Xi visited Tehran. These are the guidelines.

Two articles among the 20 listed in the agreement are particularly relevant.

Item 7 defines the scope of the partnership within the New Silk Roads vision of Eurasia integration: "The Iranian side welcomes "the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road" initiative introduced by China. Relying on their respective strengths and advantages as well as the opportunities provided through the signing of documents such as the "MOU on Jointly Promoting the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road" and "MOU on Reinforcement of Industrial and Mineral Capacities and Investment", both sides shall expand cooperation and mutual investments in various areas including transportation, railway, ports, energy, industry, commerce and services."

And item 10 praises Iran's membership of the AIIB: "The Chinese side appreciates Iran's participation as a "Founding Member" of the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank. Both sides are willing to strengthen their cooperation in the relevant areas



and join their efforts towards the progress and prosperity of Asia.'

So what's the deal?

THE core of the Iran-China strategic partnership — no secret whatsoever since at least last year — revolves around a \$400 billion Chinese investment in Iran's energy and infrastructure for the next 25 years. It's all about securing a matter of supreme Chinese national interest: a steady supply of oil and gas, bypassing the dangerous bottleneck of the Strait of Malacca, secured with a median 18 per cent discount, and paid in yuan or in a basket of currencies bypassing the US dollar.

Beijing will also invest roughly \$228 billion in Iranian infrastructure — that's where the AIIB comes in — over 25 years, but especially up to 2025. That ranges from building factories to badly needed energy industry renovation, all the way to the already in progress construction of the 900 kilometres-

long electric rail from Tehran to Mashhad.

Tehran, Qom and Isfahan will also be linked by high-speed rail — and there will be an extension to Tabriz, an important oil, gas and petrochemical node and the starting point of the Tabriz-Ankara gas pipeline.

All of the above makes total sense in New Silk Road terms, as Iran is a key Eurasian crossroads. High-speed rail traversing Iran will connect Urumqi in Xinjiang to Tehran, via four of the Central Asian 'stans' (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) all the way to West Asia, across Iraq and Turkey, and further on to Europe: a techno revival of the Ancient Silk Roads, where the main language of trade between East and West across the heartland was Persian.

The terms of aerial and naval military cooperation between Iran and China and also Russia are still not finalised — as Iranian sources told me. And no one has had access to the details. What Mousavi said, in a tweet, was that 'there is nothing (in the agree-

ment) about delivering Iranian islands to China, nothing about the presence of military forces, and other falsehoods.'

The same applies to — totally unsubstantiated — speculations that the People's Liberation Army would be granted bases in Iran and be allowed to station troops in Iranian territory.

Last Sunday, foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif stressed that Iran and China had been negotiating 'with confidence and conviction' and there was 'nothing secret' about the agreement.

Iranian, Chinese and Russian negotiators will meet next month to discuss terms of military cooperation among the top three nodes of Eurasia integration. Closer collaboration is scheduled to start by November

Geopolitically and geoeconomically, the key take away is that the US's relentless blockade of the Iranian economy, featuring hardcore weaponised sanctions, is impotent to do anything about the wide-ranging Iran-China deal. Here is a decent expose of some of the factors in play.

The Iran-China strategic partnership is yet another graphic demonstration of what could be deconstructed as the Chinese brand of exceptionalism: a collective mentality and enough organised planning capable of establishing a wide-ranging, win-win, economic, political and military partnership.

It's quite instructive to place the whole process within the context of what state councillor and foreign minister Wang Yi stressed at a recent China-US Think Tanks meeting, attended, among others, by Henry Kissinger:

"One particular view has been floating around in recent years, alleging that the success of China's path will be a blow and threat to the Western system and path. This claim is inconsistent with facts, and we do not agree with it. Aggression and expansion are never in the genes of the Chinese nation throughout its 5,000 years of history. China does not replicate any model of other countries, nor does it export its own to others. We never ask other countries to copy what we do. More than 2,500 years ago, our forefathers advocated that "All living things can grow in harmony without hurting one another, and different ways can run in parallel without interfering with one another".'

(Pepe Escobar is the author of *Globalistan: How the Globalised World is Dissolving into Liquid War and Obama does Globalistan*. He writes for *Asia Times Online*)

5 Kashmiri Women Self-Starters Whose Resolve Became Their Brand Identity

SWATI JOSHI

Namada is a traditional carpet made by rolling and pressing wool. In the past, it was widely used by Kashmiris in their drawing rooms during winters. But the sale of Namada declined due to the advent of a new variety of fashionable carpets in the market.

