

News Digest

JKBOSE To Hold 10th, 12th Class Exams In Nov

Srinagar: Government has decided to hold the forthcoming class 10th and class 12th examinations in the first week of November. The decision was taken in view of the panchayat and urban local body elections which are likely to be held in the last week of November. Quoting sources, a local news agency KNS ● P-02

Mehbooba Offers Prayers At Mufti's Grave

Srinagar: Two days after she was released from detention, former Chief Minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti visited the grave of her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday. It was the first time that she visited the grave of her father in more than a year since she was detained after the abrogation of ● P-02

CRPF Man Shoots Self Dead In Srinagar

Srinagar: A paramilitary CRPF man ended his life by shooting himself dead with his service rifle in Mehjoor Nagar area of Srinagar on Thursday. A police officer said that a CRPF trooper identified as P. G Naidu from Andhra Pradesh, posted with 25 CRPF battalion Mehjoor Nagar, committed suicide by shooting self with his ● P-02

Soldier Found Dead In Bandipora

Srinagar: An Army soldier was on Thursday found dead inside the sentry post of his camp in Gurez area of Bandipora district in Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Havildar K S Dayander (40) was found hanging in the sentry post at Kanzalwan in Gurez area near the Line of Control, they said. The soldier is believed to have committed suicide, a police ● P-02

Four Gamblers Held In Ganderbal

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir. Acting on an input, a police team carried out a raid in Repora village of the district and apprehended four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He said an amount of Rs 13,810 was recovered from the ● P-02

Drug Peddler Slapped With PSA

Srinagar: An alleged notorious drug peddler from Shalimar here was booked under the under Public Safety Act (PSA), police said Thursday. 35-year-old Shakeel Ahmad Bhat of Matti Mohalla Shalimar was booked under PSA after a huge quantity of contraband substance was recovered from his possession and a case FIR No ● P-02

Ladakh Records 66 New Covid-19 Cases

Leh: The Union Territory of Ladakh reported 66 new coronavirus cases, taking the infection tally to 5,304, according to an official bulletin on Thursday. Fifty-six patients recovered from the disease in a span of 24 hours -- 36 patients in Leh and 20 in Kargil -- the bulletin said. According to the bulletin released by the directorate of ● P-02

Unionist Parties Form 'Peoples Alliance'

J&K's Major Political Parties Formalise Alliance To Fight For Restoration Of Pre-Aug 5, 2019 Status

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Major mainstream political parties here on Thursday formalised an alliance to fight for restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state as it existed before August 5 last year and also to initiate a dialogue between all stakeholders in the issue.

The meeting was held at the residence of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and attended by PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Lone, Peoples Movement leader Javid Mir and CPIM leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami.

Briefing reporters after the nearly two-hour meeting, Abdullah said the leaders decided to formalise the alliance, which has been named 'Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration'.

The National Conference presi-



KO Photo/Id Bhat

dent said the alliance will strive for restoration of the constitutional position in respect of Jammu and Kashmir as it existed before

August 5 last year.

"We shall struggle for restoration of what was snatched from Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh. Ours

is a constitutional battle ... we would strive for restoration of the constitution (with regard to Jammu and Kashmir) as it existed on

SC Closes Case Challenging Mehbooba's Detention

The Supreme Court Thursday closed the case filed by Iltija Mufti against the detention of her mother and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti after taking note of her release two days ago. Okay, Good," a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said when the ● P-02

August 5, 2019," he said.

Abdullah said the alliance also seeks a dialogue between all stakeholders for resolution of the issue pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdullah also said that steps should also be taken for resolution of Kashmir issue.

"We feel the political ►►PAGE 02

WE SHALL STRUGGLE FOR RESTORATION OF WHAT WAS SNATCHED FROM JAMMU
Kashmir and Ladakh. Ours is a constitutional battle ... we would strive for restoration of the constitution (with regard to Jammu and Kashmir) as it existed on August 5, 2019,"

No Message To Pak For Talks, Says India

NEW DELHI: India has not sent any message to Pakistan for talks as claimed by its Prime Minister Imran Khan's special advisor on national security, the external affairs ministry said on Thursday, and asserted that Islamabad's support to militants and use of abusive language against New Delhi are not conducive to normal neighbourly relations.

MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava also dubbed the "misleading and fictitious" claim by Khan's advisor Moeed Yusuf as an effort by Pakistan to divert attention from domestic failures of the government and mislead its people by pulling India into headlines on a daily basis.

In an interview to an Indian news website, Yusuf had claimed that India had sent messages to Islamabad expressing a desire for conversation. He also talked about Kashmir among other issues during the interview. ● P-02

Unprecedented Troop Build-Up Along LAC: India

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India and China are engaged in talks to resolve the border standoff and what is going on is "something confidential" between the two sides, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday.

Asked specifically about the outcome of the ongoing talks during an online conclave, the external affairs minister said the "discussions are going on and it is a work in progress."

At the same time, he said there has been a troop build-up along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and in many ways it has no precedence in the recent past. India and China are locked in a military standoff in eastern Ladakh for over five months.

"Discussions are on; what is go-

China Has No Locus Standi: MEA

India on Thursday asserted that the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, are, and would" remain an integral part of the country, insisting that China has no locus standi to comment on its internal matters. The comments by External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava came in response to China's contention that it does not recognise the union territory of Ladakh as well ● P-02

ing on is something confidential between us and the Chinese," he said when the moderator at the Bloomberg India Economic Forum pressed the minister to give a clear status of the border situation.

"There is not very much that I am in a position to say in public. I certainly do not want to prejudge it," he added.

Asked about the situation in Tibet as well as developments

along the LAC, Jaishankar said, "I do not think we should get into other issues which frankly has nothing to do with the situation currently in Ladakh."

He said relations between India and China improved following signing of a series of agreements since 1993 on maintaining peace and tranquillity along the border.

"For the last 30 years, we have built a relationship ►►PAGE 02

J&K Govt Reshuffles Administration

Samoon Shifted From School Education To Skill Development Department

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday reshuffled the administration by shifting nine bureaucrats in which Asgar Hassan Samoon (IAS) has been removed as Principal Secretary to the Government, School Education Department and posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Skill Development Department.

In an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the 1993-batch IAS officer Asgar Hassan Samoon, Principal Secretary to the Government, School

Govt Orders New Transfer Policy For Employees

The government on Thursday ordered a new transfer policy for the government employees working in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and said that transfer shall be ordered in April ● P-02

Education Department, holding additional charge of ►►PAGE 02

Kashmiri Woman 'Beaten', Called 'Terrorist' In New Delhi

Police Files Case, Delhi Commission For Women Seeks ATR

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A woman in southeast Delhi has alleged that she was targeted by her landlady for being a "Kashmiri" was called a "terrorist", and in her absence had her furniture removed, police said on Thursday after registering a case following her complaint.

In her complaint, the woman, who hails from Srinagar, has alleged that her landlady had entered the house along with a man and called her "ter-



Pic courtesy, social media

rorist" as she is from Kashmir.

The Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) has issued a notice to the police in this connection and has sought an action taken report, copy of the FIR and whether any arrests have been made in the case.

The incident took place on Wednesday.

When the victim returned home, she found her house lock broken and valuables stolen. Her landlady was also at the spot. Soon a heated argument broke out ►►PAGE 02

FLIPKART FILLIP Govt Signs Pact With E-Commerce Giant To Promote Kashmir Crafts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to boost online sales of Kashmiri handicraft and handloom products, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with one of the leading online retailer Flipkart to help artisans reach customers across the globe.

The MoU was signed by Hashmat Ali, Managing Director, J&K Handloom and Handicrafts Corporation and Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group in presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha, an official spokesperson said. He said that the special webportal "Samarth" of e-commerce giant Flipkart will now cater to hitherto uncovered products of Handicrafts and Handloom of J&K.

While speaking on the occasion, Sinha, he said appreciated the art of artisans and weavers of J&K and emphasized that the initiative by the government is more beneficial to the Flipkart than to the artists of J&K given the kind of unmatched, unique, world-class and nowhere-else to be seen artistry and dexterity of the artisans of J&K.

"Partnership with the ►►PAGE 02

J&K Reports 7 More Covid-19 Deaths, Toll 1361

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least seven more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1361.

In Valley, five more people lost lives to the deadly infection, while two others succumbed to the virus in Jammu division, officials said. Among the victims in Valley, they said included an 85-year-old man from Sopore, a 70-year-old man from Rajouri Kadal

32 Travelers Among 648 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 648 fresh cases of coronavirus, including thirty-two travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory to 86057. While Kashmir valley reported 380 new cases of Covid-19, ● P-02

Srinagar, a 73-year-old man from Lal Bazar, a 70-year-old man ►►PAGE 02

CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR



کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

Ref. No. CSK/ELECTION-40/2020/5939
Dated: 13-10-2020

Notice

All the founder & life members of the Cancer Society of Kashmir are informed that the election for the following honorary Office-Bearers of the Cancer Society of Kashmir are scheduled to be held on 02-NOV-2020 at the office of the society 4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar: -

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|------|
| 1. | Chairman | One. |
| 2. | Vice-Chairmen | Two. |
| 3. | General Secretary | One. |
| 4. | Joint-Secretary | One. |
| 5. | Treasurer | One. |

The Dates For Process Of Elections Have Been Fixed As Under: -

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Filling of Nominations Papers | -: 14-10-2020 TO 20-10-2020 |
| 2. | Scrutiny of Nominations Papers | -: 22-10-2020. |
| 3. | Last date for withdrawal of nominations | -: 27-10-2020. |
| 4. | Issue of Notification for final list of contestants | -: 28-10-2020. |
| 5. | Date of Voting (From 9.30 AM to 4.30 PM) | -: 02-11-2020. |
| 6. | Counting of votes and declaration of results | -: 02-11-2020. |

--SD--

Justice (Retd.) M.Y. Kawoosa,
Election Authority

4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora
Srinagar 190 015 Tele Fax 0194-2441899/2430899

J&K Seeks Rs 367 Cr Funds From WB For Healthcare Institutions

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has submitted a comprehensive proposal seeking over Rs 367 crore funding from the World Bank for strengthening of healthcare institutions including dedicated COVID hospitals and ICUs and procurement of critical care ambulances in the union territory, senior health officials said. The proposal has been prepared by the health and medical education department with the objective of providing state-of-the-art medical services and facilities to people living in urban areas as well as the remotest parts of the union territory, they said. "A comprehensive proposal was formulated amounting to Rs 367.48 crore (approximately US\$ 50 million) and submitted for funding from World Bank," Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education, J&K, Atal Dulloo said. Jammu and Kashmir does not have a major or middle-level chain of hospitals on the lines of those operating in the rest of the country, except Batra hospital in the private sector. A latest report on manpower audit in the health department reveals that nearly 99 percent of the UT's healthcare needs are met by public health institutes, underlying the importance of the government healthcare system. "In 2018-19 at least 2.39 crore OPD visits of patients were recorded in J&K and out of them 99.2 percent (2.22 crore patients) were seen only in government hospitals. The private sector accounted for a minuscule 0.8 percent of all OPD visits," as per the report. Besides, 96.6 percent (8.36 lakh) patients who needed admission availed public health facilities while 91.3 percent of all deliveries took place in government hospitals, the report said. Dulloo said the proposal includes strengthening of dedicated COVID hospitals, intensive care units, operation theatres and laboratory services at district hospitals, procurement of critical care ambulances, power backup in district hospitals and provision of manifold and gas pipelines system in community health centres (CHCs) and sub-division hospitals (SDHs) in Jammu and Kashmir divisions. The health department officials have claimed this is for the first time that Jammu and Kashmir is undergoing a massive and speedy upgradation and expansion of healthcare institutes including setting up of AIIMS, several medical colleges, medical health insurance for all the citizens, bringing investment into the private health care sector, new health care policy and modernisation of rural hospital infrastructure. Giving details of the proposal, Dulloo said to strengthen dedicated COVID hospitals, machinery and equipment like high flow oxygen devices, modular monitors, nebulizers, oxygen concentrators, infusion pumps, color doppler machines, four 128 slice CT scan machines for government medical college (GMC) Rajouri, GMC Kathua, SDH Sopore and district hospital (DH) Reasi has been proposed with the financial implication of Rs 61.16 crore. He maintained that his department is steadfast in strengthening its critical care units to cater to the vast population. "For strengthening of intensive care units in all the district hospitals including associated hospitals of new GMCs, equipment like portable ECG machines, cardiac monitors, ABC analyzers, X-ray machines, hemo dialysis machines (paediatrics) has been proposed with total financial implication of Rs 17.18 crore", Dulloo said. To strengthen operation theatres in all district hospitals including five associated hospitals of new GMCs, the machinery and equipment like operation table hydraulic (major and minor), OT lights, autoclaves, sterilizers, diathermy machines, ultrasonic cutting and coagulation devices, anaesthesia workstations, surgery instrument sets have been proposed with the financial implication of Rs 110.11 Crore. Dulloo said strengthening of laboratory services in all the district hospitals and five associated hospitals of new GMCs have been proposed with the installation of machinery and equipment like fully automated biochemistry auto-analyzer, water purification system, bio-safety cabinets, histopathology equipments, blood component separators, deep freezers, haematology analyzer with 22 parameters, etc. with financial implication of Rs 81.44 crore. Elaborating on the expansion of healthcare institutes in the rural belts, he said the district hospitals do not have power back up systems. "The power backup system in districts hospitals and some sub-district hospitals has been proposed with installation of power back up high capacity electronic oscillator system at the cost of Rs 15 crore", Dulloo said. He also spelled out the plan to strengthen the critical care transport setup in Jammu and Kashmir, which mostly comprises a hilly terrain. "The procurement of 60 critical care ambulances has been proposed at the cost of Rs 22.59 crore. These ambulances shall become part of 108 ambulance services in the union territory of J&K," he added. The official also focussed on the setting up of a system to feed gas to hospitals. "Establishment of manifold and gas pipelines system has been proposed in 15 CHCs each in Jammu and Kashmir Divisions, with higher patient load and where such facilities are not available. The total financial implication for setting up these services is Rs 60 crore," he added.

