



Maximum : 19°C  
Minum : 07°C  
Humidity : 41%

SUNSET  
Today 05:29 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:01 AM



## News Digest

### Kulgam Murder Case Solved: Police

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday claimed to have solved murder case of a woman by arresting the accused in south Kashmir's Kulgam district after carrying out investigation in a "professional manner".

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that on November 10, Police Station Kulgam received information that Mehmooda of Shurat has been assaulted at her native village and was shifted to District Hospital Kulgam for treatment. Acting promptly, the police spokesperson said a team of police headed by DySP

### Tipper Crushes Teen Biker To Death

Srinagar: A teenage motorcyclist on Wednesday was knocked to death by a tipper in Dooruarea of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 19-yr-old Shakeel-Ur-Rehman of NadooraDooru was riding his motorcycle when a tipper (JK13A-9311) hit him near Pooliarea of Verinag on Wednesday, official sources said. The injured teenager was removed to the nearby health facility for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead. Meanwhile, Police have registered a case and started further investigations.

### City Traders Slapped With Rs 2.6L Fine

Srinagar: The district administration realised Rs 2.62 lakh fine from 394 erring traders during market checking drive in Srinagar City in the month of October, officials said Wednesday. They said that the Enforcement Squad of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) has recovered a fine of Rs. 2.62 lac from 394 erring traders during market checking within the vicinity of Srinagar City in the month of October 2020. During the market checking, the officials said 1352 business establishments were

### House Guttred In Eidgah Blaze

Srinagar: A residential house was on Wednesday gutted completely while another suffered partial damage in a fire incident in Eidgah area of this capital city. Fire broke out in the residential house of Tariq Ahmad Dar, son of Muhammad Amin Dar at New Colony Wanganpora area of Eidgah on Wednesday afternoon leaving it completely gutted, officials said. The fire, they said also caused partial damage to another house belonging to Ghulam Nabi Matta. The cause of fire is said to be gas leakage, officials said.

### 129 More Test Positive In Ladakh

Leh: The COVID-19 tally in Ladakh surpassed the 7,000-mark on Wednesday with 129 more people testing positive for the infection, according to an official bulletin. The fresh cases pushed the infection count to 7,063 in the Union Territory, the bulletin said. The death toll linked to the pandemic stands at 85 in Ladakh, while 6,058 patients have so far recovered from the infection in the UT. According to the bulletin released by the

## DDC Polls: PAGD To Release Candidate List Today



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Days after deciding to contest the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls unitedly, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of top political parties in J&K, is set to release the list of its candidates for the first phase tomorrow.

The conglomerate of seven

mainstream parties has worked out a seat-sharing pact for the first phase of the polls for which tomorrow is the last date for filing nominations, sources said Wednesday.

"The seat-sharing arrangement has been worked out for the first phase. All the parties who are part of the alliance have prepared the list of their candidates and have sent it to their respective

### Mechanism In Place For Smooth Conduct Of Polls: Sharma

Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commissioner (SEC) K K Sharma on Wednesday said that elaborate measures have been undertaken for the

### Apni Party, DSSP Allotted Common Symbols

Jammu & Kashmir State Election Commission on Wednesday allotted common symbols to Altaf Bukhari-led Apni Party and Lal Singh-headed

### India, China To Resolve LAC Standoff?

NEW DELHI: India and China may be on the verge of a breakthrough in resolving the over six-month-long tense border standoff in eastern Ladakh with both sides broadly agreeing on a three-step process on disengagement of troops and withdrawal of weaponry from all major friction points in a time-bound manner, authoritative sources said on Wednesday.

The broad contours of the proposal include removal of armoured personnel carriers within one day of inking an agreement, withdrawal of troops from specific areas on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in

### SC's 'Outrage' On Right To Liberty Has Been Selective: Mehbooba

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said while she agrees with the Supreme Court's "outrage" on right to liberty, it has been selective when it comes to Kashmiris.

Her remarks came in light of the Supreme Court's observations while hearing the bail plea of Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami.



NO PHOTO ABID BHAT

## Class 10th Examinations Commence In Kashmir

'Separate Exams To Be Held For Covid-19 Infected Students: JKBOSE

### Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- The annual board examinations for Class 10, conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education (JKBOSE), commenced in the Kashmir valley on Wednesday with COVID-19 safety measures in place, officials said.

The examinations are the first

major school-related activity in the valley since the pandemic broke out, the officials said.

They said 1,06,465 students -- comprising 74,465 from the valley and 32,000 from Jammu winter zones -- are expected to appear for the examination to be held at 1,145 centres - 814 in the valley and 331 in the winter zones of Jammu.

The examination centres have been almost doubled from the previous year to ensure adherence to social distancing norms, the officials said.

In order to prevent the spread of the infection, the authorities have put in place various preventive measures including social distancing norms and the use of masks and hand-sanitisers, they said.

**"WE WILL CONDUCT EXAMINATION FOR THE INFECTED students separately. They just need to inform the BOSE with proper bio data and medical certificate,"**

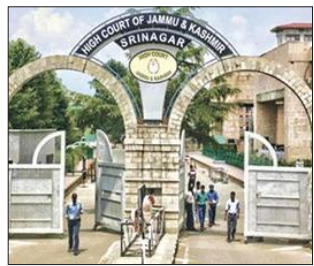
## Bar Puts Off Election, Forms Ad Hoc Committee

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association (JKHCBA) on Wednesday cancelled its yearly election and formed an ad hoc committee, days after authorities here barred it from holding any polls until it clarified its position on terming Kashmir a disputed territory.

On Monday, Srinagar District Magistrate Shahid Choudhary issued three notices to the president of the bar association asking them to explain its Constitution which terms Kashmir a disputed area.

Choudhary barred the bar association from holding any elections until it clarified its position



and also asked them to submit relevant documents, including the article of the association and registration papers.

The Srinagar district magistrate also imposed prohibitory orders in the district court complex here. Post the imposition of prohibition by the district

## Eviction Of Ex-Mantris, Babus HC Gives Govt 'Last Opportunity' To Disclose Policy

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday gave "last opportunity" to government to file compliance report, disclosing the policy regarding retention or otherwise of the ministerial bungalows and other accommodation of the estates department by the former ministers, ex-MLAs, retired IAS Officers, MLCs and political persons in J&K.

As soon as the case came up for hearing, Senior Additional Advocate General B. A. Dar sought some more time to update the compliance report regarding eviction of

### Ex-JKB Chairman's Plea Against Dismissal Rejected

Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition by Pervaiz Ahmad Negroo, challenging his dismissal as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Board of Directors of the Bank last year.

the former ministers, ex-MLAs, retired IAS Officers, MLCs and political persons who are still unauthorizedly residing in ministerial bungalows as well as A, B and C-type accommodation of the Estates Department, both at Jammu as well as Srinagar and recovery of outstanding amount from the autho-

rized and unauthorized occupants. On being asked as to why time was sought again and again for updating the compliance despite there being repeated directions from the Court, B A Dar submitted that he was making such request only on the instructions of the authorities in the Estates Department.

## 10 More Corona Deaths In J&K, Toll 1561

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as ten more people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, taking the number of Covid-19 related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1561.

In Kashmir Valley, six more people died of coronavirus, while four others lost the battle with the deadly infection in Jammu division, officials said Wednesday. Among the six victims from Valley, three were residents of Srinagar, two from Baramulla and one from Kupwara in north Kashmir.

According to the officials, a 67-year-old man from Alamgari Ba-

zar here, who was admitted to SMHS hospital with bilateral community acquired pneumonia on October 24, died this morning. Besides him, a 60-year-old man from Nawa Kadal also died at SMHS hospital, four days after he was admitted to the hospital with bilateral CAP. Also, officials said a 58-year-old man from Safa Kadal Srinagar died at SKIMS Soura, officials said. "He was admitted on October 17 and died this afternoon," they added.

Regarding the deaths from Jammu region, officials said two were from winter capital of J&K and one each from Udhampur and Doda districts.

Srinagar district with 385 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (273), Baramulla (153), Budgam (94),

### Cases Cross 1L Mark As 507 More Test Positive

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir crossed one lakh mark on Wednesday as 507 more people, including 35 travelers in Union Territory tested positive

Pulwama (84), Kupwara (76), Anantnag (76), Rajouri (48), Kulgam (48), Bandipora (48), Doda (49), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (35), Udhampur (33), Kathua (33), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Ramban (18), Kishtwar (15), and Reasi (8). (With GNS inputs)

## India to Regulate Online News, Social Media Sites

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government has brought films, audiovisuals, news and current affairs content on online platforms under the domain of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat on Tuesday night, content made available by online providers such as Netflix will also come under the ministry.

The notification, signed by President Ram Nath Kovind, said the decision has been taken in ex-

ercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution, by amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 and it will come into effect immediately.

With this, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has the power to regulate policies related to news, audio, visual contents and films available on online platforms.

These rules may be called the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Three Hundred and Fifty Seventh Amendment

### India, Pak Troops Trade Fresh Shelling

JAMMU: For the third consecutive day Wednesday, India and Pakistani troops continued to trade heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch and the International Border (IB) in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani troops resorted to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward posts and villages along the LoC in Poonch besides the IB in Kathua, officials said Wednesday.

The Indian Army and the Border Security Force (BSF) retaliated effectively. There was no report of any casualty or damage on the Indian side, they said.

"Around 0915 hours, the Pakistani army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in Kirni,

### Prez Grants More Powers To LG Ladakh

SRINAGAR: The President of India has empowered the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Union Territory to exercise the powers and functions exercised by the State government under "The Protection of Human Rights Act-1993".

"In pursuance of clause (1) of article 239 of the Constitution, the President hereby directs that the powers and functions of the State Government under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 shall, subject to the control of the President and until further orders, be exercised and discharged by the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh," reads a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

## 'Murdered' Soldier's Family Seek CBI Probe

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The family of an army man who was allegedly abducted and killed by militants in August this year, staged a protest here on Wednesday demanding CBI probe in the mysterious disappearance of their son.

The family and relatives of Territorial Army rifleman Shakir Manzoor appeared in Srinagar's Press Colony on Wednesday and staged a protest against the alleged indifference and failure of the state authorities, especially the police in tracing the whereabouts of the soldier. The family alleged that the soldier was abducted in broad day light and paraded in several villages but police have no clue of his abductors.

On August 2, Rifleman Shakir Manzoor of 162 Battalion (TA) went missing and his vehicle was found abandoned and burnt in south Kashmir' Kulgam district. Shortly after his alleged abduction, an unverified audio clip surfaced on social media in which a person, suspected to be a militant, claimed to have killed and buried Manzoor discreetly.

Narrating the sequence of events, Shakir's father Manzoor Ahmad Wagay told journalists that his son was abducted and paraded through several villages in full public glare, days after he was transferred from Rangreth to Shopian.

"Since his abduction, I have been aimlessly and tirelessly looking for my son. I even put to risk

## In FOCUS Crisis Teams Can Counter Surging Suicides In Kashmir

Zeeshan Imroz

A part from 'growing cases' of cardiac arrests targeting young Kashmiris, sudden suicides involving preteens have already sent chilling signals across the valley.

The suicidal tendencies, Crime Branch's fresh figures now reveal, have soared in Kashmir, as around 390 suicide attempts were made in the valley till September 2020, compared to 284 and 330 attempts in 2019 and 2018 respectively.

Among others, Dr Syed Aqeel Hussain, a Consultant Psychiatrist and a Fellow of the Royal College of

Psychiatrists London, is keeping a close eye on his homeland's rising suicide graph.

"There's clear evidence if we've a crisis team which includes people working in the primary health care and if they provide basic support, counselling at that time and do basic assessment, it might reduce the risk of suicide by 20 percent," says Dr Hussain, who has been working as the international coordinator for WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme.

According to the mental health specialist, if crisis teams are established in all districts, they could be helpful in collecting data, as the suicide numbers from Kashmir



aren't available on the WHO map of age-standardized suicide rates.

"The crisis teams could be helpful in making recommendations to

the government based on ground based knowledge with regards to the management of suicide in young population," the mental health expert says.

### Twin Strategy

During his 2017 Geneva visit to launch his first suicide report, Dr. Hussain had bumped into a Tamilian professor namely Vijay Kumar Lakshmi and learned about a twin strategy which had curtailed suicide rate in Tamil Nadu.

"One being setting up of pesticide banks," Dr Hussain continues. "Instead of taking pesticides home, farmers stored it in the pesticide banks in the



# Delegation Led By Ladakh BJP MP Call On Defence Minister, Mos Home

**LEH:** A high-level BJP delegation led by Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal on Wednesday met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy in New Delhi where they raised various demands including setting up underground bunkers for border residents, an official spokesman said.

The delegation also sought easing of restrictions along the China border for native locals to take their livestock for grazing to pasture land along the border, the spokesman said here.

He said the delegation, which also included newly elected Chairman-cum-Chief Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Leh, Tashi Gyalson, discussed in detail various border issues and demands of Ladakh in general and Leh district in particular.

This was the first visit by the members of the 6th LAHDC-Leh after BJP retained power in the recently held election.

Among various demands, the spokesman said the delegation sought construction of underground bunkers for civilians living along the border to protect their lives during any emergency, extension of the northern grid to



Image for representation

Changthang region, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) towers at border villages and other villages lacking communication facilities, the spokesman said.

He said the delegation also sought permission and No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of Defence to operate Demchok Jio Tower that has been installed, permission for tourists

to visit Siachen base and implementation of earlier orders, BSNL tower under the Army's control to be made available for civilians living along the border and operate by controlling signal radius; better facilities like health, clothing and wages for labourers deployed at Siachen.

