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**News Digest**

**Girl's Body Found After 103 Days**

Srinagar: The body of a teenage girl on Monday was recovered from Jhelum in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, over a hundred days after she drowned in the river. The decomposed body of 13-year-old Nighat Jan was recovered from river Jhelum near Jafarpora Marhama area of the south Kashmir district on Monday, officials said. The girl and her mother Saleema Bano had drowned in Jhelum on June 16 this year. While Bano was found on the same day, her daughter remained untraced till today when her body was recovered.

**LeT Militant Held In Pampore: Police**

Srinagar: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant from Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. A police spokesman said that police along with 50 RR and 185 CRPF arrested Faisal Ahmad Dar of Khankah Bagh Pampore. Dar, he said had recently joined militant ranks and was affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The spokesman said that according to police records, Dar went missing from 11th September and on 13th September uploaded his audio on social media wherein he claimed to have joined. P-02

**Police Traces Missing Youth In Ganderbal**

Srinagar: Police on Monday claimed to have traced a missing youth in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. According to a police spokesperson, a woman reported to police on September 27 that her son Irshad Ahmad, a labourer by profession has gone missing since September 21. Police, he said filed a missing report at police station Gund and started investigations. "It is revealed that Irshad Ahmad had a heated argument with his mother and he P-02

**Over 5 Lakh J&K Residents Brought Back**

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has so far brought back more than 5 lakh residents of the Union territory stranded in other parts of the country due to the COVID-19 lockdown, official data showed. As many as 5,13,157 residents of Jammu and Kashmir, who were stranded in other parts of the country, have been brought back home through trains and buses amid strict observance of all necessary COVID guidelines and standard operating procedures, it said. So far, 1,40,292 passengers have arrived on 155 trains while 3,72,865 people P-02

**Ladakh Reports 10 New Cases, One Death**

Leh: One more patient succumbed to coronavirus in Ladakh, taking the death toll to 58 in the Union Territory, while the infection tally reached 4,103 with 10 fresh cases, officials said on Monday. Fourteen patients were discharged after being cured of the contagion during the past 24 hours, they said. With the death of one more patient from COVID-19 in Kargil district, the total number of fatalities in Ladakh has gone up to 58 -- 34 in Kargil and 24 in Leh district. Five residents each in Leh and Kargil tested P-02

**Indian Army Moves Tanks To Forward Areas In Ladakh**

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army has deployed tanks at forward areas like Chumar, Depsang and Chushul sectors along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh to meet any threat from the Chinese army.

According to the reports, India has deployed T-90 and T-72 tanks along with BMP-2 infantry combat vehicles at Chumar-Demchok sector which is crucial for the defence of the Ladakh sector.

The Indian Army has brought T-90 tanks to the Depsang plains in sub sector north (SSN) where Chinese troops are preventing patrols from going to patrolling points (PPs) 10-13.

The army is preparing to stay put at forward posts in the winter. These tanks have the ability to operate even at minus 40 degrees Celsius.

"The Fire and Fury Corps is the only formation of the Indian Army and also in the world to have actually deployed mechanised forces in such harsh terrain. The maintenance of tanks, infantry combat vehicles and heavy guns is a challenge in this terrain. To ensure crew and equipment readiness, adequate arrangements are in place for both man and machine." Fire and Fury Corps chief of staff Maj. Gen. Arvind P-02



**Nirbhay Missiles To Counter China Threat: Report**

As border tensions in eastern Ladakh continue to escalate, India has deployed homegrown subsonic missile Nirbhay to counter China's missile deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India Today reported Monday. According to the report, the Nirbhay missiles developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have been deployed in a limited number for now along the LAC. The report says that the surface-to-surface missile has a P-02

**THE FIRE AND FURY CORPS IS THE ONLY FORMATION OF THE Indian Army and also in the world to have actually deployed mechanised forces in such harsh terrain. The maintenance of tanks, infantry combat vehicles and heavy guns is a challenge in this terrain.**

**Soldier Injured In LoC Shelling**

SRINAGAR: A soldier was injured on Monday as Pakistani troops opened fire and shelled mortars at forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara and Rajouri districts, officials said.

The soldier injured in the firing in Macchil sector of Kupwara was taken to a hospital, and his condition was stable, a defence spokesperson said in Srinagar. "Pakistan initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC in Macchil sector of Kupwara district this morning by firing mortars and other weapons," the official said.

The Pakistani side resorted to heavy firing and mortar P-02

**KP Leader's Fast-Unto-Death Stir Enters 9th Day**

JAMMU: The fast-unto-death by the chief of Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS) Sanjay Tickoo has entered the ninth day on Monday with demands by people from the community living in the valley to provide them jobs under central government employment package apart from relief and accommodation to non-migrant Kashmiri Hindus. KPSS, which is an organisation looking after the welfare of Kashmiri Hindus who have not migrated from the valley, blamed the Relief and P-02

**15 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K, Toll 1148**

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least fifteen people, including a young woman succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the fatality count due to the virus in the Union Territory to 1148.

While eleven more Covid-19 deaths were reported from Jammu division of the UT, four others were confirmed by officials from the Kashmir Valley—two from Pulwama and one each from Bandipora and Shopian respectively.

About the victims from Jammu division, officials said seven were residents of Jammu district and one each from Udhampur, Doda, Samba and Ramban.

Among the victims, they said included a 24-year-old woman from Roop Nagar, a 62-year-old man from Simlar Camp, a 60-year-old woman from Kunjwani, a 60-year-old man from Narwal and a 61-year-old woman from Ustad Mohalla.

In Kashmir, among those who succumbed to the infection included a 60-year-old man from Tral, who died at SKIMS Soura here, a P-02

**RDD Employee Shot Dead In Shopian**

SRINAGAR: Unidentified gunman on Monday shot dead an employee of Rural Development Department (RDD) in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Sabzar Ahmad Naikoo was critically injured when unknown gunmen fired upon him in his native Nildora on Monday evening, officials said. He was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to Srinagar's SMHS hospital for specialized treatment.

Naikoo, officials said succumbed to injuries before the doctors could operate upon him.

Medical Superintendent SMHS hospital Dr Nazir Choudhary confirmed to local news agency GNS that P-02

**Civilian Injured In Sirhama Blast Dies**

SRINAGAR: A civilian, who was critically injured in an explosion near encounter site in Sirhama area of Anantnag on Friday, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital here on Monday.

34-year-old Mohammad Yaseen Rather, who was undergoing treatment at SMHS hospital here from last three days, lost the battle with life in the wee hours of Monday, official sources told Kashmir Observer.

Rather is survived by his widow, two minor daughters aged 5 and 2 besides P-02



**Probe Into Shopian Encounter In Final Stages: DGP**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The investigation into an alleged fake encounter in Shopian, in which three men from Rajouri district were killed, is in the final stages, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said on Monday.

"The SSP, Shopian is himself monitoring the investigation process of the case and further details about the case will be shared very soon. Our investigations are in the final stage,"

the DGP told reporters at Awantipora in Pulwama district.

He said both the Army and the police are investigating the case, but refused to share further details.

Security forces had claimed to have killed three militants in an encounter in Shopian's Amshipora on July 18, but three families from Rajouri said the slain men might be their missing members.

DNA tests were conducted and the results, made available after 40 days, showed P-02

**WE HAVE MANAGED TO GET some clues about the (advocate) Babar Qadri case and hopefully, very soon the Jammu and Kashmir Police will be able to crack it. We have already constituted an SIT in this regard and a probe is on."**

**Army Begins Summary Of Evidence**

After indictment of its own men, the army has begun Summary of Evidence, a step before a possible court martial, in July's Amshipora encounter in South Kashmir's Shopian district during which all civilian witnesses would also be cross examined, officials said here. P-02

**2 Brothers Among 4 Die While Cleaning Sewage Trench**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Four persons, including two siblings, who were cleaning a trench died, apparently due to suffocation, in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, police said.

They had slipped into the sewage trench at Luktipora in Bijbehara

ra police station area of Anantnag district, a police official said.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Rashid Dar, his brother Nazir Ahmad Dar, Sajad Ahmad Wani and Arshid Ahmad Wani, the official said.

The bodies were retrieved from the trench and taken to sub-district hospital at Bijbehara for legal proceedings, he added.

**'Article 35A Was Against Teachings of Islam' Delhi Decides Politics Of Kashmir: Bukhari**

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party President and founding member of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Syed Altaf Bukhari has said that the former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti turned down his suggestion of amending Article-35A before the government of India revoked special status of the erstwhile state.

In an interview to New Delhi based news portal The Print, Bukhari said that he told former J&K CM to modify Article 35A as it was against the teachings of Islam. "Islam provides property rights to women, but she (Mehbooba



**"They want people to believe that Apni Party members are agents of Delhi but tell me, since 1947, who has not been an agent of Delhi?"**

**'Frustrated': NC Hits Out At Bukhari**

National Conference on Monday lashed out at Apni Party President Syed Altaf Bukhari for his comments that the mainstream J&K parties were "hoodwinking" the people with its Gupkar declaration aimed to restore special status of Jammu and P-02

Mufti) didn't listen," Bukhari said. Coming down heavily on the mainstream parties for "hoodwinking" the people and "creating a P-02

**Unrecognised Schools Cannot Be Permitted To Function: HC**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Unrecognised schools cannot be permitted to function, Jammu and Kashmir High Court said on Monday.

"Section 11 of (Jammu and Kashmir Education Act, 2002). It enjoins that "no private school shall be established, run or maintained without permission", of the Government or competent authority," a bench of Justice Tashi Rabstan said while dismissing a petition filed by a private school—Kohsar Public High School, Khag Budgam, seeking quashing of the orders by J&K State Board of School Education as regards restricting affiliation and recognition upto academic session 2016-17.

"It should be kept in mind that Section 11 in unequivocal terms stipulates that it is not only for establish-

**HC Seeks Details Of Gulmarg Land, Encroachers**

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed authorities to provide details of the extent and particulars of the persons encroaching on the state and forest land in Gulmarg, the ecologically fragile area in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a division P-02

ing a private school that a 'written permission' is required, but it is even after establishing a private school that a "written permission" is required to be had from the government or P-02

**In FOCUS CAG Flags Slow Work Under NRDWP, PMGSY In J&K During 2017-18**

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pulled up the Jammu and Kashmir government for its failure to complete various projects under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during 2017-18.

In its audit report on social, general, economic (non-Public Sector Undertakings) sectors for the year ended March 31, 2018, the CAG said against the target for completion of 1,067 Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) during 2013-18, only 679 schemes (64 per cent) have been

completed under the NRDWP. Non-completion of 388 (36 per cent) schemes impacted the process of providing potable drinking water to population of 5.67 lakh, the report, tabled in Parliament recently, said.

It said the year-wise shortfall in achievement of targets for providing water supply in government schools during 2013-14 to 2016-17 ranged between 10 to 29 per cent. Just nine anganwadi centers had been provided with the facility of drinking water during the period 2013-15 and department had not fixed any targets in this regard from 2014-15 onwards.



Under the PMGSY, which was launched in December 2000 to provide connectivity by way of an all weather road to eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas, the report said, out of sanctioned

1,769 road projects involving road length of 9,383.07 kms under construction during 2013-18, only 810 road projects (46 per cent) having a road length of 4,172.50 kms were completed as of March 2018.

The year-wise completion rate of road projects during 2013-18 ranged between 8 to 19 per cent. Due to problems in land acquisition and forest clearance 467 road projects (road length: 2,577.88 km) sanctioned prior to April 2013 for connecting 175 habitations were still incomplete as of March 2018, the report said.

