

# **News** *Digest*

### **Grenade Thrown At CRPF Men In Khanyar**

Srinagar: Suspected militants on Thursday lobbed a grenade towards the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in Khanyar area of this capital city. Officials said that militants on Thursday evening hurled a grenade towards the personnel of CRPF 144 battalion near Baba Dawood Khaki bridge, which failed to explode. Soon after the incident, senior police and CRPF officers reached the spot to assess the situation. (KNO)

### **CASO Ends In Shopian** After 40-Hours

Srinagar: A cordon and search operation (CASO) launched in Turkwangam village of south Kashmir's Shopian district in the wee hours of Wednesday ended peacefully on Thursday after 40-hours. An official told news agency KNO that on specific inputs about the presence of militants, search operation was launched by joint team of forces including 44 RR, **CRPF** and Shopian Police."After conducting searches for around 40-hours, nothing was found in the area and search operation ended peacefully on Thursday evening," he said. Locals said that this was for the first time that entire village which consists of around • P-02

### **3 Pulwama Youth Booked Under PSA**

Srinagar: Three youth from south Kashmir's Pulwama district have been booked under the contentious Public Safety Act (PSA) for their alleged involvement in militancy. Aiash Ahmed Dar, Mushtaq Ahmed Lone and Asif Ali, all residents of Nillora village of the district were arrested by police and slapped with PSA for recruiting and harbouring militants, news agency KNT reported Thursday. The trio, report said have been shifted to the jail outside Kashmir. Though family members • P-02

### **Panchayat-Level Committees Set Up**

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday constituted five functional commit-

# ...ROSHNI ACT **Admin Orders Cancellation Of** Land Mutations



diately and submit details in the JAMMU: The divisional adminisprescribed format regarding land tration in this winter capital on transferred under Roshni Act. Thursday directed all the Deputy "He asked them to share details i.e. number of beneficiaries in Commissioners to cancel all the mutations of the state land

whose favour the land has been transferred, total number of land transferred under Roshni Act in whether it is residential or agri-The directions in this regard culture, whether mutations canwere issued by Divisional Comcelled or not, and other details," the official spokesperson said. missioner. Sanjeev Verma during a video conference meeting with the "The Divisional Commissioner Deputy Commissioners of the divialso asked the DCs to share details sion, an official spokesperson said. of other state land encroached in

Verma, he said directed the their respective districts," » PAGE 02 THE DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER ALSO

asked the DCs to share details of other state land encroached in their respective districts,'

# **Class 12 Board Exams Begin In Kashmir**

### **Press Trust Of India**

students, officials said.

of Jammu division.

the districts.

the examination that they had to SRINAGAR: The annual board ex- attempt only 60 marks out of 100 aminations for Class 12 in Kashmarks, they said. mir valley commenced on Thurs-This year, one supervisor for 20 day amidst COVID-19-related

students were appointed instead of 30 students, so as to follow the sopreventive measures put in place by the authorities to check the cial distancing norms, they added. spread of the infection among the As many as 58,514 candidates are appearing in the examination They said the examination for which 626 centres have been commenced across the valley as established whereas from winwell as in the winter zone areas ter zone areas of Jammu division 15,055 candidates are appearing The examination was con- in 188 centres, the officials said.

about the concessions granted in

ducted smoothly with almost The Secretary, JKBOSE Manisha full attendance in adherence to Sareen alongwith Joint Secretary

## Govt Cites Poll Threat To Extend 4G Ban

**SRINAGAR:** Barring districts Ganderbal and Udhampur, the authorities on Thursday extended high speed 3G and 4G internet ban across Jammu and Kashmir for another fortnight. While high speed internet re-

mains banned in the J&K from August 5 last year, the government has cited attempts to disrupt upcoming polls for which it said that the subversive elements 'heavily rely" upon it. The government said the re-

cently announced elections to 280 District Development Council Constituencies and bye-elections to more than 13400 vacancies in PRIs/ULB, spread cross J&K are witnessing "high level of interest" amongst the people.

"It is apprehended that the (militants) and separatist elements shall make every possible attempt to disrupt the democratic process. During the last fortnight, there have also been targeted killing of the civilians, political activists, that manifest the nefarious designs of the (militants) to dissuade general public from participating in the election process," reads an order issued by the Principal Secretary Home Shaleen Kabra.

"Such unlawful acts heavily rely upon high speed mobile internet connectivity and are required to be thwarted by taking appropriate • P-02

# 27 PAGD Candidates File **Nomination Papers For District Polls**

### **Press Trust Of India**

SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of seven political parties in Jammu and Kashmir seeking restoration of the erstwhile state's special status, on Thursday fielded 27 candidates from three parties including National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Peoples Conference (PC) for the forthcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls

The NC is contesting 21 of the 27 seats in the Kashmir valley, the PDP, led by Mehbooba Mufti, is contesting four, while the Sajad Lone-led People's Conference to the parties. I am tweeting this (PC) will field candidates in two

seats for the first phase. Lone in a tweet said that all the candidates approved have filed their nomination papers. "PAGD candidates approved

for first phase have already filed

their papers. List was conveyed

in response to some media re-

ports of list not having been issued yet," Lone tweeted.

PAGD shared seat-sharing arrangement with the media after the candidates of the constituent parties of the alliance filed their nomination papers, the last date for which was Thursday. The PAGD, which **▶ PAGE 02** 

WE ALL HAD TO WORK AT A BREAKNECK SPEED. WE WILL update the names of the candidates later because they were busy with the filing of nominations today,

### **Apni Party Welcomes PAGD's Decision**

ammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Thursday welcomed the decision of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) to contest the District Development Council (DDC) polls unitedly. • P-02

**Night Patrolling In Sensitive, Border Areas** 

head of the maiden elections to the District Development Councils (DDCs) in 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir and by-polls to Panchayats, the Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Thursday ordered night patrolling • P-02

# 103-Yr-Old Woman Becomes Oldest **To Die From Covid-19** 9 More Fatalities Take J&K Toll To 1560 🛸

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A 103-year-old woman on Thursday became the oldest coronavirus victim and was among nine persons to succumb to the deadly virus in Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours. Kashmir Valley reported six more deaths due to Covid-19, while the infection consumed three more lives in Jammu divi-

sion, officials said. The elderly woman

SKIMS Soura last night, five days each belonged to Srinagar, Ganafter she was admitted to the ter- derbal and Kupwara districts respectively, they said. tiary care hospital, they said.

# J&K Reports 617 New Corona Cases ammu and Kashmir reported 617 new covid-19 infections

ncluding 39 travelers and eight troopers in last 24 hours, taking the overall tally to 100968, officials said on Thursday. 226 of these cases were report from Jammu Division and 391 from Kashmir Valley. Giving the district wise • P-02

Besides her, the other vic- Among others the victims intims from Valley included two clude a 56-year-old man from

## No Let Up In **Cross-LoC Shelling**

JAMMU: India and Pakistani troops continued to trade fire for the fourth consecutive day Thursday along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said Thursday that Pakistan Army opened heavy fire and shelled forward areas and posts in four sectors along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts of J&K, drawing strong retaliation by army.

This is fourth consecutive day that the Pakistan Army has targeted hamlets and posts with mortar bombs and heavy firing triggering fear and panic among the residents along the LoC in Poonch district. Pakistan also opened fire along the International Border (IB) targeting hamlets • P-02



tees to strengthen panchayats in the union territory. The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has set up the committees for employment generation, works and infrastructure, and natural and human resource management, an official spokesperson said. A committee for natural resources management, inter alia, is tasked to conserve surface and ground water and prevent overflowing of useful • P-02

### Water Scarcity Sparks **Protest In Sopore**

Srinagar: Scores of residents from Bagh-e-Rehmat area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday staged a protest against Jal Shakti department for 'failing' to provide adequate water supply to them. The protesters assembled at Igbal Market and blocked Sopore Byepass road, which affected the traffic movement for several hours, news agency KNO reported Thursday.

The protesters said that • P-02

COVID-19 SOPs, the officials said. Examinations visited the various

to Zazbugh Budgam and died at residents of Baramulla while one Machil Kupwara who **PAGE 02** The candidates were briefed examination centres at **PAGE 02** 

# **MMU Forms 'J&K Halal Certification Board'** with halal, hygienic and pure food.

**Observer News Service** 

mir Mutahida Maiiles-e-Ulema slaughter house cutting and pack-(MMU), an amalgam of various re- ing plants and food processing and ligious organisations on Thursday manufacturing units are coming announced formation of first ever up across J&K, a halal certification 'Halal' food certification board to board comprising of Islamic scholensure halal, hygienic and pure ars needs to be formed," the MMU food is served to the people.

The decision to form "J&K Halal at Mirwaiz Manzil Rajouri Kadal er Muslims countries," he added. here, an MMU spokesperson said Thursday. He said the participants unanimously emphasised the need halal practices relating to slaughtering and food manufacture are Mirwaiz e Kashmir Moulvi Mufollowed and people are provided hammad Umar Farooq, **PAGE 02** 

'There was a consensus among SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kash- all members that as mechanical spokesperson said.

