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Minum : 08°C
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Tomorrow 06:38 AM

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News Digest

Civilian Injured In Cross-LoC Shelling

Jammu: A villager was injured when the Pakistan army on Friday resorted to heavy firing and shelling targeting forward areas and posts along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) in Kathua and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Pakistani rangers resorted to firing and mortar shelling along the IB in Manyari hamlet of Hiranagar sector in Kathua district, drawing retaliation from BSF troops, they said. In the shelling, Ramesh Chander of Manyari was injured, the officials said, adding that he was rushed to a nearby hospital. ● P-02

CRPF Man Killed After Vehicle Overtakes

Bandipora- A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel was killed while three others were injured after a vehicle they were travelling met with an accident in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday, officials said. Reports said that one Gypsy of 03 battalion CRPF skidded off the road at Nusoo crossing of Bandipora this morning, resulting in on spot death of a CRPF constable identified as Naresh Kumar and injuries to three others. The injured have been identified as Vinod Kumar, Ankit Gupta and Ravi Raj and were later ● P-02

Two KAS Officers Transferred

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered transfer and posting of two KAS officers with immediate effect. According to an order issued here, Rahul Sharma (KAS), Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Excise Commissioner, J&K. Rajesh Kumar Shavan (KAS), Excise Commissioner, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation, the order reads.

2000 Rounds Recovered From Hideout: Police

Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have busted an underground militant hideout in Awantipora area of Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir. The underground bunker was constructed by militants near the bank of Jhelum river inside a plant nursery at Kawani in Awantipora area and had two 8-feet high rooms and a toilet facility in it, a police official said. He said the hideout was destroyed after recovery of arms and ammunition along with other incriminating material. The recoveries include ● P-02

Ladakh Records Another Covid-19 Death

Leh: One more novel coronavirus patient died in the Union Territory of Ladakh, raising the related toll to 65 while 89 fresh cases brought the infection count to 5,393, an official bulletin said on Friday. The new fatality was registered in Leh district, the bulletin said. Of the total deaths linked to the infection, 27 are from Leh district and 38 from Kargil district, the bulletin released by the Directorate of Health Services said. Forty-nine more patients recovered from the infection, ● P-02

Return Of Spl Status Single Most Important Issue: Omar

NC Leader Takes Dig At BJP, Says 'No Government Lasts Forever'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Hours after Jammu and Kashmir mainstream parties formed an alliance to fight for restoration of special status, former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) Vice-President Omar Abdullah said that he will not go to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a begging bowl as no government lasts forever.

In an interview with a New Delhi based news channel, Omar said that the newly formed People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration will continue to fight for the restoration of special status of Jammu and Kashmir, abrogated by Modi-government on August 5, 2019.

"We're not begging the government of India. Our fight is in the Supreme Court. I'm not going to go to PM Modi with a begging bowl. No government lasts forever. We will wait. We will keep the pot boiling. We will not give up," Omar told India Today's Rajdeep Sardesai.

When asked if the alliance was opportunist or political, Omar said it was a continuation of what started on August 4, 2019 when most parties ● PAGE 02



Omar Abdullah with father Dr Farooq seen here outside the residence of Mehbooba Mufti- KO File Photo

Cong Backs Gupkar Alliance, Demands Return of Art-370

The Congress on Friday demanded restoration of Article 370 and the rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir and welcomed the coming together of mainstream regional parties of the Union Territory. ● P-02

'Gupkar Alliance' Formed On Pak, China Directions: BJP

The BJP in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday alleged that the "Gupkar alliance" has been formed on directions of Pakistan and China and guided by "anti-India" forces, and warned that the alliance partners will ● P-02

J&K Borrows Rs 11,000 Cr Loan To Clear Power Dues

SRINAGAR: Taking advantage of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has signed an MoU for loan assistance of more than Rs 11,000 crore against power liabilities.

The amount will be provided by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited and REC Limited, an official spokesman said here on Friday.

He said an MoU in this regard was signed in presence of principal secretary Power Development Department Rohit Kansal.

Kansal complimented the Power Development Corporation officials for making it happen within the shortest possible

time. He asked them to extend full cooperation to J&K for realising its potential of making J&K a power surplus territory.

The Principal Secretary also commended the PDD officials for working tirelessly to achieve this historic milestone.

He said that after receiving the entire loan amount J&K will be able to liquidate the whole liability.

Kansal also advised the distribution companies to work continuously to cut the losses so that liabilities to department do not accrue again.

An official spokesman said under ANBA-2020, J&K ● PAGE 02

7 More Coronavirus Deaths In J&K, Toll 1368

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least seven more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of Covid-19 related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1368.

Among the victims, five belonged to Jammu division and two others to Kashmir Valley—one from Srinagar and other from Baramulla.

Regarding Srinagar, official sources said that the victim was a 66-year-old woman from Peer Bagh, who was admitted to SKIMS Soura October 6 with bilateral

3 Doctors Among 697

More Test Positive

Forty travelers and three doctors were among 697 new covid-19 cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir in last 24 hours, taking the total tally in the Union Territory to 86754. Among the fresh cases, officials said that 312 were reported from Jammu ● P-02

Azad Tests Positive

For Covid-19

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has tested positive for COVID-19 and has quarantined himself at home. The 71-year-old Congress leader shared the information on Twitter and ● P-02

community acquired pneumonia. Last night, they said, a 60-year-old man from Pattan Baramulla died

at the tertiary care hospital, eighteen days after he was admitted. Among others, the ● PAGE 02

Property Worth Crores Of Two Ex Govt Officials Attached

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Friday attached property worth crores of two former government employees, including the then Managing Director SICOP, for resorting to illegal practices during their tenure.

The assets belonging to Rakesh Kumar Pargal, the then Chief Supervisor, FCI Godown, Udhampur and former Incharge Vigilance Squad in Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and Rattan Lal Tikoo, former MD SICOP were attached by the ACB after conducting a probe.

"On the basis of a preliminary enquiry to verify the facts that Rakesh Kumar Pargal, ● P-02

LADAKH STAND-OFF

Armed Chinese Troops At LAC 'Very Critical' Challenge: India

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said the presence of a large number of Chinese troops with weapons at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh posed a "very critical" security challenge to India.

Jaishankar also said the violent clashes at the de facto border in the Ladakh sector in June had a very deep public and political impact, and left the relationship between India and China profoundly disturbed.

"There are today a very large num-

ber of troops (of PLA) with weapons concentrated on that segment of the border and that is obviously a very critical security challenge that we face, said Jaishankar, speaking at a virtual event hosted by the Asia Society.

Tensions had escalated manifold between India and China after the Galwan Valley clashes in eastern Ladakh on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) also suffered an unspecified number of casualties.

Jaishankar said India has built a relationship with China over ● 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

In FOCUS / Post-Script: Kashmir Lost Its 'Tourism Man'

Swati Joshi

Sudden demise of Mohammad Ashraf Batku on Tuesday night evoked massive condolences across the valley, with many calling it a passing of a man who made the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir's tourism an 'adventurous' sector.

Known as 'tourism man of Kashmir', Batku breathed his last at SKIMS, Srinagar on October 13. He had been unwell for a brief time.

The deceased was a prolific columnist and had four published books on his name. Two of them "Remember-



ing Jammu" and "Travels in Ladakh" were published in 2015.

Batku was a trained engineer before becoming an administrator.

In 1973, he tried to promote adventure tourism in J&K when he gave a project to the State Tourism Department. His accepted pitch promoted him as the in-charge of the wing.

He worked tirelessly to promote mountaineering in Kashmir. He was also a patron and current president of the Jammu & Kashmir Mountaineering and Hiking Club which is currently the oldest and also the largest hiking club in J&K.

Batku retired in 2003, after serving tourism department for 30 years. A man of grit, the former director-

general is still being remembered for introducing tourism in the arid region of Ladakh.

In 1974, when Ladakh was opened for foreign tourism, Batku was extensively involved in developing tourism in this mysterious and enchanting land beyond the Himalayas.

He was born on August 25, 1943, in a middle-class family of Srinagar's Amira Kadal locality. Batku received his schooling in many schools, from Islamia Middle School to Tyndale Biscoe School, before passing his matriculation exam from the SP Higher Secondary School. Later, he secured second position in the ● PAGE 02

Issue NOCs To Youth Booked On Flimsy Grounds: Apni Party

SRINAGAR: The Apni Party on Friday stressed on the need for an urgent release of all political prisoners of Jammu and Kashmir who are still under preventive detention since August last year. In a statement issued here, spokesman Javid Hassan Baig observed that peoples' response to the August 5, 2019 political development was exceptional and has categorically nullified the apprehensions of upheaval cited by the authorities as a reason for detention of hundreds of political activists across Jammu and Kashmir. "Since over a year has passed since the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A the people in J&K

have shown their resentment in a very civilized and peaceful manner for which they deserve appreciation. We also welcome the release of political leaders including former chief ministers but there is no justification to keep the common political activists under continuous detention," he remarked. Baig said that whenever the Apni Party met the leadership of the country, it has been a consistent demand of the Party that all the political detainees since last year be released to ease up the sufferings of people. Their release, he added, has now assumed more significance in light of the deterioration in COVID-19

situation that has crippled the whole world. Apni Party spokesman said that there are some families who are not in a position to meet their loved ones who have been lodged in jails outside J&K. He added that the COVID-19 Pandemic has further aggravated the situation for such families who are now undergoing a mental trauma as they are not able to visit them due to restrictions. "The government of India must take a call on this important human rights issue as life in J&K has almost returned to normal and all apprehensions regarding law and order are by now subsided," he pleaded. Baig urged the government of

India to adopt a compassionate approach and take a review of the cases of PSA detentions so that the affected families take a sigh of relief. "Apni Party has often expressed its concern before the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and the Lt. Governor about the plight of youth who were booked on flimsy grounds and are not being provided with NOCs after their release. These youth want to join the mainstream, apply for jobs and earn a dignified livelihood. Denying them NoCs is adding to their alienation. The government should look into this serious matter and issue favorable orders in this regard," he demanded.

Chief Justice Orders, Gets Gutkha During Hearing After Govt Claims It's Banned In Jharkhand

RANCHI: The Jharkhand High Court on Friday wondered what kind of a ban the government has imposed on gutkha, as the chief justice ordered and received, within minutes, various brands of it soon after an officer claimed during a hearing that the tobacco product is completely banned in the state. During the hearing of a PIL seeking a ban on the open sale of gutkha in the state before a bench of Chief Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan and Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad, the Food Supplies Department said in an affidavit the product has been banned in Jharkhand since 2018 and it is not being sold anywhere.

Expressing surprise at that assertion, the chief justice sent an employee of the court to bring gutkha from the market and he brought five-six packets of different brands of the product within 10 minutes and placed it before the judge. The chief justice showed the samples to the special secretary of the department Chandrakishore Oraon, who attended the proceedings through video conference, and slammed the state government for filing a false affidavit to mislead the court. On this, the special secretary assured the court that the matter will be investigated and ac-

tion will be taken. Wondering whether the government is functioning only on paper, the court asked the government how gutkha is being sold in the state though it was banned two years ago. The bench directed the government to file an affidavit after a thorough investigation. The court also directed that the affidavit should clearly state that gutkha is no longer being sold in the state. Fariyad Foundation, an NGO, has filed a PIL in the high court praying for a ban gutkha saying that people are suffering from serious diseases due to its consumption.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHOWED THE SAMPLES TO THE SPECIAL secretary of the department Chandrakishore Oraon, who attended the proceedings through video conference, and slammed the state government for filing a false affidavit to mislead the court.

