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News Digest

Fake Appointment Racket Kingpin Held

Jammu: The Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday arrested the alleged prime accused in the fake appointment racket in the Army after a long hunt of five years, a spokesperson of the investigating agency said.

Abdul Hamid Dar alias 'Zahid', a resident of Kalantra village of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, was wanted in nine FIRs lodged at various police stations, he said. He said the Crime Branch Jammu arrested the man who was presently living in Zainakote locality of Srinagar. "Innocent gullible unemployed youth were duped of their

Sopore Youth Found Dead

Srinagar: A youth on Saturday was found dead under mysterious condition at his home in Chankhan area of Sopore in Baramulla district. 20-year-old Amir Majeed Saharkhan was found lying unconscious inside his room by his family members in Chankhan locality of Sopore on Saturday, witnesses said. The family members, they said instantly removed the youth to Sub District Hospital Sopore where doctors declared him brought dead. Hospital authorities said the cause of death is being ascertained— (KNO)

Rs 4400 Fine Realised From Smokers

Srinagar: The Department of Drugs and Food Control Organisation (DD&FCO) on Saturday recovered a fine of Rs 4400 from offenders found smoking at public places during a drive in and around major hospital premises of district Srinagar.

The special drive was conducted by a team of officers headed by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar to implement Section 4 of Cigarette and other Tobacco Product Act and covered hospitals including SMHS, Super Speciality Hospital,

LAWDA Demolition Drive Continues In City

Srinagar: The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Saturday demolished several illegal structures during its ongoing drive in parts of this capital city. The Enforcement Wing of LAWDA on Saturday demolished one plinth, two single storeys, double storey, big tin-shed and one angle iron structure raised illegally in the areas of Saida Kadal, Batapora, Saderbal, Lal Bazar and Shalimar of Srinagar city, an official spokesperson said. He said FIR's were also lodged against the violators

Cab Crushes Elderly Man In Nowgam

Srinagar: An elderly man was killed on Saturday in a road accident in Nowgam area of Srinagar on Saturday. 67-year-old Mohammad Muzamil of Jawahar Nagar here was critically injured after being hit by a speedy cab near Ahmad's hospital on Saturday, officials said. The injured man was rushed to the SMHS hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead. Meanwhile, police have registered a case and arrested the cab driver.

Zahid 'Tiger' Among Slain Militants

4 Militants Killed In South Kashmir Encounters

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Four militants, including a top commander, were on Saturday killed in two separate encounters with state forces in Kulgam and Pulwama districts of South Kashmir, police said.

Government forces launched a cordon and search operation in Chingam area of Kulgam district late Friday night following specific inputs about the presence of militants there, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after militants fired upon a forces party, who retaliated.

In the exchange of fire, two militants were killed, the official said. They have been identified as Tariq Ahmad Mir, resident of Zangalpura Divsar Kulgam; and a Pakistani national identified as Sameer Bhai alias Usman, resident of Punjab Pakistan, and an "A" category militant, the official said.

He said both militants were affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammad.

"As per the police records, both the killed militants were part of groups responsible for carrying out militant attacks. They were involved in many crimes and civilian atrocities, including killing of police official Khursid Ahmad



KO Photo Abid Bhat

Doda Militant Caught During Gunfight: IGP

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a newly recruited militant, hailing from Doda district, during the encounter in Pulwama district in which two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants, including the outfit's

Arms Cache Recovered In Keran Sector: Army

The Army on Saturday claimed to have foiled an attempt to push in arms and ammunition by Pakistan from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of Jammu and Kashmir and recovered a

at Furah Mirbazzar and attack on sarpanch Aarif Ahmad at Akhran Mirbazzar in which he was critically injured," the official said.

An Army official said an M4 rifle

and a pistol have been recovered from the site of the encounter.

In another operation in Dadoora area of Pulwama district of south Kashmir,

...SHOPIAN 'FAKE ENCOUNTER'

Army Hopes Summary Of Evidence Will Take Case To Next Level

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Indian Army on Saturday expressed hope that the Summary of Evidence, a step before a possible court martial, in July's Amshipura encounter in South Kashmir's Shopian district would conclude soon and take the case to the next stage.

Corps Commander of the Army's Srinagar-based Chinara Corps, Lt Gen B S Raju said the Army had begun the Summary of Evidence as some wrongs were committed during the encounter at Amshipura on July



18 in which the Army claimed that three militants were killed. "We have already shared the basic information

2 BSF Men Injured In Pakistani Shelling

SRINAGAR: At least two Border Security Force (BSF) personnel were injured on Saturday as India and Pakistan troops traded mortar shells and gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district.

Constables C.H. Manohar and Riyaz Ahmed of BSF 72 battalion received splinter injuries on Saturday evening when Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by unprovoked firing and mortar shelling along the LoC in Mendhar area of Poonch district, officials said.

Manohar, who sustained injury on right side of chest and Ahmed was hit by a splinter in his left hand, the officials said were removed to the health facility for treatment.

The cross-border shelling between the two sides was continuing when last

CRPF Sans BP Vehicles: Orders Probe

NEW DELHI: The Central Reserve Police Force on Saturday said it is looking into the "authenticity" of a video, posted by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Twitter, in which some troops allege that they are being made to move for operational duties in a non-bullet proof vehicle.

"CRPF has adequate protective vehicles to meet varied operational requirements," force spokesperson Deputy Inspector General Moses Dhinakaran said in a statement.

China Stacks 60K Soldiers Along Ladakh LAC: Pompeo

India Needs US As Their Ally In Fight Against China, Says US Secy Of State, Ahead Of His Visit To New Delhi



Image for representation

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: China has amassed more than 60,000 troops along LAC, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said as he urged for closer ties between India and the US by saying that India "absolutely need the United States to be their ally and partner in this fight".

"They've stacked 60,000 soldiers against the Indians in the north. When the Australians had

the temerity to ask for an investigation of the Wuhan virus and where it began, something that we know a lot about, the Chinese Communist Party threatened them. They bullied them," said Pompeo on Fox News.

Ahead of his visit to New Delhi accompanying US defence secretary Mark Esper for annual talks with the Indian contingent, Pompeo spoke about the border conflict between India and China and mentioned about China's

No Indication of China-Pak Missile Sites in PCK: GOC

A mid reports that China is helping Pakistan set up sites for surface-to-air missiles in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PCK), a top Army commander here on Saturday said there is no indication of any tactical help being extended by Beijing to Islamabad.

7 More Covid-19 Deaths Take Toll In J&K To 1315

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least seven people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the number of fatalities due to the virus in the Union Territory to 1315.

Among the victims, three belonged to Srinagar district, two to Jammu and one each to Baramulla and Rajouri.

Among others who died include a 70-year-old from Vinay Nagar Jammu, a 65-year-old

3 Minors, Doctor Among 635 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 635 new cases of coronavirus, including nineteen travellers, six security personnel, three minors and a doctor, taking the total number of people infected across the Union Territory to 83064.

Among the fresh cases, officials said that 235 were from Jammu division

'Despotic, Harassing': Mainstream Parties Slam Property Tax Imposition

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Days after the Centre empowered Jammu and Kashmir government to impose property tax in the Union Territory; several mainstream parties on Saturday sharply criticized the decision terming it 'despotic and anarchic rule' aimed to 'harass' the people of Kashmir economically.

Lashing out at the BJP led government, its former ally Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) compared the proposed property tax to the exploitative taxation regime dur-

Seek Deferment Of Panchayat By-Polls

The leaders of several mainstream parties on Saturday sought deferment of Panchayat and Municipal by-elections citing the coronavirus pandemic, adequate security and conducive atmosphere for the conduct of polls. According to an official spokesperson, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K Hirdesh Kumar, conducted a meeting with the

ing the monarchical rule and said that "dictatorial policies" are being implemented in J&K allegedly at the behest of communal elements to "cripple our economy and enforce asset devaluation".

"The property tax order smacks

of the despotic and anarchic rule the people of this land have witnessed for hundreds of years when we were crushed under the heavy burden of taxation. It is nothing but the revival of that dark, dreadful and disastrous era



NEW RECRUITS of the J&K Light Infantry take oath at the end of a passing out parade at an army base on the outskirts of Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

In FOCUS World Mental Health Day: Distressed Kashmiris Seeking Solace In Therapy

Swati Joshi

Constant community curbs and domestic distress would cloud Faizan's focus for most of his life. His crestfallen condition would be triggered by his untamed guilt-mindset making him believe that he was the only person suffering from depression among his peers.

When he was about to get married, he finally decided to break his punishing silence by contacting Dr. Arif Magribi through Facebook.

After a series of sessions on social media, when Faizan became com-

fortable in sharing his problems with the mental specialist, they started telephonic counseling. Ultimately, Faizan visited Magribi's clinic and attended five healing sessions.

The mental specialist tried to boost his confidence and asked him to maintain a 'gratitude journal' in which Faizan wrote about his achievements.

In the initial stages, he was given medicines and showed some improvement.

After sometime, Faizan started appreciating his feats and ended up slaying demons of depression.

Today, as a successful lecturer, Faizan frequents Magribi's clinic, with his wife, to donate multivitamin tablets to help out other patients.

Support System

Zafar was suffering from severe Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) in his mid-20s when he visited Syed Nasir Geelani, a therapist at child guidance and wellbeing Centre.

As a part of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Geelani started exposure and response prevention therapy with Zafar.

In this therapy, Zafar was given exposure to his obsessions and was prevented from doing compulsive



acts. He was also given acceptance and commitment therapy to help

him accept his thoughts. Geelani and his team provided

psychoeducation to Zafar's parents to help them understand the problem he was going through so that he would get his parental support.

With one-and-a-half-year therapy, Zafar's condition improved and currently, he's pursuing higher studies.

Depression has no age

When eight-year-old Arif suffered from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), he was unable to concentrate on his studies.

Oblivious of his troubled mindset, Arif's parents started punishing him for his shortcomings. The stick treatment only made him anxious.

Scolded by teachers and parents

alike, he started feeling unworthy and spent most of his time alone.

The eight-year-old started losing confidence and self-esteem, as symptoms of depression took deep roots in him.

When Arif's cousin, also his tuition teacher and a psychology student, saw his condition, she took him to Wasim Rashid Kakroo, a child and adolescent therapist.

Kakroo was able to explain Arif's condition to his cousin. A treatment plan was built by the therapist and Arif's cousin started accessing him at home.

The child therapist also talked to Arif's parents and

Delhi Riots: Details Of Protected Witnesses 'Inadvertently' Included In Charge Sheet Copies Provided To Accused

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court hearing a case related to the Northeast Delhi riots has been informed that the police "inadvertently" put a document which contained the details of some of the protected witnesses in the copies of the charge sheet supplied to the accused booked under the stringent UAPA.

Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad, appearing for the police, approached the court informing it about the lapse after it came to the knowledge of the investigating agency that at least three protect-

ed witnesses have been reached out by various persons with vested interest, in relation to the case.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said there was a mistake on the part of the Investigating Officer and directed the Special Cell of the Delhi Police, which is investigating the case, to ensure comprehensive safety and security to all the protected witnesses.

The court ordered the accused and their counsel to return the documents. It also directed the accused or any other person or authority not to divulge, publish, disclose, disseminate or circulate the identity of the protected witnesses and not to approach them directly or indirectly.

It directed the police to file fresh copies of the charge sheet redacting the details of the protected witnesses and supply it to the 15 persons charge-sheeted in the case and their counsel.

The court's directions came after Prasad moved an urgent application saying the identity of some of the protected witnesses in the case were disclosed inadvertently by way of attaching untruncated judicial and investigation papers in the charge sheet.

"Under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, there is specific provision for protecting the identity of the witnesses for their safety and accordingly orders have been passed regarding the protection of the protected witnesses.

Thus, this particular provision was meant to protect the identity and ensure their safety for the purpose of fair trial, the judge noted.

"The whole idea is to provide cover to the identity of the witnesses so that they can depose fairly and independently in the court.

"Accordingly, once the order was passed by the court, the identity should not have been disclosed," the court said in its order passed on October 9.

The application moved by Prasad stated the act was neither intentional nor deliberate.

The soft copy of the charge sheet, identical to the original charge sheet, was supplied to the accused persons or their counsel, it said.

The court said, "The pen drive supplied to the counsels for accused persons contain the alleged disclosure of the name of the

protected witnesses and hence, it would be in the fitness of things to ask them, who are Officers of the Court, to return them in the court.

"The return of the pen drive shall also pertain to the one supplied to the court itself. The record where the disclosure of protected witnesses has happened in the judicial file along with the pen drive in the court shall be kept in a sealed cover in the court in the judicial file and the redacted version of the said record shall be filed in the court. The Investigating Officer shall coordinate with

the Ahlmad of the court for doing the needful," it said.