PANDEMIC might've already paralysed many dream ventures and economic units, but resilience to rise above one's adversities makes Kashmir's new-age self-starters inspiration for educated youth who want to become employer than employee in their life.

It was the same resolve which made a young Kashmiri woman to infuse a new lease of life in traditional Kashmiri dead rug called Namada.

The same steely resolve motivated a young Kashmiri bride to step into her late father-in-law's shoes to become a prominent bat-maker in town.

With pandemic still locking people in their home, a young Kashmiri self-starter has come forward to make mandatory masks for masses.

And then there's a moving story of an educated and empowered Kashmiri girl who not only became her family's support, but also rebranded Kashmir's pashmina shawls.

Besides resolve, the ability to take risks equally fuels these stirring stories.

When a young Kashmiri florist left her government job for her passion, she received brickbats for throwing the "secure income" out of the window.

A resolve to take risks makes these young Kashmiri self-starters an inspirational class for the strife-torn society. Kashmir Observer compiles the spirited stories of five such self-starters who dared to dream differently.

Arifa Jan

Arifa Jan always wanted to be an independent self-starter, but knew that it wouldn't be a walk in the park for her. But her resolve eventually made her to set up three manufacturing units to revive the traditional Kashmiri rug called Namada.

She went on to employ 25 Kashmiri artisans and trained more than 100 Kashmiri women. Arifa also increased the wages of the artisans from Rs 175 to Rs 450 per day.

Namada is a traditional carpet made by rolling and pressing wool. In the past, it was widely used by Kashmiris in their drawing rooms during winters. But the sale of Namada declined due to the advent of a new variety of fashionable carpets in the market.

Arifa pursued two-year Craft Management and Entrepreneurial Leadership program at Craft Development Institute (CDI) after completing her graduation from Kashmir University.

Unable to pay the fees for the leadership program, she was granted a scholarship by CDI and went to Kyrgyzstan for specialized training.

After Masters, she started working on the Namada revival project, setting up her first business unit at Srinagar's Sekidafar locality in 2012.

She was awarded US Citizenship Eligibility Certificate in 2014 by the United States State Department for Women Entrepreneurship Programme.

After returning from the US, she opened two more units in Srinagar's Noorbagh and Nawa Kadal localities.

Riffat Masoodi

It was Riffat Masoodi's father-in-law, Ghulam Rasool Masoodi, who had started a cricket bat manufacturing factory in south Kashmir's Pampore town in the 1970s.

After his demise, the shut shop bankrupted the once prosperous family.

But when going got tough, the daughter-in-law decided to revive the defunct unit.

The 40-year-old mother of two children restarted the factory and became Kashmir's only woman cricket bat-maker.



Sustaining ventures amidst restrictions and lockdowns might be a challenging task, but some Kashmiri women have grown resilient enough to rise above their hardships. Not only have they succeeded in their endeavour, but also inspired others to become their own boss.

et bat-maker.

Today, as head of Masoodi Arts and Sports firm, Riffat is an inspiring story for many.

A graduate from Srinagar's Vishwa Bharati College of Education, Riffat has managed to handle her business amidst the turmoil in the valley and set up manufacturing units in Awantipora, Anantnag, and Pampore. The self-starter's unit produces thousands of bats per month which are transported to many Indian states.

Shaheena Akhtar

Daughter of a coppersmith, Shaheena Akhtar had to give up her dream of higher studies to tackle her family's financial crisis. Her five siblings are school dropouts, and were job strugglers before she became the family support.

After completing a month-long entrepreneurship training program, she wrote a business proposal and submitted it to Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

She wanted to weave Pashmina shawls, besides doing novel embroidery works on them.

Pashmina shawls are made from the soft and fine cashmere wool from the Changthangi goats found in the higher altitudes of Ladakh.

She received a grant of Rs 8.5 lakhs from JKEDI, with which the entrepreneur expanded her business.

Shaheena's unit also produces Kani shawls — woven with special wooden needles called Kanils in Kashmir. The expensive shawls are made on demand.

Akhtar received the Exemplary Entrepreneurship Award in Handicrafts sector from the then chief minister Omar Abdullah in 2014 for her outstanding work.