Unionist Parties Form ‘Peoples

issue of the state has to be resolved as quickly as possible. And that can only be resolved through dialogue through peaceful means with all the stakeholders who are involved in the problem of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "We will be informing you about the future course of action in due course," he added. NC patron also termed Mehbooba's 14-month detention as "unjustified, illegal and unconstitutional" "We also demand immediate release of all those people who continue to remain in prison," he said. The veteran politician further said that the next meeting of the signatories will be held in the coming days to decide on the future course of action. National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah and other senior leaders of the party were also present at the meeting. JKPC chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir could not attend the meeting "due to medical reasons" A spokesperson of the party said Mir had conveyed his inability to attend the meeting to Farooq Abdullah as the Congress leader was advised by doctors to get himself medically examined including a COVID screening. Abdullah said the meeting congratulated the PDP president on her release from 14 months of detention which they said was "completely illegal and unjustified".

On August 4 last year, all major political parties in Kashmir, except BJP, had met at the residence of Farooq Abdullah amidst uncertainty and tension in the erstwhile state as the Centre had rushed additional paramilitary forces there while asking all tourists including Amarnath pilgrims to leave the Valley as soon as possible. The joint statement issued by the political parties, expressing concern over the situation, came to be known as the Gupkar Declaration. The Centre revoked the special constitutional status of the state and also bifurcated it into two union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. In a follow up, the political parties had met again in August this year and vowed to fight for restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. This is the second time in Jammu & Kashmir since 1947 when such a number of political groups have joined hands over an issue. In 1987, several political parties had formed "Muslim United Front" to take on NC- Congress combine===

SC Closes Case Challenging...

counsel of Union Territory administration and Iltija informed it about the release of Mufti, who is the president of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). She was released on Tuesday night as the Union Territory administration revoked the Public Safety Act charges against her, more than a year after she was detained following the abrogation of special status of the erstwhile state. At the outset, the bench also comprising Justice Dinesh Maheshwari asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, said now you have released her?. Mehta replied in affirmative and apprised the court about it. Advocate Nithya Ramakrishnan, appearing for petitioner, also said they have released her.

The bench disposed of the plea saying she has been released. Mehbooba, 60, was arrested on the eve of the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and its bifurcation into Union Territories on August 5 last year. Mehbooba, who was initially put under preventive custody on August 5 last year and later booked under the stringent PSA on February 6, was shifted to her official residence on April 7 after it was declared a subsidiary jail by the authorities. Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and his father Farooq Abdullah had also been detained under the PSA but were released in March this year. The writ petition filed by Iltija had challenged Mehbooba's detention on several grounds. It contended that the grounds and the dossier for detention are "stale, vague and that they suffer from non-application of mind, malice in law and that they violate the provisions of Section 8(3)(b) of the PSA". "The detention order based on stale grounds have become staler even more since the petition was filed and the respondent administration has continued to act with total non-application of mind and the malice in law has only been reinforced and aggravated in confirming and extending the order of detention for further periods, it said.

Army Officer Injured In ...

officials said. An Army personnel was killed and two others, including an officer, injured on September 5 when Pakistani troops opened heavy fire and shelled the Line of Control in Sunderbani sector, officials said. On September 2, a JCO was killed in ceasefire violation by the Pakistan Army along the LoC in Keri sector of Rajouri.

Ex-Militant Shot At In Pulwama

sustained serious bullet injuries in the attack and was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. Sofi, officials said was earlier associated with Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit. He had given up arms and was later engaged as a daily wage in Sericulture department. Soon after the incident, government forces reached the spot and cordoned off the area to nab the attackers.

No Message To Pak For Talks,...

Reacting to Yusuf's remarks, Srivasta said, "as regards the purported message, let me make it clear that no such message was sent from our side. We have seen reports on the interview by a senior Pakistani official to an Indian media outlet. He has commented on India's internal matters." "As always, this is Pakistan's effort to divert attention from domestic failures of the present government and mislead its domestic constituents by pulling India into headlines on a daily basis," he added.

Srivastava said the official is well advised to restrict his counsel to his establishment and not to comment on India's domestic policy. "The statements made by him are contrary to facts on the ground, misleading and fictitious," the MEA Spokesperson said. Srivastava said Pakistani leadership continues to indulge in inappropriate, provocative and hate speech against India, and its support to terrorism against India and use of "derogatory and abusive language" was not conducive to normal neighbourly relations. "Pakistan continues to support, aid and abet cross-border terrorism against India and has also been resorting to unprovoked ceasefire violations to support terrorist infiltration. Ties between India and Pakistan nosedived after a militant attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016 by militant groups based in the neighbouring country. Subsequent attacks, including one on Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship. Withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special powers and bifurcating the state into two union territories in August last year also evoked a strong reaction from Pakistan, which has been trying to rally international support against India on the Kashmir issue.

Unprecedented Troop Build-Up...

predicated on peace and tranquillity along the border," he said. Jaisankar said if peace and tranquillity is not ensured and the agreements signed are not honoured, then that is the "primary cause of disruption".

China Has No Locus Standi: MEA

as the state of Arunachal Pradesh. "Our position on this has always been clear and consistent. The union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are, and would remain an integral part of India. China has no locus standi to comment on India's internal matters," Srivastava said at a media briefing. "We hope that countries will not comment on India's internal matters, as much as they expect the same of others," he added. Srivastava also said that Arunachal Pradesh is an "integral and inalienable" part of India. "Our position on Arunachal Pradesh has also been made clear several times. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India. This fact has also been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side on several occasions, including at the highest level," he added. After Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a number of new bridges in certain border areas on Monday, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said China does not recognise the Ladakh union territory "illegally set up" by India as well as Arunachal Pradesh. The Chinese spokesperson had also claimed that development of border infrastructure by India was the "root cause" of tensions between the two countries. On the border standoff in eastern Ladakh and the outcome of the bilateral military talks, Srivastava referred to a joint press statement issued by the two armies after their dialogue on October 12, calling the meeting "positive and constructive". "Disengagement is a complex process that requires redeployment of troops by each side towards their regular posts on their respective sides of the LAC," Srivastava said. "To achieve this, the two sides will maintain the current momentum of communications based on the guidance of our leadership to not to turn differences into disputes and work towards a mutually acceptable solution for complete disengagement in all the friction areas along the Line of Actual Control(LAC) and restoration of peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas," he added.

J&K Govt Reshuffles ...

Principal Secretary to the Government, Skill Development Department, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Skill Development Department. B.K. Singh (IFS), awaiting orders of adjustment in the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, is posted as Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, the order said. According to the order, Abdul Majid Bhat, Chairman, J&K Special Tribunal, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, ARI and Trainings Department, relieving Ms. Rukhsana Gani, KAS, Administrative Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department of the additional charge of the post. Sarita Chauhan (IAS), Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, shall hold the charge of Chairman, J&K Special Tribunal, in addition to her own duties, till further orders, the order said. "Rukhsana Gani (KAS), Administrative Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department, shall hold the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department, relieving M. Raju (IAS), Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department of the additional charge of the post," the order reads. It further adds that Sheikh Arshad Ayub (KAS), Director, Libraries, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department. Mohammad Rafi (KAS), Director, Panchayati Raj, J&K, holding additional charge of Chief Executive Officer, Integrated Water-shed Management Programme, has been transferred and posted as Director, Libraries, J&K, the order says. "He shall continue to hold the charge of Chief Executive Officer, Integrated Water-shed Management Programme, in addition to his own duties, till further orders" it adds. Rakesh Kumar Srangal (KAS), Additional Commissioner in the office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Director, Panchayati Raj, J&K. In a separate order, the government ordered transfer of Ravinder Sharma (KAS), Custodian, Evacuee Property, Jammu. He shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department. "Suraj Parkash Rukwal (KAS), Additional Secretary to the Government, Department of Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, shall hold the charge of Custodian, Evacuee Property, Jammu, in addition to his own duties, till further orders. He shall continue to be the ex-officio Provincial Rehabilitation Officer, Jammu," the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner Secretary to the government reads. It further adds that Kashyp Neeha Pandita, Jr. KAS, Tehsildar in the Relief Organization (Migrants), Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Deputy PRO, Jammu, vice Ms. Akshi Gupta, Jr. KAS, who

shall report to the Revenue Department for further posting.

Govt Orders New Transfer...

every year excluding the teaching staff and transfers to Ladakh UT. The government in an order as per news agency KNO said that the transfer of teaching staff will be considered at the close of the academic session and the transfer must be avoided during the academic session. The order states that the transfer policy for government employees notified vide government order No. 861-GAD of 2010 dated 28.07.2010, provides amongst other things, the calendar for transfers to be effected in the financial year. "Transfers shall ordinarily be ordered in the first month or the financial year in April every year excluding the transfer of the teaching staff and transfers to Ladakh region," the order states. It states that the transfers of teaching staff shall be considered at the close of the academic session and must be avoided during the academic session. "The calendar is mandatorily to be followed while effecting the transfers of government employees. The notification of the calendar has been made with the intent of ensuring that the transfers are limited to a particular period of the financial year so that minimum dislocations occur during the financial year which would ensure better outcomes in the implementation of various government schemes and policies." The order states that it has been observed that the practice of effecting transfers throughout the year is adversely affecting the implementation of schemes and policies of the government. "Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that the transfers from now onwards shall strictly be made only within the period notified in the calendar appearing in Para-B of the Transfer policy." It further states that any transfer which is required to be effected on administrative grounds beyond the notified calendar shall be effected only with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor.

Kashmiri Woman ‘Beaten’...

between both the parties, police said. "We received a PCR call regarding a theft in a woman's house. On reaching the spot, it was revealed that the house was rented to two sisters. Both are natives of Srinagar. The PCR call was made by their landlady," a senior police officer said. The officer said the tenant alleged that her landlady had broken the locks of house and removed furniture and also stolen clothes and Rs 20,000. During enquiry, it was found that a quarrel had taken place earlier between them over paying house rent and electricity bills. The electricity connection was also disconnected by the BSES, the officer added. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) RP Meena said, "Based on a written complaint given by the tenant, a case has been registered under section 448 (punishment for house trespass), 380 (Theft in dwelling house), 457 (lurking house-trespass), 323 (Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of Indian Penal Code at Amar Colony police station and the matter is being investigated." A written complaint has also been given by the landlady in this regard and it is also being examined, he said. "So my landlady enters my house along with a man , that i have never seen in my whole life and starts to call me and my friends 'TERRORISTS' just because we are from KASHMIR too, in front of a police official. They trespassed, broke in and our money, furniture," she alleged in her tweet. She claimed her landlady also abused them. "Then she framed us for stealing the furniture, which she herself took from here in our absence. She is calling us names, abusing us and provoking us. The man literally pushed me and the landlady as well tried to attack me , all in front of DELHI POLICE," she alleged in her tweet. However, police said they are probing about the man who was allegedly accompanying the landlady. Responding to her tweet, Delhi Commission for Women Chief Swati Maliwal said "This is shocking & shameful. DCW team is in touch. We'll ensure action!" The DCW also issued a notice to the police in this connection and sought an action taken report, copy of the FIR and whether any arrests have been made in the case. It has also sought details whether any complaints were filed previously, details of any police personnel being present at the spot and steps taken to ensure the safety of the Kashmiri woman. It has sought this information by October 19.

J&K Reports 7 More Covid-19...

from Tral Pulwama and a 74-year-old from Deedarpora Kupwara who died at SMHS hospital, a day after he was admitted with bilateral community acquired pneumonia. The two other deaths were reported from the J&K's winter capital—a 62-year-old woman from Bakshi Nagar and a 75-year-old woman from Badyal Brahmana. With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 916 in Valley and 445 in Jammu. Srinagar district with 327 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (232), Baramulla (132), Budgam (90), Pulwama (76), Kupwara (72), Anantnag (70), Kulgam (43), Bandipora(42), Rajouri (45), Doda (40), Shopian (33), Ganderbal (30), Kathua (29), Udhampur (25), Samba (24), Poonch (22), Ramban (11), Kishtwar(11) and Reasi (6). (With GNS inputs)

32 Travelers Among 648...

the remaining 268 were confirmed by the officials from the Jammu division. Giving district wise details, officials said Srinagar reported 182 cases, Budgam 39, Baramulla 32, Pulwama 35, Kupwara 19, Anantnag 17, Bandipora 22, Ganderbal 29, Kulgam 4, Shopian 1, Jammu 120, Rajouri 17, Udhampur 10, Doda 21, Kathua 15, Poonch 23, Samba 11, Kishtwar 41, Ramban 6 and Reasi 4. Moreover, officials said, 1323 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—334 from Jammu Division and 989 from Kashmir Valley.

