



Maximum : 24°C
Minum : 07°C
Humidity : 43%

SUNSET
Today 05:49 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:41 AM



News Digest

Sarpanch, Others Booked For Fraud

Jammu: Police on Tuesday booked a sarpanch and a few others for allegedly misusing a revenue official's stamp in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said. He said the matter came to light that a sarpanch from Odharni panchayat allegedly made a fake stamp of the revenue official in Khawas area and prepared

● P-02

Lab Assistant Goes Missing In Pulwama

Srinagar: A laboratory assistant has gone missing from his home in Khrew area of Pampore in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, reports said Tuesday. Musaib Ahmed Bhat of Khrew, who works as laboratory assistant in government higher secondary school at Ladhoohas been missing from his home since Saturday morning, news agency KDC reported. Since Saturday, the report said there

● P-02

Women Injured In Bear Attack In Tral

Srinagar: A woman on Tuesday was attacked and injured by a bear in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Fatima wife of Mushtaq Ahmad was working in her kitchen garden in Gang village of Tral on Tuesday afternoon when a bear appeared there and attacked her, officials said. The woman sustained serious injuries in the surprise bear attack and was removed by the locals to the nearby hospital for treatment. (KNS)

Three Arrested For IPL Betting In Kathua

Jammu: Three persons were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly betting on IPL cricket matches in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said. They said a manhunt has been launched for apprehending three more people involved in the matter. After receiving several complaints regarding involvement of some people in betting on IPL matches on the pretext of doubling their money, police constituted a team and raids were carried out in many hideouts,

● P-02

Biker Killed In Road Accident

Srinagar: A teenage motorcyclist was killed in a road mishap in Poonch district of Jammu division on Tuesday. 18-year-old Sadaqat Hussain of Kandi Galhutta was critically injured when his motorcycle (JK11-5771) skidded off the road near Jamia Masjid Ari on Tuesday, news agency KDC reported. The injured teen was immediately shifted to Sub District hospital Mendhar, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and have registered a case in this regard.

Campaigning For LAHDC Polls Ends

Leh: The campaigning for elections to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh ended on Tuesday evening. Despite the lurking threat due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the campaigning saw both the key parties -- the BJP and Congress -- which are contesting on all the 26 constituencies,

● P-02

5 Militants Killed In Twin South Kashmir Encounters

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Five Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen militants were killed in two separate encounters with the government forces in twin districts of Pulwama and Kulgam in south Kashmir, police said Tuesday.

Acting on a specific input about the presence of militants, army's 50 RR, police and the personnel of CRPF 183 battalion laid a siege around Hakripora area of Pulwama and launched a cordon and search operation, a police spokesperson said. The militants hiding in the village, he said opened fire upon the search team after rejecting the surrender offer.

The search team retaliated to the fire triggering off an encounter. In the exchange of fire, three militants were killed and their bodies retrieved from the site of encounter," the police spokesperson said.

He claimed that the killed militants were involved in Monday's attack in Pulwama in which a CRPF man was injured.

"The identification of the militants is being ascertained. However as per the reliable sources



KO FILE PC: ANIL BHAR

Nacro Militancy Case NIA Files Charge-Sheet Against 10 Accused On 14000 Pages

The NIA on Tuesday filed a charge sheet against 10 people, including slain Hizbul Mujahideen commander Riyaz Ahmed Naikoo, for their alleged involvement in smuggling heroin into the country and channelising

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and technical input they were affiliated with LeT," he added.

The police spokesperson claimed to have recovered incriminating materials including arms and ammunition from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials, he said have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes.

"The bodies of the militants shall be sent to Handwara for burial after completion of all medico-legal formalities. In case any family claims the killed militants to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for

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THE BODIES OF THE MILITANTS SHALL BE SENT TO Handwara for burial after completion of all medico-legal formalities. In case any family claims the killed militants to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for their identification at PCR Kashmir Srinagar,"

China Asks India To Return Detained Soldier

BEIJING: The Chinese military has expressed hope that its missing soldier apprehended by the Indian Army in Eastern Ladakh will be released soon.

A Chinese soldier was apprehended by the Indian Army in the Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh on Monday after he had "strayed" across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), an incident that comes amid a massive deployment of troops by the two militaries in the region following the border standoff since May.

The Indian Army said in a statement on Monday that the soldier, a Corporal in the Chinese People's Liberation

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CJ Inaugurates First Ever 'Family Court' In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: In a first in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Gita Mittal on Tuesday inaugurated a family court here in this capital city.

Addressing the inaugural function, Chief Justice observed that the objective of establishing family court in J&K is to ensure speedy justice and inexpensive relief in family matters with least formalities, an official spokesperson said.

The Chief Justice, he said highlighted background about the history of establishing of family courts across India and the enactment of Family Courts Act 1984 and its

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Govt Forms Panels To Draw Roadmap For DDC Polls

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday constituted an apex level and two divisional committees to draw the road map for the conduct of district development council elections in the Union Territory.

In an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the 'terms of reference' of the Apex committee will be to draw a road map and detailed schedule for conduct of Elections to the district development councils across the Union Territory on the basis of inputs from the divisional committees and upon assessment of the ground level situation taking into consideration various requirements including security logistics, personnel, equipment etc.

As per the order, the apex level committee will have Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department as the Chairman and Director General of Police J&K, Ad-

280 Proposed Constituencies Of DDCs Notified

Days after the Government of India amended "The Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act-1989" for establishing elected district development councils (DDCs), the authorities have notified 280 proposed constituencies of DDCs in the Union Territory. The delimitation

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ditional Director General of Police (CID) and Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, representative of Transport Department not below the rank of Additional Secretary as members, while Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj will be the member Secretary

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THE DIVISIONAL LEVEL COMMITTEE(S) for Kashmir will have Divisional Commissioner Kashmir as the Chairman, Inspector General of Police Kashmir as the Member, Director Rural Development Kashmir as the Member-Secretary and any other member as co-opted by the Committee,"

Panchayati Raj Amendments Divide AJKPC leaders

The rift within All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), a premier body of elected panchayat representatives, came to light on Tuesday with its chairman and president making different statements on the recent amendments in the Panchayati Raj Act.

● P-02

Sealing Offices 'Part Of Abnormality Being Enforced On Kashmir Media': KEG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) has regretted the sealing of the Kashmir Times by the Estates Department. The quarter that was allotted to the newspaper was the office of the Jammu based newspaper's Kashmir bureau since the early 1990s.

The Guild believes that the government should have followed the due process of law.

"In recent days, this is the second instance in which a media organisation was ar-



bitarily ousted from duly allotted

Parties Slam Move, Journalists Protest

Political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday reacted sharply to the sealing of the office of 'Kashmir Times' here by authorities, while a group of about dozen journalists offered their services for free as a mark of solidarity with the newspaper.

● P-02

8 More Coronavirus Deaths In J&K, Toll 1399

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least eight more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1399.

While Kashmir valley reported five more Covid-19 deaths on Tuesday, the remaining three were confirmed by the officials

50 Travelers Among 589 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 589 new cases of coronavirus, including fifty travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union

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from Jammu division. Among the fatalities in the Valley, the officials said included a 38-year-old woman from Rainawari here, who died at SKIMS Soura, thirteen days after she was admitted to the hospital. They said a 90-year-old woman from Moomin Abad Batmaloo

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A Unique Initiative by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Block Diwas

on every Wednesday

at Locations Specified Below

Speedy disposal of public grievances on spot at grassroots level.

All are invited to participate

Shri Manoj Sinha
Lieutenant Governor

District wise Locations for Block Diwas

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| 01 Kupwara Kupwara Handwara Lolab Tangdhar | 02 Bandipora Bandipora Bankoot Aloosa Sumbal | 03 Shopian Shopian Zainapora | 04 Pulwama Pulwama Pampore Tral | 05 Kulgam Kulgam Davsar D.H. Pora |
| 06 Srinagar Harwan Khunmoh Panzinara | 07 Ganderbal Ganderbal Kangan Lar | 08 Anantnag Anantnag Bijbehara Pahalgam Kokernag Dooru | 09 Budgam Budgam Beerwah Khansahib Chadoora | 10 Baramulla Baramulla Sopore Pattan Tangmarg Uri |

DC, SSP & District Level Officers to remain available by turn at every Location every Wednesday. All Departmental functionaries to remain available for resolving grievances.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

End 'Arbitrary' Detention Of Mirwaiz: MMU To Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of religious groups on Tuesday urged the state authorities to immediately release Hurriyat Conference (M) Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq saying that his continued detention is in violation of fundamental rights.

In a statement issued here, an MMU spokesperson expressed strong resentment over the continuous and arbitrary house arrest of its head and Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, and urged the authorities again to release the incarcerated Hurriyat Chairman and allow him to resume his religious and social activities -



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especially as the holy month of Rabiul Awal has commenced, in which many religious gatherings are led by him.

Mirwaiz, the MMU spokesperson said is an institution indigenous to the state and revered by one and all living here. He said it was extremely sad that the pulpit of Jama Masjid has been made to fall silent for the last 15 months because Mirwaiz has not been allowed to deliver sermon, like his predecessors

● P-02

BJP Worker 'Abuses, Threatens' Medical Officer Over Missed Call

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) worker on Tuesday allegedly abused and threatened a senior medical officer after he didn't attend his phone call due to his engagement in government held programme.

The BJP worker identified as Ali Mohammad barged into the office of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Budgam Dr Tajamul Hussain and allegedly abused and threatened him for not picking up his phone call, news agency KDC reported. CMO Budgam was attending 'My Town My Pride' programme



Pic Facebook

when the BJP worker had made a phone call on his number. "BJP worker along with his PSO's barged into my office, abused and threatened me of dire consequence just for a pity reason for not picking up his phone call. He might have killed me if there were not my other colleagues around," Hussain said. Station House Officer

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UN Rights Chief Concern Expresses Concern Over Restrictions On NGOs, Arrest Of Activists In India

GENEVA: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Tuesday expressed concern over the restrictions on foreign funding for the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in India and the arrest of activists in the country.

She appealed to the Indian Government to "safeguard the rights of human rights defenders and NGOs, and their ability to carry out their crucial work on behalf of the many groups they represent.

"India has long had a strong civil society, which has been at

the forefront of groundbreaking human rights advocacy within the country and globally," she said in a statement. "But I am concerned that vaguely defined laws are increasingly being used to stifle these voices."

Bachelet specifically cited as "worrying" the use of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), which prohibits the receipt of foreign funds "for any activities prejudicial to the public interest."

She said the Act, which was adopted in 2010 and was amended last month, has been invoked over

the years to "justify an array of highly intrusive measures, ranging from official raids on NGO offices and freezing of bank accounts, to suspension or cancellation of registration, including of civil society organizations that have engaged with UN human rights bodies.

"I am concerned that such actions based on the grounds of vaguely defined 'public interest' leave this law open to abuse, and that it is indeed actually being used to deter or punish NGOs for human rights reporting and advocacy that the authorities perceive

as critical in nature, she said.

As per the amended FCRA law, furnishing of Aadhaar numbers by office-bearers of NGOs has become mandatory for registration. The Act also provides for reduction in administrative expenses of any NGO receiving foreign funding, from 50 per cent to 20 per cent of annual funds to ensure spending on their main objectives.

Union Minister of State for Home NityanandRai had said in Parliament that the legislation was not against any NGO and was an effort to maintain transparency.

This amendment is in the interest of good NGOs which want to do good work in the country, he had said.