Nusrat Jahan Ara

It takes courage to quit a government job in Kashmir and start an enterprise in which no women have entered. Ara is one of those women welcoming risk with a smiling face.

Hailing from Dadoora village of Kashmir's Pulwama district, Ara was castigated when she decided to quit her 'secure' job for the cut-flower profession.

The florist had no investors when she started her business. She started growing flowers in her backyards and selling them. After using all her savings, Ara worked with the vendors on a credit basis and took a loan to convert her idea into reality.

The computer graduate also runs Kashmir Essences, a brand of personal care and home care products under a company called Himalayan Agro Farms.

The brand uses natural Kashmir produce like saffron, almond, cherry, walnut, apple, and other organic products to make organic eatables and beauty products.

Mufti Sadia

These days Mufti Sadia is busy in stitching face masks and personal protective equipment (PPE). With her designer resolve, the self-starter has joined the battle against coronavirus.

Sadia started her brand called 'Hangers and Closet' in 2014 at the age of 24. A pinch of western style to the traditional Kashmiri wear has been the idea behind the boutique.

But being a trendsetter didn't come easy for her. She quit her human resource manager job in order to become an independent self-starter. She also faced family resistance and drew flak for her career choice.

Sadia, however, never backed out, and worked hard to fulfill her dream and eventually became an inspiration for many in the society.

The Path Less Travelled Could Lead To Success

Humanities are relegated to the lowest rung on the ladder of perceived mental ability

NAVANITA VARADPANDE

Gulf News

Are you serious? He's chosen what?" These words were soaked in shocked consternation, as if I had just touched my aunt with a coronavirus infected sneeze! I replied, "Yes, you heard right, my son has opted for commerce!"

Sudden gloom had set in, the news hadn't been received with much positivity. The reason being, the boy has selected the "pariah" of streams, as per what most Indians believe. And god save those who decide to take on humanities. They are relegated to the lowest category on the ladder of perceived mental ability.

Minakshi has literally pushed her daughter off the cliff into taking science despite the fact that the girl was most inclined towards liberal arts. The mother's plaintive cry being, "What will our relatives say?" Even though the school where the girl used to study counselled her into opting for humanities, because that's where her aptitude lay, her parents were adamant. They tried to arm-twist their way into the science stream and when that wasn't possible, they shifted the daughter to another school.

The ambition of many parents is to see the child get into the most prestigious engineering college in India called 'IIT'.

Mr. Nair even threatened the school authorities that if his son was not offered 'science' then he would sue them. "If my son doesn't become an engineer I can never ever go back to my hometown with my head held high!"

Jina, who was my student in primary school, called me the other day and lamented, "Ma'am I have always maintained 'social-distancing' from all things 'bloody' and 'creepy'. I detest biology and my folks want me to study medicine. When do I tell



them, I won't be able to even dissect a cockroach they ignore my pleas."

Her parents apparently had thrown her into a swimming pool when she was small and was terrified of water, that's how she learnt to swim in spite of all the howling and fear, so the argument that they put forth is that, "These kids have to be pushed into it, they will automatically learn to swim their way through." What if they 'drown'? Drown into the

next miserable 40 years of doing something that they were never happy about.

I marvel at Mrs. Kohli's forthrightness, "Oh, I always thought your son was an intelligent student, then why commerce? We told our Guddu, whatever you want to do, do after you get an engineering degree. The degree is as important for us as my Jimmy Choo shoes, my LV bags and our new Audi 'gaddi' (vehicle) you see!"

Obsession with 'engineering'

Well, the mindless rat race actually begins way before. The ambition of many parents is to see the child get into the most prestigious engineering college in India called 'IIT'. The training begins when the child is 13 years old. They are brainwashed into thinking that it's either 'IIT' or it is a "dead end". Even if you have to become a stand-up comedian after four gruelling years at an engineering college ...

Now, the societal obsession with 'engineering' can be said to be a colonial hangover. In the process of 'modernising' the umpteenth backward kingdoms and princely states that made up what we now call India, the British began building railway routes, dams, roads, cities and more, in order to make governance and trade simpler processes. Engineers were responsible for this refurbishing of the country. Most of them were British and they enjoyed all the benefits given to administrative officers.