The accused include Pinjra-Tod members and JNU students DevanganaKalita and Natasha Narwal, Jamia MilliaIslamia student AsifIqbalTanha, Gulfish-aKhatoon, former Congress CouncillorIshrathJahan, Jamia Co-ordination Committee members SafooraZargar, MeeranHaider, Shafa-Ur-Rehman, suspended AAP CouncillorTahir Hussain, activist Khalid Saifi, Shadab Ahmed, Tasleem Ahmed, Salim Malik, MohdSalim Khan and Athar Khan.

4 Militants Killed In South...

two militants were killed, police said.

The police said the encounter started after state forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation following information about the presence of militants there.

They said the killed militants belonged to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and included the groups commander Zahid Nazir Bhat alias Zahid Tiger. It is a big success for the security forces, a police official said.

Two AK rifles have been recovered from the encounter site, he added.

The Kashmir Zone police, on its official Twitter handle, said the security forces arrested a recently-joined militant during the encounter.

"Police & SFs have done a #commendable work by #arresting a newly joined #terrorist along with #arms & ammunition during live #encounter today at #Pulwama," it said.

Police said that in view of the prevailing pandemic, the bodies of the militants shall be sent to Handwara for burial after completion of all medico-legal formalities.

"The nearest family members of the killed local militant shall be allowed to participate in the last rites," a police spokesperson said, adding "People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any,"

Doda Militant Caught During...

top commander were killed.

"One militant Firdous Ahmad Tak son of Abdul Gani Tak of Doda was arrested alive during the gunfight," Inspector general of Police Kashmir Vijay Kumar told news agency GNS.

He also identified the two slain militants as Shabir Ahmad and Zahid Rashid Bhat alias Zahid Tiger son of Abdul Rashid Bhat of Drabgam. Zahid was a top LeT Commander, the top police officer said and termed it as a "big success for Police and security forces."

The encounter at Dadoora village of Pulwama had ensued after a joint team of Police and Army launched a joint cordon-and-search-operation following inputs about the presence of the militants.

"As the joint team encircled the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them. The fire was retaliated by the joint team, triggering off an encounter," a police officer said.

Police also claimed recovery of 2 Ak-47 rifles from the slain militants and a pistol from possession of Tak.

Arms Cache Recovered In Keran...

cache, including four AK74 rifles, officials said on Saturday.

Alert troops foiled Pakistan's attempt to push in arms across the LoC in Keran Sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, an army official said.

He said the Army noticed two-three men transporting some items in a tube tied to a rope across Kishenganga river.

The troops immediately reached the location and recovered four x AK 74 rifles, eight magazines and 240 rounds concealed in two bags. The area has been cordoned off and a search is under progress, the official said.

He said it was another attempt by militants from Pakistan controlled Kashmir to smuggle war-like stores, but it was successfully foiled by the quick action of alert troops.

2 BSF Men Injured In Pakistani...

reports were received, officials said.

Meanwhile, the army officials accused Pakistani troops of targeting civilian areas with mortar shells along the LoC and the International Border.

Indian troops retaliated befittingly to silence the Pakistani guns, they said, adding there was no immediate report of any casualty.

"At about 1.30 am, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars, targeting civilian areas along the LoC in Mankote sector of Poonch. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly," a defence spokesman said Saturday morning.

A police official said the heavy shelling created panic among the border residents.

The shelling stopped around 4.30 am, the official said.

The police official said Pakistani rangers also targeted forward areas along the IB in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district and kept firing intermittently for about five hours.

The firing from the Pakistani side of the IB started around 11.45 pm on Friday and continued till 4.40 am Saturday, he said, adding the Border Security Force (BSF) retaliated strongly to the ceasefire violation.

A 40-year-old woman, Hamida Bi, was injured in Pakistani shelling in Qasba sector of Poonch on Friday, the official said, adding her condition was stated to be stable .

Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Rahul Yadav visited the district hospital and inquired about the health of Hamida, an official spokesman said.

Yadav, who was accompanied by tehsildar of Haveli Anjum Khatak, directed the doctors to provide her best possible treatment, he said.

Yadav provided a financial assistance of Rs 5,000 to the injured woman out of the Red Cross Fund, the spokesman said.

CRPF Sans BP Vehicles...

"The authenticity of the video is being probed into by CRPF," the statement said.

The about 3.25 lakh personnel-strong CRPF is the lead internal security force of the country and is deployed extensively for conducting anti-Naxal operations in various states.

Gandhi attacked the government over provision of non-bullet proof vehicles for soldiers, while spending Rs 8,400 crore to procure aircraft for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Is this justice?" he asked on Twitter along with a video of a purported conversation among soldiers being transported in non-bullet proof vehicles.

"Our jawans are being sent in non-bullet proof trucks to get martyred and a Rs 8,400 crore aircraft is brought for the PM! Is this justice," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

The video shows a conversation between soldiers objecting to their transportation in a non-bullet proof vehicle, while their seniors were using bullet-proof vehicles.

They also complained that by doing so their lives were being compromised and the authorities were playing with their and their families' lives.

The government has brought two VVIP planes for travel of the President, Prime Minister and Vice President, even as it maintained that the process for procuring the two aircraft had begun under the UPA government, and the current dispensation has only brought it to a logical

conclusion.

China Stacks 60K Soldiers...

"bad behaviour". "They absolutely need the United States to be their ally and partner in this fight," he said.

In another interview with Larry O'Connor, Pompeo said in his meetings with his counterparts from Japan, India and Australia, they began to develop a set of understandings and policies that can jointly take these countries to work to present a true resistance to the threats that the Chinese Communist Party poses to each of these nations.

"They absolutely need the United States to be their ally and partner in this fight," he said.

"But they've all seen it, whether it's the Indians, who are actually having a physical confrontation with the Chinese up in the Himalayas in the northeastern part of India, the Chinese have now begun to amass huge forces against India in the north whether it's the Australians who did the simple thing of saying the Chinese screwed this deal up with the virus, and we'd like to understand what happened and said we ought to have a full investigation, and in exchange for that, the Chinese Communist Party began to extort, coerce, bully the Australians, Pompeo said.

Every one of these countries has seen this, he said, adding that people in each of these countries now understand the Chinese Communist Party presents a threat to them.

"The world has awakened. The tide's begun to turn. And the United States under President Trump's leadership has now built out a coalition that will push back against the threat and maintain good order, the rule of law, and the basic civic decency that comes from democracies controlling the world and not authoritarian regimes," Pompeo said.

In his third-interview to Fox News, Pompeo said that the US under Trump administration has begun to build out all the edifice of the structure and the allies and the coalition to push back against China.

"We aim to protect the American people from the threat that the Chinese Communist Party poses," he said.

Referring to his Quad ministerial meeting, Pompeo said that the three other countries Japan, India, and Australia were building out a coalition, build partners and allies around the world who understand the threat from the Chinese Communist Party in the same way that "we do so that they can protect jobs here at home".

India is expanding bilateral cooperation with Japan, the US and Australia in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US has been pushing for a greater role for India in the Indo-Pacific which is seen by many countries as an effort to contain China's growing clout in the region.

No Indication of China-Pak...

Corps Commander of the Army's Srinagar-based Chinar Corps Lt Gen B S Raju, however, said there is military cooperation between Pakistan and China in terms of equipment.

Amid the continuing standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in Ladakh, media reports quoting intelligence inputs have claimed that China is helping Pakistan set up sites for surface-to-air missiles in Pck as soldiers of their armies have been carrying out joint patrols in the region.

Gen Raju said there has not been any such indication.

"I have seen the reports in the media. Whether Pakistan is helping China or China is helping Pakistan, we have no such indication," he told reporters on the sidelines of a passing out-cum-attestation parade at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre on the outskirts of the city here.

"But because of the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), there is the presence of China in Pakistan. The military cooperation in terms of equipment is there, but we are not seeing any tactical help," he said.

According to the reports, the construction work for the installation of surface-to-air missile defence system is being carried out by the Pakistan army and China's People's Liberation Army at Pauli Pir near Lasadanna Dhok of Pck.

Pakistan army personnel and dozens of civilians are working at the construction site, the reports stated.

7 More Covid-19 Deaths Take...

from Kani Kadal, an elderly man from Zakura Srinagar, an 87-year-old man from Gojwara Srinagar and a 65-year-old woman from Boniyar Baramulla. (With GNS inputs)

3 Minors, Doctor Among 635...

and 400 from Kashmir Valley.

Giving district-wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 173 cases, Budgam 50, Baramulla 36, Pulwama 20, Kupwara 44, Anantnag 22, Bandipora 11, Ganderbal 35, Kulgam 5, Shopian 4, Jammu 109, Rajouri 29, Udhampur 12, Doda 5, Kathua 15, Poonch 14, Samba 15, Ramban 2, Kishtwar 29 and Reasi 5.

Moreover, they said, 976 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 509 from Jammu Division and 467 from Kashmir Valley.

Army Hopes Summary Of...

(in the case) that the initial court of inquiry has been concluded and we have seen some wrongs committed. On the basis of that, we have ordered the Summary of Evidence which is going on and we hope it concludes soon so that we go into the next stage," Lt Gen Raju said.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a passing-out-cum-attestation parade of 301 youths from the Union territory at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre at Rangreth in the outskirts of the city here.

The Army had initiated a Court of Inquiry into the case after social media reports indicated that the three men were from Rajouri district in Jammu and had gone missing at Amshipura. 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.

The police also conducted an inquiry into the case and on September 30, IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the DNA samples of the victims had matched with their families.

On October 3, the bodies of the trio were exhumed and handed over to their families.

'Infiltration Levels, Militant...

based Chinar Corps, Lt Gen B S Raju, said the number of militants who infiltrated into this side of the Line of Control (LoC) so far this year was less than 30.

The situation on the LoC is under control. Few ceasefire violations are taking place which Pakistan is using to aid in infiltration, but in those areas too, the situation has been brought under control," Lt Gen Raju said here.

"We have been able to stop infiltration to a large extent this year. Last year, about 130 militants had infiltrated, but the number this year is less than 30 which is very less, he said.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a passing-out-cum-attestation parade of 301 youths from the union territory at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre at Rangreth on the outskirts of the city here.

The senior Army officer expressed hope that the internal situation in the valley would become better because of less infiltration.

He further said anti-militancy operations in the valley were continuing and militants being neutralised by security forces.

This morning, a foreign militant and a local were neutralised (in an encounter in Kulgam). We have seen that wherever we neutralise a foreign militant, the area becomes peaceful. Peace has been established to a large extent in the areas of Pulwama and Shopian because of the operations in the last two-three months, he said.

The corps commander said the recruitment of new militants had decreased in the last six months, but picked up again in the last month or so.

But, I see a ray of hope as several militants who had taken up the path of violence have surrendered. We do not share details about it, but it is a good indicator, he said.

He said while the problem in south Kashmir was more serious than north, overall the situation there was under control.

Asked about the number of militants at the launch pads across the LoC, he said according to intelligence inputs, there were about 250-300 militants there.

But we have been able to stop them despite their continuous attempts (to infiltrate), he added.

Lt Gen Raju said the security forces have been working on a surrender policy for militants so as to help them return to the mainstream.

We have been working on a policy for surrender and we have sent our recommendations, but, as of now, the policy has not been formalised. But, even in the absence of any policy, we have a system in which we own anyone who comes back, he said.

Asked about the forthcoming panchayat polls in the UT, the corps commander said that the Army will render whatever help is required to conduct the polls in a peaceful manner.

Polls have been announced and we hope that people come forward to participate so that development comes to their area. We will give any help that is required to conduct the polls in a peaceful manner, he said.

Earlier, Lt Gen Raju reviewed the parade of 301 passing out soldiers from the UT who completed a year's strenuous training at the regimental centre.

Chhibber Briefs LG About J&K...

"The CMD also briefed the LG about the initiatives taken by the bank for the overall business growth by introducing tailor-made products to provide the requisite liquidity to the businesses in the J&K UT, besides informing him about the steps taken by the bank to ensure an enthusiastic participation in the current flagship outreach program of the government, Back to Village- 3," the spokesperson said.

The J&K Bank CMD, the official spokesperson said acknowledged the government's support, especially setting up of the committee for economic revival of J&K under the guidance of LG and securing the historic interest subvention for the business community, which included the interest subvention amounts pertaining to 2014 and 2016 business disruptions in favour of the eligible beneficiaries that shall help ease out the difficulties faced by the borrowers, termed the setting up of the committee as turning point in transforming the economic landscape of J&K.

"Being the major player in the economic ecosystem of J&K, the business community would receive a significant portion of the interest subvention through J&K Bank only, which would further strengthen the confidence of the customers in general and borrowers in particular", the CMD as per the spokesperson said while expressing his gratitude to the LG for initiating various measures for the revival of the economy of the J&K UT.