"Besides, this will greatly help certification Board" was taken dur- the local manufacturers in export ing a one-day session held recently of these items to the people in oth-He said that clerics unanimously agreed and subsequently constituted "The Jammu & Kashmir for such certification to ensure that Halal certification Board" under the patronage of MMU head and

### **Twitter Served Notice For Showing** Leh In J&K

NEW DELHI: The government has issued a notice to Twitter for showing Leh as part of Jammu and Kashmir instead of the Union Territorv of Ladakh, according to IT ministry sources.

The ministry, in its notice, has directed Twitter to explain within five working days why legal action should not be initiated against the micro-blogging platform and its representatives for disrespecting the territorial integrity of India by showing an incorrect map.

The notice was issued to Twitter by the Ministry • P-02

# **KEG Concerned At Denial** Of Ads To 'Kashmir Reader'



**Observer News Service** 

in black and white about the rea-**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir Editors Guild sons for a halt to the advertise-(KEG) has expressed concern at ments by the government", KEG the continued denial of the adsaid in a statement Thursday. vertisements to a Srinagar daily, KEG said the issue was Kashmir Reader, by the Jammu brought to the notice of the adand Kashmir Government. ministration many times at dif-"The newspaper has never

ferent levels and it was >> PAGE 02

been informed either verbally or

### Macchil Operation Enters Day 5

**SRINAGAR:** Search operation continued for the fifth consecutive day Thursday in Macchil sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district after Sunday's deadly face-off between militants and the state forces.

Three soldiers, a BSF man and 3 militants were killed at Chontiwari Bala of Machil area in the wee hours of Sunday.

An official told news agency KNT that the operation was underway and thorough searches were being made in the dense forest area. He said no contact with any infiltrator has been established after last Sunday's standoff.

"It's a difficult terrain. Drones and sniffer dogs are being • P-02

# **Inside Dal Dwellers' Decaying Lives At Rakh-E-Arth**

#### Kanika Gupta

ife for an erstwhile tourist guide Nazir Shangloo in the wilderness of flood basin turned human settlement has been a lingering nightmare.

Born and brought up as an "amphibian" in the heart of the Srinagar city's famed Dal Lake-where the Imperial Englishmen's departure from the 1947 would open the recreational spaces for the westerners a receding hairline. and influence the Dal dwellers' lifestyle–Nazir knew a different life.

He was a Hanji for the larger zir shares his tribe's torment. Srinagar inhabitants, but always

an adventurous soul who peaked heights with his high-end tourists during his heydays.

But all this came to a grinding halt after his water-borne tribe was uprooted from the Dal Lake and left to fend for themselves at the forgotten corner of the city where flood

waters quite often inundate lives. Today, Nazir is a pale-shadow of his past. His handsome looks have

now paved way to a frown face and "They threw us from our birth-

place by terming us polluters," Na-"But now, they've proved friends



to none – neither to us whom they to Dal Lake which is putrefying dumped into this flood-basin, nor right under their noses despite in-

vesting crores of rupees on it." Nazir's new home is situated on

the outskirts of Srinagar, which is even fewer knew its address. Arriving known for acting as a flood sponge for keeping the heritage city of Srinagar safe from brimming Jhelum.

This forgotten territory was to be tricated from mesmerizing Dal Lake and resettled in Rakh-e-Arth.

The much-touted modern colony pitals, recreational facilities, playgrounds, and every means of devel-

opment that justified relocation. The reality, however, was a far cry.

aware of Rakh-e-Arth's existence and

here was an all-new challenge. Shrouded in dust and mystery, Rakh-e-Arth was nothing that the documents claimed. Potholed the new home for Dal dwellers, a roads, lopsided structures, and community of people who were ex- abandoned playgrounds are some of the sights that greet its visitors. The resettlement colony was to

be the government's answer to enwas supposed to have schools, hos- croachment problem and an effort to preserve Srinagar's prized possession – the Dal Lake.

promised a package of land, monetary

compensation, and liveable environs in exchange for giving up their lives and sources of income at the lake. But what Lake and Waterways

Development Authority (LAWDA) Only a handful of people were gave them instead was a poorlyplanned and unliveable expanse of marshy flood land.

> From being situated in a flood channel to reeling from negligence, Rakh-e-Arth soon became its residents' worst nightmare.

> The floods of September 2014 was a sordid reminder of how their fates have been sealed in what could be a lifetime of struggle just to survive.

The residents claim that their houses were damaged beyond redemption with very little help from The erstwhile residents were the government to rehabilitate them. They continue **PAGE 02** 

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# India, China Escalation Threatens Regional Stability: Russia

### **Press Trust Of India**

NEW DELHI: Russia on Thursday said any escalation in the border tension between India and China amid the global turbulence mitment to exercise restraint and unpredictability would fur- and continue communication ther trigger regional instability through diplomatic and military in Eurasia, and the friction can channels to remove tensions are be misused by other players in their geo-political purpose.

At an online media briefing, Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin said Russia is "naturally concerned" over the tensions between the two Asian powers, noting that it was "very important" for both the countries to engage more in "constructive dialogue".

Referring to both India and China being members of the SCO and BRICS groupings, Babushkin said respectful dialogue is a main tool when it comes to cooperation in the framework of multilateral platforms.

"It is clear that amid global turbulence and unpredictability, escalation between India and China would further affect re- with the current tensions begional instability in our common tween India and China. home Eurasia. The escalation we are witnessing can be misused by other players in their geo-political purposes," he said.

'We feel it is very important to encourage both our friendly Asian countries to be more engaged in constructive dialogue. Recent news about their comabsolutely welcoming developments," he added.

India and China are locked in a bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over six months. Both sides are now working on proposals on disengagement of troops from the high-altitude region.

The Eurasian region has also been witnessing turmoil in the last few months primarily due to rising cases of coronavirus and tense relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"Russia remains in a unique position since it has special strategic relations with both India and China and these relationships are independent in nature. We are naturally concerned

However, we believe that a peaceful solution is inevitable sooner rather than later," Babushkin said.

sible neighbouring powers with ests and we respect that. India huge economic and defence potential as well as civilisational wisdom," he added. When asked whether the ments," he said.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the BRICS groups can play a role in defusing tensions between two of their member nations, the Russian diplomat said both the groupings have developed mechanisms for positive engagements

'Certainly respectful dialogue is the main tool when it comes to cooperation in the framework of the SCO and BRICS. Both associations have developed dozens of mechanisms of sector wise cooperation and let me assure you that their relevant interest

is growing," he said. The BRICS comprises Bra- contract may invite US sanctions. zil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Asked about growing ties between India and the US, Babushkin said Russia does not see any problem in the relations, adding New Delhi does not provide any reason for doubt when it comes to multilateral and bilateral commitments.

New Delhi is a global power and to expand its practical agenwith multi-faceted and wide da," he said.

"Both are global and respon- and diversified national interdoes not provide any reason for doubt when it comes to multilateral and bilateral commit-

> At the same time, the Russian Deputy Chief of Mission made a veiled reference to the "threat' by the US to India to not go ahead with mega defence deals.

"We know that there were attempts to pressure India and use unfair and illegal competition tools such as threats of sanctions and other restrictions," he said.

In October 2018, India had signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding a warning from the Trump administration that going ahead with the Talking about regional coop-

eration, Babushkin also mentioned about the Russia-India-China trilateral grouping.

"Lets not forget about another very important trilateral mechanism, RIC, which will be chaired by India next year. We are confident that it is well designed to ensure a positive atmosphere

# **ITBP Chief Hopeful Of Peaceful Resolution**

40 degrees Celsius," he said.

on the border is equally tough."

### Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh is expected to be resolved peacefully "very shortly", the ITBP chief S S Deswal has said, adding the infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is also being ramped up at a rapid pace.

Talking to PTI during a wideranging interview, the director general of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police(ITBP) said his troops have been provided with special winter clothing and nutritious food as they brave the severe chill in eastern Ladakh where the armies of India and China are locked in a tense standoff for over six months.

Asked about the current miliand boost immunity so that they tary standoff with China in eastfind it comfortable to survive in ern Ladakh, Deswal said "strains the harsh environment, he said. in bilateral relations are already evident but we are confident these will be sorted out peacewinter and this time the logisfully very shortly."

Authoritative sources on Wednesday said India and China we have provided special cold have broadly agreed on a three- clothing. We have upgraded step process on disengagement the ration content with high

of troops and withdrawal of nutrition and high calorie food weaponry from all major friction to survive the cold. These are points in a time-bound manner. the working conditions on that "Indo-Tibetan Border is the border and being an un-demarhighest international border in cated border, a jawan has to be the world. At every location it is always alert," he added.

about 10-11 thousand feet high. The protection of the border is undertaken by patrolling and All our troops are deployed the ITBP conducts long patrols at that height. Oxygen is less, temperature in winters is very that may extend up to 30 days, severe as it touches up to minus said Deswal, who leads the 90,000-strong mountain-war-"All these difficulties make fare trained force.

the very existence of human be-The ITBP chief also spoke about ings in that area very difficult his recent tour of the Ladakh and then conducting patrolling front where he spent 8-9 days and decorated 291 of his person-The training and acclimatisanel for showing gallantry during tion of ITBP jawans is long and face-offs and skirmishes with we inculcate all kinds of skills Chinese troops in May and June.