The NRDWP was launched as a flagship programme for P-02

## From Front page...

# Mankind In Dire Need of Inner Peace: Iran Leaders Envoy

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** A senior Iranian religious authority based in India Monday said, mankind engulfed in severe difficulties and helplessness today is in dire need of inner peace. He also emphasised that Islam considers safeguarding one's health as a religious obligation.

"Mankind today which is engulfed in severe difficulties and helplessness is in dire need of inner peace and boosting the morale which makes medical cure and recovery much easier", Agha Mahdi Mahdaviour, the India representa-

tative of the Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei said in his keynote address at the International Webinar titled "The Role of Faith in Facing Crises: (What Religion can offer to the Post-Covid World). The webinar was organized by the Dara Shikoh Centre for Inter-faith Understanding and Dialogue, Aligarh Muslim University.

"When the human being becomes helpless from all the material means, (he) develops more devotion to God and the feeling of seeking God is also strengthened. Mankind for his livelihood needs science and knowledge

and for facing the calamities needs faith and spiritual energy and devotion to the infinite power of Almighty God", Aga said.

"The subject of the world after the Covid-19 pandemic is very important because this pandemic has emerged as an adversity for the entire world which have affected all the equations in the world and certainly the world after this pandemic in the political, economic, cultural, religious and social aspects will be different from the world before the pandemic", Iranian leaders representative in India said.

"In view of Islam, human be-



ing is weak and dependent before God but unfortunately the human being today by relying on the

military and technological power have become arrogant and conceited which is the main reason of all the tyrannies and belligerent acts in the world", he said, adding the Covid-19 pandemic shattered the conceit of the arrogant powers and forced them to think about their weakness.

"Thus, we notice that the most powerful country in the world was worst afflicted by the ongoing pandemic which forced them to wake from the slumber and accept their weakness and they have understood this heavenly message that "O mankind! You are the ones who

stand in need of Allah, and Allah is All-sufficient, the All-laudable".

"The Covid-19 pandemic has awakened the sense of cooperation and helping the poor and this is the message of religions which calls for help to each other", Aga said.

"In the view of Islam, the calamities have the dimensions of examining and testing the faithful and pious servants of God that how they extend their humanitarian help and assistance in these conditions", he said.

Aga Mahdi said assistance has to be obtained from the science and knowledge in particular from

the advancements in the medical sciences. "All the safeguard guidelines and protocols as proposed by the medical experts to combat the pandemic have to be taken into full consideration. Islam considers safeguarding the body health as a religious obligation and following the safeguard guidelines and protocols as proposed by the medical experts to combat the pandemic are also a religious obligation. If by not following the medical guidelines results in transmitting the infection to others it will be a major and unpardonable sin", Iran leaders envoy declared.

## Indian Army Moves Tanks...

Kapoor told a news agency. He said the Army is logistically prepared in terms of tackling the harsh weather, with special winter clothing and other facilities such as fuel, spares and assemblies in place.

"Adequate training with provision of special winter clothing will ensure troop morale remains high and they are ready to function at short notice. Along with this, training and honing of crew skills and drills will remain constant through the winters. The Indian Army in eastern Ladakh is logistically well prepared," he said.

For winters Indian Army is using three types of fuels in these tanks which don't freeze in sub-zero temperatures.

Earlier this month PLA had brought forward their tanks near the Chushul sector to put pressure on Indian Army after it occupied strategic heights on the south banks of Pangong Tso on August 29-30.

The Depsang plains, situated at an altitude of over 15,000 feet, are flat and suitable for tank action. It is one of the critical points where a thrust by Indian tanks threatens Aksai Chin which was captured by China in 1962. Last week during the sixth round of Corps Commanders meeting, India and China agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any actions that may complicate the situation.

However, no breakthrough could be achieved by India and China on the disengagement which means that both sides will keep their troops at the forward post in Ladakh sector during winters when temperature dip to as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius.

## Nirbhay Missiles To Counter...

reach of up to 1,000 km, which means it is capable of striking targets in Tibet. "The Nirbhay missile is capable of low-level stealth strike on targets. It means it is capable of flying between 100 metres to four km from ground and pick up the target before engaging it," the report said, adding "The missile is likely to get full up clearance later."

The report says that the missile has been in the testing for seven years and Ladakh is the missile's first deployment.

Speaking about the deployments made by the Chinese, the India Today reported that there has been a sudden increase in China's deployment of surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) at new locations in Tibet along the Indian frontier. "Chinese missile sites have come up in areas bordering Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Ladakh," the report says. Apart from deployment of brand new Nirbhay missiles, the report says Indian troops on the ground have been equipped with tanks and combat vehicles that can operate in harsh winters.

"To counter the Chinese People's Liberation Army's deployment of armoured columns, India has its T-90 and T-72 tanks along with the BMP-2 Infantry Combat Vehicles which can operate at temperatures up to minus 40 degree Celsius," the report says.

It claims that the Indian armoured regiments have the capability to reach the LAC within minutes if they are required and did so recently, when the Chinese activated their tanks after India occupied several heights near the southern bank of Pangong Lake following the incidents of August 29-30.

The report quoted Major General Arvind Kapoor as saying that the army was logistically prepared in terms of tackling the harsh weather with special winter clothing and other facilities such as fuel, spares and assemblies in place.

## RDD Employee Shot Dead...

Naikoo died at the hospital. A senior police officer said that Naikoo worked in Rural Development Department.

Soon after the incident, government forces reached the spot and launched a search operation to nab the attackers.

## Civilian Injured In Sirhama...

his father. His mother is said to have passed away a few years ago.

Rather was among four people who were injured when an explosive device went off near gunfight site in Sirhama village on Friday. Two local militants were killed in the gunfight during which a house was also damaged.

Meanwhile, a pall of gloom descended in Sirhama when the news about Rather's demise spread in his native village this morning. Hundreds of people, witnesses said thronged Rather's residence to have his last glimpse and attend his funeral prayers. Heart wrenching scenes were witnessed when Rather's body was brought to his village for the last time. Amid tears and sobs, he was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard.

## Probe Into Shopian Encounter...

that the slain men were in fact the missing persons from Rajouri.

The Army, in a statement earlier this month, admitted that the powers vested in the soldiers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) were "prima facie exceeded" in the Amshipora encounter.

Singh said the investigators have got some clues in the case related to the killing of a lawyer in the Hawal area of the city last week.

"We have managed to get some clues about the (advocate) Babar Qadri case and hopefully, very soon the Jammu and Kashmir Police will be able to crack it. We have already constituted an SIT in this regard and a probe is on," he added.

## Army Begins Summary Of...

The Court of Inquiry, which completed its probe earlier this month, had found "prima facie" evidence that troops had "exceeded" powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) during the July 18 encounter in which three men were killed. Following this, the army had initiated disciplinary proceedings.

The officials said some of the civilian witnesses would also be called for cross examination which included those who act as "informers" for the local army who may have possibly waylaid the troops in the wrong direction.

"You see every aspect of this needs to be probed thoroughly. The army is committed to bring the inquiry to its logical conclusion but every angle needs to be probed," a senior army official said on condition of anonymity. According to the rules, the case details will be examined under various provisions of law during the Summary of Evidence against the erring Army personnel following which Court Martial proceedings will be initiated. The Army has been maintaining high standards of transparency and punishing officials whenever rules are violated, the officials said.

During the Summary of Evidence, the proof in relation to a charge against an accused, taken down in writing including any statement made by the accused and any further statement of evidence, is taken on record. On July 18, the Army claimed that three militants were killed in Amshipora village in the higher reaches of south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Committed to ethical conduct during anti-militancy operations, the Army initiated a Court of Inquiry after social media reports indicated that the three men were from Rajouri district in Jammu and had gone missing at Amshipora. The probe was completed in a record four weeks and Summary of Evidence was initiated. The families of the three men from Rajouri who worked as labourers in Shopian had also filed a police complaint.

In a brief statement, the Army had said on September 18 that the Shopian operation contravened the dos and don'ts of the Chief of Army Staff approved by the Supreme Court.

"The inquiry has brought out certain prima facie evidence indicating that during the operation, powers vested under the AFSPA 1990 were exceeded and the Do's and Don'ts of Chief of Army Staff as approved by the Supreme Court have been contravened.

"Consequently, the competent disciplinary authority has directed to initiate disciplinary proceedings under the Army Act against those found prima-facie answerable," the statement had said.

The evidence collected indicates the three unidentified terrorists killed in Amshipora were Imtiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohammed Ibrar who hailed from Rajouri which was subsequently confirmed through a DNA test.

Taking a serious note of the incident, the army had published a general advertisement in local newspapers, asking people with any "credible information" about the case to step forward and share it with the court of inquiry instituted by the Army.

Relatives of the three youths, belonging to Dhar Sakri village in Kotranka of Rajouri area in Poonch, had lodged a written missing persons report in the local police station after they lost contact with them on July 17. The three were working as labourers in apple and walnut orchards in Amshipora. The missing report will be closed as now the three youths have been identified.

The relatives said in their complaint that they had last spoken to the three on July 16 when they informed their families they had got a room to stay in Amshipora. The room was the site of the encounter two days later, the complaint stated.

Police, meanwhile, are probing the three youths' call details and why they jumped out of a window when an operation was launched at their rented accommodation, besides their presence around strategic places in Shopian since their arrival.

## Solider Injured In LoC Shelling...

shelling in Rajouri district as well. "At about 1550 hours today, the Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Nowshera sector," a defence official said in Jammu.

The officials said that the Indian Army responded to the ceasefire violations in a befitting manner. The Pakistani army has violated the ceasefire over 40 times this month.

A soldier was killed and two more, including an officer, were injured last Tuesday as Pakistani troops opened heavy fire and shelled with mortars along the Line of Control in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri.

On September 2, a JCO was killed in another ceasefire violation by the Pakistani army along the LoC in Keri sector of Rajouri.

## KP Leader's Fast-Unto-Death...

Rehabilitation Department for derailing every initiative of the government to address problems and implement demands of Kashmiri Hindus living in the valley since 1990.

KPSS president Tickoo along with a member of the community, Sandeep Koul, sat on the fast-unto-death protest that has entered the ninth day, the leaders said.

They completed 192 hours of fast-unto-death at Shri Sidhi Vinayak Ganesh Mandir at Ganpatyaars (Habaa Kadal) area of Srinagar but the administration is still silent on the issue and are playing with the life and sentiments of the Kashmiri Hindus living in Kashmir Valley, they said.

"Kashmiri Hindus faced isolation since 2014 and since August 2019, we became invisible for the administration. They are playing with us," they said. KPSS demands implementation of High Court directions and recommendations of the MHA regarding jobs to be provided to the unemployed educated Kashmiri Hindu youths living in valley.

They blamed the Disaster Management Relief, Return and Rehabilitation Department for deliberately delaying the process for more than four years, some leaders said.

They demanded a smooth process of providing bonafide certificates to all the aspirants of non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits and monthly financial aid to 808 such families living in Kashmir since 1990, they added. They also demanded grant of accommodation to all deserving non-migrant KP families living in the valley as per recommendations of the MHA and extension of benefits of migrant welfare fund to the non-migrant KPs of the Kashmir Valley.

## 15 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K,...

doctor said. Also, a 55-year-old man from Bongam Shopian died at the tertiary care hospital, eight days after he was admitted and diagnosed with Covid pneumonia with respiratory failure.

"He died due to cardiopulmonary arrest," the doctor said. With these deaths, 1148 people have died due to covid-19 including 827 from Kashmir Valley and 320 from Jammu division. (With GNS inputs)

## 52 Security Men Among 824...

73014. While Jammu division reported 540 fresh cases of Covid-19, the remaining 284 were confirmed by officials in Kashmir Valley. Giving district wise-details, officials said that Srinagar reported 105 cases, Budgam 27, Baramulla 26, Pulwama 33, Anantnag 18, Bandipora 9, Kupwara 44, Ganderbal 13, Kulgam 1, Shopian 8, Jammu 337, Rajouri 52, Udhampur 38, Kathua 37, Doda 11, Samba 29, Poonch 10, Ramban 1, Reasi 14 and Kishtwar 11.