Return Of Spl Status Single...

met at Farooq Abdullah's residence and vowed to fight for Article 370. "No it is not an opportunistic alliance. We are political parties so you could hardly term this as a social alliance," he said. He said that restoration of special status was a single most important issue in front of the people of Jammu and Kashmir today. He said that the politics of the Valley can't be divorced from the issue of special status. "Whether you oppose what BJP did or you support it, it is still an issue in Kashmir, Jammu or for that matter in Kargil and Leh as well. So, this is part of political process, and it is going to be an important component of politics in both these regions," he said. "At the moment, we are committed to the Gupkar declaration which is why We are coming together to reemphasize that we are committed to fighting, using all constitutional and peaceful means for the restoration of what was snatched from us legally and unconstitutionally on the August 5, 2019 in the parliament of India." The NC leader also denied that his father has said that Article 370 will be restored with China's help. He said that Farooq's words were being twisted by the BJP spokesperson to suit their agenda. "He (Farooq) said China has been commenting on J&K's internal affairs. He said China has taken a position on the renovation of Article 370 and 35A. Those are both facts. China has done that, whether we like it or not," he said.

Omar also rubbished that his father said Beijing had intruded into Jammu and Kashmir because of the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 and that the people of the Union Territory would prefer being Chinese citizens. "All he did was to reflect what some of the people on the ground are saying. All he was trying to give voice to the anger that was on the streets of the Valley with regard to what happened last year on 5th of August. There is a lot of anger, there's a lot of bitterness and resentment about what happened," Omar said. He also cited his example saying that he faced a backlash over his Twitter post in which he had said that looking towards China was not in the interest of the people of Kashmir. "He is not advocating a role of China in Jammu and Kashmir. He is telling you what people are saying here," the former Chief Minister said. He also dismissed claims that the citizens of the Union Territory were angry with his family and the Muftis and said that the anger was not against them. "This anger is not against Muftis and Abdullahs because if it was, why aren't they quite happily adopting BJP, or the BJP's king's party that has been formed here. Show me a single piece of political activity that these two entities have been able to do," he said. "Mehbooba Mufti came out after 14 months of detention, my father was in detention for months, I was in detention for nine months. There was more than enough time to create alternatives to us," he added. When asked if he was angry at the central government, the Abdullah responded by asking if a person would come out happy after being detained. He added that he was locked up under the Public Safety Act and was considered a threat to his people. "Why don't you ask those who locked us up?" he asked. Omar's hard hitting comments came barely hours after his party Peoples Democratic Party, People's Conference and other regional groups formed an alliance following a meeting of six Jammu and Kashmir-based parties to discuss the Gupkar Declaration in Srinagar. The parties include the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement and the Awami National Conference.

Cong Backs Gupkar Alliance,...

Senior Congress spokesperson P Chidambaram said the Centre must also stop looking at the mainstream political parties and the people of Jammu and Kashmir as "anti-national". The assertion comes a day after mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir held a meeting and formed an alliance 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 on the issue. "The coming together of mainstream regional parties of J&K to fight a constitutional battle to restore the rights of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is a development that must be welcomed by all the people of India," he said on Twitter. "The Congress also resolutely stands for restoration of the status and rights of the people of J&K. The arbitrary and unconstitutional decisions of the Modi government of August 5, 2019 must be rescinded," the former Home Minister said. "The central government must stop looking at the mainstream parties and the people of J&K as secessionist or anti-national," he said. After a meeting Thursday at the residence of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah which was attended by PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Lone, Peoples Movement leader Javid Mir and CPIM leader Mohammad Yousof Tarigami, the NC chief said they decided to formalise the alliance and it was named 'Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration'. The alliance will strive for restoration of the constitutional position in respect of Jammu and Kashmir as it existed before August 5 last year, he had said.

'Gupkar Alliance' Formed...

have to face serious consequences for any "misadventure". Mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday held a meeting and formed the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration 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. To focus on the political developments in Kashmir and formation of the alliance, the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit convened a meeting of its senior leaders and heads of various social and religious organizations in Jammu on Friday. "Gupkar alliance has been formed on direction of Pakistan and China. The Gupkar alliance is being directed and guided by anti-national forces", Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina told reporters here. Raina said the formation of the alliance by the NC and the PDP under the Gupkar agenda "is an agenda of anti-national forces that want to destabilize the situation in the Kashmir valley".

"We will never ever allow the agenda of the Gupkar alliance to be implemented in J&K and allow it to succeed," he said. The J&K BJP president warned these alliance partners that if any misadventure is carried out and any "anti-national" agenda is carried forward, they have to face serious consequences. "We will not tolerate it. At no cost their nefarious designs will be allowed to succeed," he said. Raina said that after the abrogation of Article 370, the common mass in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh jumped for joy because Article 370 did criminal injustice with the common people of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that a conspiracy is being hatched by Abdullah Parivar and Mufti Parivar against the Country and we will not tolerate this anti-national move. "The alliance formed by Abdullahs and Muftis has nothing to do with the betterment of the people of J&K. they are just dancing on the tones of Pakistan and China and demanding the restoration of the Article 370 which is next to impossible because it did criminal injustice to common mass in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh", Raina said. He said, "Article 370 will not be implemented till doomsday. It doesn't matter how much cry Abdullahs and Muftis make" He further said that Article 370 had given birth to separatism and militancy and also tried to develop Pakistanism in J&K, which gave rise to militancy in which thousands of innocent people got killed. "We will not tolerate anyone who tries to instigate the people of Kashmir against India," Raina said.

Deserted SPO Escapes From...

with an assault rifle, while the deserted SPO managed to escape. Militant was identified as Jehangir Ahmed Bhat from Chadoora, who was apprehended, was the associate of SPO Altaf Hassan, who three days ago fled with two AK-47 rifles from SOG camp in the same area. Bhat, police claimed was an over-ground worker and a 'notorious' stone pelter. Earlier contingents of forces including Army's 55 RR, CRPF and Police had launched CASO in the area following specific inputs about militant presence. As joint forces encircled the suspected spot the hiding militants fired upon them which was retaliated by the joint force's team, triggering an encounter that ended after one of the militants was captured alive while another one managed to escape. Meanwhile, in a statement issued to media here, a police spokesperson said that one of the two AK-47 rifles decamped by the deserted SPO was recovered from Bhat's possession. He said that IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar has appreciated the police and state forces for showing maximum restraint by arresting the militant associate during the encounter. "He has further appealed the family of SPO Altaf to help police in bringing him back", Kumar, as per official spokesperson said. He said that in this connection a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated."

Missing SSB Trooper Arrested...

Manjkote of area District Rajouri. Official sources said that SSB trooper Altaf Hussain was apprehended by police from his native district along with ammunition which he had taken away from Nagam camp Chadoora, reported news agency GNS. A police officer said that a case has been registered in Manjkote Police station in this regard and investigations have been taken up. It's pertinent to mention that Commandant of the 14th battalion of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) had also made a communication to police station Chadoora after the constable identified as Altaf Hussain (110734231) son of Alam Din of Rehan Koteranka Rajouri had absconded from the campus at Nagam at around 2115 hours on October 13. The Commandant has sought registration of the FIR in connection with incident. A police officer confirmed that a communication has been received for FIR regarding the incident.

6 Militant Associates Nabbed...

teams were constituted for investigating attacks on security forces close to the national highway between August 14 and October 5, a police spokesperson said on Friday. "The investigating teams used technical as well as human intelligence to identify some suspects involved in these attacks. Subsequently, the teams launched a series of raids in Chadoora, Budgam, Nowgam and other areas of Srinagar and picked up around a dozen suspects for questioning," the spokesperson said. "These teams were able to arrest six militant associates who had provided shelter, transportation and also conducted recce of the security force deployments where the above mentioned attacks were later on carried out by the militants," he said. The location of the house was also ascertained, where the militants involved in these attacks were hiding at Barzulla, he added. The teams also seized six vehicles used to carry out these attacks, the spokesperson said. Two police personnel were killed while another was injured in a militant attack on August 14 at Gulshan Nagar Nowgam while one CRPF personnel was killed in an attack at Kaisermullah in Chadoora. In both the attacks, militants had snatched the weapons of the slain forces personnel. Two CRPF personnel were killed in another attack close to the national highway on October 5 while four other personnel sustained injuries.

J&K Borrows Rs 11,000 Cr Loan...

was sanctioned a loan assistance amount of Rs 11,024.47 crore against liquidation of power purchase liabilities. After signing of this MoU, the first tranche of Rs 5,580 crore would be disbursed instantly and the rest amount in the second tranche shortly after spending the released amount, he added.

7 More Coronavirus Deaths...

deaths from Jammu include a 49-year-old from Bishnah, an 86-year-old from Gandhi Nagar, an 85-year-old man from Reasi, a 64-year-old woman from Doda, they said. With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 918 in Valley and 445 in Jammu. Srinagar district with 328 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (236), Baramulla (134), 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)

3 Doctors Among 697 More...

Division and 385 from Kashmir Valley. Giving district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 155 cases, Budgam 28, Baramulla 40, Pulwama 19, Kupwara 33, Anantnag 45, Bandipora 21, Ganderbal 23, Kulgam 21, Shopian 0, Jammu 121, Rajouri 21, Udhampur 4, Doda 30, Kathua 14, Poonch 44, Samba 19, Kishtwar 31, Ramban 8 and Reasi 20. Moreover, they said 838 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 381 from Jammu Division and 457 from Kashmir Valley.

Azad Tests Positive For...

asked those who came in contact with him in the recent past to follow protocols on self-quarantine and testing. "I have tested positive for COVID-19. I am in home quarantine. Those who came in contact with me in the last few days may kindly follow the protocol," he said in a tweet. Earlier senior Congress leaders Ahmed Patel, Motilal Vora and Abhishek Singhvi had tested positive for COVID-19. While Singhvi has recovered, other leaders are still under treatment.

Police Bust Fake Job Scam...

under relevant sections of the law was registered in Cyber Police Station and investigation was set into motion. During the course of the investigation, the said unknown Facebook user was found operating more than 15 fake Facebook accounts (male and female). "He had fraudulently obtained a number of SIM cards from the victims which he was using to cheat and deceive the female victims, especially young and destitute girls. The accused by his vicious and wicked plans has grabbed lakhs of rupees from the victims on the pretext of providing them jobs," the police spokesperson said. He said the modus operandi of the accused included the creation of fake Facebook accounts by using profile pictures of high profile dignitaries mostly associated with politics and the television industry and sending friend requests to the young girls. The girls, who were attracted by the profiles, would often chat with the accused, who used to impress them with his activities and promises of jobs, said the police spokesperson. "He made them believe that he could help them in getting jobs and consequently coerced them to pay money. The accused also used to compel the young girls to share their objectionable photos and videos and then used the same for blackmailing. He would make the victims transfer money not into his personal account, but in the accounts of other victims who were cheated in the same manner and subsequently used to collect the amount by sending some other person(s) to avoid getting himself exposed," he added. The Police spokesperson added that the accused used to frequently change his mobile phones and SIM cards and create new Facebook accounts in the name of senior government employees and convinced the victims that they too had been provided jobs by him. "During the course of the investigation and with strenuous efforts and rigorous analysis of his cyber signatures/footprints at different cyber platforms, the experts of the Cyber Police station Kashmir were able to trace and identify the accused," the police spokesperson said. "He was identified as Mohammad Hussain Mir alias Bitta Morray, a resident of KP Road Anantnag, a shopkeeper by profession. He has been arrested," he added. During further investigation, he said the accused was found to have used various devices and had cheated more than 100 destitute and young girls belonging to Kashmir as well as Jammu Division who were in desperate need of government jobs. "During questioning the accused person admitted that he was inspired by a famous TV serial "Crime Patrol" and he learnt the modus operandi of social media crimes by watching the said serial. Further, one accomplice of the accused who used to provide fake SIM cards to him was also arrested. More arrests in the case are expected," he added.

Property Worth Crores Of...