They also demanded release of nearly three acres of land un-

der the Army's control to make 'UDAN' scheme to be implemented at Thoise Nubra, easing of restrictions along the China border for natives to take their livestock for grazing to pasture land along border, increase in the tonnage volume on Army planes during winter months to provide vegetables and other essential items for nutritious food to people, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The delegation demanded preference to local youths in Army recruitment in Ladakh, regularisation of local porters with better wages throughout the year and preference to local labourers during winter months as they were disengaged during winter months by contractors, the spokesman said.

He said the delegation also strongly stressed on early completion of Nimoo-Padum-Darcha road keeping in mind the strategic importance of the road for Ladakh and blacktopping of Wanla-Lingshed to Padum road at the earliest as this road has emerged as an alternative road during winter for both the Army and locals.

The Defence Minister assured the delegation of addressing priority wise all the demands in the

coming months and years, the spokesman said.

Later, the delegation called on MoS Home Reddy and submitted a memorandum of demands, which among others sought amendments in the council acts, smart city projects for both Leh and Kargil district and early creation of the proposed new districts.

The memorandum also demanded setting up of Ladakh Public Services Commission, allowances for Ladakh Police, regularisation of contractual, daily wagers and casual labourers engaged in various departments; early recruitment of available vacant posts and creation of new required posts in the UT to fill up the shortage of manpower, the spokesman further said.

He said it also pressed for inclusion of Thoise airport under the UDAN scheme and improvement of telecommunications, electricity and establishment of bunkers in Changthang border area.

Reddy gave a patient hearing to all the demands and assured the delegation of fulfilling them.

The MoS Home also assured the delegation that there would be no shortage of funds for the development of the Union Territory, the spokesman said.

## Left Parties Claim Irregularities In Final Stages Of Vote Counting In Bihar

**New Delhi:** The Left parties alleged on Wednesday that there were "irregularities" during the final stages of counting of votes in the Bihar Assembly polls and said the issue will be raised with the Election Commission (EC) soon.

The three Left parties -- Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) -- won an impressive 16 of the 29 seats they contested in the Bihar polls.

"The Left parties are of the opinion that there were certain clear irregularities during the last stages of the counting that need to be seriously addressed by the Election Commission. Along with other partners of the Mahagathabandhan, the Left parties will take up these matters with the Election Commission of India," the three parties said in a joint statement.

Of the 16 seats, the CPI-ML (Liberation) won 12, while the CPI and the CPI(M) won two each.

Sources said that the Left parties and their alliance partners RJD are deliberating on the issue of malpractice during the counting of votes on Tuesday and have the support of the Congress.

The CPI(ML), which demanded a recount in three seats, will seek CCTV footage from the counting centres before taking a final call on the matter, sources said.

"The EC must ensure recounting of votes in all seats where victory margin is narrower than postal ballots. Several MGB candidates have been declared defeated by extremely narrow margins and irregularities have been reported in the counting process," said Dipankar Bhattacharya, CPI(ML) general secretary, in a tweet late on Tuesday night.

## DDC Polls: PAGD To Release ...

party high commands for approval. The list is being handed over to PAGD chairman and National Conference (NC) president, Dr Farooq Abdullah, who will announce the names of candidates tomorrow," they said.

The PAGD comprises of National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party, Peoples Conference and some smaller parties.

The alliance is seeking restoration of Article 370 and Jammu & Kashmir's statehood.

National Conference (NC) General Secretary, Ali Muhammad Sagar said the PAGD would release the list of candidates for the first phase of elections tomorrow.

He said the PAGD is not fighting elections to gain power but to become the voice of the 'voiceless' people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, Farooq Abdullah had on Monday stated that parties under the banner of PAGD will contest polls on their own symbols but there will be only one candidate of alliance in each segment. "Polls have been announced in a hurry and we do not have a common symbol," Dr Farooq had said, adding that candidates will contest polls on symbols of their parties.

A senior leader of PAGD told news agency KNO that their real contest would be with BJP in mainland Jammu.

"We will easily win in Kashmir, Pir Panchal and Chenab regions but our contest would be with BJP in Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Reasi and Udhampur districts," he said.

## Mechanism In Place For...

smooth conduct of District Development Council (DDC) elections and Panchayat bypolls in the Union Territory.

Sharma was interacting with the representatives of different political parties including the BJP, Congress, National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party and Bahujan Samaj Party here.

The maiden DDC polls along with by-elections for panchayats and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are being held in eight phases in Jammu and Kashmir, beginning on November 8.

On the arrangements being made to ensure smooth and hassle-free conduct of elections, the SEC said a foolproof mechanism has been put in place, besides ensuring synergized coordination between different departments involved in the process.

Responding to the demands and suggestions of the political parties, Sharma assured them that these would be looked into and redressed properly.

He said the parties should also actively participate in the elections which would go a long way in further strengthening the democratic setup, besides ensuring governance to the district and grassroots level across the union territory.

Meanwhile, the SEC along with Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer Hirdesh Kumar launched the Systematic Voter Education and Voter Participation (SVEEP) activities in view of the upcoming polls.

Sharma said the main purpose behind initiating SVEEP is to sensitise voters regarding the importance of their vote and inspire them to exercise their franchise in a non-partisan and idealistic manner.

"SVEEP activities have also been going on earlier as well but now with the assistance of NGOs, student community, youth clubs and other partners of government, semi-government departments and other institutions, the activities will be run in full steam at central as well as at district level," he said.

On the day of launch, Sharma released six radio jingles in Kashmiri, Dogri, and Hindi on the electronic medium with the motive to raise awareness among the masses, the spokesman said.

## Apni Party, DSSP Allotted...

Dogra Swabhimani Sangathan Party (DSSP) for the upcoming district development council (DDC) polls.

According to an order issued by the State Election Commission, Apni Party, which is unrecognized registered party, has been allotted "bat" as common symbol for the polls.

The DSSP has been allotted "Tractor Chalta Kissan" as symbol for all phases except the first phase of DDC polls.

As per the order issued by the SEC, these unrecognized registered parties will get common symbols in DDC polls.

It is worthwhile to mention here that Apni Party was formed after abrogation of Article 370 by Central government.

Lal Singh had floated his own political party in 2019 after he was forced to resign as minister in Mehbooba Multi-led coalition government for addressing a rally in solidarity with the culprits involved in the brutal rape and murder of an eight-year-old child in Kathua.

## India, China To Resolve LAC...

eastern Ladakh and carrying out verification of the disengagement process by both the sides, they said.

The specific proposals for the disengagement and restoration of the status quo ante as existed in April were finalised during the eighth round of high-level military talks between the Indian and Chinese armies in Chushul on November 6 on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The sources said both the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) are looking at sealing the pact in the next round of Corps Commander-level talks as the proposals were agreed to by the two sides.

The ninth round of military talks are likely to take place in the next few days.

Nearly 50,000 Indian Army troops are currently deployed in a high state of combat readiness in various mountainous locations in eastern

Ladakh in sub-zero conditions as multiple rounds of talks between the two sides have not yielded concrete outcome to resolve the standoff. China has also deployed an equal number of troops, according to officials.

The standoff between the two sides erupted in early May. As a first step, both sides will remove their tanks, artillery guns, armoured vehicles and large equipment from the friction points along the LAC to their rear bases within three days from inking the agreement, the sources said.

Under the second step, the PLA will go back to Finger 8 areas from their current position of Finger 4 on the north bank of Pangong lake while the Indian troops would position themselves close to the Dhan Singh Thapa post, the sources said. The mountain spurs in the area are referred to as Fingers.

It was broadly agreed to withdraw around 30 per cent of the troops every day for three days, they said.

In the third step, it was agreed to complete the disengagement process in areas along the southern bank of Pangong lake like Rezang La, Mukhpari and Magar hill. Indian troops occupied a number of strategic heights in the Mukhpari, Rezang La and Magar hill areas around the southern bank of the Pangong lake, after the PLA soldiers attempted to intimidate them in the area on the intervening night of August 29 and 30.

"These are all proposals. There is no agreement signed yet," said a high-level source.

In the final phase of the disengagement process, both sides will carry out a detailed verification process following which normal patrolling is expected to resume, the sources said.

It is learnt that the top military brass deliberated on the proposals for disengagement and de-escalation of tension in eastern Ladakh before the eighth round of Corps Commander talks with the PLA.

The disengagement proposal in Finger areas will mean there will be no patrolling between Finger 4 and 8 areas till there is a resolution of the standoff. India used to patrol till Finger 8.

Army chief general M M Naravane on Tuesday said he was hopeful that the Indian and Chinese militaries will be able to reach an agreement on disengagement and de-escalation of tension in eastern Ladakh. After the last round of military talks, both sides described the negotiations as candid, in-depth and constructive.

They said it was agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and ensure that the frontline troops exercise restraint and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation.

At the seventh round of talks too, both sides had agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement "as early as possible".

India has all along been maintaining that the onus is on China to carry forward the process of disengagement and de-escalation at the friction points in the mountainous region.

Following the sixth round of military talks, the two sides announced a slew of decisions including not to send more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further complicate matters.

The sixth round of talks took place days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi reached a five-point agreement to resolve the row at a meeting in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conclave. The pact included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC.

## SC's 'Outrage' On Right To...

"Agree with SCs outrage on right to liberty. But sadly this outrage has been selective as there are hundreds of Kashmiris & journalists languishing in jails on baseless charges. Forget court ruling they didn't even get a hearing. Why no sense of urgency for their liberty?" Mufti wrote on Twitter.

## Class 10th Examinations...

The examination centres across the valley have also been fumigated to minimize the risk of the infection, they added.

The government has announced 40 per cent relaxation in syllabus for the annual examination.

Meanwhile, Chairperson BOSE Veena Pandita has said that the examination of Covid-19 infected students will be held separately.

"We will conduct examination for the infected students separately. They just need to inform the BOSE with proper bio data and medical certificate," she said.

"Their precious year will not go waste. We will conduct examination for them next time," she added. (With KNT inputs)

## Bar Puts Off Election, Forms...

administration preventing the JKHCBA from conducting polls for the year 2020-21, a meeting of the bar association's general committee was conducted to deal with the situation arising out of the "impediments created" in conduct of the polls, the Election Commission secretary of the association was quoted as saying in a notification issued here.

He said the meeting resolved to constitute an ad hoc committee till the conduct of the election.

The committee will comprise contesting candidates, election body and former elected body of the association which will be headed by advocate Nazir Ahmed Ronga as its convener or chairman, the secretary said. He said post the constitution of the ad hoc committee, the notification for the conduct of the election stands recalled.

The meeting also resolved that another committee, headed by senior advocate Zaffar Ahmad Shah, will look into the issues raised by the district administration.

## Cases Cross 1L Mark As 507...

for Covid-19.

Officials said that Kashmir Valley detected 326 new cases of Covid-19 on Wednesday, while the remaining 181 were reported from Jammu division.

Giving district wise details, officials said that Srinagar reported 140 cases, Baramulla 40, Budgam 31, Pulwama 11, Kupwara 32, Anantnag 14, Bandipora 8, Ganderbal 44, Kulgam 4, Shopian 2, Jammu 94, Rajouri 8, Udhampur 20, Doda 13, Kathua 12, Poonch 3, Samba 3, Kishtwar 19, Ramban 5 and Reasi 4.

Moreover, officials said 433 more patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 103 from Jammu division and 330 from Kashmir.

## India, Pak Troops Trade Fresh...

Shahpur and Qasba sectors in district Poonch," a defence spokesperson said.

Later at 1800 hours, Pakistan again violated the ceasefire in the three sectors, the spokesperson said.

The exchange of fire between the two sides was still underway when reports last came in, the officials said.

They said Pakistani Rangers also opened fire at three border outposts of Satpal, Karol Krishna and Gurnam along the IB in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district.

A cow was injured in the Pakistani firing which started around 9 pm on Tuesday and continued till 4.45 am on Wednesday, they said.

## Prez Grants More Powers To...

On March 18, the Ministry of Home Affairs ordered that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) shall deal with all human rights concerns in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories.

Before the reorganisation of Jammu & Kashmir, the erstwhile state had a full-fledged rights body set-up by the National Conference regime in 1997.

The Commission ceased to exist from October 31, 2019 as the law under which it was established was repealed by the Parliament when it passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act on August 5. The SHRC had made it easier for people to report human rights abuses in conflict-hit J&K. From its establishment till March 2019, the SHRC received 8,529 cases of alleged human rights violations, of which 7,725 had been dealt with.

In this period, the Commission made recommendations in 1,862 cases of killings, torture, custodial disappearance and other violations. (KNO)

## HC Gives Govt 'Last...

In view of the approach adopted by the authorities, the court felt need to apprise the Advocate General of the issue involved and requested him to render the assistance in the matter so as to facilitate an early and speedy decision in the case.

Accordingly, the Advocate General appeared before the Court through Virtual Mode and ensures that an updated Compliance Report, in tune with the directions passed by the Court from time to time, will be filed by the next date of hearing.

"Given the submission made by the Advocate General, two months last opportunity is granted to the respondents (authorities) to submit the updated Compliance Report, thereby disclosing the policy of the Government qua retention or otherwise of the Ministerial Bungalows as well as A, B and C-type accommodation of the Estates Department by the Former Ministers/ Former MLAs/Retired IAS Officers/ MLCs/Political Persons, both at Jammu as well as in Srinagar," the court said and posted the matter on February 3. (GNS)

## Ex-JKB Chairman's Plea...

Negroo had challenged a communication (no.FD/Bkg/21/2019) on June 8 last year addressed by the Additional Secretary to the Government, Finance Department of the erstwhile State, to the Company Secretary J&K Bank Limited, conveying the decisions of the Government that he shall cease to be the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Board of Directors of the Bank. By same communication, the government had nominated R. K. Chibber as Director on the Board and his appointment as the interim Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Board and Bank.