"NGOs (non-governmental organisations) are expected to adhere to all our laws including in respect of foreign funding just as they presumably would in other countries including the US and in the European Union," Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs AnuragSrivastava said last month.

Bachelet said activists and human rights defenders have also

"come under mounting pressure in recent months, particularly because of their engagement in mass protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act that took place across the country earlier this year."

India maintains that the CAA was its "internal matter" and that "no foreign party has any locus standi on issues pertaining to India's sovereignty".

"More than 1,500 people have reportedly been arrested in relation to the protests, with many charged under the Unlawful Ac-

tivities Prevention Act - a law which has also been widely criticized for its lack of conformity with international human rights standards, she said, adding that charges have also been filed under this law against a number of individuals, including 83-year-old Catholic priest Stan Swamy.

"I urge the Government to ensure that no one else is detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and to do its utmost, in law and policy, to protect India's robust civil society," she added.

5 Militants Killed In Twin ...

their identification at PCR Kashmir Srinagar," the police spokesperson said. In another operation that started in Melhora area of Shopian district on Monday evening, the police spokesperson said 2 militants were killed.

State forces launched a cordon and search operation in the area Monday evening following specific inputs about the presence of militants there, he said. He said the search operation turned into an encounter after militants fired upon a forces party, who retaliated.

"One militant was killed in the initial exchange of fire between the two sides last evening, while another militant was killed when the operation was resumed in the few hours today," the police spokesperson said. He identified the militants as Towseef Ahmad Khanday and Umar Thoker from Kulgam, both affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen outfit. "Both of them were involved in recent attacks in Kulgam-Shopian areas," the police spokesperson said.

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

"The nearest family members of the killed militants shall be allowed to participate in the last rites. In this connection a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated," he said. "People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

NIA Files Charge-sheet...

its proceeds to Pakistan and militants based in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

The 14,000-page charge sheet was filed before a special NIA court in Mohali under relevant sections of the IPC, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Indian Passports Act.

Hilal Ahmed Shergojri (35) of Pulwama; Bikram Singh (27), Maninder Singh (22), Ranjit Singh (41), Gagandeep Singh (27), Iqbal Singh (24) of Amritsar; Ranjit Singh (42), Jaswant Singh (25) of Gurdaspur; Zafar Hussain Bhat (52) of Anantnag, who is presently in Pakistan; and Naikoo have been named in the charge sheet, the spokesperson of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said.

Naikoo was killed by the Army earlier this year.

The case pertains to the arrest of Shergojri and recovery of Rs 29 lakh from his possession by Punjab Police on April 25.

The NIA, after taking over the investigation on May 8, found that Shergojri, who had come to Amritsar to collect Rs 29 lakh, was a member of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and a close associate of Naikoo, the then HM commander of Kashmir Valley, the official said.

This led to the busting of a major narco-militant module involved in smuggling and selling of heroin in India, and channelling of drug-proceeds to Pakistan through hawala and to the Hizbul Mujahideen militants based in Jammu and Kashmir, according to the official.

Investigation also unearthed the conspiracy hatched by the Pakistan-based HM commanders and their associates, and militants gangs in Punjab to support and augment the militancy infrastructure of HM in India by raising money through drug smuggling/drug peddling, the NIA spokesperson said.

During investigation, it emerged that the accused had received at least six consignments of heroin through the Indo-Pakistan border in Attari in the garb of importing rock salt granules from Pakistan, the official said.

Of these, money proceeds of five consignments were partly sent back to Pakistan through hawala operators while a substantial portion was channelised to HM militants in Kashmir through a network of overground workers and other associates, the NIA official said.

In July 2019, the 6th consignment of around 532 kg of heroin was seized at Attari border and a separate case was registered. The NIA investigated the case and filed a charge sheet.

During investigation, the NIA carried out searches at 15 locations in Punjab, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir.

So far, Rs 98.5 lakh, eight vehicles and three kg of heroin have been seized from the accused and investments worth several crores of rupees have been identified.

During searches, incriminating documents relating to benami properties and gadgets, including mobile phones, pen drives and laptops, were seized and forensically examined.

Many incriminating chats between the accused have been recovered from the seized digital devices, the NIA spokesperson said, adding that further investigation in the case was underway.

China Asks India To Return...

Army (PLA), has been identified as Wang Ya Long and he will be returned to the Chinese military at the Chushul-Moldo border point after completion of formalities.

"China hopes that India will hand over soon the Chinese soldier who got lost in China-India border areas on the evening of October 18 when helping local herdsmen retrieve a yak at their request," said Senior Colonel Zhang Shuii, spokesperson for the Western Theater Command of the PLA said in a statement on Monday night.

"The PLA border troops informed the Indian military right after the incident and hoped the Indian side would aid in search and rescue, and the Indian side promised to offer help and return the missing soldier timely after finding him, he said.

The latest information from the Indian side is that the lost Chinese soldier has been found and will be handed over to the Chinese side after receiving medical examination, Col. Zhang said.

"We hope that the Indian side will live up to its promise to hand over the missing Chinese soldier as soon as possible and implement the consensus reached by the two sides in the 7th round of Senior Commanders meeting, so as to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas," Zhang said.

CJ Inaugurates First Ever...

subsequent enactment in J&K after the promulgation of J&K Reorganization Act 2019.

"It was a long journey for J&K to establish a family court, but I am confident that we were capable to make the family court a success in this region," she, as per the official spokesperson said.

He said that the Chief Justice added that it was not only to ensure speedy and inexpensive justice but the parties involved in the matter would be having privacy in personal areas of dispute and difficulties relating to the family matters.

She also thanked Chairman Family Court Committee, High Court of J&K, Justice Tashi Rabstan for expeditious journey of setting up of the family court in remarkable speed.

According to the official spokesperson, Chief Justice also suggested

that the with the Court set up for such family matters, it is imperative for presiding officers to be committed to protect the institution of marriage and to promote settlement of dispute through reconciliation and counseling.

"With the establishment of family court, J&K made an effort to develop a sensitive system and processing of family matters expeditiously, at the first place. We recognize that the proceeding before family court are conciliatory and not adversary as ours is a land of diversified culture, local customs and various conventions," she said, as per official spokesperson.

"The Chief Justice said that so far 1100 cases have been recognized and transferred to Srinagar family court and such figures may increase as the process of identification of cases is underway," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that Chief Justice emphasized for urgency to establish family courts in every district saying as soon as resources and man power is available the process would be started so as to ensure expeditious justice in family court matters.

"We have already undertaken an exercise for which the committee is working on and is identifying space for the family court in Jammu and hopefully we will shortly establish a family court in Jammu also as well as in other districts," she added.

On the occasion, Chairman Family Court Committee, High Court of J&K, Justice Tashi Rabstan; members Family Court Committee, High Court J&K, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajesh Oswal also spoke and gave a brief overview about the establishing of family court in J&K.

Govt Forms Panels To Draw...

of the apex committee.

The committee may have one co-opted Member.

"The divisional level committee(s) for Kashmir will have Divisional Commissioner Kashmir as the Chairman, Inspector General of Police Kashmir as the Member, Director Rural Development Kashmir as the Member-Secretary and any other member as co-opted by the Committee," an official spokesperson said.

The Committee for Jammu Division, he said will have Divisional Commissioner Jammu as the Chairman, Inspector General of Police Jammu as the Member, Director Rural Development Jammu as the Member-Secretary, besides any other person as co-opted by the Committee as the Member.

"Based on an assessment of manpower, security, logistics, transport, equipment and all other requirements, the Divisional Level Committees shall submit an outline of the possibilities and constraints to the apex level committee," the official spokesperson said.

"The apex level committee shall submit its report to the Government by October 27, 2020. The Committee(s) shall be serviced by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj," he added.

280 Proposed Constituencies...

proposals notifying proposed DDC constituencies along with their territorial limits have been put in public domain by all deputy commissioners of Jammu & Kashmir, news agency KNO reported.

The objections, if any, to these proposals can be submitted to respective deputy commissioners in writing by October 23, the report added. On October 16, the Union Home Ministry amended the J&K Panchayati Raj Act-1989, for establishment of DDCs having jurisdiction over the entire district excluding those areas falling within municipal limits.

Next day, the administration of the UT framed Rules for implementation of the amendments requiring deputy commissioners to divide entire area of DDC of a district into 14 territorial constituencies.

Spread over 20 districts, J&K UT will have 280 such constituencies as each district will have 14 such segments spread over Panchayat areas.

According to the amendments in Panchayati Raj Act, only elected members of territorial constituencies will have voting rights to elect or remove chairmen of district developments, even as MLAs of J&K UT and chairpersons of block development councils will be members of DDC.

"All members of district development council, whether or not elected by direct election from territorial constituencies in the district shall have the right to vote in the meeting of the district development council," the law states.

The term of DDCs shall be five years except for holding common elections to all the tiers of the Panchayats simultaneously so that all the tiers have co-extensive terms in the district.

The provision of disqualification for elected members of DDCs shall be similar to those applicable to members of Halqa Panchayats

Panchayati Raj Amendments...

While a faction headed by AJKPC president Anil Sharma earlier welcomed the amendment and said the people of the union territory were waiting for over 70 years to see real empowerment of the local bodies , its chairman Shafiq Mir described the amendment as an attempt to disempower the newly established Panchayati Raj System in the Union Territory.

The Jammu and Kashmir government had on Saturday amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act to provide for setting up of District Development Councils (DDC) in each district which will have directly elected members.

The DDCs of each district shall have 14 constituencies after their delimitation by the respective deputy commissioners, an official spokesperson had said, asserting that the move marked the implementation of the entire 73rd Amendment Act in the UT.

Flanked by several Block Development Council (BDC) chairpersons including Arun Kumar Sharma, Surinder Kumar Bhagat, Sarshad Nainoo, Brijeshwar Singh and Aftab Ahmad Beig, AJKPC chairman Mir demanded a rollback of the amendments and said by such order, doors have been opened for political activists to enter this institution which is clear injustice and has demoralised the panchayat leaders .

Not only this, by this amendment, the elected BDC chairpersons will not have any right to vote or to contest the district chairman election which is against the spirit of Panchayati Raj Act, Mir, who is also BDC chairman from Bufliaz in Poonch district, said.

On the other hand, AJKPC president Anil Sharma welcomed the recent amendments in the J&K Panchayati Raj Act and said the people of the union territory were waiting for over 70 years to see "real empowerment of local bodies".

He, however, cautioned the panches and sarpanches to remain vigilant from "negative forces who are always inimical to India and democracy and might mislead the public on one pretext or other".

Sharma congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for taking such historic and courageous steps to empower the panchayati raj institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

"All the people of Jammu and Kashmir were waiting for over 70 years to see real empowerment of local bodies and it is time to celebrate

when the decision is announced to give real autonomy to rural local bodies," he told reporters here.

Calling it a "historic move", Sharma said "with these amendments, all major provisions of 73rd Amendment of Indian Constitution have been extended to Jammu and Kashmir. This is what panchayat members had been fighting for".

Sharma said around 40,000 elected panchayat members of the union territory are hopeful and request the union government to immediately announce the elections of the vacant panchayat seats and also hold parallel polls of the territorial district constituencies.

He also demanded that these elections must be conducted on non-party basis as panchayati raj institutions are meant for community development and must not be dragged into political issues.

"The AJKPC is also hopeful to get good news soon with regard to constitution of separate Election Commission and Financial Commission for panchayats as they have been promised that the government is mulling to constitute a separate Election Commission that would hold timely elections of panchayats without any interference from the regional government," he said.

