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Minum : 08°C
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News Digest

Army Destroys Mortar Shells In Poonch

Jammu: The Army destroyed five unexploded 120-mm mortar shells fired by Pakistan during cross-border firing in different villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said.

They said the shells were found close to residential areas in different villages of Balnoi sector. They were removed by the bomb disposal squads of the Army after being informed by the villagers. The live mortar shells were later destroyed in controlled explosions in the forest area, the officials said. ● P-02

Chicken Seller 'Beaten' By CRPF Men

Srinagar: Paramilitary CRPF personnel on Saturday allegedly thrashed a chicken seller, culled his hatch after their vehicle came under minor stone pelting in Saidakadal locality here.

Around 11:00 am Saturday, Suhail Ahmad Sofi was attending his customers at his poultry shop when two unknown boys hurled a few stones at a CRPF vehicle that was passing through Saidakadal locality here, witnesses told Kashmir Observer. The stone pelting, they said infuriated the paramilitary men, who came out charging from their vehicle. ● P-02

48 New Covid-19 Cases In Ladakh

Leh: Forty-eight more people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Ladakh, taking the total virus caseload in the Union Territory to 5,441, officials said on Saturday. They said 151 more patients have been cured of the infection bringing down the number of active cases in the region to 915 -- 738 in Leh district and 177 in Kargil district.

Ladakh has recorded a total of 65 COVID-19-related deaths, while 4,461 patients have so far recovered. Of the 48 ● P-02

SMC Continues Demolition Drive

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) city's civic body on Saturday demolished several illegal structures during a drive here in this capital city. The Enforcement wing conducted demolitions in Batpora, Rangpora, 90 feet, Soura, and various other areas in ward 15 (Ahmad Nagar) and ward 18 (Safakadal), news agency CNS reported.

Commissioner SMC MrGazanfar Ali takes weekly review from enforcement wing headed by Chief Enforcement Officer Sofi Akbar in his office. Ali is personally on regular basis ● P-02

Water Scarcity Sparks Protest

Srinagar: Residents of Bata-maloo here on Saturday staged a protest against the Jal Shakti department over the alleged shortage of clean drinking water in the area. The protesters mostly women from SD Colony and Momin Abad raised slogans against Jal Shakti department and blocked the road near Reka-Chowk for almost an hour, using wooden logs and worn-out tyres, news agency KNT reported.

The protesters said even as the area was reeling under acute shortage of water from ● P-02

Pulwama Boy Tops NEET Exam Despite No Internet

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A teenager from volatile south Kashmir's Pulwama district has topped the NEET examination from the Union Territory despite internet connectivity issues in most parts of the valley since over a year.

Basit Bilal Khan (18) secured 695 marks out of 720 in the NEET exam, the result of which was declared on Friday.

Khan, hailing from Ratnipora village in Pulwama, said while he worked very hard for the competitive examination, frequent internet outages and slow network speed created a lot of hardships.

"I am thankful to God for bestowing this success on me. I am thankful of my parents who supported me always and also of my teachers who showed me a track and guided me and worked

hard on me," he told reporters near a private study centre here where he studied for the exams.

"My family is very excited with the results as they had huge expectations from me. But this is because of the hard work of my teachers and their polishing. I am feeling proud now being the topper from Jammu and Kashmir," the ecstatic teenager said.

He said while the faculty at the study centre covered the syllabus wholly in time, the internet connectivity issues created a lot of difficulties for him and other candidates like him.

"We faced a lot of hardships because of internet connectivity issues. My teachers had prepared video tutorials for us, but it was very difficult to access them on 2G network."

"However, a philosopher ● P-02

Centre Amends J&K Panchayati Raj Act To Set Up District Councils

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The government on Saturday amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act to provide for setting up of District Development Councils in each district which will have directly elected members, marking the implementation of the entire 73rd Amendment Act in the union territory, an official spokesman said here.

The District Development Councils (DDCs) of each district shall have 14 constituencies after their delimitation by the respective deputy commissioners, the spokesman said.

"The government today amended J&K Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, to provide for establishment of elected District Development Councils in Jammu and Kashmir. The move to have elected third tier of Panchayati Raj institution



marks the implementation of the entire 73rd Amendment Act in J&K," the spokesman said.

He said the District Development Councils will comprise members directly elected from 14 territorial constituencies of the district as well as the members of the Legislative Assembly and the chairperson of all Block Development Councils of the district.

Seats for SCs, STs and women have also been reserved which will be filled by direct election to the District Development Councils, the spokesman said.

The Additional District Development Commissioner shall be the chief executive officer of the DDC, he added.

Meanwhile, a statutory order issued by the UT ● P-02

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY AMENDED J&K PANCHAYATI Raj Rules, 1996, to provide for establishment of elected District Development Councils in Jammu and Kashmir. The move to have elected third tier of Panchayati Raj institution marks the implementation of the entire 73rd Amendment Act in J&K,"

Jammu Muslim Front Backs Gupkar Alliance

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: Days after major mainstream parties formed joined hands to fight for restoration of special status to Jammu and Kashmir, a prominent Muslim outfit Jammu Muslim Front (JMF) on Saturday announced support to the newly created 'People's Alliance'.

In a statement issued to media, a JMF spokesperson welcomed the decision of political parties in Jammu and Kashmir to unitedly fight for the restoration of the region's special status under Article 370 and 35A of the constitution.

Cong, BJP Trade Barbs Over Special Status Restoration

The leaders of Congress and Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) on Saturday exchanged barbs over restoration of special status to Jammu and Kashmir, a day after senior Congress leader ● P-02

JMF, the spokesperson said stand for the reinstatement of the rights of all residents of the ● P-02

ACB Arrests Ex-CPO, Engineer For Corrupt Practices

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption bureau on Saturday arrested former Chief Planning Officer Budgam and a junior engineer in the housing board for amassing huge wealth disproportionate to their known source of income.

Noor Mohammad Wani, the then Chief Planning Officer Budgam was arrested by the Bureau officials for accumulating assets through unfair means, an ACB spokesperson said Saturday. During the investigation, the spokesperson said, it was found that the suspect in his service has raised assets disproportionate to his known source of income.

"He was later arrested ● P-02

Govt Working On Surrender, Rehab Policy For Militants: GoC

Agencies

NEW DELHI: India is coming up with a surrender and rehabilitation policy for the youth who want to give up militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. The Union Defence Ministry is deliberating over the issue with the Home Ministry in New Delhi.

The Indian Army is pushing the youth who have taken to arms to surrender so that they can be rehabilitated properly in the society, said 15 Corps GOC Lieutenant General B.S. Raju during an interaction at the Chinara Corps headquarters here.

He said: "We will be doing more work

to ensure that more surrenders take place." The officer pointed out that it gives no pleasure to the forces to kill young boys who have picked up arms.

The men on the ground during counter-militancy operations risk their lives to convince these youth to shun their guns and surrender.

He also said that the government is working on a surrender and rehabilitation policy. The matter is currently deliberated between the Defence Ministry and the Home Ministry.

"There are a lot of issues involved," said Lieutenant General Raju, adding that he has directed those engaged in counter militancy operations ● P-02

Evict Ex-Mantris, Babus From Govt Quarters In 2 Weeks: HC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid statement before it that Home department's comments were awaited, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has granted government two weeks more time to comply with its orders as regards eviction of former ministers, MLAs, retired, IAS Officers, MLCs and political persons who are still unauthorizedly residing in accommodation of the Estates Department, both at Jammu and Srinagar.

A bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey granted the time after senior Additional Advocate General B. A. Dar sought the same for filing the compliance report in terms of court's order on September 28.

"Learner Sr AAG sought and is granted permission to place on record the



communication received by him from the Directorate of Estate Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to justify non-filing of updated compliance and grant of further time to file the same."

Perusal of the communication, the court said, reveals that the Estate Department has taken up the matter with Home Department vide communication on 22 September 2020 and 3 October respectively. "The Estate Department is awaiting for the comments of Home Department, ● P-02

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire In Jammu

JAMMU: India and Pakistani troops traded heavy gunfire along the International Border (IB) in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

The Pakistan Rangers violated ceasefire overnight by resorting to unprovoked firing on forward posts and villages along the IB in Kathua, they said.

The firing in the Pansar-Manyari area started around 9.15 PM Friday and continued through the night, forcing the residents to take shelter in the underground bunkers, the officials said.

They said BSF troops guarding the IB retaliated strongly. There was no report of any ● P-02

5 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K, Toll 1373

SRINAGAR: At least five more people on Saturday succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the number of Covid-19 deaths in the Union Territory to 1373.

While Kashmir valley reported one coronavirus death on Saturday, four others were confirmed by the officials from the Jammu division. The victim from ● P-02



Lashkar's IED Expert Killed In Anantnag Gunfight: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A foreign militant of Lashkar-e-Taiba, who was an IED expert, was killed on Saturday in a firefight with government forces in Larnoo area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, police said.

Acting on a specific input about the presence of militants, army's 19 RR, police and the personnel of CRPF 164 battalion laid a siege around Larnoo area of the district and started a cordon and search operation, a police spokesperson here said.

During the search operation, he said the holed-up militant turned down surrender offer and fired towards the search team which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, one foreign militant was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter," the police spokesperson said.

He identified the killed militant as Nasir alias Shak Bhai. He said that the slain was an 'A' category militant and an IED expert affiliated with LeT.

"Incriminating materials including arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe his complicity in other crimes," the police spokesperson said.

In this connection, he said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Larnoo and investigation has been initiated.

"People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," the police spokesperson added.

INCRIMINATING MATERIALS INCLUDING arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe his complicity in other crimes,"

Militant Associate Held In Pampore: Police

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba over-ground worker from Pampore area of Pulwama district. Haris Shareef Rather of Zaffron Colony Pampore was involved in providing shelter, logistic and other support to the LeT militants besides assisting them in transporting arms & ammunition in Pampore, Khrew and Kakapora areas of the south Kashmir district, a police spokesperson said.

"Incriminating material has been recovered from his ● P-02

Fraudster Held After 12 Years In Jammu

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday arrested a man who was on the run for the last 12 years in a case related to preparation of multiple migrant relief cases for getting undue benefits, a spokesman of the investigation agency said.

Kanya Lal Mattas, originally hailing from central Kashmir's Budgam district, had gone underground about 12 years ago during trial of the FIR which was registered on a written complaint lodged by Deputy Commissioner Vigilance (Relief) against him in 1993, the spokesman said.

He said the sleuths of Crime Branch Jammu raided the hideout of the accused here ● P-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

Govt Vigilant Towards Each Inch Of India's Land; No One Can Take It Away: Amit Shah On Ladakh Row

NEW DELHI: Amidst the continuing standoff with China in Ladakh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Modi government is fully alert towards securing each inch of the country's land and no one can take it away.

Shah also said the government is taking all possible military and diplomatic steps to resolve the standoff in Ladakh with China.

"We are vigilant for every inch of our land, no one can take it away...Our defence forces and leadership are capable of defending the country's sovereignty and border," he told CNN News18 when asked about the current standoff with China in Ladakh.

The home minister also said that the government is committed to protecting the sovereignty and security of the country.

Referring to the coming Bihar elections, Shah expressed confidence that the NDA will get a two-third majority.

He said Nitish Kumar will be the next chief minister of the state after the polls.

The home minister said there will be a change of government in West Bengal after next year's assembly elections and a BJP government will assume power there.

"We feel we will have a determined fight in West Bengal and we will form the government," he said.

He also said that the law and order situation in West Bengal is serious and political parties like the BJP have every right to seek imposition of President's rule there.

"The central government will take an appropriate decision taking into account the Constitution and on the basis of the governor's report," he said.

When asked whether the BJP will stake claim for the chief ministership in Bihar if the sa-

front party gets more seats than the ally JD(U) headed by Nitish Kumar, he said "There is no if or but. Nitish Kumar will be the next chief minister of Bihar. We have made a public announcement and we are committed to it."

Talking about the Lokjanshakti Party breaking away from the ruling alliance in Bihar, Shah said the party was offered adequate seats but still walked away from the alliance.

"It was their (LJP) decision, not ours," he said.

Asked to comment about the incident of alleged gang-rape and murder of a woman at Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, Shah slammed the opposition for indulging in politics over it and said all accused were arrested on the day of the incident and a CBI inquiry is already under progress.

"There was a rape in Hathras and a similar incident had taken

place in Rajasthan. But politics is centered around Hathras only. No one raised the incident of Rajasthan. The accused (in Hathras) were caught on the same day. A committee has been constituted to probe it...the CBI is also probing it. There should not be politics on it," he said.