Negroo had claimed that the communications, orders, actions of the government are arbitrary, illegal and in utter disregard of the Banking Regulation Act, Articles of Association of the Bank and the Service Manual of the Bank.

Negroo submitted that termination of the tenure post of Chairman and CEO required the mandatory prior approval of the RBI in terms of Section 35B of the BR Act and that its provisions have an overriding effect over the Articles of Association of any Banking Company or any resolution passed by any Banking Company.

"....the nomination of the petitioner (Negroo) as Director on the Board and his appointment as Chairman-cum-Chief Executive Officer of the Bank was contractual in nature and not governed by any Statute or the service conditions ordinarily applicable to the employees of the Bank," a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey said after hearing both sides. "In view of the matter, this petition, insofar as it challenges communication no.FD/Bkg/21/2019 dated 08.06.2019 addressed by the Additional Secretary to the Government, Finance Department, of the

erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir, to the Company Secretary, J&K Bank Limited, conveying the decisions of the Government taken by it in exercise of the powers under Article 69(iii) of Articles of Association of the Bank, that the petitioner shall cease to be Director on the Board of Directors of the Bank and, consequently, be no longer the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank, is held to be not maintainable. The remedy lies in the civil court," the court said. One thing has to be borne in mind that neither the position of Director, nor of the Chairman/CEO or the Managing Director are promotional posts in the service of the Bank, the court said. "So, nomination of the petitioner (Negroo) as Government Director on the Board or his appointment as Chairman/CEO of the Board of the Bank is not an elevation in the sense of promotion as construed in ordinary service parlance," the court said and dismissed the petition. "This petition is dismissed in limine alongwith all connected CMs as not maintainable before this Court, leaving the petitioner free to approach the civil court for seeking enforcement of his contractual relationship and/or redressal of his contractual dispute(s) with the Bank," the court said.

## India to Regulate Online News...

Rules, 2020. They shall come into force at once. in the Government of India (Allocation of Business, 1961, in THE SECOND SCHEDULE, under the heading 'MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SOOCHANA AUR PRASARAN MANTRALAYA)' after entry 22, the following sub-heading and entries shall be inserted, namely:- VA. DIGITAL/ONLINE MEDIA. 22A. Films and Audio-Visual programmes made available by online content providers. 22B. News and current affairs content on online platforms, it said.

## 'Murdered' Soldier's Family...

my fellow villagers who have been searching for Shakir for last three months. However, no one came to our help, especially police," Wagay said.

He said while searching for his son, he discovered the body of a missing Khanmoh Sarpanch from an orchard in Shopian. However, his son, he said remains untraced 100 days after abduction.

"I have no clue about my son. If my son has been killed, I deserve to see his body. If he's alive, then he must be traced," Wagay said, adding "We demand the case by investigated by the CBI to bring out the truth,"

## Crisis Teams Can Counter...

panchayat. That way people don't have access to pesticides at home, which otherwise was one of the main intakes for poisoning in Tamil Nadu."

The second impulsive overdose for suicides in southern state of India was after the board results were out.

"For that," the Kashmiri mental health expert says, "the professor from Tamil Nadu had initiated the super-supplementary exams held in a few months, so that unsuccessful students could continue with their studies instead of wasting a year waiting for bi-annuals."

In Sri Lanka, the production of toxic fertilizers is banned which Dr. Hussain has suggested for the case of Kashmir as well.

"Stopping access to these chemicals is a major factor that can lead to the reduction of suicides," he believes.

"I spoke to the Royal College and WHO and they said they're happy to send the team on receiving an invitation from the government of Kashmir but unfortunately since I submitted the report, 'Mental Health and the Youth of Kashmir in 2017', there has been no response from the government."

## Kulgam Murder Case Solved...

Hqrs Kulgam and SHO Kulgam rushed to District Hospital Kulgam where officers were informed that she was brought dead.

"Taking cognizance of the case, a Special Investigating Team (SIT) under the supervision of SP Kulgam Gurinderpal Singh was constituted and consequently, a case with FIR number 203/2020 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Kulgam and investigation was initiated," the police spokesperson said.

He said that the investigating officers immediately rushed to the scene of crime and seized the weapon of offence.

"After completion of all medico legal formalities, the dead body of the deceased was handed over to her legal heirs. Officers have also arrested the accused person involved in the crime who has been identified as Ishfaq Manzoor Bohru son of Manzoor Ahmad Bohru resident of Shurat Kulgam," police said.

"Further investigation into the matter is going on. We assure community members that police have resolved to act tough against individuals involved in criminal activities," he added.

## City Traders Slapped With Rs...

inspected and a penal sum was collected as fine from erring shopkeepers including mutton, poultry and vegetable sellers etc.

"Besides, 54 erring traders were also booked in concerned Police stations for violating the Essential Commodities Act, 1955," the officials said. Meanwhile, the erring traders have been warned to avoid profiteering and implement the rates fixed by the government in future.

## 129 More Test Positive In...

Directorate of Health Services on Wednesday evening, 120 new cases were detected in Leh district and nine others in Kargil district, raising the number of active cases in the region to 920 -- 818 in Leh and 102 in Kargil.It said a total of 55 patients were discharged after successful treatment during the past 24 hours. The new COVID-19 recoveries comprise 44 in Leh district and 11 in Kargil.



## LAWDA seals under construction structures

Srinagar: The Enforcement Wing of LWDA ON Wednesday sealed an under construction structure in Gagribal area. The said construction was being raised in violation of norms and was earlier demolished as well. However, the violation was reported again and was sealed this time. The Vice Chairman, LWDA was also accompanying the Enforcement Wing and the structure was sealed in his presence.

Meanwhile demolition, anti encroachment drive was launched from the last two days on 10.11.20 and 11.11.20 by Enforcement Wing under the supervision of Vice Chairman LDA accompanied by Enforcement Officer in which a lot of illegally raised constructions were demolished and encroachments were removed in the areas of Harwan, Shalimar, Rainawari, Dalgate, Saderbal and Lone Mohalla Nowpora which includes 09 single storeys, 04 second storeys, 04 plinths. One structure was also sealed in the area of Buchwara Dalgate.

# 'Sufi Teachings Infuse Spirit of Tolerance'

## Div Com Releases books on Sufism

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 11: The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P. K. Pole inaugurated a 2-days Sufi Conference at Auditorium of DIPR here on Wednesday.

The theme of the conference was 'Sufism- 700 Year's Roots in Kashmir'. The Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal Chowdhary attended the conference as Guest of Honour.

Chairman, Kashmir Society Kh. Farooq Renzushah, Cultural Officer, Kashmir DIPRs, Riyaz Ahmad Fazli, HOD, Markazi-Noor, Kashmir University, G M Khaki besides a galaxy of authors, writers, and scholars were present in the conference.

Addressing the conference, the Divisional Commissioner said that Sufi teachings infuse us with the spirit of peace, sympathy and tolerance while negating hatred, ignorance and racism.

He hailed the spirit of humanism in Sufi traditions of Kashmir



and said that the divisional administration will take all possible steps to promote Sufism for reformation of society. He also called for preservation of Sufi literature in Kashmir libraries.

While appreciating Renzushah for his attempts to revitalize the Sufi traditions in Kashmir, the Div Com said, with such renewed efforts, an atmosphere of peace shall definitely prevail in Kashmir. He lauded his contribution in propagating and adhering to the legacy of Sufis in prevailing chaotic global and regional scenarios. The Divisional Commissioner awarded certificates of appreciation among the authors on the occasion.

Renzushah in his address, highlighted propagation of Sufism and said that people of Kashmir are peace loving and believe in universal brotherhood and equanimity among people of various religions.

ous religions.

He hoped that Kashmir would rise as abode of love, harmony and brotherhood, besides a civilized nation and added that Sufi teachings are a prerequisite for identity of Kashmiriyat.

On the occasion, a number of authors presented their globally circulated books on Tasawwuf in English, Urdu, and Kashmiri languages.

During the different sessions of the first day of the conference scholars, authors, Ulama and Sajadah Nashes presented their papers.

The Cultural Unit of DIPR presented spiritual musical programmes on the occasion.

Among others Mirwaiz North Moulana Sharief ud Din Bukhari, Dr Tabish, Mohammad Yaseen Kirmani, Sheikh Aijaz, Gulshan Publications, Mutwali Aala Sheikh ul Aalam Holy Shrine, Haji Younis, Moulana Noorani Naqashbandi also attended the conference.

## Srinagar Smart City holds 6th BoD Meeting

Several new projects approved, ranking improves

SRINAGAR - The Srinagar Smart City Ltd convened 6th meeting of Board of Directors which reviewed the progress on various projects approved during previous meetings and also approved a host of new projects in various sectors aimed at key infrastructure interventions and developmental initiatives in city.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Pandurang Pole, Chief Executive Officer SSCL / Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Director SSCL Naveen Aggraval, VC SDA Dr Bashir Ahmed, Commissioner SMC, Director Archives and other members were present.

CEO Smart City (DC Srinagar) briefed the board about progress on various projects which include initiative for Smart Power metering, smart water metering under which DPRs have been formulated and funds to the tune of Rs 17 Cr and Rs 45 Cr earmarked to Power and Jal Shakti Departments; city beautification, 5KM long cycle track initiated along 90ft road soura, underground cabling in various parts of city, release of funds to Tourism department for revitalisation of

Yarkhand Sarai, tendering of project for conservation and beautification of Maharajganj Market, Variable Message Display screens installed at 10 locations, work on Smart Vending Zones under progress, conservation of shrines including Imambada Hassanabad, Raghunath Temple, St Louis Church; establishment of Smart Health Centres and Smart Classrooms, tendering of bio-toilets project, completion of civil work of Integrated Command and Control Centre at Bemina, completion of Fire Safety infrastructure project including procurement of boats and fire tenders, installation of Reverse Vending Machines at 10 locations completed, process initiated for procurement of 20 electric buses through SRTC and installation of air, noise and water quality monitoring systems at various places in city. The CEO also informed that 73KM road has been re-developed under Smart City and PWD has been entrusted with installation of signage and street furniture; establishment of Disaster Relief Shelters and emergency evacuation has also been completed.

### Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Shabir Hussain Wani S/o: Ghulam Hussain Wani R/o: Pallar Budgam (Transfer-



or) of LMV Car. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C - 8076. Chasis number 11257 Engine no. 90107 Model 2015. in favour of. Shri.Bashir Ahmad Yatoo S/o. Mohammad Akbar Yatoo R/o Sholipora Budgam (Tranferee)  
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 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1818 Dated 10/11/2020

MCB

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

### Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri: Abdul Aziz Rather S/o: Abdul Ahad Rather R/o: Badran Magam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No:JK04C-9104 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Budgam. .



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1821  
Dated 11/11/2020

MCB

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

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

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

### GIST OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. MDS/TENDER/2020-21/118 ; DATE: - 10.11.2020

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

Description of the work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion	Position of Funds
Shifting/ Transportation/ Loading/ Unloading of 32 mm dia LLDPE lateral pipe rolls under National Mission on Saffron	70,000/-	Rs. 1,400/-	Rs. 200/-	05 days	Approved under NMS
Date of sale of tender documents	11 -11-2020 to 17 -11-2020 (up to 4.00 pm)				
Last date of receipt of tenders	18 -11-2020 (up to 2.00 pm)				
Date of opening of tenders	18 -11-2020				
Tender receiving & opening authority	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Srinagar				

The Tender document can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours

Against cost mentioned above, in the form of IPO/Demand Draft or cash payment. The tender documents shall be issued subject to production of following documents:

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

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

NO: MDS/TS / 4785-89  
Date: 10-11-2020

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

DIPK-8835/20

## Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B CONSTR. DIV. NO. IST SGR e- NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No. 92 /e-tendering /CD-Ist/9062-78 DATED\_10/11/2020

For and on behalf of the President, of India, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT /Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	E/M (In Rs)	Time	T&D of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Re-construction of damaged drain from Gassiyar Chowk to Shaheen Public School.	3,00,000/-	200/-	6000/-	30 days	20.11.2020	DEE	District Sector
2.	Improvement / Upgradation of road surface from Masjid Jamia Lakerpora upto Jamia Qadeem Hanfiya Mandibal Nowsheera by way Of providing and laying GSB, WBM Grade 2nd and WBM Grade 3rd.	2,83,000/-	200/-	5660/-	20 days	20.11.2020	DEE	District Sector
3.	Upgradation of road surface by way of providing and laying WBM Grade 2nd at Hamza lane at Mughal road Lane No. 3 "B"	2,50,000/-	200/-	5000/-	25 days	20.11.2020	DEE	District Sector
4.	Construction of lane at Kantitar Chowk from H/O. Abdul Rashid Akhoun upto H/O. Mohammad Shafi Khan by way of providing and laying WBM Grade 1st and WBM Grade 2nd.	1,50,000/-	200/-	3000/-	20 days	20.11.2020	DEE	District Sector

Position of AAA/TS:- Accorded  
Position of Funds:- Available.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10-11-2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 11.11.2020 10:00 A.M to 19.11.2020 4.00 P.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	11.11.2020 from 10:30 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	19.11.2020 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	20.11.2020 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar.