Sharma also paid homage to all those panches, sarpanches and Block Development Council (BDC) members who laid down their lives for strengthening this institution and demanded adequate relief to the family members of those who were killed during the last 10 years.

Without identifying anyone, he said panches and sarpanches need to remain vigilant from negative forces who are always inimical to India and democracy.

"These individuals and organisations might mislead people and panches, sarpanches or the BDC chairperson on one pretext or the other (with regard to the recent amendments)," the AJKPC president said.

Criticising the previous governments at the Centre and in Jammu and Kashmir, he said they had only made "hollow promises" with people, especially with the elected panchayat members but none of them were sincere to strengthen them.

Sealing Offices ‘Part of...

premises". Earlier, a local news gathering agency, Kashmir News Service (KNS) had also its office sealed.

"The Guild sees the sealing as the continuation of an abnormality being enforced on Kashmir media for a long time especially since 2010. In the last 10 years, the successive regimes have created a very unpleasant history as for as operations of the media in Kashmir is concerned. Preventing circulation of newspapers, blacklisting the newspapers from getting government advertisements in Srinagar and Delhi, and interrupting negatively in the routine operations have adversely impacted the media. These are in addition to the issues that reporters face on a daily basis while gathering information" KEG said in a statement here on Tuesday.

"In the last few years, the administration has gone for an upgrade in its policy towards the media as a result of which the arbitrary measures are being taken now. Though the entire media fraternity has been insisting that the media policy announced by the Jammu and Kashmir administration early this year is neither jelling with the spirit of democracy nor the basics of information management in the twenty-first century, the authorities have skipped responding to the suggestion".

The Guild has called on the administration to unseal the premises from which Kashmir Times and KNS offices were operating from "till the due process of law comes out with a solution. "

Guild has asked authorities to revisit the Media Policy and make it a 'forward-looking professional document rather than an early twentieth century dictate'.

"The Guild takes this opportunity to request the stakeholders in media and society to avoid resorting to the vilification of the Kashmir media because it helps nobody to prosper."

Parties Slam Move, Journalists ...

The Estates Department on Monday sealed the office of the prominent English daily allotted to it in a government building at Press Enclave, with the newspaper owners claiming that no prior notice was given to them.

Former chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah condemned the government action.

"This explains why some of our 'esteemed' publications have decided to become government mouthpieces, printing only government press handouts. The price of independent portage is to be evicted without due process," he alleged in his tweet.

Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti said sealing of 'Kashmir Times' newspaper office is straight out of BJP's vendetta playbook to settle scores with those who dare to disagree.

"Anuradha was one of the few local newspaper editors in J&K who stood upto GOs illegal & disruptive actions in the state. Shutting down her office in Srinagar is straight out of BJP's vendetta playbook to settle scores with those who dare to disagree," Mehbooba tweeted.

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party also condemned the sealing of Kashmir Times newspaper's office

In a statement, spokesman of the Party said that the action taken by the estates department as elucidated by the Kashmir Times is unjustified. "Not following the procedural formalities the estate department's action is totally unwarranted and illegal," the spokesman said.

Apni Party spokesman urged the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene into the matter and inquire into the circumstances which have led to shutting down of a prestigious newspaper institution in Srinagar.

CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami alleged that "it is nothing but vendetta politics and an attempt to suppress the dissenting voices in the region".

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (J&KPCC) Vice President and former MLC G N Monga said the BJP government was leaving no stone unturned to muzzle the freedom of press.

Expressing solidarity with Kashmir Times editor Anuradha Bhasin, the group of journalists alleged that there are renewed attempts 'to throttle the daily' which has been "at the forefront of fighting against government curbs on communications and press freedom in Kashmir, especially post-August 5".

"We express our solidarity and support to its editors and our colleagues there," it said

"Some of the undersigned journalists would also like to extend an offer of devoting some work hours, for free, every day to support the Kashmir Times editorial team which can somewhat help sustain the paper in these difficult times," it said in a statement.

Bhasin had alleged that her newspaper had been targeted as she had moved the Supreme Court against media restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir after the Centre abrogated Article 370 in August last year.

8 More Coronavirus Deaths...

died at SMHS hospital where she was admitted and diagnosed with bilateral community acquired pneumonia.

Besides them, officials said a 65-year-old from Chelan Kulgam also died at SMHS hospital here where she was admitted with bilateral CAP on October 14. A 75-year-old man from Sopore Baramulla died at SKIMS Bemina, one among the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 in Valley, four days after he was admitted there.

One more victim, they said, was from Shopian.

Regarding the deaths from the Jammu division, officials said that two were reported from the winter capital of the J&K and another from Udhampur district.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 935 in Valley and 463 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 335 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (239), Baramulla (136), Budgam (90), Pulwama (78), Kupwara (71), Anantnag (71), Kulgam (46), Bandipora(43), Rajouri (45), Doda (42), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (30), Kathua (30), Udhampur (27), Samba (25), Poonch (22), Kishtwar(14), Ramban (12), and Reasi (7). (With GNS inputs)

50 Travelers Among 589...

Territory to 88958. While 241 new cases were reported from Jammu division, in Kashmir valley 348 more people tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday, officials said

Giving district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 136 cases, Budgam 34, Baramulla 32, Pulwama 30, Kupwara 4, Anantnag 39, Bandipora 32, Ganderbal 21, Kulgam 12, Shopian 8, Jammu 118, Rajouri 10,Udhampur 10, Doda 25, Kathua 9, Poonch 13, Samba 7, Kishtwar 25, Ramban 11 and Reasi 13.

Moreover, officials said, 770 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 349 from Jammu Division and 421 from Kashmir Valley.

End ‘Arbitrary’ Detention...

- the Mirwaizeen -which is famous hallmark of the central Mosque.

"This hurts the religious sentiments associated with the institution and his person," the MMU spokesperson said.

"To incarcerate him at his home and disallow him from fulfilling his religious obligations and engage in social and welfare activities as part of his pursuit as the Mirwaiz, is not only violation of his fundamental rights but also depriving the people of the benefits that they accrue from his socio religious activities," he added.

The joint statement issued by MMU constituent organisations, including Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya, Muslim Personal Law Board, Jamiat Ahle Hadeth, Jama'at-e-Islami, Anjuman Sharia'n Shian, Karwaan-e-Islami, Ithihaad-ul-Muslimeen, Anjuman Himayat-ul-Islam, Jamiat Hamdania, Anjuman Ulema-e-Ahnaaf, Dar-ul-Uloom Qasmia, Dar-ul-Uloom Bilaliya, Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam, Anjuman Mazhar-ul-Haq, Jamiat-ul-Aima Wal Ulema, Anjuman Aima Wa Mashaa'ikh Kashmir, Dar-ul-Uloom Naqshbandiya, Dar-ul-Uloom Rasheediya, Ahl-e-Bayt Foundation, Madrasa Kanz-ul-Uloom, Perwaan-e-Wilayat, Auqaf Islamiya Khurram Sarhama, Anjuman Tanzeem-ul-Makaatib, Muhammadli Trust, and others besides educational, social and welfare bodies strongly condemned the house detention of the Mirwaiz.

BJP Worker ‘Abuses, Threatens’...

(SHO) Budgam, Mehboob Bandy told KDC that they have received complaints from both the parties and further investigations were going on.

Meanwhile, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) has strongly condemned the alleged inhuman and savage behavior by a political worker and said that "hooliganism and barbarous" acts shown by him is a black spot on him being a public representative.

DAK President, Dr Suhail Naik termed the incident unfortunate and demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in this crime.

Sarpanch, Others Booked...

some documents to press for sanction of some cases under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

The official said that a case was registered against the sarpanch and a few others for alleged misuse of the stamp of the revenue official of the rank of patwari.

"The matter was taken up with police authorities after which a case under relevant sections of law was registered in Dharamsal police station while the case is being further investigated," he said.

The official said that a case under section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered against the sarpanch and another person.

Lab Assistant Goes Missing...

are no clues about his whereabouts.

Meanwhile, Bhat's family has also lodged a formal missing complaint in Police Station Khrew and has sought the help of people in locating the missing youth.

Three Arrested For IPL Betting...

the officials said. During raids, three persons, identified as Turvinder Singh alias Tutti, Anoop Gupta and Sanjeev, were arrested while a hunt is on for Bhupinder, Ramesh and Laddli, they said.

Some incriminating material has also been recovered from the arrested persons, the officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) KathuaShailendra Mishra said documents are being scrutinised with details and vital information on their modus operandi in engaging in betting trade.

Campaigning For LAHDC...

making all out efforts to woo the voters with major focus on the sixth schedule of the constitution.

As many as 89,776 electorate, including 45,025 women voters, would seal the fate of 94 candidates on the polling day on October 22.

The campaigning for the LAHDC Leh polls ended peacefully at 4 pm today (Tuesday). There were about four complaints of violation of model code of conduct which were not of grave nature but still appropriate action as per law was taken, District Development Commissioner, Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya said.

Vaishya, who is also the election officer, said the voting will take place from 8 am to 4 pm on October 22 and all the necessary measures have been taken to ensure peaceful polling amid strict adherence of COVID-19 guidelines.

The counting of votes will take place on October 26 and the poll process is expected to complete by October 30.

Lt Governor meets NEET topper

These achievements go a long way to make positive changes in society: LG

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 20: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha met J&K NEET topper Basit Bilal Khan here at the Raj Bhavan today.

The Lt Governor congratulated the topper for his extraordinary feat and commended him for setting an incredible example for all the youngsters. "I wish him many more laurels in the future. He represents our future and his hard work and perseverance are going to inspire many to achieve their goals", he added.

Applauding the efforts of young NEET qualifiers from

across the Union Territory, the Lt Governor remarked that he is well aware of the inherent strengths of people of the region and the government is committed to providing the requisite environment for their progress. "Our youngsters deserve every opportunity to achieve their dreams, and it is our duty to provide the resources and support they need to succeed", he said.

"These achievements go a long way to make positive changes in the society and all these young achievers will be the key drivers

of socio-economic growth and community development in the region", the Lt Governor observed.

The 18-year-old Basit who hails from Narwa area of Pulwama was accompanied by his father Sh. Bilal Ahmad Khan and Chief Education Officer, Pulwama, Ms. Soni Sonam. He has scored 695 marks out of 720, securing 99.98 percentile in the NEET-2020 exam, the result of which was declared recently.

The Lt Governor extended congratulations to all the qualifiers and wished them success in their future endeavours.



'Expanded and Extended Role of Nurses in COVID-19 Management' 3-Day Online Int'l Workshop Begins at IUST

Awantipora, Oct 20: A three day online International Workshop on "Expanded and Extended Role of Nurses in COVID-19 Pandemic Management" started at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) here on Tuesday.

The workshop is being organized to commemorate the International Infection Prevention Week on the theme "Break the chain of Infection" with around 100 participants across the globe.

While addressing the participants during the inaugural session, Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Mushtaq A Siddiqi gave a special talk about the role of healthcare professionals especially nurses, being the first line of defense, during the current pandemic management.

He deliberated upon the significant changes in the healthcare environment at global level, which are impacting professional nursing practice in innumerable ways and thus providing new opportunities and challenges for expanding the role and function of nursing professionals. "Millions of infection prevention and control professionals across the globe are joining hands in activities commemorating International Infection



Prevention Week, and all of us should give them due support with respect to SOPs to be followed during the current COVID-19 pandemic scare, which engulfed millions of people across globe, he added".