Govt Signs Pact With...

e-commerce marketplace like Flipkart will enable the local artisans, craftsmen and weavers to reach the global market. It will also provide an appropriate opportunity for the momentous growth and development of the respective sectors", LG, as per official spokesperson said.

He said that the LG also underscored the various steps that his government has taken in the recent past for improving the financial conditions of artisans and weavers associated with handicrafts and handloom sector like enhancement in loan to Rs 2 lacs under artisans' credit card scheme.

According to the official spokesperson, Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group said "We are excited to join hands with the J&K Handloom and Handicrafts Corporation to bring the local heritage of Jammu & Kashmir on our platform. This MoU will enable thousands of artisans to reap the benefits of e-commerce and scale up their business."

The official spokesperson added that during the virtual signing of the MoU, few artisans also showcased their products and thanked the government for facilitating e-commerce facility for sale and marketing of their products and appreciated the timing of this move when their unsold inventories have piled up due to Pandemic. He further said that this meaningful initiative will eliminate the role of the middleman to a larger extent and will benefit the artisans in a way that the proceeds of the sale of their products shall go directly into their accounts.

"Initially this tie-up is supposed to cover dozens of products of lower and middle range segments like Paper-mache, Walnut craft gift items, Shawls and Stoles, Embroidery made-ups and Namda Rugs, Chain Stitch wall hangings, Willow wicker, Gabba, etc. Many more craft items shall be added subsequently," the official spokesperson said. He said that the e-marketing channel shall involve and benefit artisans and weavers both in organized and unorganized sector and for the first six months, Flipkart will not charge any fee from the artisans and weavers.

"Subsequently, very nominal charges shall be levied as per the mutual agreement. The product profiles will be created with the help of resource persons made available by Flipkart," he added. The endeavor, he said is seen as a game changer for on-boarding, sale and cataloguing of Handicrafts and Handloom products of J&K. "The step by the Government at the time when the entire Country is reeling under the pressures of COVID-19 Pandemic shall provide much-needed succour to the artisans, craftsperson and weavers in J&K," the official spokesperson said. "The move by the Government shall expose artisans, craftspersons and weavers to millions of customers shopping online thereby ensuring efficient marketing that too when virtual marketing has overtaken the physical marketing of goods and services across the globe," he added.

JKBOSE To Hold 10th, 12th...

reported that it was decided in a meeting called by the administrative secretary School Education to review the conduct of annual examinations in Kashmir Division and winter zone of Jammu Division. The meeting was attended by officials of JKBOSE, Deputy Commissioners; joint director school education Kashmir and CEOs participated through video conferencing. Chairperson JKBOSE, secretary JKBOSE and Director school education Jammu also participated from Jammu through video conferencing.

Mehbooba Offers Prayers At...

Article 370. "She went to pray at the grave of her father briefly on Thursday and returned to Srinagar," a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) member accompanying her said. In January, Iltija Mufti, daughter of Mehbooba Mufti had asked the government to remove her security after she was prevented from visiting the grave of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed on his fourth death anniversary. Mehbooba Mufti who was released on Tuesday met with former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah at her residence in Srinagar on Wednesday. She will join a meeting of the Gupkar declaration signatories on Thursday convened by Farooq Abdullah. Meanwhile, a press conference of Mehbooba Mufti, which was scheduled for Friday has now been cancelled. "In view of the meeting of Gupkar Declaration Signatories scheduled later today, Mehbooba Mufti's presser scheduled for October 16 stands postponed. New date and time would be shared separately," PDP leader Suhail Bukhari said.==

CRPF Man Shoots Self Dead...

service rifle on Thursday afternoon. The cause of him taking such an extreme step was not immediately known, he said, adding that the proceedings have been launched into the incident.

Soldier Found Dead In Bandipora

official said, adding that proceedings under CrPC Section 174 have been initiated to ascertain the cause of death.

Four Gamblers Held...

gamblers. The police spokesperson identified the accused as Abdul Rashid Sheikh, Abdul Majeed Dar and Mohammad Sami Gana, all residents of Tulmulla and Nazir Ahmed Bhat of Dangerpora Ganderbal. "They have been shifted to Police Station Lar where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 82/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson said.

Drug Peddler Slapped With PSA...

05/2019 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Harwan in this regard, a police spokesperson said. "Accordingly the case was duly processed and the arrested drug peddler was detained under Public Safety Act after obtaining sanctions from the concerned authorities and shifted to Kotbilwal Jail Jammu," he said.

Ladakh Records 66 New...

health services, the number of active cases in the region stood at 979 on Thursday -- 771 in Leh district and 208 in Kargil district. Ladakh had recorded a total of 64 COVID-19-related deaths, while 4,205 patients have recovered from the disease till date.

Zoji-la Tunnel to be 'Turning Point' for UTs of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh: LG

The Lt Governor said that work on the approach road to the tunnel is expected to be completed within 30

In connection with the project, 5 brides, 6 catch dams, 13 deflector dams, 8 cut and covers, 2 snow gal-

The tunnel will ensure year-


'I always believe transport infrastructure is the most important element for holistic development and overall growth of a region and it brings territorial integrity. I am confident, Zoji-la Tunnel, will ensure enhanced business activities and will transform the areas where so far we have seen less development activities', said the Lt Governor. 'It will facilitate the trade and movement of the workforce throughout the year between the two Union territories', the Lt Governor concluded.

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

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311




RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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

This Day In History

- 1770 - British troops occupies Port Royal, Nova Scotia
- 1757 - Austrian troops occupy Berlin
- 1793 - Battle of Wattignies: French defeat Allied forces and lift siege of Maubeuge.
- 1900 - Great Britain and Germany sign the Anglo-German Treaty, agreeing to maintain territorial integrity of China and support 'open door' policy called for by US Secretary of State
- 1901 - Baron Hayashi of Japan begins negotiations in London to make an alliance with the British and strengthen Japan's position against Russians
- 1913 - Booth Theater opens at 222 W 44th St NYC
- 1915 Great Britain declares war on Bulgaria
- 1926 - Mohammed Nadir Khan begins coup in Afghanistan, 1200 killed
- 1926 - Troop ship sinks in Yangtze River, killing 1,200
- 1934 - Mao Zedong & 25,000 troops begin 6,000 mile Long March
- 1943 - US 1st Army establishes headquarter in Bristol
- 1944 - Hungary: Horthy government falls/nazi count Szalasi becomes premier
- 1945 - UN's Food & Agriculture Organization comes into existence
- 1951 - The first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan, is assassinated in Rawalpindi.
- 1952 - Pakistan's 1st Test starts, v India at Delhi
- 1953 - Fidel Castro sentenced to 15 years (Havana)
- 1957 - USAF sends 2 aluminium bullets into space
- 1962 - Cuban missile crisis begins as JFK is shown photos confirming the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba
- 1964 - China becomes world's 5th nuclear power
- 1968 - China reports removal of 'accident' Li Sjaao-tji
- 1968 - Czechoslovakia & Russian "accord" rules allies Soviet forces
- Sports AwardsBlack Power Salute.
- 1969 - Soyuz 6 returns to Earth
- 1970 - Pierre Trudeau invokes the War Measures Act as a response to the October Crisis, the only peacetime use of the War Measures Act in Canadian history.
- 1973 - Israeli tanks under Gen Sharon move through Suez Canal
- 1976 - Soyuz 23 returns to Earth
- 1978 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Herbert A Simon
- 1982 - Shultz warns US will withdraw from UN if they vote to exclude Israel.
- 1985 - Challenger vehicle moves to launch pad for STS 61A mission
- 1985 - Intel introduces 32-bit 80386 microcomputer chip
- 1985 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Herbert Hauptman & Jerome Karle.
- 1986 - US government shuts down due to disputes between President Reagan and the House
- 1990 - US forces reach 200,000 in Persian Gulf
- 1993 - General Omar al-Bashir appointed Sudan president
- 2001 - The US Coast Guard lifts a ban on liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers entering Boston Harbor to make deliveries to Dis-trigas' Everett LNG terminal that had been imposed on September 16 in response to the attacks of September 11

From KO Archives

MoU contained
some deficiencies

Observer News Service

When contacted the principal secretary power development department Ajit Kumar told Observer News Service, the 'deficiencies pertained to the state's claim for reimbursement of the expenditure it had already incurred on the power projects. The MoU did not mention this. However, Kumar said the centre had agreed to reimburse the expenditure and necessary modifications would be incorporated in the MoU shortly.

‘My Town, My Pride’ to be organized on 19th-20th October

Aims at empowering ULBs, providing proactive governance at door-step

Aimed at further empowering and strengthening the framework of the Urban Local Bodies, the 2-day programme will include closer review of their functioning, besides

On the lines of recently concluded 'Back to Village' programme, the 'My Town, My Pride' programme also envisages time-bound delivery

of documents like domicile, SC/ST/RBA/ALC/OBC certificates; revenue services besides ensuring benefits under various welfare schemes including pensions, scholarships, PMAY, KCC, Health Golden Cards, Ladli Beti, among others.

از نیابت اچھل با اجلاس حکیم جاوید احمد نائب تحفیدل اراچھل

مضمون درخواست نیابت :- بسما اقبال و محسمت جان و فاضل اقبال پسران محرم اقبال

محرم اسکان نوا کوریکام ، بغرض حصول RBA رزٹرفیکٹ تحت ایس آر 294

اشتہار برآؤ گا ہی پر خاص وعام

محاطہ معززہ العدرہ میں درخواست سماکن یرضوان با حق جزا میں رزٹروائی ہے اس بارے میں ہڈاری حالتے ہے مشمول دیگر کا فائدہ تو حاصل کیا گیا۔ اس لیے محاسن ہوا کہ اسکان مینج کوریکام میں سکونت پر ہے، مگر مالا مالک ہڈی میں بیٹل پتھر ہے مشعل ہے۔

نام صاحبہ کنوئل عدل	عمر	پیشہ	آدائی
فرحان علی علی خان	44 سال	مزدوری	4000
مشیر و دو دو محمد اقبال	42 سال	شاہد کار	LPC
بسماء اقبال اختر	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	---
محسمت جان اختر	18 سال	---	---
فاضل اقبال پسر	16 سال	---	---

اس کے علاوہ جو کوئی افراد نیابت میں جس سے سائل کے تہنیک کی صلاحیت آدائی رزٹروائی و دیگر ذریعہ مبلغ 1020000 ہے لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا کوئی فرد یا اعتراض ہوگا تو دفتر میں اپنا اعتراض کریں۔ بقیت کے اندر اندر پیش کریں۔ مگر ڈکڑے کے بعد کوئی فرد یا اعتراض یا تہنیک نہیں کمال ہوگا۔

تحریر العدرہ :- نائب تحفیدل اراچھل

MJA

Union Territory Of Jammu & Kashmir
**Office Of The Assistant Regional
Transport Officer, Budgam**

No: ARTO/ Bud/ 1632-37 Dated: 15-10-2020

**Sub: Holding of Regional Transport Authority
Meeting in Budgam District**

NOTICE

As desired by Chairman Regional Transport Authority (Deputy Commissioner) Budgam, RTA meeting for the district is scheduled to be held in the last week of current month. In this connection, applications from the permanent residents of Budgam District are invited for grant of Stage Carriage Route Permits. The same shall reach this office by or before 20th of October 2020. Application on any matter which shall have merit to be discussed in the said meeting are also invited.

**Member Secretary,
Asst. Regional Transport Officer,
Budgam**

MCB

CUK VC interacts with CRs, listens their grievances

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Mehraj-ud-Din, said the university has always taken a lead and proactive approach vis-à-vis mitigating the genuine demands of the students. He said that after the lockdown, the varsity ensured that the teaching-learning process is not affected adversely, adding that teaching material was uploaded by respective departments on university websites and social networking sites in order to complete the syllabi of the students. Prof. Mir complimented the faculty members for taking regular online

classes and ensuring participation of the students. He said the university also took the lead in conducting the offline examinations of the students and ensured that the same is held strictly as per the Covid-19 protocol. Prof. Mir asked the Class Representatives to ensure discipline in the varsity. He said the recreational facilities would be soon provided to the students in their respective university campuses in Ganderbal district.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Govt. Industrial Training Institute (Women) Bemina Srinagar,

website : www.itibemina.com

skype : itibemina
email : iti.beminawomen@gmail.com

phone no. : 0194 – 2492066
MSID : GU01000037

Correspondence Address : Near Directorate of Skill Development and State Board of School Education, Bemina Bye Pass, Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K. Pin code : 190018

Subject: Selection Notification.