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

Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected. Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectarat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing E-challan/ or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/ Receipt.
- Similarly, instead of insisting on actual Call Deposit Receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No.1st Srinagar (tender inviting authority) and earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/, pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (tender receiving authority) .
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
  - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
  - The Additional performance security shall be released only after successful completion of work and also certified by the Engineer incharge that no defects has been caused during DLP.

No.92/e-tendering /CD-Ist/9062-78  
DATED\_10-11-2020\_

Sd./  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Construction Division No. 1st  
Srinagar

DIPK-8815/20

### 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
- BIJHERA: 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**

25 Rabi-ul-Awwal  
1442

## PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 36
ZUHR	12: 14
ASR	3:51
Magrib	5:31
ISHA	6:53

## This Day In History

- 1918 - Russia cancels Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- 1921 - US, France, Japan & British Empire sign a Pacific Treaty
- 1956 - US Supreme Court rules race separation on buses in Alabama unconstitutional
- 1979 - Ronald Reagan in New York announces his candidacy for US President
- 1980 - US spacecraft Voyager 1 sends back 1st close-up pictures of Saturn
- 1982 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened in Washington D.C., featuring the names of over 58,000 US soldiers who were killed or missing in the Vietnam War
- 1986 - NASA launches space vehicle S-199
- 1986 - US President Reagan confesses weapon sales to Iran
- 1990 - Saudis ask US for rights to bid on SPR (Strategic Petroleum Reserve) crude
- 1993 - Pakistani minister of Foreign affairs Faruk Laghari elected president
- 1994 - Sweden agrees to join European Union
- 2001 - Doha Round: The World Trade Organization ends a four-day ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar.
- 2001 - War on Terrorism: In the first such act since World War II, US President George W. Bush signs an executive order allowing military tribunals against foreigners suspected of connections to terrorist acts or planned acts on the United States.
- 2001 - US President George W. Bush orders that the Strategic Petroleum Reserve be filled to capacity over the next few years
- 2002 - Iraq disarmament crisis: Iraq agrees to the terms of the UN Security Council Resolution 1441.
- 2007 - An explosion hits the south wing of the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Quezon City, killing four people, including Congressman Wahab Akbar, and wounding six.
- 2008 - Germany's economy, Europe's largest, contracted by 0.5% in the third quarter after GDP fell 0.4% in the second quarter, putting it in recession for the first time in five years
- 2008 - Equity research by Deutsche Bank states that Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines should not experience a recession, despite potential harm to economic growth from falling commodity prices and possible weaker exports
- 2009 - The Netherlands officially exits the recession after experiencing 0.4% growth in the third quarter, but recovery for the Netherlands still remains fragile as the country is highly dependent on exports to maintain the recovery
- 2009 - Germany's growth of 0.7% in the third quarter helps lead the Eurozone out of the recession after providing overall growth of 0.4% in the same period, with the whole European Union growing 0.2%, it is reported today
- 2012 - 3 Syrian tanks enter the demilitarized zone of Golan Heights
- 2014 - Rohit Sharma of India sets a new record of 264 runs against Sri Lanka in an ODI innings in cricket
- 2015 - Terror attacks in Paris at 3 locations leave at least 129 dead. Isis claim responsibility

*From KO Archives*

## US hostage's wife wants write-ups back

Srinagar- The wife of an American hostage missing in Kashmir for more than five years has issued an emotional appeal for the return of draft articles he wrote for foreign journals. "If I never see my husband again, at least to have something he wrote would be of comfort to me Jane Schelly said in a letter sent to media offices in the Kashmir summer capital. Schelly is the wife of Donald Hutchings, who was abducted along with five other foreigners in Kashmir by Muslim militants in July 1995.

One of the hostages escaped, one was beheaded and the other four—including Hutchings remain missing, presumed dead.

Schelly said Hutchings used to write for some journals, and the rough articles were with him when he was kidnapped.

"Some of the pages of that written material might exist somewhere, left in some hut or home, passed to the side and forgotten, she said, appealing to anyone who might have found the papers to send them to her. Hutchings would have been 48 on November 12, and Schelly said the return of his writings would comprise the perfect birthday gift.

"I have done my utmost to find out what has happened to him... There is no conclusive answer," she wrote. If I have no closure to this sad situation ...only the assumption that my husband and three westerners were most likely killed. (AFP)

(Kashmir Observer, November 12, 2000)



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
  
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider  
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304  
Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvr.net

K O V I E W

Polls apart

In a significant decision, Congress has decided to jointly contest the District Development Council polls jointly with the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD). Incidentally, the decision comes after the national party had skipped the recent meetings of the grouping. Now Congress has let it be known that the decision to stay away was tactical in nature in view of the Bihar polls and also a consequence of some controversial statements made by Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti. Abdullah was alleged to have said that China will help Kashmir regain the lost autonomy and Mehbooba had said she wouldn't pick up national flag untill J&K flag was restored. Now the Congress has said it remains very much a part of the PAGD and would fight the upcoming DDC polls "together". Senior Congress leader Saifu-Din Soz has said that the fresh set of laws issued by the Centre on land, industry and scholarships "were meant to disempower the people of J&K and the non-BJP parties have right to fight these draconian measures". This is a shot in the arm of the PAGD. Together the six parties will make a formidable combination and are likely to command the lion's share of the DDC positions in the union territory.

The eight-phase polls will begin from November 28. The elections were announced all of a sudden with the constituencies of the districts yet to be delimited. But the PAGD was also quick to declare its participation taking many people by surprise as earlier the utterances of its top leaders like Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba had said they won't be personally taking part in the exercise. This seemed to indicate that the PAGD was reluctant to fight polls as some quarters had expressed apprehensions that this would normalise the revocation of Article 370. But the PAGD decision has belied such expectations. The six-party alliance, led by senior Abdullah, took the decision after a meeting in Jammu, where members of the amalgam met around 30 separate delegations on a set of listed agenda, including the DDC polls. The alliance has authorized Farooq Abdullah to release the list of candidates for the DDC polls.

Be that as it may, the PAGD has rationalised its decision to participate as a bid to reclaim the political space, cautioning that doing otherwise would enable the BJP and its allied parties to fill in the vacuum and control the levers of power. The grouping also argues that strengthening its political presence at the district level will add force to its position that Article 370 was revoked without consulting people of J&K.

Given the powers the DDCs have been given, they have become the kind of mini-assemblies and the PAGD wants to control them to enhance its political clout. After over a year-long hiatus, the political activity is about to pick up again in J&K. The coming weeks and months are going to get interesting.

O T H E R O P I N O N

On India and COVID-19 vaccine

Multinational drug company Pfizer has announced promising results from its ongoing phase-3 trial of a potential COVID-19 vaccine. However, these early results, of the vaccine candidate being "90% protective" in the trial's volunteers — nearly 40,000 are enrolled — is the only important detail that is public. Pfizer, which is using a vaccine candidate by German firm BioNTech, had disclosed in September that for a vaccine to be judged 60% effective, 164 volunteers would have to contract COVID-19. This includes both the vaccine and placebo groups. The claim of 90% is based on a sample of 94 volunteers but it is not known how many belonged to either group. It is also unclear if those who were eventually infected, manifested mild or moderate severity of disease. Though the results, according to Pfizer, were announced by an expert independent committee, they have not yet been announced by the standard procedure of a peer-reviewed journal. In short, there is still time to be reliably sure that the results actually hold up in a wider population.

Pfizer's announcement may not have an immediate impact for India. Unlike 'Covishield' by the Serum Institute or 'Covaxin' by Bharat Biotech Ltd., there are no large phase-3 trials of the vaccine in India. While there were early discussions with Pfizer, there is as yet no confirmation on whether India can be assured of early access to even a fraction of the vaccine output in the event it is readied. The vaccine candidate is based on an m-RNA technology, which eschews the use of an infectious particle, such as a portion of the virus, and uses a piece of RNA that is then made into an antigen by the body's own machinery. This reduces the odds of untoward reactions. It also does not need to be cultured in chicken eggs or other mammalian cells, allowing it to be made faster and more inexpensively. Though it is at the frontier of novel vaccine production methods, there are still no commercially available m-RNA based vaccines. They also reportedly need to be refrigerated to nearly minus 70°C and India, with its limited cold chain infrastructure, lacks efficient vaccine storage capacity. However, irrespective of whether and when the Pfizer vaccine is available, there is reason for optimism. For one, it shows that scientists' basic strategy — of developing a vaccine to target the spike protein of the virus — is correct and given that this is an approach most vaccine developers are following, the chances of several encouraging results are high. Given that another firm, Moderna, also employs an m-RNA based approach, it is likely that the new vaccine platform may prove to be a breakthrough approach in developing future vaccines. India must keep a close watch on such platform-technology and develop expertise. It must also not lose an opportunity to improve its cold chain infrastructure which currently is developed only for rudimentary vaccines.

The Hindu

Global Trumpism lives on



ZAHID HUSSAIN

‘Muscular nationalism, majoritarianism and populism are the most definite manifestations of the fascist ideology that now seems to be on the rise in various parts of the world. The ascendancy of authoritarian strongmen is causing the rollback of liberal democratic values. The most dangerous fascist trait is the new virulent nationalism that seeks to assert racist, political and cultural hegemony, thus threatening not only democratic processes within states but also regional security.

DONALD Trump may have lost the election but Trumpism is not defeated. The right-wing populism that the outgoing American president championed is still a powerful movement, as demonstrated by the surge in the votes cast in his favour. He received more than 70 million of the counted votes, significantly higher than what he got in 2016.

The nail-biting contest only goes to show that Trumpian populism has taken much deeper roots in four years of maverick rule. The heavy turnout of voters illustrated the existing polarisation in American society that is likely to intensify despite electoral setbacks for the right wing. The 2020 presidential election has reinforced the view that American populism is there to stay and may even take a more aggressive turn.

That should come as a wake-up call for those who have predicted the 'end-of-life cycle' for nationalist populism in the United States and beyond. Notwithstanding its failure to deliver, the phenomenon is far from over. It is true not only for the United States but also other countries swept by rising ultranationalist movements.

Surely, the rise of the current phase of national populism predates Trump, but his holding sway in the world's greatest power had given impetus to such movements that have swept across a number of European and other countries. The Brexit vote in Britain is a glaring example of the ascendancy of nationalism. It has become synonymous with the nationalist isolationism and anti-globalisation wave that brought Trump to power.

There are a number of other countries that are now ruled by right-wing nationalist populist regimes with authoritarian tendencies. National populism often combines right-wing politics and populist rhetoric. Hungary, Brazil, the Philippines, India and Turkey may be the most prominent examples of nations ruled by populist leaders. But there are many other countries that are witnessing the rise of this phenomenon in different shades and forms.

The surge in right-wing nationalism in France, Germany, Italy and some Eastern European countries points to this. The economic downturn, rising unemployment and a fear of growing immigrant populations are major factors reinforcing

right-wing nationalist sentiments in these countries. The ultranationalist groups in Europe are generally associated with ideologies similar to Trump's, such as anti-environmentalism, anti-globalisation, nativism and protectionism. They are all known for their strong opposition to immigration from Muslim countries.

In recent years, European countries have witnessed growing support for nationalist populist movements, such as the National Rally (formerly the National Front) in France, the League in Italy, the Party for Freedom and the Forum for Democracy in the Netherlands, the Freedom Party of Austria, and the UK Independence Party.

There are some strong indications that extreme right-wing nationalist groups could be swept into power in some of these countries. Some recent incidents of violence involving Islamist extremists come in handy for the right-wing groups

In recent years, European countries have witnessed growing support for nationalist populist movements, such as the National Rally (formerly the National Front) in France, the League in Italy, the Party for Freedom and the Forum for Democracy in the Netherlands, the Freedom Party of Austria, and the UK Independence Party.

to whip up nationalist sentiments in France close to the elections. Most of these groups have drawn encouragement from the rise of Trumpism in America. For national populist leaders around the globe, Trump became a source of inspiration, and many of them imitated his style too.

The rise of neo-Nazism in some Western countries is a symptom of their racist politics and populism. Most worrisome is the prospect of Trumpian populism prevailing in other countries. Over the past years, there has been a notable rise of more virulent nationalism. Anti-immigration sentiments have strengthened right-wing extremist nationalism.

Populist leaders often use anti-elitist and anti-establishment rhetoric, and claim to be speaking for the 'common people', but their politics mostly strengthen elitism. National populist regimes, though coming into power through democratic processes, invariably become authoritarian and suppress democratic rights. Democracy has suffered in almost all the countries ruled by nationalist populist leaders, as is the case of India and Turkey.

Muscular nationalism, majoritarianism and populism are the most definite manifestations of the fascist ideology that now seems to be on the rise in various parts of the world. The ascendancy of authoritarian strongmen is causing the rollback of liberal democratic values. The most dangerous fascist trait is the new virulent nationalism that seeks to assert racist, political and cultural hegemony, thus threatening not only democratic processes within states but also regional security.

India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been losing its secular character and establishing oppressive majoritarian rule.

Trump had developed excellent personal relations with muscular nationalist leaders like Modi. Trump's friendly ties with the India leader were well-known. The American president expressed his solidarity with Modi at a massive rally in Houston last year at a time

when the Indian leader was being castigated for a law discriminating against Muslims. Earlier this year, Trump praised the Hindu nationalist leader, saying, "He wants people to have religious freedom and very strongly."

With Trump's exit, the right-wing autocrats and nationalistic movements across the globe have lost their ideological patron. But it is not an end to global Trumpism that has gained ground in many European and Asia countries.