Naturally, the Indians too were drawn to this new occupation with endless opportunities for employment. When these educated Indian engineers prospered, it gave the profession a respectful tag which with time became an obsession, a one-stop solution to all of life's problems.

The first day of the online classes in Grade 11, the first session with his accountancy teacher, immediately did away with the wee-bit of self-doubt that my son had about treading the path less travelled. As the days go by, he seems more confident, his teachers further strengthen his resolve with positive affirmations. Today he reads out one of the quotes that he has collected, by Rick Warren, "Those who follow the crowd usually get lost in it." And I believe that the pot holes and bumpy phases of the ride through life dissolve when you love what you do!

— Navanita Varadpande is a writer based in Dubai. Twitter: @VpNavanita



NOVEL SURFACE Coating Rapidly Inactivates Coronavirus: STUDY

“ONE HOUR IS THE SHORTEST PERIOD that we have tested so far, and tests at shorter periods are ongoing.”

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have developed a surface coating which when painted on common objects, such as door knobs, light switches, and shopping carts can inactivate the novel coronavirus which

causes COVID-19, an innovation that may help stop the spread of the pandemic.

The research, published in the journal ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, noted that after one hour on coated glass or stainless steel, levels of the virus reduced by about 99.9 per cent on average,

compared to the uncoated sample.

According to the scientists, including those from Virginia Tech in the US, the coating adheres well to glass and stainless steel, as well as everyday items that people may fear to touch during a pandemic like doorknobs. “The idea is when the droplets

land on a solid object, the virus within the droplets will be inactivated,” said William Ducker, a co-author of the study from Virginia Tech.

“One hour is the shortest period that we have tested so far, and tests at shorter periods are ongoing,” Ducker said. The scientists hope to inacti-

vate the virus in minutes.

Results have shown that the coating is robust, they said, adding that it does not peel off after being slashed with a razor blade.

It also retains its ability to inactivate the virus after multiple rounds of being exposed to the virus, and then disinfection, or after being

submerged in water for a week, the researchers said based on the tests.

“Everybody is worried about touching objects that may have the coronavirus,” said Ducker, adding that the invention “would help people to relax a little bit.”

The scientists however cautioned that the film doesn’t re-

place other safety measures that people should take to stop the spread of the coronavirus, such as handwashing, physical distancing, and wearing a mask.

Even so, “people won’t have to worry as much about touching objects. It will be both practical and reducing fear,” Ducker said.

Study Predicts India's Population May Peak To 1.6 Bn In 2048, Decline In 2100 To 1.09 Bn

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have predicted that the India’s population may peak to about 1.6 billion in 2048, and decline by 32 per cent to around 1.09 billion in 2100, when it is also expected to be the world’s most populous country.

The analysis, published in the journal The Lancet, used data from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017, and applied novel models to project future global, regional, and national population for 183 countries, including India, US, China, and Japan, and their mortality, fertility, and migration rates.

According to the researchers, including those from the University of Washington in the US, there may be dramatic declines in working age-populations in countries such as India and China, which they said may hamper economic growth and lead to shifts



in global powers. They said the world could be multipolar at the end of this century, with India, Nigeria, China, and the US the dominant powers.

“This will truly be a new world, one we should be preparing for today,” the scientists noted.

According to the study, the numbers of working-age adults in India

is projected to fall from 762 million in 2017 to around 578 million in 2100, compared to that of China where numbers of workers are estimated to decline from 950 million in 2017 to 357 million in 2100.

It said India may be one of the few -- if only -- major power in Asia to protect its working-age popula-

tion over the century.

“It is expected to surpass China’s workforce population in the mid-2020s, rising up the GDP rankings from 7th to 3rd,” the scientists noted in a statement to the press.

Commenting on the research, Christopher Murray from the University of Washington, who led the research, said continued global population growth through the century is no longer the most likely trajectory for the world’s population.

“This study provides governments of all countries an opportunity to start rethinking their policies on migration, workforces and economic development to address the challenges presented by demographic change,” Murray said.

Citing the study’s limitations, the scientists said while they used the best available data, predictions are constrained by the quantity and quality of past data.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: NIT Rourkela Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2020

Description: The National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela invites applications for NIT Rourkela Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2020 from MTech degree holders. The fellowship is a temporary post for project titled, “Development of a low power video compression and enhancement module using TI’s DaVinci board along with its FPGA realization”.