Chief Supervisor, FCI Godown, CA&PD Udhampur and Incharge Vigilance Squad in Food Civil Supplies and Public Distribution Department, by indulging in corrupt and illegal practices, has amassed huge assets worth crores of rupees in the form of immovable and moveable properties disproportionate to his known sources of income," ACB said in a statement. During the preliminary enquiry it was found that official has raised assets several times higher than the genuine income (salary) earned by the official from the service period. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 01/2020 in PS ACB Udhampur was registered against him. Subsequently, searches were conducted during which 285 gms gold, incriminating material, documents were seized. Some accounts and lockers were also freedzed after being found suspicious. It said Pargal was already involved in Case FIR No. 01/2020 in PS ACB Doda regarding misappropriation of Rs.260 Crores on account of cost of wheat grains, transportation charges, labour charges, grinding charges drawn on the basis of fictitious and false bills. He was also arrested by ACB in this case, the statement said. "It is pertinent to mention here that he was initially appointed as daily wager in September, 1984 in TSO office Chenani and remained posted in AD office Udhampur, Chief Supervisor (FCS&CA) Deptt) FCI Godown Udhampur." He remained under suspension w.e.f 26-06-2009 to 19-09-2012 (Attached with Directorate Office Jammu) for his involvement in case FIR No.06/2009 u/s 109, 409, 468, 471 RPC r/w sec 5(1) (c) , 5(1) (D), 5(2) JK PC Act Svt. 2006 P/S VOJ now ACB which is still under trial in the Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption Udhampur, it said. "After the registration of formal case under Anti-Corruption Law and his suspension from Govt. service w.e.f 26-06-2009 to 19-09-2012 he was posted/ appointed in Enforcement squad and Vigilance squad in CAPD Department, which indicate his deep nexus with other accused officials and private persons. The property measuring 01 Kanal & 08 Marlas on which a palatial house Dogri Haveli is constructed, valued at 1.2 crore have been attached by ACB." On the basis of a written complaint, it said, a verification was initiated by ACB to look into the allegations of accumulation of huge assets by Rattan Lal Tickoo S/o Shambu Nath Tickoo R/o House No. 142 Lower

Laxmi Nagar Sarwal Jammu then Managing Director of SICOP disproportionate to his known sources of income. In consequence of his indulgence in corrupt and illegal practices and having taken advantage of his lucrative posting in SICOP, the accused R.L Tickoo had acquired huge assets, both movable and immovable by investing proceeds of his ill gotten money in such properties. The accumulation was raised by Rattan Lal Tickoo either in his own name or in the name of his family members by abuse and misuse of his official position. "Consequently, case FIR No.28/2019 was registered against him in P/S ACB Jammu. Pursuant to registration of case, searches were conducted during which incriminating documents relating to investments were also recovered. 03 flats and land at three locations valued Rs. 47 lakh have been attached," it said, adding, "Further investigations in both the cases is going on."

Armed Chinese Troops At LAC...

the course of the last 30 years and a basis for building that relationship has been peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control. He said there are multiple agreements, starting from 1993, which created the framework for that peace and tranquillity, which limited the military forces that came to the border areas, how to manage the border, how border troops behave when they approach each other. So, from the conceptual level down to the behavioural level, there was an entire sort of framework out there. Now, what we saw this year was a departure from this entire series of agreements. The massing of large amount of Chinese forces on the border was clearly contrary to all of this. And when you had friction points which have large number of troops at different points very close to each other, then something tragic like what happened on 15th of June happened," he said. "To underline the enormity of that, it was the first military casualty we had after 1975. So what it has done is, it has obviously had a very deep public impact, very major political impact and it has left the relationship profoundly disturbed." In response to a question on what did the Chinese actually do on the border and why they did it, Jaishankar said: I haven't frankly got any reasonable explanation that I can tell myself from them on this matter." At the special Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) event, Jaishankar was in conversation with ASPI President Kevin Rudd, a former Australian prime minister. The two also spoke about Jaishankar's new book The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World". Jaishankar said that apart from the Wuhan Summit in April 2018, there was a similar summit in Chennai last year and the idea of these parleys was that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping spend time, talk to each other directly about their concerns. What happened this year of course was a very sharp departure. Now it's not just a sharp departure from the conversation, it's a sharp departure over a course of relationship over 30 years," he said.

Post-Script: Kashmir Lost...

entire combined University of Jammu & Kashmir in Intermediate Science from SP College. Being among the top ten, he was nominated by the State Government to the prestigious Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh. However, he preferred to remain in the valley. He started pursuing civil engineering at Regional Engineering College at Naseem Bagh in Srinagar which he completed in 1965. His demise flooded K-Social media with evocative tributes. "We have lost a great patron of tourism in general and the adventure tourism in particular," the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) said. "M Ashraf was instrumental in setting up an Adventure Tourism Wing in the tourism department for the promotion of adventure tourism in J&K." A social media user described Batku as "a deeply indigenous person," adding that his contribution to natural resources, landscape and tourism in itself is history. Seasoned journalist Mohammad Sayeed Malik remembered Batku as a "self-made achiever" and devoted son of his mother. One of the social media users described him as an "asset of Kashmir." Editor Zafar Choudhary described Batku as a man who lived a glorious life and contributed massively to tourism and culture in the first phase of his life. Qayoom Wani, Chairman of J&K Civil Society Forum, described Batku as a "prominent writer and a torchbearer". The deceased, said JK Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari, had a vast experience in tourism and "his contribution to the field in general and adventure tourism in particular across J&K and in Ladakh would be remembered by one and all".

Civilian Injured In Cross-LoC...

Earlier in the day, the Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing from small arms and intense shelling of mortars along the LoC in Mankote sector in Poonch district, a defence spokesman said. On Thursday, a JCO was injured in Pakistan shelling in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district and was later shifted to hospital. Pakistan has violated ceasefire for 18 times this month. On October 1, one Army jawan was killed and another injured when Pakistan army violated ceasefire and resorted to heavy firing and mortar shelling along the LoC in Krishnagati area of Poonch district, officials said.

CRPF Man Killed After...

shifted to hospital where their condition is said to be stable. A case under relevant sections of law has been registered in police station Bandipora, the officials said.

2000 Rounds Recovered...

one pistol, 2,091 rounds of AK ammunition and three grenades, the official said adding that a case has been registered in this regard.

Ladakh Records Another...

taking the number of recoveries to 4,254 in the Union Territory. According to the bulletin, the active COVID-19 case count stands at 1,018 in the UT -- 821 in Leh district and 197 in Kargil district. Thirty-four more patients were discharged after recovering from the infection in Leh while the number stood at 15 in Kargil, according to the bulletin.

LG for Governance at Doorsteps of Urban Population

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: After the overwhelming response to Government's Back to Village initiative, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today reviewed the preparedness for the upcoming "My Town My Pride" initiative for the Municipal areas, here at Raj Bhavan.

The two-day long programme will be held in Urban Local Bodies on 19th - 20th October, during which camps for public service delivery would be set up.

The Lt Governor called for all-out efforts for achieving the goal of the two day-long programme to empower the Urban Local Bodies by reaching out to urban population living in towns, with governance at their doorsteps and ensure on spot redressal of their issues and grievances.

Use this initiative to strengthen Urban Local Self-Governance and own the programme to serve the people with responsive, accountable and participatory governance, Lt Governor said to Officers.

Giving thrust to the developmental activities, Rs 50 lakh, Rs 1 crore and Rs 5 crore will be released to each Municipal Committee, Municipal Council, and Municipal Corporation, respectively. Funds should be used judiciously for visible impact on the ground, he added.

The Lt Governor laid special emphasis on the time-bound delivery and issuance



of important documents, certificates; revenue services, besides ensuring maximum saturation of Social Security and beneficiary oriented schemes, and ensuring mobilization of funds towards meaningful developmental activities as per the needs of the local population.

He directed the visiting officers to assess the ground situation of the allotted ULB vis-à-vis perception of the local public, data provided by different departments, inputs shared by the ULB / prominent citizens and share their own observations.

The Lt Governor directed the officers to identify the gaps in the functioning of

the administration and put sustained and synchronized efforts to remove bottlenecks. He asked the DCs and senior officers to encourage the Field Functionaries for this 'Urban Jan Abhiyaan' and directed the Divisional Commissioners to monitor the overall conduct of the programme.

"I have been pushing for on spot Grievance Redressal, Instant delivery of services to the masses, and on the ground speedy execution of people-centric projects", said the Lt Governor

"My Town My Pride" is on the lines of successfully concluded 'Back to Village' programme for providing the doorstep delivery of differ-

ent government services and to identify structural issues firsthand. We have three main objectives - Public outreach in towns, Strengthening grass-root democracy, and service delivery at doorsteps, he added.

"Back to Village programme" was a unique initiative by the J&K Government to reach out to the rural population with an objective to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions which was even mentioned by Prime Minister in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme. The sincere efforts on the part of the UT Government received encouraging feedback from the public.

Raj Bhavan's Chopper To Be Used For Medical Emergency

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: In another welfare measure for the underprivileged, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday approved the use of Raj Bhavan's helicopter free of cost for emergency evacuation of patients living in the remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

During his string of remote areas visits as part of the Back to Village programme, the Lt Governor acknowledged the hardships faced by villagers, especially during severe winters when most of the hilly areas owing to difficult terrain remain cut off from the major towns and district headquarters.

To assuage the sufferings of the people living in these areas, the Lt Governor approved the use of Raj Bhavan's Bell 407 across the UT to airlift patients who face medical emergencies and cannot afford the regular chopper services.

To ensure that the facility is effectively utilized, the concerned Deputy Commissioner and the Chief Medical Officer of the district shall submit a certificate indicating the urgency of situation, the income status of the patient, and the reason for airlift as and when the requisition is raised.

The service shall exclusively cater to the emergency airlift of patients who fall below the poverty line and cannot even afford to pay the subsidized charge for the helicopter service which is already in place and available at the disposal of both the Divisional Commissioners.

SSB cautions job aspirants about fake notice

JAMMU : Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (SSB) has cautioned the job aspirants about a fake notice being circulated on social media platform regarding downloading of Admit Cards for the OMR Based Objective Type Written Test Examination for the posts of Panchayat Accounts Assistant, saying that it is misleading and an act of some unscrupulous elements.

The Board has advised the candidates to check official website of the Board www.jkssb.nic.in for authentic / verified updates / information.

It said that a Fake Notice has been circulated on the Social Media, regarding downloading of Admit Cards for the OMR Based Objective Type Written Test Ex-

amination for the posts of Panchayat Accounts Assistant under endorsement no. SSB/Secy/Sel/2020/4969-73 dated:12.10.2020 which has caused unnecessary annoyance and anxiety to the aspirants and also amounts to misusing the name and authority of the J&K Service Selection Board, for ulterior motives by unscrupulous elements.

In this context, it is clarified that no such notice has been issued by the J&K Services Selection Board and the said notice in circulation on social media is fake. The matter has already been referred to the Cyber Cell of J&K Police for detailed investigation and booking of the unscrupulous element under law.

Div Com finalizes arrangements for Eid-e-Milad

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to finalize arrangements for the Eid-Milad-un- Nabi(SAW), starting from today across Kashmir.

He on the occasion stressed on strict adherence to Covid-19 protocol and directed all Deputy Commissioners (DC's) to issue necessary advisory so that people participating in religious gatherings use sanitizers, face masks, personal prayer mats, maintain social distancing and follow other Covid-19 related SOPs strictly to contain the spread of virus.

At the outset, the meeting was informed that large gatherings shall be held at Assar-i-Sharief Hazratbal, Jenab Sahab Soura, Assar-I-Sharief Kalashpora, Aham Sharief Bandipora,

Kabamarg, Anantnag and Peth Makhama Beerwah Budgam, while small gatherings shall be held at other Khanqahs and shrines in all districts during the 12- day Urs celebration.

The Div Com directed concerned to ensure devotees enter religious places only after proper temperature check, use of face mask and hand sanitizer at entry points.

He said that with the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, additional fool-proof sanitation arrangements have to be made at all locations.

Stressing on proper maintenance of sanitation, SMC and ULB authorities were directed to conduct fumigation of Dargah premises twice a day besides, advance deployment of sanitation material, mobile toilets, suckers, septic tanks and additional sweepers are deployed at Hazratbal for daily cleaning of inner and outer premises of Dargah.