Moreover, they said, 1408 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals 831 from Jammu Division and 577 from Kashmir Valley.

## 'J&K To Modify Rules To Make...

producing PRC of any of the parents and women from outside married to PRC holder men," he said in another tweet.

The move comes after it was noticed that applications for issuance of domicile certificates were being rejected by the issuing authorities "due to misinterpretation of the provisions" set out in an order issued in May and also because of the "absence of enabling provisions" for the issuance of the certificate to a woman, whose native is outside Jammu and Kashmir, but who is married to a PRC holder, officials said. The applications were also being rejected on the ground that the PRC of the father was not attached with those. The PRC of the mother is not acknowledged as a valid document for issuance of domicile certificate to the ward, they said.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has agreed in principle to amend the necessary rules to ensure that people do not face problems in getting domicile certificates, the officials said. The Union Territory government has issued over 18.52 lakh domicile certificates against the over 21.99 lakh applications received so far, they added.

The government notified the Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020, on May 18 and allowed different categories of non-locals, including government employees, to register for domicile certificates.

According to the new domicile law, non-permanent residents who have residency proof of at least 15 years in Jammu and Kashmir are

entitled to get domicile certificates in the Union Territory. Prior to the nullification of Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution, only state subjects were allowed to buy land and apply for government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Delhi Decides Politics of...

smokescreen" by demanding the restoration of Article 370, Bukhari said that his party stands for restoration of Article-370 but only the Supreme Court or the Parliament can do so.

"These people met on August 3, 2019 and said we will protect Article 370, which was removed two days later. So the resolution is over. No regional party can do that," he said.

Bukhari, who held multiple ministerial portfolios during the PDP-BJP alliance government in J&K, said before August 5, they had some idea that "something was going to happen" but didn't know what it was exactly. "The PDP leadership also knew. Who will believe that the former CM's won't know?" said Bukhari.

The Apni Party President also said that New Delhi decides the politics of Jammu and Kashmir.

"They want people to believe that Apni Party members are agents of Delhi but tell me, since 1947, who has not been an agent of Delhi? I am not accusing them of anything but truth is New Delhi is the seat of power. Delhi decides things," he said.

"Who decided to make Sheikh Abdullah emergency administrator in 1947? Who decided that he became chief minister in 1975 when Congress was in power? Who decided alliances between NC and Congress, PDP and Congress and then PDP and BJP? Till yesterday, they were saying PDP is the creation of the Intelligence Bureau," he added. The former minister also advocated the release of PDP President Mehbooba Mufti, who remains under detention since August 5, 2019.

"A lot of people say that she is staying at her home, that she is in a presidential palace but prison is a prison. Our politics may be different but she should be released," Bukhari said.

## 'Frustrated': NC Hits Out...

Kashmir. In a statement issued to the media here, an NC spokesperson alleged that Apni Party's singular purpose was to protect the interests of their masters in New Delhi by demeaning collective efforts of Gupkar signatories aimed to restore the Special Status of J&K as guaranteed in the constitution of the country.

Dismissing the assertions of Apni Party President, NC spokesperson said that Bukhari has accepted the abrogation of Art 370 & 35 A as fait accompli and wants J&K people to gulp down the indignation and slur J&K was subjected to.

"NC refuses to do that and has taken upon itself to come with a unified platform in the form of Gupkar declaration to get the state's special status back. The party has already taken the battle to the Apex Court," the spokesperson said.

While referring to Bukhari's claim that the political parties in J&K had premonition about the abrogation of Articles 370, 35A, the NC spokesperson said such unsubstantiated statement reveal his aversion for the widespread unity brought about the endeavors of Farooq Abdullah and various other signatories of Gupkar Declaration.

"Altaf Bukhari has obliquely claimed that he was aware about the planned abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 A. Prior to Aug 05 2019, he was a senior member of PDP. Would he care to explain what he was doing about it? Did he try to stop it or warn others about the abrogation? Why did he keep mute?" he said, adding that it seems Bukhari has accepted the Aug 05 decisions.

"Had Altaf Bukhari cared to read the Gupkar Declaration he would not have made such illogical statements. Every time, he speaks, it is either about power or position and government formation. The Gupkar declaration is about restoring J&K's special position which was illegally, unconstitutionally snatched on 5th Aug 2019," he said.

"It is not just here in Jammu and Kashmir, that the political parties are striving to protect the legitimate interests of the natives, elsewhere also different political parties have come on a single platform and are speaking in one voice to secure the interests of their people. Only the Apni Party is treading on a path which is detrimental to the interests of the people of J&K.

"The Gupkar Declaration emphatically represents the mood and feelings of people of J&K while the Apni Party is serving the interests of New Delhi, by weakening the widespread concord on the matter," he added. The NC spokesperson further said that Bukhari being "nonplused" by the unity of all the political parties was now "unashamedly taking refuge under Islam as a last resort to save his face value and to protect him from the political bewilderment."

## Unrecognised Schools Cannot...

competent authority to run and maintain a private school," the court said, adding, "So, it is not a simpliciter threshold 'written permission' to establish a private school and thereafter remain calm and in a state of slumber."

Referring to Section 11, the court said that one cannot deny that it is a good piece of legislation incorporated and introduced in the Act of 2002. "It categorically takes care of things at the time of establishment of a school. It ordains overseeing of running of private schools. It stipulates keeping vigil on maintaining of private schools."

The reason, the court said, being: involvement of the children; their future; and career. "Section 11, keeps private school's management on toes. Having said so, petitioner-school cannot absquatulate from the liability, responsibility and duty cast upon it the moment it established the school, to remain active, promptitude and up-to-date in all fields in running and maintaining the school and its management."

The management of the schools could not have made a "miniature mistake in running and maintaining the school."

"So applies to respondents. They should not permit any private school, including petitioner-school, to run and function without "written permission" from competent authority," the court said, adding, "Any deviation thereto also attracts delinquency on those who were/are at the helm of affairs."

The court reiterated that only those private schools are to be permitted to function, which are recognised, as is provided in Section 12 (1) of the Act of 2002. "This means that the unrecognised schools cannot be permitted to function," the court added.

Referring to Subsection (5) of Section 12, the court said that the Government is also required to issue notification in Government Gazette, on or before the first day of May every year, publishing List of recognised private schools.

The court said if a private school wants to start a new class or add any higher classes, it is required to seek "prior permission" from competent authority. "Prior permission for adding new class in unambiguous terms is envisaged in Section 15 of the Act of 2002," the court said, adding, "It is a basic and fundamental requirement that there should be a "prior permission" for starting a new class in a private school and its recognition as well. Procedure in this regard is to be prescribed by the Government for permission and recognition."

## HC Seeks Details Of Gulmarg...

bench of Chief Justice Gita Mital and Justice Puneet Gupta directed

the government's revenue and forest department to submit details of the total state and the forest land respectively in the Gulmarg within two weeks. The court has also sought the details of the land which is in "actual possession of the State".

The direction by the court followed perusal of a report filed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Special Forest Division Tangmarg in compliance of court's August 24 order.

"We had noted that the respondents (government) refer to encroachments of various forest land without giving any details of the same. Some of these encroachments are by major hoteliers in the Gulmarg area," the court said, adding, "It appears that valuable forest land has been encroached and the encroachments are being permitted to be perpetuated with impunity. This is a serious matter which needs to be looked into."

The court also directed the Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority to proceed in accordance with law against all those persons who have violated the building permission which required the structures to be made of wood whereas concrete structures have been raised.

Meanwhile, Additional Advocate General M A Chashoo submitted that a committee has been constituted by Chief Secretary for resolving the dispute between the Forest and Revenue authorities. The committee is headed by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, he said.

Advocate Hakim Suhail, representing some applicant in the matter, drew the court's attention to the contradiction in the reports of the Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, and the Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority. He pointed out that in the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla that there are 18 structures which have no lease at all.

"Let these reports be placed before the newly constituted Committee headed by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir who shall ensure that the matter is verified on the physical inspection and true position is placed before this Court before the next date of hearing," the court said. (GNS)

## CAG Flags Slow Work Under...

providing safe drinking water to the rural population on a sustainable basis. There was a delay ranging between 7 and 67 days in release of funds amounting to Rs 871.87 crore received during 2014-17 by the State Finance Department to the State Water Sanitation Mission (SWSM)/Administrative Department Scrutiny of the records of Administrative Department and six out of 14 sampled divisions revealed that the interest of Rs 1.74 crore earned during 2013-14 to 2017-18 on programme and support funds were not accounted for in the books/ accounts for working out the total availability of the funds, it said.

In 14 sampled divisions, it said 657 schemes estimated to cost Rs 1,415.37 crore were taken up for execution without the accord of Administrative Approval (AA) and Technical Sanction (TS) and an expenditure of Rs 830.11 crore was incurred on these schemes.

Water samples in respect of 30 to 48 per cent sources were only tested during 2013-14 to 2017-18. Further, against the required 7,66,326 water samples to be tested during 2013-18, only 5,60,331 (73 per cent) samples were tested, and the break-up of bacteriological examination and chemical contamination was not available separately, it said.

The report said planning for implementation of the PMGSY in J-K was deficient as District Rural Road Plan was neither prepared in most of the sampled Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) nor approved from the intermediate panchayat/District panchayat/ District Rural Development Department and State Level Standing Committee.

Core Network did not cover all the eligible habitations, inadmissible road projects were included in the Core Network and road projects which were not in Core Network were taken up for execution. Out of total sanction of programme fund of Rs 8,892.69 crore during 2000-01 to 2017-18 (January 2018) under Phases I to XI, Gol released Rs 5,092.14 crore against which Rs 4,312.41 crore was spent, as of March 2018, the CAG said, adding the closing balance at the end of each of the financial year during 2015-18 ranged between Rs 128 crore to Rs 1,046 crore.

It said due to poor progress in completion of road projects, balance fund of Rs 1,494.60 crore under Phases-VI, VII and IX was not released by the government of India.

Against due State share of Rs 252 crore, the State Government released Rs 155 crore during 2015-18, leaving a balance of Rs 97 crore, it said, adding against the demand of Rs 36.22 crore placed by Jammu and Kashmir State Rural Roads Development Agency (JKSRDA), the state government released only Rs 8.12 crore (22 per cent). "The percentage of utilisation of funds was very poor and ranged between 6 to 30 per cent, during 2013-18.

Out of 2,738 unconnected habitations as of April 2000, the report said, a total of 1,694 (62 per cent) habitations were connected during 2000-2018 and 1,044 (38 per cent) habitations remained to be connected at the end of March 2018. It added as against target for coverage of 572 sanctioned habitations with population of 1,000 and above by the year 2003, 506 habitations were provided connectivity as of March 2018.

In nine sampled districts, 254 road projects, sanctioned at a cost of Rs 1,031.35 crore on which expenditure of Rs 514.62 crore was incurred, were allotted at a cost of Rs 935.96 crore without Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction from the competent authority, the CAG said.

It said no Action Taken Reports (ATRs) were submitted by any of the PIUs in respect of 492 inspections conducted by the State Quality Monitors (SQMs) during 2013-14 to 2017-18, wherein 159 inspections were graded as 'un-satisfactory' and the remaining 333 'required improvement', while in eight sampled districts, ATRs in respect of 221 inspections conducted were awaited from PIUs.