"The sincerity of our troops is very high inspite of difficult working conditions. It is my re-Deswal said the force does sponsibility to visit my jawans especially in difficult times and special winter stocking every in difficult conditions. I may tics exercise has been enhanced. not visit them when things are "For protection of our troops in good position but it is my responsibility to reach them whenever they are in tough conditions," he said.

### Admin Orders Cancellation...

he added. Besides it, the official spokesperson said that Divisional Commissioner also directed the DCs to expunge all entries of illegally encroached state land from the revenue record and further upload all these details on websites of the respective districts.

In the meeting, the official spokesperson said that the DCs informed that the process of cancellation has been started in most of the tehsils while in other tehsils the process is starting soon.

"Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner also directed the DCs to finalize stamp duty rates of the immovable property in the districts," he added.

## Govt Cites Poll Threat To...

pre-emptive measures to create an environment of safety and security for the contesting candidates and the general public."

The government said that taking note of the observations regarding regulation of internet services made in the report or the Special Committee constituted by the Supreme Court and the reports of the law enforcement agencies regarding the prevailing security environment, directions for allowing access to the high speed internet services were issued while ensuring that the same do not impede the efforts of the Government towards COVID Control measures, enabling access to educational programmes and ensuring conduct of business activities in an effective manner.

"These directions have had a salutary effect on misuse of data services for rumor mongering, circulation of fake news, inducement of local youth to join the (militant) ranks and coordination of (militant) activities and the situation requires continued close monitoring considering the attempts of infiltration from across the border, presence of foreign (militants) affiliated lo Pak based (militant) outfits and a number of (militant) acts in recent past necessitating even complete suspension of the internet/telecom services, albeit for a limited period of time."

Subsequently, the government has extended the internet ban on high speed mobile data services except in the districts of Ganderbal and Udhampur till November 26.

"The directions shall be effective from today, the 12th November, 2020 nd remain in force till 26th No

Room on Thursday afternoon, the DGP sought reports about the arrangements put in place by police and paramilitary force in their respective areas of responsibilities, a police spokesperson said. The DGP, he said emphasized the critical importance of maintaining a sustained close watch on the ground situation and the real-time coordination and synergy between state forces for successful conduct of these polls.

IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, DIG Central Kashmir Amit Kumar, SSP Budgam Shri Nagpure Amod Ashok attended the meeting at PCR while IGP Jammu Range DIGs of district SSPs of Jammu zone attended the meeting through video conferencing.

The police spokesperson said that the DGP stressed upon the officers to put all the necessary security measures in place to ensure the conduct of DDC, BDC and Panchayat elections in free, fair and peaceful manner. Singh, he said emphasized upon the officers that the deployments should be made as per requirements at all sensitive places and that the personnel on the ground should be briefed regularly and the synergy at the grass-root level has to be at best for achieving better results.

"He gave directions for night patrolling in hypersensitive and border areas to avert any subversive design. He also emphasized the need to keep a close watch on the subversive elements," the police spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said the DGP while complimenting police and other government forces for their role in maintaining law and order and success on counter-insurgency front stressed upon the officers not to let the peaceful atmosphere be disturbed by the inimical elements.

"He emphasized upon officers to remain vigilant to thwart any nefarious design of anti-national elements," the police spokesperson said. He added that the district SSPS of Jammu Zone apprised the DGP about the security arrangements put in place in their respective jurisdictions for a smooth and peaceful conduct of upcoming polls.

# Class 12 Board Exams Begin...

Srinagar and its peripheries, an official spokesperson said He said Sareen during her inspection instructed the supervisory staff and school managements to facilitate the examinees in the best possible way keeping in view the pandemic and sanctity of the examination. "The Heads of the Institutions were asked to ensure proper heating and obting arrangements in the Examination halls," the official spoke

with its headquarter in Leh.

Twitter had earlier shown Leh as part of China, following which the IT secretary had written a stern letter to the company's CEO Jack Dorsey. In response, Twitter had replaced China with Jammu and Kashmir. However, Twitter has not yet corrected the map to show Leh as part of the Union Territory of Ladakh. It is still showing Leh as part of Jammu and Kashmir, which is against the official position of the Government of India.

Last month, Twitter came under heavy criticism and faced backlash from social media users after its geotagging feature displayed "Jammu & Kashmir, People's Republic of China" in a live broadcast from Leh's Hall of Fame, a war memorial for fallen soldiers in Ladakh.

This had triggered angry responses from netizens who demanded that stringent action be initiated against the micro-blogging platform.

Meanwhile, an industry watcher said that in case Twitter does not fall in line even after the latest notice, possible options could include action initiated under Section 69A of the IT Act for banning access to Twitter in India.

Also, under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, the government can lodge an FIR, which has punishment of up to 6 months of imprisonment.

# MMU Forms 'J&K Halal...

who due to his continued house detention could not attend the crucial meeting

The meeting, the MMU spokesperson said also decided that members of the board will include a Mufti from each Islamic school of thought. The members who have been inducted in the board include Mufti Nazir Ahmad Qasmi, Mufti Muhammad Yaqoob Baba Al Madni, Agha Syed Hussain Al Mosvi, Moulana Showkat Ahmad Keing and Mufti Ghulam Rasool Samoon.

"However, there is a possibility of adding more members later on if needed," he said.

As per MMU spokesperson, the meeting also decided that board members will personally inspect the slaughter house plants and food processing and manufacturing outlets here and will consequently issue 'Halal' certificate to them after meeting the criteria.

"As such, the board appeals to all the local owners/pro

The dispensary too lies at the far end of the locality that appears to be reeling from the dearth of medical resources.

Amid this disparity, the likes Arshid Hussain Akhoon is finding himself in a very tricky situation.

This 35-year-old daily-wage labourer is the father of a mentally-unstable child. Every time his son needs medical assistance, he has to rush him to a government hospital in Srinagar that costs him the day's work and wage.

His 11-year-old son, Mohsin Hussain Akhoon, is not only a patient of cerebral palsy but also suffers from acute jaundice that his family struggles to pay for.

But Mohsin is not the only one suffering from mental health issues, residents claim that such diseases run rampant in the colony due to lack of primary healthcare infrastructure.

The colony is also consumed by hopelessness due to government's negligence.

A local Fida Hussain looks around ruefully and explains that rather than being an ambitious project that the authorities claimed it to be, Rakh-e-Arth's garbage strewn streets and polluted waters tell a whole different story of apathy.

In fact, what was supposed to be a colony only for resettled Dal dwellers, it is now being inhabited by outsiders, the locals say, as the land is being sold to them at subsidized rates.

Signboards speckled all over the colony strictly forbids sale of land to a non-Dal dweller. Even though the sale of property is forbidden, there are as many as 70% plots in Bay-4 that have been sold to outsiders, claims Hussain

These sold properties are located right behind LAWDA office of which only 30% belong to the Dal dwellers.

Deemed as unfit for living, Rakh-e-Arth is so much more than meets the eve.

The project, so far, has failed to provide decent living conditions to its inhabitants with no hope in sight. There is not only shortage of basic resources, such as jobs and healthcare, but also schools and transportation, among other things. Most families are in debt who inadvertently end up selling their plots to the outsiders to survive.

The residents here believe that the resettlement colony of Rakh-e-Arth is a long way from becoming a project it was destined to be. "Rakh-e-Arth was meant to upgrade the living conditions of Dal Lake dwellers and give them a suitable place for recreation and lifestyle development," Nazir, the erstwhile tourist guide, says. "But the resettlement colony project is marred by corruption that has failed to provide any facilities to us." Clearly, the Dal community that was immune to Kashmir's inherent volatility has now been thrown out in the open to fend for the basics. adding 'survival' to their compounding list of problems.

the government said and directed the IsGP, Kashmir and Jammu to communicate these directions to service providers forthwith and "ensure their implementation in letter and spirit."

# 27 PAGD Candidates File...

has the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) as its constituents, was formed last month to fight for the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, which was revoked by the Centre in August last year.

The members of the alliance announced last week that they would unitedly fight the DDC polls, which will be held for the first time in the Union Territory.

The PAGD seat-sharing list was approved by NC president Farooq Abdullah, who is the chairman of the alliance.

The alliance, however, did not reveal the names of the candidates contesting the first phase of the polls.

A PAGD leader said given the paucity of time, the names of the candidates could not be shared.

"We all had to work at a breakneck speed. We will update the names of the candidates later because they were busy with the filing of nominations today," he said.

The PAGD has decided to put up joint candidates of its constituent parties in the election, but will contest on the respective party symbols as a single symbol could not be granted to the alliance.

The polls to the DDCs will be held in eight phases from November 28 to December 24, according to a notification issued by the State Election Commission.

## Apni Party Welcomes PAGD's...

Bukhari was speaking to reporters here after the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference -- representing the panches and sarpanches -joined his party.