Police Use Tear Gas After Group Clashes in Pattan

Pattan: Police fired tear smoke shells to disperse a group of people who insisted on holding a religious gathering in Pattan area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday despite pandemic.

Sources said that four persons, including a policeman were injured after some people pelted stones on police at Gund Khawaja Qasim and later clashed with the residents well.

Police said that at least thirty people have been booked under sections 307,145,148 and 149 and for violating restrictions that

were put in place to prevent people from attending the religious gathering in view of Covid-19 pandemic. An FIR number 274/2020 has been registered in the police station Pattan in this regard.

"Majority had decided to not hold any major gathering in view of the pandemic on the occasion of 29th Safar. However a smaller group led by a former MLA insisted on holding it and had invited people from surrounding villages to Gund Khawaja Qasim. Apprehending trouble police imposed restrictions in the area.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division, HMT, Srinagar

GIST OF TENDER

e-N.I.T. No:-PHE/QC&PD/21/e-Tender Dated:15-10-2020.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders are invited on item rate basis in two covers (details recorded in tender document) from Registered Original Manufacturers (holding valid B.I.S. licenses for manufacturing of tendered item) or their Sole Authorized dealer/Distributors for the following subject item.

S No	Subject of Supply:	Estimated Cost	EMD Fee	Cost of TD	Validity of Rates.
1	Supply of 1200 Metric Tons of ISI Marked Stable Bleaching Powder Grade-I Conforming to IS: 1065/89, (with upto date amendments), as per specifications/details enclosed in Section "IV" to the e-NIT, from Registered Original Manufacturers (holding valid B.I.S. licenses for manufacturing of tendered item) or their Sole Authorized dealer/Distributors.	Rs 3.50 Crores	Rs 7.00 Lakhs	Rs 2500.00	180 days from opening of the Price Bid.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed /downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

Time Schedule of e-Tender	
1	Date of Inviting Tender 15-10-2020.....02.00PM
2	Documents Downloading Period 15-10-2020 (02.30PM) to 22-10-2020 (01.00PM)
3	Clarification Period 15-10-2020 (02.00PM) to 22-10-2020 (11.00AM)
4	Pre-Bid Consultation 21-10-2020 (03.00PM)
5	On Line Document Submission Period 15-10-2020 (02.30PM) to 22-10-2020 (02.00PM)
6	Date of opening of Cover 1st. 23-10-2020.....02.00PM
7	Tender Document Receiving Authority Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar. (e-mail: xenmandp@gmail.com)
8	Tender Inviting Office Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar.
9	Document Fee In the shape of treasury Challan favoring to Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar or e-transfer to J&K Bank A/c No: 0005010100005110 IFSC: JAKA0CHINAR
10	Earnest Money In the shape of CDR/FDR/BG from nationalized banks only having a branch in Srinagar.
11	Bid Opening Authority Chief Engineer, Kashmir PHE, Jal Shakti Deptt. Srinagar.

No.:PHE/QCPD/4233-75
Dated:15-10-2020

DIPK-7487/20

Sd/= Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti QC&PD PHE (K) HMT Srinagar.



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

Employment Notice for Walk-in-Interview

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for walk-in-interview for the following positions purely on temporary/contract/Academic Arrangements basis in the Department of Architecture for the Academic Session 2020-21. Interested candidates should report to the office of the Registrar, Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora along with all relevant documents in original and a set of Xerox copies (self attested) for the interview on **22-10-2020 at 10.00 a.m.** Candidates should report to the venue 30 minutes before the scheduled time for scrutiny of documents.

Name of the post	Eligibility
Professor	Bachelor's Degree in Architecture or equivalent to B. Arch and Master's Degree in Architecture or in allied subjects of Architecture with minimum 60 percent marks at either level, and Fourteen years experience in teaching/ research/ professional work out of which a full-time teaching experience of minimum five years OR Nineteen years of professional experience. <i>Desirable: Ph.D. in Architecture</i>
Associate Professor	Bachelor's Degree in Architecture or equivalent to B. Arch. and Master's Degree in Architecture or in allied subjects of Architecture with minimum 60 percent marks at either level, and Eight years experience in teaching/ research/ professional work out of which a full-time teaching experience of minimum three years OR Thirteen years of professional experience.
Assistant Professor	Bachelor's Degree in Architecture or equivalent to B. Arch. with minimum 60 percent marks and three years of relevant professional experience OR Bachelor's Degree in Architecture or equivalent to B. Arch. and Master's Degree in Architecture or in allied subjects of Architecture with minimum 60 percent marks at either level and one year of relevant professional experience.

Note: - Experience shall mean professional experience and/or Teaching and/or Research in the field of Architecture, counted from the date of registration with Council of Architecture. No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.

No: IUST/Reg/Adm/20/E/667
Dated: 16-10-2020

Sd/- Registrar

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081


AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

29 Safar 1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:16
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4:17
Magrib	6:00
ISHA	7:18

This Day In History

- 1951 - Egyptian army fires on British troops
- 1956 - England's 1st large scale nuclear power station opens
- 1956 - Pakistan defeat Australia by nine wickets at 1st attempt
- 1960 - US & Britain sign accord for nuclear submarine bases
- 1961 - Battle of Paris-police kill 210 Algerians
- 1961 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 to 33,100 m
- 1969 - Soyuz 7 returns to Earth
- 1970 - Anwar Sadat sworn in as the 3rd President of Egypt
- 1973 - OPEC oil ministers agree to use oil weapon in Arab-Israeli War, mandate cut in exports, and recommend embargo against unfriendly states.
- 1975 - 1st Space Shuttle main engine test at National Space Tech Labs, Miss
- 1975 - UN passes resolution saying "Zionism is a form of racism"
- 1976 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1979 - Mother Teresa of Calcutta awarded Nobel Peace Prize
- 1983 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Gerard Debreu
- 1984 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Bruce Merrifield
- 1986 - Yitzhak Rabin forms Israeli government
- 1994 - Kapil Dev's final one-day international (v West Indies)
- 1998 - At Jesse, in the Niger Delta, Nigeria, a petroleum pipeline explodes killing about 1200 villagers, some of whom are scavenging gasoline.
- 2003 - Eunuuchs in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh float the political party Jiti Jitayi Politics.
- 2006 - The United States population reaches 300 million
- 2007 - The Dalai Lama receives the United States Congressional Gold Medal
- 2012 - Exoplanet Alpha Centauri Bb discovered orbiting Alpha Centauri announced (later thought to be a false finding)
- 2013 - 59 people are killed in a wave of attacks on Shia Muslims in Iraq
- 2016 - Chinese spacecraft Shenzhou-11 launched from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northern China

From KO Archives

Albright to make sentimental journey to Kashmir

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will make a "sentimental and personal" visit to Kashmir before her term runs out this year, a daily said Wednesday.

Quoting state department sources in Washington, the Business Albright was keen to visit the divided Kashmir where her diplomat father, Josef Korbel, served as a UN observer.

"All senior state department officials have to routinely submit their resignations on January 19, 2001 when the new US is sworn in," the daily said

"Whether she will get her job back if the Democrats return to power is an open question But before that happens, Albright feels she owes it to the memory was the crowning glory of his career."

Korbel was appointed Czechoslovak ambassador to Bel-grade when he was 36. Later in 1948, he was persuaded to take up the post of Czech representative to the UN commission which was supposed to mediate on the Kashmir question.

Korbel found there was little the UN could do to solve the problem—which has led to two wars and a military conflict between arch-rivals India and Pakistan since their 1947 independence from British rule.

According to Michael Dobbs, Albright's biographer, Kor-bel also took up the job of her father to visit Kashmir president is sworn in, and the (UN) observers' office because it would enable him to cross the Iron Curtain with his family, which he did, choosing the United States as his new country.

Albright has been actively involved with the Kashmir issue in her present job. Dobbs said that Albright was very attached to her father and cherished his stint in Kashmir.

Dobbs claimed that when President Bill Clinton named Albright US envoy to the UN the first thing (she) did was to arrive in her office and unpack a framed photograph.

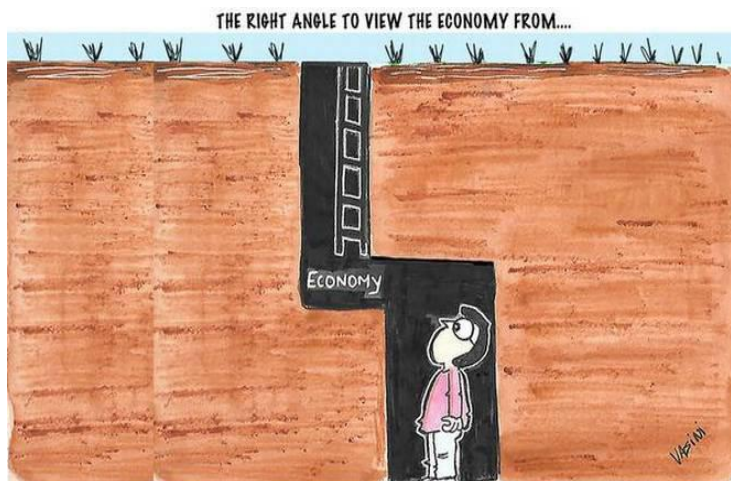
"It showed Josef Korbel and other members on the UN commission on; Kashmir, starting off for the Indian sub-continent in the summer of 1948." In the winter of 2000, Albright will make a similar journey" the paper said.

(Kashmir Observer, October 17, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
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NO HOLDS BARRED



“With their backs against the wall, today the Kashmiris would even welcome Beijing's intervention in Kashmir

India Inc. and India's healing

Like America, India needs to heal; the nation is dangerously divided.

B. Z. KHASRU

“Like America, India needs to heal, too; the nation is dangerously divided along religious lines. But the Indians can't rely on Modi to bring the country back together.

On Nov. 3, Americans will decide if they want President Donald Trump to run their country for four more years or former Vice President Joe Biden should replace him. Their likely pick is Biden, based on opinion polls.

It is not at all surprising that U.S. voters have turned against the populist president. Trump has given them ample reasons. He has mismanaged the Covid-19 pandemic, the disease that has so far killed more than 210,000 Americans and brought the world's largest economy to its knees.

What is amazing, however, is how quickly misfortune befell Trump who seemed invincible just months ago. His bad luck foretells the fate of communal politicians, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

To be fair, Modi has handled the Coronavirus better than Trump, even though the prime minister's score card is nothing to brag about. His main test, however, is going to be how he puts India's economy back on the right track. India's growth will shrink by 10.3 percent this year, according to the IMF, and per capita income will dip below Bangladesh's. By way of comparison, Bangladesh's GDP was 40 percent smaller than India's before Modi took over in 2014.

To ride out tough times, a leader must maintain domestic tranquillity and enjoy public trust. Modi has fractured the nation and sent the economy into a tailspin. When populist leaders like Modi squander political capital, they walk on thin ice.

Trump has caused deep anxiety among many Americans by playing highly racially charged politics. Barry Sternlicht, a billionaire corporate mogul, is among those worried about America's future. Once a Trump ally, Sternlicht is chairman of Starwood Capital Group, an investment fund that manages \$60 billion in assets. He made a name for himself in corporate America as founder of Starwood Hotels. Being in real estate, he had a natural affinity with fellow real estate tycoon Trump. But no more.

India needs to heal

Sternlicht is no way connected to India or anything Indian. But the way this American business executive talks about Trump these days is something that might resonate with many Indians.

“The nation needs to heal, and I think we need to get back together, and I don't think we're going to do that with the rhetoric from the right,” Sternlicht recently lamented on CNBC television. To reunify America, he wants a healer in the White House. Biden is his probable choice.

Like America, India needs to heal, too; the nation is dangerously divided along religious lines. But the Indians can't rely on Modi to bring the country back together. Like Trump, Modi is the divider-in-chief, and both of them use the same dirty tricks to energize their respective bases just to stay in power.