## LeT Militant Held In Pampore...

militant ranks and requesting his parents not to search for him.

"Incriminating material of proscribed outfit LeT has been recovered from his possession and a case FIR number 79/2020 under relevant section of law stands registered at Police Station Pampore," the police spokesperson added.

## Police Traces Missing Youth...

fled away from his home and during these days he was at his friend's home at Sindbal, Ganderbal," the police spokesperson said. He said a police team led by SHO Gund Syed Sajad reached the spot and picked him.

"Later on, he was handed over to his mother," the police spokesperson added.

## Over 5 Lakh J&K Residents ...

from other states and UTs have been evacuated in buses, the administration said. As many as 134 trains have reached Jammu so far with a total of 124,596 stranded passengers, while 15,696 passengers have reached Udhampur in 21 special trains up till now.

## Ladakh Reports 10 New Cases...

positive for the virus on Sunday, taking the total number of cases in the region to 4,103, the officials said.

Thirteen patients have recovered from the infection and subsequently discharged in Leh, and another in Kargil, bringing down the number of active cases to 1,013 -- 607 in Leh and 406 in Kargil.

# J&K Bank holds 82nd AGM of its shareholders

## UT Government's financial package of Rs 1350 Cr a game changer: CMD

Srinagar, Sep 28: J&K Bank held the 82nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of its shareholders for the financial year (FY) 2019-20 through video-conferencing from its corporate headquarters in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Financial Commissioner (Finance Department) Dr Arun Kumar Mehta (IAS) represented the J&K UT Government, the majority shareholder of the bank. Besides, the bank's Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) R K Chhibber, Directors on board of the bank, Executive Presidents, Presidents, Vice Presidents, Company Secretary and a large number of its shareholders attended the e-AGM through virtual mode.

Summing up the bank's performance during the FY 2019-20, the CMD stated, "Despite the COVID-19 crisis which had far reaching economic and social repercussions, J&K Bank has delivered a strong balance sheet. During the fiscal, the Bank registered an Operating profit of Rs 1525.05 Cr, with an improved NIM of 3.92 pc. Further, taking cognizance of the continued pressure on asset quality due to impact of COVID-19, the bank enhanced NPA Coverage ratio by more than 14 percentage points from 64.30 pc to 78.59 pc while bringing down the net NPAs considerably from 4.89 pc to 3.48 pc".

"Cost of deposits was maintained at 5 pc by improving the CASA base to 53.66 pc. The loan-book of UTs of J&K and Ladakh have witnessed growth of 13 pct thereby re-orienting the lending composition of the bank with UTs of J&K and Ladakh getting 63 pc of total advances of the Bank", he added.

Citing increased provisions as reason for hiccups in the Bank's journey towards glory during the last many quarters, the CMD attributed it to the increase in level of NPAs due to impairments in corporate portfolio outside



J&K, primarily contracted under consortium/multiple bank arrangements.

"Now that J&K Bank has shifted its focus to retail and agriculture lending across the country and corporate lending has been restricted to top rated corporates, the shift has begun yielding favorable results", the CMD said. Expounding on the effects of dual challenges faced by the bank since second quarter of the FY 2019-20, Chairman R K Chhibber said, "Shortly after the disturbances during the second quarter of FY2019-20 derailed the trade activities, the bank had to face an unprecedented disruption in the economic activity, caused globally by the Covid-19, which has led to major changes in operations of trade, commerce and industries without exception."

"The Bank was the first-mover in various initiatives which include introducing a top-up finance scheme for business community to ease their cash flow issues, making hassle-

free overdraft available in PMJDY accounts, generous contribution of 3 days' salary by all staff members to the COVID relief fund, disbursement of social security benefits to female PMJDY account holders, PM KISAN beneficiaries", he added.

"J&K Bank was also quick", he asserted, "to pass on benefits of moratorium on loan installments & interest servicing, announced as relief package by the Central Government, as per regulatory guidelines", adding, "We also extended the COVID-19 stimulus package under Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) to eligible businesses & MSMEs. Under the Central Government's Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) scheme, the Bank has so far made disbursements to the tune of Rs1639.70 Cr to 46516 borrowers."

Terminating the announcement of Rs 1350 Cr financial package by the LG of J&K UT as a game changer, he further stated, "It will

help not only in revival of businesses in the UT of J&K but also relieve the Bank from a major portion of stressed assets resulted out of the current situation. Interest subvention of 5 pc announced in financial package by the Hon'ble LG J&K Manoj Sinha Ji along with release of previous year's interest subvention aggregating to about Rs 1081Cr in favor of business community shall help in regularization of stressed assets and improving the overall asset quality of the bank."

Sounding optimism for the future in near term, the CMD stated, "We don't foresee any major slippages during the current fiscal. Besides, the special provisions of around Rs 300 Cr made in terms of RBI's COVID-19 regulatory guidelines expected to be released soon shall further improve the profitability in the current FY. The efforts made by the bank have started reaping benefits as is evident from the bank's profitability, though modest, achieved in the first Q1 FY2020-21."

Regarding the process of capital augmentation, the CMD said that the Bank is in the process of augmenting its capital base by raising additional Rs 4500 Crore, which would support the bank's growth over the next few years besides meeting regulatory capital requirements.

Speaking about few of the decisions with far-reaching consequences for the bank, Chairman asserted, "Implementation of RTI Act and CVC guidelines has been a major step taken by your Bank aiming at further strengthening the corporate governance and accountability framework of your bank thereby enhancing transparency and efficiency as the flagship company in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh. These measures have helped in streamlining the processes and making this institution stronger and healthier going forward."

## Raids Conducted on Illegal Mining, 16 Tippers Seized

### 30 blacklisted in Pulwama

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 27: On receiving immense complaints from the locals, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Raghav Langer conducted nocturnal raids in the intervening night of 27 September here.

The DC conducted raids in Lassipora, Kakapora, Pampore and Galander to check operations of illegal mining in the district and seized scores of clay loaded tippers.

During the raids 16 tippers

were confiscated besides impounding and blacklisting 30 tippers by the ARTO.

The DC directed the ARTO to cancel the RCs, Driving Licenses and Permits of the seized vehicles, besides directing the respective Tehsildars to lodge FIR against the violators.

He expressed resentment over the indiscriminate mining despite section 144 is already imposed at places where illegal mining is taking place.

The DC directed the concerned departments to have day and night vigil to curb the incidents of mining and reiterated zero tolerance policy of the district Administration against illegal mining and asked the concerned to act tough against the violators.

The DC on the occasion was accompanied by the teams of officers from Geology and Mining Department, Motor Vehicles Department and revenue officials.

## Advisor Khan Visits City Shrines

### Assesses facilities for devotees

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, today paid obeisance at the shrine of Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom Kashmiri, popularly known as Makhdoom Sahib (RA) and also reviewed the arrangements being made for the Urs Mubarak commencing from Tuesday.

On the occasion, Advisor Khan prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir and wellbeing of the people.

The Advisor toured the Shrine premises and took a

briefing from the officers and Shrine administrators about the arrangements being made for the Urs during which the devotees through the premises from all parts of J&K for prayers.

He was also briefed about the ongoing developmental works in the Shrine aimed at improving the facilities for the devotees including construction of washrooms and lavatories.

Advisor Khan directed the officers to strictly follow the Standard Operating Protocols (SOP) during all activities in the

wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, Advisor inspected the newly constructed ablution centre (Wazu Khana) for women and also took stock of ongoing developmental works at the Shrine.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor Khan stressed upon the officers to complete the infrastructure-related works in a time-bound manner. He also issued on the spot directions for beautification, landscaping and repairing of retaining wall (Kala) of the Shrine surroundings.

## Navin Chairs the 6th BoD of JCCB Ltd

### Let's Fix Responsibility for NPAs in Bank

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Cooperatives, Navin Choudhary today asked the officers that responsibility for every Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the bank should be fixed.

He made these remarks while chairing the 6th Board of Directors meeting of the Jammu Central Cooperative Bank (JCCB) Limited.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Shushma Chau-

han; General Manager JCCB, Mohammad Mushtaq; Seema Khajooria Shekher (Director) and many other bank officers and officials through a video conferencing from Jammu.

Navin, who is also chairman of the Bank, asked the officers to submit all the details of advances made by the bank. He directed them to mention all the details like sanctioning authority, amount of instalment, last instalment paid and current status of each loan.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel: 0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg@jktourism.or

Sub: - Grant of Registration of residential house as Hotel/Guest House under the name and style of "Himalayan Herbal Resorts" situated at Lashpathri Sonamarg.

#### Public Notice

Whereas, Mrs. Mymoona Akhtar W/o Mohammad Yousuf Bhat R/o Al-Noor Colony, Hyderpora, Srinagar has applied in this office for grant of register of her residential house as Hotel/Guest House under the name and style of "Himalayan Herbal Resorts" situated at Lashpathri, Sonamarg under the provision of the J&K Registration of tourist Trade Act/Rules '1978/82/2011/2012;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted the General Affidavit, Passport Photocopy, Permission from Chief Town Planner for construction of single storeyed structures with attic, Sale Deed, Revenue extract, Building permission from Tehsildar Kangan, State subject and Character Certificate etc.;

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012, before issuance of registration certificate in favour of Mrs. Mymoona Akhtar W/o Mohammad Yousuf Bhat R/o Al-Noor Colony, Hyderpora, Srinagar, for conversion of structures constructed into Hotel/Guest House, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.

Sd/-  
Deputy Director Tourism,  
Registration

No: Reg/UP-05/1716/DTK  
Dated: 26.09.2020

DIPK-6456/20

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir

#### Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar

#### CORRIGENDUM

Subject: - 1 Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Medical Gases Pipeline system at GMC Baramulla along with operation for Six Months and Maintenance for 3 years

References: 1. This office e- NIT no: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/107/e-tendering Dated 11.09.2020.

In view of poor response to the above referred tender, the critical dates are extended as follows:

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	30.09.2020 (15.00 hours)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	01.10.2020 (13.00 hours)

All the other terms and conditions will remain the same.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
MHCH Division  
Srinagar.

DIPK-6428/20

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory

#### Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

Tel: 0194-2497056 Email: xenmds@gmail.com  
GIST OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NO. MDS/TENDER/2020-21/ 89 ; DATE: - 26 .09.2020

Sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 5/- revenue stamps are invited for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory from registered Civil Contractors for:-

Description of the work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of TD	Time of completion	Position of funds
Laying of drain water pipe line and allied works at MED Complex Shalteng, Srinagar.	50,000/-	Rs. 1,000/-	Rs. 200/-	05 days	CAPEX approved Funds awaited
Date of sale of tender documents	26 -09-2020 to 05 -10-2020 (up to 4.00 pm)				
Last date of receipt of tenders	06-10-2020 (up to 2.00 pm)				
Date of opening of tenders	06 -10-2020				
Tender receiving & opening authority	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Srinagar				

The Tender document can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours against cost mentioned above, in the form of IPO/Demand Draft or cash payment. The tender documents shall be issued subject to production of following documents:

1. Self attested copy of Certificate of GST Registration.
2. Valid D class civil registration card.
3. Application for issuance of Tender Document from the firm duly signed and stamped by the Proprietor, however, in case the Proprietor of the firm wishes to purchase the tender document through his representative, a valid authorization letter duly signed and stamped by the proprietor shall be produced prior to purchase of the document.

In case the last date of receipt of tenders happens to be a non-working day due to any reasons, the tenders shall be received in this office on next working day.