It is hereby notified that the provisional selection list of candidates who had applied for online admission for undergoing training courses in various trades under NCVT and SCVT scheme for the academic session 2020-21 in women's ITI Bemina stands issued on the basis of merit and reservation .

The selection list is available in the Women's ITI Bemina & on the social media pages like Facebook & Twitter of the ITI. All the selected Candidates are hereby informed to submit their original documents D.O.B. Marks certificate of the qualifying examination, Category Certificate if any, (SC/ST/Ex-serviceman/Physically Handicapped/EWS), latest Discharge certificate from the institution last attended, Aadhar card and Domicile Certificate by or before 23-10-2020 in the ITI.

Selection of the candidates is provisional and subject to the submission & verification of original relevant certificates. In case the candidates in the selection list fails to report within the prescribed time period, their selection shall be cancelled.

Yours Faithfully
Assistant Director
Women's ITI Bemina

DIPK-7395/20

ITI/Bem/Trgs/

Dated:-

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer

R&B Sub- Division Magam.

Short Term Tender Notice No: 59/ R&B of 2020-21.

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir the Executive Engineer, Sub- Division Magam / GDA Tangmarg invites sealed tenders affixed with four rupees Revenue stamps from registered PWD contractors for the works as mentioned below on terms and conditions shown hereunder. The tenders should reach the office of the Executive Engineer Gulmarg Development Authority Tangmarg by or before 21-10-2020 upto 2pm and will be opened on the same date or any other date convenient to the tender opening Authority in presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to be present there.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in Lacs	E/ Money	Class	Time for Completion	Cost of TD.	M.H
1	Urgent Restoration of Ogmuna Devpora Dardpora road by way of Supply/ Filling of GSB / Nallah muck in patches / stretches in Km 3 rd .	0.28	560/-	DEE	5 days	200/-	

Terms and Conditions:-

- The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam / GDA Tangmarg which should reach the office by or before 21-10-2020 upto 2 pm in a properly sealed envelope with name of work, name of contractor CDR No. & Date.
- The Treasury Challan only will be entertained as the cost of tender document charges as per the format enclosed.
- If the amount of the work on the rates quoted by the agency / contractor comes out below 15% of the advertized cost, the contractor / agency has to accompany the equivalent amount of additional performance security deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR as per the condition No. 15.9 of e-NIT No. 01 of 2021-21 with BOQ & other requisite documents, otherwise the tender will not be accepted.
- If the receiving date is declared as holiday the tenders will be received on next working day.
- The offered rates should be covered with transparent tape; otherwise the tenders will be rejected.
- *Sales Tax, Income Tax & Labourcess will be deducted at the time of payment as per the rates as in vogue.
- The tender document shall be issued to the contractors personally / authorized representative after verification of capacity / validity of their registration card on the production of same for purpose of tender documents and production of attested Photostat copies of permanent account PAN/ TIN Nos. (GST Regist.)
- The Tender documents of the work shall be issued against the Treasury Challan (M.H 0059) mentioned with, Name of contractor, registration No., phone No., NIT No. and S. No. of work as shown above from 17-10- 2020 to 20-10-2020.
- The tenders not accompanied with the CDR's equivalent to the amount shown against the work will not be entertained and not rightly rejected without assigning any reason thereof.
- The rectification of damages if any that may occur from the date of start of work to the site or apartment / structures shall be responsibility of the contractor and nothing extra shall be paid for the same.
- The rates quoted by the contractor should be written both in figures and words.
- The rectification of damages to the completed work within DLP period under rules from the date of completion of work shall be responsibility of the contractor and nothing extra shall be paid for the same.
- The work has to be executed strictly as per PWD specifications within the stipulated time failing which, penalty shall be imposed & action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the agency / contractor.
- The Departmental material if any to be lifted from Divisional store premises shall be deducted as per the stock rate issued.
- The additional security deposit if any may only be released after the completion of work and the CDR shall be released after DLP is over.
- The registration card duly renewed, PAN, GST registration with latest GST clearance (GSTR-3B) should be attached with the tender documents.

All other terms & conditions will remain same as advertised vide this office NIT No: 01 / R&B of 2020-21.
All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)
The payment will be made only after funds will be available with the Department.

For & on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K
No: R&B/ 3819-39
Dated: 13/10/2020

sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Sub-Division Magam

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Talk for peace

The interview of Pakistan National Security Advisor Moeed Yusuf to the renowned Indian journalist Karan Thapar has become a subject of discussion in India and Pakistan. It was first such interview of a top government functionary in Pakistan to an Indian publication following the revocation of Article 370 in August last year. So, there was this huge interest in what Pakistan may have to say about the situation of the past fourteen months. And the interview did, to a large extent, satisfy the curiosity. Yusuf was combative in his response to Thapar’s questions. And he made a few revelations too. For example, that India had expressed “a desire for conversation”, and sent feelers through some channels. But Pakistan, he said, wanted New Delhi to reverse constitutional changes, undo domicile law and make Kashmiris the third party before the talks can go ahead.

Yusuf, however, added that Pakistan was prepared to look towards future and improve relations with India. He said Pakistan was ready to discuss Kashmir and also terrorism that has invariably been the Indian demand. At the same time Yusuf offered some proofs of the alleged Indian involvement in sabotage activities in Pakistan. He also said Islamabad had yet to take a final decision on granting a provincial status to Gilgit Baltistan, something that is also being opposed in Kashmir.

Overall, the interview underlined the prevailing bitterness in the relations between India and Pakistan following the withdrawal of J&K’s autonomy last year. Considering that Yusuf made any restoration of engagement with New Delhi contingent upon reversal of Article 370 move and making Kashmiris a third party to Kashmir issue, the conditions New Delhi will be loath to meet, there is little hope of a dialogue between the neighbours anytime soon. Moreover, the lingering China-India stand-off in Ladakh has only added to complications.

One outcome of the Article 370 move was that it made Pakistan-China relations even closer. Ladakh stand-off has broken the decades-old peace and stability along the Line of Actual Control. Now India’s northern and western borders are unstable. This has created a difficult regional situation, something that needs an urgent engagement among the three countries or between New Delhi and either of the two others to address. As things stand, the dialogue with China has shown little promise of success. But this hardly is a reason not to persist with the excise. More so, with Pakistan which if pursued with seriousness holds a real possibility of regional peace.

O T H E R O P I N O N

In defence of secularism

In a letter to the Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, urging him to open religious places for worship, the state governor, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, commented on Mr Thackeray’s politics of Hindutva and asked him, mockingly, if he had “turned secular”. In a separate development, an advertisement for the jewellery brand, Tanishq, which portrayed a multi-religious home where Muslim family members adopted rituals to make their Hindu daughter-in-law feel at home at her baby shower ceremony, drew a backlash on social media for ostensibly hurting Hindu sentiments. The ad, which was based on the theme of unity, was withdrawn.

Both events — one related to the functioning of the Indian State and the other related to cultural trends in Indian society — are disturbing. Take the governor’s letter first. Mr Koshyari, as the constitutional head of the state, is perfectly within his rights to correspond with the chief minister, and even make suggestions — including the need to open religious places, though whether this is indeed wise in a state that has had the highest share of Covid-19 cases in India is open to question. But the problem is not the letter or its specific theme; the issue is the contempt with which Mr Koshyari used the term “secularism”, equating it with the closure of religious places. Secularism may be a controversial word for dominant sections of India’s polity, but it is a cherished constitutional value. There have been distortions in the practice of secularism, but this does not take away from the importance of the principle. To demean the word is not just to undermine the Preamble, but also encourage a majoritarian conception of the nation.

The Hindutva Right, based on its entirely flawed and incorrect idea of “love jihad”, frowns at Hindu-Muslim relationships, especially if the man is a Muslim. The fact that even a moving ad triggered a backlash, and that the company withdrew the ad, speaks of a deep divide that could threaten the very idea of India. Both the State and society must return to the original constitutional vision of pluralism, coexistence and integration.

The Hindustan Times

Economy Central

Economics of
Kashmir’s Resilience

Underlying anti-fragile drivers & emerging black swan risks

EJAZ AYOUN

“I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it.” - quoted the celebrated American poet, memoirist & civil rights activist Maya Angelou. This inspiring message has been an integral part of numerous campaigns across the globe during the times of natural calamities, wars, political movements and other crisis that demanded collective grit, perseverance and resilience. Kashmir economy, which has demonstrated a miraculous survival spirit despite operating within a consistently hostile & turbulent political environment, is nothing short of a living manifestation of this powerful quote.

Despite losing almost an entire decade (3000 days of shutdown since 1990 as per KCCI) in the last three decades to this never ending political turmoil, the statistics of the formal economy have surprisingly beaten some of the comparatively peaceful and economically diverse states of India with fair margins. Take for example the per capita income, which in case of J&K is far better than even Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & other north eastern states. The poverty ratio at 10.35 % is almost half of the national average (21.92). J&K ranks at an impressive 3rd place in life expectancy (73.5 years) and 10th in infant mortality rate (24) among all Indian states/UTs. In terms of Human Development Index (HDI) J&K at 0.68 is ahead of 18 Indian states including the likes of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. In terms of literacy rates, J&K at 77.3% has outperformed 9 major states of India. Now take a look at the credit discipline of the region’s borrowers. Despite being trouble torn, energy starved, geopolitically strangled, under a hostile whether & treacherous road connectivity, the default rates in the region are remarkably low. J&K Bank’s (regions 2/3rd share holder in lending) gross NPA to gross advances ratio is 5.75% as on June 2020 (for within J&K loans), significantly lower than its “rest of India” loan portfolio. A similar pattern of low NPA ratio in J&K can be observed in other lending institutions and banks operating in the region.

The explanation for this paradox is beyond the standard economic models they teach in the universities. J&K’s economy is a classic case of resilience which fits in the category of extreme economies. The concept of economic evolution under extreme systemic shocks and the resulting unconventional economic structures was popularized by the former economics editor of “The Economist” who’s also been an adviser at the Bank of England-Richard Davies, in his popular book “Extreme Economies”. Akin to economies that develop in war torn regions, inside a prison or amidst refugee camps, Kashmir’s economy too has evolved in complexity & diversification over decades. The central principle which seems to have governed this evolution has revolved around the effective decoupling of some sectors from the domestic markets. By virtue of the nature of the turmoil, all those industries which were concentrated in domestic markets and were dependant solely on the regional conduciveness of the situations surrounding the buyers and the sellers were doomed. Contrary to this, there emerged five major pillars of J&K’s economic resilience, which over a period of decades, successfully evolved into more robust and some even into anti-fragile entities (entities that gain in disorder).

First is J&K state’s ever expanding Government salaries & pension bill. Irrespective of the scale and intensity of the violent cycles, which engulfs the valley every now and then, resulting in excruciatingly frequent & long curfews and strikes, this component of the region’s economy has never felt the mildest of the income shocks. With the current annual size of Rs. 37,000 crore, this conduit of income sustains over 4.5 Lakh individuals. Is this unique with J&K? Yes, the UT has one of the highest Government employee to population ratio in entire India. This conflict immune, stable and assured amount that they earn is around a quarter of J&K’s annual GSDP.

The fact that Government jobs have been one of the main selling points of mainstream political parties in the region, has over a period also resulted in an oversold market. Salaries sometimes drop and nature of employment gets engineered into various forms (daily wage, rehbre-taleems, contractual etc), but it is ensured that the numbers always remain high. This highly sought after job industry has gradually assumed an anti-fragile nature with a Government jobs bonanza announced every time a bout of turmoil grips the region. However, the

fact remains that as this conduit of our income has helped us remain afloat all these troubled decades.

Second is the time tested and “shutdown & curfew” immune agrarian Industry. We might not be cultivating enough rice even to suffice our domestic consumption but we have made sure those apples, saffron and walnuts fetch us more money to buy anything including rice. J&K has a comparatively well developed horticulture sector with cash rich flagship products like apples, walnuts, cherries & almonds. The rapid pace at which paddy fields were converted into orchards raised many alarm bells initially, but the volume of money that this industry

of Kashmiris working in various states of India. Although data for domestic remittances is not available, however, it is very likely that the number of people working and the volume of money received are comparatively higher than foreign remittances. The aggregate of both these incomes has consistently been growing with more channels of communication getting established in various countries generation after generation. This segment too gets a shot every time a wave of turmoil hits the valley evolving into anti-fragile entity for the regional economy.

Fifthly, as ironic as it may sound, but, the argument that the conflict industry also helps the



Despite losing almost an entire decade in the last three decades to this never ending political turmoil, the statistics of the formal economy have surprisingly beaten some of the comparatively peaceful and economically diverse states of India with fair margins.

earns and the forward integration in terms of processing which is taking place, though slowly, has shelved all the apprehensions with confidence. By virtue of the seasonality of this sector, less impact of “shutdowns and curfews” and importantly its limited dependence on regional markets, this sector has been a stable backbone of our survival economics. Importantly the sector supports over 16% of the states GSDP.