Asked about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir a year after the abrogation of Article 370, the home minister said law and order in the Union territory is normal now even though there was a challenge due to the COVID-19 situation.

"(New Lieutenant Governor) Manoj Sinha ji is there now and he will ensure that development reaches the last man. You will see major development there in 5-6 months," he said.

Shah also asked Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi to publicly endorse party leader and former home minister P Chidambaram's statement that the special status of Jammu and Kashmir should be restored.

Asked about allegations of drug menace in Bollywood, Shah said he does not want to link the two.

"I think drugs and Bollywood should not be seen together. Drugs are a menace and should be ended soon. We have taken many strong steps in the past and are going to strengthen law and infrastructure to check it.

"You will see a big change in the coming days when it comes to probing infrastructure, legal provisions and manpower for eradicating the menace of drugs from the country," he said.

The home minister also appealed to the people to follow the prime minister's advice on COVID-19.

"Till there is a medicine, we all should follow the prime minister's advice to wash hands, keep distance and wear masks," he said.

BCCI Planning Domestic Cricket From Jan 1, Group-Wise Bio-Bubble Likely For Ranji Trophy

NEW DELHI: The much awaited domestic cricket season will start from January 1 with the Ranji Trophy, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said on Saturday.

The BCCI Apex Council met on Sunday evening and a good amount of time was spent on discussing the domestic calendar which had been thrown in disarray by the surging cases of COVID-19 in India.

"We have had extensive discussions on domestic cricket and we have tentatively decided to start the competitions from January 1, 2021," Ganguly told PTI from Dubai.

When asked if it would be a curtailed season or not, the former Indian captain said the board won't be able to accommodate all domestic tournaments for practical purposes.

"We will certainly have the full fledged Ranji Trophy redball tournament. It will probably not be possible to hold all tournaments," Ganguly said, hinting that BCCI is eyeing the January-March window for Ranji Trophy.

To minimise travel, matches are likely to be organised in four different centres dividing the four groups (A, B, C and Plate).

For example, Puducherry can host all teams in Plate Group.

"Puducherry has six grounds and have offered to host. It can host the Plate Group games while the other Groups can play in three different centres. The main motive is to minimise travel for players.

"Bangalore also has a lot of grounds so it can be one option and another option can be Dharamsala which has Bilaspur and Nadaun in its proximity," a BCCI official told PTI.

With Ganguly's assurance, the state associations have got much needed clarity to prepare for the season. With the COVID-19 situation affecting most parts of the country, most players are training on their own. Earlier this week, Uttarakhand became the first team to start training under one roof.

Meanwhile, Ganguly also assured that the junior cricket and women's tournaments will be held between March and April.

"We also have elaborate plans for our age group and women's cricket. We will start with Ranji Trophy and then we will also have the other tournaments between March and April," he said.

Centre Amends J&K...

government said the Deputy Commissioner of a district shall divide the DDC area into 14 single member territorial constituencies provided that the ratio between population of the territorial area of a constituency and the number of seats in the DDC shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout.

"While delimiting the constituencies of the District Development Council, Halqa Panchayat shall be a unit. The constituencies shall be delimited from the map of the District Development Council area starting from North towards East and ending towards South to West and every constituency shall be assigned a serial number and a name.

"The name of the constituency may be assigned on the name of a block having the largest population in that constituency. Thereafter, the constituencies shall be arranged alphabetically on the name of such constituencies," the order said.

The statutory order said while delimiting the constituencies, the Deputy Commissioner shall determine the number of constituencies to be reserved for SCs, STs and women in every constituency of DDC in accordance with the provisions of the act and distribute seats reserved for SCs, STs as far as practicable in those areas in a DDC where the proportion of their population to the population in total is comparatively large.

The order further read that the Deputy Commissioner shall also cause to publish a proposal for delimitation of constituencies by dividing a DDC area into single member constituencies and also indicate the territorial limit of each such constituency and shall keep the proposal open for inspection in the office of Halqa Panchayat, BDC and DDC and by affixing a copy of such proposal at two conspicuous places for inviting public objections.

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire...

casualty on the Indian side, they said.

However, a barber shop suffered some damages, the officials said, adding the cross-border firing between the two sides stopped around 5.55 am.

A 48-year-old man of Manyari village received minor injuries, the officials said.

According to official sources, 3,589 ceasefire violations by Pakistan were reported along the LoC and International Border till October 6 this year compared to a total of 3,168 in 2019.

The highest 427 ceasefire violations took place in September followed by 411 in March and 408 in August, the sources said, adding July recorded 398 ceasefire violations, June and April (387 each), May (382), February (366) and January (367).

The sources said 62 ceasefire violations were reported in the first six days of this month.

5 More Covid-19 Deaths...

Kashmir valley was a 60-year-old woman from Chinkipora Sopore. Official sources said that she was admitted to SMHS on October 12 and was diagnosed with bilateral community acquired pneumonia. Four deaths took place in Jammu and include three from Kishtwar and Doda

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 919 in Valley and 454 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).

Principal GMC Srinagar Among 610 New Cases...

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 610 new cases of coronavirus, including Principal Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar and 28 travellers, taking the number of people infected across the Union Territory to 87364.

While 247 new cases were reported from Jammu Division, in Kashmir valley confirmed 363 fresh cases, including Prinicipal GMC, Dr. Samia Rashid, who was on the forefront of the fight against Covid-19, tested positive for pathogen on Saturday.

Giving the district wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 129 cases, Budgam 32, Baramulla 58, Pulwama 28, Kupwara 25, Anantnag 19, Bandipora 36, Ganderbal 24, Kulgam 6, Shopian 6, Jammu 116,Rajouri 16, Udhampur 10, Doda 17, Kathua 8, Poonch 11, Samba 8, Kishtwar 38, Ramban 19 and Reasi 4.

Moreover, they said, 809 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 405 from Jammu Division and 404 from Kashmir Valley. (With GNS inputs)

Militant Associate Held In...

possession. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he added.

Accordingly, he said a case FIR No. 84/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Pampore and investigation into the matter has been initiated.

Jammu Muslim Front Backs...

erstwhile state irrespective of any discrimination.

"The coming together of mainstream regional parties of J&K to fight a constitutional battle to restore the rights of the people of state including Ladakh is a welcome step. JMF welcomes the decision of its

signatories to name as People's Alliance for restoration of our rights in the highest court of country," the spokesperson said.

The Jammu based prominent group also appealed the alliance to increase its ambit and take every section of society in confidence so that in real sense it should be a people's movement.

Cong, BJP Trade Barbs Over...

and former Home Minister P. Chidambaram extended support to newly formed Gupkar alliance.

In a scathing attack on the senior Congress leader, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Saturday alleged that the former Home Minister was toeing the line of China and Pakistan and might have links with the ISI and Naxalites.

He also said Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the nation for allowing leaders like Chidambaram and Digvijaya Singh to speak "against the country".

Reacting to Chidambaram's statement that the Congress resolutely stands for the restoration of the special status and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the "arbitrary and unconstitutional" decisions of the Narendra Modi government of August 5, 2019 must be rescinded, Raina said he has a doubt that the former Union minister might have links with Pakistan's ISI and Naxalites.

"Congressmen have always stabbed the country in its back. Article 370 had given birth to militancy, separatism and a pro-Pakistan ideology and was the main cause for the bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir. "Chidambaram is toeing the line of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan's premier Imran Khan," Raina said in a video statement uploaded on his Twitter handle.

He alleged that treason runs deep in the blood and DNA of Congressmen.

"When it (Article 370) was uprooted, Jinping and Khan felt the pain and so did Congress leaders Chidambaram and Rahul Gandhi. The statement makes it clear that the Congress is dancing to the tune of China and Pakistan and I have a doubt that Chidambaram might have links with the ISI and Naxalites," the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said.

He said the entire country is watching the "Congress drama" and people would never forgive the party.

"Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the nation because they have committed a great sin by giving the licence to Chidambaram and Digvijaya Singh to speak against the country," Raina said.

Earlier, Vice President of Pradesh Congress Committee Raman Bhalla claimed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were fed up with the "bluffs and failures" of the BJP and would teach the saffron party a lesson in the next assembly elections in the Union Territory.

Bhalla also alleged that the BJP had gained power after "betrayal of the mandate" and its experiments cost too much to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who lost their identity as a state besides all safeguards to their land and jobs.

"The people will not spare BJP for its total failure and arbitrary and undemocratic decisions besides imposing heavy taxes, price hike and economic crises and failures on health and medicare during the COVID-19 pandemic, as a result people died due to shortage of oxygen in hospitals," Bhalla alleged.

The Congress leader was part of a party delegation headed by PCC president G A Mir on a tour of Doda and Kishtwar districts, where they visited the house of party colleague and former minister Mohammad Sharief Niaz who died on October 12 and also met party workers and local residents.

"The people are fed up with the bluffs and failures of the BJP and will teach the party a lesson in the next assembly elections. The only achievement of BJP is to create division and hatred in society which has disturbed our age old secular and social fabric," he claimed and asked the people to maintain their brotherhood and unity and defeat all provocations to disturb peace.

Mir said the Congress focused on giving due political share and faster development of remote and backward areas of Doda and other areas of Chenab region during its government in the erstwhile state and at the Centre.

"It was the Congress which gave due share in political power and ensured faster development on priority basis of the backward and under developed Chenab region," he said.

Mir said his party would emerge stronger to gain power in the next elections in Jammu and Kashmir and would always give due representation and special focus to the backward and underdeveloped regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Board Exams Rescheduled to...

the wake of the coronavirus epidemic. The move, he alleged, highlights the administration's 'misplaced priorities' by placing education on the back-burner and pushing 'something totally unimportant in its place'.

"Education has never been a priority for the government here," Var alleged. "On several occasions in the past as well, the government either preponed or postponed exams to hold the elections only ending up hitting the education of innocent students."

Var said neither the students nor the schools were in favour of mass promotion at any time but the government's misplaced priorities forced us to go for it.

"The government has rescheduled exams at least on three occasions previously only to facilitate elections," he said. "It looks like politics is more important to the administration than the career of students."

He said in absence of a democratic political set up, the administration which has been left at the whims and mercy of bureaucrats, has suffered enormously in Kashmir."

A top official of the J&K Board Of School education (BOSE) while expressing his helplessness over the matter said the 'inconsiderate' administrators at the helm have cultivated a culture of bad policies resulting in a chaos everywhere. "What is a trivial election in comparison to the future of tens of thousands of students," he asked.

"Why put the careers of students at stake by rescheduling the exams," the official said while speaking on the condition of anonymity. "They could easily postpone the polls by a week or so."

"There are at least 30 different combinations for class 12 and it's a cumbersome job to frame a date sheet and when you intersperse it with 10th class examination, it becomes all the more difficult," he said.

A top bureaucrat, he said, lost his cool at a meeting when a BOSE official tried to persuade him to rethink his decision. "Aap yehan bacha politics nahi chala sakte (You can't run your politics by using children)," the bureaucrat reportedly admonished the official. "A date is a date and children wouldn't have any problems in accepting it."

When contacted, Joint Secretary BOSE, Examinations Ajaz Hakak said we're still trying to persuade the government to rethink its decision. "I guess within another two or three days the decision would be formally finalised," Hakak told Kashmir Observer. "The government has however instructed the BOSE to get ready for the examinations," he said.

Fraudster Held After 12 Years...

which led to his arrest after a long run of 12 years.

The spokesman said the investigation of the case was closed and the chargesheet filed in the court of law in February 1994 against the accused who went underground during trial of the case and was evading arrest.

ACB Arrests Ex-CPO, Engineer...

by ACB and searches were conducted at his residence during which various incriminating documents related to the assets and other properties were seized. The land and building valued at 41 lakh have been attached by ACB in the case. The market value of the assets is in crores," the spokesperson said.

He said that a case FIR No. 18/2019 already stands registered against the accused.

The ACB also arrested Tariq Ahmad Ganie, the then JE Housing Board, Bemina, after filing a case FIR No. 18/2020 against him over the allegations that huge suspicious transactions have been made in his various bank accounts by the contractors and beneficiaries which have been obtained by him in the form of gratification/consideration pertaining to the various works of the department.

During the course of investigation, the Bureau spokesperson said that Ganie had received an amount of approximately Rs. 3 Crore 30 lacs in his six bank accounts from 1st January 2018 to 30th September, 2020, apart from his salary of Rs 10, 08,892 during the same period.