NO: MDS/TS / 3351-55  
Date: 26 -09-2020

Sd/-  
(Er. Abdul Rashid Bhat)  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

DIPK-6434/20

#### DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- PCR: 0194-2450213
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

#### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

#### RAILWAYS

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



#### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



#### HIJRI CALENDAR

11 Safar  
1442

#### PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 02
ZUHR	12: 22
ASR	4:38
Magrib	6:24
ISHA	7:44

## This Day In History

- 1678 - France & Brandenburg signs peace treaty
- 1848 - Battle of Pákozd: Hungarian forces defeat Croats at Pákozd; the first battle of the War of Independence
- 1875 - US-Spanish relations decline in wake of Cuban rebellion.
- 1885 - The first practical public electric tramway in the world is opened in Blackpool, England.
- 1911 - Italy declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
- 1913 - The Treaty of Constantinople between Turkey and Bulgaria restores peace; the Turks recover Adrianople and Maritza River line
- 1915 - British army conquers Chilly al Imara, Mesopotamia.
- 1918 - WWI: Allied forces scored a decisive breakthrough of Hindenburg Line
- 1922 - Benito Mussolini ask Vatican for support of fascist party program
- 1927 - Telephone service begins between US & Mexico
- 1936 - Radio used for 1st time for a presidential campaign
- 1944 - Soviet troops invade Yugoslavia
- 1953 - US government gives France \$385 million for combat in Indo-China.
- 1959 - Sultan of Brunei promulgates a constitution
- 1964 - Greece & Bulgaria close borders
- 1971 - Orbiting Solar Observatory VII launched
- 1973 - Soyuz 12 returns to Earth
- 1976 - Syria drives Palestinian guerrillas out of Lebanon
- 1977 - Soviet space station Salyut 6 launched into Earth orbit
- 1988 - 26th Space Shuttle mission, Discovery 7 launched
- 1988 - UN peacekeeping forces win Nobel Peace prize
- 1995 - US space probe Ulysses completes 2nd passage behind Sun
- 2004 - The asteroid 4179 Toutatis passes within four lunar distances of Earth.
- 2005 - Amnesty referendum in Algeria.
- 2009 - MESSENGER spacecraft performs a third and final Mercury flyby
- 2013 - 42 people are killed by Boko Haram in a college attack in Gujba, Nigeria
- 2013 - 16 people are killed by a Syrian Army air strike that hit a secondary school in Raqqa, Syria
- 2014 - Ashraf Ghani becomes President of Afghanistan

## From KO Archives

### 24 killed in 24hrs

Observer News service

SRINAGAR Twenty-four people including 18 militants and four security personal were killed in different gun-battles in Jammu and Kashmir over past 24 hours, a defence spokes-man said today. Five foreign militants of Jaish-e-Muham-mad were killed in an encounter with security forces at Hill Kaka sector (Surankote) The deceased were identified as Shaheen R/o Multan, Abdul Rouf R/o Sahiwal, Pakistan, Chacha Sadiqi R/o Multan, Jameel Muhammad R/q Kotli and Abdul Rasheed R/o Nakyal, PeK, official sources said.

"Five more unidentified militants were killed at Kam-alHump post, Tangdhar in Knpwara district. Three AK-47 rifles, 3 magazines and 6 hand grenades were recovered from their possession, official sources said.

He said the army gunned down two more militants in an encounter at Chowkibal in Kupwara district last night, adding some arms and ammunition were recovered from the killed militants. Security forces last night cordoned village Manwani, Achabal in Anantnag district, police sources said adding militants hiding there fired upon the search party belonging to 7 Rashtriya Rifles (RR). The fire was returned and in the ensuing encounter one jawan and one militant were killed. The army jawan has been identified as Gurmil Singh and the militant as Shah Din alias Shakeel of Pakistan. An SPO namely Inayatullah Mir of Chitti Bandy in Bandipora area of Baramulla district was killed when militants fired upon security forces during the preceding night, police sources said. One army jawan lost his life and three others sustained injuries when militants triggered off a mine blast at Pather Post area, sector Drass in Kargil. "The vehicle they were travelling in also was damaged in the blast, defence sources said.

An Ikhvani was killed in Pattan today when suspected militants sprayed bullets on him in bazar. The deceased was identified as Nazir Ahmad Wani S/o Ghulam Ahmad Wani. Five more militants were killed in different incidents of violence in Poonch sector. Two of them were affiliated with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen while one of Lashkar-e-Taiba. The identity of two others could not be ascertained.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead one Nissar Ahmad S/o Gulab Din of Hill Top, sector Darhal in Kargil. Police has taken cognizance. (Kashmir Observer, September 29, 2000)

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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# Corporatisation of the Indian Agricultural Sector

The new agricultural laws allow the entry of corporate sector in the vast unorganised agricultural sector, through the back door

Asad Mirza



**T**HE farmer's agitation has spilled on to the highways in some north Indian states. Agitating farmers from Punjab and Haryana may soon be joined by farmers from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Opposition parties across India are criticising the new agricultural laws. The Rajya Sabha witnessed unruly scenes when the two contentious bills related to farming sector were passed in the house, last week. Some opposition members led by the TMC climbed on to the chairman's podium as the government pushed for the passage of two contentious farm bills.

Perhaps the most awkward thing for the ruling party in Delhi has been the resignation of the Union food processing industries minister from the cabinet. She resigned in protest because she claimed that the new laws are anti-farmers. The laws have been criticised by most of the opposition parties and even by Swadesh Jagran Manch, an outfit of the RSS, which though appreciates the bill, yet says that they need certain changes to ensure the welfare of the farmers.

## The Farmers Bills

Three months ago, when Parliament was not in session, the Government of India issued three ordinances. Normally ordinances are issued only as an emergency law, and they have to be converted into proper legislation as soon as the Parliament reconvenes. These three ordinances were about agriculture and farming, and were described as in favour of the farmers in the spirit of 'reforms', i.e. removing shackles from the agricultural sector. Now all three ordinances have been passed in the Lok Sabha and have become laws.

The government in its defence says that the three new laws, viz. (i) The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020, (ii) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020 and (iii) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance & Farm Services Bill 2020, takes due care of the agricultural sector to ensure safety of farmers' interests and they'll eradicate the middlemen from the markets, will create a national market, high intimidation cost mandis will go, will allow farmers to sell their produce to anybody anywhere and will remove all barriers in inter and intra-state agricultural produce sale. It will help to end the monopoly of traders or middlemen, yield better returns to farmers and increases their income, farm produce can move freely from surplus to deficit regions and ultimately the consumer will get better, fresh and cheaper products due to better managed storage facilities.

Defending the agriculture bills, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that bills will bring revolutionary changes in the lives of farmers and strengthen agricultural economy. Tomar said that the interests of farmers are protected under the leadership of PM Modi.

He said that the electronic marketing platform - e-NAM trading system - will also continue in the mandis at a much larger scale, which will result in greater transparency and time savings. He also clarified that farmers will have the power to fix the sale price of

his choice and receive payments within three days. Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will bring together small farmers and work to ensure remunerative pricing for farmers. Tomar said that after signing contract, farmer will not need traders to sell because the purchasing consumer will pick up the produce directly from the farm.

## Opposition to the Bills

One would imagine that farmers would welcome any reforms that gives them more freedom and income. But this 'granting of freedom' has met with a huge backlash across the country, what is the reason for that?

Both the opposition parties and some farmer groups have raised questions about pricing of their produce under contract farming. They have also raised concerns over foreseeable disputes with big companies. Congress leader P Chidambaram while slamming the Central government, said that it challenges the pillars of the food security system of the country. He further said that the 'gravest flaw' in the ordinances is that they do not stipulate that the price which the farmer will get 'shall not be less than the MSP', as the government has done away with fixing the MSP. In the real sense it means the entry of corporate business into the agricultural sector of India through the back door.

Every year the government has a massive procurement programme to buy large quantities of wheat and rice and other crops at the MSP. If the mandi and the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) system is diluted, or dismantled, then there is no guarantee that the farmer will get assured minimum price. Only when government procurement is done, that too through the mandi, does the farmer will get full price.

Farmers are agitating because they fear that diluting the mandi and APMC system would mean eventual closing down the MSP system. And FEPAPAFS-2020 will allow corporates to make an entry into the Indian agricultural sector which may ultimately result into the death of small and medium scale farmers.

The Indian agriculture sector is notoriously shackled by all kinds of archaic laws, which control price, quantity and storage. Yet, inspite of its unorganised nature, the agricultural sector has been the backbone of the Indian economy and has always supported it to bounce back even at times when other sectors perform poorly.

## The future

In fact, out of the three bills, the one, of which the Indian farmer is most scared of is the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agree-

ment of Price Assurance & Farm Services Bill 2020, as it relates to contract farming. The India farmer who has already had to bear the burden of GM seeds, which led him to take large loans to survive and as a result of non-payment of those bills was eventually led to suicide, is now threatened by the corporate farming as he can see the writing on the wall clearly. He can also see that the middlemen system, which the government aims to end, is not going to happen, as the present middlemen will eventually start serving the interests of the corporates at the farmer's cost.

The farmers understand very well that they'll be induced by guaranteed price by the corporate players, seeds and pesticides but ultimately one day he might even lose rights to his own land. Such corporate malpractices have been seen by farmers in Punjab, already, where they were induced by multinational companies to grow potato and tomatoes instead of wheat and rice, and which ultimately led to the land getting completely barren and depletion of the water table drastically in the state.

The day does not seem far off, when a clutch of corporate houses will control the farming sector and will eventually set the price and availability of different crops and food items in the country, and like several other sectors the consumers and economy will be totally dependent on them, and ultimately the small and medium scale farmers may completely perish.

In fact, the passage of these agricultural bills, just like the education and labour related laws force us to wonder how with a minority in the Rajya Sabha for the NDA, these bills are passed. Perhaps the stand taken by some of the allies of the NDA before the passage are just for the optics and in reality they ensure that the bills are passed.

Secondly, we should be worried a lot more about all these plethora of bills being adopted as laws, as they all are steps towards making India a 'Hindu Rashtra'. A closer study of The Third Way, a book by Dattopant Thengadi, who was the founder of RSS's trade, labour and farmers wings, presents a Hindu way of managing the economy, polity and the society, in the light of Hindu scriptures; the Vedas, the Smritis and the Shastras.

*Asad Mirza is a commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. Email: asad.mirza.nd@gmail.com*

## Time to wage peace

**T**he speeches at UN General Assembly by India and Pakistan premiers is a major annual event that attracts a lot of media and public attention in South Asia. One major point of interest is the lingering India-Pakistan animosity, largely driven by their long-standing fight over Jammu and Kashmir. Since last year's revocation of Article 370, the speeches have assumed an even bigger news value. More so, in Kashmir, where people eagerly look forward to these speeches to see if there's anything in store for them.

So, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan delivered their speeches Kashmiris were all ears. This year, the ongoing stand-off in Ladakh between China and India lent a degree of relevance to the Chinese premier Xi Jinping's address too. But as far as the PM Modi's speech, there was little that was of interest to Kashmiris. The PM once again sought inclusion of India in the UN's decision making structures. He stressed reform in the responses, processes and in the very character of the global body saying it was the "need of the hour." The PM also raised questions on the response of the UN to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic that has killed nearly one million people and infected over 32 million worldwide.

On the other hand, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan once again focussed most of his speech on India and Kashmir, and to a lesser extent on Afghanistan. Khan urged world body's intervention in Kashmir to ensure peace in South Asia. He also talked about Pakistan's facilitating role in the ongoing intra-Afghan dialogue.

Similarly, Jinping's speech too attracted some notice. Chinese premier made it clear that his country didn't want either hot or cold war with anyone.

Among the three speeches, the one by PM Modi steered clear of the ongoing tense geopolitical situation in the region: both, Line of Actual Control with China and the Line of Control with Pakistan have been sites of lingering stand-off. The situation has been extraordinary along the LAC where China has staged incursions at several points. India, in response, has bolstered defences on its side of the border. So far several rounds of dialogue between senior military officials followed by one defence and foreign ministers - haven't been able to make much of a difference to the ground situation.