He said that the CMD also apprised the LG about setting up of special desks for youth and women entrepreneurs, saying that this move would play a significant role in translating LG's vision into reality and J&K Bank was privileged to be an exclusively associated with it.

"While giving a patient audience the LG assured full support from the UT administration to the bank. The LG also appreciated the role J&K Bank was playing in reaching out to the people across the length and breadth of the UT," the spokesperson added.

'Despotic, Harassing'...

to which Kashmir's blood-soaked history is synonymous," PDP leader Mohammad Khurshed Alam said.

He said that the wounds inflicted by the "unconstitutional, illegal and unnatural" abrogation of Article 370 are still fresh and yet each day new methods are invented to push the people towards the corner.

"Is this the roadmap of Naya Kashmir which the government epitomized in the parliament on August 5, 2019?" he asked.

The National Conference also reached sharply to the imposition of property tax in J&K and said that amidst depressing economic activity and soaring unemployment, the GOI has amended two municipal laws of J&K and given power to the local administration to levy and collect property tax.

"Far from doling out fiscal help and other supportive measures, the government, wants to suck the life and blood of people," NC leader, as per a party spokesperson said during a meeting at Nawa-e -Subha on Saturday.

"Terming the move as grave injustice, the leaders said the imposition of the property tax, at a time when the economy is reeling under slow-down, will overburden people, who are struggling to make ends meet," party spokesperson said.

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Janata Dal United also lambasted government for introducing property tax in the Union Territory.

JDU President, GM Shaheen while addressing a press conference here said imposing property tax is the otherwise name of "harassment" and this will crush people economically who are already suffering immensely due to prevailing situation from past one year.

"Instead of giving respite to the common people, government is dragging them towards hardships. Kashmir has already suffered a lot and now imposition of property tax will be final nail in the coffin," Shaheen, according to a party spokesperson said.

He said the imposition of property tax will have serious negative repercussions in the future.

Seek Deferment Of Panchayat...

representatives of political parties regarding the conduct of Panchayat and municipal by-Elections 2020 during which several issues were deliberated.

The meeting was attended by Congress party leader Rama Kant Khajuria, Chairman, J&K National Panthers Party Harsh Dev Singh and Peoples Democratic Party's Narendar Singh Raina besides other officers/officials of CEO Office J&K.

"Several issues were raised by the representative of political parties including the deferment of the election due to COVID-19 , provision of adequate security as per actual threat perception and need without any party affiliation, and conducive atmosphere for the conduct of elections," the official spokesperson said.

In response, the official spokesperson said, Kumar informed that political leaders that the by-elections can't be indefinitely deferred as the government has now decided to conduct the polls on the lines of assembly elections being conducted in the country after observing all COVID-19 SOPs.

"He further assured that all COVID-19 related arrangements shall be ensured at polling stations including the provision of face masks, sanitizers, thermal scanners and proper social distancing will be ensured during the entire election process," the official spokesperson said.

The CEO, he said apprised all the representatives of political parties about the conduct of polls by mentioning that all the preparations have been finalised including providing all logistics and procurement of election material.

"The Panchayat By-Election 2020 will be conducted through Ballot Boxes on non-party basis, whereas Municipal Election will be conducted on party basis through M2EVMs and accordingly a detailed scheduled in this regard is being issued shortly," Kumar, as per official spokesperson said.

He said that CEO also informed that the continuous updation of Panchayat electoral rolls is under process with the aim that no eligible voter to be left behind unregistered, as far the updation of municipal electoral Rolls a special summary revision is being conducted with the qualifying date as 01-01-2020

"Regarding the free, fair and transparent conduct of election, CEO J&K assured all the political parties that Panchayat By-Election and Urban Local Bodies By-elections 2020 will be conducted in free, fair, transparent, ethical, participative and COVID safe manner," he added.

World Mental Health Day...

explained the problems the child was going through and made them understand how punishment could aggravate the child's problem.

"With the help of his parents and cousin, Arif showed 70 per cent improvement in his behavior," said Kakroo.

His parents were advised not to insist their son for studies for some time, and instead encourage him in other activities to boost his confidence.

Once his self-esteem improved, the therapist started focusing on Arif's curriculum.

The child, today, isn't even a pale shadow of his troubled past.

A Businesswoman's Fight

After insomnia, lack of appetite and irritability made Noor's life impossible, she was taken for an emergency counseling session with Ifra Amin, a mental health counselor.

Accompanying by her toddler, mother and brother, Noor recalls crying like a baby at the counsellor's clinic.

Her trouble had begun when she landed in an abusive marriage, where endless dowry demands derailed her mindset. She hesitated in telling her condition to her parents as Noor's elder sister was already divorced and she didn't want to burden her family with another problem.

She kept suffering until one day she couldn't handle it anymore and left her in-laws with her child.

In her parent's home, Noor grew nonchalant, became insomniac, and lost her appetite.

She would spend most of the time crying in her room. When her mother saw her condition, she decided to take her to a counselor.

When counselor Amin met Noor, she started CBT to identify the distortions in her.

"We talked to her entire family to assure Noor that she has support from everyone," recalled Amin.

Amin used psychotherapy along with medicines. The counselor tried to inculcate positive coping skills in Noor through different sessions and she started responding in five-six months.

Eventually, Noor filed for divorce and got custody of her baby with the support of her family. She even started a small boutique with the help of an NGO. Today, the mental health survivor is booming with life and confidence.

After seeking solace in therapy, she's now planning to expand her business.

Fake Appointment Racket...

hard-earned money by the gang of fraudsters. The arrested cheat was not cooperating in the investigation of the instant case and was constantly absconding to evade his arrest by changing his locations frequently," the spokesperson said.

He said a written complaint was lodged in the Crime Branch Jammu by one Radhaya Sham of the Kanah-Hiranagar area of Kathua district, claiming that in 2009, he came in contact with one Swarn Lal of Village Mahesha Chak who introduced himself to be a government employee and brother of an Army officer and told him that he can arrange jobs in the Territorial Army in lieu of Rs 1.5 lakhs per person.

"As many as 12 unemployed persons were allured by the Lal to pay him Rs 50,000 per head as advance and Rs one lakh after getting appointment order and a huge amount was extorted by the accused person along with the prime accused Dar from unemployed youth at Hiranagar and Srinagar," the spokesperson said.

He said the arrested accused is a habitual offender and notorious criminal who operates with his associates by adopting the same modus operandi and a total nine cases are registered against the gang in various police stations of J-K.

"More complaints are likely to come forth after the arrest of the prime accused, the spokesperson said, adding the search of his other associates is continuing.

Rs 4400 Fine Realised From...

Lalla Ded and G. B. Panth, an official spokesperson said.

"Commissioner Food and Drugs Administration Shakeel ur Rahman has directed the enforcement officers to strictly implement the provisions of COTPA and has appealed to the general public to desist from smoking as it adversely impacts the health of active as well as passive smokers," he added.

LAWDA Demolition Drive...

"Moreover, a spontaneous night naka drive is presently going on against the tippers/vehicles for carrying illegal construction material, the illegal material has been seized by this wing, and the drive shall continue in the future as well," the official spokesperson added.

Welfare Schemes For KP Migrants

Govt Sets-up Special Camps for Registration

Counters to function for one month, no need to rush at single location: Simrandeep

JAMMU, OCTOBER 10: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has organized special camps at 20 different locations for registration of Kashmiri migrants for various centrally sponsored welfare schemes.

Over 114 counters have been set up at 20 different locations including Jagti Camps, Nagrota Camp, Muthi, Purkhoo, Gangval, Channi Himmat, Bagwati Nagar, Bohri, Janipur, Durga Nagar and other locations.

The camps were organized on the demand of the migrant People seeking registration under different schemes.

Secretary Disaster Management Relief and Reconstruction Department, Simrandeep Singh; Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner,

T K Bhat and other officers inaugurated one of the camps at Mini Township Jagti.

Various departments have set up their counters in the camp for registration of eligible beneficiaries under the schemes pertaining to their respective departments. During the camp a large number of migrant families/ individuals of Jagti and adjoining areas were registered under Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana, PM Suraksha Bima Yojna (PMSBY), PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana(PMJJB), PM Mudra Yojana (PMMY),Old age pension scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme(NFBS), Mission Indradanush, PM Mutra Vandana Yojna(PMMVY), PM Ujjwala Yojna (PMUJ), Na-

tional Talent Search Examination, PM Special Scholarship Scheme(PMSSS), Himayat Skill Development and other schemes.

Moreover, a special counter was also set up by the revenue department for issuance of domicile certificates to the residents of the Jagti. A counter was also set up for issuance of Adhar cards.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary DMRRD said, the camps have been organized under the Jan Abhiyan and on the directions of Lieutenant Governor for registration of eligible beneficiaries under various schemes.

Around 22 thousand registered relief availing migrants would be covered through special camps enabling them

to avail the benefits of over 17 different schemes of various departments.

“As you know that the registration process needs some documentation and people face a lot of problems to get themselves registered, this is for the first time that the government has decided to organize camps for hassle free registration of eligible persons among the Kashmiri Migrants” he said. He also informed that special camps have also been organized at different locations for registration of beneficiaries under Pradhan Manti Ayushman Bharat Yojana. He further said that such camps/ counters will remain functional for one month from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM at various locations and urged the people not to rush at a single place.

BSNL employee falls from tree, dies

Srinagar: A Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) employee died on Saturday, after falling from a tree when he was repairing optic fiber in north Kashmir’s Kupwara district.

A police official said that an employee of BSNL, identified as Sohail Ahmad Pir, a resident of Jagerpora in Kupwara fell down from a tree, while repairing optic fiber, which resulted in critical injuries to the person.

He was immediately rushed to nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident and investigations launched.

از عدالت ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

(تخصیصہ ادارہ ہنگ نام باجلاس زیر احمد شیش صاحب۔

درخواست منجانب:۔ تصدیق کل دہلی ملک ملک سارک سڈورہ لغرض اجرائی تارنچ پیدائش سرگٹیت ہنام منایا تصدیق دایو

ظہور دیت تصدیق کل۔

اشہار بربراد گاشی ہر خاص دعام۔

معاظہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اساتذہ مذکورہوالا نے عدالت ہڈا میں ایک درخواست عطفی بیان پیش کیا ہے سائل کے

کے والد ان کا تارنچ پیدائش 08/09/2018, 28/09/2018, 01/09/2018 تا ترتیب ہے اس ضمن میں سرگٹیت پیدائش

کے لئے کا خواہ ہے لہذا سرگٹیت مذکورہ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی نظریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر

اندرون دفتر کی اوقات میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

MJA

از عدالت ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

(نائب تخصیصہ ادارہ ہنگ نام باجلاس زیر احمد شیش صاحب۔

درخواست منجانب:۔ سید زاہد ہمدانید دہلی شریف الدین سارک سارک سڈورہ برقی دیا کلام ہنگ لغرض اجرائی تارنچ

پیدائش سرگٹیت ہنام منایا تصدیق کل دہلی ملک ملک سارک سڈورہ لغرض اجرائی تارنچ پیدائش سرگٹیت ہنام منایا تصدیق کل۔

اشہار بربراد گاشی ہر خاص دعام۔

معاظہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اساتذہ مذکورہوالا نے عدالت ہڈا میں ایک درخواست عطفی بیان پیش کیا ہے سائل کے

پرکار تارنچ پیدائش 08/09/2018 ہے اس ضمن میں سرگٹیت پیدائش کے لئے کا خواہ ہے لہذا سرگٹیت مذکورہ اجراء

کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی نظریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندرون دفتر کی اوقات میں پیش کرے

بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

MJA

Baramulla man found dead in Srinagar

Srinagar: Body of a man hailing from north Kashmir’s Baramulla district was found in front of an electric shop in Hazratbal locality of Srinagar on Saturday.

Divulging details, a police official said that the dead body of a man identified as Abdul Hameed Mir, son of late Sher Ali a resident of Boniyar, Baramulla was recovered from Hazratbal area.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU -180001

Sub:- Interview schedule for the post of Assistant Director Fire & Emergency Services in Fire & Emergency Department.