Third is our wide base of home based artisans. According to the directorate of handicrafts in Kashmir, with earnings of around Rs 1,700 crore as foreign exchange every year, there are nearly 2.5 lakh artisans directly dependent upon handicrafts for their livelihood. As per various estimates done by Government and Non-Government agencies almost 60% of the households in the Valley are connected with crafts one way or another. This sector, although not that big in size in terms of dollar value when compared to the first two, has three distinct risk mitigants which makes it very robust, less volatile to shocks and more lucrative. First is the nature of processing which is almost entirely home based making it immune from the vagaries of frequent political cyclones that hit the region. Second is the nature of its market which is mostly high end, elite, resourceful customer segment and the third part is the geographically diversified markets spanning across the globe. This stable and growing tributary of income from foreign exchange and from mainland India has been one of the significant bed rocks of the economic resilience demonstrated by J&K in last so many decades.

Fourth is the export of human resource to various states of India and across the world. Scores of highly educated youth who fall outside the ambit of farming and artisan segments find it extremely difficult to fetch decent earnings outside the limitedly available Government sector. As a result there has been a conscious and gradually increasing trend of exporting human resource to more resourceful geographical locations across India and outside India. As per official data, the annual foreign remittances received by J&K from people working outside country range from Rs 1300 to Rs. 1500 Crore. This figure gets even more inflated if we factor the large base

regional economy in surviving the frequent tides is not misplaced. Traditional economics says peace is the basis of economic growth but when it comes to Kashmir, we have presumably learned the art of even milking the conflict. It is a matter of fact that the region of Jammu & Kashmir has been the epicenter of conflict between three nuclear armed countries. The stakes vis-a-vis national security in and around this region are therefore extremely high. As a result, the size of investments on security & discourse management that flow from the national coffers to this region is quite substantial. This pillar, although immeasurable, always grows in disorder making it one of the most anti-fragile conduits of the regional economy.

As long as the wide steel frame of Government servants and the ability to produce cash rich apples, walnuts, saffron & handicrafts remains, J&K economy’s ability to survive economic shocks will refuse to give in. However, the emerging black swan risks posed by the global slowdown and the Indian recession are exposing the otherwise stable drivers of J&K’s economy to serious systemic threats. The export of handicrafts is getting contracted and is impacting lakhs of artisans due to the ongoing global recession. The cash rich horticulture is facing a dent in demand, posing a serious challenge to lakhs of apple, walnut and saffron growers. The job and salary cuts for people working outside J&K and India is severely reducing the remittances which otherwise formed an essential component of the regional economy. Unlike previous shocks, this time the basis of our risk mitigation i.e. geographical diversification of markets is getting drastically compromised. In this emerging backdrop, how the regional economy evolves this time and responds to the challenges never witnessed before is surely going to be the real test of our economic resilience.

The author has been working in the BFSI industry in the field of Financial Risk Management, Strategy and Foreign Exchange. He can be reached at:ejaz.ayoub@gmail.com



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

The Rise and Rise of Drug Menace

Drug Addiction is a lot like other diseases, such as heart disease. Both disrupt the normal, healthy functioning of an organ in the body. People with addiction have an intense focus on using a certain substance(s) such as alcohol or drugs, to the point that it takes over their life. It also creates a domino effect on the lives of those around them, gradually involves society and becomes a menace or a social evil.

The menace of drug addiction is spreading far and wide in Kashmir valley, particularly among the youth.

Earlier, drug abuse was more prevalent in urban areas especially among the urban poor. Now, this has completely changed. Substance abuse has knocked the doors of rural areas as well. One of the official reports of Narcotics Control Bureau of Union Ministry of Home Affairs’ which revealed that J&K is one of the leading cultiva-

tors of illicit crops.

Drug addiction is a social evil & it is the tragedy of our days that a large number of youth, the future of society falls victims have taken to drugs.

This has not only put those who consume drugs at health risks but is also responsible for increase in many law and order problems.

We must actively take steps to stop this menace from spreading further. Parents can play a primarily role as they can

engage meaningfully with their adolescent children and guide them. Some studies have found that teens who learn about the risks of drugs from their parents are 50% less likely to use drugs. We can’t afford to lose any more time.

Mushtaq Bhat
www.mushtaqbhat1312@gmail.com

Do Pandemics End?

Some societies recovered relatively quickly from their losses caused by the Black Death. Others never did. For example, medieval Egypt could not fully recover from the lingering effects of the pandemic, which particularly devastated its agricultural sector.

When will the pandemic end? All these months in, with over 37 million COVID-19 cases and more than 1 million deaths globally, you may be wondering, with increasing exasperation, how long this will continue.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, epidemiologists and public health specialists have been using mathematical models to forecast the future in an effort to curb the coronavirus's spread. But infectious disease modeling is tricky. Epidemiologists warn that "[m]odels are not crystal balls," and even sophisticated versions, like those that combine forecasts or use machine learning, can't necessarily reveal when the pandemic will end or how many people will die.

As a historian who studies disease and public health, I suggest that instead of looking forward for clues, you can look back to see what brought past outbreaks to a close – or didn't.

Where we are now in the course of the pandemic

In the early days of the pandemic, many people hoped the coronavirus would simply fade away. Some argued that it would disappear on its own with the summer heat. Others claimed that herd immunity would kick in once enough people had been infected. But none of that has happened.

A combination of public health efforts to contain and mitigate the pandemic – from rigorous testing and contact tracing to social distancing and wearing masks – have been proven to help. Given that the virus has spread almost everywhere in the world, though, such measures alone can't bring the pandemic to an end. All eyes are now turned to vaccine development, which is being pursued at unprecedented speed.

Yet experts tell us that even with a successful vaccine and effective treatment, COVID-19 may never go away. Even if the pandemic is curbed in one part of the world, it will likely continue in other places, causing infections elsewhere. And even if it is no longer an immediate pandemic-level threat, the coronavirus will likely become endemic – meaning slow, sustained transmission will persist. The coronavirus will continue to cause smaller outbreaks, much like seasonal flu.

The history of pandemics is full of such frustrating examples.

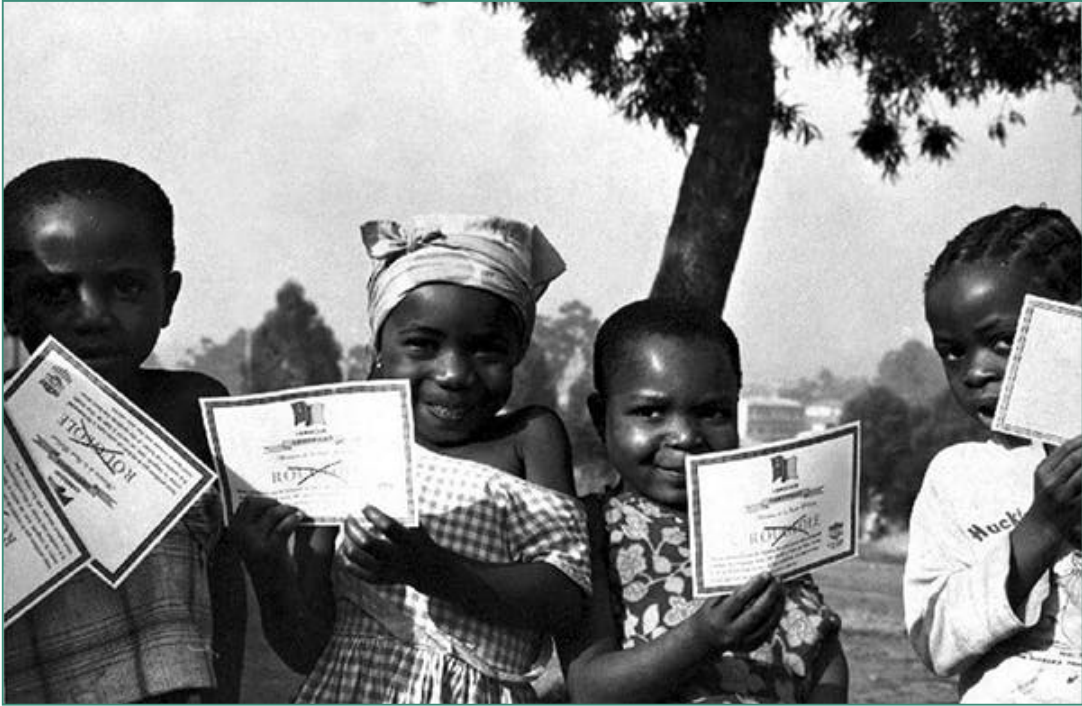
Once they emerge, diseases rarely leave

Whether bacterial, viral or parasitic, virtually every disease pathogen that has affected people over the last several thousand years is still with us, because it is nearly impossible to fully eradicate them.

The only disease that has been eradicated through vaccination is smallpox. Mass vaccination campaigns led by the World Health Organization in the 1960s and 1970s were successful, and in 1980, smallpox was declared the first – and still, the only – human disease to be fully eradicated.

So success stories like smallpox are exceptional. It is rather the rule that diseases come to stay.

Take, for example, pathogens like malaria. Transmitted via parasite, it's almost as old as humanity and still exacts a heavy disease burden today: There were about 228 million malaria cases and 405,000 deaths worldwide in 2018. Since 1955, global



programs to eradicate malaria, assisted by the use of DDT and chloroquine, brought some success, but the disease is still endemic in many countries of the Global South.

Similarly, diseases such as tuberculosis, leprosy and measles have been with us for several millennia. And despite all efforts, immediate eradication is still not in sight.

Add to this mix relatively younger pathogens, such as HIV and Ebola virus, along with influenza and coronaviruses including SARS, MERS and SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19, and the overall epidemiological picture becomes clear. Research on the global burden of disease finds that annual mortality caused by infectious diseases – most of which occurs in the developing world – is nearly one-third of all deaths globally.

Today, in an age of global air travel, climate change and ecological disturbances, we are constantly exposed to the threat of emerging infectious diseases while continuing to suffer from much older diseases that remain alive and well.

Once added to the repertoire of pathogens that affect human societies, most infectious diseases are here to stay.

Plague caused past pandemics – and still pops up

Even infections that now have effective vaccines and treatments continue to take lives. Perhaps no disease can help illustrate this point better than plague, the single most deadly infectious disease in human history. Its name continues to be synonymous with horror even today.

Plague is caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. There have been countless local outbreaks and at least three documented plague pandemics over the last 5,000 years, killing hundreds of millions of people. The most notorious of all pandemics was the Black Death of the mid-14th century.

Yet the Black Death was far from being an isolated outburst. Plague returned every decade or even more frequently, each time hitting already weakened societies and taking its toll during at least six centuries. Even before the sanitary revolution of the 19th century, each outbreak gradually died down over the course of months and sometimes years as a result of changes in temperature, humidity and the availability of hosts, vectors and a sufficient number of susceptible individuals.

Some societies recovered relatively quickly from their losses caused by the Black Death. Others never did. For example, medieval Egypt could not fully recover from the lingering effects of the pandemic, which particularly devastated its agricultural sector. The cumulative effects of declining populations became impossible to recoup. It led to the gradual decline of the Mamluk Sultanate and its conquest by the Ottomans within less than two centuries.

That very same state-wrecking plague bacterium remains with us even today, a reminder of the very long persistence and resilience of pathogens.

Hopefully COVID-19 will not persist for millennia. But until there's a successful vaccine, and likely even after, no one is safe. Politics here are crucial: When vaccination programs are weakened, infections can come roaring back. Just look at measles and polio, which resurge as soon as vaccination efforts falter.

Given such historical and contemporary precedents, humanity can only hope that the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 will prove to be a tractable and eradicable pathogen. But the history of pandemics teaches us to expect otherwise.

By arrangements with
the Conversation

Work, Eat, Sleep And Repeat!

Sometimes making a living means taking care of tasks that don't rank on career ladder

MARIA ELIZABETH KALLUKAREN

Kumar smiled his way to our notice a year or so ago. You know one of those genuine smiles that etch creases into a person's face and reach right up into the eyes almost lighting up the soul within.

His manners were rather endearing as he greeted each of us in turn. The gentle voice didn't bear any irritable inflections from the searing July Dubai heat. Nor did any unnecessary complexities weigh it down as Kumar stood in his blue overalls, a blue hat squashed over his sweaty forehead, a broom and a bin propped up beside him.

Rather his was a voice tempered with humility — the knowledge that there were many things out there that he didn't understand, such as why it had fallen to his lot to spend his prime years far from home and family, picking trash, dusting cobwebs, and throttling bulging black bags of rubbish before removing them from the public bins kept around the residential building he worked in.

Around him, well-groomed and coiffed residents emerged briefly through the fogged up glass doors and into the basement car park, tasting the blistering heat for a few seconds ... a few minutes... before hurriedly stepping into their BMWs and Mercs, and firmly shutting the door against the heat. Air con in full blast, and sunglasses perched on noses, off they went passing Kumar by.

And yet to this day, it has never seemed to me that he bears us any malice, as we live our lives and he his.