Similarly, relations with Pakistan have progressively deteriorated since August 5, 2019 move. The UN speeches of Xi and Khan reflect this situation, even though that of the PM Modi chose to skirt it. But this hardly detracts from the existing geo-political uncertainty in the region. And this will require three powers to meaningfully engage with one another to stabilize the situation. But that is easier said than done. Here's hoping that the ongoing dialogue with China reaches its logical conclusion. At the same time, there's also an urgent need for an engagement between India and Pakistan. A dialogue between the two will usher in a far bigger redeeming difference than even the reconciliation between India and China.

## OTHER OPINION

### On Jaswant Singh

**J**aswant Singh, who died after a long illness on Sunday, is one of the few Indian political leaders in recent memory to leave a strong imprint on the Union ministries they had the opportunity to run. In the two national governments led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee during 1998-2004, Singh served as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, minister of external affairs, defence and finance. But it was in the diplomatic domain that his legacy will most endure. Delhi confronted a hostile international moment and deteriorating regional dynamic with Pakistan and China after it conducted a series of nuclear tests and declared itself an atomic power in May 1998. It found its man of the moment in Jaswant Singh, who helped India navigate the crisis with aplomb and come out of it with an enhanced international standing. His extended dialogue with the US Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, during 1998-2000 not only helped blunt much of the international reaction to India's nuclear defiance but also paved the way for resolving the costly conflict between India and the global nuclear order that persisted since the early 1970s.

Even more importantly, Singh's atomic diplomacy laid the basis for ending the decades of political estrangement between Delhi and Washington and building a productive India-US strategic partnership. His handling of the post nuclear crises also helped India explore solutions to the long-standing territorial conflicts with Pakistan and China. Put simply, Singh, along with Vajpayee's national security adviser, Brajesh Mishra, turned the nuclear crisis of 1998 into a huge opportunity for writing a new script for India's foreign policy.

Unlike with the US, where Singh's initiatives produced quick and visible transformation, his hopes for negotiating early border settlements with Pakistan and China have remained unfulfilled. But his conviction that India needs settled frontiers with Pakistan and China remains as relevant today as when he was in charge of Indian diplomacy.

His personal grace and dignity helped Delhi to shed the defensive prickliness that had come to mark Indian foreign policy in the preceding decades. As an impressive parliamentarian and genuine liberal within the BJP, Singh stood out within the political class of his generation. For reshaping Indian diplomacy at the turn of the millennium, he will be long remembered as one of India's most consequential foreign ministers.

*The Indian Express*

**‘The day does not seem far off, when a clutch of corporate houses will control the farming sector and ultimately the small and medium scale farmers may completely perish.’**



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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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## Inconvenience of Income Inequality

**A** little degree of inequality acts as a positive influence on economic growth in the short term. Some economists have found empirical evidence of a negative correlation between long-term growth rates and sustained economic inequality. Thus, higher rates of inequalities stifle growth rate.

Growth gets suppressed in economically unequal societies, after a phase of increased growth, by the decreasing availability of investments for human capital. Physical capital becomes increasingly scarce, as fewer

individuals have funds to invest in training and education.

Many studies have showed a positive relationship between income inequality and crime. A wide gap between rich and poor tends to increase crime by reducing law enforcement spending in low-income areas. Wealthy members of a society tend to concentrate in secluded communities, especially as the disparity between the rich and poor increases.

When wealth comes in a small number of hands, political power tends to become skewed in favor of

that small wealthy group. High-income groups are able to manipulate government in their favor through both legal processes and through corrupt practices. Hence, income inequality promotes political inequality and disparity as well.

India is one of the most unequal income distribution countries. It would take 941 years for a minimum wage worker in rural India to earn what the top paid executive at a leading Indian garment company earns in a year.

A few ways out seem to be by investing in agriculture and increasing

the tax rate of high income populations. As per the World Bank, agriculture can help reduce poverty for 80 per cent of the world's poor who live in rural areas and work mainly in farming. Investing in women's education can also be of great help. Controlling Monopolies and implementing restrictive trade practices and minimum wage policies will also facilitate the decrease in income inequalities.

*Fahid Fayaz Darangay  
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# Religious Knowledge's Careless Dissemination

MUGEES UL KAISAR

Our youth devoid of the necessary tools feel equipped enough to debate complex nuanced issues only to confuse each other causing a whole disservice to the religious scholarly tradition.

In almost every village and town of our valley there is a large chunk of our passionate youth who debate and discuss various sensitive religious issues on streets, in schools, colleges, masajid and various other public places. Many of them, unfortunately, but quite naturally evolve into ugly fights. The result being that our society is plagued with the menace of hate speeches and debates/munaaziras that have saturated our different social media platforms too.

The association with a particular group is not necessarily the real point of concern but rather the celebration of "cult mentality" among our young is the real cause of worry. Cults have closed minds that allow no diffusion of knowledge lacking any genuine interaction, characterized by shallow understanding of issues and an arrogant approach of stifling the other. So, what has led us to this sorry state of affairs?

This problem is obviously a multi-layered question. Upon contemplation it will dawn upon us that one of the most important reasons behind the problem of sectarian strife is the irresponsible dispersion of academic resources among the common masses. This dispersion was a result of the explosion of information that the world witnessed in the recent past which further got compounded by various religious movements that sprouted in the Muslim world in the 20th century.

Powerful things have their 'pros' and 'cons'. Even as the religious movements earn the credit of attracting a lot of indifferent youth towards religion with the aim of teaching them a life of God consciousness but at the same time they also cause a large scale dispersion of a lot of academic, sensitive and nuanced stuff for our youth to frivolously bicker on. As already said, things have their advantages and disadvantages. We cannot always plan the scheme of the things according to our own whims and desires. This had to happen the way it happened. Unfortunately a lot of it cannot be undone now. The genie cannot be put back into the bottle. But towards the end we need to see if there is a possible way out after this.

However, it is important for us to note what this "irresponsible dispersion" has done in the context of what we are discussing. When academic debates got dispersed, its rays fell on many. People started to have vague ideas about various issues. These slowly transitioned into debates which were later sustained by individual, miniscule and sporadic readings, thus creating a viscous cycle. The knowledge, books, lectures, khutbahs were reduced down to serve only as fuel and fodder necessary for lighting up the debates to ensure one's victory and the other's defeat. Not to mention the ego element that knows its own chain reactions. The "lack of authority" today really haunts us!

A case study would be the irresponsible discussions on hadith sciences which otherwise require a lot of expertise to deliberate upon. Our youth de-



Academicians and trained scholars need to increase their contact with society. They need to employ modern forms of media to increase their accessibility to common folks. On the other hand, readers and students need to display humility on nuanced academic issues and refer to authentic scholars

void of the necessary tools feel equipped enough to debate complex nuanced issues only to confuse each other causing a whole disservice to the religious scholarly tradition. Similarly we can take another example of the science of fiqh (jurisprudence). There is a world of difference between what our youth think what fiqh means and what actually it is in the academic circles.

Therefore, the root of the problem is the gulf between the real academic discourse and its watered down popular understanding. Now, to mend our ways the dire need of our time is to bridge this gap. We need to strike the right balance between two possible case scenarios. The first is to leave our youth completely ignorant about religion and the second is to end up creating a whole bunch of half-baked self-styled scholars that are responsible in widening the gap between populace and the academia. These "intermediaries" of self-styled amateur scholars need to be de-fanged, who un-

fortunately are holding mimbers, travelling and lecturing across the length and breadth of the valley, active on various social media handles and irresponsibly voicing opinions on every single issue, spreading venom to divide and confuse people on issues that they themselves don't understand.

Academicians and trained scholars need to increase their contact with society. They need to employ modern forms of media to increase their accessibility to common folk. On the other hand, readers and students need to display humility on nuanced academic issues and refer people to authentic scholars rather than giving half-baked cop-out answers, causing confusion and irreparable intellectual damage.

*The author is a student of Philosophy, Religion Studies and Metaphysics*

## Feeling Low In The Lockdown? Here Is Yet Another Explanation

It is possible that moving around the city contributes to our happiness.

KRITIKA NARULAMAY

The COVID-19 pandemic has given us enough to stress about — from the first time we came face-to-face with information about the novel coronavirus, about which we barely had information. Self-isolation, physical distancing and government-ordered lockdowns have been the buzzwords for months now. We have moved into a work-from-home set-up. Schools and colleges have pivoted to online modes of education. We have revisited the idea of socialisation by having 'Zoom parties'.

Despite all our attempts to retain a certain semblance of control on our lives and routines, the psychological impact of the pandemic — and the sheer uncertainty it has brought along with it — cannot be discounted. For people living with psychosocial disabilities, this time presents a particularly difficult challenge. Some of their triggers can intensify and symptoms can aggravate. Even in general, people are finding it hard to cope. Social media is inundated with memes, quips and viral tweets about all days have rolled into one, how it is difficult to differentiate one day from another. The hopelessness associated with this monotony might have an explanation after all.

### HAPPINESS AND A CHANGE OF ROUTINE

In a recent Nature Neuroscience paper, the researchers investigated a simple question. Is diversity in humans' daily experiences associated with more positive emotional states or happiness? The research was conducted prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. But, its findings hold succinct relevance for the current times, when mobility is constrained (and rightfully so). Experiential diversity — what we would call a 'change



Despite all our attempts to retain a certain semblance of control on our lives and routines, the psychological impact of the pandemic — and the sheer uncertainty it has brought along with it — cannot be discounted.

of scenery' — has a positive correlation with our sense of wellbeing.

"Our results suggest that people feel happier when they have more variety in their daily routines—when they go to nov-

el places and have a wider array of experiences," explains Catherine Hartley, an assistant professor in New York University's Department of Psychology and one of the paper's co-authors.

In order to reach these findings, the researchers first conducted GPS tracking of participants for 3-4 months. They recorded the participants' emotional state through a text message report. The par-

ticipants would share if they felt positive or negative on a day. The findings from this round showed that when people had more variability in their physical location — meaning when they visited more locations on a particular day, they described their state of being through positive labels and associations like "happy," "excited," "strong," "relaxed," and/or "attentive." To determine if the physical/geographic exploration and positive moods had a connection to brain activity, they conducted another exercise consisting of MRI scans. Brain activity confirmed the impact of these positive moods on the regions of the brain that process novelty and reward.

### WHAT CAME FIRST: POSITIVE EMOTIONS OR NOVEL EXPERIENCES?

An interesting takeaway from the study is that our subjective sense of wellbeing and the diversity and novelty of experiences — both seem to share a reciprocal relation. We are inclined to seek rewarding and exciting experiences due to positive feelings. In turn, positive feelings arise due to engaging in such experiences.

In fact, the researchers note that even small changes in our physical or mental routine can be as exhilarating. These could include doing yoga at home, heading out for a stroll, taking a different route to the store, engaging in agile indoor sports, trying your hands at a new dance class. That our happiness is tied to routine changes that can be implemented easily is good news for us, as we abide by the rules of physical distancing in lockdown. The psychological toll that isolation and monotony can take is not discounted, therefore.

*The Mental Health Mirror*

## "This Virus Has A Big Trick": Why Covid-19 Is Life-Threatening For Some

Jason Gale, Bloomberg

When two brothers fell critically ill with COVID-19 around the same time in March, their doctors were baffled. Both were young -- 29 and 31 years old -- and healthy. Yet within days they couldn't breathe on their own and, tragically, one of them died.