When Modi was swept into power, despite his religious bigotry as chief minister of Gujarat, many Indians hoped he would stay clean as the nation's chief executive. India's prime minister and Gujarat's chief



minister are two different political animals. India's top leader takes the high road, leads the world's largest democracy, doesn't stoop down to nasty sectarian politics and split apart a nation that 1.4 billion Indians call home.

Because of his good economic showings in Gujarat, people also expected Modi to shape up India's economy — to give it a stiff dose of pragmatism and put it on the fast track to prosperity. Sadly, his record is bleak, as is Trump's. Modi's performance in foreign affairs is equally dismal.

Modi's Indo-Pacific trap

Trump created a circus by first warming up to North Korea's Kim Jong-un and then retreating into hibernation. Modi did the same by first embracing Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and then ratcheting up tension with Pakistan. Trump is now locked in a fist-fight with President Xi Jinping of China, and Modi is trapped in the Indo-Pacific conundrum, a ghost of the SEATO, a 1950s' U.S.-inspired military pact that included Pakistan.

Worst of all, Modi has played the Hindutva card to rile up his fanatical saffron warriors to stir-up trouble. He has played provocateur by revoking Kashmir's constitutional autonomy. For political purposes, he cheered up his lapdogs to propagate that India would use its military to wrest control of Pakistan-administered Kashmir and make the dream of “Akhand Bharat” come true someday.

All of his predecessors, including the two immediate-past prime ministers, Manmohan Singh and Atal Behari Vajpayee, sought peace with Pakistan. Singh came very close to a deal with President Pervez Musharraf. Modi has pushed everything back. His mishandling of boundary, water and trade issues with Bangladesh and Nepal has vitiated the environ-

ment in the neighborhood. India's smaller neighbors are tilting toward China. With their backs against the wall, today the Kashmiris would even welcome Beijing's intervention in Kashmir.

Violence made Muslims meek

Soaring violence against Muslims has made India's largest minority group timid and meek. Black Lives Matter enjoys a groundswell of popular support in America. But sympathy for the Muslims is non-existent among common Indians.

Unlike American CEOs, India's business executives have been mum on the rise of the far-right; they have failed to denounce Hindutva supremacists. Facing criticism online, The Tata Group just this week caved in and pulled out an ad, showing a Hindu bride receiving affection from her Muslim mother-in-law at a baby shower. India's famous conglomerate had no guts to stand up to religious bigotry.

Last month, U.S. financial giant Citigroup Inc. found that racial bias cost America \$16 trillion in wealth during the past 20 years. The U.S. economy would add \$5 trillion over the next five years if the social injustice issue was addressed today.

India's loss from its sectarian curse has yet to be calculated, but no doubt the number would be staggering. India has suffered far too long both socially and economically from this debilitating menace. It's now high time for India Inc. to end its deafening silence and help India heal.

B. Z. Khasru is author of “Bangladesh Liberation War, How India, U.S., China and the USSR Shaped the Outcome.” His new book, “One Eleven Minus Two, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's War on Yunus on America,” will be published shortly by Rupa & Co., New Delhi.

Vendetta

R. RAJ RAO

Amnesty International India is part of an Amnesty International global human rights movement. It is one of the world's most significant human rights organizations that holds governments accountable for human rights violations. It has also been a recipient of the Nobel Prize.

Last month Amnesty International shut shop in India and laid off all its Indian employees. It was the fifth time that they were compelled to do so by the Government of India. They were accused of violating Indian laws and illegally receiving foreign funds for advocacy work. Their bank accounts were also frozen.

“Human rights cannot be an excuse to defy the law,” Amnesty International was categorically told. The Government of India believes that the reports released by Amnesty International are “exaggerated and far from the truth.”

Similar things have happened to Amnesty International in Russia and Turkey, neither of which are democracies. In Russia, the flimsy excuse given to the watchdog while deporting them from the country was that their lease had expired!

Liberal intellectuals all over India see the government's hounding of Amnesty International as a witch hunt. As Sreenivasan Jain of NDTV 24x7 said, “The government treats Amnesty International like a terrorist outfit.” According to Vrinda Grover, Amnesty International was asked to leave India because they were asking inconvenient questions about the abuse of power by the government.

Mr. Aakar Patel, Amnesty International's India head, believes that removing them from India is an act of revenge on the government's part for their critical coverage of the situation in Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. He also attributes the hostility to their

reportage of the Delhi riots in February this year. These investigations have ensured that Amnesty International has been continuously harassed by the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate for the past one year.

In August this year, Amnesty International released a ‘Situation Update’ regarding life in Jammu & Kashmir a year after the abrogation of Article 370 and the downgrading of the state into two union territories. They gathered data from 37 sub-districts and twelve jails across Jammu & Kashmir. Their findings revealed that as many

list of political leaders and journalists who have been arrested may be found in Amnesty International's Situation Update.

Amnesty International calls the abrogation of Article 370 “alienation of the people of the state” as the people were not consulted about the abrogation as they should have been. The abrogation, it pointed out, was characterized by a clamping down on press freedom, a curbing of free speech, and a silencing of the opposition. There were also severe restrictions imposed on 4G internet access, affecting sectors like health and education.

“Amnesty International's India head, believes that removing them from India is an act of revenge on the government's part for their critical coverage of the situation in Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

as 1249 people were detained by the authorities without a trial and without any specific charges levelled against them. This, in spite of the fact that there is a provision known as habeas corpus in the Constitution, which holds that no one can be arrested without a fair trial by a magistrate. Unsurprisingly, of the 1249 people detained, over 90 per cent are from the Kashmir valley. A detailed

According to Amnesty International, after the 24th March lockdown triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, many overcrowded prisons in Jammu & Kashmir became Covid-19 hotspots, as rules regarding social distancing, the wearing of masks, and hand hygiene were openly flouted.

As for the Delhi riots of February 2020, Amnesty International has said that the police com-

mitted serious human rights violations by beating up protestors, torturing detainees, and what is worse, sometimes joining hands with Hindu rioters to attack Muslims.

Though the police deny the charges and are yet to come out with a detailed response to Amnesty International's report, it must be borne in mind that similar conclusions about the Delhi Police's biased involvement in the riots were made by BBC. Amnesty International, however, does not believe that in spite of video evidence that shows that the police sided with Hindus and gave them stones to hurl on Muslims, the latter would take action against their own men. The atrocities committed by the police during a riot are swept under the carpet more often than not.

What redress does Amnesty International have? It plans to approach the Karnataka High Court against the government's decision to send them packing. But it is anybody's guess whether the judiciary will come out with a judgement in their favour. A decision may be granted in their favour, though, if one thinks of how courts have refused to prosecute and convict several people who have been wrongly charged with sedition under Section 124 A of the Constitution by the Government of India. If that happens, our faith that India is a democracy and not an autocracy like Russia or Turkey will be restored. If not, we have no option but to sulk and live in fear. Tomorrow, there may be a midnight knock on our door.

The author is an internationally known Indian English novelist, poet and critic. He was Professor and Head of the Department of English at the University of Pune in Maharashtra. He has also been a Visiting Professor at universities in Canada and Germany

Pandemic Psychology

RANI RATHNA PRABHA

“This gruesome realisation of the uncertainty of life, and the futility of science, technology and modern governments, has once again pressed the need and trust in ancient remedies and traditions. Thereby making us check our ignorance and arrogance. It seems as if it was nature’s way of taking its own call over the abuses and misdeeds of the age.



It is known that today, what is of more concern and challenging to the world is, tackling the pandemic. The ongoing pandemic not only been affecting individuals and states in an obvious manner, but has also influenced the human psyche terribly.

At the beginning of the pandemic, while countries were in chaos and battling with life and death situation round the clock and lockdown was imposed as a measure to check the spread of virus; people were put into a new perspective of life though it was compelling and unwarranted, which was not just challenging but also alarming.

The lockdown took people to a situation very similar to erstwhile generations when technology was in its nascent state. People lived close knit with family and every moment was shared and cherished within family, friends and also with neighbors. But the nineties and twenties generations were all different and geared up to electronic gadgets. The rapid advancement in technology and the elite corporate world took over the family time and the proximity of it, the demanding work style and varied timeline to a large extent changed the routines and practices of the social life. What mattered was individual space and the run to make up with the challenges of everyday life.

But the corona pandemic pushed the clock back once again to family mode.

It has been a difficult time but it has also paved a way to some good things such as spending quality time with family and friends. The lockdown, in a way, reinstated families that had parted physically and emotionally to ‘get to gether’ and retrieved the

joy of being together — even though on the other end, many were left uncertain about their next meal and their jobs at stake as the lockdown continued indefinitely.

Even as the pandemic had a flip side to it, not everything was rosy. As the covid-19 spread more and more, so did the anxiety, behavioral disorders, depression, insecurity and suicidal tendencies owing to fear and isolation.

Social behavioral study experts are stupefied at the rate of increase in the patients suffering from depression, emotional trauma, a surge in heart attacks and change in the brain chemistry that showed new patterns of behavior with the change in the situation. With time, as Covid spread rampantly, so did the threat and anxiety about life.

Even the very closeness to family turned toxic as one was left to the imposing and monotonous regime of everyday life in a lockdown. Locked in for months, glued and bugged with gadgets, with the news of the deadliness of covid-19 and the bleakness in news all over; even the best of minds found it hard to cope up.

This gruesome realisation of the uncertainty of life, and the futility of science, technology and modern governments, has once again pressed the need and trust in ancient remedies and traditions. Thereby making us check our ignorance and arrogance.

It seems as if it was nature’s way of taking its own call over the abuses and misdeeds of the age.

Death is certain one day but the pandemic deaths have spread terror and trauma thereby increasing psychological disorders largely due to fear of isolation, uncertainty and even misconception.

tions. People now dread to go to hospitals even for casual to major consultations. They prefer suffering at home rather than running the risk of getting infected and testing positive. Moreover, the visuals of Covid deaths and burials have been hard on everyone.

Covid-19 pandemic has exposed how vulnerable and helpless the society is in spite of so called “growth and advancement”, and how time can swing to and fro and still hold things under its wrap. A situation such as this could leave anybody shattered and choice less, reduced only to suffer helplessly and alone, irrespective of being affected or not.

Though there is no vaccine nor a sure remedy yet, people seem to be less bothered by the threat. Or it could be that hunger and the basic needs of life predominate even the fear of disease and death. People are bouncing back to walk their normal life, some are doing it out of need and others out of choice.

The pandemic as a way of life, can possibly stay for a while. Even after, life may throw new challenges our way. However, the drastic change in the mindset due to Covid-19 has thrown to light, the resilience of man. It has highlighted human mind’s ability to adopt and to make itself adept. It is indeed true that every catastrophe opens up a new beginning.

The author is an English Poet who is working as an Assistant Professor of English at Government First Grade College Sirsi, Karnataka. She’s an alumnus of Bangalore University

Genetic Purity, A Hoax

DENNIS MCNEVIN

Far-right white supremacist ideology is on the rise in Europe, North America and Australia. It appeals to a racist notion whereby many white supremacists see themselves as members of a “pure” race that is at risk of dilution and contamination.

Science does not support the idea of pure races with ancient origins. In the past few years, genetic sequencing of ancient and modern humans and related species has given us a flood of new information about how human populations have evolved.

The evidence reveals a history of ongoing genetic mingling, due to interbreeding between different populations and even species. Humans from different groups had children together, and even with Neanderthals and members of other now-extinct hominin species.

This mingling occurred constantly in the long process of human migration across the globe. Europeans inhabit one region of a large genetic continuum and are no more or less “pure” than any other population.

From Africa to the world

The genetic history of humanity begins in what we now know as Africa. The exact location (or locations) of the first anatomically modern humans is debated, but there is a consensus they lived south of the Sahara desert between 100,000 and 200,000 years ago.

A group or groups of these early humans migrated out of Africa and into the Middle East, as we now know it, some time between 50,000 and 70,000 years ago. Next, some went east into Asia while others headed west into Europe.