Registrar IUST, Prof. Naseer Iqbal lauded the role of healthcare professionals during the pandemic management and highlighted the role of every citizen in following the SOPs to fight against the repercussions of diseases like COVID-19.

Prof. Naseer also highlighted the initiatives of IUST during the COVID-19

pandemic in designing the low cost ventilator, negative pressure chamber, multi-channel splitters and face splash guards for healthcare professionals.

Earlier, Asmat Parveen, Associate Professor, Nursing College IUST welcomed all the participants and gave a brief description about the workshop. The workshop marked the Celebration of 2nd Annual Day of Nursing Colleges of IUST during which a souvenir was also released.

LG condemns killing of Police Inspector

SRINAGAR : Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has condemned the killing of Police Inspector, Mohammad Ashraf who was killed by terrorists in Anantnag.

The inspector was shot dead while he was returning home after offering prayers in a local mosque.

The Lt Governor expressed his anguish over the killing and said that such heinous attacks are attempts to create disturbance at a time when the Valley is witnessing an unprecedented developmental push. Our police force will remain firm against such acts of terror and perpetrators will be brought to justice, he announced.

The Lt Governor conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. He also assured all the possible help from the government to the family of the martyred cop.

NOTICE

I am working in Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar. In my Service Book Record my caste has wrongly been mentioned as 'M' instead of 'Mir'. Now i want to make correction in the same. If anyone has any objection, he can submit the same to the Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the said time.
Mir Jahangeer Reyaz Iqbal S/O Mir Ghulam Mohi ud din
R/o Rawlpura Srinagar Kashmir
Engineering Assistant DDK Srinagar

X

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

STATE LEVEL PURCHASE COMMITTEE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT

INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR EMPANELLING Public and private general Insurance Companies Under Risk Management and Insurance Component of National Livestock Mission

The Department of Animal Husbandry J&K is implementing a component "Risk Management and Insurance" (Under the centrally sponsored "National Livestock Mission") for extending insurance cover to high yielding cattle and buffaloes in all the districts of Union Territory of J&K.

In this context Chairman State Level Purchase Committee (AHD) J&K invites eligible Public and Private General Insurance Companies having a fairly wide network of branches in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to express interest for providing insurance cover to high yielding cattle and buffaloes in all the districts of Union Territory of J&K State under the scheme (Details as per Annexure A).

The Company shall essentially meet the following eligibility criteria and supply documents accordingly in their expression of interest:

- The agency must be registered in the said sector for a period of at least 3 years.
- The agency must possess the expertise in providing Livestock Insurance and should have a minimum work experience of 2 years in the said field.
- The agency should have a valid Service tax/GST/TIN.
- The agency should submit valid ITRs/Audited bank statements for last year.
- Documents supporting past-experience, list of existing and previous clients with full details of services offered.
- Interested agencies may obtain further information by visiting the Directorate of Animal Husbandry Gawkadal Srinagar or by emailing director@jkahd.net or calling 0194-2455369.
- The selected agencies shall have to execute a contract with the Department on terms and conditions which will not be disadvantageous to either party.

The EOI (sealed hard copy) must be delivered by or before 11th of November 2020 in person or by post at the below mentioned address upto 3.00 PM:

DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
RED CROSS ROAD, GAW KADAL
SRINAGAR (J&K) 190001

No. DAHK/MS/2020-21/ 9964
Dated:- 19 -10-2020

(Basharat Ahmad)
Member Secretary

DIPK-7674/20

State Level Purchase Committee
Animal Husbandry Department (J&K)

ANNEXURE – A

Premium rates not to exceed

- Districts Baramullah/Doda/Udhampur/Kathua Under Hill Area

- One year Policy @ 3.5% premium
- Three Year Policy @ 9% premium

- Rest of the Districts

- Under Normal Area One year Policy @ 3.0% premium
- Three Year Policy @ 7.5% premium

- No of animals to be insured during 2020-21 District wise (Tentative)

| S. No. | District | No. Of Animals to be Insured |
|--------|------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Anantnag | 2800 |
| 2 | Pulwama | 2800 |
| 3 | Baramullah | 2400 |
| 4 | Kupwara | 2000 |
| 5 | Srinagar | 1600 |
| 6 | Budgam | 2400 |
| 7 | Ganderbal | 2000 |
| 8 | Kulgam | 1600 |
| 9 | Shopian | 1600 |
| 10 | Bandipora | 1600 |
| 11 | Jammu | 4450 |
| 12 | Samba | 1200 |
| 13 | Rajouri | 2800 |
| 14 | Poonch | 1850 |
| 15 | Kishtwar | 1300 |
| 16 | Ramban | 1700 |
| 17 | Reasi | 1800 |
| 18 | Doda | 2200 |
| 19 | Udhampur | 3400 |
| 20 | Kathua | 3300 |

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Bashir Ahmad Chopan S/o: Abdul Rehman Chopan R/o: Sail Beerwah Budgam (Transferor) of Xcent. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F - 0433. Chasis number

048590 EnginOe no. 394809 Model 2014 in favour of Shri.. Mir Mohammad Umer S/o. Mir Mohammad Rafiq R/o Ganoora Anantnag (Tranferree)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1668
Dated 20/10/2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE (E) SRINAGAR

Subject:- Magisterial Enquiry into the death of Asrar Ahmad Khan S/o Shri Firdous Ahmad Khan R/o Hyder Colony Ilahi Bagh, Srinagar.

GENERAL NOTICE

Whereas, District Magistrate, Srinagar has appointed the undersigned as Enquiry Officer for conduction of enquiry into the death of Asrar Ahmad Khan S/o Shri Firdous Ahmad Khan R/o Hyder Colony Ilahi Bagh, Srinagar.

Now, In this connection notice is hereby issued to the General Public that if any person who has the knowledge of the incident and is willing to record his / her statement or wants to give any other information about the incident, he/ she may attend the office of the undersigned in the office complex of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, for recording the statement in this matter within ten (10) days from the date of issuance of this notice from 10.00AM to 4.00 PM, so that the enquiry in the said case is completed within the stipulated time frame.

Sub Divisional Magistrate
Srinagar
(Enquiry Officer)

DIPK-7703/20



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

Tender Notice for the Supply of Laptop

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 5/- are invited from the authorised dealers/suppliers and manufactures for Supply of Laptop as detailed in Annexure – A of the tender document to the Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora. The tender document can be obtained from the office of Assistant Registrar (Procurement & Stores) or can be downloaded from the University website www.islamicuniversity.edu.in

The last date for the submission of the tender accompanied with DD of Rs. 500/- (non-refundable) favouring Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora Pulwama (J&K) as cost of tender document shall be on 03-11-2020 (2.00 pm). Terms and conditions apply.

No. IUST/Reg_P&S/Tender/20/378.

Dated: 20 -10-2020

Assistant Registrar (Procurement & Stores)

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- 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**
03 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1442

PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR | 5:19 |
| ZUHR | 12:16 |
| ASR | 4:13 |
| Magrib | 6:55 |
| ISHA | 7:14 |

This Day In History

- 1789 - French Revolution: The National Assembly declares martial law in France to prevent uprisings
- 1803 - English scientist John Dalton reads his paper on the absorption of gases by water to the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Soc - 1st outline of his atomic theory
- 1895 - The Republic of Formosa collapses as Japanese forces invade.
- 1899 - Battle at Elandslaagte Natal: (Boers vs British army)
- 1914 - Battle of Warsaw ends with German defeat
- 1917 - 1st Americans to see action on front lines of WWI: US troops enter front lines at Sommervillier under French command
- 1938 - Japanese troops occupies Canton
- 1944 - World War II: US troops capture Aachen, 1st large German city to fall.
- 1948 - Facsimile high-speed radio transmission demonstrated (Washington, D.C.)
- 1948 - UN rejects Russian proposal to destroy atomic weapons
- 1950 - Chinese forces occupy Tibet
- 1965 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Robert B Woodward
- 1966 - 116 children and 28 adults died as a coal waste heap slid and engulfed a school in Aberfan, South Wales
- 1967 - Egypt sinks Israeli torpedo boat
- 1967 - Tens of thousands of anti-Vietnam War protesters march on the Pentagon, besieging the military headquarters for two days
- 1969 - Maj Gen Mohamed Siad Barre becomes President of Somali
- 1970 - Nobel prize of peace awarded to Norman E Borlaugh
- 1971 - Nobel prize for literature awarded to Pablo Neruda
- 1975 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1975 - Venera 9, 1st craft to orbit planet Venus launched
- 1976 - Nobel prize for literature awarded to American Saul Bellow
- 1980 - Mikhail Gorbachev elected member of Politburo.
- 1985 - Qasim Omar (206) & Javed Miandad (203*) make 397 stand v VL
- 1987 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Robert M Solow
- 1993 - Military coup by Burundi President Ndayize; 525,000 Hutus flee
- 2003 - Images of the dwarf planet Eris are taken and subsequently used in its discovery by the team of Michael E. Brown, Chad Trujillo, and David L. Rabinowitz.
- 2013 - The Parliament of Canada confers Honorary Canadian citizenship on women's rights and education activist Malala Yousafzai
- 2015 - German Chancellor Angela Merkel says German view of Holocaust will not change, after Benjamin Netanyahu says idea came from Mufti of Jerusalem

From KO Archives

'Missing' ITI instructor's body found buried

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A dead body retrieved from supposedly unused portion of a graveyard in Tangmarg has sent shock waves throughout Baramulla district and reliable sources have said the body is that of an instructor who, along with his brother, was picked up by security forces during a pre-dawn raid in September. According to reports, the victim's brother has identified the corpse. The ITI instructor, Muhammed Jamal Najjar and his brother, Abdul Rasheed, had been arrested by the 22nd RR during the night intervening 19th and 20th of September from Noorpur Jaagir, Sopore. While Rashid was dumped half-dead in Bandipora on the 10th of this month, nothing was known about his brother's fate.

Tangmarg residents came upon the body while they were preparing a grave in a cemetery at Hardhoora, Tarhama. The discovery stunned residents as no one had been interred in the vicinity of the spot recently; and neither the body was not in advanced state of decomposition, the locals informed the police. It was soon that people began to connect the body with the September disappearance. Rashid, who rushed to Taarhama on hearing of the corpse, identified the body as that of his brother.

Speaking to this news agency, IG Baramulla, Dilbagh Singh said that Muhammed Jamal and Abdul Rasheed had 'mysteriously disappeared' during the night intervening the 19th and 20th of September, and when certain quarters raised the possibility of the body recovered in Taarhama being that of Ja-mal, the body was exhumed by the civil and police authorities of the district. The incident is being viewed in the district as custodial killing. The body has been taken to Sopore, and anger against the security forces is palpable in the town.

(Kashmir Observer, October 21,2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Bihar polls

Bihar is going to polls and this time the situation is opposite of what it was in the last Assembly election. Unlike last time when Nitish Kumar was part of a Mahagathbandan along with the RJD of Lalu Prasad Yadav, he is now a part of the NDA. And it remains to be seen whether Kumar pulls off yet another victory this time. He has already been Bihar Chief Minister for two successive terms and for the better part of his career has been an alliance partner of the BJP. Though in the run up to last Assembly election in 2015, Kumar had formed a broad anti-NDA alliance alongwith Lalu Yadav and at the time it had stopped the then reigning Narendra Modi juggernaut in its tracks in the state. Mahagathbandan had defeated the BJP fair and square. Kumar became the Chief Minister but he soon ditched Lalu Yadav and went back to the BJP. At the time, it was seen as a betrayal of the Mahagathbandan mandate. But this didn't faze Kumar. Ever since, it hasn't appeared even once that Kumar has stood to lose because of this. Nor does it appear this time that the RJD stands to gain in the ongoing election because of this.