Two weeks later, when a second pair of Covid-stricken brothers, both in their 20s, also appeared in the Netherlands, geneticists were called in to investigate. What they uncovered was a path leading from severe cases, genetic variations, and gender differences to a loss of immune function that may ultimately yield a new approach to treating thousands of coronavirus patients.

The common thread in the research is the lack of a substance called interferon that helps orchestrate the body's defense against viral pathogens and can be infused to treat conditions such as infectious hepatitis. Now, increasing evidence suggests that some Covid-19 patients get very ill because of an impaired interferon response. Landmark studies published Thursday in the journal Science showed that insufficient interferon may lurk at a dangerous turning point in SARS-CoV-2 infections.

"It looks like this virus has one big



trick," said Shane Crotty, a professor in the Center for Infectious Disease and Vaccine Research at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology in California. "That big trick is to avoid the initial innate immune response for a significant period of time and, in particular, avoid an early type-1 interferon response."

The work highlights the potential for interferon-based therapies to enlarge a slowly accumulating range of Covid-19 treatments. These include Gilead Sciences Inc.'s remdesivir and convalescent plasma, a component of the blood of recovered patients that may contain beneficial immune factors.

These treatments provide limited benefit and are typically used in very sick, hospitalized patients.

The possibility that interferon may help some people is enticing because it appears most efficacious in the early stages of infection, when life-threatening respiratory failure could still be averted. Dozens of studies of interferon treatment are now recruiting Covid-19 patients.

"We think timing may be essential because it's only in the very early phase one can really battle the virus particles and defend against infection," said Alexander Hoischen, head of the genomic technologies and immuno-genomics group at Radboud University Medical Center in Nijmegen that analyzed the DNA of the two sets of brothers.

Being male, elderly, and having underlying medical condi-

tions can all raise patients' risk of life-threatening Covid-19. But even within these groups, disease severity varies widely. Scientists have speculated other factors influence susceptibility, including pre-existing levels of inflammation and immunity, the amount of virus that starts an infection, and patients' genetic makeup.

Interferon's role represents a new nexus in Covid-19's complex interaction with the human immune system. Many patients suffer their worst complications because of an immune overreaction sometimes called a cytokine storm, and may benefit from dexamethasone, a cheap generic that calms these storms.

"It's a very interesting disease because too little immunity is no good," Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said Sept. 10 in an on-line briefing for Massachusetts General Hospital staff. "Too much immunity is really, really bad."

Some people are known to have trouble fighting infections because they make antibodies that deactivate their own interferon. On Thursday, a global consortium of researchers said such immune reactions to the protein could account for life-threatening Covid-19 pneumonia in at least 2.6% of women and 12.5% of men.

## Centaur Pharmaceuticals Launches For The First Time In The World - A New Chemical Entity (NCE) - 'WOXHeal®' In The Treatment Of Diabetic Foot Ulcer

- 25% people with Diabetes develop a Diabetic Foot Ulcer
- 1 in 5 people developing severe infection undergo foot amputation
- Developed with German technology partner - CytoTools AG
- Will help save millions of foot amputations happening in India and the world-over

**MUMBAI:** Centaur Pharmaceuticals announced the launch of a New Chemical Entity (NCE) - WOXheal® - for the first time in the world. With its dual mechanism of action, WOXheal® is a unique product in the treatment of Diabetic Foot ulcers, and it will save millions of Diabetics who have to undergo foot amputation globally.

WHO predicts that there will be 10 crore Indians with Diabetes in the next 10 years. Amongst other complications of Diabetes; Diabetic foot ulcer is the most common complication seen in India. Apart from the fact that diabetic foot ulcers are non-healing, they not only hamper the Quality of life of the patient, but may also lead to complications such as wet gangrene, cellulitis, abscess and necrotizing fasciitis all leading to a total or partial foot amputation. Data indicates that 25% of people with Diabetes, will develop a Dia-

betic Foot Ulcer in their lifetime. 1 in 5 Diabetics who are hospitalized due to severe foot infection, undergo a foot amputation affecting the livelihood of the family.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. S. D. Sawant, Chairman and MD of Centaur Pharmaceuticals, said, "We, at Centaur Pharmaceuticals, were deeply concerned with the alarming rate of foot amputations in India, and wanted to discover a drug to prevent it. Fifteen years ago, we collaborated with CytoTools AG, Germany, who had this promising molecule for the treatment of Diabetic foot ulcers. We are very happy to offer this ray of hope to people with Diabetic foot ulcer in India."

A globally patented product, WOXheal® topical solution, is effective in treating Diabetic foot ulcers. WOXheal® contains the NCE, Diperoxochloric acid, also called as DPACL. WOXheal® has dual mech-

anism of action, i.e. it has functional antibacterial action against Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria and it also promotes growth of fibroblast cells, thereby yielding complete wound closure.

Randomized clinical trials conducted across India in over 15 clinical trial centres on WOXheal® elucidated that over 90% patients with non-healing diabetic foot ulcer showed reduction in the size of the ulcer, and 75% out of these patients achieved complete healing within 6-8 weeks without any safety issue. The data and outcomes of the trial were submitted to the Indian Regulatory Authority and a manufacturing and marketing approval was granted to Centaur Pharmaceuticals for WOXheal®.

Dr. Mark-Andre Freyberg, the co-innovator of WOXheal® and the Chief Executive Officer of CytoTools AG, Germany said "WOX-

heal® has completed Phase III clinical trials in India and demonstrated rapid and effective wound healing in patients with Diabetic foot ulcers, a condition that is notoriously difficult to treat."

Dr. Dirk Kaiser, the co-innovator of WOXheal® and the Chief Scientific Officer of CytoTools AG, Germany said "WOXheal® is a novel drug born out of Indo-German collaboration and it will change the way Diabetic Foot Ulcer management is done and will help prevent amputation." Dr Kaiser also added that phase III clinical trials were ongoing in Europe and the results from phase II clinical trials were similar to Indian clinical trials.

This pioneering effort by Centaur Pharmaceuticals, for an unmet medical need, enhances India's stature as a self-reliant nation and a Pharma super-power. WOXheal® will be readily available in the entire country by the end of the month.

## DR. MARK-ANDRE FREYBERG, THE CO-INNOVATOR OF WOXHEAL® AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE Officer of CytoTools AG, Germany said "WOXheal® has completed Phase III clinical trials in India and demonstrated rapid and effective wound healing in patients with Diabetic foot ulcers, a condition that is notoriously difficult to treat."

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD (PHQ) J&K SRINAGAR

INVITING FRESH E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/50/2020-21 Dated: - 28-09-2020

Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / UT/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Carrying our Chemical earthing for EPBX at SKPA Udhampur	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu	0.68 lacs	100/-	1360/-	15 days	08-10-2020	Electrical

- Date of Publishing 28-09-2020 at 1500 hours.
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1530 hours on 28-09-2020
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 30-09-2020 to 07-10-2020 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 08-10-2020 on line.
- The complete bidding process will be on line.
- Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 08-10-2020 at 1100 Hrs.
- The lowest bidder i.e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within three days from opening of financial bids.
- The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same.
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
- The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security in column 6 of the table payable at Jammu/ Srinagar pledged in favour of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar. Bid security will have to be in form of CDR / FDR and be valid for six months or more after last date of receipt of Bid. The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be in form of treasury challan/ receipt.
- Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No:-e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2020-21/4326-32  
Dated: 28-09-2020.

DIPK-6484/20

Sd/-  
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Website of Ministry of Textiles : [www.texmin.nic.in](http://www.texmin.nic.in)

**SANJAY KUMAR**  
Executive Director-cum-Secretary

Press Release  
28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Carpet Export Promotion Council is organizing its 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Exhibition from 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. to 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 – Buyer Seller Meet with Special focus on Oceania Market.

Shri Sanjay Kumar, Executive Director, CEPC informed that Shri Siddh Nath Singh, Chairman, CEPC will inaugurate the BSM on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2020 at 10.30 a.m. in the august presence of all COA Members, participants, overseas buyers and dignitaries.

Shri Siddh Nath Singh, Chairman, CEPC informed that Council is organizing this BSM under the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) Scheme and is providing stands to only 50 Members. Shri Singh further informed that although we are organizing BSM with special focus on Australia and New Zealand.

Shri Singh mentioned that now concept of Virtual Exhibition is not new to our Members and all Members are well aware about the Virtual Exhibition. Our first Virtual Exhibition was a grand success, Members got lot of enquiries and have good business.

Shri Siddh Nath Singh mentioned that Council will come up with more countries/ region specific Virtual Exhibitions in the coming days. We in the Council working with the vision of "Sab Ka Sath Sab Ka Vikas and Sab Ka Vishwas" wish to promote all our Members irrespective of the big or small, new or old. He further informed that presently market share is 4% in Australia and have vast potential for growth. GDP Per Capita in Australia is Dollar 57071 which is almost near to USA.

Shri Umesh Kumar Gupta and all Members of the Committee of Administration are happy and hopeful that the BSM will be beneficial to the Members and they achieve good business.

### KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDC) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION BUDGAM

E-mail: [edbudgam@gmail.com](mailto:edbudgam@gmail.com) TelNo: 01951-255218

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: EDB / 12 of 2020-21

Dated: 26/09/2020

For and on behalf of the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, are hereby invited from govt. approved Electrical Contractors for HT/LT network improvement by way of replacement of barbed wire/worn out poles/trees in various feeders under the jurisdiction of electric sub division Beerwah, ED Budgam, KPDC.

No.	Name of work(s)	Estimated Cost	Period for completion of work.
1.	HT/LT network improvement by way of replacement of barbed wire/worn out conductor and rotten/damaged/undersized/tree posts poles and insertion in longer spans in various feeders.	INR 27.00 Lacs	Within 30 days from the issue of Letter of Award

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

Sl. No.	e-Bid document Publishing date & time	The e-Bid document to be published on website
A		<a href="https://jktenders.gov.in">https://jktenders.gov.in</a> on 28/9/2020; 03:00 PM
B	e-Bid document download start date & time	28/09/2020; 03:00 PM
C	Clarifications start date	28/09/2020; 03:00 PM
D	Clarifications end date	02/10/2020; 03:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS)	03/10/2020; 03:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	10/10/2020; 03:00 PM
G	Online Technical e-bid opening date & time	13/10/2020; 03:00 PM
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of Executive Engineer, ED Budgam
I	Cost of e-Bid document	INR 1000.00
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	INR 54000.00

- Bidders/tenders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
- The bidder/tenders needs to submit the cost of e-Bid document in the government treasury and upload the challan/receipt as proof of cost of tender document. Any tender uploaded without the scanned copy of the challan/receipt is liable to be rejected.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR from any Schedule Commercial bank only pledged to the Executive Engineer, ED Budgam. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD is required to be submitted by the successful bidder to the office of Executive Engineer, ED Budgam prior to the issuance of Letter of award only.
- The technical e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder/tenderer's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. Only those tenders shall be considered for evaluation who have deposited the earnest money and tender cost.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids of the technically responsive bids shall be notified on Web Site <https://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the technically qualified bidder/tenders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/deviation is found. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- Corrigendum, if any would be published on the website.
- In no case shall the hard copy of the BOQ submitted with the Techno-Commercial bidder which shall lead to rejection of the bid. Price Bid shall be uploaded only in the BOQ format provided online.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

No: EDB/2583-86  
Dated: 26/09/2020

DIPK-NB-2640/20

Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Electric Division Budgam

## Saudi continues embargo on Turkish products - report

Agencies

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia's continues its unofficial boycott on Turkish products in a bid to deal a blow to Turkey's already crippled economy.

Riyadh has laid an unofficial embargo on Turkish goods, including textiles and perishable food, last year.