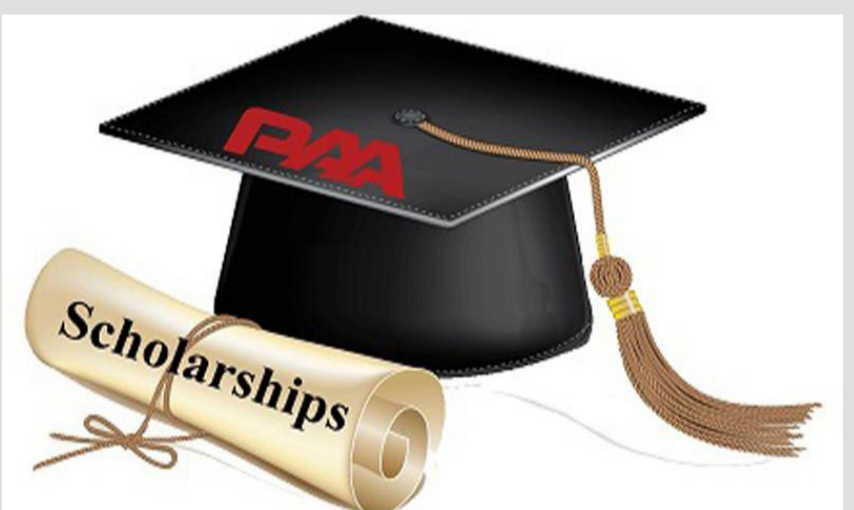
Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates who hold an MTech in Electronics and Communication Engineering/ Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering/ VLSI etc.

Prizes & Rewards: Fellowship up to INR 35,000 per month

Last Date to Apply: 20-07-2020

Application mode: Via email only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NIT3



Scholarship Name 2: DRDE Junior Research Fellowship in Biological Stream 2020

Description: Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Gwalior invites applications for DRDE Junior Research Fellowship in Biological Stream 2020 from MSc in Biological stream students.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 28 years of age who hold an MSc in Biological stream in Life Science/ Zoology/ Biotechnology/ Molecular Biology/ Biochemistry/ Microbiology/ Immunology.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 plus HRA and medical facilities

Last Date to Apply: 28-07-2020

Application mode: Instead of applying for this fellowship, the candidates will have to appear in the Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Jhansi Road, Gwalior on 28 July 2020.

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RDO7

Scholarship Name 3: DRDO Junior Research Fellowship in Biological Stream 2020

Description: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) invites applications for DRDO Junior Research Fellowship in Biological Stream 2020 from MSc in Biological stream students.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 28 years of age who hold an MSc degree in Biological stream in Life Science/ Zoology/ Biotechnology/ Molecular Biology/ Biochemistry/ Microbiology/ Immunology. They must be CSIR-UGC NET & GATE qualified.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 plus HRA and medical facilities

Last Date to Apply: 28-07-2020

Application mode: Instead of applying for this fellowship, the candidates will have to appear in the Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Jhansi Road, Gwalior on 28 July 2020.

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/DRD4

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-II, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR**
Email id:- std2rajbagh@yahoo.in Fax No. 0194-2310042

Extension Notice No-3

Due to poor response, the date of submission of bid in respect of e-NIT No. STD-II / 01 of 2020-21 Dated:-12-06-2020 issued vide this office endorsement No.:STD-II/219-22/Ts Dated:- 12-06-2020 having tender ID 2020_PDD_98207_1 for “Expression of interest for empanelment of contractors for the financial year 2020-21 for execution of various works pertaining to emergency restoration, preventive maintenance and other allied works in Sub Transmission Division-II,Rajbagh falling in District Srinagar and District Budgam as and when required basis as per the necessity of the system is hereby extended with the details enumerated below:-

Name of the Work	Expression of interest for empanelment of contractors for the financial year 2020-21 for execution of various works pertaining to emergency restoration, preventive maintenance and other allied works of Sub Transmission Division-II,Rajbagh falling in District Srinagar and District Budgam as and when required as per the necessity of the system
Cost of Tender document	Rs. 500.00
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 50,000.00
Last Date of sale of Tender Document (Extended)	27-07-2020; 2:30pm
Date of receipt of Tenders online (Extended)	27-07-2020; 2:30pm
Bid Opening Date	29-07-2020; 2:30pm
Class of Contractor	“A” class Electrical contractor / Self Help Groups

DIPK-NB-1464/20
No.:STD-II/580-83/Ts

Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar.
Dated: - 18-07-2020

New Antiplatelet Drug Shows Promise For Treating Heart Attack

Agencies

Researchers have developed a new drug that prevents blood clots without causing an increased risk of bleeding, a common side effect of all antiplatelet medications currently available.