Notice

Dated: 09-10-2020

In continuation to this office notification No.PSC/Exam/24/2019 dated 18 03 2019 & letter No. DG-YSS/Estt/7304-05, dated 02.12.2019, it is hereby notified that the interview of following shortlisted candidates for the posts of Assistant Director Fire & Emergency Services in Fire & Emergency Department shall now be held w.e.f. 09.11.2020 to 11.11.2020 at J&K Public Service Commission Office Resham Ghar Colony, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu at 9:30 (a.m) sharp subject to the following conditions:-

- The candidature of all the candidates is purely provisional.
- Only eligible candidates possessing requisite qualification prescribed under rules shall be allowed to appear in the interview subject to the condition that they are within the prescribed age limit on the cut-off-date.
- The candidates shall have to produce following original certificates/testimonials on the date of interview:-
 - Degree;
 - Higher Qualification, if any;
 - Date of Birth certificate;
 - Permanent Resident Certificate.
 - Category Certificate, if applicable.
 - One set of photocopies of all the testimonial (S. No.i to v)

SNO	ROLLNO	NAME	PARENTAGE	DATE OF INTERVIEW
1	1200061	ARSALAN RIYAZ CHATT	RIYAZ AHMAD CHATT	09.11.2020
2	1200066	MOHMAD ARIF MIR	SYED UR RAHMAN MIR	09.11.2020
3	1200097	TOWSEEF HUSSAIN DAR	MUSHTAQ AHMAD DAR	09.11.2020
4	1200126	MOHAMMAD IQBAL SHAH	ALI MOHD SHAH	09.11.2020
5	1200132	AUDIL. HUSSAIN SHAH	SHARIF UD DIN SHAH	09.11.2020
6	1200155	MOIN UL ISLAM AHANGER	MOHMAI) ABDULLAH AHANGER	09.11.2020
7	1200177	AAMIR HAMEED MALIK	ABDUL HAMEED MALIK	09.11.2020
8	1200183	SHAHID MUSHTAQ	MUSHTAQ AHMAD SHAH	09.11.2020
9	1200201	HADIU ZAMAN PARAY	MOHD AKRAM PARAY	09.11.2020
10	1200227	KHALEEQ AHMAD NAIK	SHAFEEQ AHMAD NAIK	09.11.2020
11	1200255	MOHAMMAD KAMRAN THAKOO	MOHAMMAD YOUSUF THAKOO	09.11.2020
12	1200319	AQIB HUSSAIN MIR	GH MOHAMMAD MIR	09.11.2020
13	1200353	IQBAL. HASSAN	GH MOHIUD DIN SHEIKH	09.11.2020
14	1200356	ZAHIQ MAQBOOL	MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL HAJAM	10.11.2020
15	1200377	MAAJID GULZAR ANI	MOHD GULZAR	10.11.2020
1.6	1200414	SARVESH LANGER	PAWAN KUMAR	10.11.2020
17	1200420	STANZIN IDONG	NANWANGT SERING	10.11.2020
18	1200421	TANVEER MAJEED	AB MAJEED	10.11.2020
19	1200423	VINAYAK SHARMA	SUBASH CHANDER SHARMA	10.11.2020
20	1200426	PALLAV SHARMA	VIPAN KUMAR	10.11.2020
21	1200447	ROBIN PARIHAR	ASHOK KUMAR	10.11.2020
22	1200459	SHUBHAM SHARMA	CHANDER PAL SHARMA	10.11.2020
23	1200555	SAHIL BANDRAL	SURINDER SINGH	10.11.2020
24	12.00569	SORAB GUPTA	SANJAY GUPTA	10.11.2020
25	12.00595	RAHUI SETHI	RAGHUBIRLAL SETHI	10.11.2020
26	1200620	HIMANSHU GANDOTRA	SHYAM GANDOTRA	10.11.2020
27	1200633	LIYAQAT ALI	MOHD IBRAHIM	11.11.2020
28	1200660	VIKRAM SINGH	SHANKAR SINGH	11.11.2020
2.9	1200676	VARUN MAGOTRA	RAJINDER BUSHAN	11.11.2020
30	1200680	ROHIT KUMAR	MOHAN LAL	11.11.2020
3.1	1200689	VIVEK KUMAR	DARSHAN LAL	11.11.2020
32	1200694	NEERAJ KUMAR	JAGDEV RAJ	11.11.2020
33	1200775	AMAN JAMWAL	JOGINDER SINGH	11.11.2020
34	1200779	PANKAJ SHARMA	ROMESH CHANDER	11.11.2020
35	1200819	PARMOD KUMAR	TEJA RAM	11.11.2020
36	1200826	ISHITIAQ AHMED	ABDUL GHANI	11.11.2020
37	1200857	ROHIT MAGOTRA	VINOD KUMAR	11.11.2020
38	1200896	MAJID IQBAL KHAN	MOHDIQBAL KHAN	11.11.2020
39	1200905	AMIT SHIVGOTRA	YASH PAL SHIVGOTRA	11.11.2020
40	1200907	RAHUL GARHOTRA	MULKH RAJ	11.11.2020

DIPK-7135/20
VINAY SAMOTRA (KAS)
Deputy Secretary,
J&K Public Service Commission
NO:- PSC/DR/ADFC5/2008

2 Specially Abled DPS Students Qualify Class XII

SRINAGAR: Two specially abled students of Learning Resource Centre of Delhi Public School Srinagar namely Shafin Abdullah and Iflah Niyaz of Class XII have secured First division in the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Board Exams (2019-2020). Overcoming their special needs, they managed to score good merit with their positive approach and hard work. Their patience and persistence has finally paid off.

The Vice Principal Shafaq Afshan extended her heartiest congratulations to the successful students and said "It reflects the immense pride and effort we put in at the school to ensure our special needs children get a chance to live a life of dignity and equality." The Chairman Vijay Dhar also congratulated the students and said "We share in the joy of students and their success is an immense milestone in our endeavour towards equality".



Dr. Mohammed Sideeq Bhat
S/o Kh. Mohammed Sultan Bhat

This is the price you pay for having a great father. You get the wonder, the joy, the tender moments – and you get the tears at the end, too.

We Miss You Dad

Five days have gone by since you left us Dad on 5th of October. You didn't tell us how to live; you lived, and let us watch you do it. Your guiding hand on our shoulders will remain with us forever, Insha Allah.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY
Muqadim Raouf (Son)
Ibrahim Servall and family

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
No: ITI /Sgr/459-64
Dated: 10-10-2020

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION NO 01 OF 2020 DATED :- 10-10-2020

All those candidates who had applied for online admission under various courses of this ITI advertised vide notification no.: ITI/Sgr/129-34 dated: 13-08-2020 are informed that the selection list stands declared and is available on the following websites:

- www.jkdsd.org
- www.itsrinagar.org/Downloads.aspx

Accordingly the candidates are required to visit any of the website as mentioned above & the selected candidates are further directed that the admission process has started w.e.f. 09-10-2020 and shall close on 23-10-2020.

The selected candidates are also required to attend ITI Bagh-i-Dilawar Khan Srinagar along with following documents in

- Marks Certificate of qualifying Examination
- Date of Birth Certificate
- Category Certificate (SC/ ST/ Ex-Serviceman/ Physically Handicapped/ EWS), if any
- Adhaar Card
- Domicile certificate / Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC).

The selected candidates are required to appear for the counselling along with Xerox copies of above said certificates and five number of passport size Photographs along with requisite fee.

Note: For complete details the students are required to contact phone No's

- 0194-2478193
- 0194-2479930

DIPK-7192/20

Mohammad Ashraf Wani,
Principal, (Senior Scale) .

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- 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
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



23 Safar
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 09

ZUHR 12: 18

ASR 4:24

Magrib 6:07

ISHA 7:26

This Day In History

- 1945 - Chinese civil war begins between Kuomintang government led by Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong's Communist Party
- 1947 - Brazil & Chile break diplomatic relations with USSR
- 1969 - Soyuz 6 launched; Soyuz 7 & 8 follow in next 2 days
- 1977 - Soyuz 25 returns to Earth
- 1979 - Allan McLeod Cormack & Godfrey Newbold Hounsfield win Nobel Prize for medicine for developing CAT scan
- 1980 - Cosmonauts Popov & Ryumin set space endurance record of 184 days
- 1984 - 1st space walk by US woman (Dr Kathryn D Sullivan)
- 1984 - NASA launches space vehicle S-208
- 1986 - Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev open talks at a summit in Reykjavik, Iceland
- 1990 - Mexican writer Octavio Paz is awarded the Nobel Prize for literature
- 1990 - Libya's Qadhafi says Israel must be eliminated
- 1994 - Space shuttle STS-68 (Endeavour 7), lands
- 1994 - Nobel Prize in economics is awarded to John Harsanyi, John Nash and Reinhard Selten for their "pioneering analysis of equilibria in the theory of non-cooperative games"
- 2000 - The 100th Space Shuttle mission (STS-92) is flown.
- 2012 - A further 83 people are killed throughout Syria by the Syrian army
- 2012 - Mo Yan, a Chinese hallucinatory realist writer, wins the 2012 Nobel Prize for Literature
- 2013 - 10 people are killed and a hospital fire in Fukuo-ka prefecture, Japan
- 2013 - 27 people are killed after a migrant boat sinks in the Channel of Sicily
- 2013 - The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons wins the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize
- 2015 - Nepal's parliament elects Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, leader of the Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist party, as Prime Minister

From KO Archives

7 killed in Srinagar Gun Battle

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR Seven people including four civilians were killed in a major gunbattle in the outskirts of Srinagar this morning that also left a top militant commander and two police personnel dead. Elsewhere two persons were killed in unabated violence in the state since last evening.

Parimpora locality of the city woke up to blasts and gunfire this morning as a militant holed up in a house engaged besieging security personnel in a fierce gunbattle for sue hours.

According to the reports a party of Police Task Force, Budgam, assisted by CRPF personnel surrounded the house of one Abdul Aziz at around 4.30 a.m following a tip off that a militant of Harkat-ul-Mujahedin, Shawkat Ahmad Lone was in the house. Reports said Shawkat huiied grenades and opened fire on the advancing forces killing an STF and a CRPF constable on the spot. The deceased have been identified as constable Mahipal Singh of CRPF and Javed Iqbal of STF. KPS said a BSF contingent too joined the operation and the gunbattle raged for some time. Four civilians were killed in the cross fire and the battle left half a dozen security personnel injured. According to an API report 11 security personnel were wounded in the encounter. A CNS report said forces fired mortar shells at the house which set it ablaze. Later the body of militant Shawkat Ahmad alias Pupa Lone son of Khizr Lone of Batmaloo was recovered from the debris of the house. A Police bulletin issued here said Shawkat was a most wanted militant involved in series of attacks on the security forces in Srinagar including the series of attacks on the civil secretariat. He was a released militant who originally belonged to Hizb and had later joined the Harkat and was its divisional commander.

The four civilians who also died during the encounter have been identified as Ghulam Muhammed Shaykh, Bashir Ahmad Shaykh of Parimpora and two labourers from Handwara, Ghulam Hassan and Ghulam Qadir Mir of Handwara. Five civilians including Hajra wife of the house owner Abdul Aziz were injured critically.

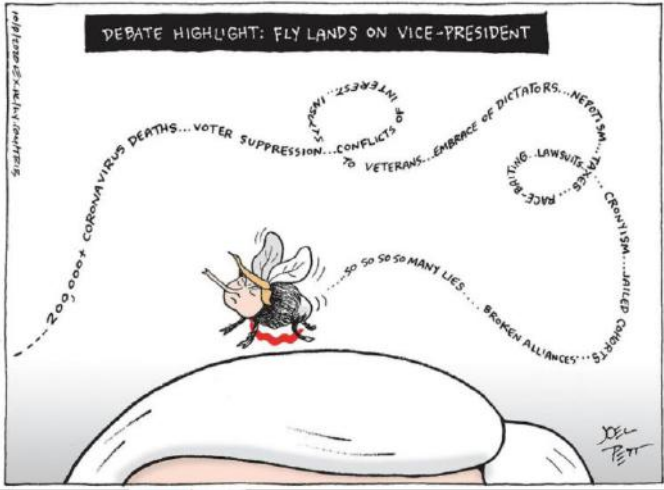
Inspector General of Police Dr Ashok Bhan has described the killing of Shawkat Lone a major success for police and a severe jolt to militancy here.

(Kashmir Observer, October 11,2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



“The only way mainstream parties could have undone some of the administrative and legislative changes over the last year would be for these parties to form a majority government if J&K were a state. But in a Union territory, even if they were to secure a landslide majority in a future election, the parties will remain subservient to the lieutenant-governor.

New lines being drawn in Kashmir

The demand for the restoration of Article 370, much like that of autonomy, could well be transformed into a long-standing political plank for the NC and the PDP

RIYAZ WANI

“One option for mainstream political groups would be to mount a sustained public resistance against the erasure of special status. But there are valid doubts about the scope for such resistance at a time when the Centre has squeezed the space for any democratic dissent.