"Our customers got used to Turkish products, they are satisfied. However, they cannot buy our goods anymore. They say send them to us via a third country," the Turkish daily Cumhuriyet cited a Turkish businessman, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, as saying.

"Small and medium-sized businesses are very anxious, especially as exports from south-eastern provinces such as Hatay, Gaziantep and Diyarbakr come to a halt," he said.

The Saudis have been keeping hundreds of Turkish trucks at the Saudi border and thousands of packages from Turkey in their airports. The trucks were allowed into the country only after an intervention by Turkish diplomats in the kingdom.

In 2017, when a Saudi-led bloc cut ties with neighbouring Qatar, mainly for its support of the Brotherhood, Ankara supported Doha economically and

militarily. Diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey remain fraught after a political crisis between the two countries erupted over the murder of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul, prompting Saudi business groups including the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry have called for a complete boycott on Turkish products.

Saudi authorities have been putting pressure on local businesses not to trade with Turkey and its industries. The Turkish newspaper Dunya reported that the Saudi government has contacted individual businesses and ordered them not to trade with Turkish companies or buy any products made in Turkey. The government said it would impose fines on any company that ignores the order.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has launched a campaign to discourage its citizens from travelling to Turkey.

The kingdom's media has designated Turkey as an unsafe location due to rising petty crime aimed at Saudi citizens and gun violence, while the Saudi embassy in Ankara has also warned of rising violence aimed at Saudi citizens. The number of Saudi tourists coming to Turkey has dropped 17 percent last year.

## 'Turkey Prepares Second Indictment On 6 Khashoggi Murder Suspects'



Agencies

Istanbul: Turkish prosecutors have prepared a second indictment against six Saudi officials in connection with the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul, broadcaster NTV and other media said on Monday.

The reports did not say whether the six suspects were among those already being tried in absentia in an Istanbul court for Khashoggi's killing.

State-owned Anadolu news agency said that two of the suspects were facing charges carrying aggravated life jail sentences, while the charges against the other four carried sentences of up to five years in jail.

The Istanbul prosecutor's office declined to provide immediate comment on the media reports.

A Saudi court this month jailed eight people for between seven and 20 years for the murder, four months after Khashoggi's family forgave his killers and enabled earlier death sentences to be set aside.

Khashoggi, a critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was last seen at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2, 2018, where he had gone to obtain documents for his impending wedding. His body was reportedly dismembered and removed from the building and his remains have not been found.



Pakistani opposition leader and brother of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, comes out from the high court after the court rejected his bail plea in a money laundering and assets beyond income case, in Lahore on 28 September, 2020AFP

## Pakistan opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif arrested

Agencies

Islamabad: Pakistani anti-corruption officials arrested the country's opposition leader on Monday, days after he vowed to help lead efforts to dislodge Prime Minister Imran Khan's government.

Shahbaz Sharif -- who heads the opposition in the country's National Assembly -- was arrested in Lahore after the eastern city's high court rejected a bail plea in a money-laundering case.

"We are not scared of these arrests," said Mariyyum Aurangzeb, spokeswoman for Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N). Sharif is the brother of

three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who was ousted over corruption allegations in 2017 and is currently residing in Britain after being released from prison earlier this year for medical treatment.

Maryam Nawaz -- the daughter of the ex-premier -- also confirmed her uncle's arrest on Twitter.

"Sharif has been arrested ONLY because he REFUSED to play in the hands of those who wanted to use him against his brother. He preferred standing behind prison bars than to stand against his brother," she tweeted.

Khan's administration has been pushing for Nawaz's return to the country to continue

his prison sentence.

The arrest comes as opposition parties have reignited efforts to remove Khan from office, vowing earlier this month to launch a protest movement in the coming weeks demanding the government's resignation.

Pressure has been simmering against Khan's government in recent months with the country's economy battered by fiscal deficits, soaring inflation and a string of currency devaluations.

Khan was elected in 2018 on promises to rein in corruption and build a welfare state. But since taking power, the former cricketer has struggled to deliver on his campaign vows amid economic headwinds.

## 'Feeling Insecure' US Hints At Shutting Down Embassy in Iraq

Agencies

Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reportedly called Iraqi President Barham Salih and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi on Sunday.

"What we're being told is that it is a gradual closure of the embassy over two to three months," an Iraqi official was cited as saying in a Wall Street Journal report.

A State Department official also took the chance to point the finger at Iran.

"The Iran-backed groups launching rockets at our embassy are a danger not only to us but to the government of Iraq, neighboring diplomatic missions," the official was cited as saying.

Iran's Foreign Minister



Mohammad Javad Zarif on Saturday condemned any assaults on diplomatic places, saying such attacks in Iraq must be stopped.

He touched upon attacks carried out against Iran's diplomatic locations and highlighted the necessity of guaranteeing the dignity and security of Iranian diplomats in Iraq.

The heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad, which hosts foreign diplomatic sites and government buildings, have been frequently targeted by rockets and explosives in the past few years.

**The Iran-backed groups launching rockets at our embassy are a danger not only to us but to the government of Iraq, neighboring diplomatic missions**

## Iran unveils new naval ballistic missile

Agencies

TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards on Sunday unveiled a new naval ballistic missile with a potential range of over 700 kilometres (430 miles), local media reported, following months of tensions with the arch-enemy United States.

The missile, dubbed "Zolfaghar Basir", is a naval variant of the surface-to-surface Zolfaghar ballistic missile, according to Tasnim news agency.

Its range is more than twice that of the Islamic republic's other naval missiles, including "Hormuz-2", with a range of 300km which, Tehran said, it had successfully tested

"This exhibition shows the comprehensive plan of the deterrent power of the (Islamic republic's) system," Revolutionary Guards commander Maj Gen Hossein Salami said at the inauguration, according to Tasnim.

The Revolutionary Guards used the Zolfaghar in 2017 and 2018 against the Islamic State militant group in Syria in retaliation for terrorist attacks carried out in the country.

The missile was also used in January to target bases in Iraq housing US troops, according to IRNA news agency, days after the US killed Iran's top general Qasem Soleimani in a drone strike in Baghdad.

The unveiling of Zol-



in March 2017.

The news agency did not specify whether or not the new missile has been tested yet. Images published by it showed Zolfaghar Basir installed on a launcher truck during the inauguration of Tehran's National Aerospace Park on Sunday.

faghar Basir comes more than a week after an American aircraft carrier crossed the strategic Strait of Hormuz, and days after the Revolutionary Guards opened a new naval base near the waterway, through which a fifth of the world's oil passes.

## Govt scientist kidnapped after honey-trap, rescued in Noida

Press Trust Of India

Noida: A junior scientist at a top government agency, who was kidnapped two days ago after he got honey-trapped, has been rescued from a hotel room in Noida and three people, including a woman, have been arrested, police said on Monday.

Gautam Buddha Nagar Police Commissioner Alok Singh monitored the rescue operation that began early Sunday after the scientist's family approached the police saying they got a Rs 10-lakh ransom call for his safe release, officials said.

Official sources confirmed to PTI that the 45-year-old man worked as a junior scientist at a top government organisation in Delhi.

"He was held hostage in a room in a OYO Hotel in Sector 41 from where he was rescued on Sunday," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Noida, Ranvijay Singh told reporters.

Three people identified as Deepak Kumar, Sunita Gurjar and Rakesh Kumar

alias Rinku have been arrested, while two of their partners involved in the kidnapping are absconding, he said.

Rakesh Kumar alias Rinku is the operator of the OYO hotel where the victim was held hostage and assaulted by the kidnapers, Singh said.

According to officials, the scientist, who lives in Noida Sector 77, had left home around 5.30 pm on Saturday, telling his family that he was going to Noida City Centre to buy some items for home.

"But he did not return till late in the night after which his wife got a call from an unidentified person who told her that her husband has been kidnapped and demanded Rs 10 lakh for his safe release," according to a police statement.

Unbeknown to the wife, the scientist had searched for a "massage parlour" online after which he got connected with a man, who had asked him to meet him Saturday evening at the Noida City Centre, from where he got kidnapped, police said.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Trump's taxes show \$70,000 for styling his hair

President Donald Trump has relied on heavy losses across his business empire to help nearly erase his federal income tax bill, according to a report on Sunday from The New York Times.

Citing previously unseen tax-return data going back over 20 years, the Times shed new light on Trump's finances. Trump dismissed the story as "fake news" at a news conference on Sunday.

Here are some highlights:

**Small tax bill**  
In 2016 and 2017, Trump paid just \$750 in federal income taxes, according to the Times. In 10 of the previous 15 years, Trump paid no federal income taxes at all. Despite reporting hundreds of millions of dollars in income, Trump effectively erased his tax bill by reporting heavy losses across his business interests.

**High-profile losses**  
Some of Trump's most prominent real estate holdings have also been less than profitable, the Times reported. Trump reported losing over \$315 million on golf



courses since 2000, with much of that centered at Trump National Doral near Miami.

The hotel he opened in the heart of Washington in 2016 has recorded over \$55 million in losses.

**A big audit**

The Times report also found that Trump has been feuding with the Internal Revenue Service for the last decade over a nearly \$73 million tax refund he previously claimed. If the IRS were to prevail in its audit, which has seemingly stalled in recent years, Trump could be responsible for paying over \$100 million to

the government.

**Brand image**

The Times found that a large amount of Trump's profits came from selling Trump himself. It reported that the former reality television star reported making a combined \$427.4 million from 2004 to 2018 by selling his name and image through various endorsements and licensing deals.

**Aggressive write-offs**

Trump has been aggressive in claiming certain business expenses that further shrank his tax bill, according to the Times. That includes \$70,000 in hairstyling expenses tied to "The Apprentice," his former television program, and classifying a New York property described by the Trump Organization as a family retreat as an investment property to write off millions in property taxes.

**Loans coming due**

The Times reported that Trump appeared to be responsible for \$421 million in loans coming due in the next four years.

## US Judge Suspends Donald Trump's Ban On TikTok Downloads

Washington, United States: A US federal judge late Sunday halted a politically charged ban ordered by the Trump administration on downloads of the popular video app TikTok, hours before it was to go into effect.



District Judge Carl Nichols issued a temporary injunction at the request of TikTok, which the White House has called a national security threat alleging that its Chinese parent firm is tied

to the Beijing government. The opinion was sealed, so no reason for the decision was released in a one-page order by the court in Washington.

The Trump administration order sought to ban new downloads of the

app from midnight (0400 GMT Monday) but would allow use of TikTok until November 12, when all usage would be blocked. The judge denied TikTok's request to suspend the November 12 ban.



## Landmine detection rat wins top UK animal bravery award

LONDON: Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. A five-year-old giant African pouched rat called Magawa, however, has to be one of the world's most unlikely life-savers.

The rodent has won the animal equivalent of Britain's highest civilian honour for bravery because of his uncanny knack of sniffing out landmines and unexploded ordnance.

British veterinary charity the PDSA on Friday awarded Magawa its Gold Medal "for his life-saving bravery and devotion to duty", which had transformed the lives of people in Cambodia.

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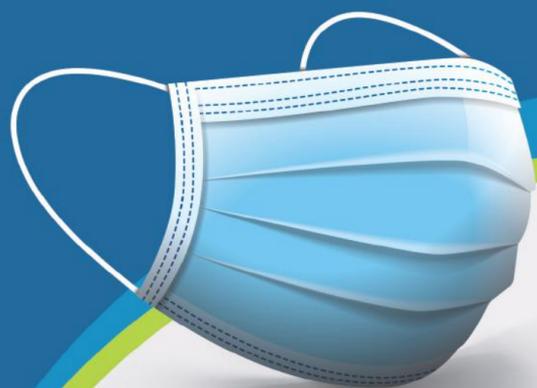


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