Trump's strong showing in the election keeps alive his radical nationalist ideology that has not only divided America but has also impacted the world. His narrow defeat may embolden the global arch conservative and nationalist populist movements. The new American leadership faces a massive challenge not only to bridge the divide in America intensified by Trumpism but also to change the country's foreign policy course. It is certainly not going to be easy to unite an extremely polarised nation and a disrupted global order.

Dawn



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, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Gender Sensitisation with Law

Gender inequality is a long term problem in our society even today women are discriminated against in many ways. In India's social context, women are legally entitled to equal rights, but there is a great need to sensitize society on gender issues so that there is no problem. Women have the right to be free from violence, harassment, and discrimination. Removing the barriers of an unsafe environment can help women fulfill their potential as individuals and contributors to work, communities, and economies. Gender sensitivity can go a long way to ensure this. Gender sensitization is the modification of behavior so that there are greater awareness and empathy to create gender equality. The National Family Health Survey suggests that 30 percent of women in India in the 15-49 age group have experienced physical violence since the age of 15. The report further reveals that about 31 percent of married women

have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husbands.

Women are discriminated against not only in the womb and childhood but also in every sphere of life. Women are forced to face the day-to-day challenges and limitations in their lives, to ensure their ability for personal development and freedom, and gender equality, to live a better and dignified life, towards an inclusive and secure society. The first step. Gender sensitization will help dispel many assumptions about our being male. Gender sensitization and widespread social change are needed to end gender crimes.

The root cause of gender discrimination is the patriarchal mind prevalent in Indian society. Although this is now changing with urbanization and education, there is still a long way to go. The uneven balance remains due to social conditioning and the incidence of rigid gender constructions. If the child's education is low, they

reduce the likelihood of violence. Gender sensitization is a basic requirement for understanding the sensitive needs of a particular gender. It helps to examine our attitudes and beliefs and to question 'realities'.

According to WHO estimates, less than 40 percent of women experiencing violence seek the help of any kind. Women who ask for help go to family and friends and see very few formal institutions and systems, such as police and health services. Less than 10 percent of those women who sought help to experience the violence appealed to the police. The "latest" data indicates that police file charge sheets in 86% of rape cases but trial courts are only able to settle 13% of pending rape cases with a reduced conviction rate of 32%. In cases of child rape, the conviction rate is 34.2% and the pendency is 82.1%.

Parents have a responsibility in the proper upbringing of a male child. Boys and girls should be raised in an

atmosphere of freedom and a culture of mutual respect. It is important to implement and implement and implement policies that promote gender equality by ending discrimination against women in marriage, divorce and custody laws, inheritance laws, and ownership of assets. The focus should be on what can be done, what is currently lacking, and the constant effort to measure the results otherwise this outrage will pass without even meaningful change.

There is a need for comprehensive and systematic research and analysis on crime against women at the central, state, district, and block levels. Overall, issues related to women's safety should be considered more than ever.

Dr Satywan Saourabh  
satyawnsaurabh3333@gmail.com



# Covid-19 Pandemic and Dental Care

SHAYAN SHABIR

Since the whole world is in the grip of covid-19 pandemic and all the routine dental procedures are suspended. There is a high viral load in the nasal cavity of infected patients, which especially puts dental specialty at risk for a SARS-CoV-2 infection as transmission is mainly by respiratory droplets. So it's of paramount importance that the dental professionals reach out to people through technology and instruct them regarding various home remedies to relieve their dental problems. It's true that not all dental problems can be treated at home but the pain due to many of these can be relieved at home temporarily (though permanent treatment is needed later on). This is the need of the hour and the public must know about it. So this article will be highlighting dental care from home with brief information on the causes of dental pain.

Toothaches are a common concern in almost every household. The causes may range from very simple to highly complicated. Some of the basic causes are Tooth decay (it is the primary cause for most children and adults), Dental caries / cavities, Exposed roots, Gum diseases (e.g recession ), Something stuck in between teeth, Severe flossing, Biting something hard, Impacted tooth, Tooth infection ( abscess ), Sinus infection, Dry socket (after surgical removal of tooth ), Defective restoration, some underlying health conditions.

The most common causes of severe tooth pain are: Pulpal pain, due to dental sensitivity, reversible pulpitis,



irreversible pulpitis and necrotic pulp. Periodontal pain, due to acute apical periodontitis , acute periapical abscess , chronic apical periodontitis, periodontal abscess and pericoronitis.

There are many approaches to manage dental pain at home. Some of these are briefly discussed here:

**CLOVES:** Cloves are well known for their medicinal purposes (mostly for toothaches, mouth and throat inflammation). Throughout many years, clove oil has been used extensively. Many scientific experiments (mostly animal based) have proved the efficacy of clove oils. Clove oil contains many ingredients, chief among them is eugenol 90-95%, the properties and benefits of which are not new to dentists. Clove

There is a high viral load in the nasal cavity of infected patients, which especially puts dental specialty at risk for a SARS-CoV-2 infection as transmission is mainly by respiratory droplets. So it's of paramount importance that the dental professionals reach out to people through technology and instruct them regarding various home remedies to relieve their dental problems.

has powerful germicidal action, due to which it finds its use in toothache, sore gums and oral ulcers. It has antiseptic action, therefore can be used to guard the tooth from infections. It has anti-inflammatory action. Eugenol and other components of clove combine to make clove a mild anaesthetic.

Apply the oil directly to the affected area or dip a small piece of cotton in the oil and dab it on the sore tooth. If the clove oil is not available, crush the whole clove and place it on the gum where toothache is located.

#### STEAM:

A clogged sinus can cause pain in your tooth. So, steam opens the sinuses and relieves the pain.

**WARM SALINE RINSES:** A warm salt water rinse usually helps to reduce the intensity of toothache, when used frequently and regularly. Warming the water and adding a pinch of table salt to it can enhance its efficacy to a great extent. It can reduce or even be an alternative to anti-inflammatory drugs intra-orally. Its high osmolality reduces inflammation and can be microbicidal.

When there is enough salt in the mouth, exosmosis of water occurs from the bacterial cell. This causes dehydration of the bacteria and their consequent death. Thus, rinsing with 100-150 ml of warm saline three to four times a day can be an effective method for good oral hygiene. It can be of help in the removal of loosened food particles, dead cells and mucus from the oral cavity as well as in containing the local inflammatory process.

#### COLD COMPRESS:

The application of a cold compress to the affected site can help relieve the soreness, swelling and bleeding. One can use ice creams to temporarily numb the affected area and alleviate the pain.

Many home remedies actually do work in alleviating dental pain temporarily. Not ignoring the fact that permanent treatment is must but in these times, maintaining social distance and not putting each other into potential risk of covid 19, hope this short communication will prove helpful to patients during these testing times.

The author is an intern at Government Dental College, Srinagar

## Can there be Covid-19 Normalcy?

Can we actually learn to live with coronavirus? Not until we have a vaccine

SARAH PITT

We should be trying to ensure that as many people as possible are protected from COVID-19 infection, not “learning to live with the virus”. We need to continue with day-to-day measures to stop coronavirus from passing between people as much as we can. During 2020, that has meant various degrees of government-imposed lockdown in most countries.

As we move into the last quarter of 2020, the virus that has defined this troubled year is showing no signs of going away. In the absence of a vaccine or a broadly effective treatment, some are now saying that we must learn to live with COVID-19. But what does that actually look like?

It's a complicated question that boils down to this: Should we allow SARS-CoV-2 to spread through most of the population while shielding all the elderly and those at high risk of serious disease, thus creating some level of underlying immunity in the population? Or is it better to keep up with the control measures and aim for the elimination of the virus?

In trying to answer the question, the concept of “herd immunity” – when around 60% of the population is immune to a disease – is often invoked. But this term is not well understood. Control of an infectious disease through build-up of natural immunity in the population has never been achieved before. Herd immunity works through targeted vaccination, and we do not yet have a vaccine for COVID-19.

#### Viruses and immunity

Take the example of smallpox – a very infectious, scary disease and the only human virus we have ever eradicated. Unlike COVID-19, people who caught the virus always showed symptoms, so they could be found and isolated. Anyone who did not die would have life-long protection.

But we only completely rid the world of it through a coordinated vaccination campaign. This was the only way that high enough levels of protection could be achieved across the world to reach the threshold for herd immunity.

About a quarter of all common colds are caused by types of coronavirus. Since SARS-CoV-2 is also a coronavirus, could there be a similar protective crossover? We don't know how long the protection to any coronavirus lasts after you recover, but we do know that it does not last forever.

One recent study, for example, showed that some people can get ill with the same type of coronavirus more than once in the same winter season. This shows that natural immunity cannot be assumed as a fact of the human-coronavirus relationship, and herd immunity probably cannot happen naturally. Indeed, it would be remarkable if we could achieve natural immunity without a vaccine as this has never happened before.

#### Controlling the spread

How about trying to get rid of SARS-CoV-2 through controlling its spread? This is what happened with its close relatives SARS-CoV, or Sars, and MERS-CoV, Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome, which are both also related to bat coronaviruses. These diseases popped up in the 21st century, and presented a new pathogen for human immune systems to respond to, so they could be useful examples to predict what might happen with COVID-19.

Sars went round the world twice between November 2002 and May 2004



before disappearing altogether. This was thanks to stringent control measures, such as quarantine for contacts of people with the infection and regular deep cleaning of public areas.

A robust laboratory testing scheme was set up. People were encouraged to wear face masks and wash their hands often. These measures stopped the spread of the virus between people, leading to its extinction.

The advantage we had in trying to contain Sars was that most people who had the infection developed symptoms quite quickly, so they could be identified, given the medical help they needed and then isolated to prevent them from infecting others. Unfortunately, COVID-19 appears to be most infectious at the beginning of the disease while people have either mild or no symptoms, so we can't do the same thing as effectively.

Mers was first noticed in the Middle East in 2012. It causes a very serious illness and kills 34% of those who catch it. It seems to be less infectious than SARS and SARS-CoV-2 – to spread the disease people have to be in very

close contact.

So patients with Mers tend to give it to those caring for them in hospital or their immediate families. This makes it easier to contain outbreaks and has stopped the disease becoming too widespread geographically. There are still large outbreaks, including 199 cases in Saudi Arabia in 2019.

Like Mers, and unlike Sars, we can expect outbreaks of COVID-19 to pop up even after we have it more or less under control. The key thing is to identify people who have the infection as soon as possible, through testing and



contact tracing, to reduce the numbers affected by a particular incident. An effective and widely used vaccine would help to get to this stage sooner.

#### Settling down

Comparisons with influenza outbreaks are also helpful in understanding what “living with” COVID-19 might look like. The 1918-20 Spanish flu is estimated to have infected 500 million people, and around 50 million people died. Between January 2009 and August 2010, at least 10% of the global population were probably infected with Mexican Swine flu, but the number of deaths, at just over a quarter of a million was similar to the expected rate for seasonal flu.

The 1918 and 2009 viruses are the same type of influenza A, called H1N1. So why was the death rate lower for Swine flu? That's because in the 21st century, laboratory testing for influenza is a routine task, we had effective antiviral treatments (Tamiflu and Relenza) and a vaccine. The virus also mutated to become less dangerous. It settled down and joined all the other

seasonal influenza strains, and is now known as H1N1pdm09

Could the same happen for COVID-19? Unfortunately not. We do have accurate laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2 but these were only invented in 2020. Testing has created extra work for the hospital microbiology laboratories while they still have to carry on with all their usual work.

The antiviral remdesivir is only used to treat people who are already in hospital with severe COVID-19. A vaccine is unlikely to be ready before spring 2021. There are a few new strains of SARS-CoV-2, but unfortunately they are either about the same as the original or more infectious. This virus is not yet showing any sign of settling down.

#### The way out

Most people who get COVID-19 recover, but around 3% of those who have tested positive around the world have died. We do not know what proportion of those who make some sort of recovery will go on to develop long-term side effects (known as long COVID), but it could be up to 10%. Studies of people infected with Sars in the early 2000s show that some of them still had lung problems 15 years later.

Faced with statistics like this, we should be trying to ensure that as many people as possible are protected from COVID-19 infection, not “learning to live with the virus”. We need to continue with day-to-day measures to stop coronavirus from passing between people as much as we can. During 2020, that has meant various degrees of government-imposed lockdown in most countries.

In the medium term, there does need to be a balance between restrictions on people's freedom and allowing them to meet up with loved ones and earn a living. But SARS-CoV-2 is not like smallpox, not like Sars or Mers and not like the Spanish or Swine flus. There are lessons we can learn from these previous infectious diseases but this goes beyond poorly understood concepts of herd immunity, elimination or learning to live with a virus.

It looks as though outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 will be a fact of life for some time to come, but “learning to live with the virus” should not mean letting it infect large numbers of people. The plan should be to make sure that very few people get infected so that new outbreaks are small and rare.

By arrangements with  
The Conversation



# MORE ECONOMIC WORRIES MEAN Less Caution About Covid-19: Study

Agencies

Workers experiencing job and financial insecurity are less likely to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidelines for COVID-19, such as physical distancing, limiting trips from home and washing hands, according to a Washington State University study.

The researchers, who surveyed 745 workers in 43 states, also found that state unemployment benefits and COVID-19 policies affected the connection between economic concerns and compliance with COVID-19 precautions.

The study shows that a scarcity mindset can play a role in how well people are able to focus on responding to the pandemic, said Tahira Probst, a WSU psychology professor and lead author in the study published recently online in the

Journal of Applied Psychology.