Kumar was once a leading light of India's secular political block. And for a while, he had successfully set himself up as the most prominent proponent of secularism in the country. But his dramatic return to the NDA fold was a betrayal of the secular ideal he had once so aggressively claimed to stand for. Would he have to pay for this betrayal in the current election? Nothing is clear as of now. Kumar's by and large good governance is expected to bail him out. But at the same time the RJD is no pushover. Lalu may be in jail but he continues to enjoy a dogged support among his vote-bank, a significant section of which is comprised of Muslims.

Also at stake is not only the mundane question of who rules Bihar over next five years but where the India is headed as a country. A win for the Grand Alliance will arrest the disarray among secular forces and give them confidence to stand up to Modi in the upcoming state elections. One such being the all important polls in West Bengal. But a victory for Kumar and the BJP will only reinforce the political invincibility of Modi. So a Kumar victory will be once again an emphatic endorsement of the PM Modi's six years in government. This would mean the opposition will have to start from the scratch again to take on the overarching figure of the PM Modi. But for now all we can do is to stay with our fingers crossed.

OTHER OPINION

A tool for thought

A committee of experts — well-regarded mathematicians and infectious disease experts — appointed by the Department of Science and Technology to use mathematical modelling and forecast the course of the pandemic has brought good tidings. By their estimate, India passed its COVID-19 peak in September and the decline in the overall caseload being observed for nearly a month now is to continue. Active cases, about 7.5 lakh now, are expected to drop below 50,000 by December, and by February, the pandemic is likely to extinguish itself with only 'minimal' (not zero) infections. While it is reasonable to assume that the seven-member committee has been scrupulous, the caveat is that this is still a forecast based on mathematical modelling. There are some strong assumptions. The decline will continue only if there are no major mutations during winter, protective antibodies are durable, and current restrictions are maintained. There would be no significant gains from a strict lockdown beyond the district level, and current containment measures would suffice, except if there are local outbreaks that threaten to overwhelm healthcare facilities there. Their calculation also showed a peak by July latest, with anything from six to 15 times the existing infections had there been no lockdown or if it had been delayed to April.

The latest model is expected to be published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research this week, but it appears to be a quotidian exercise. The datasets it has relied on are publicly available and the modelling employs a category of models called SEIR that estimates, within a population, those Susceptible, Exposed, Infected and Recovered.

Experts associated with the pandemic have reiterated many times that mathematical modelling ought not to be taken literally. The latest assessment too should then be used not to critique or justify past decisions but dwell more on the future. For instance, if the model suggests that the pandemic would extinguish by February with a dramatic dip by December, then should the accelerated clinical trials of potential vaccines be top priority? Mathematical models, to be useful, must induce policy or behavioural change to avoid their own worst-case scenarios and this latest assessment must be seen — no more, no less — as a tool to this end.

The Hindu



People's Union needs regional alliance

As of now, the Gupkar coalition has only a symbolic value. Key to its relevance will be its ability to draw support from Jammu and Ladakh

RIYAZ WANI

Soon after Mehbooba Mufti's release from 14 month long detention on October 14 she issued an evocative audio statement that called for a sustained struggle for the restoration of Article 370 that granted J&K an autonomous status within Indian Union. She termed "the illegal, unconstitutional and undemocratic" erasure of J&K autonomy as a "daylight robbery" and narrated how the pain of the loss of the autonomy had been "lacerating" her mind and soul during the period in detention.

Her freedom has since lent some momentum to the otherwise defunct mainstream politics. Six political parties who are signatories to Gupkar Declaration met again at the National Conference leader Dr Farooq Abdullah's residence to formalize a structure, to evolve an agenda and to give the alliance a proper name.

Later talking to reporters, Abdullah said theirs was a, "constitutional battle to ensure the return of all the rights which the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including Ladakh, enjoyed before the abrogation of Article 370".

More importantly, the parties this time didn't limit their demand to restoration of Article 370 but sought a solution to the larger Kashmir issue. "We want steps taken for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. All the stakeholders should be taken on board in this regard".

Inclusion of the resolution of Kashmir issue in their agenda subsumes the Kashmir settlement formulae of National Conference, the PDP and the People's Conference like autonomy, self-rule and achievable nationhood respectively. This takes care of the criticism the new grouping faced about marking down their long-standing political agenda by seeking only the restoration of Article 370.

Now, where do we go from here? The parties have decided to hold consultations with like-minded representatives from Jammu and Ladakh and plan to offer them to join the grouping. This is a smart move. In recent months, Jammu and Ladakh have exhibited visible signs of disaffection with the post Article 370 move state of affairs. A looming prospect of demographic change, loss of jobs and land rights have made people uneasy. But while the expression has been muted in Jammu, people have been vocal about their rights in Ladakh. In fact, all parties in the union territory recently closed ranks against entry of outsiders and to this end threatened to boycott elections if the centre didn't

promise safeguards like the grant of 6th Schedule of Constitution. Centre was prompt to assure these protections to Ladakh unlike its approach to Kashmir. But until it actually grants these safeguards, Ladakhis will have reason to feel apprehensive. At the same time, Muslims in Ladakh who are in a slim majority in the region, aren't interested in these safeguards. Like their counterparts in Kashmir, they also want reversal of Article 370 move and rejoining of Ladakh with J&K.

In Jammu, on the other hand, the parties other than the BJP have a varying degree of beef with the new state of affairs, although the local parties like Panthers Party support the revocation of Article 370 but ironically want Article 370 like guarantees to protect the region's unique identity. Helpfully for new Kashmir alliance, Congress, a national party, has supported restoration of Article 370 and the rights for Kashmiris. In fact, the party is a constituent of the Gupkar alliance.

This opens up a possibility that the three regions can agree on a common minimum agenda. And should that happen, it will be a major achievement for the six party alliance and will only strengthen its case at the national level.

Even if the parties were to mobilize the public opinion against the withdrawal of Article 370, their ability to force a shift in centre's policy will be minimal. For in doing so, they will be up against the new national consensus on Kashmir that sees the integration of the former state into India as a fait accompli.

Also, a broad regional cooperation on the issue of rights of J&K will afford more space for political activity to the leaders in Kashmir. Such an alliance will also require influential local leaders to represent it in Jammu and Ladakh.

But there is still a big if about the chances of a regional cooperation happening anytime soon. Or happening of it at all. The reasons are the deep mutually antagonistic political cultures and the largely contradictory interests of the three regions. Even, in case of Ladakh where Muslims are in a slight majority, their political weight is undone by the centre's support for Buddhists. So, for a regional alliance to materialize, all such opposing forces will have to be reconciled. This will not be an easy task.

As for remaining a Kashmir-centric grouping, the six party coalition will have little political space to operate. Centre is likely to come down hard on the alliance at any sign of the civil strife that will be promptly traced to its actions, real or imagined.

One option for the new mainstream political grouping to build some pressure on New Delhi is to mount a sustained public resistance against the erasure of the special status. But there are valid doubts about the scope for such a resistance at a time when the centre has drastically squeezed the space for any democratic dissent in the region. And the Gupkar amalgam is mindful of this fact: They have so far issued the joint statements, given themselves a name, formalized their structure and worked out an agenda but stayed well short of calling for a peaceful protest, a public rally, a press conference or for that matter even a hartal.

At the same time, even if the parties were to mobilize the public opinion against the withdrawal of Article 370, their ability to force a shift in centre's policy will be minimal. For in doing so, they will be up against the new national consensus on Kashmir that sees the integration of the former state into India as a fait accompli.

This makes the demand for the restoration of Article 370 just like the one for autonomy, self rule and Achievable Nationhood. Much will also depend on the evolving geo-politics of the region and how India's equations with China and Pakistan will shape up, and also whether Afghanistan will pass again into the hands of Taliban. It still remains to be seen how these developments will impact Kashmir. As of now, a Kashmir observer has no option but to stay with his fingers crossed.

The author is the Political Editor
of Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, G.P.O. Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Slacking Students

When teachers impart knowledge to students, they pin lots of hopes on them.

The pandemic 2020 crippled almost all the activities of human life. However, teachers played a seminal role in taking forward life in a completely new lifestyle. While doctors strove for the wellbeing and recovery of Covid-19 patients, teachers worked hard to ensure the academic wellbeing of students.

Teachers toiled hard to reach students, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, where we had limited access to the internet. Even as teachers tried to avail applications like zoom, google classroom, google meet; many students did not care to pay enough heed

to online classes. Instead of availing classes at home, a good number of students misused the opportunity. They seldom cooperated with the teachers. They sought excuses to avoid online classes, only to wait for some respite in the exams.

We as teachers have considerable number of cases where we found students signing in for online classes and then leaving the classes halfway. Some even took all the instructions of joining the class online for granted. They worked under the impression that they could easily fool a teacher who is helpless in monitoring them physically. That way they displayed their sheer lethargy towards studies. They showed utter disregard to the hard work and concern of their teachers.

We must remind all those students who don't seek light in darkness that success embraces the deserving. Only those shall have the taste of success who work with dedication and commitment towards their goal. Those who wish to live in comfort zones and seek short-cuts are deceiving themselves. They are not knowledge-seekers.

The Pandemic 2020 has taught us that we must have a greater resolve to fight against catastrophes. We have a great access to education and knowledge through advanced ICT tools. One can only lament those students who are not benefitting through online teaching, training and instruction! The Covid-19 threat is not over. Learn to make ways out of difficulties.

Never compromise on your integrity. The prime purpose of education is to create a healthy society of morally upright people. Students must respect the work that teachers are doing for the community and acknowledge it by making best use of the time they are bestowed with.

• Dr. Shams Kamal Anjum
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The Plight of Uyghur Muslims

ABID RASHID BABA



“We scream and cry hoarse at the slightest insult to our religion but are blind to Uyghur genocide. Someone in France is making a caricature of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) and somebody is writing a satire about the sacred verses. Aren’t Uyghur’s part of what Quran calls Ummah? No solidarity with them.

Before embracing Islam around 10th century, Uyghur’s practiced Buddhism, Shamanism and Manichaeism. They had their own color, culture and cuisine. Xinjiang is the largest province of the Red Dragon. It borders eight countries, most of which are Muslim majority. In 1949, Mao Zedong forcibly annexed it to prevent Russia from taking over. 76% of Muslims used to live in Xinjiang back then. In last seven decades, they are reduced to just 40%. China has destroyed 80% (approx... 18K) mosques, according to latest ASPI study.

Few fortnights back, a drone footage unmasked a dirty side of China. Uyghur Muslims living in Xinjiang province are blindfolded and taken to unknown concentration camps. Satellite images prove that Chinese government has built hundreds of detention camps and they continue to expand. In the far north-west of ‘People’s Republic’ of China, a monstrous crime is taking place. What Beijing calls ‘political education centers’ are carbon copies of Guantanamo Bay. Forced indoctrination takes place in China’s most militarized zone. Xinjiang is a black hole for Muslims.