"It was also revealed that the said amount was deposited in his account through various transaction made by some contractors which have been executing works of the Housing Board, where the said JE was posted, thereby clearly indicating that the said JE was receiving huge amounts as illegal gratification/consideration with respect to execution of works from these contractors," the ACB spokesperson said.

By acting in the aforesaid manner, the Bureau spokesperson said Ganie has abused his official position and has obtained undue pecuniary advantage through illegal gratification from various contractors by way of various deposits accumulated in his bank accounts.

"This act also tantamount to raising of disproportionate assets. Searches were also conducted at the residential house of accused at Chandrigam, Tral, Pulwama, where incriminating material was found. Three plots of land valued 29 lakh have been attached by ACB. The market value of the assets are in crores," the spokesperson added.

He said that further investigations in both the cases was going on.

Govt Working On Surrender...

to ensure that no out-of-proportion force is used.

"Whenever a local militant is involved, we offer him to surrender first. Just because someone has held a gun and taken a picture doesn't mean that he has to die," said the officer.

The Lieutenant General also said that the forces have intensified the youth outreach programme and are ensuring that they are engaged in positive things.

This year three youth who had taken arms have surrendered while 50 have been apprehended so far.

Earlier, the administration had three surrender policies. However, the reintegration of militants was missing from them. The first surrender policy was made in 1995. The second rehabilitation policy was made in 2004 and the third was made in 2010 on return of ex-militants to the state.

The 2010 policy touched upon psychological rehabilitation by establishing counselling centres for the returnees and their families, but rehabilitation centres were never set up.

Pulwama Boy Tops NEET...

has said that 'if it is important for you, you try to find ways and if it is not, you try to find excuses'. Obviously, the situation was challenging. But if you really want to crack this examination, then you find ways to work hard and if you work with dedication, then God will help you. I did my best and achieved success," he said.

Mobile internet often remains suspended in Pulwama district because of anti-militancy operations undertaken by security forces, while the speed of the internet has remained restricted to 2G since August last year when the Centre abrogated Article 370 of the Con-

stitution.

The network speed has been increased to 4G in Ganderbal district in the Kashmir Valley and Udhampur district in Jammu region only so far.

Khan advised the candidates intending to compete in the examination to not waste time.

"They should utilise time and study and practice in such a manner that they do not have any regrets later," the 18-year-old said, adding that he used to take a lot of mock tests during the lockdown imposed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A faculty member at the study centre said the students faced a lot of hardships due to 2G internet connectivity, but a mobile app which worked on low-speed internet helped to cross the hurdle.

"I am much happier today than I was when I qualified this examination. These students faced a lot of hardships due to low-speed internet network. It was not possible to access study material on 2G network," the teacher said.

"Then we contacted an app developer and he developed an app for us which worked on low-network speed. We reached our students through our app and we regularly communicated with them and sent across all the study material, he said.

The teacher said while he was proud of the achievement of all-India NEET topper Soyeb Aftab who secured 100 per cent marks, the conditions in Jammu and Kashmir were more difficult.

"If we compare the atmosphere he studied in with the situation here... that he did not face any internet shutdowns or speed restrictions.. there is a narrow gap in his and Basit's marks, if Basit got such favourable conditions, then he will easily score full marks," he said.

Evict Ex-Mantris, Babus From...

therefore, seeks some more time for filing the updated compliance report," the court said in the order.

The Sr. AAG, when asked, submitted that three more former legislatures—former speaker Mubarak Gull besides Ashok Khajuria and Ravinder Sharma, former MLAs, have been evicted from the public premises, occupied by them, very recently.

"Two weeks' further time is granted to respondents to update the compliance and furnish the details of former Ministers/former, MLAs/Retired, IAS Officers / MLCs / Political persons, who are still unauthorizedly residing in Ministerial Bungalows as well as A, B and C-Type accommodation of the Estates Department, both at Jammu as well as at Srinagar," the court said, adding, "The respondents shall also file details about recovery, outstanding from the authorized and unauthorized occupants." (GNS)

Army Destroys Mortar Shells...

Sometimes the shells don't explode and are defused or destroyed by Army experts after the force is informed by the residents of the border areas, they said.

Chicken Seller 'Beaten'...

and grabbed Sofi by his collar.

"While the boys managed to flee after hurling a few stones at their vehicle, CRPF men thrashed Sofi to the pulp. The customers who were waiting in queue left the spot in shock and panic," Mushtaq Ahmad, an eyewitness said.

He said that the enraged paramilitary men hit Sofi with batons and gun-butts, accusing him of pelting stones on their vehicle.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Sofi said that he barely managed to save himself from the "wrath" of CRPF personnel despite not being at fault. He also alleged that before the CRPF men left, they threatened to "teach him a lesson"

"They broke my phone which I had recently purchased. Also, I had a note of Rs 2000 in my hands, which I lost while CRPF men were beating me," he said.

"I somehow managed to escape from the clutches of the CRPF personnel. When I returned, I found over a dozen chickens culled and left outside my shop. Even a new chair was broken in pieces," he said.

Sofi further said that SHO Rainawari Rashid Khan visited the spot and assured him that action will be taken.

A local news agency KNT quoted Srinagar based CRPF Spokesperson, Pankaj Singh as saying that the facts of the incident were being ascertained.

48 New Covid-19 Cases In...

new cases, 40 people tested positive in Leh and eight others in Kargil district, they said.

A total of 123 patients were discharged in Leh and another 28 in Kargil after successful treatment, they said.

SMC Continues Demolition...

conducting site visits where constructional activities take place in order to check the factual accuracy of the details and demolition reports submitted by the concerned enforcement wing.

A Communication Group of concerned officers including enforcement officials and ward officers have been created where in Commissioner SMC seeks immediate response on receiving complaints of gross violations and illegal structures in the city.

Water Scarcity Sparks Protest

past two weeks, the authorities have failed to restore water supply or take any tangible measure despite repeated pleas. The protesters said the Jal Shakti department has "taken them for a ride thus leaving no option for them but to stage the protest."

NEET-2020 results: CCAK greets students

'Nothing can beat talent of Kashmiri students'

Srinagar: Coaching Centres Association of Kashmir (CCAK) Saturday congratulated the students who qualified NEET 2020 examination with flying colours despite living through one of the toughest times of their lives.

In a statement the association said that it is a proud day for all of us as our students have conquered NEET with a top class merit.

"The last one year has undoubtedly been very difficult for the entire population and our children were worst affected. Confined to their homes without phones, internet, access to the outside world and other difficulties, one would have thought that they would be broken but they fought back with their merit. Like a true champion they didn't accept defeat even under challenging circumstances and achieved such success," said Er Mohammed Shahid Dar, Vice Chairman CCAK. "This shows that our students are second to none and nothing can beat their talent."

2 day autumn festival commences at Pahalgam

Craft bazaar, village art fest, Golfing, mountain biking parts of festival

PAHALGAM (ANANTNAG), OCTOBER 17: The two day Autumn festival organized by the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir commenced here this evening with a traditional opening.

The festival would include an exhibition of village crafts drawn from the adjoining village tapestry of cottage craft and handicrafts, cuisine, fruits and other components of village economy. About 20 stalls displaying traditional art, craft and ethnic cuisine have been set up at the Pahalgam Club.

The festival is being organised by the Department in collaboration with J&K Golf Association, Pahalgam Hoteliers & Restaurants Association, JK-TDC, PDA and District administration Anantnag.

Addressing the inaugural function, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan said Jammu & Kashmir Government has taken steps for the revival of tourism with all COVID-19 precautions and SOPs. He said once all these precautions and SOPs are adhered to by the stakeholders tourists would have a safe and enjoyable voyage.

He said Government is doing



all hand holding for the stakeholders in tourism sector and ultimately its them who have to stand up and carry on the trade. He said tourism not only generates jobs and stimulates economy but it helps in exchange of cultures thus bridging the gaps between people and societies. He said the Government has already announced a sustenance package for tourism workers in different streams like shikarawalas, pony-walas, tourist guides etc.

The Advisor said Government is giving top priority to strengthening tourism infra-

structure in J&K and many projects have either been completed or are under execution under schemes PRASAD and SWADESH. He said today's event is a giant leap in the revival of tourism and accordingly a calendar of activities for the coming seasons has been drawn up hoping that it would give a fillip to tourist activities in the UT.

In his welcome address, Secretary, Tourism, Culture, Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez said that the Department has planned a series of activities to reactivate tourist activities.

He said the reality of the present world is that we have to live with COVID and carry on activities with all precautions and SOPs.

Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Nisar Ahmad Wani; Director SKICC, Javed Bakshi; CEO PDA Mushtaq Simnani; senior officers of district administration, Tourism JKTDCC, PDA and a large number of people were present on the occasion.

Earlier, the Advisor took a walk around the stalls set up by various Departments like Horticulture, Agriculture, Handicrafts, Handlooms, Tourism, JKTDCC, Fisheries, Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and some local social enterprises.

People evinced keen interest in the stalls set up by the Department.

An interesting feature of the evening was a three hour cultural and musical programme in which the artists mesmerised the audience.

The events for the second day of festival include a Mountain Biking and Trekking Rally from Pahalam to Aru organised by Adventure Tour Operators Association of Kashmir and a Golf tournament in the picturesque Lidder Valley Golf Course.

CUK's SLS holds debate competition for college students

Ganderbal, Oct 17: Department of Law, School of Legal Studies (SLS), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) through Legal Aid Clinic for Juveniles (LACJ) organised a debate competition for college students at Tulumulla Campus.

LACJ has been established under the patronage of the project "Access to Justice" sponsored by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice (MLJ), Government of India. As many as 12 teams comprising 24 students from different degree colleges of the valley participated in the debate, the topic of which was "Family Socialisation is responsible for Juvenile Delinquency."

Dean, SLS, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir delivered the welcome address while Director, Access to Justice, MLJ, Mr. Shailesh Shrivastava, delivered the keynote speech online and highlighted the constitution of the project and its alliance at different practical levels with common states centres.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj-ud-Din Mir, chaired the inaugural session and gave presidential remarks. He appreciated the theme of the debate and encouraged all participants to deliver their best. He also thanked the Ministry for granting the project to CUK. Dr. Ishrat Bashir, Coordinator, Department of English and Dr.

Moyeed-ul-Zafar from Department of Religious studies, were the jury members.

Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, in his remarks during award ceremony congratulated the department for organising such events. Referring to the institution of family, he spoke about the relevance of the debate theme. He also distributed prizes among winners.

The first prize was bagged by Mr. Shoaib Mohammad from Amar Singh College, Srinagar. Mr. Muhammad Saqib from Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial College, Bemina, bagged the second prize while the third prize was shared by Ms. Uzma Ashraf from Government Degree College, Sumbal and Mr. Adil Farooq Khan from Amar Singh College. The best team trophy winners were Mr. Adil Farooq Khan and Mr. Shoaib Mohammad from Amar Singh College. The participants were given participation certificates.

Public Notice

I Have lost my Shikara License issued by Department Of Tourism Govt of J&K bearing Regd No: 2596/TS. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Dy Director Tourism within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.



Showkat Ahmad Khair S/o Mohd Jaffar Khair R/o
Khair Mohalla
Shikara Name: Sathi Palace
Location: Nehru Park
Ghat No: 19 A

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Kashmir, Old Secretariat, Srinagar-190001, Phone No. 0194-2473761, 0194-2950499 e-mail: dirswkrm@gmail.com

Subject:- Extension in last date for submission of On-line scholarship applications under Post-matric Scholarship Scheme from students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), Physically Challenged (PCP) & Denotified Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) for the year 2020-21.

NOTICE

In view of the prevailing circumstances on account of COVID-19, the last date for submission of online scholarship applications under Post-matric Scholarship from students belonging to Other Backward Classes, Economically Backward Classes, Physically Challenged (PCP) & Dr. Ambedkar Post-matric Scholarship to Denotified Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) categories for the year (2020-21) on State Portal under URL:- <https://jk.gov.in/jkeservices> has been extended upto 30th of November, 2020.

The applicants are advised to take print-out of the duly filled-in application form, after submitting it on-line and submit the same to the concerned Institution/ College/University alongwith all requisite documents. The concerned Head of Institution/College/ University will verify the on-line applications with hard copies and forward the same to the concerned Domicile District Social Welfare Office for further scrutiny/verification and also for record and reference.