"We all have a finite set of resources at our disposal, whether it's money, time or social support, and individuals who have fewer of those resources appear less able to enact the CDC-recommended guidelines," said Probst. "The extent to which economic stressors will impact that behaviour is in part a function of where we live. Having a fallback, a strong safety net to catch you, seemed to help mitigate the risk factors of job insecurity that was otherwise associated with less adherence to the guidelines."

In states with lower unemployment benefits, job insecurity was associated with a 7 per cent decline in compliance with COVID-19 prevention behaviours.

State-imposed COVID-19 mandates also had a positive effect on compliance but seemed to primarily benefit financially



secure workers more. In states that had fewer restrictions on behaviour that could spread the disease, workers were less likely to follow the CDC's recommendations, whether the

respondents were financially secure or insecure.

However, in states with a stronger response, including measures such as stay-at-home orders and shutting down non-

essential businesses, financially secure employees had 13 per cent higher enactment of the prevention behaviours compared to workers who felt more financially insecure.

These differences could have significant public health ramifications, the authors argue, since research suggests that even modest reductions in social contacts among adults can reduce infection and eventual death rates.

"It's important to acknowledge as a society that there are certain segments of the population, namely the economically secure, that are better equipped to follow the CDC recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19," said Probst. "This is a red flag since precarious work and financial strain can also co-occur with other COVID-19 risk factors and pre-existing health disparities."

The researchers recruited survey participants using Amazon's Mechanical Turk, an online crowdsourcing platform. The authors acknowledge that the demographics of that sample skewed more

male, 62 per cent, and more college-educated, 68 per cent, than the general US population, which is about 50 per cent male and 35 per cent college-educated. However, using the platform did allow the researchers to survey groups of workers representing most states in the US. The respondents' median household income of \$50,000-\$59,000 was also close to that of the United States' median of \$60,293.

The data for this study were collected in April, the month after the World Health Organization officially declared the pandemic on March 11. Probst and her colleagues are continuing to follow up with this survey group every 1-2 months to collect a total of seven waves of survey data. The researchers are looking to see if the disparities related to economic stress and protective behaviors translate into greater COVID-19 infection rates.

## Most Humans Are Vulnerable To Type 2 Diabetes, Finds Study

Agencies

Insulin has met an evolutionary cul-de-sac, limiting its ability to adapt to obesity and thereby rendering most people vulnerable to Type 2 diabetes, found scientists in a novel study.

A recent study from scientists at Indiana University School of Medicine, the University of Michigan and Case Western Reserve University has determined that the sequence of insulin has become entrenched at the edge of impaired production, an intrinsic vulnerability unmasked by rare mutations in the insulin gene causing diabetes in childhood.

The study exploits biophysical concepts and methods to relate protein chemistry to the emerging field of evolutionary medicine.

Insulin is produced by a series of highly specific processes that occur in specialised cells, called beta cells. A key step is the folding of a biosynthetic precursor, called proinsulin, to achieve the hormone's functional three-dimensional structure.

Past studies from this and other groups have suggested that impaired biosynthesis could be the result of diverse mutations that hinder the foldability of proinsulin.

Also, read: Calling millennial women! These 4 factors are putting you at risk of diabetes

This group sought to determine if the evolution of insulin in vertebrates—including humans—has encountered a roadblock.



According to the study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the answers are yes and yes.

"Biological processes ordinarily evolve to be robust, and this protects us in the majority of cases from birth defects and diseases," said Michael Weiss, MD, PhD, Distinguished Professor at IU School of Medicine and lead investigator of the study. "Yet diabetes seems to be an exception."

Weiss and team looked at a subtle mutation in human insulin in relation to the insulins of other animals, such as cows and porcupines. The mutant human insulin functions within the range of natural variation among animal insulins, and yet this mutation has been excluded by evolution.

The answer to this seeming paradox is that the forbidden mutation selectively blocks the folding of proinsulin and stresses beta cells.

The group discovered that even the slightest variation of the insulin-sequencing process not

only impairs insulin folding (and eventual insulin secretion) but also induces cellular stress that leads to beta cell dysfunction and eventually permanent damage.

Weiss, who is also Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and a Precision Health Initiative Professor, said that the study highlights the importance of folding efficiency as a critical but hidden factor in the evolution of insulin over the past 540 million years.

Humans have evolved to be vulnerable to diverse mutations in the insulin gene and that this vulnerability underlies a rare monogenic form of diabetes and provides an evolutionary backdrop to the present obesity-related diabetes pandemic.

National experts agree that this discovery provides key insight to better understanding the development of Type 2 diabetes in adults and children—which both are rising at alarming rates in Indiana and around the world.

"This study is a tour de force unravelling key elements of the structural biology of insulin that affect its synthesis and function. The authors highlight the fact that the insulin gene has been susceptible throughout evolution to mutations that impair insulin's function or stress beta cells," said Barbara Kahn, MD, George R. Minot Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

"As we approach the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin, these elegant observations might lead to a better understanding of the pathogenesis of Type 2 diabetes," added Kahn. Director of the University of Chicago Kolver Diabetes Centre Louis Philipson, MD, agreed, adding that findings will shape future approaches to research in this area.

"The present findings define a major question for the future: whether harmful misfolding of proinsulin seen in patients bearing INS gene variants may also occur, at lower levels perhaps, but more broadly in the population of human Type 2 diabetes patients around the world," Philipson said.

Next, the group will work to fully define the sequence determinants that make proinsulin foldable in beta cells. Their hope is that this work will eventually lead to a new category of drugs that mitigate the cellular stress caused by proinsulin's precarious foldability and target cellular stress in beta cells, thereby preserving insulin-production for high-risk patients.

## Study Sheds Light On Benefits Of Placing Nutrition Labels On Front Of Packages

Agencies

A new paper in the Journal of Marketing examines the impact of moving nutrition labels, typically placed on the back of product packages, to the front.

The study, to be published in the Journal of Marketing, is titled "Competitive Effects of Front-of-Package Nutrition Labeling Adoption on Nutritional Quality: Evidence from Facts Up Front Style Labels" and is authored by Joon Ho Lim, Rishika Rishika, Ramkumar Janakiraman, and P.K. Kannan.

Can changing food packaging improve product nutrition quality? While this change may be simple, there's a lot at stake.

Diet-related chronic diseases impose a growing burden on the United States economy by increasing costs of health care and widening diet-related health disparities. Since the 1970s, the American diet has shifted considerably towards foods higher in calories and lower in nutritional quality. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates, more than one-third of American adults are obese.

Childhood and adolescent obesity rates have also skyrocketed in the last 30 years with one in five school-aged children considered obese. To combat this disconcerting trend, public policymakers, food manufacturers, and grocery retailers have made efforts overtime to design nutrition labels that can educate consumers about the nutritional value of the foods they pur-



chase and help consumers make healthier choices. The World Health Organization (WHO) also considers nutrition labelling to be a key policy option for promoting healthier diets.

The packaged food industry has voluntarily taken steps to inform consumers about the nutritional value of food products so that consumers can make better choices. One such initiative undertaken by is the Front-of-Package (FOP) nutrition label. FOP nutrition labels are voluntarily adopted by food manufacturers and provide nutrient information on the front of food packaging in a clear, simple, and easy-to-read format.

The FOP labels present the key information listed on the Nutrition Facts Panel (NFP; displayed on the back or side of food packages) more concisely and often include calorie content and the amounts of key nutrients to limit (e.g., saturated fat, sugar, and sodium per serving). In an innovative study, our research team assessed the effect of the introduction of an FOP nutrition label in a product category on the nutritional quality of food products in the category.

The study reports four sets

of findings. First, the adoption of FOP nutrition labelling in a product category results in a significant improvement in the nutritional quality of food products in that category. Second, the effect of FOP is stronger for premium (high-priced) brands and brands with a narrower product line breadth.

Third, the FOP adoption effect is stronger for unhealthy categories and categories with higher competitive intensity. Fourth, manufacturers increase the nutritional quality of products by reducing the calorie content and limiting nutrients such as sugar, sodium, and saturated fat.

Lim explains that "This implies that policymakers, in partnership with food manufacturers and retailers, should encourage adoption of voluntary, standardized, and transparent labelling programs and consider options for broadening the information presented in FOP labels."

We believe that policymakers should also invest in educational campaigns that inform consumers about the value of FOP labels and that would further incentivise food manufacturers to offer nutritionally better products."

For food manufacturers, the results suggest that they must devote significant resources to product innovation to stay competitive. Specifically, manufacturers in unhealthy and more competitive categories can be more strategic and invest in innovation so they are ready to provide better products following FOP adoption.

### Office of the Executive Engineer ( R&B) Division Sopore.

#### QUOTATION.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer R&B Division hereby invites sealed fresh quotation affixed with Re.2/- Revenue stamps from the approved dealers for the item mentioned below required for Divisional office Sopore. The intending dealers are requested to attach a CDR of Rs 1000/- ( Rupees one thousand) only on any recognized Bank pledged to the official designation of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore with the quotation. The quotation should reach this office on or before and will be opened on 18-11-2020 the same date or some other date convenient to the Executive Engineer in presence of the dealers who may like to be present there. In case the last date of receipt of tenders happens to be holiday/Hatal/curfew the same shall be received on the next working day.

S.No	Particulars	Qty
1	Supply of mobile infrared gas heater equipped with oxygen depletion system and flame failure device with piezo electric ignition system of Aygaz/ Gazal make Colour black Capacity: Must have space of almost 19 kgs commercial LPG Cylinder.	5 numbers.

Terms and conditions:-

- The opening authority reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning any reason thereof.
- The quotationers shall quote their rates clearly without any cuttings over writings or alternations.
- The rates quoted shall be inclusive all taxes, levies and loading unloading but excluding VAT (which shall be paid extra as applicable) .
- The successful quotationer shall have to supply items within 02 days from the date of issuance of allotment/supply order.
- In addition of above, the contract shall be governed by the by the terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD form 25 ( Double).

No:- 9333-43  
Dated: 11-11-2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor,  
of J&K

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Sopore.

:DIPK-8868/20

### از نیابت نائب تحصیلدار خرم گیش رینہ باجلاس ارشاد احمد کھانڈے

درخواست منجانب :- تو صیف احمد شاہ پیر شاہ محمد شاہ ساکن ترکہ تاجپو تحصیل و ضلع انت ناگ بغرض ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکٹ

اشیہار عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکٹ پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹاری حلقہ سے سائل کا پاپ مسمی شاہ محمد شاہ مورخہ 23/10/2020 کو دوران ڈیوٹی فوت ہو چکا ہے اور موتی کے ارثاں بزیل درج ہے :-

نام صاحب کینہ مع دولہ بیت	عمر	پیشہ	رشتہ ہمارہ موتی
افروزہ ز بیوہ شاہ محمد شاہ	58 سال	گھریلو کام	بیوہ موتی
توصیف احمد شاہ پیر ---	34 سال	زیر تعلیم	پرستوتی
محمد یاسین شاہ پیر ---	21 سال	زیر تعلیم	پرستوتی
تنجیدہ افروز دختر ---	20 سال	---	دختر موتی
تاجیکہ افروزہ دختر ---	18 سال	---	---

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کینہ میں موجود نہیں ہے لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو مذکورہ سرٹیفکٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر در دفتر بازہ میں پیش کریں بعد گزرنے معیار کو عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار خرم گیش رینہ

#### اطلاع عام

میری ساتویں جماعت پاس سرٹیفکٹ زیر ایڈمیشن نمبر 580 سال 1992 کہیں پرگم ہوگئی ہے اب اسکی ڈپلی کیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے مذید میرے والد کا نام غلطی سے مڈل سکول ریکارڈ میں غلام محمد بت ہوئی ہے جبکہ پرانہری ریکارڈ میں سنا اللہ بت ہے اب اسکی درسی کتابی مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ہیڈ ماسٹر گورنمنٹ مڈل سکول سادی وارہ ویری ناگ کے دفتر میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المشتہر :- محمد شفیع بٹ ولد سنا اللہ بٹ ساکنہ سادی وارہ ویری ناگ ڈورو



## Plasma Jets May Kill Novel Coronavirus Within Seconds, Study Shows

Agencies

Los Angeles: Plasma jets may kill the novel coronavirus on surfaces such as metal, leather, and plastic in as little as 30 seconds, according to a study which suggests that plasma could promise a significant breakthrough in the fight against the spread of COVID-19.

Plasma is one of the four basic states of matter and can be created by heating a stable gas or subjecting it to a strong electromagnetic field.

Published in the journal *Physics of Fluids*, the modelling study conducted in June showed strains of the novel coronavirus on surfaces like metal, leather, and plastic were killed in as little as 30 seconds of treatment with argon-fed, cold

the six surfaces in less than three minutes, and most of the virus was destroyed after 30 seconds.

Additional testing showed the virus was destroyed in similar times on cotton from face masks.

The novel coronavirus can remain infectious on surfaces for several hours. According to study author Richard E. Wirz, the findings show great potential for the use of plasma in halting the virus's transmission cycle.

"This is only the beginning. We are very confident and have very high expectations for plasma in future work. In the future, a lot of answers for the scientific community will come from plasma," Wirz said.

A relatively new technology, cold atmospheric plasma is an ionised, near-room-tem-



atmospheric plasma.

The researchers from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the US used an atmospheric pressure plasma jet they built with a 3D printer to spray surfaces that were treated with SARS-CoV-2 cultures.

The surfaces included plastic, metal, cardboard, and basketball, football, and baseball leather.