The official mouthpiece of the new totalitarian state believes that it controls Islamic extremism through these concentration camps but facts and figures tell complex telling tales. In 2019, the Washington-based Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) published a report detailing this campaign, titled “Demolishing Faith: The Destruction and Desecration of Uyghur’s Mosques and Shrines.” Radio Free Asia recently reported that a public toilet has been erected on the site of a demolished mosque in Artush city, northwest of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR). “The Mosque Rectification drive, part of a series of hardline policies under top leader Xi Jinping predates the mass incarceration of as many as 1.8 million Uyghur’s and other Muslim minorities in a vast network of internment camps.” The report read. A new god has been enacted in the city of Xinjiang. Thousands of High Resolution Closet circuit cameras have been enacted to build the army of obedient communist robots.

An investigation by Agence France-Presse revealed that 45 cemeteries have been destroyed from 2014 to Oct 2019 and turned into parking areas. China is planning to shrink Muslim population. Uyghur women are subjected to forced sterilization and abortion. Business Insider recently reported that while men stay in camps, china sends Han men to sleep with Muslim women. They are assigned to monitor their homes. They share bed, bread and body with them. Isn’t it a state sanctioned rape?

Uyghur’s have become victims of forced assimilation. They don’t live life; they just exist. One in every ten Uighur Muslims is behind bars. Out of 10 million Uyghur’s, two million are in jail and the remaining eight million are in constant surveillance. Checkpoints are at every turn. Cameras scan everything under the sky. Muslims are subjected to political indoctrination. They are forced to recite Communist Party propaganda songs every day. Those who don’t, are tortured, publicly shamed and executed. They are released only when they succumb to beliefs and language of china. This is persecution.

Uyghur’s can’t celebrate Eid. They can’t wear

traditional/religious outfit. Women are not allowed to wear Burqas. Young men can’t keep beard. Ramzan fasting is curtailed. The atheist government has launched a massive CASO. Uyghur’s are fleeing repression. 1500 year old written Uyghur literature is banned. When language goes, culture fades.

The silence of international community against their plight especially those who claim to be the defenders of Muslims is appalling. Why is there no outrage from OIC? Why is Turkish president and Pakistani Prime Minister silent on the massacre of Muslims in Xinjiang?

In July 2019, 22 western nations raised con-

cerns about china’s atrocities in Xinjiang. What happened next is unexpected. The state narrative has been that it is a backward feudal region. Since the ethnically driven unrest that flared up in 2009, Xinjiang has seen periodic violence and bloodshed attributed to Uighur Muslims. Chinese state media echo the government’s version of what they make them believe because the president wants the press to be loyal to the state. They can’t toe the line due to the oppressive policies and the Beijing’s political and economic interests.

37 countries wrote a joint letter and white washed china’s crimes as counter-terrorism operations. 14 of these were Muslim countries, all mem-

bers of OIC — a body which claims to represent the aspirations of Muslims across the globe. China has become a key trade partner with Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia. The Belt and Road network, an international trade network has a strategic location. Xinjiang is home to 5th of china’s total oil reserves. It is the biggest producer of coal. 1/3rd of china’s natural gas reserves are located here. Xinjiang contributes 60% of china’s cotton output. This resource rich region is an open jail for the domiciles.

The self-styled custodian of faith like Saudi Arabia issues a statement that “China has the right to take de-extremism measures to safeguard national security.” Beijing is one of Tehran’s biggest trade partner. Erdogan- ‘the modern day sultan’ is busy changing the secular nature of Turkey and converting Museums into Masjids, wants to be in the good books of Xi Jinping. Hence, tight-lipped. Imran Khan, the captain of ‘modern Day Medina’ feigns ignorance about what is actually happening in Xinjiang.

The systematic de-Islamisation of 16 lac Sq.Km Xinjiang happens under the very nose of ‘Saviors of Islam.’ America is complaining at UNGA. Muslim world is not. Not even a single customary condemnation. Money matters. They prefer business over faith. Will they ever wake-up to restore the lost glory of historical Kashgar and Yarkand?

Uyghur children wake up in empty houses and realize later that their parents have been taken for few years. Kids of the stolen parents are left alone so that the government takes care of them. They are stripped of their tradition and faith. People are being tracked by high-tech surveillance web. Buzzfeed News Correspondent Megha Rajagopalan revealed that their mobile phone devices and laptops are checked. “Controlling access is center to their strategy.”

We scream and cry hoarse at the slightest insult to our religion but are blind to Uyghur genocide. Someone in France is making caricature of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and somebody is writing satire about the sacred verses. We need to come out of this tunneled vision. Aren’t Uyghur’s part of what Quran calls “Ummah”? No solidarity with them. Why? We continue to overlook how cruel and barbaric china is vis-à-vis Muslims.

Farooq Abdullah (in his latest interview with Karan Thapar) wants Kashmiris to be “liberated” by China. China links it’s targeting of Uyghur’s to Georg Bush’s global War-on-Terror. When Mao Zedong stressed that “Ethnicity and Religion are two terrible things”, the message was writing on the wall. The idea was clear: to suppress Islam. And Xi, the modern day Czar, is just following the footsteps of his master. Newyork Times accessed Xi Jinping’s secret speech delivered at a leadership conclave in Beijing where he warned of “toxicity of religious extremism”. “We need to use tools of dictatorship to eradicate radical Islam in Xinjiang.” Wonder what Farooq Abdullah would say to that? Think rationally and empathetically.

The author, media fellow with The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), New-Delhi, can be reached at: universalbaba99@gmail.com

Why Turkey Is Flexing Its Muscles Abroad

GONUL TOL

Immediately after a long-simmering conflict in the South Caucasus burst into open warfare late last month, Turkey came to the aid of its Turkic allies in Azerbaijan. It has supplied arms and, allegedly, fighters transferred from Syria, although that has been denied in Ankara.

Unlike most outside powers that called for an immediate ceasefire, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev to fight on.

The Caucasus is only the latest venture for a more muscular Turkey, whose military engagements have stretched from Syria across the Mediterranean.

Where has Turkey become involved?

In the last few years, Turkey has:

- launched three military incursions into Syria
- sent military supplies and fighters to Libya
- deployed its navy to the Eastern Mediterranean to assert its claims in the region
- expanded its military operations against Kurdish PKK rebels in northern Iraq
- sent military reinforcements to Syria’s last rebel-held province of Idlib
- recently threatened a new military operation in northern Syria to confront “terrorist armed groups”.

Turkey also has a military presence in Qatar, Somalia and Afghanistan and maintains peacekeeping troops in the Balkans. Its global military footprint is the most expansive since the days of the Ottoman Empire.

What is behind Turkey’s new foreign policy?

Turkey’s reliance on hard power to secure its interests is the cornerstone of its new foreign policy doctrine, in the making since 2015.

The new doctrine is deeply suspicious of multilateralism and urges Turkey to act unilaterally when necessary.

It is anti-Western. It believes that the West is in decline and Turkey should cultivate closer ties to countries such as Russia and China.

It is anti-imperialist. It challenges the Western-dominated World War Two order and calls for an overhaul of international institutions such as the United Nations, to give voice to nations other than the Western countries.

The new foreign policy doctrine views Turkey as a country surrounded by hostile actors and abandoned by its Western allies.

Therefore, it urges Turkey to pursue a proactive foreign policy that rests on the use of pre-emptive military power outside its borders.

This is a far cry from Turkey’s previous focus on

diplomacy, trade and cultural engagement in its relations with other nations. The change is a function of several domestic and international developments.

What changed?

Turkey’s new doctrine began to take shape in 2015, when the ruling AKP lost its parliamentary majority for the first time in over a decade due to the rise of the pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP).

To regain the ruling party’s majority, Mr Erdogan formed an alliance with nationalists both on the right and left.

They backed him when he resumed the fight against the Kurdish rebels.

How focus turned to Kurds

Turkey’s conflict with the PKK - Kurdistan Workers’ Party - had to a large extent stopped after the group’s imprisoned leader, Abdullah Ocalan, called for a ceasefire with the Turkish state in 2013.

Despite their ideological differences, both the far-right nationalist MHP and neo-nationalists on the left support a heavy-handed approach to the Kurdish problem. They also prioritise national security at home and abroad and espouse strong anti-Western views.

With their support, Mr Erdogan also switched the

“It is anti-Western. It believes that the West is in decline and Turkey should cultivate closer ties to countries such as Russia and China. It is anti-imperialist. It challenges the Western-dominated World War Two order and calls for an overhaul of international institutions such as the United Nations, to give voice to nations other than the Western countries.

country’s parliamentary system to a presidential one granting him sweeping powers.

This alliance with the nationalists and consolidation of his power became the key driving factor behind Turkey’s unilateralist, militaristic and assertive foreign policy.

The failed 2016 coup played a key role in this process.

How coup changed the narrative

According to President Erdogan, the botched coup was orchestrated by former ally Fethullah Gulen, an Islamic cleric in self-exile in Pennsylvania, and it did several things to pave the way for Turkey’s militaristic foreign policy.

It strengthened Mr Erdogan’s alliance with the nationalists.

His sweeping purge of civil servants suspected of having links to the Gulen movement led to some 60,000

people being fired, jailed or suspended from the armed forces and judiciary, and some other state institutions.

The void left by the purges was filled with Erdogan loyalists and nationalist supporters.

The failed coup also strengthened the nationalist coalition’s narrative that Turkey was besieged by domestic and foreign enemies and that the West was part of the problem. That justified unilateral action, supported by pre-emptive deployment of hard power beyond Turkey’s borders.

How approach changed in Syria

The Assad regime’s decision to give a free hand to Syria’s Kurds in the north led to an autonomous Kurdish zone along Turkey’s border and in 2014 the US decided to airdrop weapons to the Kurdish militants, considered to be a terrorist organisation by Turkey. This all fed the narrative that Turkey had to act alone and deploy military forces to protect its borders.

The failed coup also paved the way for consolidation of power in Mr Erdogan’s hands.

Through purges he hollowed out institutions, sidelined key actors in foreign policymaking such as the foreign ministry, and emasculated the military, which had put a brake on his previous calls to launch military operations in neighbouring countries.

Before the coup attempt, he had signalled his intention to launch a military operation into Syria to stem the “terrorist threat” emanating from the Kurdish militias there. But Turkey’s military, which had traditionally been very cautious about troop deployment outside Turkey’s borders, was opposed.

A few months after the coup attempt, President Erdogan got his wish. Turkey launched its first military operation into Syria to curb the influence of the Kurds in the north in 2016 and two more incursions after that.

The move was applauded by the president’s nationalist allies, who fear an independent Kurdish state built with US help along its border. To curb Kurdish influence and counterbalance the US presence in Syria he worked with Russia.

How Turkey switched focus to Libya and E Mediterranean

Libya became another theatre for hard-power tactics.

In January, Turkey stepped up military support to Libya’s UN-backed government of Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj, to stop an offensive by forces allied with Gen Khalifa Haftar.

Turkey’s primary goal in Libya was to secure the Serraj government’s support in a matter important to Mr Erdogan’s nationalist allies: the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkey has been at loggerheads with Greece and Cyprus over energy drilling rights off the coast of the divided island of Cyprus and maritime boundaries in the area.

Ankara signed an agreement on maritime boundaries with Mr Serraj in November in return for military support to the Tripoli government.

Mr Erdogan’s aim was to redraw maritime borders in the Eastern Mediterranean which, in his opinion, provided disproportionate advantages to Turkey’s arch-enemies - Greece and the Republic of Cyprus.

Meanwhile, Turkey sent warships to escort its drilling ships in the Eastern Mediterranean, risking a military confrontation with its Nato partner Greece.

Has it been a success?

Turkey’s assertive policy in Syria, Libya and the Eastern Mediterranean has not yielded the results that President Erdogan’s ruling coalition hoped for.