"It is a right decision and I congratulate them. I think Jammu and Kashmir is fortunate that these leaders have kept the emotions at bay and taken a practical decision," Bukhari said on the decision of the PAGD --an amalgam of seven mainstream political parties of Jammu and Kashmir -- to contest the maiden DDC polls in the Union Territory unitedly. The Apni Party chief said it is good to see the leaders associated with the PAGD shunning emotional slogans, which have always influenced the youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir towards the wrong.

"Till 10 days ago, those who are part of the PAGD, used to cry out loud saying elections are meaningless for them. But now they have decided to fight the polls. They still claim that they are not power hungry, but I want to ask them for what are they fighting the DDC polls then? Power flows from the grassroots, so it is not good to say that you are not fighting for power," he said.

On the amendments to land laws in Jammu and Kashmir, allowing outsiders to purchase land in the Union Territory, Bukhari said his party will fight for the protection of land rights.

"Industry we understand but that cannot be at the cost of our youngsters. This is not a slogan, but I assure you that we will fight to change the land laws," he said.

# Night Patrolling In Sensitive,...

in hypersensitive and border areas in the Union Territory to foil any "subversive design" to disrupt the polls.

Reviewing the security arrangement and preparedness for upcoming DDC, BDC and Panchayat polls in a meeting here at the Police Control

son added.

### 103-Yr-Old Woman Becomes...

died at SMHS hospital, a week after he was admitted there. The victim from Srinagar was an 80-year-old man from Lal Bazar Srinagar and died at Skims Soura, 12 days after he was admitted there. A 70-year-old man from Boniyar Uri died six days after he was admitted with bilateral community acquired pneumonia while victim from Ganderbal was a 75-year-old woman from Sonamarg, who died three days after admitted to the hospital.

Three deaths were reported from Jammu division and include two from the winter capital of the J&K and one from Kishtwar district. With these deaths, the fatality count in J&K has reached 1560.

### J&K Reports 617 New Corona...

details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 153 cases, Baramulla 62. Budgam 43. Pulwama 18. Kupwara 22. Anantnag 34. Bandipora 29. Ganderbal 22, Kulgam 6, Shopian 2, Jammu 93, Rajouri 9, Udhampur 35, Doda 15, Kathua 16, Poonch 8, Samba 8, Kishtwar 22, Ramban 13 and Reasi 7.

Meanwhile, 511 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals-236 from Jammu Division and 275 from Kashmir Valley.

## No Let Up In Cross-LoC Shelling...

and Border Out Posts (BoPs) in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district overnight, they said.

"At about 0900 hours, Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms & shelling with mortars along LoC in Shahpur, Kirni and Qasba sectors in district Poonch and also in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district", a defence spokesman said. Pakistani troops have violated the ceasefire 24 times this month.

## Macchil Operation Enters Day 5...

pressed into service. There are reports that some militants may still be present in the area," he said.

"We are trying to ensure that no militants are present in the area. The search operation will continue in coming days," he added.

## KEG Concerned At Denial Of...

expected that the decision-makers would take a view of the issue but the editors body said authorities have not taken any note of it. "The continued unexplained denial has landed the newspaper in a situation that it is unable to manage the establishment costs merely on the revenue it generates from the private sector, also under pressure owing to the pandemic", the statement said.

"KEG expects that the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha will look into the issue so that the newspaper is prevented from being closed. The newspaper has scores of people on its rolls including journalists and other professionals", KEG statement said. ===

### Twitter Served Notice For... of Electronics and IT on November 9, the sources said.

In the notice sent to the global vice president of Twitter, the ministry asserted that showing Leh as part of Jammu and Kashmir is a deliberate attempt by the micro-blogging platform to undermine the will of sovereign Parliament of India which has declared Ladakh as a Union Territory

ter houses and packing units of the dressed animals and food manufacturing and processing outlets and factories, to contact the board to get the Halal certification," he added.

## Inside Dal Dwellers' Decaying...

to live in limbo and even threaten to reverse migrate if their concerns remain unaddressed.

So far, it has all fallen on deaf ears.

Fida Hussain, a local activist who was relocated to Rakh-e-Arth with his family 4 years ago, explains that the land was a former swamp that lacks the plasticity to hold a structure together.

The ground, he says, needs at least a filling of 2-3 meters to make it solid enough for construction.

A lot of their lifetime-savings have already gone into erecting a house of their dreams, only to watch it crumble in front of their eyes. Some locals have even failed to receive the assured compensation and had to live in makeshift tin sheds that are unsuitable for both hot summers and brutal winters.

The relocation began in 2007 when the government announced its plans to relocate the residents at Rakh-e-Arth that was to be a modern posh colony with all the amenities.

However, more than a decade later the authorities have failed to provide even the basics for over 100 families.

LAWDA does not take any responsibility for poor planning of the colony. The houses are bevelled and have cracks even without the flooding. The residents complain that high construction costs make it difficult for them to maintain their homes. The compensation package offered by the government is not enough.

With fresh loans to pay for these expenses and lack of jobs, their problems have only exacerbated.

But that is not where the predicament for its residents end.

The deplorable living condition is only half the problem, the other half is to find reliable sources of income.

Where once all members of the family were able to contribute to the consolidated earnings, now there are hardly any opportunities for work except construction sites that barely pay enough to sustain big families. 65-year-old Zamruda Begum earlier added to her family income by working in the Dal Lake, collecting grass and lily leaves to be sold as cow feed.

Her tribe would act as cleaning agents even before the advent of costly machines would fail to uproot the cause of rising pollution in the lake. The elderly woman's family also had a farm where they grew vegetables and sold them in the vegetable market inside Dal Lake.

But ever since they moved here, the women have been rendered jobless. The only wages come from the men in the family who do odd jobs at construction sites and make a pittance for their labour.

In an effort to provide livelihood to the households, a government-run Aari-needle work-centre trains and employs unmarried women from Rakh-e-Arth which pays them Rs. 500 per month for 3-4 hours of work every day.

As such, many residents live in deplorable condition due to paucity of work opportunities.

On papers, Rakh-e-Arth also has a 100-bed hospital, 7 dispensaries, and a 30-bed nursing home/child welfare centre. But one look at the colony and it becomes apparent how these promises fall flat on its unstable marshy grounds.

Even though the settlement has been around for a while, there's only one work-in-progress hospital that began construction recently after making several rounds at the LAWDA office.

# CASO Ends In Shopian After...

1500 households, remained under siege.

"On Wednesday morning announcements were made on loudspeakers asking militants to come out and surrender." they said.

They added that only students and elders were allowed to come out and movement of general public was restricted to their compounds.

## 3 Pulwama Youth Booked...

of the youth vouch for their innocence, police claimed they were involved in militancy.

The report quoted SSP Pulwama Ashish Mishra as saying that all the three were booked for their involvement in militancy recruitment case.

# Panchayat-LevelCommittees...

water into drains, manage water works, undertake water conservation measures, prevention of encroachment of tank bed land, and protection of forest, he added.

The committee will be headed by the sarpanch concerned as its chairman.

Among the committees is a functional committee on human resources that will propagate the importance of being literate and organise literacy drives, ensure that all children in the age group of 6-14 are compulsorily enrolled in school and educate people to prevent diseases by following protective health care programmes, the spokesperson said. A committee for employment generation and self-help groups will facilitate collection and processing of data relating to the unemployed and their employment needs and maintaining lists of manual labour of the village. The committee will have a representative of the labour department, handicraft department, umeed, SHG member and panch as its members, the spokesperson said.

Secretary Sheetal Nanda emphasised that the committees will not only contribute to the overall development of the panchayat but would also ensure frequent interaction between sarpanchs, panchs and functionaries of various departments, leading to more information dissemination about various government schemes.

# Water Scarcity Sparks Protest...

they were facing a water shortage from the past two months, adding that the department was forcing them to consume filthy water. Shakeela Begum, one of the protesters said that they approached the concerned officials many times but nothing has been done in this regard. "We are being forced to consume contaminated water, which has affected our health," he said.

Meanwhile, officials from Jal Shakti department said that the pipeline was damaged by R&B department during construction of a drainage system, which has led to the shortage of water in the area.

They further said that the grievances of the people will be resolved soon as the department will come up with a separate water supply line towards the locality.

# NEWS



#### Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Syed Atlaf Bukhari Thursday hailed the PAGD's decision of fighting the District Development Council (DDC) elections stating that it took Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah 22 years to realize the right track and those who are part of the alliance for Gupkar Declaration choose the right path in less than a month which is a welcome development.

Addressing a press conference here, Bukhari said that till some ten days back, those who are part of PAGD, used to cry out loud that elections are meaningless for them. "But now they have decided to fight DDC polls. They still claim that they aren't power hungry.

But I want to ask them what they are contesting the DDC polls for?

He said it was good to see leaders associated with the PAGD shunning the "emotional politics" as such things have always swayed the youth of J&K towards wrong. "It took Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah 22 years to realise what is the right track and



it took PAGD less than a month to decide what is right. I am happy over the PAGD's decision and hail their announcement," he said.