At some point, the wandering humans met and bred with Neanderthals. These now-extinct hominins had left Africa many thousands of years earlier.

Modern Asians and Europeans



“Science does not support the idea of pure races with ancient origins. In the past few years, genetic sequencing of ancient and modern humans and related species has given us a flood of new information about how human populations have evolved.

still carry genetic signatures of Neanderthals, while sub-Saharan Africans do not.

The humans that migrated east into Asia also met and bred with other extinct species of hominins, including at least two major injections of genes from a group we call Denisovans.

Early modern humans almost certainly bred with other ancient hominins as well, because interspecies breeding was likely common. The remains of a girl with a Neanderthal mother and Denisovan father have recently been

discovered. Another recent study has shown some Neanderthals too carried traces of human DNA.

Genetic diversity leads to greater fitness

Genetic diversity, as measured by a metric called heterozygosity, decreases with geographic distance from Africa. Higher heterozygosity is generally associated with greater genetic fitness for survival.

From this perspective it could be argued that, when the humans who walked away from Africa lost genetic di-

versity through living in small groups, they also lost genetic fitness. By the same argument, interbreeding between populations increases fitness.

In fact, Europeans probably benefited from picking up some Neanderthal DNA: these genes are thought to have diversified their immune systems and may have contributed to their lighter pigmentation.

Humans who migrated west into Europe continued to meet and breed with other human populations.

Another wave of humans from what

we call Anatolia (roughly modern-day Turkey) followed the initial spread of humans into Europe. The Yamnaya population from what we now know as the Russian steppe migrated west into Europe between 3,000 and 5,000 years ago. In fact, little genetic trace remains of the first human inhabitants of Europe, as they were continually supplanted by others.

Even the Roman civilisation, considered to be one of the historical foundations of European identity, was home to great genetic variety. A recent study looked at the genomes of 127 people from 29 sites across the past 10,000 years. It found an initial wave of hunter-gatherers had been supplanted by an Anatolian population, and during the age of Imperial Rome (27 BC to 300 AD) there were significant introductions of genes from what is now Iran and the eastern Mediterranean.

Even Vikings were diverse

Blonde-haired, blue-eyed northern Europeans are considered by many white supremacists as the ideal of racial purity. They are epitomised historically by the Vikings.

However, the reality was different. A recent study of 442 human genomes from archaeological sites across Europe and Greenland found substantial ancestry from elsewhere in Europe entering Scandinavia during the Viking Age. In fact, Vikings were more likely to have dark hair than modern Scandinavians.

In short, the idea of a pure white race has no basis in genetics. Lightly pigmented skin, hair and eyes are simply an adaptation to northern European climates (and represent an inferior adaptation in equatorial regions). These features exist in a background of countless other genetic influences borrowed from many populations, old and new.

*By arrangements with
The Conversation*



Agencies

If you want to live longer, read on. Researchers have found that that when physical activity is done in the morning throughout lifetime can reduce cancer risk.

One potential cause of cancer is circadian disruption, the misalignment of environmental cues (light, food intake, etc.) and our

endogenous circadian rhythms. Most studies on circadian disruption and cancer risk focused on night shift work.

Recent studies suggest that exposure to light at night and late food intake may play a role in the etiology of cancer. However, to date it remains unknown if the timing of physical activity could influence cancer risk through circadian disruption.

"In this study, we discuss how physical activity may influence human circadian rhythms and suggest possible biological mechanisms," said the study authors from Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) in Spain.

For the current study, published in the International Journal of Cancer, the research team examined the effect of timing of

recreational physical activity on breast and prostate cancer risk in a population-based case control study.

They hypothesized that the beneficial effect of the longest done physical activity in reducing cancer risk could be stronger when done in the morning. They based their hypothesis on the results of an experimental study which showed that physi-

cal activity in the afternoon and in the evening can delay melatonin production, a hormone produced mainly during the night and with well-known oncostatic properties.

The analysis included 2,795 participants of the multicase-control (MCC-Spain) study in Spain.

The researchers found that the beneficial effect of the physical activity (longest done throughout

lifetime) to reduce breast and prostate cancer risk was very stronger when the activity was regularly done in the morning (8-10 am).

In men, the effect was similarly strong also for evening activity (7-11 pm). Results were unchanged when considering the most strenuous physical activity timing.

Effects differed across chronotypes, the preference for sleeping and being active at a certain

time of day. Early morning activity (8-10 am) seemed especially protective for late chronotypes, people who generally prefer to be active towards the evening.

Overall, the findings of this study indicate that "time of the day of physical activity is an important aspect that may potentiate the protective effect of physical activity on cancer risk," the authors wrote.

Celebrates World Food Day 2020

AWANTIPORA: Department of Food Technology, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) celebrated World Food Day (WFD) 2020 with the FAO's theme "Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together" during which various events were organized through online mode. World Food Day is globally celebrated every year on 16th October in honor of the foundation day of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945.

Dean Research, IUST, Prof. Haroon R Naik, highlighted the importance of this day in light of Food Waste Management which has become the



worldwide issue. He also stressed on Go Green concept of sustainability.

The event included Quiz Competition, Food-O-Graphy, Poster Competition, and Innovative Solutions which attracted around 400 participants from all over the Country. The finalists in each category shall be awarded with exciting prizes and

e-certificates shall be awarded to all the participants.

The event was coordinated by Co-ordinator Food Testing Laboratory (FTL), Dr. B. N. Dar, Dr H. A. Makroo & Er. S. A. Khan from Deptt. of Food Technology, IUST. Dean School of Engineering & Technology, Prof. A. H. Moon, expressed his desire to have such types of programmes in future also. Head, Department of Food Technology thanked Vice Chancellor IUST and Project Coordinator TEQIP-III, Prof A H Moon for their continuous support in conducting such events.

Issued Through, Public Relations

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL

NEAR GIRAJ ---- PIN: 191201, PHONE: 0194-2416246, FAX-01942416246, EMAIL- exenifcdganderbal@ifckashmir.com

No:- I&FC/G/DB/3045-49 Date: 15-10-2020

CORRIGENDUM

Please read RD 10600 Mtrs instead of RD 1060 Mtrs for the work reflected at S.No.07 of E.NIT No. 10 of 2020-21 issued Vide this office No.2754-2804 Dated 05-10-2020.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control Division, Ganderbal

DIPK-7513/20

Department of Wildlife Protection. J&K Govt

Office of the Wildlife Warden, South Kashmir Division

Bijbehara-192124, Anantnag. Tel/Fax: +911932234474. Email: wildlifejk.skd@gmail.com

Quotation Notice

Sealed quotations are invited from the suppliers who are interested to supply the below mentioned items for Kashmir Zoo at Pahalgam of Wildlife Protection Division, Bijbehara, Anantnag, Kashmir. The quotations should reach to the office of the undersigned within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication. The rates quoted should be inclusive of all taxes (including GST). The quotations will be opened on the next working day at 02:00 PM sharp, in presence of the suppliers / parties who wish to be present In case of strike or any unfavourable circumstance, the quotations will be opened on the next working day.

SN	Item	Unit	Rate / Unit
01	Meat (Sheep/Goat)	Kg	
02	Chicken	Kg	
03	Willow Bachas	No.	
04	Paddy Grasses	Bundle	

Terms and Conditions:

- The rates quoted should be destined for Kashmir Zoo, Pahalgam (Anantnag).
- The Quotationer shall remit the earnest money of ₹5000/- in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Wildlife Warden, South Kashmir Division, Bijbehara through any J&K Bank Branch, no Cheque or Cash will be accepted.
- The Quotations without specified CDR will be out rightly rejected.
- The rates once quoted and approved will be final up to last date and no deviation of rates against the supply items will be allowed.
- The Quotationer whose Quotation is accepted and fails to put agreement will also lose the CDR and the second lowest will be called for the execution of agreement.
- The successful Quotationer should execute the agreement within five days from the date of acceptance of the Quotation.
- The rates may be treated inclusive of labour and transport charges up to destination of Kashmir Zoo, Pahalgam.
- The Wildlife Warden, South Kashmir is the final authority to accept or reject any or all the Quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

No.: 596-98/10/00
Date 15-10-2020

DIPK-7469/20

Sd/-
Wildlife Warden South Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Assistant Commissioner Revenue,

Selection Authority Gurdwara Prabandak Committee) Kulgam

EMAIL. ENTKULGAM@NIC.IN, AGR.GULGAM@JK.GOV.IN

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sub: Conduct of Elections for District Sikh Gurdwuaras Prabandahak Committee- 2020

Principal Secretary 9Revenue) / Financial Commissioner (Rev.) J&K Jammu has notified the schedule for Revision of Electoral Rolls for conduct of Gurdwara Prabandahak Committee Election 2020, the schedule of which is reproduced as below:-

S. No	Activity	Date / Period
01	Draft publication of Electoral Rolls	17-10-2020
02	Calling Of Claims And Objections	17-10-2020 to 02-11-2020
03	Disposal of claims & objections	02-11-2020 TO 07-11-2020
04	Publication of final Electoral Rolls	09-11-2019

Now therefore, by virtue of this notice the general public (belonging to Sikh Community) are hereby informed that in order to undertake the revision of Electoral Rolls. With reference to 01-01-2020 as qualifying date, in respect of Gurdwara Prabandahak Committee Elections, the schedule aas given above,, is for inviting claims and objections regarding addition, deletion, correction, and transposition.

Further

- The place of hearing for the claims/ objections received shall be the headquarter of the undersigned.
- The date of hearing for the claims/objections shall be notified separately by the undersigned.
- For any assistance in this behalf, the undersigned (Election Authority), Tehsildar Devsar (Mobile No: 9419065154) and Naib Tehsildar Kilam (Mobile No: 9906704192) may be contacted

DIPK-7506/20

Assistant Commissioner Revenue
(Election Authority GPC Elections)
Kulgam

No: ACR/KGM/G/ELC/2020/7142-49
Dated: 15-10-2020

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Assistant Commissioner Revenue,

Selection Authority Gurdwara Prabandak Committee) Kulgam

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DIPK-7506/20

Assistant Commissioner Revenue
(Election Authority GPC Elections)
Kulgam

No: ACR/KGM/G/ELC/2020/7142-49
Dated: 15-10-2020

Gulf states using coronavirus pandemic to crackdown on dissent: Amnesty

Agencies

Abu Dhabi: Gulf states are using the coronavirus pandemic as a pretext to crack down on free speech and dissent, Amnesty International said on Thursday.

The rights group accused several members of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) - Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman - of using "pre-existing patterns" to suppress expression, particularly on social media.

"Starting in March 2020, as the virus began to spread in the GCC, all of these governments have issued statements to all people in the country warning of criminal liability for publishing 'false news' or 'spreading misinformation'," Amnesty said in a statement.

The countries went on to prosecute individuals who posted on social media about the viral outbreak or the government's response to it.

Amnesty said none of the social media restrictions imposed were necessary to protect public health in the countries. It also said the penalties for critical or "misleading" posts were disproportionate.

"Once again, GCC states opt for using what means they have

at their disposal to silence any public debate, in this instance about the pandemic, and are clearly more concerned about averting public scrutiny than about protecting public health," said Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International's deputy regional director for the Middle East and North Africa.

"Access to information is in fact essential for keeping the public up to date on how to protect themselves from the virus."

Cyber laws

Rights groups have accused a number of countries in the Middle East of using the pandemic to clamp down on freedom of expression.

Amnesty said that individuals across the GCC have been subject to harassment and intimidation by authorities for discussing the pandemic online.

The rights group said it had reviewed official statements by Gulf countries issued through state social media accounts and comments from government sources, from March to the present.

In Bahrain and Kuwait, government resources have been used to monitor online discussions about Covid-19 and quash criticism of the government's handling of the pandemic.

Twitter Service Restored Following Global Platform Outage

Agencies

San Francisco: Twitter service appeared to be restored Thursday evening after a technical problem caused a global outage of nearly two hours on the social media platform used by hundreds of millions worldwide.