Turkey could not entirely clear Kurdish militia forces from its border with Syria. Neither Ankara’s maritime agreement with Libya nor its actions in the Eastern Mediterranean have changed the anti-Turkey status quo in the region.

On the contrary, Turkey’s military involvement in these conflicts hardened anti-Erdogan sentiment in the West and unified a diverse group of actors in their resolve to oppose Turkish unilateralism, eventually forcing Turkey’s leader to back down.

A similar fate awaits Turkey’s involvement in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which is already seeing the emergence of a more forceful Russian response and a Russian-Western front against Turkey’s support for Azerbaijan.

What next?

But Mr Erdogan’s nationalist allies want him to fight on. A prominent neo-nationalist, Retired Rear-Admiral Cihat Yayci, argued that Greece wanted to invade western Turkey and urged Mr Erdogan to never sit down with Athens to negotiate.

And the president has little option but to listen to him. As he loses ground in opinion polls, the nationalist sway over his domestic and foreign policies only increases.

BBC News

MALTREATMENT

Linked To Higher Inflammation

IN GIRLS THAN BOYS



Agencies

Girls who are maltreated show higher levels of inflammation at an early age than boys who are maltreated or children who have not experienced abuse, say researchers.

Child maltreatment is behaviour towards a child that is outside the norms of conduct and entails substantial risk of causing physical or emotional harm.

Four types of maltreatment are generally recognised: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse (psychological abuse), and neglect.

The study, published in the journal Developmental Psychobiology, may forecast chronic mental and physical health problems in midlife. The researchers examined the link between abuse and low-grade inflammation during childhood.

Inflammation plays a role in many chronic diseases of aging—diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke, obe-

sity—as well as mental health outcomes, and the findings suggest that the maltreatment's association with inflammation does not lie dormant before emerging in adulthood.

Instead, the study shows that traumatic experiences have a much more immediate impact.

"What our study highlights is that, even as early as childhood, we can see that a substantial portion of the children have levels of inflammation," said study author Katherine Ehrlich from the University of Georgia in the US.

This suggests that these children may be at risk for significant health problems at an earlier age than their non-maltreated peers.

Participants in the study included 155 children aged 8-12 from low-income backgrounds who attended a weeklong day camp. The sample was racially diverse and included maltreated and non-maltreated children. Researchers captured detailed information on children's exposure to abuse.

The children-documented experiences included neglect (55 per cent),

emotional maltreatment (67 per cent), physical abuse (35 per cent) and sexual abuse (8 per cent).

Many children experienced more than one type of abuse, and 35 per cent of children experienced abuse across multiple developmental periods.

The team measured five biomarkers of low-grade inflammation using non-fasting blood samples from the children.

Results revealed that childhood maltreatment—for girls—was associated with higher levels of low-grade inflammation in late childhood.

Girls who had been abused over multiple periods or had multiple kinds of exposures had the highest levels of inflammation.

The findings showed that girls' greatest risk for elevated inflammation emerged when they were abused early in life, before the age of five.

For boys in the study, exposure to maltreatment was not reflected in the higher levels of inflammation, but researchers cautioned against drawing conclusions without additional research targeted to boys.

“WHAT OUR STUDY HIGHLIGHTS IS THAT, EVEN AS early as childhood, we can see that a substantial portion of the children have levels of inflammation,” said study author Katherine Ehrlich from the University of Georgia in the US.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.ARTO/ANG/PUB/2020/3019

Date:-20/10/020

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Hafeeza Banoo W/O Mohd Akber Hajam R/O Sheikhpora Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferrer, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Scooty Bearing Regd. No.JK03J-1783(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Niil. and Mr.Mohd Iqbal Mir S/O Bashir Ahmad Mir R/O Cheeni Chowck 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 Niil.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Any 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.

MJA

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/3031/MVD/ANG

Date:-20/10/020

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Muzafer Ahmad Sofi S/O Mohd Naseer Sofi R/O Achabal (Party No.1st) as Transferrer, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Alto 800 Bearing Regd. No.JK03D-4298(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Niil. and Mr.Farooq Ahmad Mir S/O Bashir Ahmad Mir R/O Shelipora Achabal(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 Any 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.

MJA

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No:- 101/3022/MVD/ANG

Dated:- 20/10/20

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one Mr.Aaqib Abdullah Naikoo S/O Mohd Abdullah Naikoo R/O Kanelwan Cheualapora Owner of Vehicle No.JK03J-6587 for Hire Purchase Endorsement with JK Bank Kanelwan. Now it is therefore notified for General information that objection if any to the proposed cancellation / Endorsement of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the Officer of ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice in Daily Kashmir Observer News Paper.

MJA

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

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RAHI

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(UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR) Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) City Roads Division Srinagar.

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS.

NIT No: - E-NIT/67/CRD OF 2020-21 R&B/ e-tendering, DATED: 19-10-2020.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (in Single cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for below mentioned work:-

| S. No | Name of Work | Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.) | Earnest Money (In Rs.) | Time | T & D of Opening of Bid | Class | MH of Account |
|-------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | Development/ Upgradation of link road at Mirza Colony Baghwanpora near Darul Qasim. (Improvement/ Upgradation of road by way of providing and laying of WBM 3rd, 25mm thick compacted semidense with 6mm thick seal coat at Lanker Lane Zahidpora near Adalat Masjid Hawal Srinagar Part B). "Machine Mix to be Laid Manually". | Rs. 1.75 lacs | Rs. 200/- | Rs. 3500/- | 4 Days | 28-10-2020 at 11:00 AM | DEE Class Civil | 3054 M&R (add) |

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

2. A pre-bid meeting will be held to clarify issued and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage by the bidders.

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 19-10-2020. |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | FROM 20-10-2020 10:00 A.M TO 27-10-2020 |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date | 20-10-2020 FROM 10:00 A.M |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date | 27-10-2020 UPTO 4:00 P.M |
| 5. | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 28-10-2020 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), City Roads Division Srinagar. |

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of introducing Treasury Challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury challan receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) City Roads Division Srinagar and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/ FDR/ pledged to Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) City Roads Division Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

3. The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) City Roads Division Srinagar., (Tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain Valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

5. All other terms conditions are as per PWD form 25 (Double agreement Form).

6. The contractor shall have to submit the working design of Structure from accredited structural consultant for which no extra charges shall be admissible.

NOTE: The Contractor is directed to visit the site before participating in tendering process.

NIT/67/CRD OF 2020-21 R&B/ e-tendering
DATED:- 19-10-2020.

DIPK-7688/20

Executive Engineer,
R&B, City Roads division,
Srinagar.

Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi Srinagar

Fresh e-NIT No.34 of 2020-21 Dated 17.10.2020

For and on behalf of Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar e-tenders (In single cover system) invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors /suppliers Regd. With UTI J&K for each of the following item/work,

| S. No | Name of work | Est. cost (Rs in lacs). | Earnest money/ Bid Security (In Rs) | Cost of tender document (in Rs) | Time of Completion | Class of contract | Major Head of Account |
|-------|---|-------------------------|---|--|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Restoration and procurement of spares for animal control power fence at RSGC Srinagar | 1.90 Lakhs | 3800/= in Shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Turf Manager RSGC | 200/= Non Refundable in shape of DD in favour of Secretary RSGC or Bank Challan SB-12341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar | 20 working days | A class Electrical contractor /Suppliers/ Dealers | 5452-Toursim |

Special conditions: -

- In case the offered bid is below 60% of the advertised cost or more, such bid / bids will be out rightly rejected.
- In case more than one bidder have quoted equal bid amounts or bids are found to a "Tie" 1st lowest will from draw of lots.

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

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 17.10.2020 4:00 PM |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 17.10.2020 to 26.10.2020 (3.00PM) |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date | 17.10.2020 4:00 PM |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date | 26.10.2020 4:00 PM |
| 5. | Date & time of opening of Bids(Online) | 27.10.2020 11:30 AM in the office of Turf Manager RSGC Srinagar |

General Conditions:

1. The successful bidder shall submit original Demand Drafts/CDR and copies of Registration Certificate and PAN//GST No. in person within two days from the opening of the bids failing which proceeding as warranted under rules shall be initiated in the matter.

2. The bidders will provide email ID and complete postal address including cell numbers.

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Bids

37. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

38. . Deductions of Taxes shall be made from the bills of contractors on gross amount of the bills as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery, as admissible under rules.

39. Defect Liability period (DLP) shall be one year calculated from the date of completion of work, if after physical completion of work in all respects, any defect/imperfection in the work done by the contractor becomes apparent on account of bad workmanship or use of sub-standard materials or on any other account within a period of one year, the contractor shall make the same good, at his own expenses. If the Department deems it proper to restore the damages / defects through other agency, the expenses incurred therein shall be recovered from payment amount that may be due to contractor at any time or from the security deposit. The Security deposit of the contractor shall not be refunded before the expiry of (DLP).

40. The CDRs in respect of unsuccessful & untendered bidders shall be released only after depositing of Demand Draft in original (cost of Tender Document) in the office of Turf Manager RSGC

41. In case the IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY is executed by the successful contractor in favour of any other person or Bank, the same shall be entertained subject to acceptance by the competent authority.

No:- RSGC/TM /2020-21/70-72
Dated:- 17.10.2020.

DIPK-NB-3142/20

Turf Manager
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar.

Why China May Want To Keep Donald Trump In White House

Agencies

Beijing: Donald Trump has frustrated and enraged China during a tumultuous first term, but Beijing may welcome his re-election as it scans the horizon for the decline of its superpower rival. Relations are as icy as at any time since formal ties were established four decades ago, with China warning it does not want to be drawn into a new "Cold War" with the United States. Under his 'America First' banner, Trump has portrayed China as the greatest threat to the United States and global democracy. He has launched a massive trade war that has cost China billions of dollars, harangued Chinese tech firms and lay all the blame for the pandemic with Beijing. But another Trump triumph in November may have its advantages for China as President Xi Jinping seeks to cement his nation's rise as a global superpower. China's leadership could be handed "the opportunity to boost its global standing as a champion for globalisation, multilateralism, and international cooperation," said Zhu Zhiqun, professor of political and international relations, Bucknell University. Trump has pulled America from a sprawling Asia-Pacific commercial deal and climate agreements, imposed billions of dollars of tariffs on Chinese goods, and withdrawn the US from the World Health Organization at the height

of a global pandemic.

Where the US has retreated, Xi has stepped forward. He has presented his country as the champion of free trade and a leader in the fight against climate change, as well as vowed to share any potential Covid-19 vaccine with poorer nations. "A second Trump term could give China more time to rise as a great power on the world stage," Zhu said. Philippe Le Corre, a China expert at the Harvard Kennedy School in the United States, agreed an extension of Trump's 'America First' policies would be of long-term benefit for Beijing.

"(It) partially cuts Washington off from its traditional allies," he added, and that gave China room to manoeuvre. China's nationalists have openly cheered, or jeered, for Trump. "You can make America eccentric and thus hateful for the world," Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of the Global Times, a chest-beating nationalist paper, warned in a Tweet directed at the US president. "You help promote unity in China."

- Biden trouble - Trump has undoubtedly inflicted economic and political pain on China. "China has lost out enormously in its plan for trade and technology," said Beijing-based political analyst Hua Po.