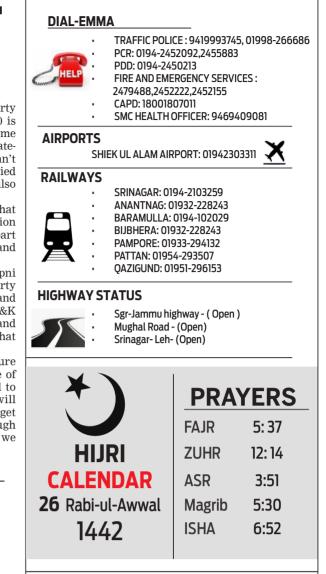
He said that today's youth have seen worse situations than ever. "Truth was very bitter. In the past 70, whatever was earned was snatched," Bukhari said.

He said that the J & K Apni Party has not given up as far as Article 370 is concerned. "The case is in the Supreme Court. We had five MPs who unfortunately couldn't save it. Those five people can't bring back Article 370. Our hope is tied with the SC," he said, adding that "we also demand statehood for our identity.

We are fighting for it." He said that unless 272 MPs would vote for restoration of Article 370, it can't be restored. "Apart from the parliament, our hope is SC and let's hope for the best," Bukhari said.

About the poll symbol of J&K Apni Party—"Bat", Bukhari said that his party members will be like true sportsmen and full spirit. On the land law, he said J&K Apni Party will fight for protection of land rights. "Industry, we understand but that can't be at the cost of our youth.

This is not the slogan but I assure you that we will fight for the change of land laws," he said. "We have vowed to get the land laws amended, and we will get it amended." Asked how can you get land laws amended, he said, "through persuasion. This is not something we will get on a plate".



Kashmir Observer Friday 13-11-2020

# **This Day In History**

1642 - Battle at Turnham Green outside London: King Charles I vs English parliament

1673 - Prince Willem III/Raimundo earl Montecuccoli conquer Bonn

1715 - Battle of Sheriffmuir during Jacobite rebellion. Battle inconclusive but Government forces halt advance of Jacobite army lead by Scottish Earl of Mar

- 1775 American Revolutionary forces capture Montreal
- 1781 British troops occupy Negapatam, Ceylon (Sri Lanka)
- 1851 Telegraph connection between London-Paris linked
- 1865 US issues 1st gold certificates
- 1918 Russia cancels Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- 1921 US, France, Japan and British Empire sign a Pacific Treaty.
- 1935 Anti-British riots in Egypt

1954 - 1st Rugby League World Cup: Great Britain beats France 16-12

1979 - Ronald Reagan in New York announces his candidacy for US President

- 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 Leghari elected president

1994 - Sweden agrees to join European Union

1997 - UN pulls out arms inspection teams from Iraq 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

connections to terrorist acts or planned acts on the United States. 2002 - Irag disarmament crisis: Irag agrees to the terms of the UN Security Council Resolution 1441 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 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. 2017 - Italy fails to qualify for 2018 Football World Cup (first time since 1958), after play-off defeat against Sweden. 2017 - Italy fails to qualify for 2018 Football World Cup (first time since 1958), after play-off defeat against Sweden 2017 - First Barbie doll to wear a hijab, modeled on Olympic fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad unveiled in New York

# Saffron trading goes on-line in Kashmir

PULWAMA : Director Agriculture Kashmir, Altaf Aijaz Andrabi today launched an e-Auction portal here to promote trading of GI Tagged 'Kashmir Saffron' through PAN India.

The Director said that the Department of Agriculture under the aegis of India International Kashmir Saffron Trading Centre (IIK-STC) contemplates to promote trading of GI Tagged Kashmir Saffron'.

While elaborating the im-

portance of e-auctioning, the Director said the sole aim of providing this type of platform to the buyers is to have access to quality 'Kashmir Saffron'. Andrabi said e-auctioning

will provide an efficient platform to the saffron growers for getting optimum returns of their yield which will ultimately boost the economy of this area without the interference of intermediaries.

**2-day Sufi conference concludes** Speakers stress on adopting Sufi teachings

SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 12: The two-day Sufi Conference on the theme of 'Sufism 700 year's roots in Kashmir' concluded here at the Auditorium of DIPR today.

During the valedictory session, various authors, writers presented their papers and expressed their views on the Sufism and stressed on adopting Sufi teachings for social reformation for the welfare and prosperity of humanity.

Kh. Farooq Renzushah in his concluding remarks said that Sufism ignite the passion in the heart that connects us each other. He said Love lies at the core of the Sufi tradition and practices of the Sufis have great relevance for seekers today and can help us to deepen spiritual practice or elevate it to a new level.

On the occasion, various musi-

MJΔ

cal programmes were presented by the Cultural Unit of DIPR which was applauded by the audience.

Syed Shakeel Shaan conducted the proceedings of the Conference and presented the vote of thanks.

Earlier, Chairman, Kashmir Society International, Kh. Farooq Renzushah, welcomed the participants and congratulated them for making the conference a success.

# **DC Chairs meeting** of Valuation Committee

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 12-Chairman, District Valuation Committee (Deputy Commissioner) Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary reviewed the land valuation proposed by Sub-Divisional Valuation Committees for annual notification rates for the year 2021 in District Srinagar.

In District Srinagar. The meeting reviewed the proposals formulated by various Tehsils for revision of annual rates of land viz a viz residential, commercial, agriculture, horticulture, non-cultivable, cultivable —-Irrigated and un-irrigated among other categories. Addl Deputy Commissioner, Asstt Commissioner Revenue, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars made their presentations highlighting the methodology adopted, exercise conducted in field and parameters taken into account for finalisation of rates. Registrars from department of land registration, town planner and officers from various departments were also present in the meeting.

Chairman, DVC Srinagar directed the officers to display the final draft in public domain and take into account the feedback and suggestions from all stakeholders. He asked for comprehensive analysis of various parameters while arriving at valuation of land to be fixed which shall include master plan land use, type of land, average sale rates , proximity of public transport , infrastructure development status among others. recommendations to Tehsildars for inclusion. Collectors of Land Acquisition have also been asked to submit their recommendations. The sub-divisional committees have been asked to taken into account various suggested steps and re-submit the proposals by 17 November 2020 after which these will be shared in public domain for feedback and comments. General public has also been advised to contact respective commit. tees at tehsil level for any issues related to land valuation. The valuation committee is finalising rates for the year 2021 as per the provisions laid down SRO 379 of Jammu and Kashmir Preparation and Revision of Market Value Guidelines Rules 2011 which mandates the District Valuation Board to fix the annual rates and valuation of immovable property.

اطلاععام

میری ساقوی جماعت پاس سرلقکیف زیرایڈ میشن نجسر 580 سال 1992 کہیں پر گم ہوگئی ہےاب اسکی ڈیلی کیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے ند ید میرے والد کا نام علطی سے لمرل سکول ریکارڈیٹ غلام تحدیث ہوئی ہے جبکہ پر ائمیری ریکارڈیٹ سنداللہ بٹ ہےاب اسکی درستی کرانی مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص کوکوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض ہوتو وہ ایک ہفتہ سے اندراندا پنا عذریا اعتراض ہیڈ ماسٹر کور منٹ بائی سکول سا دی وارہ و سری ناگ کے دفتر میں چیش کر بے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض تائی تو ول نہیں ہوگا۔ الکہ **شنتی ز بھی تقضیح بٹ ولد سنداللہ بٹ** 

ساکنه سادی داره دیری ناگ ڈورو

ازعدالت الميكز يكثيومجسثريث درجهاول

(نائب بخصیلداراننت ناگ)بااجلاس نز راحدیث صاحب

Registrars were asked to share the details of land registration with two years annual comparison and forward their

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory. Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla. NOTICE INVITING TENDERS Short term NIT No:- 104/8235-44/2020-21/RnB/Bla Dated 11.11.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money/ Bid Security (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account		Position of funds
11.	2 Restoration of Wahidina Shirpora road by way of P/L of Nallah Muck & WBM Grade-2nd in patches / Stretches	3 1.45	4 200/-	<u>5</u> 2900/-	6 10days	7 DEE	8 MH-3054- M&R	9 AAA Accorded	9 Available

Special Condition: The successful bidder shall have to furnish the additional performance security amount within 7days failing which an amount of Rs 200/- fine per day shall be levied for a maximum of 7days. Thereafter the work shall be offered to second lowest bidder & CDR shall be forfeited.

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www. <u>iktenders.gov.in</u> as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11.11.2020	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 12.11.2020 to 19.11.2020 4:00PM	
3	Bid submission Start date	13.11.2020	
4	Bid Submission End Date	19.11.2020 upto 4:00PM	
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	20.11.2020 up to 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division	
		Barmaulla	

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt mentioning therein name of work and NIT No. (copy enclosed) in favour of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla (Tender inviting Authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla (Tender receiving Authority).

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site <u>www.jktenders.gov.in</u> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The <u>bids of Responsive bidders</u> shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla.

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

5. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form), this office NIT No: 01 of 2018-19 issued under No: 252-62 dated: 16.04.2018.