REVISED TIME-LINE FOR STUDENTS FOR SUBMISSION/ VERIFICATION OF ON-LINE APPLICATIONS:-

S.No.	Activities	Last Date
1.	Submission of Online applications by students.	30 th Nov 2020
2.	Submission of hard copies of online applications alongwith all required documents to concerned Institute.	Upto 10 th Dec, 2020
3.	Verification/forwarding of On-line Applications by Institutes & submission of hard copies to concerned (Domicile) District Social Welfare Office.	20 th Dec, 2020
4.	Scrutiny/Verification of On-line application forms with Hard copies by concerned (Domicile) DSWO	31 st Dec, 2020

Other terms and conditions as laid down in previous Notification issued vide No:- DSWK/Sch/2020/2327-58 Dated:-27-07-2020 shall remain un-changed.

DIPK-7565/20

Sd/-
(Bashir Ahmad Dar, KAS)
Director
Social Welfare Department
Kashmir

No:-DSWK/Sch/2020/4341-90

Dated:-16.10.2020

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MH&CH DIVISION, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

Corrigendum

Subject:- Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Heatless Air Dryer of 1000 CFM capacity, PLC based along with Maintenance for three years at Govt. SMHS Hospital, Srinagar.

Reference: 1. This office NIT No: MHCHD/TS/2020-21/108/e-tendering, Dated: 11-09-2020.

The intending bidders may kindly note the following changes in the tender document of annexure B of technical Specifications of Heatless Desiccant Air Dryer.

Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of heatless Air Dryer of 1000 CFM Capacity.

Instead of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of heatless Air Dryer of 1000 CFM Capacity and should be PLC based.

Desiccant: Activated Alumina (Make as per OEM)

Instead of Desiccant: Activated Alumina (Make: UOP USA or CICA France)

Other features: Tower pressure gauges and pressure relief valves, solenoid operated inlet and purge valves, adjustable dew point settings, fitted with pre-filter and after-filters etc.

Instead of Other features: Tower pressure gauges and pressure relief valves, solenoid operated inlet and purge valves, adjustable dew point settings, fitted with pre-filter and after-filters, LCD display etc.

Accordingly the Critical dates are hereby extended as follows:

S.No	Description	Date & Time
1	Bid Submission end date	20-10-2020 (12:00 hrs)
2	Bid opening Date	20-10-2020 (15:00 hrs)

The Changes are applicable everywhere in the tender document.

All the other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

DIPK-7540/20

MHCHD/TS/4733-37

Dated: 16.10.2020

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
MH&CH Division Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Anantnag

Tel/Fax No. 01932-222542

Email: dshoa.sheep@gmail.com

Subject: Selection of beneficiaries for establishment of Mini Sheep Farms (Bankable Scheme of 50 ewes Unit) for the year 2020-21

References: (i) Director Sheep Husbandry Deptt. Kashmir's order No 16/DSHK/Plan of 2020 Dated: 11-09-2020

(ii) This Office No Advertisement No DSHOA/tech/2020-21/1882-1905 Dated: 19-09-2020

NOTICE

All the applicants who have applied for establishment of Mini Sheep Farms (Bankable Scheme of 50 CB Ewes Unit) for the year 2020-21 in Private Sector, are hereby informed to attend the office of undersigned on 22-10-2020 at 11:00 AM for selection of beneficiaries through draw of lots before the constituted committee as per the target fixed by the department under the MSF Scheme.

No: DSHOA/Tech/MSF/2020-21/2405-18

Date: 16-10-2020

DIPK-7539/20

Sd/
District Sheep Husbandry Officer
Anantnag

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

1442

PRAYERS

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

This Day In History

- 1912 - The Treaty of Lausanne ends the Tripolitan War between Turkey and Italy
- 1912 - The First Balkan War breaks out, with Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece opposed to Turkey
- 1921 - Bidding its time, Soviet Russia agrees to independence for the Crimea.
- 1942 - Hitler orders captured allied commandos to be killed
- 1944 - Soviet troops invade Czechoslovakia during WW II
- 1954 - Texas Instruments Inc. announces the first transistor radio.
- 1955 - University of California discovers anti-proton
- 1960 - In Britain, News Chronicle & Daily Mail merge and London Evening Star merges with Evening News
- 1961 - Emergency crisis proclaimed in South Vietnam due to communist attack
- 1962 - US launches Ranger 5 for lunar impact; misses Moon
- 1962 - James Watson (US), Francis Crick (UK) and Maurice Wilkins (UK) win the Nobel Prize for Medicine for their work in determining the structure of DNA
- 1967 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Hans A Bethe
- 1967 - Soviet Venera 4 becomes 1st probe to send data back from Venus
- 1969 - Soyuz 8 returns to Earth
- 1973 - Nobel prize for Economic Sciences awarded to American Wassily Leontief
- 1976 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to American William Lipscomb
- 1979 - Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini orders mass executions to stop
- 1984 - Discovery moves to Vandenberg AFB for mating of STS 51A mission
- 1984 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1993 - STS-58 (Columbia) launches into orbit
- 2007 - After 8 years in exile, Benazir Bhutto returns to Pakistan. The same night, suicide attackers blow themselves up near Bhutto's convoy, killing over 100, including 20 police officers. Bhutto escapes uninjured.
- 2011 - Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit is released by Hamas
- 2012 - Syrian military airstrikes kill 40 people in Maaret al-Numan
- 2013 - Saudi Arabia becomes the first country to turn down a seat on the UN Security Council in protest over Syria
- 2016 - US White Houses says it is "confident" Russia behind recent email hacking and attempts to influence US election

From KO Archives

RSS asks Farooq to move JK trifurcation plan

Observer News Service

Shimla-RSS leader incharge Kashmir affairs, Indresh, today asked Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah to bring a resolution in the assembly for trifurcation of the state saying there was both logic and merit in such a move.

It is neither a regional nor a communal demand but expression of people's aspirations. There was both logic and merit in growing demand for trifurcation of the state into Jammu and Kashmir states and Ladakh union territory, he told reporters here. He said the autonomy resolution passed by Jammu and Kashmir assembly had no relevance after its rejection by the government.

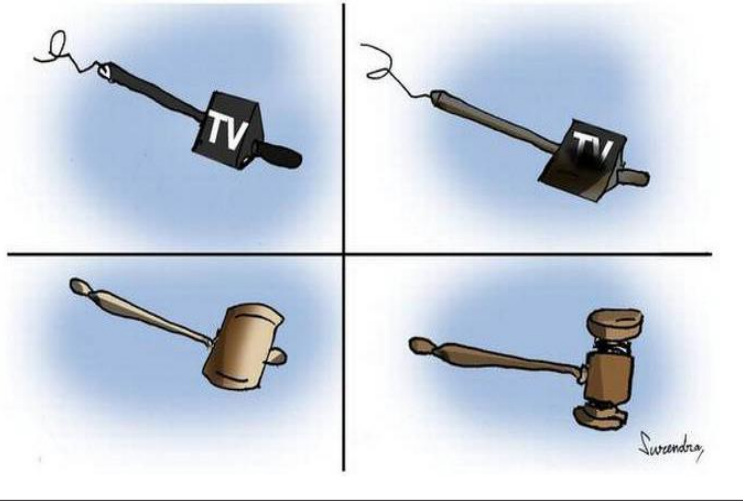
Indresh asked the union government to destroy the militants train-ing camps run by Pakistan's ISI. He said India should garner support against Pakistan on the issue of militancy and running of training camps for militants. ONS adds from Jammu: It may be recalled the RSS had formally launched its campaign for the state's trifurcation coming out in the open, for the first time, in support of the division of the only Muslim majority state. Advocating 'reorganisation of the state by what it perceives as isolation of the Muslim majority valley from rest of the state, the organisation visualises the move as a step towards early solution of the Kashmir problem. According to reports, the RSS has planned 'mass action programme' and even floated an umbrella organisation the Jammu and Kashmir Nationalist Front (JKNF) - and is 'subtly' promoting groups to organise mass agitations to get the state divided into Hindu Jammu, Muslim valley and Budhist Ladakh. The Front held its first dharna in Jammu on Gandhi Jayanti recently.

In fact, according to the report, the RSS plan would not stop at the mere 'trifurcation' of the state. It favours further division of the Muslim dominated valley by carving out a separate home-land for the migrant Kashmiri Pandits. The movement envisages mobilisation of public opinion in the Muslims majority districts of Poonch, Rajouri and Doda, besides the Gujjar community against what it describes as Kashmiri hegemony. (Kashmir Observer, October 18, 2000)

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OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



The leaders have, indeed, given a formal name to their grouping, but haven't moved beyond the rhetorical utterances thus far. What is their plan of action?

The Forsaken J&K Unionists

No One in Kashmir Will Massage Fragile Egos of J&K Unionists

GOWHAR GEELANI

Unionists are very careful in their approach. They insist that their battle is “constitutional” and not “separatism”, which means they want to keep the doors of temptation from New Delhi open all the time. To play to the gallery on the home turf they also call their new grouping as “political resistance.”

Mehbooba Mufti, another former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, has been released from her 14-month-long detention. Along with many top unionist leaders active in the restive region, including the two former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, she too was detained and later held under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA).

Soon after her release, Ms. Mehbooba talked about the Kashmir resolution in her audio message of one-minute-and-24-second duration. She called August 4, 2019, as a “black day” and the decision taken by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to revoke semi-autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir as a “black decision”. She emphasised on the resolution of the Kashmir dispute, saying that “tens of thousands of people have laid down their lives for a just resolution.” Moreover, she said that what New Delhi did on August 4 last year was “robbery committed during broad daylight” and an “insult” was served, and that both were impossible to forget.

What does her release mean for the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the political outfit that she heads as President? Can she revive the lost pride of her party and restore the PDP's battered credibility in the eyes of her former supporters, and the people of Kashmir and the valleys of Chenab and Pir Panchal in general? Can she play a decisive role in the newly-formed political alliance named “People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration”? Can she bring the political sentiment expressed by six unionist parties in the backyard meetings on to the streets of Kashmir? Can she turn the political battle into a street battle?

After a two-hour-long meeting at the residence of Farooq Abdullah, the representatives of six unionist parties once again resolved to, “fight for the restoration of Article 370”, besides insisting on the resolution of the Kashmir dispute. The parties that took part in the marathon meeting included the Jammu and



Kashmir National Conference, PDP, Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Sajad Lone-led People's Conference and the Awami National Conference etc.

The leaders have, indeed, given a formal name to their grouping, but haven't moved beyond the rhetorical utterances thus far. What is their plan of action? True, they can't make all of their strategic moves public at this point in time. But they are not also offering a lot of hope. Instead, they want people to trust them blindly while ignoring the historicity and context and their seasons of betrayals right from 1947.

At the outset, the unionists who have chosen to fight for turning the clock backwards in Jammu and Kashmir must get real and not go on fragile ego trips. The dispossessed people of J&K do not have time and energy to massage their egos. Not at all. Two, the unionists also need to be humble and realise that their past blunders cannot be easily forgotten. To instil some confidence in the people of the region they need to make the right noises and take appropriate steps to help the people place some level of trust in their new endeavour.

How can that be done? Well, to begin with, the J&KNC's three parliamentar-

ians must resign as Members of Indian Parliament in protest against what the party believes as “daylight robbery” committed on the 4th of August, 2019. Similarly, the PDP's representative in the Parliament also needs to put in his papers. This will be a small step in convincing a section of population that they are indeed serious about walking the talk.

In case the NC and the PDP representatives continue to remain in the house which they accuse of committing an “immoral, illegal, unconstitutional and unilateral” act, it would only mean they are not serious and that their words are hollow.

The pro-India unionists in the Kashmir Valley on October 15 met again, this time also with Mehbooba Mufti, to announce the formation of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration. The stated aim of the new grouping is to “return to the people of the state the rights they held before August 5, 2019”.

Farooq Abdullah called their joint struggle a “constitutional battle.” Like Ms. Mehbooba, the senior Abdullah also linked the larger conflict resolution to their joint fight. “At the same time, we feel the political issue of the state has to be resolved as quickly as possible,” Abdullah said, adding that “And that can

be resolved only through dialogue with all the stakeholders who are involved in the problem of J&K.”

Unionists are very careful in their approach. They insist that their battle is “constitutional” and not “separatism”, which means they want to keep the doors of temptation from New Delhi open all the time. To play to the gallery on the home turf they also call their new grouping as “political resistance.”

Again, there are two ways of looking at this scenario. Criticising them for the sake of criticising won't be helpful. Those criticising the new alliance purely because of ideological reasons or past record must also talk about the alternative and give a detailed point by point critique of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration. At the same time, the unionists must keep their feet on the ground and stop expecting that the people of the region will give them a clean chit without expressing genuine regret for their past deeds and without a robust road map for the path ahead.