The study, published in the journal Science Translational Medicine, described the drug and its delivery mechanisms and shows that the drug is also an effective treatment for heart attack in animal models. “Unfortunately, current antiplatelet medications prevent the blood clotting that causes heart attack and stroke but also disrupt platelets’ ability to stop bleeding if a blood vessel is torn,” said study researcher Xiaoping Du from the University of Illinois in the US.

“The magic of this new drug is it prevents clots but does not make people prone to bleeding, which other drugs have failed to do,” Du added. In a previous study, the research team identified a signalling mechanism that is important in the blood clotting process but not required for platelets’ ability to adhere to a wound and prevent bleeding. Based on this finding, the researchers derived a peptide to target the signalling mechanism and designed a nanoparticle that successfully delivered the peptide into platelets. The peptide-derived nanoparticle drug -- called M3mP6 high-loading peptide nanoparticle, of HLPN -- was then tested in mice as a possible treatment for heart attacks.Du said a heart attack can cause heart failure and death in two different ways. One, from the initial damage caused by the clot, which blocks blood flow and reduces oxygen supply.

LG Urges Religious Leaders To Spread Awareness About COVID-19

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today urged the religious leaders to play the crucial role in bringing about a conscientious behavioural change among their followers regarding importance of wearing face masks, social distancing and adherence of guidelines and advisories related to the prevention of COVID-19.

The Lt Governor was interacting with the religious leaders and heads of various religious faiths and organizations from across the Kashmir Division here at the Auditorium Complex, Raj Bhavan.

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole; besides religious leaders and heads of various religious organizations were present on the occasion.

Taking note of the spike in the positive cases during the relaxations, the Lt Governor underlined the importance of taking strict and effective measures to ensure the safety of the people amid the crisis.

He asked the religious heads to facilitate awareness and encourage people to take all the precautionary measures and follow the SOP's issued by the Government to prevent the transmission of the deadly disease, he added.

The Lt Governor advised them to utilize the potent media tools like social media, print and electronic media to spread awareness messages in this regard.

Stressing on broader community participation for generating awareness, the Lt Governor sought their cooperation for achieving better results in the fight against the deadly virus as they have a greater impact on their followers.

He further asked them to encourage the public to participate and cooperate with the government, take immunity boosters for self care and install Aarogya Setu App, besides adopting the practice of 'Stay at Home-Pray at Home' during the COVID-19 crisis.

The religious leaders assured their full support to the Government in its efforts to prevent and contain this pandemic.

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan said that the religious leaders are already playing a constructive and positive role in generating awareness among the people against COVID-19.

He further appealed to the religious heads to encourage the people to inculcate healthy practices in day to day life, besides adopting a behaviour change to protect themselves from the deadly disease.

Distribution Of Passports Soon: JK Hajj Committee



SRINAGAR: It is for the information of all the intending Hajj Pilgrims of Hajj-2020 that J&K Haj Committee has received the Passports from Hajj Committee of India, Mumbai for onward distribution among the concerned pilgrims.

As per the statement issued here, it was informed that because of the present

situation due to COVID-19 Pandemic, the Haj Committee is not in a position to distribute the passports.

However, it has been decided that the process of distribution of Passports shall be reviewed after 1st August 2020 provided the on-going situation permits for which a separate notification shall be issued.



AN ELDERLY KASHMIRI peasant returning home after days toil in central Kashmir- KO Photo Abid Bhat

HC Gives DG Mines 6 Weeks for Compliance

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has granted Director General of Mines Safety, Government of India, Director of Mines Safety and Regional Controller of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines, six weeks time to comply with its orders in a Public Interest Litigation and warned them over non-compliance.

"Despite grant of final opportunity and imposition of costs in terms of order of this Court dated 18.03.2020 there is no appearance on behalf of (them)," a bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Sanjay Dhar said.