No. 8235-44		Executive Engineer
Dated 11.11.2020	DIPK-8906/20	R&B Division Baramulla

ر ما تب سطیع کدارا عنت ما ک با احجلاک مرد مرا محد ک صاحب درخواست منجانب: \_ظهورا حد حقانی ولدز سرا حمد حقانی ساکنه حضرت بل اینت ناگ بغرض اجرائی تاریخ پیدائیش سرگفکیک بنام سیدامان الله حقانی ولد ظهورا حمد حقانی \_

اشتہار بمراد آگا ہی ہرخاص وعام۔ معاملہ مندرج<sup>ع</sup>نوان الصدر میں سائل/سائلہ ندرد کورہ بالانے عدالت بنرا میں ایک

درخواست حلفی بیان پیش کیا ہے سائل کے پسر کا تاریخ پیدائیش 02/02/2017 ہے اس ضمن میں سر ثقایت پیدائیش نکالنے کا خواہ ہے لہذ اسر ثقایت ندکورہ کوا جراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوکوئی بھی عذریا اعتراض ہوتو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں پیش کرے یصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ا کیزیکٹومجسٹریٹ درجہاول (تحصیلداراننٹ ناگ)

### Office of the co-ordinator VISION CLASSES MAGAM

### Public Notice

	ar 2020-2021					
I.S	S.No.	Name of the Staff	Subject	Qualification		
		01	Mr. Inayatullah	Physics	B.Tech	
	Magam/	02	Mr. Mohd Asraf Khan	Chemistry	M.sc / B.Ed	
	s/uu	03	Mr. Shabir Ahmad	Botany	M.sc	
	9858-90-888	04	Mr. Mohd Umer	Zoology	MBBS	
		05	Mr. Mohd Ypusuf Mir	Mathematics	P.hd	
	8-0					
	80			Co-o	rdinator	

Vision Classes Magam

Office of the co-ordinator VISION CLASSES MAGAM Public Notice

Sub: Fee Structure for 11th & 12th for the session 2020-2021								
S.No.	Name of Subject	Class	Monthly Fee	Lump sum				
01	Physics	12th / 11th	Rs- 900/=	Rs- 6000/=				
02	Chemistry	12th / 11th	Rs- 900/=	Rs- 6000/=				
03	Biology	12th / 11th	Rs- 900/=	Rs- 6000/=				
04	Mathematics	12th / 11th	Rs- 900/=	Rs- 6000/=				
Not	Note: Free coaching for orphans / BPL/AAy upto 10% of intake capacity.							

Contact : 7006-658884 Coordinator Vision Classes Magarr From KO Archives

# '50 percent Indians are corrupt'

### AGENCIES

EW DELHI: Almost 60 per cent of Indians using government ser¬vices end up paying bribes, according to a recent survey commis¬sioned by India's Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). But only 20 per cent actually filed mplaints against such corrupt practises.

Complaints against such corrupt practises. The study was carried out by the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), which interviewed 2,576 visitors to government offices in five cities across the country from October 31 to November 4.

More than 60 percent of respondents said the problem of cor¬ruption was not being tackled seriously and that the judiciary was largely ineffective. Most of the respondents agreed the offices for securing driving licenses and civil supplies were the most corrupt in all five cities — New Delhi, Lucknow, Madras, Hyderabad and Pune.

One-third of respondents admitted to using "influence or fa-vour" to get the service they needed. The survey noted that mem-bers of the business community and the self-employed topped the list of bribe givers. According to the survey, the government departments in Lucknow and Hyderabad were the most corrupt. About 42 per cent of people said the departments operated "Middle men" who acted as a paid conduit between the public and officials. The public departments covered by the survey included electricity and telephone boards, civil supplies, driving license and local and I urban development offices.

(Kashmir Observer, November 13, 2000)

# OBSERVER

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# Bihar lesson

ontrary to expectations and the exit polls the BJP put up a winning performance in the Bihar Assembly polls enabling the ruling NDA to obtain majority. The NDA won an absolute majority in the state winning 125 seats, three more than the halfway mark needed for a victory. Earlier exit polls had given a convincing majority to Mahagathbandan comprising Rashtriya Janta Dal, Congress and the Communist party. But they fell short just when they were within the touching distance of the victory, securing 110 seats. The performance of the AIMIM which won five seats surprised everyone. At the same time the AIMIM was blamed for cutting the votes of Mahagathbandan enabling the BJP to nose ahead.

Be that as it may, the NDA is again forming the government the state with Nitish Kumar again its chief minister. This would be his fourth term. The outcome of the Bihar polls will continue to be parsed for days. According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the secret to winning Bihar polls is 'sabka saath, sabka vikas'. He rightly pointed out that the BJP didn't only win Bihar but also in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and even in Telangana and Ladakh.

These election results have once again raised serious questions about the ability of Congress to defeat the BJP. In his address to party workers, the PM Modi rubbed this fact in saying over the decades Congress has reduced itself to a familyrun party. He called this state of affairs as the true threat to democracy. Dynasty and Democracy, he said, cannot go hand-in-hand.

And Bihar election results have vindicated the PM. Congress is now in dire straits. The party despite its claim to being India's pre-eminent secular party has never posed an ideological challenge to Modi. Neither in Gujarat where the party has successively failed to arrest Modi's juggernaut nor in the rest of the country. The BJP has now acquired a true national profile and Congress is shrinking by the day.

So, there is no dislodging the PM Modi yet. That is, if no credible political rival emerges from the shadows in the near future, a prospect which looks bleak. A win for thr Grand Alliance in the recent Bihar elections could have had a profound significance. The victory would have arrested the disarray among the secular forces and given them confidence to stand up to Modi in the upcoming state elections. One such being the election in West Bengal. As Bihar has once again highlighted, only a broad secular front against Modi could confront him with a credible challenge. Nothing short of that can. Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com





# **Turning Tables on Liberalism** 'Islam' is not in crisis, liberalism is

### Asad Dandia

ast month, French President Emmanuel Macron declared in an address to the nation that "Islam is a religion that is in crisis today all over the world". In the same speech, he unveiled a political programme for strengthening laïcité, France's unique iteration of secularism that stringently restricts religion in the public sphere. Since then, a brutal decapitation of a schoolteacher, the vicious stabbing of two Muslim women and diplomatic spats have reignited global anxieties about the entanglement between Islam and laïcité.

Much has been written about France's weaponisation of laïcité to discriminate against Muslims and on the history of French liberalism as a rationale for the brutal colonisation of millions of peoples across Asia and Africa – what it called its "mission civilisatrice" (civilising mission). This violence is as much part of French history as its revolutionary triad of liberté, égalité, and fraternité (liberty, equality and fraternity).

It is only the latter, however, that is ever mentioned as France's contribution to modernity. There is seldom a reckoning with the dark underbelly of liberalism, and the unparalleled violence that was, and continues to be, meted out to its historic Others. But Muslims – having horne the brunt of French (and other) colonial. ism, imperialism and racist violence – know it all too well. Indeed, for many, Macron's call for an "Islam of the Enlightenment" is viewed as the latest development in that history. When I first read Macron's remarks about Islam in crisis, the immediate question that occurred to me was: Who is this "Islam" and has anyone checked up on them? The truth is that the trope of "Islam" as Enlightenment liberalism's oppositional foil has been discussed so much that it need not be examined here. Let us, however, take Macron's statement descriptively: Is Islam in crisis? To answer that question, we would have to begin with defining the terms If by "Islam", Macron means Muslim minorities in North America and Western Europe, then on the contrary, there has never been a more exciting time to be Muslim. In fact, it is precisely in "the West" – which Macron and his predecessors have long positioned as the antithesis of "Islam" where some of the richest discourses among Muslims are emerging. The advent of mass literacy, mass migration and information technology (including social media) have collectively facilitated a vibrant cultural and intellectual transformation among Muslims in the Global North, the likes of which preceding generations could never have imagined. Never have more Muslims been so actively engaged in creatively studying, interpreting, contesting and embodying their tradition as they are today. Muslim women are bringing to the fore their subjectivities to assert their agency and challenge traditional authority in exegesis, ethics, politics and more, without the need for white liberal saviours. Black Muslims and Muslims of African descent, whose long history of resistance in the Americas is well-documented, are at the forefront of social justice organising, calling on people to think more capaciously about imagining a world beyond policing, prisons and the carceral logics of nation-states. The growing body of scholarly literature on Islam in the English language, be it in academic settings or in normative confessional settings (with the two often cross-pollinating one another) - led by Muslims - further bears witness to the flourishing of Islam in the West. It is safe to say that English, once a language of Empire, reclaimed by its subjects and their descendants and now globalised, is as much an "Islamic" language as are Persian or Malay.

a "seat at the table" to demonstrate this loyalty.

Today, Muslim communities are spending less time seeking a seat at the table and more time building tables of their own, without having to pander to power. They are articulating a consciousness with an acute awareness of the various structures of Islamophobic violence that have in large part been responsible for shaping their global dispossession, subjugation, surveillance and more. And yes, that includes challenging the state violence exerted by places like the Gulf Arab states.