The spray using plasma fed by argon killed all the coronavirus on

perature gas that has proven effective in cancer treatments, wound healing, dentistry, and other medical applications.

The researchers ran a similar coronavirus test with helium-fed plasma, but the helium was not effective, even with treatments up to five minutes.

They believe this was due to lower rates of reactive oxygen and reactive nitrogen when using helium-fed gas, compared to argon.



## "Results Start Next Week": Trump Defies Election Loss, Blocks Joe Biden

Agencies

Washington, United States: A week after losing the US election, President Donald Trump remained shut up in the White House on Tuesday, pushing an alternate reality that he is about to win and blocking Democrat Joe Biden's ability to prepare the transition.

"WE WILL WIN!" the Republican president tweeted, adding: "WE ARE MAKING BIG PROGRESS. RESULTS START TO COME IN NEXT WEEK. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"

The message referred to Trump's unprecedented decision for a US president to dispute a lost election, refusing to concede to his opponent and mounting a string of flimsy court challenges in states where Biden won.

Several suits have been thrown out almost immediately and the remainder clearly have no chance of overturning

Biden's slim but convincing victories in multiple states.

Trump's attempt to hold on to power has become all consuming for the man who often makes a point of publicly mocking rivals as "losers."

Since Election Day on November 3 he has made few public appearances and seems to have all but shelved normal presidential duties.

His only known activities outside the White House have been to play golf twice over the weekend, after the results came in.

Normally routine secret presidential intelligence briefings have been off the daily schedule. He has made no mention of the dramatic rebound in the Covid-19 pandemic across the country.

And his once near daily press conferences, interviews with Fox News or impromptu question-and-answer sessions with White House journalists have dried up.

In place of that, Trump has spent much of his time tweet-

ing, mostly about what he claims is the stolen election. Sometimes he refers to supportive comments by the right-wing hosts on Fox News, tweeting quotes from shows across the network's daily schedule.

Trump's only significant presidential action has been the abrupt firing of the defense secretary Mark Esper on Monday, which he announced on Twitter.

Exactly four years ago Tuesday, Trump had just won his surprise victory against Hillary Clinton and toured the White House for the first time as a guest of the outgoing Democratic incumbent Barack Obama.

That courtesy to presidents-elect is an old tradition, highlighting the nation's near sacred respect for the peaceful transfer of power.

Trump, who came into office vowing to upend institutions and what he called "the deep state," is now shattering another custom.

## Palestinian negotiator Erekat dies after contracting Covid-19



Agencies

JERUSALEM: Palestinian veteran negotiator Saeb Erekat died on Tuesday of coronavirus complications at age 65, in a death mourned as a "great loss" for his people and sparking tributes from around the world.

Erekat was a long-time architect of plans to end the con-

flict with Israel through the creation of an independent Palestinian state, a goal he would not live to see achieved.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas called the passing of "a brother and friend... a great loss for Palestine and our people" and declared three days of mourning for Erekat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's secretary general.

## Biden Says Trump's Refusal To Concede "Is An Embarrassment"

Agencies

Wilmington, United States: President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday called President Donald Trump's refusal to concede his election loss an "embarrassment" but dismissed the standoff as unimportant.

"I just think it's an embarrassment, quite frankly," Biden said when asked what he thinks about Trump's refusal to acknowledge defeat in the November 3 election.

"How can I say this tactfully? I think it will not help the president's legacy," Biden told reporters in his home town of Wilmington, Delaware.

A week after the US election, Trump remained shut up in the White House, pushing an alternate reality that he is about to win and filing lawsuits alleging voter fraud that so far have been backed up by

only the flimsiest evidence.

Biden, meanwhile, mostly ignored Trump.

"The fact that they're not willing to acknowledge we won at this point is not of much consequence in our planning," Biden said.

The Democrat signaled that despite attempts by Trump to stymie his transition to power he was increasingly a president in waiting.

In his latest exchanges with international leaders, he talked Tuesday with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Ireland's prime minister, Micheal Martin.

Asked what his message to them was, he said: "I'm letting them know that America is back. We're going to be back in the game. It's not America alone."

## Several wounded in WWI memorial attack at Jeddah cemetery for non-Muslims

Agencies

Jeddah: Several people were wounded on Wednesday in a bomb attack at a World War I commemoration ceremony attended by European diplomats at a non-Muslim cemetery in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, France's foreign ministry said.

"The annual ceremony commemorating the end of World War I at the non-Muslim cemetery in Jeddah, attended by several consulates, including that of France, was the target of an IED attack this morning, which injured several people," the ministry said.

"France strongly condemns this cowardly, unjustifiable attack."

Last month, a Saudi citizen with a knife injured a guard at the French consulate in Jeddah on the same day that a knife-wielding man killed three people in a church in Nice in southern France.

Wednesday's blast came as French President Emmanuel Macron, the target of ire in much of the Muslim world for vowing to confront what he calls Islamist radicalism following a spate of attacks, attended a WWI memorial ceremony in Paris.

Several countries are mark-

ing the 102nd anniversary of the armistice signed by Germany and Allied countries to end the war.

Macron has vigorously defended the right to publish cartoons viewed as offensive by some, including caricatures of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) printed by satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*.

The same cartoons were shown by French history teacher Samuel Paty to pupils in a class on free speech, leading to his beheading outside Paris on October 16 following an online campaign by parents angry over his choice of lesson material.

Macron's stance angered many Muslims, prompting protests in several countries at which portraits of the French president were burnt, and a campaign to boycott French products.

Saudi Arabia — home to Islam's holiest sites — has criticised the cartoons, but "strongly" condemned last month's attack in Nice.

On Tuesday, Macron hosted a summit of European leaders to plot a joint approach to combating Islamist radicalism after four people were killed in a shooting rampage in the heart of Vienna last week.

## Qatar Puts Up "For Sale" Sign With New Property Visas



Agencies

Doha: Gas-rich Qatar has flung open its property market to foreigners, with a scheme giving those purchasing homes or stores the right to call the Gulf nation home.

The scheme, announced in September, is the latest in a series of measures designed to diversify Qatar's economy away from fossil fuel dependency and attract foreign capital ahead of the 2022 World Cup.

Well-heeled individuals are being invited to consider the glistening seaside tower blocks of Doha's man-made Pearl island or the brand new Lusail city project that flanks a World Cup stadium. Retail units in malls also qualify buyers for residency.

The reforms could also help soak up an oversupply of units, which has left gleaming towers half-empty and seen prices drop by almost a third

since 2016, according to consultancy ValuStrat's Price Index for residential property.

Previously, investors needed sponsorship from a Qatari business or individual for residency, but now a \$200,000 property purchase secures temporary residency for the term of ownership. A \$1 million purchase buys the benefits of permanent residency, including free schools and healthcare.

"The reason I didn't buy earlier was that there was so much grey area," said marketing director Tina Chadda, a Kenyan who has lived in Qatar for 15 years.

Now she is looking for "a property to live in which I can use to get permanent residency".

"I think this will allow me to call Qatar home. I feel more comfortable now," she told AFP.

Chadda said the visa would also allow her to bring her family, including elderly parents, to Qatar from Nairobi.

## NEWS MAKERS

### In the US, it's not just Kamala Harris breaking stereotypes — it's also her husband

For countless women and girls in America, Kamala Harris' achievement of reaching the second highest office in the country represents hope, validation and the shattering of a proverbial glass ceiling that has kept mostly white men perched at the top tiers of the US government.

But it's not just Harris who is breaking stereotypes; the second gentleman plans to quit his law firm to support the vice president's career.

Doug Emhoff, the 56-year-old husband of Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, will leave his private law practice by Inauguration Day to focus on his role at the White House, a spokesperson said on Tuesday. He's said little so far about how he'll approach the role and is still working with the transition team on what issues he'll tackle.

"We've been waiting for



this sort of gender switch for decades now," said Kim Nader, a professor of political science who has focused on women and gender at California State University-Sacramento.

"There is a lot of symbolism from a man stepping back from his high-powered career in order to support his wife's career."

**Supportive husband**

While Emhoff built a career as a high-profile entertainment lawyer in Southern California, he's been most vis-

ible to voters as Harris' supportive husband. He quickly befriended other political spouses in the Democratic primary, when Harris sought the party's nomination.

"I want more women in office, and I want more partners, whoever their partner is, to support them and to provide an opportunity and an environment for success," Emhoff said in an October interview with the digital site NowThisNews.

Chasten Buttigieg, the husband of former US presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg, said the two quickly formed a friendship as they swapped stories about people they were meeting and their strange "fish out of water" experiences as political spouses. Emhoff would compliment Chasten Buttigieg on his speeches at events and never approached him as a competitor.

### "Have Some Plans": New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern On Her Wedding



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has plans in place for her wedding, but hasn't set a date yet.

"We have some plans - they are some way off," she told reporters in the city of New Plymouth on Wednesday, in response to a question. "We might need to share some of our plans with our family and friends before we do that more widely."

Ardern, 40, is engaged to television host Clarke Gayford, 44, and they have a two-year-old daughter. Last month, she led her Labour Party to a landslide victory in the general election, cementing her second term in office.

Ardern has won global acclaim for her decisive response to COVID-19 and healing the nation after a massacre of Muslims by a white supremacist last year.

### Bahrain's PM dies at age of 84

Bahrain's long-serving Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has died at the age of 84, the royal palace has announced.

In a statement carried by the state-run Bahrain News Agency, the royal court said the premier passed away on Wednesday morning at Mayo Clinic hospital in the US.

The burial ceremony, it added, will take place upon the repatriation of Sheikh Khalifa's body and the funeral will be limited to a specific number of relatives.

A week of mourning has been declared in Bahrain over the prime minister's death.

Sheikh Khalifa, who had served as premier since 1970, was the longest-serving prime minister of any government in the world at the time of his death.

He survived a popular uprising that began in the Persian Gulf country against the ruling Al Khalifa regime in mid-February 2011.

Bahraini people have since been holding peaceful protest rallies regularly, demanding that the Al Khalifa family relinquish power and let a just system representing all citizens be established.



# After Bihar Poll Boost, AIMIM Plans To Contest In UP, West Bengal



**B**uoyed by the results of Bihar assembly elections, the AIMIM which bagged five seats is now looking to spread its wings to states such as Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Addressing reporters here on Tuesday night, MIM's president Asaduddin Owaisi said the party will fight for justice in the northern state's Seemanchal region.

Reacting to allegations that his party was dividing anti-BJP votes, Owaisi said he was running a political party that has a right to contest on its own. "You mean we should not fight elections. You (Congress) went and sat in Shiv Sena's lap (in Maharashtra). If anyone asks why did you fight the elections... I will fight in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and will fight every election in the country...Do I need to ask anyone's permission to fight the polls," he said when asked whether the party would contest in any other state.

He, however, did not clarify whether the party would contest on its own or in alliance with other parties.

"AIMIM will fight in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Time only will tell with whom we will ally," Owaisi added.

Owaisi is often criticised by Congress and other parties as

"B-team" of BJP denting anti-saffron party's votes.

Owaisi-led AIMIM seems to have cut big time into the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan vote in the Seemanchal region in the third phase of the polls, according to poll pundits.

The Hyderabad MP-led party was in the fray in 20 seats in Bihar elections, a majority of which went to polls in the third phase on November 7, as part of the Grand Democratic Secular Front that has four other parties, including Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samta Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party.

The party's victory in five seats has become inconsequential in terms of lending support in case of hung-assembly as NDA emerged as the clear winner.

When asked if his party will support Mahagathbandhan in case of a shortfall of majority, Owaisi did not give a direct answer saying, "Why should I speculate, when the final results are out then a decision will be taken."

Results of Bihar Assembly polls were not completely declared when the question was posed.

According to statistics provided by the Election Commission of India, AIMIM got 1.24 per cent of over 4 crore votes polled.

The party unsuccessfully contested in Bihar Assembly polls in 2015 and secured less than 0.5 per cent votes.

MIM also unsuccessfully contested in UP Assembly polls in 2017. Besides Telangana and Bihar, MIM has two MLAs and one MP in Maharashtra.

# SC Directs Arnab Goswami's Release; Says High Court Erred In Not Granting Bail

**T**he Supreme Court Wednesday directed the release of Arnab Goswami and the other two co-accused on bail in the abetment-of-suicide case.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Indira Benerjee said the Bombay High Court erred in not granting bail to the accused persons. It added it would give detailed reasons later.

The bench also directed the accused persons to execute a personal bond in the amount of Rs 50,000 before the Jail Superintendent. Goswami and other two accused were asked to co-operate in the investigation and not make any attempt to interfere with the ongoing investigation or with the witnesses.

During the hearing, which lasted for five hours, the bench questioned the need for Republic TV's Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami's custodial interrogation.

"You may not like his ideology. Left to myself, I will not watch his channel. But a citizen is sent to jail. We must send a message to High Courts to exercise their jurisdiction to uphold personal liberty", said Justice Chandrachud.

Justice Chandrachud went on to add "If we don't interfere in this case today, we will walk on a path of destruction. If left to me, I won't watch the channel and you may differ in ideology, but constitutional courts will have to protect such freedoms..."

Senior Advocate Harish Salve, for Goswami, argued malice on the part of the Maharashtra Government in prosecuting his client. He pointed out that an "A



Summary" report putting a closure to the abetment-of-suicide case was filed last year.

Salve sought to argue that the ingredients of the offence of abetment of suicide were not made out.