On August 22, six major parties in Jammu and Kashmir got together to issue a joint statement that called for the rollback of the constitutional changes of August 5, 2019. The parties were unable to meet to discuss the statement. So they worked their phones to arrive at a common stand. But few in Kashmir expected the statement to be so unequivocal and evocative. The use of such phrases to describe the August 5 decision by the Centre as “spitefully short sighted”, “measure to disempower”, “times of pain” and so on reflected the deep sense of hurt and humiliation being felt in Kashmir over the loss of autonomy.

Lending the statement — also called Gupkar Declaration 2.0 — its significance is that the parties signing it make up almost the whole of the political mainstream of J&K. It included the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, the two leading establishment parties, the Congress along with smaller outfits like Sajad Lone’s Jammu and Kashmir People’s Conference, the Communist Party of India and the Awami National Conference. This makes the Gupkar Declaration an articulation of the predominant public sentiment in J&K, especially in the Valley. Does this increase the odds of its resonance with New Delhi? Not at all. More so when the Union government is run by the Bharatiya Janata Party that has withdrawn Article 370, which granted J&K its semi-autonomous status under the Constitution.

While there’s little possibility of the Centre changing its mind, the nature of the post-Article 370 dispensation in the region has made it impossible for political opposition to the August 5 intervention to have a decisive impact, let alone succeed. The only way mainstream parties could have undone some of the administrative and legislative changes over the last year would be for these parties to form a majority government if J&K were a state. But in a Union territory, even if they were to secure a landslide majority in a future election, the parties will remain subservient to the lieutenant-governor.



Making things further difficult for them, the Centre in a new order has put even the police and the IPS beyond the remit of a future chief minister. Moreover, the Centre, as looks likely, may prolong this state of affairs by indefinitely delaying the restoration of statehood. The restoration may not take place before there is certainty that Kashmir’s political parties are not in a position to undo any law or order passed during lieutenant-governors’ rule.

There are concerns that New Delhi seems to have a plan in place. The Hindu-majority Jammu division is to be given parity and, subsequently, a majority in a future state assembly. This is to be accomplished through an electoral and demographic re-engineering of the Union territory. To this end, the Centre has set in motion the delimitation of J&K whereby Jammu, it appears, would be given greater legislative representation in the assembly. In the erstwhile J&K state as-

sembly, Kashmir Valley, with a population of around 70 lakh, had 46 seats; Jammu with a population of over 53 lakh, had 37 seats; Ladakh, with 2.74 lakh people, had 4 seats.

More seats for Jammu can change the composition of a future assembly and create political parity between Kashmir and Jammu. This will make it difficult for a Kashmiri party to undo any legislative or administrative changes made over the last year. Considering that the new domicile rules have thrown J&K open to settlement by people from other states, the anticipated demographic change is expected to further move political power away from the Valley and be vested in Jammu.

One option for mainstream political groups would be to mount a sustained public resistance against the erasure of special status. But there are valid doubts about the scope for such resistance at a time when the Centre has squeezed the space for any democratic dissent. The sig-

natories to the Gupkar Declaration are mindful of this fact: they issued a joint statement but refrained from calling for a peaceful protest, a public rally, a press conference, or a hartal. Even if the parties were to mobilize public opinion against the withdrawal of Article 370, their ability to force a shift in the Centre’s policy will be minimal. They are up against a new national consensus on Kashmir that sees the ‘integration’ of the former state as fait accompli.

The demand for the restoration of Article 370, much like that of autonomy, could well be transformed into a long-standing political plank for the NC and the PDP. This could be a gain for New Delhi, for autonomy and self-rule demands concessions that went beyond the special status enjoyed by J&K under Article 370.

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The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer

J&K Far Behind in AI

KHALID MUSTAFA

We are living in an era where time is running fast, not by means of the clocks or watches we wear but the speed with which development and technological advancement is taking place. World is trying to achieve the goal of complete usage of Artificial intelligence by means of Computers and other IT gadgets. In many parts of the world and in India as well, the AI is one of the main priorities and is being scheduled to be implemented in every sector of living like the Medical sector, Defense, Education and other businesses and organizations. Artificial intelligence (AI) has received increased attention in recent years. Innovation, made possible through the Internet, has brought AI closer to our everyday lives. From solving common mathematical problem to the launch of space ship, the AI is the first step.

Email filtering (Email services use artificial intelligence to filter incoming emails. Users can train their spam filters by marking emails as “spam”). Personalization (Online services use artificial intelligence to personalize your experience. Services like Amazon, flip kart, Youtube or Netflix, “learn” from your previous purchases and the purchases of other users in order to recommend relevant content for you). Fraud detection (Banks use

artificial intelligence to determine if there is strange activity on your account. Unexpected activity, such as foreign transactions, could be flagged by the algorithm). Speech recognition (Applications use artificial intelligence to optimize speech recognition functions. Examples include intelligent personal assistants, e.g. Amazon’s “Alexa” or Apple’s “Siri”). Robotic Engineering, Defense Engineering and other such computer formed engineering in our country are the examples of AI.

Artificial intelligence is a technology

“Due to Covid-19 and the lockdown, people of J&K have become aware about many platforms like the Zoom app, Microsoft Teams, Skype Meetings. Otherwise people’s knowledge and engagement with internet was just limited to social media or for submitting exam or job forms.

that is already impacting how users interact with, and are affected by the Internet. In the near future, its impact is likely going to grow. AI has the potential to vastly change the way that humans interact, not only with the digital world, but also with each other; through their work and

through other socioeconomic institutions – for better or for worse.

If we are to ensure that the impact of artificial intelligence will be positive, it will be essential that all stakeholders participate in the debates surrounding AI. As AI is an Internet enabled technology, the Internet Society recognizes that understanding the opportunities and challenges associated with AI is critical to developing an Internet that people can trust.

But unfortunately, J&K is still waiting for high speed internet and we are far

ner. We lack the potential of being online and discover new things.

Even as J&K has many skilled IT engineers, they are not ready to invest and are trying to move from J&K to locations where their skills are respected and nourished. To us, the AI is limited to the installation of ATM machines or to have CT scan machines in our hospitals. But AI (Artificial Intelligence) is a lot more.

Usually, after problems we come up with the solutions. However, we should have solutions before problems. Due to Covid-19 and the lockdown, people of J&K have become aware about many platforms like the Zoom app, Microsoft Teams, Skype Meetings. Otherwise people’s knowledge and engagement with internet was just limited to social media or for submitting exam or job forms.

This limited use is a result of poor execution of the potentials of IT sector in J&K. It is this lack of knowledge that has kept internet use limited to social media.

We should have access to high speed internet in our educational, business, engineering, defense and medical sectors to enable professionals to discover new things with new AI gadgets and robotics. Technology might but should not eliminate human power. However, it will and must help us grow – economically, financially and emotionally.

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The author is an IT & Management Expert who is currently working as the IT Manager at HK Nissan



On the Exorcism of a Married Woman

SABA MAHJOOR

Maaroofo got up and put a small jute bag in Phuphee’s lap — “Dagg. Waenheknearith” (Pain. I cannot do it anymore), she said, as tear rolled down her right cheek. Puphee asked her to not cry and opened the small bag from which she took out four ripe plums.

Phuphee had never lost a case, until of course she did. She was known for her spiritual powers. People from all over the valley would come to seek her guidance and help. Some would come to ask her to bless a new born so that no evil may befall him or her. Some would come because the cow had stopped producing milk in abundance. Some arrived because a dear one had been possessed by a jinn. People had tremendous faith in her and she in herself.

Once an unusual case arrived.

A chap from the next village came with his wife whom he claimed was the patient. His name was Bashir and his wife was called Maaroofo. They had been married for about ten years and had two young children, a girl and a boy. He had also brought with him a chicken in the form of payment.

Usually Phuphee would never let me sit in on the ‘consultation’ because as she said, “*raaz chu aasaan amaanat, ti, amaanatas gatchni khayaanat karun*” (secrets are given for safekeeping and you cannot go around breaking people’s confidence in you).

But, on this occasion she called me and asked me to sit with her. I was surprised but excited. I had secretly seen her take jinns out of people but I could never ask questions as that would mean confessing to the crime of having been there in the first place. I saw Bashir hesitate but before he could voice his hesitation she said “*yi che mea patteh. Yi che hechaan*” (she is the next peerni, she is learning). The thought of being the next Peerni tickled me but I did my best to remain serious.

“*Kya daleel che? Dapsa*” (What’s the matter? Tell me?), She asked.

“*Kyah wanov. Yi chena myean zanaan, yi chi sirif naavich zanaan*” (what can I tell you, this wife of mine, is a wife only in name), he said.

“*Adsa. Asel paeth wan. Khule paeth wan*” (okay. Tell me properly and openly), she said.

He lowered his eyes. He seemed a little embarrassed.

“*Amyis haz chu jinn tchaamut. Yelli bae amyis nish chus gatchaan, yi chi di-waan krayke beyi phetraawaan cheez. Bae haz chus pareshaan. Waen kaertov tuhi kyehn*” (she has been possessed by a jinn. Every time I try to go close to her as a husband and wife do, she starts screaming and breaking things. I am very distressed. Only you can do something and help me), he said.

“*Acha. Acha. Tche kar akh kaem. Tche traavun yi yetii. Shaaman yizi waapas. Khodai karyi soriy theek*” (okay, okay. You do one thing. Leave her here. You can come back in the evening). She said to him. And with that he left.

Now it was just us three: Phuphee, Maaroofo and me. We sat in silence. I think, for about half an hour, no one said anything. Then Phuphee took out a packet of her cigarettes and this time she took out three. I was a little confused. Surely, she wasn’t going to

try smoke three at a time. She lit the three cigarettes and gave one to Maaroofo — “*Mae baasaan che chui zorath*” (I think you need it), she said to Maaroofo.

I thought the lady would refuse, but no, she took it and started smoking. It didn’t look like it was her first time. We continued to sit in silence with both of them smoking. When they had both finished, Phuphee asked her “*kya daleel chae?*” (What’s the matter with you?).

Maaroofo got up and put a small jute bag in Phuphee’s lap — “*Dagg. Waen hekne karith*” (Pain. I cannot do it anymore), she said, as tear rolled down her right cheek. Puphee asked her to not cry and opened the small bag from which she took out four ripe plums.

“*Waliv, daankuthyis manz behmoav*” (let’s go sit in the kitchen), she said and we all moved to the kitchen.

At this point, I was quite disappointed. Nothing had really happened. Nothing. Nothing burned. No cleansing. No chanting. No knives. No nothing.

In the kitchen, Phuphee asked one of

roofo trailing right behind.

We waited outside. After fifteen minutes Maaroofo came out and Phuphee went in. Another fifteen minutes went by and both of them appeared. Phuphee took Maettonji to the veranda where there were a couple of wicker chairs. They sat and talked. I heard Maettonji say to Phuphee in her broken Kashmiri, “*Bachedaan chus nebaer. Yi na chus asal*” (the uterus is outside, this is not good).

Phuphee asked me to go into the pantry and bring a bowl of lavender kulfi that she had made earlier that morning. Maettonji ate with relish, licking her spoon and her fingers.

“*Mazza, waariyah mazza*” (tasty, very tasty), said Maettonji in her English accented Kashmiri. Before leaving, Phuphee handed her a ripe plum.

In the evening around 7pm, Bashir turned up. He looked both, excited and nervous. We were all sitting in the kitchen.

“*Walsa. Beh. Thokmut aasakh. Batte khekhe?*” (Come. Sit. You must be tired. Will you have dinner?), Puphee said to

People from all over the valley would come to seek her guidance and help. Some would come to ask her to bless a newborn so that no evil may befall him or her. Some would come because the cow had stopped producing milk in abundance

the servants to go and fetch ‘maettonji’ (the matron) from the local clinic. There was a small clinic run by an English lady who introduced herself as the matron of the clinic. Everyone called her maettonji.

Phuphee asked Maaroofo to slice a couple of onions, green chillies and also a couple of plums she had brought with her and, in the meantime she cut the chicken into small pieces.

They sat around the daan (mud stove) like a pair of witches around a cauldron about to prepare a potion. On the daan was placed a copper deekche (small cooking pot). Once the mustard oil had been smoked, onions were added. Then green chillies. Phuphee threw in cloves, cumin seeds and black cardamom. Maaroofo stirred. Phuphee added turmeric and fennel powder and Maaroofo a splash of water with which steam rose from the pot. Phuphee added the chicken and Maaroofo added the thinly sliced plums. They took it in turns to stir. Finally, water and salt were added to the concoction and the lid was sealed tight with dough. The fire underneath was extinguished to the point that only a tiny flame remained.

“*Shaamas aasi tayaar*” (it will be ready in the evening), said Phuphee.

“*Mae baasaan*” (I think so), said Maaroofo.

The matron had arrived. She was a plump woman with wispy blonde hair.