Elsewhere in our city live a mother and daughter. While the young 20-year-old — thanks to her education — has found a job in the accounts section of a good company, it is her mother who continues to serve as the family's backbone. She doesn't have a degree to her name — the result either of parental neglect, pov-



Making a living means having to take care of tasks that don't rank on anyone's career ladder unless poverty and illiteracy hound them. Tasks that no one wants to do.

erty, or her own lack of interest back in her childhood days.

Peppered with "sorries"

And so she makes a living with skills she has picked up at home — sweeping, mopping and washing. Unlike Kumar,

who is severely limited by his poor grasp of English, letting his smiles do all the talking, this middle-aged lady makes every attempt to learn the language and uses it without inhibition. Her speech is peppered with "sorries" and "thank yous" as she wears her humility and

gratitude for all to see.

Then there is a 50-year-old lady who puts in 10-hour shifts, 6 days a week, at a salon, cheerfully engaging her clients in friendly banter as she goes about snipping hair, lathering on hair colour, buffing nails, exfoliating feet, and removing callus.

Give her a chance to talk about herself, and she will tell you about her son back home who is studying to be an architect. It's quite evident that she has let go of all her own hopes and dreams and now shares those of her only son. Whatever she saves goes back home for his university needs and to her mother with whom he stays.

Heading to work and back

Like them, there are countless men and women for whom the daily grind isn't a 9-5 job, or driving bumper to bumper through traffic while heading to work and back. Life for them isn't about awaking to daily household chores and noisy, tantrum-throwing children and the every day school run. It doesn't involve coffee shops, jogging on the beach, Yoga classes and a Friday brunch.

For them, making a living means having to take care of tasks that don't rank on anyone's career ladder unless poverty and illiteracy hound them. Tasks that no one wants to do.

Making a living means leaving their homes and families and villages and arriving on foreign soil where a bunker bed awaits them with space underneath for their meagre possessions. It means walking from bus stops to their workplace in the heat so as to save a few dirhams on transport. It means being alone with their thoughts and anxieties since those who love them are not around to share them.

They will gratefully accept clothes that have seen better days, shoes that 'bite', old appliances that have made way for new, dented pots and pans, electronics that have fashionably expired and all manner of hand me downs. There is no room for false pride.

Theirs are lives lived to the staccato rhythm of wake up, work, eat, sleep and repeat.

Gulf News

Specific Brain Circuit Damaged By Social Isolation During Childhood

Agencies

COVID-19 pandemic, which forced many countries to implement social distancing and school closures, magnifies the need for understanding the mental health consequences of social isolation and loneliness.

Loneliness is recognised as a serious threat to mental health. Even as our world becomes increasingly connected over digital platforms, young people in our society are feeling a growing sense of isolation.

While research has shown that social isolation during childhood, in particular, is detrimental to adult brain function and behavior across mammalian species, the underlying neural circuit mechanisms have remained poorly understood.

A research team from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai has now identified specific sub-



populations of brain cells in the prefrontal cortex, a key part of the brain that regulates social behavior, that are required for normal sociability in adulthood and are profoundly vulnerable to juvenile social isolation in mice.

The study findings, which appear in Nature Neuroscience, shed light on a previously unrecognised role of these cells, known as medial prefrontal cortex neurons projecting to the paraventricular thalamus, the brain area that relays signals to various components of the brain's reward circuitry. If the finding is

the Mindich Child Health and Development Institute, and senior author of the paper. "Through stimulation of the specific prefrontal circuit projecting to the thalamic area in adulthood, we were able to rescue the sociability deficits caused by juvenile social isolation."

Specifically, the team found that, in male mice, two weeks of social isolation immediately following weaning leads to a failure to activate medial prefrontal cortex neurons projecting to the paraventricular thalamus during social exposure in adulthood.

Researchers found that juvenile isolation led to both reduced excitability of the prefrontal neurons projecting to the paraventricular thalamus and increased inhibitory input from other related neurons, suggesting a circuit mechanism underlying sociability deficits caused by juvenile social isolation.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
REGIONAL TRANSPORT
OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.ARTO/ANG/101/2084Date:-15/10/2020

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Sajad Yousuf Waza S/O Mohd Yousuf Waza R/O Bijbehara Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Taveera Bearing Regd. No.JK03D-7097(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.4682/MC/ANG. and Mr.Suheel Ahmad S/O Gh Qadir R/O Qaimoh Khudwani Kulgam(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 PN Bank Bijbehara Anantnag.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.ARTO/ANG/101/2085Date:-15/10/2020

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Suhail Ahmad Wani S/O Feroz Ahmad Wani R/O Narpora Kokernag Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle 207 Load Carrer Bearing Regd. No.JK03C-1571(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Ab Gani Bhat S/O Gh Mohi u din Bhat R/O Digipora Khirram 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 As Per RC Endorsement.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 stipulatedperiod.

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION CHADOORA

SNOW CLEARANCE NOTICE INVITING TENDER
FOR WINTER SEASON 2020-21

NIT No.74/5236-46/CHADOORA

DATED: 13-10-2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) from approved and eligible Contractors for the following works:-

S.No	STAGE NAME	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	4	5	7	8
1.	SDR-1	200/-	5000/-	3054-SNOW	"DEE"
2	SDR-2	200/-	5000/-	3054-SNOW	"DEE"
3	SDR-3	200/-	5000/-	3054-SNOW	"DEE"
4	SDR-4	200/-	5000/-	3054-SNOW	"DEE"
5	SDR-5	200/-	5000/-	3054-SNOW	"DEE"
6	SDR-6	200/-	5000/-	3054-SNOW	"DEE"

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jk-tenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13.10.2020 from 10.00 A.M
3	Bid submission Start Date	13.10.2020 from 10.00 A.M
4	Bid Submission End Date	19.10.2020 upto 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19.10.2020 at 4.10 P.M in the office of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora(tender inviting authority) and Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR(The Date of Treasury Challan earnest money/Bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Srinagar/Budgam (tender receiving authority).

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

4. The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

7.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

7.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically / by registered post / through courier before the date specified in Para-1.

7.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

No. 5236-46

DIPK-7413/20

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chadoora

LIST OF SNOW CLEARANCE STAGE TENDERS FOR WINTER SEASON 2020-21

STAGE NO.	STAGE NAME	NAME OF THE ROAD	KMS
1	SDR-1	IG Road Km 3rd to 9th Link road to Old Barzullah Bulbul bagh, links from Rambagh to Barzulla Bridge, Janhager Colony, Chinar Colony, Habib Colony, old aprrypora link roads, industrial estate link roads (Lane1,2,3), Zumzum link road opposite CRPF Camp, Hyderabad to Gooripora links,Hyderabad Batpora Links, Rehmatnabad link roads, Green Avenue (Sector A, B), Umerabad Sector A, B, Alfazal colony link roads, Hafiz lane, Jeelanabad link roads, Bagwanpora, Nooranicolony, Toiba Colony, Airport Avenue link roads (Sector 1,2,3), Coperative colony, JK Public School link, Al-Kareem colony, Jamia Masjid Humhama, Gania Mohalla, Eidgah Mohalla, Humhama Heights, Patwari Khana link, Friends colony.	63.50
		TOTAL	63.50
2	SDR-2	Old Airport Road Km 4th to 10th Old Airport links LHS/RHS, Bank Colony, Hamdania Colony, Pine Avenue, Railway Colony, Wanbal Gogoo road incl. Gausiya colonu and Yavel links, Humhama Baginder road, Rangreth Wawoosa, Check Bagwanpora, Qayoom Colony, Hakeem Bagh, Parbagh, Gooripora Roads, LD Colony, Alfaroq Colony, Alamdar Colony Bund Road (Lanes A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J), Housing colony Sanatnagar with allied links, Old Rawalpura, Asthanpora, Gulzarpora with links on Canal Avenue (Sector A, B, 4,5), Wallisabad road upto Check with allied links, Iqbal Colony, Al-Noor colony, Jeelan Enclave with allied links, Hill View Colony East/West, Radio Colony with allied links, Wawoosa links incl. Kite Colony, Paul Colony, Afandibagh, Budshah colony, Hutment incl. Majeedbagh, Firdouse Colony.	83.20
		TOTAL	83.20
3	SDR-3	Srinagar Charisharief Road Km 3rd to 7th Srinagar Charisharief Road LHS/RHS links (from Rambagh to Natipora),Pamposh colony, old Chanapora, madina Colony, Khan colony, Rose lane colony, Garden lane, Housing colony Chanapora, Amanul-lah Khan to Gurdewara lane, Irfan Colony, Masjid Ahlihadees Friends Colony Chanapora, Bagi Mehtab Housing colony, Gulshan Nagar, Osmania colony, Gausiya colony, Alamdar lane, Gulposh colony, Mehtab Enclave, Shadab Lane, Marriage Hall link, Lal Nagar Methan Road, Links from Nowgam to Lal Nagar Methan Bypass incl. Paul Mohalla, Gania Mohalla, Rather Mohalla	76.00
		TOTAL	76.00
4	SDR-4	Natipora Newa Road (Km 1st To 3rd) including Mahjoor Nagar. Budshah Nagar Colony roads, Azad Basti East/West, Stadium Colony, Iram Colony, Mahboob Colony, Shahi Hamdan colony, Abu Bakar Colony, Iqbal Colony, Al Qadoos lane, Faizabad colony, Bismillah colony, Bhat colony (1,2), Candid Colony, Mahjoor Nagar main road with allied links (LHS/RHS), Nowgam Padshahibagh inner links (LHS/RHS) including all government buildings in Rambagh sub Division	41.00
		TOTAL	41.00
5	SDR-5	Nowgam Pahroo Road Nowgam Pahroo links (LHS/RHS), Khanday colony, Kanihama link road, , Kadalbal Tengan Imambada Gangipora road with allied links (LHS/RHS)	22.00
		TOTAL	22.00
6	SDR-6	Kadalbal Lasjan Rambagh Road Kadalbal Lasjan Rambagh Road, Padshahibagh Bund road with inner links, Kursoo Ghat Bund road, Wanposh Colony, Rather Mohalla, PHE link, Syedabad link road, Lasjan A+B, Shalina Summerbugh Goolpora rood, Inner links (Shalina Summerbugh Goolipora), Bagi Shakoor Shah Zoonipora Bund Road, Shalina Seerbagh with allied Links, Soiteng Gundbal Road, Vethpora Zoo Bund	46.00
		TOTAL	46.00
		GRAND TOTAL	331.70

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT
OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.ARTO/ANG/101/2086Date:-15/10/2020

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Mohd Shafi Bhat S/O Mohd Abdul-lah Bhat R/O Laram Ganjipora Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle 207 Load Carrer Bearing Regd. No.JK03C-1661 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Mohd Abass Dar S/O Gh Rasool Dar R/O Chee Bunpora 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 JK Bank Wanpoh Anantnag.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

JAMMU & KASHMIR SPORTS COUNCIL
Bakhshi Stadium, Srinagar

Sub:- Submission of calendar of activities for the year 2020-21 by recognised Sports Associations.

NOTICE

Vide this office whatsapp communication dated:19.04.2020, all recognised Sports Associations of this Council were asked to furnish calendar of activities for the year 2020-21 alongwith details of activities held during 2019-20, utilization certificate of grants for the year 2019-20 and recognition fee for the year 2020-21 for allocation of grants to conduct domestic and national participation activities. Pursuant to this various Associations have submitted the calendar of activities for the year 2020-21 and allocation of grants was made to them vide order No:68 of 2020 dated:12.10.2020 with the approval of the competent authority. However calendar of activities for the year 2020-21 along with allied documents from following sports Association are still awaited and as such they are being informed through the medium of this notice to submit the same within the period of one week positively:-

1. J&K Ball Badminton Association.

2. J&K Billiard & Snooker Association.

3. J&K Cycle Polo Association.

4. J&K Carom association.

5. J&K Amateur Fencing Association.

6. J&K Gymnastic Association.

7. J&K Handball Association.

8. J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association.

9. Amateur Karate Do Association of J&K.

10. J&K Korfbal Association.

11. Mountaineering Association of J&K.

12. J&K Squash Racket Association.

13. J&K Table Tennis Association.

14. J&K Tenni Koit Association.

15. J&K Weightlifting Association.

16. J&K Water Skiing Association.

17. Roll Ball Association of J&K.

18. J&K Association for Rowing and Sculling.

Sd/-

Sports Officer Central

No:SC/634/1152-55

Dated:13-10-2020

DIPK-NB-2995/20

FaxNo. 0191-2467307 (Channi Rama, Jmu. Off.)
Fax No. 0194-2470230 (M.A. Road Sgr. Off.)
e-mail: igtraffic@jkpolice.gov.in

Traffic Police Headquarters J&K Srinagar/ Jammu

TRAFFIC PLAN & ADVISORY

Subject: Restriction on Vehicular movement on NHW-44 on 16/23/30-October-2020 (Fridays) and (06/13/20/27-November-2020) all Fridays of the month of November 2020

Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NHW-44)

In Connection with the maintenance of NHW-44, No vehicular movement shall be allowed on NHW-44 on every Friday starting from 16-10-2020 to 30-11-2020. Routine advisories with regard to Traffic movement other than Fridays shall be issued on daily basis.

SFs Convoy Movement
Security Forces are advised/requested not to ply against advisory/traffic plan in view of Road maintenance on the days mentioned above.