The court had granted four weeks time to them for filing a response to the PIL, failing which they were liable to pay payment of costs of Rs.25000. "Neither counter affidavit has been filed nor there is any representation on their behalf. We will give the benefit to these respondents of the

difficult situation on account of the COVID-19 pandemic," the court said and issued notice to them to ensure compliance with the court's order dated March 18 this year within six weeks. "In case the respondents fail to comply with this order, we shall be constrained to pass adverse orders in the matter on the next date of hearing," the court said and ordered listing of the case on August 17.

The Public Interest Litigation was filed in 2016 in respect of various "serious matters" regarding the working of the Mines Act, 1952; Mines and Minerals Development Regulations Act 1957; the Metalliferous Mines Regulations 1961, the court had observed in one of the previous hearings. "Several violations by all mine owners and failure to ensure the safety protection and rights of the labourers employed for

mining activity by the mine owners have been noticed," the court had said.

The concerned authorities, court had observed, are unable to inform the about the measures which are in place to ensure the safety and security of the workers in the mines as well as the compliances with the statute, rules and regulations. "There is no clarity even on the issues as to what are the responsibilities of the Centre and the (J&K) Authorities."

The petitioner has also complained of environmental degradation and the adverse impact on the ecology, landscape and the habitable areas because of the indiscriminate and illegal mining activity.

"The matter raised petition is of very serious concern as is manifested from the several orders passed by this Court," the court had observed.

Narcotics Control Bureau Office To Be Set Up At Jammu

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, G C Murmu, approved allotment and transfer of land up to 13 kanals 5 marlas to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), at village Majeen, Sidhra, Jammu, for

construction of office building and residential complex.

The said parcel of land will be allotted to NCB on lease basis for 40 years. The decision has been taken on the basis of recommendations of the Board of Directors of Jammu Development Authority and concurrence of Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs and Revenue Department.

The decision will facilitate setting up of an independent NCB Zonal Headquarter and assist in effective control of Narco-terror related activities in the region.

Ex-Army Havildar Shoots Himself Dead In Poonch

POONCH: A former Army Havildar who had subsequently joined Defence Service Corps (DSC) shot himself dead with his service weapon at Mendhar area of this district on Saturday, officials said.

They said that the 45-year-old, former Havildar of 4 JAKLI, Bashir Ahmad, was shifted to hospital soon after he was found in a pool of blood at the place of posting in Mendhar.

A resident of Salani Mendhar, Bashir was declared brought dead by the doctors who attended him.

SHO Mendhar Manzoor Kohli confirmed the incident and said that investigations have been launched in this regard. Meanwhile, the wife of the deceased demanded a probe, claiming that her husband had been "murdered". "There should be a probe into it. My husband cannot commit suicide," she said. (GNS)

Aishwarya Rai And Daughter Aaradhya, Hospitalised For Covid-19 Treatment



Indian actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her daughter were hospitalised for COVID-19 treatment, the Times of India reported on Saturday, days after her husband and father-in-law were admitted.

Rai's father-in-law Amitabh Bachchan and husband Abhishek Bachchan, also major Bollywood celebrities, were admitted to Mumbai's Nanavati Hospital early this week, becoming the highest-profile patients the pandemic sweeping India.

At the same time, Aishwarya Rai, a former Miss World who regularly appears on most beautiful lists, and her eight-year-old daughter, Aaradhya Bachchan, tested positive for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, but they have since been in home quarantine.

"After Amitabh Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her daughter Aaradhya have

been shifted to Nanavati hospital," the newspaper said, adding that they were admitted to the top Mumbai private hospital on Friday.

A spokeswoman for Aishwarya Rai did not respond to text messages and calls seeking comment.

Fans across India prayed this week for the celebrity family as the virus continued its rapid spread without any sign of a peak.

Aishwarya Rai, 46, has worked on several Bollywood and Hollywood films. She is a brand ambassador for some multinational companies, including L'Oréal.

India, which has registered over a million coronavirus cases, has the world's third-highest number of infections, and more than 26,000 people have died of COVID-19. Partial lockdowns have been re-imposed in some densely populated areas to control the spread of the virus.