The matron and Phuphee simply nodded at each other.

“*Yemis wich*” (see her), Phuphee said to the matron, pointing to Maaroofo.

She then whispered something in Maaroofo’s ear and then the matron disappeared into Phuphee’s room with Maa-

him. But it was more of a command than a question.

He sat down. Maaroofo laid the dastarkhan (table spread) and brought a taash near (a copper flask with a copper basin used to wash hands in before and after dinner). She served hot rice on a plate and in a bowl on the side was the plum chicken that they had made earlier that day. He started eating.

“*Mazze chus waariyah*” (it is very tasty), he said.

Phuphee nodded. She asked Maaroofo to serve him more chicken but to leave some of the plum for her as she enjoyed the taste. I saw Maaroofo separate the dish into two parts. The chicken was placed before Bashir and the plum gravy was placed separately.

“*Mae chune zahn yutaa paycheede masle wuchmut. Tche doputh poz. Amyis chu jinn tchaamut magar akh kath che ki mae chune yuth khatarnaak jinn zahn wuchmut. Mae maz chune yutaah taakat ki bae paawan yi jinn. Aem dopp agar bae Maaroofoas naeber naere, Bashiras manz atche telli. Mae kor amyis syith waade ki tche gasakhne azeki paeth zanaane nish kehn. Beyi chi akh kath inna amyis kyenh gatchi kyaziki tamis neerith ti achi yi tchai. Mae dapyoav amyis ki Bashir dapyin Maaroofoas naer yeti magar amyis khoat tyootah sharaarath ki yi gara hilyoav. Prich yimov manz kansiti*” (I have never seen a case as complex as yours Bashir. You are right, she has been possessed by a jinn but this jinn is the strongest I have ever seen. I cannot overcome its power. I spoke to the jinn and it said that if it leaves Maaroofoas body it will then enter

yours. That will be terrible. I have made a pact with the jinn. It will not enter your body as long as you don’t try to sleep with your wife. But you cannot leave her either. I did try to explore that possibility with the jinn but it refused and this suggestion angered it so much that the house shook. You can ask anyone here)

Bashir looked at Phuphee, incredulous and relieved. I don’t know if that’s even possible but there it was. A man who was relieved that the jinn who possessed his wife had agreed to leave him alone and incredulous because he could neither leave her nor sleep with her.

I saw them leave together. Phuphee gave them her blessings and a taaveez (a talisman) for Bashir to wear for extra protection, just in case the jinn got any funny ideas. We went back to the kitchen and sat down for dinner. She gave me some of the plum gravy and she had some. After we were done I asked her why she could not get rid of the jinn.

She smiled.

“*Mardas che baasaan zanaan*

gaav,goopan. Kunisaat gatchekh doad ti kunisaat woach. Yelli patte che maklaan chis karaan zabah ti chi khevaan amisund maaz. Beyi chis patte maeslas banaavaan booth” (a man thinks a woman is a cow, cattle. Sometimes they want her milk and sometimes a calf. And then when she is finished, they slaughter her and eat her flesh. And then even her skin isn’t spared, because they use that to make shoes).

“*But you lost today, you lost a case?*” I asked, perplexed.

“*Haeki asyith*” (it’s possible), she said. “*Manze manze paezi insaanas haarun ti, amisith chu roazaan insaan nadaamatas manz*” (sometimes a person should lose, it helps them to stay grounded).

“*Then why did you give him a taaveez?*”, I asked.

“*Yuth ne mashid gatches. Marden chu jaldi mashaan*” (so that he does not forget. Men forget too easily), she replied.

The story spread far and wide among men about how the great peerni had lost to a powerful jinn. They laughed, their bodies shaking in the process, as they smoked their hookahs, the heavy gurgling of which mingled with their laughter, until you could no longer tell one from the other.

Among the women in the village it became a legend and acquired a life of its own. It was and continues to be passed on from mothers to daughters, quietly, as quietly as the gentle smoke of the cigarettes that are smoked in secret, even today.

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Saba Mahjoor is a Kashmiri based in London. She has studied Medicine and Philosophy at King’s College.

POLLUTION AFFECTS BEAUTY

By Shahnaz Husain

When India shut down in the month of March in a desperate bid to “flatten the curve” of coronavirus cases, the skies over its polluted cities quickly turned an azure blue, and the air, unusually fresh.

When India went into the world’s biggest lockdown, the air pollution plummeted to levels unseen in living memory. The Metropolitan Indians rejoiced over spotless, pollution-free, blissful skies celebrating the city’s “alpine weather”. The pollution level in cities came down by 80% during the lockdown, mainly owing to halt in human activities, trains, planes, automobiles and factories which improved air quality index dramatically in the majority of Indian cities.

But now as the government is slowly easing COVID-19 lockdown norms to restore back normalcy, pollution is peaking once again. Sadly, it’s not just the lungs and heart that are vulnerable to air pollution. The skin takes some abuse as well.

The return of busy life scheduled which is full of hustle and bustle can be a pretty unhealthy environment for your skin. The daily exposure to pollution dramatically impacts skin’s health and appearance.

A major factor behind the high pollution levels at this time of year is farmers in neighbouring states burning crop stubble to clear their fields.

Doctors and environment experts believe that most Indian cities are likely to experience extreme levels of air pollution during winter months due to an increase in human activities, massive vehicles on roads, industrial activities, city’s geographic location, unfavourable weather, stubble burning and local sources of pollution.

Various air pollutants such as ultraviolet radiation, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, oxides, particulate matter, ozone and cigarette smoke affect the skin as it is the outermost barrier. Second, only to the sun, pollution is the biggest aggressor when it comes to ageing your skin.



Regular reports on increasing pollution levels, deteriorating air quality, depleting ozone layer has increased the demand for anti-pollution creams and formulations in the beauty industry.

I think the biggest concern is an increase in hyperpigmentation. But that’s not all. Particulate matter can also clog pores, compromise skin function and even lead to premature signs of ageing, dull and fatigued skin including lines and loss of firmness. Environmental aggressors such as traffic fumes, cigarette smoke and UV light can leave the complexion more susceptible to irritation, rashes, eczema and breakouts.

Pollution hurts your skin’s barrier function by breaking down collagen and the lipids contained within it. Once this barrier is compromised, lipids and collagen (responsible for delivering hydration and plumpness to the skin) start to break down and the complexion suffers. Small nanoparticles in

the form of dirt, dust or soot can enter and negatively impact your skin cells leading to an increase in dry patches, spots and an overall lack of glow.

Chemical pollutants also disrupt the normal balances of the skin and scalp, leading to problems like dryness, sensitivity, rashes, acne, irritation or allergic reactions, dandruff and related conditions. They also make the skin and hair dull, lacking vitality. All of us who live and work in urban areas need protective beauty care, whether they are housewives or working women. Of course, for working women, the job may involve travelling long distances to work. The skin is thus more exposed to the pollutants in the air.

Cleansing of the skin assumes more importance in order to get rid of the impurities and pollutants that are deposited on the skin. If you have a dry skin, use a cleansing cream or gel. For oily skins, cleansing

milk or face wash may be used. For oily skin, also use a facial scrub after cleansing.

Look out for products with ingredients like sandalwood, eucalyptus, mint, neem, tulsi, aloe vera, etc when you buy cleansers. The anti-toxic and tonic properties of such ingredients have helped in clearing the skin congestion and eruptions that result from exposure to chemical pollutants. Aloe vera, for example, is also a powerful moisturizer and an anti-oxidant. So are ingredients like apricot kernel oil, carrot seed, wheat germ oil, etc. The skin needs to be protected. If the skin is prone to eruptive conditions like acne, pimples, rash, it should be protected with specialized creams that not only protect but also reduce oiliness and deal with the problem. If you are buying market cleansers manufactured by beauty companies than avoid cleansers containing Sodium lauryl sulphate

and sodium Laureth sulphates or denatured alcohols as they dry out the skin and can damage our skin barrier over time.

After cleansing, wipe the skin with a rose-based skin tonic or rose water, to complete the cleansing process and refresh the skin. Soak cotton wool in chilled rose water and tone the skin with it, patting briskly. It also improves blood circulation to the skin surface and adds a glow. Green tea also makes a good skin toner. If there is a rash or eruptions, add a little rose water to sandalwood paste and apply on the face. Wash off with plain water after 15 minutes.

Anti-pollution cosmetics help to provide protection and reduce the damage caused by environmental effects. These are basically “cover creams” that form a barrier between the skin and pollutants.

A sandalwood protective cream is very useful to protect the skin from environmental effects. It

forms a transparent protective cover. Sandalwood soothes the skin and protects it from irritation reactions and eruptive conditions. It suits all skin types and increases the skin’s moisture retention ability too.

The hair also needs frequent washing if one regularly travels long distances for their work. Pollutants also collect on the scalp. Shampoo, hair rinses, serums and conditioners help to restore the normal balances if they contain ingredients like amla, brahmi, trifala, bhringaraj and henna. They also coat the hair and form a protective cover. Mix one teaspoon each of vinegar and honey with one egg. Massage the mixture lightly into the scalp. Leave on for half an hour and then wash the hair. Rinse well with water.

Or, give the hair hot oil therapy. Heat pure coconut oil and apply on the hair. Then dip a towel in hot water, squeeze out the water

and wrap the hot towel around the head, like a turban. Keep it on for 5 minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3 or 4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the oil better. Leave oil on overnight and wash hair the next day.

The impurities and pollutants can also affect the eyes, causing burning or redness. The eyes should be washed with plain water several times. Soak cotton wool pads in chilled rose water and use them over the eyes as eye pads. Lie down and relax for fifteen minutes. This really helps to remove fatigue and brightens the eyes.

Keep yourself hydrated by taking 10-12 glass of water in a day to replenish moisture. Opt for coconut water, Nimbu Pani, Juices and Soups to detoxify the body and help heal the skin damaged by free radicals and keep the immune barrier healthy, keeping your skin supple and soft.

Add berries, leafy greens, citrus fruits, and seafood containing Omega-3s in your daily diet. Citrus fruits, beetroot, oregano, apples, avocado, blueberries, and leafy greens and beans play a significant role in the body’s capability to heal itself, especially the skin.

Your diet plays a big role in the fight against pollutants. Avoid spicy food, pizza, burger, junk, maida and aerated drinks which can drain moisture from your body.

Most of us use sunscreen in hot humid days but you need to apply an SPF 30 daily with broad-spectrum protection every morning to protect yourself from negative impact of pollution on skin.

Precautionary measures in Ayurveda can help bring the moisture level of one’s skin up through herbal remedies. One can try getting Siro Abhyanga massage for the hair and Kaya Abhyanga to combat dry skin. In addition, the use of sandalwood in different forms on the skin can help those with oily skin.”

I personally feel that a routine of antioxidants, cleansing and barrier repair is the best defence against air pollution.

The pollutants we encounter every day may be largely inescapable, but there’s ample reason to be defensive in our skincare routine.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called Herbal Queen of India

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar Corrigendum 04

Subject:

- Turnkey Package for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 1500LPM PSA technology based Oxygen Generating Plants with Operation/Maintenance for 03 Years At Govt. C.D Hospital, Srinagar
- Turnkey Package for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 1000LPM PSA technology based Oxygen Generating Plants with Operation/Maintenance for 03 Years at District Hospital, Shopian.
- Turnkey Package for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 1000LPM PSA technology based Oxygen Generating Plants with Operation/Maintenance for 03 Years At District Hospital, Bandipora.
- Turnkey Package for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 1000LPM PSA technology based Oxygen Generating Plants with Operation/Maintenance for 03 Years At District Hospital, Sopore.
- Turnkey Package for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 1000LPM PSA technology based Oxygen Generating Plants with Operation/Maintenance for 03 Years At District Hospital, Kupwara.
- Turnkey Package for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 1000LPM PSA technology based Oxygen Generating Plants with Operation/Maintenance for 03 Years At District Hospital, Kulgam.
- Turnkey Package for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 1000LPM PSA technology based Oxygen Generating Plants with Operation/Maintenance for 03 Years At District Hospital, Ganderbal.
- Turnkey Package for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 1000LPM PSA technology based Oxygen Generating Plants with Operation/Maintenance for 03 Years at District Hospital, Pulwama.

References:

- This office e-Nit no. MHCHD/TS/2020-21/98/ e-tendering Dated: 09-09-2020.
- This office e-Nit no. MHCHD/TS/2020-21/90/ e-tendering Dated: 08-09-2020.
- This office e-Nit no. MHCHD/TS/2020-21/88/ e-tendering Dated: 08-09-2020.
- This office e-Nit no. MHCHD/TS/2020-21/89/ e-tendering Dated: 08-09-2020.
- This office e-Nit no. MHCHD/TS/2020-21/87/ e-tendering Dated: 08-09-2020.
- This office e-Nit no. MHCHD/TS/2020-21/85/ e-tendering Dated: 08-09-2020.
- This office e-Nit no. MHCHD/TS/2020-21/86/ e-tendering Dated: 08-09-2020.
- This office e-Nit no. MHCHD/TS/2020-21/84/ e-tendering Dated: 08-09-2020.