Three steps that the unionists must immediately take are as follows:

- Offer an unconditional and unqualified apology for the civilian killings, human rights abuses and other excesses during their respective stints as Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir,
- Resign as MPs to register formal protest against the August 4 decisions,
- Clarity on the path ahead and state whether they will participate in any election process if the autonomy and statehood are not restored.

This is the least the unionists can do to restore some confidence among the sections of the population. Their politics has to see 360 degree transformation. The old deceptive politics won't fetch them different results. And any future deception on their part will definitely make them irrelevant on Kashmir's changing political landscape. They are already on the precipice of irrelevance.

Gowhar Geelani is an author-journalist and a political commentator

The Radicalizer In Chief

JESSE WEGMAN

This month, federal and state authorities arrested 13 Michigan men on terrorism, conspiracy and weapons charges. Six of the men are alleged to have been plotting to kidnap the state's governor, Gretchen Whitmer, with whom they were furious for imposing shutdowns, as most other governors did, in the early weeks of the pandemic.

Ms. Whitmer's actions most likely saved thousands of lives. The arrested men, along with hundreds of other anti-shutdown protesters who swarmed the State Capitol in Lansing, considered her a tyrant.

As the protests grew in April, President Trump could have supported a governor navigating a tough situation and reminded Americans about the importance of stopping the spread of the coronavirus. Instead, he tweeted, “LIBERATE MICHIGAN!” — a message that has to date received nearly 200,000 likes and almost 39,000 retweets. He tweeted the same of other states with Democratic governors and said the Second Amendment was “under siege.” It was as though Mr. Trump saw himself as another anti-government insurgent.

The message seems to have come through loud and clear. Protesters became bolder, and some marched into the Michigan statehouse brandishing semiautomatic rifles and long guns, forcing a shutdown of the State Legislature. Many political leaders rightly condemned the armed display. Mr. Trump defended the protesters. “These are very good people, but they are angry,” he wrote on Twitter.

As Ms. Whitmer said after this month's arrests: “Hate groups heard the president's words not as a rebuke, but as a rallying cry. As a call to action. When our leaders speak, their words matter. They carry weight. When our leaders meet with, encourage or fraternize with domestic terrorists, they legitimize their actions, and they are complicit. When they stoke and contribute to hate speech, they are complicit.”

Even after the arrests and charges, Mr. Trump has refused to rebuke violent agitators. Instead, he keeps feeding the fire. Speaking on Fox Business on Thursday, he said of Ms. Whitmer: “She wants to be a dictator in Michigan. And the people can't stand her.”

A president's words are among his most powerful, and potentially dangerous, tools. They can rally the American public to work together toward a common cause. They can soothe the jangled nerves of a frightened nation, or provide a healing balm at a time of mourning. They can move global financial markets, start wars — and embolden violent individuals.

From the start of his campaign for president in

2015, Mr. Trump has gleefully upturned every expectation Americans had about how their presidents speak. He revels in crude insults, trivial gripes and constant mockery of those who disagree with him.

This is harmful on many levels. “The president isn't just the chief of the executive branch, but the head of state,” said Ian Bassin, who worked in the White House Counsel's Office during the Obama administration and now runs the nonprofit group Protect Democracy. “That means part of what the presidency is about is norm-setting. When a president establishes that it's OK to make fun of people with disabilities, or to be racist, or to lie, or to assault women, you see that replicated in society. That's not a surprise.”

Mr. Trump doesn't just mock his enemies. He demonizes and dehumanizes them. His attacks have resulted in his targets — whether a lawmaker like Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, a television personality like the former Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly, a government scientist like Dr. Anthony Fauci, or a regular American citizen — getting swamped with death threats, and in some cases requiring personal protection.

The violent rhetoric, and its consequences, began almost as soon as Mr. Trump's campaign for the White House did.

In August 2015, barely two months after Mr. Trump announced his presidential bid by accusing Mexican immigrants of being “rapists,” two Boston men beat a homeless man with a metal pipe and then urinated on him. “Donald Trump was right,” one of the men said, according to the police. “All these illegals need to be deported.”

Mr. Trump tweeted out a condemnation of the attack, calling it “terrible” and saying, “I would never condone violence.” But repeatedly on the campaign trail, he did just that.

At a February 2016 campaign rally, he told his supporters: “If you see somebody getting ready to throw a tomato, knock the crap out of them, would you? Seriously. Just knock the hell out of them. I promise you, I will pay for the legal fees.”

A few weeks later he said of one protester, “I'd like to punch him in the face, I'll tell you.”

At another rally, a protester being escorted out

by the police was sucker-punched. Mr. Trump called the attack “very, very appropriate” and the kind of action “we need a little bit more of.”

In August 2016, he warned that if Hillary Clinton was elected, she would appoint Supreme Court justices who would rule in favor of gun control laws. “Nothing you can do, folks,” Mr. Trump said, before adding, “Although the Second Amendment people — maybe there is, I don't know.”

This language was dangerous enough coming from a candidate. With Mr. Trump's ascension to the most powerful job in the country, the stakes got only higher, and his reach broader.

A few months after his inauguration, he told a gathering of police officers that they should rough up the people they arrest. “Please don't be too nice,” Mr. Trump said, to laughter and cheers.

When a Republican representative from Montana physically assaulted a reporter who had asked a question, Mr. Trump praised the lawmaker. “Any guy that can do a body-slam,” Mr. Trump said, “he's my guy.”

In May, Mr. Trump responded to protests against police brutality by saying, “When the looting starts, the shooting starts.” When the shooting did start, he defended one person accused of gunfire: a 17-year-old boy who drove 20 miles to a Wisconsin protest armed with a semiautomatic rifle, which he allegedly used to shoot three people, killing two of them. It was self-defense, Mr. Trump suggested days after the teenager was charged with murder.

At the presidential debate last month, Mr. Trump was asked to condemn white supremacists without equivocation. He would not. Instead, he instructed the violent right-wing group the Proud Boys to “stand back and stand by.”

Mr. Trump and his defenders regularly claim that he is being misunderstood and say that he has condemned violence and white supremacy more than any president in history. The president is asked to condemn violence so often because violence is so often committed in his name. The Proud Boys, for one, did not take his words as a condemnation. “I think he was saying I appreciate you and appreciate your support,” the group's founder said after the debate.

Trump supporters are not the only people who

commit acts of political violence. But Mr. Trump has been invoked in dozens of acts of violence, threats of violence or allegations of assault, according to a review of five years of criminal cases by ABC News.

The victims of some of the worst attacks have been from the minority groups that Mr. Trump so often targets with his words. In addition to the 2015 attack on the homeless man in Boston, there was the terror campaign involving more than a dozen pipe bombs sent to prominent journalists and critics of Mr. Trump by a Trump supporter. There was the massacre in an El Paso Walmart that left 23 dead; minutes before the attack, the 21-year-old suspect said he was doing it as a response to “the Hispanic invasion of Texas.” And there was the slaughter of 51 people during prayer in two New Zealand mosques by a right-wing zealot who said he saw Mr. Trump as “a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose.”

In 2017, a federal judge in Kentucky ruled that Mr. Trump could be sued by protesters who had been assaulted at a 2016 rally where he had said, “Get 'em out of here!” That statement was “an order, an instruction, a command,” the judge said, and the protesters' injuries were “a direct and proximate result” of Mr. Trump's words. The case was dismissed on appeal, but the judge was right: Mr. Trump's supporters know that his first response is the truest expression of his beliefs, and Mr. Trump, for all his dissembling, knows exactly what he is saying.

This harm won't end with Mr. Trump's presidency. His toxic rhetoric has filtered down to elementary and secondary schools around the country, where children have been repeating the president's most vile language for the past five years. In hundreds of cases, children have reported being mocked, harassed or attacked for being Hispanic, Black or Muslim, according to a survey by The Washington Post. Many of the incidents have made reference to Mr. Trump's border wall, including one case last year in which a 13-year-old New Jersey boy told a Mexican-American classmate that “all Mexicans should go back behind the wall.” Soon after, the 13-year-old assaulted the boy and knocked his mother unconscious.

“It's gotten way worse since Trump got elected,” said Ashanty Bonilla, a Mexican-American high school student who endured so much ridicule from classmates that she changed schools. “They hear it. They think it's OK. The president says it. ... Why can't they?”

The New York Times

Covid-19 and Education Fallout

IKHLAS WANI

It is much easier for student's from privileged backgrounds to find remedial ways to keep up with good academic growth. Even if some find it difficult to cope up, their economic capital will create a decent protection valve for them. This is not going to be the case for students from disadvantaged groups.

The outbreak of Coronavirus has adversely affected education all over the world. This is because most educational sectors were closed down to combat the spread of coronavirus. Not only has it jeopardized people's academic and career plans but has also impacted those working in various sectors as well.

Most countries around the world closed down educational institutions, whether public or private; primary or secondary; collegiate or research institutes. According to UNESCO, this disruption has affected over half of the student's population across the globe.

The affects of disruption of education are likely going to be seen in schools. This is especially because schools are formative in the overall development of a person's academic or emotional aptitude. With the discipline and ways of schools gone; students are likely going to find it difficult to learn as much as they would under normal circumstances. This is more likely going to get reflected in underprivileged groups who do not have the social, economic or academic capital to compensate for the loss of school days.

It is much easier for student's from privileged backgrounds to find remedial ways to keep up with good academic growth. Even if some find it difficult to cope up, their economic capital will create a decent protection valve for them. This is not going to be the case for students from disadvantaged groups. Not only will many have to drop out of schools or colleges; those who continue might not be able to do as well as the privileged counterparts.



Students from underprivileged backgrounds don't even have the privilege of having access to better resources. Some wouldn't even have adequate space to take advantage of remote classes adequately. In this schema, economic disparity is only going to increase and the poor are at the risk of going further down on the ladder of economic growth.

UNESCO Director-General, Audrey Azoulay warned that, "the global scale and speed of the educational disruption due to coronavirus is unparalleled and, if prolonged, could threaten the right to education".

There's hardly a replacement for face-to-face teaching. Direct face-to-face interactions were beneficial for students who needed extra care. Now, with remote learning, this has become difficult. Some students with less resources might

even lag behind.

According to UNESCO, some of the harmful effects of school closures for coronavirus are,

Interrupted learning: School provides essential learning and when they are closed, students are deprived of opportunities for growth and development.

Nutrition: Many youngsters rely on free or discounted meals provided at schools for food and healthy nutrition. This is compromised as a result of school closures for coronavirus.

Unequal Access to digital learning portals: lack of access to technology or good internet connectivity for continued learning during school closures.

Increased pressure on schools and school system that remain open; Localized school closures place burdens on schools as parents tend redirect their

children to open schools.

Social Isolation: Considering the fact that educational institutions are hubs for social activity and human interactions, school closures can deprive youth and children of some social communications and socializations that are essential to learning, development and creativity.

The use of technology for teaching and learning or digital learning, has introduced many pedagogical advantages as well as challenges. It has helped integrating audio-visual teaching aids and reading materials and has also opened up the scope for application based knowledge. Those who are adept at the use of internet can now make use of open source websites to learn new skills. Many can even participate in classes or courses online and increase their knowledge base.

However, this again comes with its own limitations especially with respect to access, to a good internet connection, digital tools, digital devices, digital skills, physical space and much more.

As countries continue to grapple with coronavirus, many have to some extent adapted to the new reality. This must now be coupled up with a robust system to improve issues of access. Governments, NGOs, civil society groups and academic eco systems should work in tandem to devise ways through which education can be easily and effectively available to students especially those from economically underprivileged backgrounds, from conflict zones, from remote areas, girls, and for persons with disability.

The author is a student

Antiquity

Ancient Srinagar - A Glimpse Kashmir Observer Archives

FIDA MUHAMMED HASSNAIN

Srinagar is the symbol and emblem of the valley of Kashmir. Scholars in medieval Kashmir called it 'Shari Kashmir'. Alberuni who reached near our borders in 1021 A.D. generally calls it 'Shari Kashmir'. All hopes, fears, glories and feelings whether these are physical or spiritual are represented here in amptitude. One cannot know fully the Kashmir vale unless he knows this historic city of our forefathers-Srinagar.