When the world at large is witnessing an unprecedented surge in far-right movements, the breakdown of governing institutions, skyrocketing inequalities and impending climate catastrophe, it astonishes that one could suggest that Muslims or "Islam" are uniquely in crisis. We would do better to understand that our challenges are interconnected, and to suggest that "Islam" is the sole – or even a meaningful – unit of analysis or explanatory factor for crisis is ten-

• The spirit of the Arab Spring is alive and well and has extended to Iraq, Algeria, Sudan and Lebanon in the last year. Palestinians and Kashmiris maintain their decades-long struggles for justice and rights against ostensibly liberal democracies.

### US and France

But what if by "Islam", Macron meant the Muslim world?

There is no doubt that the "Muslim world" (in quotes because the category is not without its problematics) is struggling.

Dissidents continue to be imprisoned in Iran. The Gulf Arab monarchies marshal a façade of social liberalisation that is overshadowed by uous at best.

It is in fact liberalism – the political philosophy birthed out of the Enlightenment which marshalled freedom, equality, and autonomy – that is in crisis. Its ideals are hardly exclusively of European provenance, being as they are present in numerous non-European traditions, but it is Europe's stream that dominates the global terrain today.

### OTHER OPINON

# Year of Lockdown

an a lockdown beat the coronavirus? Last heard, epidemiologists and economists were still locked in bitter battle over that one. But Collins Dictionary has settled it. "Lockdown" wins hands down, and has been crowned the word of this annus horribilis, leaving "coronavirus" and other pandemic-triggered words behind. The word has been quite the super-spreader, turning up in multiple languages to stand for the stringent restrictions that humans across the world have accepted on their movement and social life in the hope of taming the virus. Its etymology lies, unsurprisingly, in prison life — it once referred to a security measure to confine exuberant inmates of jailhouses when they went out of hand. In India, it also came to mean the colossal apathy that left thousands of migrant workers stranded, hungry and desperate.

The Sars-CoV-2 outbreak has snuck up on everyday vocabulary in other ways too. In the innocent early months of this deprivation, some performed rituals in balconies hoping to "flatten the curve". Others watched WhatsApp scholars add to the "infodemic" by claiming that NASA satellites had proof that a clanging army had chased the virus away. "Covidiots" partied, others rustled up frugal "quarantine meals" and plenty of indignation. As the virus went rogue, "doom-scrolling" and reading up on dire news became a habit. The ravages of pandemics have been felt on the tongue before, of course. In 11th century England, the Black Death or the bubonic plague wiped out nearly a quarter of its population - especially, the French nobility. The vice-grip of the French language on the court and the country waned, the stock of English-speaking peasants and traders rose — and the English language gained in strength in its native kingdom.

If the human race is lucky, and if populist demagogues have not entirely short-circuited the workings of science, this pandemic might leave far fewer scars on the language. Might we even forget the meaning of lockdown? To that hope, raise a quarantini.

The Indian Express

In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, Muslims – particularly in the United States – were compelled to position themselves as loyal patriots committed to the myths of American exceptionalism in order to avoid being suspected of being a fifth column. For a long time, Muslims sought the quashing of political rights. Iraq and Afghanistan remain entangled in myriad power struggles amid the fallout of America's forever wars. The Balkans are seeing a revival of the same exclusionary nativism that led to the Bosnian genocide. Meanwhile, Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang face genocide in the present day.

While many of these crises overlap, each of them is also the consequence of particular historical circumstances that demand rigorous analyses which are beyond the purview of this essay. Even a cursory glance at the factors that shaped them makes it very clear that these crises can hardly be boxed into a totalising discourse about "Islam in crisis" – a discourse which serves as nothing more than a cover to avoid grappling with the very complicated histories that brought

### It is in fact liberalism – the political philosophy birthed out of the Enlightenment which marshalled freedom, equality, and autonomy – that is in crisis.

the "Muslim world" to where it is today.

What is overlooked is that despite all of this, the spirit of the Arab Spring is alive and well and has extended to Iraq, Algeria, Sudan and Lebanon in the last year. Palestinians and Kashmiris maintain their decades-long struggles for justice and rights against ostensibly liberal democracies. Women's and minority-led movements in Turkey, Pakistan and Iran continue to galvanise against discrimination, patriarchy and state violence.

Gulf Arab dissidents refuse to toe the line of their autocrats by raising their voices against repression. Muslims of India mobilised the largest mass-led demonstrations asserting their rights. Uighur activists refuse to be silent even as the world turns a blind eye to their pain.

Against all odds, Muslim populations and their allies continue to show that when the world brings its worst, they offer their best. In the face of Pharaoh, Muslims become a Moses.

What is also overlooked is the role of liberal American and French governments in sustaining the very illiberal systems of oppression they claim to oppose. The US and France are staunch allies of Israel, India, Egypt and the rain today.

From the left, liberalism is charged with being founded upon violent and racist dispossession of its historic Others and birthing the system of global inequality that exists today. Its staunchest critics from this side include American philosopher Cornel West and Indian writer Pankaj Mishra. These critics argue that the "chickens have come home to roost" for liberal states, as the violence they wrought upon the world's masses has now exposed their cracks, which can no longer be veiled by the veneer of equality and freedom, which were conditional to begin with.

While critics from the left may cherish the freedoms of liberalism with the aim of transcending them through political economy, liberalism's critics from the right – such as American scholars Patrick Deneen and Adrian Vermeule – castigate its very foundations. They view it as an atomising and suffocating ideology that untethers human beings from any sense of community or social commitment to one another. While the left and right may disagree on the solutions, both know that the time for liberalism's reckoning has come. Even American political scientist Francis Fukuyama, patron-saint of liberalism, is sounding the alarm bells.

And yet as the doomsday clock continues to tick, the champions of liberalism cannot but try to vindicate the formula that brought crisis upon the world in the first place. And while they view the freedom offered by liberalism solely as the fruits of their own labour, they take no accountability for the illiberalism that was needed to sustain it. They ascribe liberalism's successes – freedom, equality, autonomy – exclusively to themselves while attributing its failures – centuries of exploitation resulting in global inequality and climate catastrophe – to "all of us".

The wretched of the Earth, as anti-colonial philosopher Frantz Fanon called them, are never given credit for liberalism's fruits but are made accountable for its poisons. Why?

Macron can rest assured that Islam will be all right; that Muslims have overcome many a crisis and will overcome many more. As for those of us who are concerned for humanity at large, now is the time to think deeply together, to lean in to one another, and to listen with a spirit of openness and empathy as we face the global crises that threaten Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Who knows, maybe this "Islam" can offer a thing or two to address liberalism's crisis.

The views expressed in this article are author's own and do not necessarily represent that of Kashmir Observer Huzaifa Pandit

# **Translation and Resistance Literature**

Part-I

Payaambar na naseeb hua tau khoob hua Payaam-e-gair say kya sharah-e-arzoo kartay

> That the messenger was unavailable was fortunate How could another one translate my desire?

The tradition of writing lived experience in Kashmir is still in infancy, a byproduct of the turmoil that **Kashmir has** spiraled into since 1990's. Not that Kashmir did not have a tradition of writing, on the contrary, the poetic tradition is quite old, and quite developed.

he oft quoted couplet by Khwaja Haider Ali Aatish adequately highlights the perils of translation, which is premised in impossi-

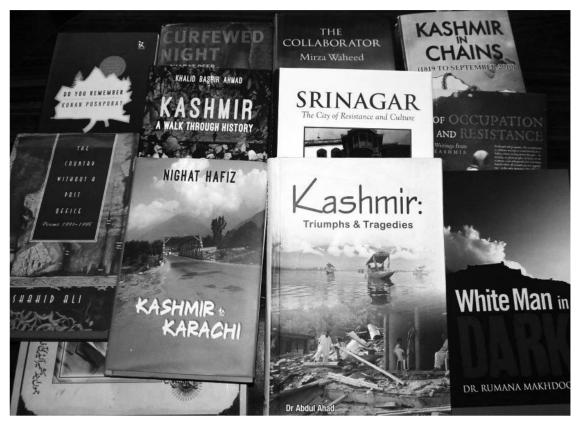
bility. I was reminded of this couplet when a few days ago, I ran into an old acquaintance who complained that literary production from Kashmir is still not up to the mark. One reason, we agreed on is that the influence of literatures produced outside Kashmir is rather limited as compared to outsiders. a lot of whom we read in translation. While it is indubitable that the peculiar socio-political conditions in Kashmir promote an aesthetic of confrontation, and realism, the argument that this justifies the selfenclosed nature of literary production doesn't hold water. A counter that could be offered, however, is that the tradition of writing lived experience in Kashmir is still in infancy, a byproduct of the turmoil that Kashmir has spiraled into since 1990's. Not that Kashmir did not have a tradition of writing, on the contrary, the poetic tradition is quite old, and quite developed. However, as with everywhere, the amalgam of identity politics and writing is a comparatively new phenomenon inaugurated by Mehjoor in the early decades of 20th century. In English, the tradition is popularly ascribed to Agha Shahid Ali, just before the onset of the new millennium. Within such a short time, it is not possible to evolve a highly stratified tradition just yet. While this counter is justified to an extent, it is not sufficient to abide by it, and give up hope and effort of diversifying the tradition. What can be done to diversify the tradition of poetry especially resistance poetry? Many things including translation! Translation represents an attempt to borrow new genres and new idioms into English. But translation itself is not a singular process.