The intending Bidders shall kindly note the following Changes in the qualification Criteria

A. Qualification Criteria

- The bidder shall submit a documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 40% of the estimated Cost in single contract or 30% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 25 % of the estimated cost in three contracts each in the last Seven years within the country in any Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous Institutions along with satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent thereof.
- Audited Account Statements of the Firm, duly certified by a Registered Chartered Accountant, showing the Turnover of the Bidder for last three years, which shall not be less than 100% of the estimated cost per annum.

INSTEAD OF

- The bidder shall submit a documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 50% of the estimated Cost in single contract or 40 % of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 30 % of the estimated cost in three contracts each in the last Five years within the country in any Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous Institutions along with satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent thereof.
- Audited Account Statements of the Firm, duly certified by a Registered Chartered Accountant, showing the Turnover of the Bidder for last three years, which shall not be less than 150 % of the estimated cost per annum.

- The bidder must have supplied, Installed, Tested and Commissioned at least one 500LPM capacity Oxygen concentrator Plant in the last Five years within the country in any Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous Institutions along with satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent thereof.
- A. The Bidder shall submit the design Calculations for the capacity of the Plant as asked in the BOQ.
- B. Accordingly the critical dates are extended as follows:-

S.no	Description	Date & Time
1	Bid submission End Date	15.10.2020 (11:00 hrs)
1	Bid Opening Date	15.10.2020 (15:00 hrs)

The changes are applicable everywhere in the tender document
All the other terms and conditions will remain the same.

DIPK-7157/20

No. MHCHD/TS/4421-38
Date- 09.10.2020

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
MHCH Division Srinagar.

The Pitfalls Of Work-From-Home, According To Satya Nadella

Isabelle Lee, Bloomberg

Microsoft Corp. has been a major beneficiary of the work-from-home boom spurred by the Covid-19 pandemic. But Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella is realizing the pitfalls of being away from the office for so long.

Online meetings can make employees tired and make it difficult to transition from a work mindset to private life, the executive said at The Wall Street Journal CEO Council on Tuesday. "When you are working from home, it sometimes feels like you are sleeping at work," he added.

Video meetings can be particularly enervating, the CEO noted, citing brain studies on the subject. "Thirty minutes into your first video meeting in the morning, because of the concentration one needs to



have in video, you are fatigued."

He also said remote work misses some of the benefits of the office. "Video meetings are more transactional," he said. "Work happens before meetings, after meetings."

Microsoft has a new product that attempts to address this. Together Mode places participants on video calls in a virtual space, such as an

auditorium, meeting room or coffee bar to try to recreate an office atmosphere.

Microsoft shares have surged more than 30% this year as corporate customers sign up for more of the company's cloud services and internet-based software subscriptions to help their sprawling workforces work from home.

Nadella said the pandemic is teaching him about the value of transitions between work and personal activities. "I am learning more about transitions," he said. "So how do you transition? Do you have dinner with the family?" He said he has paid attention more to his schedule.

He also sympathized with employees joining companies while working remotely. "You need to on-board them, on-board them successfully," he said. "Learning, re-skilling, upskilling is going to become a huge issue."

از نیابت اچھدیل با اجلاس حکیم جاوید احمد نائب تحصیلدار اچھدیل

مضمون درخواست منجانب: بسما اقبال وعصمت جان وفاضل اقبال پسران محمد اقبال نجار ساکنان کواریگام بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت ایس آر 294

اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی ہر خاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ الصدر میں درخواست سالکان یہ عنوان مال دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقے سے بشمول دیگر کاغذات یا نیور کیاؤ طلب کیا گیا۔ جس سے عیاں ہوا کہ سالکان موضع کواریگام میں سکونت پر یہ ہے سالکا کتبہ بزیل نقوس پر مشتمل ہے:-

نام صاحب کتبہ معدولہ بیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
محمد اقبال پسران نجار	44 سال	مزدوری	4000
شہزادہ وزیر محمد اقبال	42 سال	گھریلو کام	
بسما اقبال دختر ---	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	
عصمت جان دختر ---	18 سال	---	
فاضل اقبال پسر ---	16 سال	---	

اس کے علاوہ مزید کوئی افراد کتبہ میں نہیں ہے سالک کے کتبہ کی کل سالانہ آمدنی زرعی وغیرہ زرعی مبلغ= 102000 ہے لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو وہ دفتر میں اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر پیش کریں۔ معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر۔ نائب تحصیلدار اچھدیل

MJA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.PUB/2020/10-ARTO/ANG

Date:-10/10/020



NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Shabir Ahmad Mir S/O Mohd Khalil Mir R/O KP Road Laizbal

Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd. No.JK03G-4189(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Bashir Ahmad Dar S/O Gh Rasool Dar R/O Mohalla Khaja Mir Ali Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) re-questing for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Pahalgam. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

NO.101/1043/ANG

Date:-10/10/020



NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Gh Hassan Soffal S/O Ab Hal-eem R/O Sawran Chittergull An-

antnag (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Tate Acc Bearing Regd. No.JK03J-3050(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Irshad Ahmad Bhat S/O Gh Mohammd Bhat R/O Bona Teng Sagam Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with N/A.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

Fearing Biden tax hikes, wealthy Americans rush to change estate plans

Agencies

Washington: Wealthy Americans are scrambling to change their estate plans before year-end, worried that Democrat Joe Biden will win the U.S. presidential election and raise taxes, say financial advisers to the moneyed set.

The biggest concern is that the White House and Congress could get swept up in a “Blue Wave” of Democratic wins that give Biden the power to propose and pass a sweeping set of tax reforms.



Wealthy people are especially nervous that an exemption allowing individuals to leave up to \$11.58 million to heirs, free of estate or gift taxes, could be cut before it expires in 2025.

Democrats want to raise estate taxes to the “historical norm,” according to the party’s platform. That could mean slashing the exemption to \$5.49 million, the figure in place before

Republican President Donald Trump signed a sweeping tax bill that included benefits for corporations and wealthy Americans in 2017, advisers said.

It is unclear how the election will go or what, if any, tax reform will pass. Tax code changes can also be complex and time consuming. But as Biden has climbed in the polls, rich people are rushing to set up trusts and revise existing ones before year-end to avoid 2021 tax consequences, advisers said.

“The \$11.58 million question is, ‘What is going to happen to the gift and estate tax exclusion?’” said Toni Ann Kruse, a New York estates lawyer who counsels ultra-high net worth people. “We don’t know who will win the election or control the House or Senate - and all of those factors will play into what could happen.”

Biden would also “return the estate tax to 2009 levels” to fund paid family and medical leave, according to his website.

His plan also includes raising taxes on long-term capital gains, which is the profit earned by selling assets whose values have appreciated. Taxpayers with income above \$1 million would pay a 39.6% income tax on the profit, instead of the current tiered approach that maxes out at 20% for individuals with \$441,450 or more income.

Modern babies born without wisdom teeth as humans continue to evolve

Scientists in Australia have discovered that people are undergoing a micro-evolution in which evolutionary changes can be observed over a short period of time.

Dr Teghan Lucas, of Flinders University in Adelaide, said faces are becoming a lot shorter, with smaller jaws meaning there is less room for teeth.

“This is happening in time as we have learnt to use fire and process foods more. A lot of people are just being born without wisdom teeth,” she said.

The research also found that some people are being born with additional bones in their arms and legs as well as shorter faces, or with abnormal connections of two or more bones in their feet.

Liegenger Weisheitszahn im Unterkiefer vor dunklem Hintergrund - 3D Illustration

Wisdom teeth are at the very back of your mouth and come in when the average person is 17 years old (Credits: Getty Images/iStockphoto)

In addition, the investigation by Dr Lucas, along with University of Adelaide professors Maciej Henneberg and Jaliya Kumaratilake, showed

a ‘significant increase’ in the prevalence of the median artery since the late 19th century.

The artery forms while a baby is in the womb and is the main vessel that supplies blood to the forearm and hand, but it disappears during gestation and



is replaced by the radial and ulnar arteries.

“But increasing numbers of cases retain it, so a person can have all three arteries,” the authors wrote.

“This evolutionary trend will continue in those born 80 years from today, with the median artery becoming common in the human forearm.”

Ms Lucas said the study demonstrates that humans are evolving at a faster rate than at any point in the past 250 years.

The investigation’s authors suggested changes in natural selection could be the major reason for micro-evolution.



‘29 Million Girls, Women Victims Of Modern Slavery’

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A new report estimates that 29 million women and girls are victims of modern slavery, exploited by practices including forced labour, forced marriage, debt-bondage and domestic servitude.

Grace Forrest, co-founder of the Walk Free anti-slavery organisation, said on Friday that means one in every 130 women and girls is living in modern slavery today, more than the population of Australia.

The reality is that there are more people living in slavery today than any other time in human history, she told a UN news conference.

Walk Free defines modern slavery as the systematic removal of a person’s freedom, where one person is exploited by another for personal or financial gain, she said.

Forrest said the global estimate of one in 130 women and girls living in modern slavery was made based on work by Walk Free, the International

Labour Organisation and the International Organisation for Migration, both UN agencies.

What this report has shown is that gender stacks the odds against girls from conception throughout their lives,” she said.

According to the report, titled Stacked Odds, women account for 99 per cent of all victims of forced sexual exploitation, 84 per cent of all victims of forced marriage, and 58 per cent of all victims of forced labour.

Forrest said the face of modern slavery has radically changed. We’re seeing normalised exploitation in our economy in transnational supply chains and also in migration pathways, she said.

The world’s most vulnerable people have been pushed even further into this practice of modern slavery because of COVID-19.

She said the estimate of women and girls in modern slavery is conservative because it doesn’t account for what’s happened during the pandemic,

which has seen sharp increases of forced and child marriage and exploited work conditions around the world.”

Forrest said Walk Free and the UN’s Every Woman Every Child program are launching a global campaign to demand action to eliminate modern slavery.

The campaign urges an end to child and forced marriage, which 136 countries have yet to criminalise.

It urges the elimination of legalised systems of exploitation such as kefala, which legally binds a migrant worker’s immigration status to an employer or sponsor for their contract period.

The campaign also urges transparency and accountability for multinationals.

We know that women and girls are experiencing unprecedented levels of exploitation and forced labour in supply chains of the goods we buy and use every day clothing, coffee, technology,” Forest said

Time has come to accept that talks won’t make China change its aggressive stance: US

Press Trust Of India

Washington: China has attempted to “seize” control of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India by force as part of its territorial aggression, the US’ national security adviser has said, underlining that time has come to accept that dialogue and agreements will not persuade Beijing to change.

India and China are locked in a five-month-long tense border standoff in eastern Ladakh that has significantly strained their relations. Both sides have held a series of high-level diplomatic and military talks to resolve the border row. However, no breakthrough has been achieved to end the standoff.

“CCP’s (Chinese Communist Party) territorial aggression is also apparent on its Indian border where China has attempted to seize control of the Line of Actual Control by force,” US National Security Advisor Robert O’Brien said in a remark on China early this week in Utah.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC). China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet, while India contests it.

The Chinese territorial aggression is also true in the Taiwan Strait where the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy and Air Force continue to conduct threatening military drills, O’Brien said.

“Beijing’s signature international development programme, One Belt One Road (OBOR), involves impoverished companies

taking on opaque and unsustainable Chinese loans to pay Chinese firms employing Chinese labourers to build their infrastructure,” he said.

Many of these projects were unnecessary, shoddily built and were “white elephants”, the national security adviser said.

“And now these countries’ dependence on the Chinese debt leaves their sovereignty eroded and with no choice but to hue to the party’s line on UN votes or any other issue that the Chinese Communist Party considers a red line,” he said.

O’Brien also noted that China’s other international aid efforts include selling surveillance systems and similar tools of repression to “pariah regimes” around the world, including Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro.

Pak court asks Sharif to appear by Nov 24 to avoid being declared proclaimed offender

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad : A Pakistani court has ordered Nawaz Sharif to appear before it by November 24 to avoid being declared a proclaimed offender after the former premier allegedly refused to receive non-bailable arrest warrants at his residence in London.

The Registrar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday issued a written order about the proceedings on the appeal by Sharif in Al-Azizia and Avenfield graft cases, the Dawn News reported.