An artists impression of Srinagar city in olden daysThis is the royal and ancient city and the present name is Srinagar. During the Muslim rule people called it 'Shahar' and at present it is locally known as such. 'They city' says Alberuni, 'covers a space of four-sakhs'. But when the Sikh rulers of the Punjab annexed Kashmir in 1819 A.D. they restored its ancient name of Srinagar which was Srinagar. This city has a chequered history and for the first time, we find its mention in Kalhan Pandit's political works. Raj Tarangni. According to him ancient Kashmir had a number of capi-tals. The most important of these was Srinagar - the city of Sri,an appellation of the goddess Lakhshmi. Nagara means the city or may mean wealth or beauty or sovereignty. Lakhshmi was them quite a popular deity worshipped by the inhabitants of the valley and we find quite a number of shrines of goddess Sri existed in the valley and the founder of Srinagar is credited with the establishment of five large shrines of the goddess Lakhshmi. The dominant faith of the people was the Naga worship snake cult. This had been the earliest religion of the land. But long before the Vedic Aryans had introduced the philosophy of Shavism and Vishun cult.

The royal city was situated at the old site of Pandraithan vil-lage, two miles in the east of present Srina-gar. It was founded in the 3rd century B.C. by King Asoka when he was a devotee and worshipper of Buteshwar and had before this built two shrines at Vijbrer (present Bijbehara) known as Ashokishwar Shrines. It (Srinagar) carries the old memory in the name which is the cor-ruption of the word Purana-dhistan (old capital). It was a large and a prosperous city rolling in wealth. If our first chronicler Kalhan is to be believed, it contained ninety six lakh houses so high that these touched the clouds. Its real extent is indicated by the ruins of an old temple at the site of present Badam Bagh Canton-ment. The ruler caused temples Stupas and Vihars to be constructed in this city. The stone architecture was prominent and Greeco-Buddhist influence was predominant. It enjoyed a privi-lege of being a metropolitan city upto the end of 6th century A.D.

Buddhism had found its footing in the valley in the early 3rd century B.C. Buddhism was first preached in Kashmir by Midhantika and the rulers of Kashmiri patronised Buddhism upto the end of 11th century. Thereafter in the 6th century a new city was foun-ded by King Parversen near the present Srinagar fort in the areas of present day Malkah graveyard and Nowhatta. It extended upto the right bank of the Jhelum river near Aali Kadal bridge. The city was then named as Perver-senpur or Praverpur which re-mained in use upto

11th century and later on resumed the name of old city of Srinagar. Since both Srinagar and Praver-pur existed side by side the old name remained in common use with the inhab-itants.

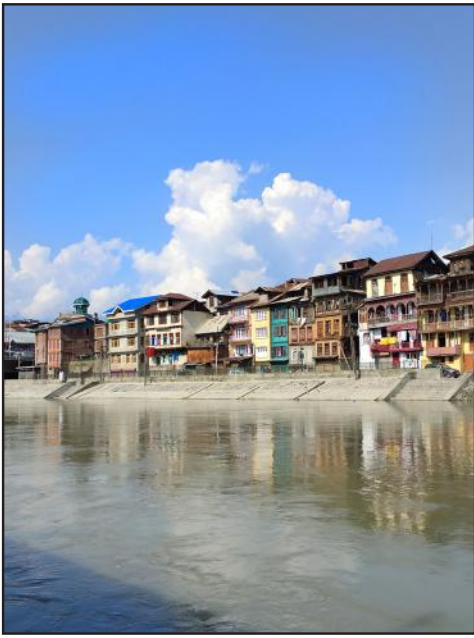
Medieval historians, according to Prof. Wilson, Haider Malik of Chadur and Azam Did-mari, mention that the old Srinagar built by King Ashok was Sir Kapligund near the temple town of Mattan. To this tradition George Bhular, modern Indologist refers "that some Brahman of the valley also think that it lay near Islam-abad". But according to the Chinese traveller, Hieun Tsang who visited and stayed in Srinagar for two years in 631 A.D. mentions the capi-tals, the old and new. The old city lay in the South of the present city "near the great mountain". The description is agreeable with the identification of capital with the present Srinagar and the old capital at Pandraithan and its surrou-dings. Why this site was chosen? Perhaps for intrinsic value. Rulers built their capital at other places in the valley. Lalitadittya built his capital at Pari-haspur six miles below Srinagar on Ikhamanpur Plateau. His son Vijradittya built his capital at Shankepur now known as Pattan. Jayapid had his capital at Jayapur modern Anderkot village in Sonawari Tehsil. Avantiverman founded his capital at Woontpur. Kushan rulers-Kanishka, Jushka, Har-ishka, built their capitals at Kanis-pur (Baramulla), Jushkpur (modern Zakur near Hazratbal Shrine Srinagar, Havishpur, now Ushkur village, two miles in the east of Baramulla and so on.

Avantiverman founded his capital at Woont-pur. Kushan rulers-Kanishka, Jushka, Har-ish-ka, built their capitals at Kanispur (Baramulla), Jushkpur (modern Zakur near Hazratbal Shrine Srinagar, Havishpur, now Ushkur village, two miles in the east of Baramulla and so on. Srinagar was then put in the district of Madhavarajjaya-Maraz, Present day Anantnag and Pulwama districts above Srinagar from earliest times.

The founder of Srinagar built a number of Shrines in the city dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, Kali and other deities. Among the temples at present is Maha Kalishwari near Fateh Kadal. He di-vid-ed the city into eight wards which are intact even today. Each ward was supervised by a ward officer deity known as Bhaio in whose honour temples were built and are even worshiped today by the Brahmans of the valley.

Srinagar became the centre and mistress of propagation of Buddhist doctrine and was par-tonised by the local rulers side by side during the early centuries of Christian era. It radiated Bud-dhist influence to Central Asian countries Siberia, Mongolia, Sinkiang (Xinjiang) and Tibet (Xizang) King Jayendra founded a grand Vihar known as jayendravihar near out present Jamia Masjid which was visited by the Chinese pilgrim Hieun-Tsang who stayed here for two years and copied Sutrus and other Budhist manu-scripts. Jayendra had erected a silver status of great Budha in this Vihar. Another great Vihar was founded by the queen of King Megvahan known as Amrit Bhavan Vihar in our present day locality at Wonta Bha-wan, Srinagar. Chinese pilgrim, Oukang visited the Vihar in the middle of 8th century. There ex-isted one more grand Vihar at Srinagar in Nar-vor locality, called Narvodh Vihar. From here,

Chinese traveller spent four years in the valley, on pil-grimage to these holy sites and in study-ing Sanskrit. Besides in the neighbourhood of Srinagar there were three hundred Viharas and innumerable stupas and sacred images. Tibetan Buddhism drew inspiration from Kashmir. Fourth Buddhism council was convened near Srinagar under the Chairmanship at Katyaniputra where a split occurred in the Buddhist Church known as Mahayana School. Unfortunately Buddhism fell on its evil days from 9th century. Its place was taken by the rulers of Shiva and Vaishnava faith Srina-gar was acclaimed as Shardadesh. All regions, faiths enjoyed wide popularity in the valley even Marcopolo' Venetian traveller states "that at this tile Srinagar was pre-eminent among the idola-



All hopes, fears, glories and feelings whether these are physical or spiritual are represented here in amplitude. One cannot know fully the Kashmir vale unless he knows this historic city of our forefathers in Srinagar.

trous countries and it was original source from Idolatory had spread around".

It became the pinnacle of fame due to goddess of learning (Saras-wati). Even today young ones in the plains kneel down before Kashmir as if moving towards the spring of knowledge.

Bilhan, our great Scholar poet of 11th cen-tury, native of Khanmoh village (Srinagar) gives a vivid picture of peraverpur (Srinagar) and says. "It is the most charming and surpassing in beauty all other cities. For its coolness in sum-mer and for the beauty of its grooves, even those who have reached the garden of celestials could not forget it". Srinagar being the centre and mis-tress of cultural activities, she produced ex-ponents of Shiv philosophy like Sri Kanth, Somanad and Vasugupta, Kallat and Prodhmani Bhat, the great Abhnavagupta. Khemeaj, Udhh-hat and

Mamatta Acharaya. They adorned courts of rul-ers of Kashmir at various times and plied their inspired pens under the Sun of Srinagar. Equally were important the rhetorician Anand Vardhan and a composer of Budhist poetry. Shiv Swamin, Utpaldev, Rattankar propounded and enriched the philosophy and culture of their native land, Kashmir, Kshemandar, the literature also flour-ished during the period. Though he was a Shavite in the beginning, but later on became a Vaishna-va he was versatile genius and wrote didactic and satric poems.

Brahmans were the highly privileged class. They received agraphars (Land grants) from their rulers. Nilmatpuran, 'Kutanimatta Kavy' tell us that caste system on Indian pattern was non exist and in the valley. There were of course low castes like Doombis, Chandals and Hanjis. The origin of Kashmir Brahmans is obscure but there is a clear evidence that there had been several large scale migration of the Brahmans from the plains of India into the valley from a remote period. Ra-jatarangni refers "to the Brahmans who had come from Aryadessa". King Mihirakula brought about 5000 Brahmans from Gandhara region and settled them in the valley in the 6th century. Agriculture was adopted as the principle means of livelihood by the bulk of the people. Cultivators were hard pressed but got little share in the produce at the hands of big landlords. Besides a number of crafts and industries had often been developed at an early period. By the middle of 7th century Srinagar merchants were extremely rich and owned places which far excelled the royal palace in com-forts and decoration. Sudras were not consid-ered as degraded in the society in Srinagar. The arti-sans, weavers and carpenters commanded re-spect. There was no purdah system among fami-lies. They moved in the society. During festivals she accompanied her husband and her relatives. The custom of dedicating girls to the temples for singing and dance had been and early customs in Srinagar. King Jalaauk gave hundred bodies of his Seraglic to serve in the temple Jesthurudra of Srinagar (modern Zeethyeur temple). Budha's birthday was a chief festival upto 11th century. The king was an absolute ruler. Divinity was at-tributed to him. To Brahmans he was a part and parcel of Lord Shiva. To Buddhists he was Sarva Mahashakya. When he was oppressive, Brahmans resorted to hunger strike and he had to yield.

Rice is mentioned as the major food of the inhabitants of Srina-gar. Marco polo tells us when crop of rice was reaped, Kashmiris performed the ceremony of Navanna. Grape was cultivated in every house in Srinagar. Utpalsska Wopal-hak. Sanda (Haind) Kachaguecha (Karaich) were the commonest vegetables. Meant was generally taken on festivals. The fowl, the ram and goat served the dishes. Fish and fish juice was con-sidered as strength giving tonic. Such was a brief glimpse of our native land, ancient Srinagar cul-turally, politically and economically. Sir Edward Young Hus-band laments and says that "Srinagar should have been built on the plateau (Karewa), just above Pampore and aesthetic point of view. Either of these sites would have been preferable to the present lowlying situation amid the swamp so muggy in summer and so chilly in summer".

RESEARCH FINDS THAT BLUE-LIGHT Glasses Improve Sleep, Workday Productivity

Agencies

During the pandemic, the amount of screen time for many people working and learning from home as well as binge-watching TV has sharply increased. New research finds that wearing blue-light glasses just before sleeping can lead to a better night's sleep and contribute to a better day's work to follow.

"We found that wearing blue-light-filtering glasses is an effective intervention to improve sleep, work engagement, task performance and organizational citizenship behaviour, and reduced counterproductive work behaviour," said Cristiano L. Guarana, assistant professor of management and entrepreneurship at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. "Wearing blue-light-filtering glasses creates a form of physiologic dark-

ness, thus improving both sleep quantity and quality."

Most of the technology we commonly use -- such as computer screens, smartphones and tablets -- emits blue light, which past research has found can disrupt sleep. Workers have become more dependent on these devices, especially as we navigate remote work and school during the coronavirus pandemic.

The media have recently reported on the benefits of blue-light glasses for those spending a lot of time in front of a computer screen. This new research extends understanding of the circadian rhythm, a natural, internal process that regulates the sleep-wake cycle and repeats roughly every 24 hours.

"In general, the effects of wearing blue-light-filtering glasses were stronger for 'night owls' than for 'morning larks,'" said Guarana,



who previously has studied how lack of sleep affects business decisions, relationships and other behaviours in organizations. "Owls tend to have sleep periods later in the day, whereas larks tend to have sleep periods early in the day."

"Although most of us can benefit from reducing our exposure to blue light, owl employees seem to benefit more because they en-

counter greater misalignments between their internal clock and the externally controlled work time. Our model highlights how and when wearing blue-light-filtering glasses can help employees to live and work better."

The findings appear in the paper, "The Effects of Blue-Light Filtration on Sleep and Work Outcomes," published online by

the Journal of Applied Psychology. Guarana is the corresponding author; his co-authors are Christopher Barnes and Wei Jee Ong of the University of Washington.