MUGHAL ROAD
However, Subject to fair weather and good road condition only load carriers carrying essential supplies shall be allowed on Mughal Road on these days. Moreover, no passenger vehicle or pedestrian shall be allowed on Mughal Road.

ADVISORY
People are advised not to undertake journey on NHW-44 on these days. In case of any emergency they can contact Traffic control units as under:-

Jammu (0191-2459048, 9419147732)

Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091)

Ramban (9419993745)

Udhampur (8491928625)

For Addl. Director General of Police
Traffic J&K Srinagar.

DIPK-7429/20

No:-THQ/IT/T-Adv/2020/

Date:- -10-2020

Pompeo encourages Saudis to normalise ties with Israel

Agencies

Washington: United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday encouraged Saudi Arabia to recognise Israel, in what would be a massive boost for the Jewish state amid normalisation by two other Gulf Arab kingdoms.

Bahrain, which tightly coordinates its foreign policy with Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates on September 15 signed the so-called Abraham Accords with Israel at the White House.

Meeting Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Pompeo said the agreement "contributed greatly to our shared goals for regional peace and security".

"They reflect a changing dynamic in the region, one in which countries rightly recognise the need for regional co-operation to counter Iranian influence and generate prosperity," Pompeo said.

"We hope Saudi Arabia will consider normalising its relationships as well. We want to thank them for the assistance they've had in the success of the Abraham Accords so far."

US President Donald Trump has highlighted Arab normalisation with Israel as a major achievement as he

seeks another term in November 3 elections, with his evangelical Christian base widely supportive of the Jewish state.

Trump said last month that he also expected Saudi Arabia to recognise Israel "at the right time". Gulf Arab kingdoms have found common cause with Trump in his hawkish line against regional rival Iran.

The administration in turn has been sparing in raising human rights concerns with the Arab allies, including over the killing two years ago of US-based writer Jamal Khashoggi at a Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Pompeo said the US "supports a robust programme of arms sales to Saudi Arabia", saying the effort helps "protect its citizens and sustains American jobs". In a controversial move that triggered an internal probe, Pompeo last year cited a crisis with Iran to bypass Congress to push ahead \$8 billion in arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Lawmakers across party lines have been appalled by the heavy toll on civilians, including destruction of schools and hospitals, in Saudi Arabia's campaign against Iranian-aligned Houthi rebels in Yemen

Israel approves first West Bank settler homes since Gulf deals



Agencies

Jerusalem: bIsrael approved 2,166 new homes in settlements across the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, official figures seen by AFP showed, ending an eight-month lull in settlement expansion.

The approvals came less than a month after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain signed agreements to normalise relations with Israel, which in return pledged to freeze its plans to annex swathes of the West Bank.

NGO Peace Now said the settlement uptick signalled Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rejection of Palestinian statehood and deals a blow to hopes of a wider Israeli-Arab peace.

Editorial: Israel-UAE deal is being hailed for stopping West Bank's annexation. But that is a blatant untruth

It said around 2,000 more homes were expected to be approved on Thursday.

A picture taken on October 13 shows new apartments buildings under construction in the Beit El settlement in the occupied West Bank. — AFP

"Netanyahu is moving ahead at full steam toward solidifying the de facto annexation of the West Bank," it said in a statement ahead of Wednesday's decisions.

Neighbouring Jordan condemned what foreign ministry spokesperson Daifalla Ali Alfayez described as a "unilateral and illegal" Israeli decision.

Palestinian presidential spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina said the Israeli move exploited the warming relations in the Gulf and "blind support from the Trump administration".

The Netanyahu government's settlement policy, he said in a statement, "will lead the region to the brink of the abyss".

US President Donald Trump sees the Gulf accords as part of his broader initiative for Middle East peace.



Passengers wearing protective face masks travel on a bus, as Italy adopts new restrictions aimed at curbing a surge in coronavirus infections, in Rome. REUTERS

'World Experiencing One Of The Deepest Recessions Since Great Depression'

Press Trust Of India

Washington: The world is experiencing one of the deepest recessions since the Great Depression in the 1930s owing to the novel coronavirus, World Bank President David Malpass has said, terming the COVID-19 pandemic a "catastrophic event" for many developing and the poorest countries. He told reporters that given the extent of the economic contraction, there was a rising risk of disruptive debt crises in countries.

"So that has got a lot of focus here at the meetings," Malpass told the media on Wednesday at the start of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

"The recession has been deep, one of the deepest since the Great Depression. And for many developing countries, and for the people in the poorest countries, it is truly a depression, a catastrophic event. It is continuing to add to the ranks of those in extreme poverty," he said.

That is the focus of this meeting and the focus of their actions, he said, adding that the World Bank was building as big a growth programme for countries as they can in this

fiscal year.

A day earlier, the board approved the extension of the health emergency programmes to up to USD 12 billion for vaccines and therapeutics and distribution of those in countries that do not otherwise have access.

Responding to a question, Malpass said that the world was currently experiencing a K-shaped recovery.

That means that the advanced economies have been able to provide support, especially for their financial markets and for people that have jobs that can be done by working from home. But people that are in the informal economy have lost their jobs, and are depending on social protection programmes, he said.

For the developing countries, and especially the poorest developing countries, that downward leg in the K is an increasingly desperate recession or depression that is facing people in the poorest countries because of the loss of jobs, the loss of income, and also the loss of remittances coming from workers, working out-

side the country, Malpass said.

"What we're trying to do at the World Bank is recognise that problem and provide extra support for social protection for the poorest in countries, also recognising the agricultural challenges," he said.

The president welcomed countries that are keeping open their export markets, and also countries that are able to change their subsidy systems in order to allow more food availability within their economies during this very challenging time. Malpass said that the first priority was saving lives, people's health, and safety.

That involves procedures that have been widely discussed of social distancing and masks and proper health care if people contract the virus, strengthening of hospital systems and so on. All of those are important, he asserted.

"And then, as we look at the next stage, what I think we can be talking about is that it's going to be a prolonged downturn for many of the countries, there won't be as fast a rebound in tourism, for example, as many would like to have," he said.

Azerbaijan strikes inside Armenia as Karabakh fighting widens

Agencies

Baku: Azerbaijan said on Wednesday it had destroyed missile launchers inside Armenia that were targeting its cities, as fierce fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh risked widening beyond the disputed region.

Hundreds have already lost their lives in two weeks of fighting, and continued clashes have rendered almost meaningless a humanitarian ceasefire agreed in Moscow last week.

Armenia confirmed that military positions inside the country had been hit but denied its forces had been firing into Azerbaijan. It warned that it too could start targeting military sites inside its adversary's territory.

Clashes over Nagorno-Karabakh — where Armenia-

backed separatist fighters are battling Azerbaijani forces — have been largely confined to areas in and around the region since a fresh outbreak of fighting started last month.

Direct confrontations between Armenia and Azerbaijan risk spiralling into an all-out, multi-front war with devastating consequences for both sides.

Moscow has so far refused to become drawn into the conflict — even though Armenia is part of a regional Russia-led security group — noting that the organisation's treaty does not apply to Karabakh.

Overwhelmingly populated by Armenians, Nagorno-Karabakh has been controlled by Armenians since a 1990s war that erupted as the Soviet Union fell.

Azerbaijan has never hidden its desire to win back control and no state has recognised Nagorno-Karabakh's declaration of independence.

The latest fighting, which erupted on September 27, has been the most intense since a 1994 ceasefire, claiming more than 600 lives, including more than 70 civilians, according to a tally based on partial tolls from both sides.

Each side has accused the other of targeting civilian areas with shelling, missile and rocket attacks.

Thuds of shelling

Azerbaijan's defence ministry said in statements on Wednesday that it had destroyed ballistic missile launchers deployed in Armenia in two separate attacks overnight.

Poll: Support for Scottish independence at record high

Agencies

Edinburgh : First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wrote guest editorial for Die Welt in which she explained her desire for independence and European Union membership

Support for Scottish independence from the United Kingdom has risen to a record high of 58%, according to an Ipsos Mori poll released on Wednesday.

The poll of 1,045 adults aged over 16 across Scotland, conducted from October 2-9, saw only 42% back staying in the union once undecided voters were stripped out.

saying they would vote 'yes'."

The poll indicated strong support for the Scottish National Party (SNP) led by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who has won widespread public backing for her handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Some 72% of Scots are satisfied with the job Sturgeon is doing, according to the poll.

Scotland, whose devolved administration in Edinburgh sets policy in areas including education, health, transport and local government, is due to hold parliamentary elections in May next year.

Gray said SNP support,



"Our latest poll will put a spring in the step of nationalists but makes grim reading for unionists," Emily Gray, the managing director of Ipsos MORI Scotland said.

"The Scottish public have shifted even further towards supporting an independent Scotland, with record numbers now

buoyed by Sturgeon's high satisfaction ratings, looks "very strong" and would further bolster calls for another vote on independence.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has repeatedly ruled out transferring the parliamentary powers from London to hold another referendum.

Russia approves second virus vaccine after early trials

Agencies

Moscow: Russian authorities have given regulatory approval to a second coronavirus vaccine after early-stage studies, two months after a similar move prompted widespread criticism from scientists both at home and abroad. Russian President Vladimir Putin made the announcement on Wednesday, during a televised meeting with government officials.

"We now need to increase production of the first vaccine and the second vaccine," Putin said, adding that the priority was to supply the Russian market with the vaccines.

The peptide-based, two-shot vaccine, EpiVacCorona, was developed by the Vector Institute in Siberia and tested among 100 volunteers in early-stage, placebo-controlled human trials, which lasted more than two months and were completed two weeks ago. The volunteers were between 18 and 60 years old.

The scientists have yet to publish the results of the study. In comments to the media, scientists developing the vaccine

said that it produced enough antibodies to protect the person who had it from the virus and that the immunity it creates could last for up to six months.

An advanced study involving tens of thousands of volunteers that is necessary to establish safety and effectiveness of the vaccine was scheduled to start in November or December.

Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova, who said earlier this week she took part in the early trials as a volunteer, said Wednesday that 40,000 people will take part in the advance studies of EpiVacCorona. It remained unclear whether the vaccine would be offered for a wider use while the trials are still ongoing.

Russia's first vaccine, Sputnik V, was developed by the Moscow-based Gamaleya Institute and approved by the government on Aug. 11, after early trials among 76 volunteers were completed. Just like on Wednesday, Putin personally broke the news on national television and said one of his daughters had already been vaccinated, experienced slight side effects and developed antibodies.

NEWS MAKERS

Joe Biden And Democrats Raised Record \$383 Million For White House Bid

Democrat Joe Biden and his party raised a record-shattering \$383 million in September for his presidential bid, likely bolstering his financial advantage over President Donald Trump ahead of the November 3 election.

The campaign had \$432 million in cash at month's end, campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon said on Twitter.

The haul outstripped the \$365 million that Democrats raised in August, which was itself a monthly record for any U.S. presidential campaign.

"To every person who chipped in a few dollars last month - thank you," Biden wrote on Twitter in announcing the sum. "I'm incredibly humbled."

The Trump campaign has not yet announced its September total, but it pulled in \$210 million in August along



with the Republican National Committee.

Biden has held a significant lead over Trump in national polls for months, although Reuters/Ipsos polling shows a somewhat closer race in the battleground states likely to decide the winner.

As of Aug. 31, Democrats had \$466 million available to spend on the presidential

race, compared with \$325 million for Republicans.

The figures cap a stunning turnaround for the Biden campaign, which emerged from a crowded Democratic primary field earlier this year with little cash. The Trump campaign, which began raising money almost as soon as he took office in 2017, had once appeared to be a financial juggernaut.

A popular Ardern poised to win 2nd term in New Zealand vote

In the final days of campaigning before New Zealand holds an election on Saturday, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is being greeted like a rock star.

Hundreds of students are crammed into a common area at the Victoria University of Wellington to hear her speak, and her message of hope is being punctuated by thunderous applause. One student volunteer looks on the verge of tears while others are shrieking or singing.

It's an unusually emotive display in a country where people often pride themselves on keeping things low key.

And yet as Ardern talks in uplifting tones about her plans to address mental health and climate change, she never mentions what many around the world consider her greatest success: leading the effort to stamp out the coronavirus from the nation's shores.

Nobody in the crowd is social distancing or wearing a mask — they don't need to because the virus is no longer spreading in New Zealand. Life has returned to normal in the country of five million and Ardern's popularity has skyrocketed as a result.

"There is cause for optimism," Ardern



tells the crowd. "There is cause for hope. There is reason, I hope, for all of you to look to New Zealand and feel proud — but also, feel willing to keep pushing us to do more, to be more."

Opinion polls indicate Ardern is on track to win a second term as prime minister. Her liberal Labour Party is polling far ahead of the conservative National Party, led by Judith Collins.

Ardern, 40, is greeted with the same enthusiasm on walkabouts, where her security detail looks nervous as people crush to get selfies with her. Judy Buot, a nurse, came to the Queensgate Shopping Centre near Wellington to see Ardern and said she admires her virus leadership.