COVID-19 Pandemic: KIIT & KISS Rise To The Occasion



Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and its sister institution Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), moved by the compassionate vision of its Founder, Prof. Achyuta Samanta, have always responded swiftly to reduce the suffering of people at the time of natural calamities. This time also, right from the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, it has been doing its bit to reach out to the worst-affected, touching the lives of patients, stranded migrant workers, people living in containment areas and even starving animals. Predicting the challenges that lay ahead, KIIT & KISS initiated an action plan to help the worst-hit sections of the society. It was the first mover in creating awareness on the disease even before the State reported its first coronavirus case. Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), the medical wing of KIIT, organized a lecture on 'Corona Virus - A Global Threat' on 1st February, 2020 in which standard infection control strategies to prevent the spread of coronavirus was discussed. Subsequently, Kalinga Institute of Nursing Sciences (KINS) and KIIT School of Public Health also joined the awareness effort. The student community is one of the worst

affected groups in the present crisis. Examinations, admissions and academic sessions all remain disrupted. KIIT Deemed to be University, which has been recognized as an Institution of Eminence by the Govt. of India, has 30,000 students from all parts of India and over 50 countries. Another 30,000 underprivileged students study in KISS, the world's largest fully-free residential institute exclusively for tribal students. Anticipating the problem early, all the students of KIIT and KISS were safely sent back to their homes well before India declared the nationwide lockdown. But for KIIT and KISS students, being away from the campus did not mean academic loss. KIIT is the first University to have begun online classes for 30,000 students. Encouragingly, about 95% of the students are attending the online classes, conducted through Zoom, regularly. Not only online classes, but there is good participation in the one-day academic seminars conducted online, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from the students. As such, KIIT has been able to maintain the academic calendar perfectly so far. If the crisis persists for a longer time, KIIT has made all preparations to conduct online examinations also. Similarly, 30,000 tribal

students of KISS are in constant touch with their teachers through WhatsApp groups. KISS has taken initiative to start e-Learning classes for them through Kalinga TV. While in their homes in various districts of Odisha, KISS students are actively engaged in creating awareness on social distancing and respiratory hygiene in their areas. Involving the students of the institute, KISS launched 'Project Uday', a massive awareness campaign on social distancing, proper use of mask, hand washing and respiratory hygiene in six aspirational districts of Odisha: Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput, Kandhamal, Balangir, and Gajapati. Under Project Uday, students are carrying out door-to-door campaigning and organizing awareness camps at market places. More than 500 volunteers are involved in the project covering 220 villages. In one of the most significant measure in Odisha's war against Covid-19, KIMS set up India's first standalone COVID-19 hospital, a 500-bedded ultramodern facility including 50 critical care beds, with the support of the Govt. of Odisha. This Covid Hospital is functioning from a dedicated block of KIMS with an exclusive team of doctors, nurses, paramedics and housekeeping staff. The

quick turnaround time in setting up of the state-of-the-art dedicated Covid Hospital received much praise. Today, KIMS is the go-to hospital for any suspected coronavirus patient in the capital city of Bhubaneswar. "The vision of Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha in tackling the pandemic has been proactive and ahead of any other Indian state. The MoU with KIMS takes that vision one step further. KIMS will definitely put in all possible effort to justify the Chief Minister's faith and fulfill his vision, and serve the people of the state in a better and bigger way. I hope that this partnership will bear fruit and we can soon have a COVID-19 free Odisha", said Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS. In anticipation of the possible spike in positive cases in districts, KIIT has also set up three 200-bedded COVID-19 hospitals, one each in Kandhamal, Balangir and Mayurbhanj districts, with the support of the respective district administration. In Balangir and Mayurbhanj, the facility functions from the satellite campuses of KISS, which were inaugurated recently. All three District COVID-19 Hospitals, already operational from the mid of April, are managed by KIMS and provides round the

clock services following WHO and ICMR guidelines. The Covid Hospital in Kandhamal, a district having no railway connectivity, is a boon for the local people, who are yet to be exposed to the world of high speed internet connectivity. Besides Covid Hospital, KIIT & KISS are providing groceries and cash for miscellaneous expenses to over 40 orphanages, old age homes and leprosy centres in Kandhamal district. Another constituent of KIIT, KIIT-Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI) under KIIT School of Biotechnology, has been recognised as a Centre for Augmenting War with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, along with other eminent institutes in India, including IITs. KIIT-TBI is responsible for implementing this program in East & NE. Reaching the unreached, KIIT & KISS extended a helping hand to the red light areas in Bhubaneswar. Groceries and other essentials were provided to the needy. KIIT, KISS, Sakha and Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives came together to distribute ration and essential items for the transgender community in Bhubaneswar, Rayagada and a few other districts of Odisha.