The research found that daily engagement and performance of tasks may be related to more underlying biological processes such as the circadian process.

"Our research pushes the chro-

notype literature to consider the relationship between the timing of circadian processes and employees' performance," the researchers wrote.

A good night's sleep not only benefits workers; it also helps their employers' bottom lines.

"This study provides evidence of a very cost-effective means of improving employee sleep and work outcomes, and the implied return on investment is gigantic," said Barnes, professor of management and the Evert McCabe Endowed Fellow at the University of Washington's Foster School of Business. "I personally do not know of any other interventions that would be that powerful at that low of a cost."

Across two studies, the researcher collected data from 63 company managers and 67 call centre representatives at Brazil-based offices for a US multinational financial

firm and measured task performance from clients. Participants were randomly chosen to test glasses that filtered blue light or those that were placebo glasses.

"Employees are often required to work early mornings, which may lead to a misalignment between their internal clock and the externally controlled work time," the researchers said, adding that their analyses showed a general pattern that blue-light filtration can have a cumulative effect on key performance variables, at least in the short term.

"Blue-light exposure should also be of concern to organizations," Guarana said. "The ubiquity of the phenomenon suggests that control of blue-light exposure may be a viable first step for organizations to protect the circadian cycles of their employees from disruption."

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/3001/MVD/ANG

Date:-17/10/020

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Gh Mohi ud din Ganie S/O Mohd Akbar Ganie R/O Ganiepora Mattan Paibugh Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd. No.JK03H-9268(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Ali Mohd Shah S/O Gh Mohd Shah R/O Latroo Aishmuqam (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Mattan.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/3002/MVD/ANG

Date:-17/10/020

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Fayaz Ahmad Jan S/O Lt.Ali Mohd Jan R/O Nazak Mohalla Janglatmandi Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle di 207 Bearing Regd. No.JK03C-7002(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Ab Hameed Bhat S/O Nazir Ahmad Bhat R/O Opzan Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with N/A.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

Stay In Touch With Your Emotions To Reduce Pandemic-Induced Stress, Suggests Study

Agencies

Amid the coronavirus pandemic everybody seems to be stressed out to some degree whether it may be anguish over the sickness or death of a friend or family member. It may be anxiety over a job that has been altered or eliminated. These are natural emotions during stressful times, says Emily Kroska, a clinical psychologist at the University of Iowa. The good news, she adds, comes from a new study she led that shows how people might reduce their distress. The study, "Psychological flexibility in the context of COVID-19 adversity: Associations with distress," was published in the Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science.

In that study, Kroska's research team surveyed Americans' responses to various situations wrought



by the coronavirus pandemic. The team found that those who took stock of their emotions--be they sadness, anxiety, fear, loneliness, and the like--and then addressed those emotions with mindful action--such as calling a friend or family member!--reported lower stress levels than those who steered away from identifying with their emotions or did not gauge the potential effects of their behaviour.

"The goal is to try and help people become more resilient by remaining

in touch with their emotions and finding creative ways to maintain or build upon relationships with people or activities that are important to them," says Kroska, assistant clinical professor in the UI Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. "People who do that will generally not be as distressed, or anxious, as those who don't."

The researchers in May surveyed 485 adults across the nation, asking them to describe their experiences with various situations arising from the coronavirus pandemic. The respondents identified physical sensations such as sweating, accelerated heart rate, and fear for their own safety, as well as "objective hardship measures," including making rent or mortgage payments, loss of personal income, living apart from family members, or difficulty getting grocery items or household supplies.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/2095/MVD/ANG

Date:-16/10/020

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Ghulam Mohi u din Hakeem S/O Gh Mohd Hakeem R/O Batengoo Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle excanteen Bearing Regd. No.JK03G-2411(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Suhail Rashid Bhat and Others R/O Vessu Ganopora Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with Nill.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/2093/MVD/ANG

Date:-16/10/020

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.MirIran Shafi Malik S/O Mohd Shafi Malik R/O Laizbal Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle i20 Bearing Regd. No.JK03G-8166(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Mohd Hussain Dar S/O Mohd Yousuf Dar R/O Bijbehara Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Mattan Anantnag.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/3003/MVD/ANG

Date:-17/10/020

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Aijaz Ahmad Mir S/O Assadullah Mir R/O Syed Sahib Kadipora Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle LMV Bearing Regd. No.JK03J-9622(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Aijaz Ahmad Wagay S/O Ab Ahad Wagay R/O Matipora Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with Nill.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

rahiajaz786@gmail.com

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Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

Email: xen.ed1st@gmail.com Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No. 28 / EDI, dt: 10-10-2020

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-1st, Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
i	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of HT and LT Coil Winding Machine for Distribution Transformers upto 1000 KVA in Divisional Workshop.	2.50

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	15.10.2020; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	27.10.2020; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	15.10.2020; 16:00 Hrs to 27.10.2020; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	28.10.2020 at 13:00 Hrs
v)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vi)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website http://jktenders.gov.in
vii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred Only) (Non-refundable) [Demand Draft Only]
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only)

DIPK-NB-3073/20

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Electric Division 1st, Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

Tel: 0194-2497056 Email: xenmds@gmail.com

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NO. MDS/TENDER/2020-21/ 100 ; DATE: -16.10.2020

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

Description of the work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion	Position of funds
Supply , Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Kitchen Counter at Provincial Snow Clearance Control Room at MED Complex Shalteng, Srinagar..	60,000/-	Rs. 1,200/-	Rs. 200/-	10 days	Approved under Head SC-3054
Date of sale of tender documents	17-10-2020 to 22-10-2020 (up to 4.00 pm)				
Last date of receipt of tenders	23 -10-2020 (up to 2.00 pm)				
Date of opening of tenders	23-10-2020				
Tender receiving & opening authority	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Srinagar				

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

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

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

NO: MDS/TS / 4055-59

Date: 16-10-2020

DIPK-7578/20

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

Dangerous beauty: UK moves to ban Botox, lip fillers for teens

Agencies

London: British politicians called for a ban on lip fillers and Botox for people under the age of 18 on Friday amid concerns that reality TV stars from shows such as Love Island are fuelling a surge in schoolgirls having risky facial injections.

They said it was outrageous that



children could legally get cosmetic treatments, putting them at risk of infections, scarring, tissue death and even blindness. Politicians told of girls coming close to having their lips partially amputated following complications, and called for greater regulation of a sector that industry experts described as a "free for all". "We must stop the dangerous and unnecessary non-medical procedures that can ruin children's lives," said Conservative parliamentarian Laura Trott, who is spearheading a bill to criminalise the provision of Botox and fillers to people under age 18. She said one survey suggested 100,000 people under 16 had had

cosmetic treatments.

"The absence of a legal age limit for Botox and dermal fillers means any 15-year-old could walk into a shop and get their lips injected by someone with no qualifications whatsoever," Trott told parliament.

"This cannot be allowed to continue."

Parliamentarians blamed the influence of social media for the normalisation of cosmetic treatments among the young as they voiced support for the bill.

Complaints of botched treatments have skyrocketed, according to Save Face, a national register of accredited practitioners which campaigns for strong regulation. Director Ashton Collins said the craze for lip fillers was being driven by social media influencers and celebrities from shows including Love Island and Keeping Up With the Kardashians.

She said unscrupulous practitioners were flooding social media with unfeasibly cheap offers for multiple treatments, called "Kim Kardashian packages" and "Kylie Jenner packages", alongside pictures of the celebrities.

"This is so, so dangerous," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Girls think these are risk-free treatments like getting your nails or hair done, when in fact they are serious medical treatments that could cause horrible things if they go wrong."

Nawaz Sharif accuses army chief of toppling his govt

Agencies

Islamabad: Sharif, whose Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is the main opposition party, was sacked by the Supreme Court in 2017 on corruption charges. Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday accused the country's army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa of toppling his government, pressuring the judiciary, and installing the current government of Prime Minister Imran Khan in the 2018 elections.

Sharif was speaking via video link from London to a gathering of tens of thousands of people organized by opposition parties to kick-off a countrywide protest campaign in the eastern city of Gujranwala aiming to oust Khan's government.

"Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, you packed up our government, which was working well, and put the nation and the country at the alter of your wishes," Sharif told the gathering - the largest since the 2018 elections.

The former prime minister also accused the chief of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence spy agency of being involved in conspiring against his government.

Nine major opposition parties formed a joint platform called the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) last month to begin a nationwide agitation against the government.

Also read: Pakistan opposition

starts countrywide protests to oust government

Sharif, whose Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is the main opposition party, was sacked by the Supreme Court in 2017 on corruption charges and left for London last November for medical treatment.



He blames generals and judges for what he says were trumped up charges.

Pakistan's powerful military denies meddling in politics. The military's public relations wing did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment. Maryam Nawaz, the daughter and political heir of Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto, the son of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who heads her Pakistan People's Party (PPP), also addressed the gathering.

Both criticized the Khan government for what they called bad governance and mismanagement of the economy.

The protest campaign comes at a time when Pakistan is experiencing an economic crisis, with inflation touching double digits and negative growth.



Jacinda Ardern wins landslide victory in general elections

Agencies

Wellington: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Saturday won a landslide victory in the country's general elections held earlier in the day, securing her a second term in office.

With most ballots tallied, Ardern's ruling Labour Party has won 49 per cent of the vote and is projected to win 64 seats - enough for an outright majority, which will be a first in the country since it introduced a voting system known as Mixed Member Proportional representation (MMP) in 1996, the BBC reported.

According to the Electoral Commission, opposition centre-right National Party, currently on 27 per cent, has admitted defeat in

Saturday's poll.

The ACT New Zealand and Green parties came in third with 8 per cent of the votes.

Addressing her supporters following the results, Ardern said: "New Zealand has shown the Labour Party its greatest support in almost 50 years."

"We will not take your support for granted. And I can promise you we will be a party that governs for every New Zealander."

After conceding, National Party's leader Judith Collins congratulated Ardern and promised her party would be a "robust opposition", adding "we will be back".

Saturday's election was initially scheduled for September 19 but was postponed due to a second COVID-19 outbreak.

The previous Parliament, which was elected on September 23, 2017, was officially dissolved on September 6 paving the way for the polls, Xinhua news agency.

Polling stations across the country opened at 9 a.m. and closed at 7 p.m.

More than a million people have already voted in early polling which opened on October 3.

Besides the general election vote, New Zealanders also cast their ballots for two referendums on end of life choice and legalisation of the recreational use of cannabis.

Preliminary referendum results will be released on October 30, and the official results of the election and referendums will be released on November 6.

Teacher killed in France after showing blasphemous sketches in class

Agencies

PARIS: A history teacher who had shown sketches of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in class was on Friday decapitated and his assailant shot dead by French police as they tried to arrest him, police and prosecutors said.

French anti-terror prosecutors said they were investigating the assault which happened on the outskirts of Paris at around 5pm near a school in Conflans Saint-Honorine, a western suburb of the French capital.

According to a police source, the victim was a history teacher who recently discussed sketches of the Prophet (PBUH) in class.

Prosecutors said they were treating the incident as "a murder linked to a terrorist organisation" and related to a "criminal association with terrorists".

The allegations are similar to charges brought last month against a 25-year-old man who wounded two people in a meat cleaver attack to avenge the publication of blasphemous sketches by the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo.

The attacker seriously injured two employees of a TV production agency, whose offices are on the same block that used to

house Charlie Hebdo. Both survived the attack.

That attack came three weeks into an ongoing trial of suspected accomplices of the authors of the January 2015 attacks on Charlie

fire and injured him severely, the source said. He later died of his injuries, a judicial source said.

The scene has been cordoned off and a bomb disposal unit dispatched because of the suspected



Hebdo and a Jewish supermarket, which also saw a policewoman gunned down in the street.

Police on Friday arrived at the scene after receiving a call about a suspicious individual loitering near the school, a police source said.

There they found the dead man and nearby sighted the suspect armed with a knife-like weapon who threatened them as they tried to arrest him. They opened

presence of an explosives vest, the police source said.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, on a visit to Morocco, is returning to Paris immediately after talking with Prime Minister Jean Castex and President Emmanuel Macron, his office said.

Macron was to join key ministers at a crisis group set up in the interior ministry, the president's office said.

Missile kills 12 in Azerbaijan city, escalating Karabakh conflict

Agencies

Baku: A missile strike levelled a row of homes in Azerbaijan's second city of Ganja on Saturday, killing 12 and injuring more than 40 people in their sleep in a sharp escalation of the conflict over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. The early hours attack, which saw a second missile strike another part of Ganja and a third reach the nearby strategic city of Mingcevir, came hours after Azerbaijani forces shelled the ethnic Armenian separatist region's capital Stepanakert.