Falcon sells for record \$170,000 in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: A young falcon in Saudi Arabia has sold for more than \$170,000, the most expensive sale ever of that type of bird and the costliest purchase so far at an annual 45-day auction.

The bird was sold on Tuesday for 650,000 Saudi riyals (\$173,000) by virtue of its unique characteristics and scarcity, the auction's organisers, the Saudi Falcon Club, said in a statement.

The club said it was the most expensive sale ever globally for its type - a young Shaheen breed, a type of peregrine falcon. Falconry is an important part of the cultural desert heritage in Saudi Arabia and neighbouring countries going back thousands of years.

Falcon owners in the Gulf, seeking hunting opportunities, commonly travel with their birds inside plane cabins to Pakistan, Morocco and the central Asian region during colder months.



Few Months After "Unlock", Taj Mahal Covered In Dust, Poisonous Gases



AGRA: A few days after "unlock" the Taj Mahal in Agra is surrounded by clouds of dust and poisonous gases due to air pollution and construction work being done in the nearby areas. "The city is in a terrible state due to rising air pollution. People are facing severe breathing issues but the administration is not paying any heed to the situation. There is growing dust in the air, which is spoiling the monument as well as human health," Ashish Singh, local resident, told ANI. Taj Mahal is among the Seven Wonders of the world. "Agra stands at the ninth position on the most polluted

cities in India. There is construction going on everywhere. We're facing a lot of breathing issues because of the rising pollution," said Gaurav Gupta, another resident. Syeed Munnwar Ali, Chairman, National Memorial Safety Committee spoke about how the administration plans to curb down rising pollution and damage to the Taj Mahal. "We have initiated plantation drives across Agra to induce fresh oxygen in the air and lower the pollution level. We have instructed all construction sites so that they reduce dust and dirt emanating from those sites," Mr Ali told ANI. He further added, "To protect the Taj Mahal, 100 electronic buses will soon be introduced, which will be driven in the 20 meters radius of the monument. These buses will not emit any harmful gases and protect the white marble from diminishing due to pollutants."

Dairy Entrepreneurship Has Huge Potential In J&K: Advisor

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized a day-long webinar to promote dairy farming sector in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The webinar was presided over by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, K.K. Sharma. It was attended by scores of young entrepreneurs both physically as well as virtually. The Advisor highlighted the importance of dairy entrepreneurship and urged the youth to come forward and use the latest technology to increase productivity. "We need to look at all the aspects of dairy entrepreneurship. There are some untapped niche markets in the dairy sector. There is a huge demand of Goat milk and its processing. We need to study such opportunities so that the young entrepreneurs will tap this potential," said Sharma. The Advisor also urged various government agencies to set up farmer friendly policies and assured the entrepreneurs of full support from the Government. He said that the youth should also take full advantage of various government interventions being done to catalyse and support the entrepreneurial ecosystem especially for the young and enterprising minds. "The sector has huge potential of increasing the income of the people living in the rural areas besides also opening up the avenues for the aspiring entrepreneurs resulting in

job creation and contributing to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir", the Advisor added. Dr R S Sodhi, Managing Director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd., (AMUL) was the key speaker in the webinar. "The Indian food and dairy sector is valued at INR 40 lakh crores, out of which around INR 4 Lakh crores are from the organized sector and Jammu and Kashmir contribute to around 2-3 per cent," said Dr Sodhi. He said that the entrepreneurs can opt for breeding of calves, establish cattle feed farms, establish artificial insemination facilities, provide logistic support and start milk processing units. Director JKEDI, G.M. Dar, highlighted the role of JKEDI in promoting entrepreneurship in J&K and the challenges faced by the entrepreneurs in the Dairy Farming sector. He said that there is a need for upgradation of the dairy sector in J&K on modern lines and techniques so that the quality milk is made available to people. Dar said that the educated youth of the state is slowly getting attracted to the sector. The budding entrepreneurs in the dairy sector need training and expertise; and JKEDI can collaborate with other allied departments to play an important role in order to promote such entrepreneurs. The Director also said that Jammu & Kashmir produces 70 Lakh Litres of milk per day. He said Kashmir alone produces 40 Lakh Litre while Jammu produces 30 Lakh Litres per day. He said J&K has a huge potential in the dairy sector to generate jobs for thousands of unemployed youth.



PLAYTIME: Two Kashmiri kids playing with tyres in the interiors of Dal Lake, Srinagar, on Thursday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

91 Million Urban Indians Lack Basic Handwashing Facilities At Home: UNICEF

NEW DELHI: Around 91 million urban Indians lack basic handwashing facilities at home, UNICEF has said while noting that washing of hands with soap is critical in the fight against infectious diseases like COVID-19. In a statement released on the occasion of Global Handwashing Day, UNICEF said lack of handwashing with soap puts millions at increased risk to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. "In Central and South Asia, 22 per cent of people in urban areas, or 153 million people, lack access to handwashing. Nearly 50 per cent of urban Bangladeshis, or 29 million people; and 20 per cent of urban Indians or 91 million, lack basic handwashing facilities at home," it said. Dr Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF India Representative said as the pandemic continues to spread, it is important to remember that handwashing is no longer just an individual choice, it is a societal imperative. "It is one of the most low-cost and high-



ly effective measures you can take to protect yourself and others against coronavirus, and many other infections," she said. "As schools consider the new parameters for reopening, we need to make sure that they continue to prioritize access to handwashing with soap, clean drinking water and safe sanitation for every child," she added. According to data provided by the child rights body only three out of five people worldwide have access to basic handwashing facilities. "Forty per cent of the world's population, or three billion people, do not have

a handwashing facility with water and soap at home. Nearly three-quarters of the people in the least developed countries lack basic handwashing facilities at home," UNICEF said. "Forty-three per cent of schools lacked handwashing facility with water and soap affecting 818 million school-age children. In the least developed countries, seven out of 10 schools have no place for children to wash their hands with water and soap," it said. The global child rights body further said that according to the Joint Monitoring Programme 2019, approximately 60 per cent of households in India have handwashing facilities with soap while the coverage in rural communities is lower. Meanwhile, the National Sample Survey, 2019, reported that only 36 per cent of households in India washed their hands before eating and only 74 per cent cleaned their hands with soap after defecation, it added. PTI

TRP Scam BARC Temporarily Suspends Weekly Ratings Of News Channels

MUMBAI: Following the fake Television Rating Points (TRP) scam, the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) on Thursday announced a temporary suspension of weekly ratings of news channels across languages. The council intends to review and augment the current standards of measurement to improve on "statistical robustness", and the exercise will result in a "pause" in the weekly ratings for up to 12 weeks, an official statement said. At least five people have been arrested by the city police which busted the scam earlier this month. Those arrested include news channel employees, while the police is also questioning executives of Amab Goswami-led Republic Media Group with regard to the case. Republic Media Group has denied any wrongdoing. The audience estimates given by BARC influence ad spends, and the total size of the ad placements was pegged at Rs 32,000 crore annually by the police. The police allege the ratings were being rigged by inducing the homes where the monitors were placed. "In the light of the recent developments, BARC Board has proposed that it's techni-

cal committee review and augment the current standards of measuring and reporting the data of niche genres, to improve their statistical robustness and to significantly hamper the potential attempts of infiltrating the panel homes," an official statement said. The exercise would cover all Hindi, Regional, English News and Business News channels with immediate effect, it added. "BARC will cease publishing the weekly individual ratings for all news channels during the exercise," it said, adding that the exercise will last between 8 to 12 weeks and include validation and testing. "... a pause was necessitated to enable the industry and BARC to work closely to review its already stringent protocols and further augment them to enable the industry to focus on collaborating for growth and well-natured competitiveness," BARC India chairman Punit Goenka said. The industry body's chief executive Sumil Lulla said besides augmenting current protocols and benchmarking them with global standards, BARC is also exploring several options to discourage unlawful inducement of its panel home viewers and further strengthening its codes. PTI

People With Blood Type O May Have Lower Risk Of Covid-19 Infection

LONDON: People with blood type O may have a lower risk of infection from the SARS-CoV-2 virus, that causes COVID-19, and reduced likelihood of severe outcomes, including organ complications, if they develop the disease, two new studies suggest. The studies, published in the journal Blood Advances on Wednesday, add evidence that there may be an association between blood type and vulnerability to COVID-19. However, the researchers noted that more studies are needed to better understand why and what it means for patients. In the first study, researchers compared Danish health registry data from over 473,000 individuals tested for COVID-19 to data from a control group of more than 2.2 million people from the general population. Among the COVID-19 positive, they found fewer people with blood type O and more people with A, B, and AB types. The study suggests that people with blood types A, B, or AB may be more likely to be infected with COVID-19 than people with type O.



The researchers did not find any significant difference in rate of infection between A, B, and AB types. Since blood group distributions vary among ethnic subgroups, the researchers also controlled for ethnicity and maintained that fewer people with blood type O tested positive for the virus. "It is very important to consider the proper control group because blood type prevalence may vary considerably in different ethnic groups and different countries," said study author Torben Barington, from the University of Southern Denmark. A separate retrospective study in Canada found that people with blood groups A or AB appear to exhibit greater COVID-19 disease severity than people with blood groups O or B. The researchers examined data from 95 critically ill COVID-19 patients hospitalised in Vancouver.

NEWS MAKER

Man Claims Harassment By Wife In FB Post, Consumes Poison

A 30-year-old social worker shared a suicide note on Facebook before consuming poison in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur city. In his post, Chandan Singh Verma claimed that he was being harassed by his wife Kalpana Verma, who was demanding Rs 20 lakh for giving him a divorce. They got married in 2014.



When his friends and relatives

saw the post on Wednesday, they immediately started calling him, but he did not answer the calls. Some of them reached his house and found it locked from inside. The police were informed and Chandan was found lying unconscious on his bed. He was immediately taken to a district hospital and later referred

to a higher centre in Bareilly, but he died on his way. Station House Officer (SHO) Kotwali police station Praveesh Singh said, "We have sent the body for autopsy and have filed an FIR against his wife under IPC section 306 (abetment of suicide). The suicide note is evidence and we will include it in our investigation."

Corporates And Business Houses Donated Rs 876 Crore To National Political Parties In 2018-19: ADR

NEW DELHI: Corporates and business houses donated at least Rs 876 crore to various national political parties in the fiscal year 2018-19 and the BJP was the biggest recipient of such funds, followed by the Congress, a study conducted by poll rights group ADR (Association for Democratic Reforms) showed on Thursday. While the BJP got Rs 698 crore, the Congress came a distant second with a total amount of Rs 122.5 crore, ADR said, citing data made public by the Election Commission of India, to which all parties are required to disclose details about donors and donations above Rs 20,000 in a financial year. The collective donations totalling Rs 876.10 crore, made by corporates and business houses, accounted for nearly 92 per cent of overall donations received by various national parties during the financial year 2018-19, the report said. "Out of five national parties, the BJP received maximum donations of Rs 698.082 crore from 1,573 cor-



porate donors followed by Congress which received a total contribution of Rs 122.5 crore from 122 corporate donors, and NCP with Rs 11.345 crore from 17 corporate donors," it said. "Out of the total of Rs 876.10 crore donated by the corporate/ business houses to the 5 national parties in FY 2018-19, Rs 20.54 crore was received from the unsegregated category, which includes companies with no de-

tails available online or whose nature of work is unclear," the report said. The report said that a total of 319 donations through which national parties received Rs 31.42 crore do not have address details in the contribution form. "National parties have received Rs 13.57 crore from 34 donations which do not have PAN details in the contribution form. Rs 13.33 crore or 99.75 per cent of such donations without PAN as well as

address details worth Rs 13.364 crore belong to the BJP," the report said. In its recommendations, the ADR said all donors who have donated a minimum of Rs 20,000 as a single or multiple donations should provide their PAN details. "A total of Rs 13.364 crore was collected by the national parties from 274 corporate donors without obtaining their PAN and address details. Such incomplete contributions reports must be returned to the parties by the ECI, to deter them from providing incomplete information," it said. The report further recommended that corporates should make details of their political contributions available in public domain through their websites (in annual reports or in a dedicated page) for increasing transparency in political financing. "Annual scrutiny of donations reports of National, Regional and unrecognized parties should be initiated by a dedicated department of the CBDT, to discourage donations from shell companies or illegal entities," it said. PTI

CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR



کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

CONDOLENCE

The management & the staff of the Cancer Society of Kashmir place on record their sense of deep heartfelt grief & sorrow over the sad demise of Mr. Masood Ahmad Mir's father. It is really irreparable & unbearable loss which we have to share equally. It is unfortunate that death has laid its icy hands on him. Any way man is tool in the hands of destiny. Mysteries are the ways of Almighty Allah. We have to bear them & face them with utter patience because as per Holy Quran "Inna Allah-a-Masabreen" we should bear & reconcile to our fate. May god usher his family with peace and comfort. The members & Staff of the Cancer Society of Kashmir pray that may Almighty Allah shower patience over the bereaved family and rest the departed soul in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

AAMEEN

4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora
Srinagar 190 015 Tele Fax 0194-2441899/2430899