The outage marked a new setback for the network, which is fending off accusations of bias over its decision to block a news report critical of Democratic White House candidate Joe Biden.

"Twitter has been down for many of you and we're working to get it back up and running for everyone," the California-based company tweeted.

"We had some trouble with our internal systems and don't have any evidence of a security breach or hack."

At around 2340 GMT, it was possible to carry out certain functions, such as retweeting a post, but many users were still unable to send a new tweet.

"Something went wrong, but don't fret - let's give it another shot," an error message said.

According to downdetector.com, users on every continent had reported being unable to use the platform, but the outages were concentrated on the east and west coasts of the United States, as well as Japan.

The outage appeared to have started around 2130 GMT.

"We are continuing to monitor as our teams investigate. More updates to come," Twitter's application program-



ming interface site said.

- Bias? -

Twitter this week has been fending off accusations of bias since taking the dramatic step of reducing the reach of a New York Post article critical of Biden and drawing a harsh rebuke from conservatives.

It was the latest technical breakdown to knock Twitter offline. The platform experienced an hour-long outage in July 2019, one lasting several hours a year ago and yet another last February.

More worrisome were hacking attacks on popular platforms like Twitter.

In July, it was the victim of a spectacular attack when prominent Americans, including former president Barack Obama, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Microsoft founder Bill Gates and Tesla chief Elon Musk, saw their accounts hacked.

The hack affected at least 130 accounts, with tweets posted by the intruders duping people into sending \$100,000 in Bitcoin, supposedly in exchange for double the amount sent.



Medical professionals release balloons as last patients leave the temporary field hospital at the Mane Garrincha Stadium, after being treated for the coronavirus and discharged in Brasilia, Brazil. REUTERS

14 Security Officials Killed In Pakistan Convoy Attack

Agencies

Quetta, Pakistan: A gun and rocket attack targeting a Pakistani paramilitary escort on Thursday killed seven soldiers and seven private security guards in southwestern Pakistan, officials said.

The security detail was escorting a convoy of the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on a coastal highway travelling to the southern city of Karachi from the port town of Gawadar, located in the restive Balochistan province.

The Pakistani military's public relations wing said the OGDCL personnel managed to escape the attack safely, but 14 security men had been killed in the incident.

The area has been sealed off and a search operation for the assailants had been

launched, the military said in a statement.

Mineral-rich Balochistan has seen a decades-long insurgency by separatists who want the province to secede from Pakistan because of what they term to be resource exploitation in the area.

An umbrella organisation of Baloch terrorist groups claimed responsibility for the attack in a social media post, but the veracity of the account could not be independently verified by Reuters.

It was the second major attack in Pakistan in 24 hours.

Six soldiers, including one officer, were killed in a separate attack in the former tribal areas in the northwest of the country late Wednesday.

Two explosions targeted military patrols along the Afghan border near Razmak,

North Waziristan, the military's public relations wing said.

The attack was claimed by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) - an umbrella group of Islamist terrorist fighting against the Pakistani state and its security forces.

The group dispersed and broke into factions following operations in 2014 by Pakistan's military in the former tribal areas, which had long been a hotbed for terrorists that attacked targets in Pakistan as well as across the border in Afghanistan.

However, two splinter groups rejoined the TTP this year, and attacks against security forces have seen a marked increase. At least 49 Pakistani soldiers have been killed in the region since March, according to a Reuters tally of official figures.

11 Million Girls Won't Return To School After Covid: UNESCO

Agencies

Kinshasa, DR Congo: Eleven million girls face being unable to return to school even after coronavirus restrictions are lifted around the world, UNESCO head Audrey Azoulay said Thursday during a visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"We worry that in many countries the closure of schools has unfortunately led to losses," Azoulay said as she visited a high school in the capital Kinshasa, three days after the country's 2020-21 school year began.

"We estimate that 11 million girls will be unable to go back to school around the world."

Accordingly, "we have launched an awareness campaign on the need for schools to go back to school," the former French culture minister said.

Education "unfortunately remains very unequal" for girls, Azoulay said, noting that their access to schooling is a priority for the UN Educa-



tional, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Congolese Education Minister Willy Bakonga, accompanying Azoulay, urged her to support the country's programme of free public primary education launched by President Felix Tshisekedi in September last year.

He said the programme had allowed more than four million children to join or rejoin the education system in the poor but mineral-rich Central African country.

Hailing the reform as "very ambitious", Azoulay recognised the "enormous chal-

lenges" at hand in terms of infrastructure, teacher training and budgeting.

Urging girls to pursue their schooling "as long as possible", she said she would support the Congolese authorities in the "massive effort that must be made for the quality of teaching".

Experts estimate the annual cost of free primary education at \$2.64 billion, a colossal sum for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

As of September 11, total state revenue was no more than \$2.5 billion, according to the Central Bank of Congo.

US Navy ship sails through Taiwan Strait, China fumes

Press Trust Of India

Beijing/Taipei: China on Thursday said the United States was seriously undermining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait after a US Navy destroyer sailed through the waters amid escalating tensions between Beijing and Taipei.

Zhang Chunhui, spokesman for China's eastern theatre command, said in a statement that the Chinese military followed and monitored the USS Barry when the destroyer made what the US Navy called a "routine Taiwan Strait transit" on Wednesday.

ton and Taipei of "collusion" towards the island declaring formal independence and recently ramped up air force activity near Taiwan in a show of force.

The White House is pushing forward to sell to Taiwan sophisticated military equipment including MQ-9 drones and a coastal defensive missile system, sources familiar with the matter said, fuelling further tensions in what is already an increasingly adversarial Sino-US relations.

Zhang said the US should stop its provocative words and actions in the Taiwan Strait. Tai-



China considers Taiwan a wayward province that needs to be reunited with the mainland, by force if needed. The US government, on the other hand, has stepped up support for the island recently to support what it considers an important democratic outpost. Beijing has accused Washing-

wan's defence ministry said in a separate statement that the USS Barry sailed in a northerly direction through the strait and that its forces also monitored the warship, adding that the situation was as normal." — Agencies

Trump administration accused of trying to destabilise tibet

Remdesivir Didn't Cut Hospital Stay Or Mortality In Covid Patients: WHO

Gilead Sciences Inc's remdesivir had little or no effect on COVID-19 patients' length of hospital stay or chances of survival, a clinical trial by the World Health Organization (WHO) has found.

The antiviral medication, among the first to be used as a treatment for COVID-19, was one of the drugs recently used to treat U.S. President Donald Trump's coronavirus infection.

The results are from WHO's "Solidarity" trial, which evaluated the effects of four potential drug regimens, including remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, anti-HIV drug combination lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon, in 11,266 adult patients across more than 30 countries.

The study found the regimens appeared to have little or no effect on 28-day mortality or the length of the in-hospital course among patients hospitalized with COVID-19, the WHO said on Thursday.

The results of the trial are yet to be reviewed and were

uploaded on the preprint server medRxiv.

Earlier this month, data from a U.S. study of remdesivir by Gilead showed the treatment cut COVID-19 recovery time by five days compared with patients who got a placebo in a trial comprising 1,062 patients.

"The emerging (WHO) data appears inconsistent, with more robust evidence from multiple randomized, controlled studies published in peer-reviewed journals validating the clinical benefit of remdesivir," Gilead told Reuters.

"We are concerned the data from this open-label global trial has not undergone the rigorous review required to allow for constructive scientific discussion, particularly given the limitations of the trial design."

WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan said on Wednesday that during the study, hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir were stopped in June after they proved ineffective, but other trials continued in more than 500 hospitals and 30 countries.

NEWS MAKERS

Brazilian Senator Caught Hiding Money "Between Buttocks"

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: A Brazilian senator allied to far-right President Jair Bolsonaro was caught hiding money in his underwear during a police investigation into the diversion of public funds for fighting the coronavirus, local media reported on Thursday.

Federal officers raided the home of Chico Rodrigues in the northern state of Roraima on Wednesday as part of a corruption probe.

They found 30,000 reals (\$5,300) in cash, part of which was discovered in Rodrigues's underwear, including "between his buttocks," said major outlets including O Globo, Folha de S. Paulo and Estadão, quoting sources from the investigation.

The federal police confirmed to AFP they were trying to dismantle a "possible



criminal scheme diverting public funds" set aside to combat the outbreak in Roraima state.

Rodrigues meanwhile issued a statement saying the police "did their job carrying out a search as part of an investigation in which I'm cited," although he made no mention of the cash nor where it was allegedly found.

He complained that he'd had his "home invaded just for doing my job as a legisla-

tor" and insisted he had done nothing wrong.

Bolsonaro accused the media of using the story to portray his government as corrupt. "This operation is a typical example that there's no corruption in my government, that we're tackling corruption no matter who it is," he said.

Bolsonaro was elected in 2018 partly on the back of promise to fight corruption, but since he took office he's faced several scandals.

They include an investigation into his son Flavio, who is accused of deviating public funds during his time as a Rio de Janeiro state legislator.

Bolsonaro is being investigated over accusations by his former justice minister, Sergio Moro, that the president tried to interfere with police probes to shield members of his family and friends.

US govt appoints new coordinator on Tibet

The US government, in a bid to put pressure on China, appointed a new senior official to oversee Tibetan points after an emphysema for nearly four years. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Robert Destro, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour as special coordinator for Tibetan issues.

The Trump administration also hopes to oversee the use of compelled labour among ethnic minorities.

As per the state department, Destro's responsibility will include initiating a dialogue with the Dalai Lama and protecting the religious, cultural and linguistic identity of Tibetans.

"The United States remains concerned with



the PRC's repression of the Tibetan community, including the lack of meaningful autonomy, the deteriorating human rights situation in Tibetan areas, and severe restrictions on Tibetans' religious freedom and cultural

traditions within China," Pompeo told Reuters.

US-China relations have been tense due to several issues including trade, Taiwan, China's treatment of Uighur Muslims, the South China Sea and the corona-

virus. China has avoided interacting with the US coordinator saying that it is interference with its internal affairs.

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India Gained Over A Decade Of Life Expectancy Since 1990: Lancet Study



NEW DELHI: India has gained more than a decade of life expectancy since 1990, but there are wide inequalities between states, according to a new study which assessed more than 286 causes of death and 369 diseases and injuries in more than 200 countries and territories across the world.

The study, published in the Lancet journal, noted that life expectancy in India has risen from 59.6 years in 1990 to 70.8 years in 2019, ranging from 77.3 years in Kerala to 66.9 years in Uttar Pradesh.

However, the researchers, including Srinivas Goli from the Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar, said the increase in 'healthy life expectancy' in India has not been as dramatic as the growth of life expectancy since "people are living more years with illness and disability."

According to the international team of scientists, the current global crisis of chronic diseases and failure of public health to stem the rise in highly preventable risk factors such as high blood pressure, tobacco use, and air pollution have left populations vulnerable to acute health emergencies such as COVID-19.

"The main improvement we see in almost every country, including in India, is a decline in infectious diseases and more rise in chronic diseases," study co-author Ali Mokdad from the University of Washington in the US told news agency Press Trust of India.

"In India maternal mortality used to be very high, but now it is coming down. Cardiovascular diseases used to be number

five, and now it is number one, and cancer rates are increasing," Mokdad, Professor of Global Health at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), said.

While many parts of the world have also controlled infectious diseases through immunisation and better medical care, he said some countries still struggle to manage these epidemics.

"The interaction of COVID-19 with the continued global rise in chronic illness and related risk factors, including obesity, high blood sugar, and outdoor air pollution, over the past 30 years has created a perfect storm, fuelling COVID-19 deaths," the scientists noted in a statement.

In the South Asia region, they said non-communicable diseases (NCDs) now contribute to more than half of the years lost due to ill-health, disability or early death, which was dominated by infectious, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases 30 years ago.

Citing an example, the researchers said 58 per cent of the total disease burden in India is now due to non-communicable diseases, up from 29 per cent in 1990, while premature deaths due to NCDs have more than doubled from 22 to 50 per cent.