The seeming tit-for-tat attacks further undermine international efforts to calm a resurgence of fight-

Second attack

The attack came only six days after a missile struck another residential part of the city of more than 300,000 people, killing 10 civilians and leaving many on edge. At the scene of the latest strike, exploding shells rumbled in the distance as rescuers and red helmets used sniffer dogs to search for signs on life.

"We were sleeping. The kids were watching TV," Rubaba Zharova, 65, said in front of her destroyed home.

"All the houses around here are destroyed. Many people are under the rubble. Some are dead, some are wounded."

Hikmat Hajiyev, an assistant to



ing between Christian Armenians and Muslim Azerbaijanis before it draws in regional powers Russia and Turkey.

An AFP team in Ganja saw rows of houses turned to rubble by the strike, which shattered the walls and ripped the roofs off buildings in the surrounding streets.

People ran outside in shock and tears, stumbling through dark muddy alleys in their slippers, some wearing bathroom robes and pajamas.

Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, tweeted that according to "initial information, more than 20 houses were destroyed" on Saturday.

Nagorno-Karabakh's military said Azerbaijani forces had stepped up their attacks on Friday across the front, shelling Stepanakert and the nearby town of Susi.

The separatists "carried out equivalent operations to stop adversary fire," they said in a statement released by the Armenian government.

'Climate change drove early human species to extinction'

Press Trust Of India

Climate change likely played a major role in driving early human species to extinction, according to a modelling study published on Friday which researchers said serves a "thunderous warning message" to humans today.

Of the six or more different species of early humans, all belonging to the genus Homo, only Homo sapiens have managed to survive.

The study, published in the journal One Earth, combined climate modelling and fossil record to search for clues to what led to all those earlier extinctions of our ancient ancestors.

"Our findings show that... past Homo species could not survive intense climate change," said Pasquale Raia of Universita di Napoli Federico II in Italy.

This is despite technological innovations including the use of fire and refined stone tools, the formation of complex social networks, and - in the case of Neanderthals - the production of glued spear points, fitted clothes, and a good amount of cultural and genetic exchange with Homo sapiens, Raia explained.

"They tried hard; they made for the warmest places in reach as the climate got cold, but at the end of the day, that wasn't enough," he said.

The finding may serve as a kind of warning to humans today as we face unprecedented changes in the climate, the researchers said.

To shed light on past extinctions of Homo species including H. habilis, H. ergaster, H. erectus, H. heidelbergensis, H. neanderthalensis, and H. sapiens, they relied on a high-resolution past climate emulator, which provides temperature, rainfall, and other data over the last 5 million years.

The team also analysed an extensive fossil database spanning over 2,750 archaeological records to model the evolution of Homo species' climatic niche over time.



Trump "Kisses Dictators' Butts": Republican Senator

Washington, United States: A Republican senator told constituents that President Donald Trump "kisses dictators' butts," mistreats women and uses the White House as a business, according to a leaked phone call recording.

Nebraska Senator Sasse said Trump is "TV-obsessed" and "narcissistic", has driven US allies away and toward China, and has deeply damaged the Republican Party.

Assailing "the way he kisses dictators' butts," Sasse accused Trump of ignoring China's oppression of Uighurs and the Hong Kong democracy movement.

"He hasn't lifted a finger on behalf of the Hong Kongers," he said.

"It isn't just that he fails to lead our allies, it's that the United States now regularly sells out our allies under his leadership."

Sasse also said Trump "spends like a drunken sailor" and mocks evangelical Christians, an important Republi-



can voter group, behind closed doors, while taking aim at "the way he treats women."

"His family has treated the presidency like a business opportunity. He has flirted with white supremacists," he continued.

Sasse, who is running for reelection, said in the phone call that he has never been a supporter of the president, and warned that Trump's "likely" loss in the November 3 election could also end Republican control of the Senate.

"I'm now looking at the possibility of a Republican blood-

bath in the Senate, and that's why I've never been on the Trump train," he said.

He also said Trump never treated the Covid-19 crisis seriously, but only as an issue of the news cycle.

But he also used his comments to warn against supporting Democrats, saying Trump was "driving the country further to the left."

He argued that Democratic control of the Congress and White House would threaten religious freedom and the erosion of other rights and in 10 years make the US Supreme Court "Venezuela-like."

And he warned Trump could be driving young people and women permanently to the Democratic Party.

In that case, he said, Republicans will be asking the question, "What the heck were any of us thinking, that selling a TV-obsessed, narcissistic individual to the American people was a good idea?"

US to carry out first federal execution of a woman in seven decades

Washington: The US Justice Department said on Friday it has scheduled the first federal execution of a woman in almost 70 years, setting a Dec. 8 date to put to death Lisa Montgomery, convicted of a 2004 murder.

Montgomery, who was found guilty of strangling a pregnant woman in Missouri, will be executed by lethal injection at US Penitentiary Terre Haute, Indiana, the department said in a statement.

The last woman to be executed by the US government was Bonnie Heady, who was put to death in a gas chamber in Missouri in 1953, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

The justice department on Friday also scheduled a Dec. 10. execution for Brandon Bernard, who with his accomplices murdered two youth ministers in 1999.



The two executions will be the eighth and ninth the federal government has carried out in 2020.

The Trump administration ended an informal 17-year-hiatus in federal executions in July, after announcing last year that the Bureau of Prisons was switching to a new single-drug protocol for lethal injections, from a three-drug combination it last used in 2003.

The new protocol revived long-running legal challenges to lethal injections. In August, a federal judge in Washington, DC ruled the Justice Department was violating the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act in not seeking a doctor's prescription to administer the highly regulated barbiturate.

But an appeals court held the violation did not in itself amount to "irreparable harm" and allowed federal executions to proceed.

In 2007, a US District Court for the Western District of Missouri sentenced Montgomery to death after finding her guilty of a federal kidnapping resulting in death.

Her attorney, Kelley Henry, said that Montgomery deserves to live because she is mentally ill and suffered childhood abuse.

"Lisa Montgomery has long accepted full responsibility for her crime, and she will never leave prison," Henry said in a statement. "But her severe mental illness and the devastating impacts of her childhood trauma make executing her a profound injustice."

Bernard's attorney, Robert Owen, said in a statement the federal government misled the jury in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, which in 2000 found Bernard guilty of murder. Its decision was tainted by false testimony, Owen said.

NEWS MAKERS

India Ranks 94 In Hunger Index, Below Pakistan, Nepal And Bangladesh



NEW DELHI: India ranked 94 among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020 and was in the 'serious' hunger category with experts blaming poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring, siloed approach in tackling malnutrition and poor performance by large states behind the low ranking.

Last year, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries.

Neighbouring Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan too were in the 'serious' category but ranked higher than India in this year's hunger index. While Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan were in the 78th and 88th position respectively.

Nepal in 73rd and Sri Lanka in 64th position were in 'moderate' hunger category, the report showed.

Seventeen nations, including China, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI scores of less than five, the website of the Global Hunger Index, that tracks hunger and malnutrition, said on Friday.

According to the report released on Friday, 14 per cent of India's population was undernourished.

It also showed the country recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent. The under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent.

Wasting is children who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition. Stunting is children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.

Data from 1991 through 2014 for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan showed that stunting was concentrated among children from households facing

multiple forms of deprivation, including poor dietary diversity, low levels of maternal education, and household poverty.

During this period, India experienced a decline in under-five mortality, driven largely by a decrease in deaths from birth asphyxia or trauma, neonatal infections, pneumonia, and diarrhoea, the report stated.

"However, child mortality, caused by prematurity and low birth weight, increased particularly in poorer states and rural areas. Prevention of prematurity and low birthweight is identified as a key factor with the potential to reduce under-five mortality in India, through actions such as better antenatal care, education, and nutrition as well as reductions in anaemia and oral tobacco use," it said.

Experts think that poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring and siloed approaches to tackling malnutrition often result in poor nutrition indices.

Purnima Menon, a senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi, said the performance of large states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh need to be improved to see an overall change of India's ranking.

"The national average is affected a lot by the states like UP and Bihar... the states which actually have a combination of high levels of malnutrition, and they contribute a lot to the population of the country.

"Every fifth child born in India is in Uttar Pradesh. So if you have a high level of malnutrition in a state that has a high population, it contributes a lot to India's average. Obviously, then, India's average will be slow to move," she told PTI.

Menon said big states with large population and a high burden of malnutrition are those which are actually affecting India's average.



PROTEST PITCH: BJP Yuva Morcha and Fire services aspirants lodged a strong protest on Saturday in Srinagar's Press Colony against the "Recruitment Scam". KO Photo Abid Bhat

Amidst Ladakh Tension, India Buys War Material From America

NEW DELHI: Amid the standoff with China which has necessitated deployment of augmented army presence at the Line of Actual Control, India has gone for urgent purchase of additional high-altitude winter clothing from the US for troops deployed at forward locations in eastern Ladakh.

The winter clothing has been purchased under the Logistics Exchange Memorandum Agreement (LEMOA) between India and US. The agreement facilitates logistical support, supplies and services between the armed forces of the two countries, and includes clothing, food, lubricants, spare parts, medical services, among other essentials.

India is also looking to European markets to get more winter clothing for immediate requirements as its soldiers are braving temperatures of minus 25 degrees Celsius as they occupy 13 critical heights in south of Pangong Lake in Ladakh.

The seventh round of India-China military



talks on October 12 at Chushul to resolve the border dispute in eastern Ladakh ended in deadlock, after around 11 hours of deliberations. The de-escalation of forces at the LAC during the winter is highly unlikely now and India has to set up a huge logistical arrangement.

On August 30, India occupied critical

mountain heights like Rechin La, Rezang La, Mukpari, and Tabletop, that were unmanned till now, on the southern bank of the Pangong Lake. It also made some deployments near Blacktop also.

The deployment came after the Chinese tried to make a provocative military move. Now, dominance at these 13 peaks allows India to dominate Spangur Gap under Chinese control and also the Molde garrison on the Chinese side.

The Indian Army now has to stock up winter items for around 35,000 extra troops deployed at the forward locations. Most of the friction points in Ladakh like Pangong Lake and Galwan Valley where the face-offs have occurred are 15,000 feet above the sea level.

Indian Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria had, earlier this month, stated that India sees China digging in for the winter along the disputed border, and that India is taking action based on the ground realities.

Man, 20, Beaten To Death In Delhi Over Suspicion Of Mobile Phone Theft

NEW DELHI: A 20-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by two persons who suspected him of stealing their mobile phone, police said on Saturday.

The police have arrested the accused, identified as Ajit alias Bhujang (23), a resident of Gautam Buddh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh and Rajkumar alias Balak (24), a resident of Rajokri village.

Both the accused are rag pickers, they said.

Police said the victim and the accused knew each other.

On Wednesday, police received information that a body was lying opposite a hotel near IGI Airport in a forest area.

Avneendra Kumar, who had alerted the police, identified the victim as Deepak, a resident of Mahipalpur.

Kumar alleged that Deepak, who was his brother-in-law, was beaten by a person named



Bhujang and his associates with sticks and rods, the officer said.

"During investigation, it was revealed that the victim was last seen with Bhujang, and his associates named Balak and Nepali in the forest area.

"He was being beaten with sticks and rods by them," Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Rajeev Ranjan said.

On Friday, police arrested the two accused. They confessed to have killed Deepak by beating him mercilessly. They claimed that Bhujang had bought a mobile, which was allegedly stolen by the victim and he was not returning it, Mr Ranjan said.

Digital Media, News Agencies Need To Comply With 26% FDI Cap: Centre



NEW DELHI: News aggregators, news agencies which supply information to digital media firms and companies uploading news and current affairs on websites will have to comply with the 26 per cent foreign investment cap, the government said on Friday.

These companies "would be required to align their FDI to the 26 per cent level with the approval of the central government, within one year from the date of issue of this clarification", the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said.

In August last year, the Union Cabinet approved 26 per cent FDI (foreign direct investment) under government route for uploading/streaming of news and current affairs through digital media, on the lines of print media.

A section of industry players and experts had stated that the move to cap FDI in digital media sector to 26 per cent throws up questions that need clarifications.

The department said that it had received representations from stakeholders seeking clarifications on certain aspects of this decision.

"After due consultations, it is clarified (that) the decision of permitting 26 per cent FDI through government route would apply" to certain "categories of Indian entities, registered or located in India," it said.

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