Senior Advocate Amit Desai, for the Maharashtra Police, informed the Court that Goswami had filed a bail application before the Magistrate and then had withdrawn the same, choosing a forum that suited him. Desai added that the High Court was conscious of the fact that the plea for regular bail had been filed before the Sessions Court. In fact, Desai, submitted the High Court had directed the Session Court to decide the bail plea within four days.

"Sessions Court is hearing the matter. Why would the High Court change the hierarchy of the system for a gentleman accused under Section 306?", Desai argued.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, for the State of Maharashtra, requested the Court to not set a "dangerous precedent" by granting bail on a reading of the FIR, when the matter was before the High Court.

Sibal requested the Court to wait for the day after tomorrow and not lay down this precedent as the Sessions Court was scheduled to hear the bail application.



Holding posters in their hands, family members of a missing army man staged peaceful protest in Srinagar's press enclave on Wednesday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

# Bihar Polls 2020: NDA Beats Anti-Incumbency To Narrowly Defeat RJD-Led Alliance

**PATNA:** Surmounting anti-incumbency of 15 years, a mutinous former ally, and a spirited challenge from a resurgent opposition that rose from its ashes like proverbial phoenix after the 2019 Lok Sabha poll debacle, Nitish Kumar-led NDA was back in power in Bihar on Wednesday with a slender majority.

The ruling coalition won 125 seats in the 243-member state Assembly against 110 clinched by the opposition Grand Alliance to pave the way for a fourth successive term for Kumar in office but with diminished clout following a debilitating slide in the number of JD(U) lawmakers that came down to 43 from 71 in 2015.

Kumar was then a partner in the Grand Alliance which included Lalu Prasad's RJD and the Congress.

Its defeat notwithstanding, the RJD, whose campaign Tejashwi Yadav, the younger son and heir to party supremo Lalu Prasad helmed, emerged as the single largest party with 75 seats. The BJP, which led the table for several hours during the counting that dragged on for over 16 hours, finished second with a tally of 74 seats.

Despite the slump in numbers, Kumar, who was declared the NDA's chief ministerial candidate by the BJP brass, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party chief J P Nadda, is set to take over the reins of the government.

Much of Kumar's plight can be blamed



on the damage Chirag Paswan's JUP inflicted on his JD(U). Down in the dumps with just one MLA, the party spoiled the JD(U)'s chances in at least 30 seats.

JD(U) spokesperson K C Tyagi told PTI in New Delhi that a "sinister" campaign was run against Nitish Kumar as part of a "conspiracy".

"Apne bhi shamil the aur begane bhi (Our own also harmed us along with the outsiders)," he said, without taking any names.

He, however, expressed confidence that Kumar will become the chief minister again, noting that top BJP leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have made it clear that he will head the government if the ruling NDA retains power.

Bihar BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal voiced similar views in Patna when he said in Patna "the issue has been cleared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party chief J P Nadda much before the elections".

Apart from BJP's 74 seats and JD(U)'s 43, the ruling alliance partners HAM and Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) won four seats each.

The drastic fall in the number of JD(U) MLAs, however, will likely make the BJP, which hitherto played a second fiddle to Kumar, more assertive, and it may insist on a larger share in the ministerial pie and greater say in governance.

Apart from Kumar's creditable performance as an administrator, the multiple claimants to Muslim votes, including the Grand Democratic Secular Front (GDSF) comprising Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, BSP and Upendra Kushwaha's RLSF worked in NDA's favour and scuppered the Mahagathbandhan's chances. Muslim and Yadav voters have for long formed the bedrock of the RJD's support base.

Owaisi's AIMIM emerged as a surprise package of the election, winning five seats. The party had gained a foothold winning a seat in a by-election in Bihar earlier, but made significant inroads into the Seemanchal region which has a large presence of Muslim voters. Its ally BSP also clinched one seat.

Kumar, who has a clean image and is considered incorruptible, has been credited with ridding the state of the "jungle raj", as the Lalu-Rabri government of 15 years preceding 2005 is often described by its critics.

The JD(U) leader also earned praise for his impetus on infrastructure development and improving health care system and education.

# Bihar Results Show Wrong To Write-Off The Left; Could Have Won More Seats: Yechury

**NEW DELHI:** With the three Left parties bagging 13 seats and leading in three others in Bihar, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury warned naysayers against writing them off, saying they would have notched up higher numbers in the elections had they been given more seats.

As of 11.50 pm, the CPI(ML) had won nine of the 19 seats they fought on and were leading in three others. The CPI(M), which competed on four seats, has won two, while the CPI had also won two of the six it contested.

The Left parties contested 29 seats in the Bihar Assembly elections.

"We were clear from the beginning that we have to defeat the BJP. Our strike rate in Bihar is 80 per cent and if we had been given more seats, we would have contributed more to the gathbandhan tally," Yechury told PTI.

"Our alliance with the RJD and Congress combined issues of social justice with that of economic justice. One cannot be



achieved without the other," he said.

Many in the party had questioned RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav over what they called "disproportionate concessions to the Left, particularly to the CPI(ML)". However, the calculations triggered by the state's socio-political dynamics and the cadre strength of the Left parties seem to have worked.

"This election result has shown that no one can write off the Left and those doubting the relevance of the Left parties should think of what our strike rate has been in Bihar. No one has that strike rate. The Left is a necessity for Indian democracy," Yechury said. He said the Left parties "provided legitimacy" to the grand alliance to fight the BJP.

"We have been the most consistent with our demand for the rights of the people. The red flag has withstood the test of time, despite election results."

"We did not want the BJP in government. It should be prevented from using government machinery to destroy the fabric of India through communal polarisation," he said.

Yechury also raised concerns over the delay in declaring winning candidates and said he suspected foul play. "Having declared the winner, how can things change? The 31st round is the last round. The EC has to come clean on this," he said.

# "Just Forget It": Why India May Have To Pass On Pfizer's Vaccine

**W**hen Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE's Covid-19 vaccine rolls off production lines, Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical Group Co. will be waiting to distribute it through a complex and costly system of deep-freeze airport warehouses, refrigerated vehicles and inoculation points across China.

After they reach vaccination centers, the shots must be thawed from -70 degrees Celsius and injected within five days, if not they go bad.

Then the herculean journey from warehouse freezer to rolled-up sleeve must be undertaken all over again -- to deliver the second booster shot a month later.

The roadmap sketched out by the company, which has licensed the vaccine for Greater China, offers a glimpse into the enormous and daunting logistical challenges faced by those looking to deliver Pfizer's experimental vaccine after it showed "extraordinary" early results from final stage trials, raising hopes of a potential end to the nearly year-long pandemic.

That euphoria is now being diluted by the realization that no currently used vaccine has ever been made from the messenger RNA technology deployed in Pfizer's shot, which instructs the human body to produce proteins that then develop protective antibodies.

That means that countries will need to build from scratch the deep-freeze production, storage and transportation networks needed for the vaccine to survive. The massive investment and coordination required all but ensures that only rich nations are guaranteed access -- and even then perhaps only their urban populations.

"Its production is costly, its component is unstable, it also requires cold-chain transportation and has a short shelf life," said Ding Sheng, director of the Beijing-based Global Health Drug Discovery Institute, which has received funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The expense of deploying the Pfizer shot will likely heighten existing fears that wealthier nations will get the best vaccines first, despite a World Health Organization-backed effort called Covax that aims to raise \$18 billion to purchase vaccines for poorer countries.

It also presents a choice now faced across the developing world: to pay for the expensive construction of subzero cold-chain infrastructure for what seems like a sure bet, or wait for a slower, more conventional vaccine that brews batches of protein or inactivated viral particles in living cells, and can be delivered through existing



health-care networks.

"If there is a protein-based vaccine that could achieve the same effect as an mRNA vaccine does and there's the need to vaccinate billions of people every year, I'd go for the protein-based shots in the long run," Ding said.

Even for rich countries that have pre-ordered doses, including Japan, the U.S. and the U.K., delivering Pfizer's vaccine will involve considerable hurdles as long as trucks break down, electricity cuts out, essential workers get sick and ice melts.

**Safe Delivery**

To safely deliver shots in mainland China and Hong Kong, Fosun will partner with the state-owned Sinopharm Group Co., a pharmaceutical distributor with well-established networks across the country. One of Sinopharm's subsidiaries has also been developing Covid-19 vaccines.

Packed into cold storage trucks, those vials will arrive at inoculation sites where they can thaw and be stacked in fridges at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius for a maximum five days before going bad.

"The requirement for extremely cold temperatures is likely to cause spoilage of a lot of vaccine," said Michael Kinch, a vaccine specialist at Washington University in St. Louis.

It's also likely to cost Fosun tens of millions yuan, according to the company's Chairman Wu Yifang. Fosun is considering importing the vaccine in bulk and filling them into vials at a local plant. That will also require further investment in production and storage.

The resulting price tag may be too hefty for many developing nations, including India, which has struggled to contain the world's second-largest coronavirus outbreak and currently has no agreement to purchase the Pfizer vaccine.

**'Forget It'**

Many working in the country's public health and the pharmaceutical industry have already voiced concern that India lacks the necessary capacity and capability to deliver a vaccine across its vast rural hinterland and population of over 1.3 billion people at the breakneck speed now expected.

"Most of these vaccines need minus 70 degrees, which we just can't do in India, just forget it," said T Sundararaman, a New Delhi-based global coordinator of the People's Health Movement, an organization that brings together local activists, academics and civil society groups working on public health.

# 3 Arrested With Gold Worth 97.82 Lakhs At Chennai Airport



**CHENNAI:** Three passengers were arrested for carrying 1.84 kg gold valued at 97.82 lakhs at the Chennai International Airport, an official said on Tuesday.

According to Commissioner of Customs, these passengers flew in from Dubai and they were intercepted at the exit on the suspicion of carrying gold.

"A total of 1.84 kg gold valued at 97.82 lakhs was recovered and seized under the Customs Act 1962. Three were arrested," said Commissioner of Customs, Chennai International Airport.

Further investigation is underway.

## NEWS MAKER

# Tejashwi Yadav: Political Novice Who Gave Veterans A Run For Their Money

**PATNA:** An avid cricketer whose career never really took off, a political greenhorn who got power on a silver platter but failed to keep it, a scion of Bihar's most powerful family who could not get past the 9th grade.

That was Tejashwi Yadav until the 2020 assembly polls marked the coming of age of a politician who valiantly went down fighting an army of battle-hardened veterans.

He may have failed to learn the textbook lessons at DPS, R K Puram, in the national capital but showed an uncanny knack of reading the mind of voters, like his more famous father, as he led the opposition Grand Alliance to an impressive performance in the polls winning 110 seats in the 243-member assembly. He also powered the RJD to the status of the single largest party in the House with 75 seats.

Analysts feel Tejashwi's poll promise of sanctioning "10 lakh government jobs at my first cabinet meeting" was a masterstroke which had the young voter swooning in a state reeling from widespread joblessness sparked by COVID-induced



lockdown when the return of countless migrants home brought the state's largely agrarian economy under further stress. The promise was good but not good enough to bring down the NDA government.

As part of a cleverly crafted strategy that endeared him to liberals, he chose to steer clear of contentious issues like the Ram temple, a bait thrown at him by top BJP leaders, and stuck to his core agenda of unemployment and alleged corruption in the Nitish Kumar administration.

For a young man whose ability to lead the party was called into question after the RJD's unprecedented debacle in the Lok Sabha elections when it failed to

seen as a spent force in the state ever since it was swept over by the Mandal wave.

Another hallmark of his personality is the ability to think on his feet. After deciding early on in life that studies were not for him, Yadav chose not to cling to his cricketing aspirations either after the much-needed big break eluded him. Contracted by IPL franchise Delhi Daredevils for some time he remained in the reserve list.

He announced his "retirement" from cricket just a couple of years before entering politics in 2015 at the tender age of 25. The new vocation came as a perfect pitch to bat on as he won from Raghopur in the assembly election comfortably.

Soon Lalu made it clear that Tejashwi was his chosen successor, and he was appointed the Deputy Chief Minister in the Nitish Kumar government.

As fate would have it, Tejashwi's name cropped up in a money laundering case related to alleged illegal land transactions when his father was the railway minister in the UPA-1 government. Tejashwi was in his teens when the alleged scam happened.

# Bihar CM Aspirant Pushpam Priya Loses Both Seats, Gets Fewer Votes Than NOTA

**PATNA:** Pushpam Priya Chaudhary, 28, a London School of Economics (LSE) alumnus, who had floated her own political outfit 'Plurals Party' and declared herself a contender for the Bihar Chief ministerial post, suffered a blow on Tuesday after she lost badly in both assembly seats she contested for Bihar elections.

Chaudhary has contested from the Bankipur assembly constituency in Patna district and the Bisfi seat in Madhubani district where she had merely received a few votes on both the seats. On the Bisfi seat, she had managed to bag less votes than None of the Above (NOTA) option.

In Bankipur other contestants against her were three-time BJP MLA Nitin Naveen



and Congress candidate Luv Sinha, son of actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha. From the Bisfi seat, BJP can-

didate Haribhushan Thakur and RJD MLA Dr Fayaz Ahmad were the other contestants. Pushpam Priya has bagged less than NOTA votes from this seat.

Pushpam Priya is the daughter of former JDU MLC Vinod Chaudhary. She had created a stir by declaring herself as a CM candidate in newspapers before the Bihar elections. She had formed a party called Plurals and fielded engineers, doctors, social activists, teachers, professors as her candidates on several seats and herself contested from two seats. But she has failed to create an impact in the minds of the electorate it appears, since she has been trailing on both the assembly seats. IANS