Nawaz Sharif's Brother Shehbaz Sharif Sent To Jail In Money Laundering Case

Agencies

Lahore: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif was sent to jail on Tuesday in a money laundering case. Shehbaz, the younger brother of three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on September 28 after a court here rejected his bail application in the 700 crores money laundering case. Next day, the 69-year-old former chief minister of Punjab province was sent on a physical remand by an accountability court. On Tuesday, an accountability court of Lahore rejected the NAB's plea seeking further extension to his physical remand. Shehbaz told the court that NAB didn't ask any questions about money laundering during his three weeks detention. Talking to reporters, Shehbaz criticised the Imran Khan government for arresting Mohammad Saffar, son-in-law of Nawaz Sharif, for raising slogans in giving respect to the ballot. Saffar was on Monday briefly arrested from his hotel room in Karachi, a day after he staged a protest at the tomb of the country's founder and attended a joint opposition rally.

Shehbaz also termed unholy alliance of Imran Khan and NAB behind political victimisation of opposition leaders. He has been shifted to Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore. Maryam Nawaz, daughter of Nawaz Sharif, had said that Shehbaz had been arrested only because he did not leave his elder brother (Nawaz).



Prime Minister Khan recently said the Opposition leaders should be convicted in cases against them. He was complaining about delay in such cases. Shehbaz, who has denied any wrongdoing, was arrested just ahead of the planned protests by his party - the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) - to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Khan. The political temperature is high in the country since the 11 opposition parties formed an alliance - Pakistan Democratic Movement - against the army's involvement in politics.



Karabakh sees fresh fighting despite ceasefire

Agencies

STEPANAKERT: A new ceasefire agreed between Armenia and Azerbaijan to halt fighting over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh was again failing to hold on Monday as both sides accused each other of fresh attacks. The truce, backed by international mediators to put a stop to three weeks of fighting that has left hundreds dead, was supposed to have come into force at midnight (2000 GMT Saturday) but both sides immediately accused each other of violating the deal. But it has never been recognised by any other state, including Armenia, while Azerbaijan has always made clear its desire to regain control in one of the most combustible conflicts left after the fall of the USSR.

The Azerbaijani defence ministry said that Armenian armed forces had shelled areas in four districts inside the country overnight. Meanwhile, the local authorities in Karabakh said Azerbaijani artillery fire continued overnight, with the Karabakh army taking "proportionate actions" in response. However Nagorno-Karabakh's main city Stepanakert was quiet overnight. The ceasefire was the second agreed after a previous truce

thrashed out in Moscow earlier this month never showed any sign of seriously holding. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who has acted as a mediator between Armenia and Azerbaijan in negotiating both ceasefires, said on Monday the continued fighting was "unacceptable." He said the warring sides and international players should "immediately stop ratcheting up confrontational rhetoric" and reiterated the importance of putting in place ceasefire monitoring mechanisms. "We are working on this," he added following talks with Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejcinovic Buric. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev accused Armenian forces of "blatantly" violating the ceasefire, including firing on residential areas, and said there were dead and wounded. Writing on Twitter, he said Azerbaijani forces had taken control of 13 more Armenian-held settlements. Azerbaijan has repeatedly claimed military success in the current fighting by taking control of areas both within Karabakh and other Azerbaijani territory that had been held by Armenian forces. But analysts say Azerbaijan is

unlikely to be able to retake control of Karabakh through military means alone, while the seemingly irreconcilable positions on both sides makes a diplomatic solution elusive.

Fears remain of the conflict broadening, with Turkey strongly backing its ally Azerbaijan even as Ankara rejects charges it has sent in both Turkish military personnel and Syria militia members to help Baku.

UN chief Antonio Guterres on Sunday called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to "fully abide" by the new ceasefire, his spokesman said.

The new deal was announced after one of the conflict's deadliest attacks on civilians so far on Saturday, when a missile hit a residential area of Azerbaijan's second city Ganja, killing 13 people including children.

The clashes over Karabakh that erupted on September 27 have left more than 800 dead, according to official figures, but the real number may be much higher as Azerbaijan has not disclosed its military toll.

According to Yerevan, 710 Armenian soldiers and 36 civilians have been killed in the current flare-up of fighting. Baku says 60 Azerbaijani civilians have been killed.

Israel, UAE agree visa-free travel for nationals: Netanyahu

Agencies

Jerusalem: Israel and the United Arab Emirates agreed on Monday to reciprocal visa-free travel, making Emirati citizens the first in the Arab world to not require Israeli entry permits.

The deal was signed after the first-ever official delegation from the UAE landed in Israel for a day of talks following an agreement to normalise ties signed at the White House last month.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, wearing a mask as he greeted the UAE delegation at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv, de-

scribed the visit as "a glorious day for peace".

"Today, we are making history in a way that will stand for generations," the right-wing premier said of the Israeli-UAE accord, which has been angrily denounced by the Palestinians.

The two states signed four agreements on Monday, including one "exempting our nationals from visas", Netanyahu announced, arguing that free movement of people would offer benefits to the Israeli and Emirati economies.

Missile kills 12 in Azerbaijan city, escalating Karabakh conflict

Agencies

London: British researchers on Tuesday said they hope to expose healthy volunteers to the virus that causes Covid-19 in a groundbreaking study to discover the amount needed for people to become infected.

The Human Challenge Programme -- a partnership that includes Imperial College London -- hopes the work will ultimately help to "reduce the spread of the coronavirus, mitigate its impact and reduce deaths".

In what researchers called a world first, the opening stage of the project will examine the possibility of exposing healthy volunteers to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. They aim to recruit volunteers between the ages of 18 and 30 with no underlying health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes or obesity.

"In this initial phase, the aim will be to discover the smallest amount of virus it takes to cause a person to develop Covid-19," Imperial College said in a statement. The volunteer would be infected via the nose, Peter Openshaw, professor of experimental medicine at Imperial, told BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday. "The great advantage of these volunteer studies is that we can look

at each volunteer very carefully not only during the infection but also prior to infection, and we can work out exactly what's going on at every stage," he added.

The researchers would use the results to study how vaccines might work and to explore potential treatments.

Because the study deliberately infects the volunteers, "it should be possible for scientists to begin to establish efficacy very quickly, by testing if those who have had a vaccine are less likely to become infected with the virus", explained the researchers.

"Our number one priority is the safety of the volunteers," said Chris Chiu, from Imperial's department of infectious disease.

"No study is completely risk free, but the Human Challenge Programme partners will be working hard to ensure we make the risks as low as we possibly can."

"The UK's experience and expertise in human challenge trials as well as in wider COVID-19 science will help us tackle the pandemic, benefiting people in the UK and worldwide," he added.

The study is expected to begin early next year, said the research team from the partnership, which also includes the government, a clinical company and a hospital.

No Danger To Crew After ISS Issues Resolved: Russia

Agencies

Moscow: The International Space Station (ISS) is now working normally with no danger to its occupants after the crew managed to resolve a series of technical issues overnight, Russia's space agency said Tuesday.

The crew aboard the ISS had reported issues with the oxygen production system, a toilet and the oven for preparing food.

"The problems that occurred on board the ISS during the night of 19-20 October have been fully resolved by the crew," Russia's space agency Roscosmos said in a statement.

"All the systems of the station are working well and there is no danger to the crew or the ISS."

The crew had reported overnight that the toilet on the Russian segment of the ISS was out of order, that the water systems used to supply oxygen to the crew were empty and that there were problems with heating food.

The issues arose as half of the six person crew -- NASA's Chris Cassidy and cosmonauts Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner -- are preparing to leave for an arrival back on Earth early Thursday.

The issues were the latest technical problems to hit the ISS, whose crew have had to manage an array of troubles in recent weeks. The orbital lab's first module was launched over two decades ago in 1998 and there have been growing concerns about its age.

Last week, the oxygen supply system in the Zvezda module of the Russian segment of the station failed. Roscosmos said at the weekend that this has now been repaired.

A small air leak that was detected in August has also now been patched up, after tea leaves from a torn tea bag helped alert the crew to the site of the leak.

Quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency last week, veteran Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka said that the Russian equipment on the ISS was well past its use-by date.



NEWS MAKERS

"Fauci A Disaster. We'd Have 500,000 Deaths If I Listened To Him": Trump

LAS VEGAS/WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump called coronavirus expert Anthony Fauci a "disaster" on Monday, airing his frustration with the scientist during a call meant to reassure campaign staff he has a path to victory on November 3 despite trailing in opinion polls.

Trump and Fauci, a member of his coronavirus task force, have been at odds over how best to handle a pandemic that has killed more than 219,000 people in the United States and weakened the Republican president's case for re-election.

Fauci, 79, who has served under Republican and Democratic presidents and is one of the most admired scientists in the United States, has urged that COVID-19 continue to be taken seriously. Trump has suggested the worst has passed.

"Fauci is a disaster. If I listened to him, we'd have 500,000 deaths," Trump said during the call, which the campaign al-



lowed reporters to join.

Fauci has openly complained about being cited in a Trump re-election campaign advertisement that discussed the administration's pandemic response, and said in an interview broadcast on Sunday night by CBS' "60 Minutes" that he was not surprised Trump himself contracted the virus.

Trump, speaking from his signature hotel in Las Vegas ahead of two rallies in Arizona, said Fauci bombed during TV interviews but that it would be "a bigger bomb if you fire him."

Fauci's office did not imme-

diately respond to a request for comment. Trump said Americans were fed up with pandemic restrictions.

"People are saying: 'Whatever. Just leave us alone.' They're tired of it. People are tired of hearing Fauci and all these idiots," said Trump, whose rallies include many supporters not wearing masks and standing shoulder to shoulder, at odds with the guidance of Fauci and other public health experts.

"Fauci is a nice guy. He's been here for 500 years," Trump added. Republican Senator Lamar Alexander issued a statement calling Fauci, who has been director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984, "one of our country's most distinguished public servants."

"If more Americans paid attention to his advice, we'd have fewer cases of COVID-19, and it would be safer to go back to school and back to work and out to eat," Alexander said.

London Airport Unveils Rapid Pre-Flight Coronavirus Tests

LONDON: London's Heathrow airport on Tuesday began to roll out paid-for rapid coronavirus testing, with results in one hour, as it seeks to boost demand decimated by the deadly pandemic.

The LAMP saliva test, which does not have to be processed in a laboratory, will cost \$102 per passenger and is available initially for passengers flying to Italy and Hong Kong from Terminals two and five.

The Covid-19 test will provide results more quickly than those used by Britain's state-run National Health Service, according to the Heathrow test providers -- aviation services company Collinson and logistics firm Swissport.

Passengers will be asked to register online for the test before travelling to Heathrow, which is based west of the British capital.



Collinson and Swissport described the tests as a "critical step" in the aviation sector's recovery, "restoring traveller confidence and re-opening routes from the UK to the rest of the world".

Italy and Hong Kong require passengers to provide evidence of a negative Covid-19 test prior to departure, a statement added.

However the British government last week removed Italy from its travel corridor list, meaning travellers from the country have to quarantine on entering the UK.

Passengers arriving in Britain from Italy, San Marino and the Vatican State now have to self-isolate for 14 days, under new guidance that came into force Sunday.

Italy joined other major tourist destinations on the list, including France and Spain, as a second wave of coronavirus sweeps Europe and triggers stricter curbs on public life.

New British Airways chief executive Sean Doyle on Monday urged the UK government to end the quarantining of passengers arriving from abroad in order to boost tourism and kick-start economic growth.

6 Passengers arriving in Britain from Italy, San Marino and the Vatican State now have to self-isolate for 14 days, under new guidance that came into force from Sunday.

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