On October 7, the court recorded the statements of Dildar Ali Abro, the first secretary (consular affairs), and Rao Abdul Hannan, consular attach, Pakistan High Commission, London, as well as Mohammad Mubashir Khan, director for Europe-I, at the Foreign Ministry.

They told the court that efforts were made in compliance with the court orders to effect service of non-bailable warrants of arrest on Sharif to ensure his attendance in the court. Despite efforts, that service of warrant, issued by the Islamabad High Court on September 15, could not be effected, they said.

Irked by the attitude of Sharif’s representatives at his

residence in London, the high court on October 7 ordered that the advertisements be issued in newspapers to summon him.

The court directed the federal government to bear the cost of the advertisements in the Dawn and Jang newspapers

The government later told the court that Rs 60,000 were paid for advertisement in the nominated papers.

The court has asked Sharif to appear before it by November 24 otherwise he would be designated as a proclaimed offender. The proclamation may result in the confiscation of his



properties as well as passport.

Sharif has been living in London since November last year after he was allowed by the courts and the government to go there for a period of eight weeks for medical treatment. But he did not come back, while his lawyers told the court that he was still recovering.

After India, Pakistan bans TikTok citing ‘immoral’, ‘indecent’ content

Agencies

Islamabad: On Friday Pakistan joined the list of countries like India and the US -- whose differences with China are out in the open -- in banning the Chinese app TikTok.

The ban on the Chinese social media app on Friday citing “immoral content”, left many wondering, if Islamabad’s dream of becoming an

lease on Friday, several complaints were made “against immoral/indecent content” that was shared on the app, Dawn reported.

The PTA said it had earlier issued a “final notice” to TikTok and gave the application “considerable time to respond and comply with” instructions for the development of an effective mechanism for proactive moderation of “unlawful online content”.

However, the company “failed to fully comply” with the PTA’s instructions, after which the authority decided to ban it in the country.

Pakistani journalist Najam Sethi says the PTA has blocked TikTok, not because of immoral content but because TikTokers are poking fun at the country’s leadership. “Now Pakistan is in the same anti-China-TikTok league as the US and India. Welcome to Naya (new) Pakistan,” quipped Sethi.

Condemning Pakistan’s move, a Chinese national living in Pakistan tweeted, “Isn’t there enough immoral and indecent content in social media like Twitter and Facebook?” “Culturally I don’t think it’s wise for Pakistan to ban #TikTok. Strongly hope Pakistan to reconsider the practical situation so that the people-to-people connectivity be further and deeper (sic) enhanced,” the user said in another tweet.



“all-weather ally” with Beijing will ever become a reality. The Pakistan government has often been accused of turning a blind eye towards human rights violations against Muslims in the Xinjiang region of China in hope of having an “all-weather ally”.

On Friday, Pakistan became the latest country to impose a ban on the Chinese short video-making app, after receiving a “number of complaints from different segments of the society”, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said in a press statement.

According to the press re-

NEWS MAKERS

Democrats gain advantage in early voting

Ahead of the November 3 presidential election, the Democratic Party has gained an advantage against the Republicans in early voting due to a surge in absentee ballots cast in states across the US, it was reported.

According to official data released on Friday, over 6 million Americans have already cast their ballots in 27 states, reports The Hill news website.

Michael McDonald, a political scientist at the University of Florida who analyzes early voting, said registered Democrats have returned 1.4 million ballots, more than twice the 653,000 ballots registered. Republicans have returned so far.

About two-thirds of voters who have already voted — 3.7 million Americans — are either unaffiliated with either party or



live in states that do not register voters by party.

Demographic modelling by prominent Democratic firm, TargetSmart, has estimated that almost 3 million of all votes cast have come from Democratic voters, compared to about 2.1 million from Republicans.

Regardless of party affiliation, more people are voting by mail this year than in years

past due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

At this point in the 2016 presidential contest, only around 750,000 people had voted.

In Wisconsin, South Dakota and Virginia, early votes account for more than one-fifth of the total number of votes cast in the entire 2016 election, McDonald’s data revealed.

Birds trying hard to 'keep pace' with climate change

Global warming has far-reaching consequences on the planet. Higher temperatures are changing weather patterns in such a way that living beings face new challenges for survival.

Surviving on a warming planet can be a matter of timing—but simply shifting lifecycle stages to match the tempo of climate change has hidden dangers for some animals, according to new research from the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour and Cornell University.

The study, published in PNAS, has uncovered drastic consequences for birds that are breeding earlier in lockstep with earlier starts of spring: chicks hatching earlier face increased risk of poor weather conditions, food shortages and mortality.

The researchers, who examined decades of data on



weather, food availability and breeding in Tree Swallows, say that the timing of when to breed and when food is available is becoming decoupled for some animals—highlighting the complexity behind how organisms respond to climate change.

The team studied a population of Tree Swallows in Ithaca, New York, that have been the focus of a remarkable 30-year experiment—studies of this length are rare

in the field of ornithology. This allowed them to analyse a series of long-term data of Tree Swallow reproduction (over 30 years) daily insect abundance (over 25 years) and weather (over 100 years).

“Long-term studies like these are essential to understand how and why species are affected by climate change. They can also provide valuable insights into how organisms function, interact and

evolve in complex ecological networks,” says Maren Vitousek, a professor at Cornell University, which operates the Tree Swallow’s long-term research facility in Ithaca.

“Simply moving dates earlier to track climate change isn’t necessarily risk free. Riskier conditions earlier in the year can expose animals to unintended consequences when responding to bouts of unusually warm spring weather,” says Ryan Shipley, post-doctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior and first author on the paper.

In recent years, studies have raised concerns about whether or not species can adapt, or “keep pace” with climate change. Particular emphasis has been placed on phenology—the timing of life cycle events such as breeding and migration—and the importance of adjusting this to track rising temperatures and earlier arrivals of spring.

23 States, 8 UTs Have Abolished Interview For Govt Jobs: Jitendra

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Saturday that interview for recruitment in government jobs has been abolished in 23 states and eight Union Territories so far, according to a Personnel Ministry statement.

This, he said, is a follow-up to the abolition of interview for Group-B (non-gazetted) and Group-C posts in the central government ever since 2016.

It was in 2015, while speaking from the ramparts of Red Fort here on the occasion of Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had suggested abolition of interview and making the job selection totally on the basis of written test because whenever an interview call was received by a candidate, his entire family would get disturbed with apprehension and anxiety, the minister recalled.

that after quite a bit of persuasion and repeated reminders to certain state governments, today the practice of conducting interview stands discontinued in all the eight Union Territories of India including Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and 23 out of 28 states of the country, the statement said.

Singh said, in the past there had been complaints, grievances and allegations about marks in interview being manipulated to help certain favoured candidates.

The abolition of interview and considering only the written test marks as merit for selection, he said, offers an equal level-playing field to all the candidates.

In addition to bringing in transparency and objectivity in the recruitment process, Singh said, several states have also reported heavy savings on the



On a quick follow-up to the prime minister's advice, he said, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) undertook an expeditious exercise and within three months completed the entire process to announce abolition of interview for recruitment in central government with effect from January 1, 2016.

While some states like Maharashtra and Gujarat were quick to implement this rule, there were other states which were quite reluctant to abolish the conduct of interview for jobs, said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

He expressed satisfaction

state exchequer because quite a substantial expenditure was being incurred in conducting interview of candidates whose number often ran in thousands and the interview process continued for several days together.

Pertinent to mention that earlier there had often been complaints of the written test merit being compromised by lowering the interview marks of the candidate in order to help certain candidates for dubious considerations, the statement said.

There were also allegations of job for money or heavy amount being paid to secure jobs by manipulating the interview marks, it said. PTI



DAILY SLOG: A Kashmir woman carrying an aluminium water tumbler on her head in a countryside area on Saturday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Former R&AW Chief Cautions About China's Huawei Selling 5G Tech To India

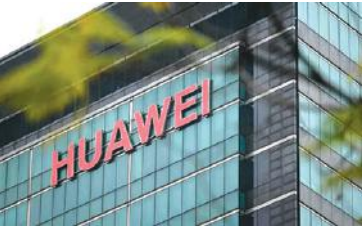
NEW DELHI: Former R&AW chief Vikram Sood has said that there are several powerful reasons - strategic, technological, geopolitical and legal - to suggest that it would be very risky to permit Chinese telecom major Huawei, with its state-structured backing, to launch operations in India's critical infrastructure.

His assessment comes at a time when the government is yet to take a final decision on allocating radio waves despite telecom operators applying for spectrum to start 5G trials.

In his just-released book "The Ultimate Goal: A Former R&AW Chief Deconstructs How Nations Construct Narratives", Mr Sood writes that Huawei may "want to masquerade as an independent entity, but anyone in the trade would know that this is simply not the case. The Chinese government financed Huawei and had few moral compunctions in helping intellectual property theft in the US."

He also explains how post-Covid, the narrative about China being a responsible state is getting terribly skewed and this change in perception is likely to hurt Chinese corporate interests - like its attempts to sell Huawei's 5G mobile technology.

Assuming that "theft of secrets is a part of legitimate intelligence activity, it is Chi-



na's attitude towards India and its unremittingly hostile geo-political manoeuvres to hurt the nation's interests that would make the latter wary of Huawei", says the career intelligence officer, who retired in March 2003 after 31 years of service.

Unless China changes its narrative about India, and shows evidence of this, it would be prudent for the nation to stay away from Huawei or similar Chinese offers, he advises.

In the book, published by HarperCollins India, he explains the "narrative" and how a country's ability to construct, sustain and control narratives, at home and abroad, enhances its strength and position.

Mr Sood writes that when the pandemic became known, Chinese leaders went through the "usual cycle of ruthless suppression of facts at home, followed by denials and obfuscation abroad."

"For some time, China played the victim card and tried to be the saviour as well. By the middle of 2020, its attempt to change the negative narrative about itself through a shrill disinformation campaign, rebounded. Ultimately it appeared to be a brittle attempt at recreating its image as a responsible power," he says.

The former R&AW chief, who is currently adviser at the New Delhi-based independent public policy think tank Observer Research Foundation, also says that fault lines between the US and China have only deepened because of the coronavirus crisis.

"Historically, China and the US have tried to work together to manage various global crises. But not this time. Donald Trump's 'America First' approach has antagonised even close allies by diverting medical supplies, outbidding original buyers or by forcing American companies to stop exporting hospital-grade N95 masks," he said.

"Washington has ceded space to Beijing, making many nations, even some in the West, dependent on Chinese supplies in the absence of any real alternative. This has allowed China to expand its influence as it sells its narrative in exchange for helping those in distress," he writes.

TRP Manipulation: Republic TV's CFO Skips Mumbai Police Summons, Cites SC Hearing

Despite summons, Republic TV's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) did not appear before the Mumbai police on Saturday to record his statement in connection with the TRP manipulation racket, saying the channel has approached the Supreme Court in the case, a senior official said.

Shiva Subramaniam Sundaram, the channel's CFO, against whom summons had been issued on Friday, also requested the police not to record his statement saying the top court's hearing is scheduled within a week, the official said.

However, Sam Balsara, chairman and managing director of Madison World and Madison Communications appeared before the crime branch on Saturday to record his statement, he added.

The Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) of the Mumbai crime branch had issued summons



against Sundaram and he had been asked to join the investigation at 11 am on Saturday.

"However, he did not appear before the probe team. He informed the police that the channel has approached the Supreme Court and that there will be a hearing on the matter within a week. Citing this, he requested the police not to record his statement," the official said.

The summons to Sundaram said there are reasonable grounds to believe that he is "acquainted with certain facts and circumstances of the matter and the same are required to be ascertained".

Haryana Man Fakes Death For Insurance, Charred Body In Car Puzzles Cops

CHANDIGARH: A Haryana businessman allegedly faked his own death so that his family could claim insurance, police said three days after they recovered a charred body from his car and were told by the family that he had been killed for 11 lakh.

Police said they have found the businessman, Ram Mehar (35), alive in Chhattisgarh and are now investigating to identify the person whose body was found in the burning car in Hansi Tuesday night.

Earlier, police had registered a case on the complaint from Ram Mehar's family.

Based on that complaint and the recovery of the badly charred body from the vehicle, the police had said some unidentified assailants

allegedly burnt the businessman to death after looting 11 lakh cash from him in Haryana's Hisar district.

The incident had triggered a strong reaction from opposition parties and the Congress had said there was a "jungle raj" in the BJP-ruled Haryana.

Hansi Superintendent of Police Lokender Singh told PTI Friday, "During the course of investigations, we got some vital clues on the basis of which we traced Ram Mehar to Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh on Friday. We are bringing him here".

"He fabricated his death detail and the loot incident," he said.

Asked if the person whose body was found from inside the burning car had been identified, Mr Singh said, "We are making further investigations.

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