The study found that the largest contributors to increasing health loss in India over the last 30 years were NCDs like ischaemic heart disease, COPD, diabetes, stroke, and a group of musculoskeletal disorders.

In 2019, the research noted that the top five risk factors for death in India were air pollution (contributing to an estimated 1.67 million deaths), high blood pressure (1.47 million), tobacco use (1.23 million), poor diet (1.18 million), and high blood sugar (1.12 million).

Man's Head Recovered In Bengaluru, Torso Found In Madhya Pradesh: Cops

BETUL, MADHYA PRADESH: The head of a man whose torso was recovered from the railway tracks near Betul in Madhya Pradesh around two weeks back, was later found nearly 1,300 kms away in Bengaluru, as it had got entangled in the engine of Rajdhani express train, a police official said on Friday.

The man's body, whose head and some other parts were missing, was found on October 3 on the Machna bridge near Betul by the Government Railway Police (GRP), he said.

"During the investigation, it came to light that the man was run over by the New Delhi-Bengaluru Rajdhani express train, following which an alert was sounded," GRP Betul's head constable Vedprakash said.

The police collected the body parts from the tracks, which were preserved after autopsy, he said.

"The railway staff in Bengaluru recovered the head on October 4. The police there circulated its photo to ascertain the identity of the victim. They finally zeroed in on Betul after they came to know that the headless body of a man was found there," he said.

"About four days back, the Betul GRP was informed about



the recovery of a man's head found entangled in the engine of the Rajdhani express train. It was found to be that of Ravi Markam (28), a resident of Betul, as his family members identified it," Vedprakash said.

A police team from Bengaluru arrived in Betul to conduct a probe into the case, he said.

"As the deceased's family members were unable to go to Bengaluru due to financial reasons, the police buried the head there only," he said, adding that the remaining dismembered body parts were handed over to the family for the last rites.

The police said it is not yet clear whether the man committed suicide or died in an accident on the tracks.

According to Vedprakash, investigation into the incident is on and a case is being registered.



FRETFUL WALK: Paramilitary trooper looks on as women along a kid walk near an encounter site at Chadoora, Budgam on Friday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Govt To Soon Decide On Minimum Age Of Marriage For Girls: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the government will soon take a decision on revising the minimum age of marriage for girls after it receives report from the committee set up for this.

The prime minister said the girls' gross enrolment ratio in education has turned higher than that of boys for the first time in the country because of several efforts taken by the government in the last six years.

Modi was addressing a video conference after releasing a commemorative coin of Rs 75 denomination on the 75th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

"There is an important deliberation going on to decide what should be the ideal age of marriage for daughters," Modi said.

The prime minister said he has been receiving letters from women from across the country, asking about the report of the committee and when the government will take a decision on it.

"I want to assure them, the government will soon take its decision after the submission of the report," Modi said.

In his Independence Day speech, the prime minister had announced that the government was deliberating on what should be the minimum age of marriage for women and has set up a committee to look into the matter.

Currently, the minimum age of marriage is 18 years for women and 21 for men.

Modi highlighted the efforts taken by his government in the last six years to fight against malnutrition.



The prime minister said his government has taken an integrated and holistic approach to deal with the challenge of malnutrition.

The government has adopted a multi-dimensional strategy to work on all those factors responsible for high malnutrition, he added.

The government has started National Nutrition Mission, Modi informed.

Highlighting other achievements, the prime minister said the government has built 11 crore toilets across the country under the Swachh Bharat Mission and has launched Jal Jeevan Mission to provide piped drinking water.

The government is also providing sanitary pads at Re 1 to poor women, he further said.

"Because of these efforts, for the first time, the gross enrolment ratio of girls in education is more than that of boys," Modi said.

On malnutrition, the prime minister said the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has closely followed India's fight against this problem in past decades.

Some departments at different levels in the country made efforts but the scope was

either limited or scattered, he pointed out.

Modi said pregnancy at tender age, lack of education and awareness, inadequate availability of pure drinking water and lack of cleanliness were some of the factors due to which the desired results against malnutrition could not be achieved earlier.

Modi said he had started various programmes to tackle malnutrition in Gujarat when he was the chief minister of the state.

After becoming the prime minister in 2014, Modi had said he started new programmes with fresh and holistic approach, based on his experience as a chief minister.

Modi complemented the FAO for playing an important role in raising farm production and making efforts towards eradicating starvation and malnutrition across the world, including in India in the last 75 years.

The prime minister said the commemorative coin of Rs 75 denomination has been released in recognition of FAO's contribution and services.

He also thanked the FAO for supporting India's proposal to declare 2023 as International Year of Millets and said this will boost the availability of coarse cereals and enhance the income of small and marginal farmers.

The government, Modi said, is making efforts to increase the production of millets and boost consumer demand.

The prime minister also dedicated to the nation 17 recently developed biofortified varieties of eight crops. PTI

Prasar Bharati Ends PTI Subscription, Seeks Fresh Proposal

Prasar Bharati has ended its subscription of news agency Press Trust of India (PTI) and will now invite fresh proposals from other domestic news agencies, sources said.

PTI, the largest news agency of the country, is run by a Board comprising owners and proprietors of key newspaper groups and is a non-profit trust.

Prasar Bharati decided to end its "current ad-hoc pro-rata arrangement for the PTI subscription" four months after it was alleged that the agency's coverage of India-China clash was unfair and not in sync with

A controversy broke when the national broadcaster sent a letter threatening to end its "relationship" over the alleged "anti-national" reportage by news agency in June this year.

PTI had carried an interview with Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong, where he blamed India for the India-China violent standoff that saw 20 Indian bravehearts getting martyred.

Sources said a "strong letter" was sent to PTI just ahead of its Board meeting in June where the public broadcaster expressed "deep displeasure on anti-national reporting by



national interest.

The national broadcaster is one of the biggest subscribers of the agency, and it pays PTI over Rs 6.75 crore annually, sources said.

A letter to both PTI and UNI has been sent regarding this.

Sources said that Prasar Bharati will initiate a process of inviting fresh proposals from all the news agencies including PTI and UNI.

PTI". The public broadcaster had communicated that the PTI's editorial stance makes it untenable to "continue the relationship".

Government sources claim that the broadcaster had been "supporting PTI with huge financial fees" which often ran into several crore. This ad-hoc pro-rata arrangement has been going on for decade

Sikh Man Involved In Turban Row Has Arms License Valid Only In J&K: Cops



KOLKATA: The police on Thursday said the Sikh man, whose turban came off during his arrest last week, had an arms license which was valid only in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, and he was apprehended for being a part of an "unlawful assembly" and carrying a gun.

The Howrah Police Commissionerate, in a series of tweets, urged people not to get carried away by fabricated social media posts as a thorough investigation is underway.

Controversy had erupted after visuals of the police beating up the Sikh man during BJP's protest march to the secretariat on October 8 went viral on social media.

A section of netizens claimed that the police had pulled his turban during the fight, following which it came off.

The man was identified as 43-year-old Balwinder Singh, a resident of Bhatinda in Punjab. He was arrested with a loaded pistol.

"As per the National Database of Arms Licences, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India; the Arms licence of Sh Balwinder Singh is valid only in Rajouri distt of J&K. He was arrested for being part of an unlawful assembly with a weapon," the Howrah city police tweeted.

"Please do not get carried away by fabricated social media posts. A thorough investigation is going on to unearth the truth," it further said.

Singh's family members have arrived in Kolkata and met him twice in police custody. They have also visited the Raj Bhavan, and urged Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar to make arrangements for his release.

"He will be in police custody till Sunday. Thereafter, Singh will be produced before court," a police officer said.

The turban controversy has emerged as a political flashpoint between the TMC and the BJP, with the BJP accusing the ruling party of hurting religious sentiments.

The state government had said that a political outfit was deliberately giving "communal colour" to the incident to serve its "narrow partisan interest".

The state home department had also said Singh was arrested in accordance with the law for carrying illegal firearms during BJP's march to the state secretariat.

Violence had erupted in Kolkata and adjoining Howrah on October 8, as BJP activists tried to go past barricades put up by the police to stop their rally to the secretariat.

The police later said the rally was taken out by the BJP camp without proper permission.

NEWS MAKER

Supreme Court Steps In After High Court Tells Molester To Get Rakhi Tied From Woman To Get Bail

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today sought Attorney General's assistance on a plea for stay on the Madhya Pradesh High Court order which granted bail to an accused in a molestation case on the condition that he would request the woman to tie him 'Rakhi'.

A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar issued notice to the office of Attorney General KK Venugopal on an appeal filed by nine women lawyers who have said that courts across the country should be restrained from imposing such conditions as these are against the principle of law.

The high court, in its July 30 order, had granted bail to the accused and imposed a condition that he along with his wife shall visit the house of the complainant and request her to tie 'Rakhi' to him with the promise to protect her to the best of his ability for all times to come.

Senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, appearing for the petitioners including lawyer Aparna Bhat, told the bench that the appeal has been filed in an extraordinary circumstance.

The trauma of the woman is trivialised by such conditions, Mr Parikh told the bench, also comprising Justice BR Gavi.

These kind of conditions are imposed which are against the principle of law. Repeatedly such observations are being made, he said.

Are you making the submission only for Madhya Pradesh or for the entire country, the bench asked.

To this, Mr Parikh said he is making submission with regard to entire country and the petitioners have made prayers to restrain courts, including high courts and trial courts, from making such observations.

The bench, which said it is issuing notice to the office of the top law officer of the country, posted the matter for hearing on November 2.

In their appeal, the petitioners have sought stay of the bail condition imposed on the accused by the high court.

The plea said that substantial questions of law, including whether in a



case seeking bail it is appropriate for a court to impose extraneous conditions which allows contact between the accused and the complainant, is involved in the matter.

Whether the bail condition which is impugned herein stands to further victimise the complainant and trivialize the trauma that she has suffered, the plea said, adding, Whether the above mentioned bail condition is in line with the principles that govern trials within the criminal justice system?

It said another question of law which arises for consideration of the top court in the matter is whether the High Court ought to have employed circumsppection and sensitivity while dealing with a case involving a sexual offence having been committed against a woman.

The high court erred in imposing a condition that defeated the very purpose of granting bail by directing the alleged perpetrator to establish contact with the woman, the plea said.

It alleged that imposing such a condition results in further victimisation of the survivor in her own house.

In the context of Rakshabandhan being a festival of guardianship between brothers and sisters, the said bail condition amounts to gross trivialization of the trauma suffered by the complainant in the present case, it said, adding that the alleged incident is said to have been committed by the accused by forcibly entering the complainant's house.

While it is routine for courts to award certain compensation to survivors of sexual offences to be paid by the accused, it is highly objectionable for the high court in the present case to put the complainant in a position where she is forced to accept the sum of 11,000 as part of the customary ritual of Rakshabandhan.

"Moreover, the said bail condition also goes a step further by stating that respondent No 2 (accused) tender 5,000 to the son the complainant, it said.

Indian Army Restores Damaged Grave Of Decorated Pak Officer In J&K

SRINAGAR: The Indian Army on Thursday said it has restored the damaged grave of a decorated Pakistani officer in Naugam sector of Jammu and Kashmir.



Srinagar-based Chinarcops tweeted a photograph of the epitaph on grave which read, "In memory of Major Mohd Shabir Khan, Sitara-e-Jurat Shahid 05 May 1972, 1630 H, killed in counter attack by 9 Sikhs".

"In keeping with the traditions & ethos of the #IndianArmy, #Chinarcops resuscitated a damaged grave of Major Mohd Shabir Khan, Sitara-e-Jurat, Pakistan Army, who was Killed in Action (KIA) at a forward location along LC in Naugam Sector on 05 May 1972," Chinarcops posted on its Twitter handle.

"A fallen soldier, irrespective to the country he belongs to, deserves respect & honour in death. #IndianArmy stands with this belief. This is #IndianArmy for the world," the Army added.