Tejaswani Niranjana, in 'Siting Translation', points out that translation provides a context, "of contesting and contested stories attempting to account for, to recount, the asymmetry and inequality of relations between peoples, races and languages." She offers a model of translation that employs English to contest unmediated representations of colonialism and make visible the writer from the (former) colony to both the west and the readership within the country. This making visible allows postcolonial translation to emerge as a radical practice, which helps to create the desired political statement that lived experiences in marginalised spaces like Kashmir demand. Another model is offered by Pramod Navar who argues that effective narratives of human rights can be created by using translation to create narrative communities, which will harness

tuted from violence, and suppression like Kashmir, translation then emerges as a handy tool to create narrative communities, within the world at large in general and India in particular, by converting them to recognise concrete experience of a disenfranchised people. In the spirit of Ramanujan, the Indian translator, theorist and poet, the translation aims to translate the foreign reader into a native reader i.e. a disinterested reader into one anxious and concerned about Kashmir. Translation is enacted with a specific activist zeal to transform narratives realising that ground level realities are determined by narratives e.g. the narrative of nationalism, revivalism, and Hindu majoritarianism determine the lived realities of residents of Kashmir. By extension this framing demands that counter and alternate narratives be drawn to allow the subjugated to produce more accurate representations of their condition, than presented by the subjugator.

In this column, I propose to demonstrate this model to show how a translation of two ghazals, one by Ghulam Rasool Nazki, and one by Khatir Gaznavi written in an entirely different context can be reimagined to demonstrate the lived experience of a Kashmiri on the eve of the various anniversaries of massacres, milestones in our history of disenfranchisement in general and August 5 in particular when the erstwhile state was converted into a union territory and its land rights stripped away. The translation is as follows:

**On Anniversaries** Yet again today, you rake the subject of desires of my heart:



Jadaa-e-sehan-e-chaman, parwardaa-e-aagosh-e-gul Hum bayabaan main bhi kehdenge gulistaanon ki baat

Tum nay mera aur phir main nay tarsha but tera Is tarah kaabay say chal nikli hai butkhaano.n ki baat

Shaama jalti hi rahee aansoo.n bahatee hi rahee Subhu tak chalti rahee mehfil main parwaanon ki baat

In the first couplet, the original employs the verb 'chedi' which implies 'alluded' to, an indirect hint of sorts. I translate it to 'rake' which involves a violence, a digging out as it were, which would cause agony, and hence gives full vent to the sadistic pleasure the other derives from a reminder of the subject i.e. the subject of humiliation, powerlessness and the desire to be rid of these. 'Rake', therefore, is an adequate reminder of the violence and heartache that follows any discussion of the abrogation. Moreover, kavish-e-zakhm-e-jigar literally translates into exacerbate the wounds of the heart. I translate the line into salting the wounds of heart to exaggerate the effect and bring out the full effect of the torment felt by the Kashmiri subject when commemorating the event

The second couplet talks about narrating the tale with an 'ada-e-khaas' – a peculiar way. I translate it to 'wax eloquent' to indicate the full extent of the troubles that followed the abrogation, and the grandeur of mourning associated with the crises that were unleashed post August. I add patiently to the line even as the original only mentions 'suni' heard. The addition of patience is simply an af firmation of the resignation that has crept into our conversations, where we repeat the same litanies of grief ad nauseam in every gathering at every instance. It is only us, who have the patience to listen to each other's narratives. People sharing each other's trauma and united by a collective suffering listen to each other, and share in each other's grief. In a word increasingly immune and impervious to the concerns of the marginalized, and having given a free pass to the subjugator to subjugate the subjugated, the aggrieved have nowhere to go but only listen to each other, to console themselves in hollow consolations and wait wistfully for some relief, some good news. Therefore, I translate 'deewanon ki baat'- conversations of lovers to 'lovers pouring out their heart' to lend more poignancy to the act of listening, and expressing.



the power of translation to transcend limitations of the language, but also bring an audience to a textual event that especially accommodates contestations of communal identity and action. In spaces constifresh tales of salting the wounds of my heart.

I waxed eloquent with my tale, you heard me out patiently. Else, who in the world listens to lovers pouring out their heart?

Relic of the garden -Flower raised in garden's shade In deserts too, I'll speak of gardens with a breeze in my heart.

You sculpted my idol, I followed your lead. Ritual of idolatry started right, thus, from Kabba's heart.

The candle burnt and wept all night. Till dawn, all conversation revolved around the moth's heart. (On August 5, 2020)

### Aaj phir chedi hai

Aaj phir chedi hai tumnay meray armaanon ki baat Kaavish-e-zakhm-e-jigar kay taza afsaanon ki baat

Ik ada-e-khaas say hum nay kahee tum nay suni Kaun sunta hai jahaan main warna deewanon ki baat

Huzaifa Pandit is the author of the recently published Green is the Colour of Memory, which won the first edition of Rhythm Divine Poets Chapbook Contest 2017. He holds a PhD on poetry of resistance from University of Kashmir

ike millions of other parents, we have been struggling to sustain the competing jobs of work, home schooling and parenting. Here's how our spring went and how the autumn will probably look: We wake up when our younger daughter climbs into our bed to tell us about her dreams, we make breakfast, and we triage the tasks everyone needs to get done during the day. These might include guided reading and arithmetic exercises for the 8-year-old, maths homework and a social studies report for her 12-year-old sister - and for the two adults in the family, both college professors, there's email, class preparation, grading, committee meetings, research supervision and scholarship.

On most days, it feels as if we get a reasonable amount of time to devote to our professional tasks. And yet we are unable to concentrate enough to complete the work.

Our strategy is to trade off being the parent "at work" and the parent on child-care duty for blocks of three hours or so. We ask the kids not to interrupt the at-work parent unless absolutely necessary. If they need to interrupt someone, it should be the parent on duty - but they should make an effort to solve problems on their own, since the

# **Impossible Balancing**

### SUZANNE EDWARDS AND LARRY SNYDER

parent on duty is trying to get professional work done, too. Invariably, both parents end up fielding questions about craft projects, complaints about sibling misdeeds and requests for snacks. Our personal responsibilities interrupt our professional ones, which interrupt our personal ones - and we

to scream, "We haven't seen anyone but you!"

Social science research underscores the costs of interrupted professional focus. In a laboratory setting, it can take upward of 20 minutes for people to get back to the task at hand after an interruption, and the quality of their work declines.

**With less time to do it all,** the quarantine has created more work for everyone. The waged work done by education and child-care professionals has moved into the home, where it is now performed by unwaged caregivers.

#### feel we are failing at all our jobs.

By dinnertime, our kids typically complain, "We haven't seen you at all today!," while we want

People skip steps in their projects when they attempt to refocus, studies have found, or repeat steps they've completed. On the other side of the

equation, our kids would certainly vouch for the decline in the quality of our parental labor. And pre-pandemic research demonstrates that working from home heightens both job stress and family conflict, particularly when it requires the kind of multitasking that quarantine demands.

With less time to do it all, the quarantine has created more work for everyone. The waged (although undercompensated) work done by education and child-care professionals - including teachers, coaches, school psychologists, technology specialists and cafeteria aides - has moved into the home, where it is now performed by unwaged caregivers. At the same time, many employers are asking more of their employees.

If our micro-experiment shows anything, it confirms what feminists have long known: Caregiving labor has to be done by someone, it will not take a back seat to caregivers' other work responsibilities, and it enables other labor that has historically been more highly valued.

Meanwhile, our responsibilities mount.

Gulf News

# fe & Times

# **FUTURE OF BUSINESS TRAVEL Unclear As Coronavirus Upends Work Life**

#### Agencies

or the lucrative business travellers like Contreras. travel industry, Brian Contreras represents its worst fears.

A partner account executive at a US tech firm, Contreras was used to travelling frequently for his company. But nine months into the pandemic, he and thousands of others are working from home and dialling into video conferences instead of boarding planes.

Contreras manages his North American accounts from Sacramento, California and doesn't expect to travel for work until the middle of next year. Even now, Delta's business travel revthen, he's not sure how much enue is down 85%. he will need to.

"Maybe it's just the acceptance of the new normal. I have all of the resources necessary to ees will travel as often once the be on the calls, all of the com- pandemic ends because they've municative devices to make sure I can do my job," he said. "There's an element of of face-

centres and other industries that rely so heavily on business

Work travel represented 21% of the \$8.9 trillion spent on global travel and tourism in 2019, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council.

Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian recently suggested business travel might settle into a "new normal" that is 10% to 20% lower than it used to be.

"I do think corporate travel is going to come back faster than people suspect. I just don't know if it will be come back to the full volume," Bastian told The Associated Press. Right

Dubai-based MBC Group, which operates 18 television stations, says it's unlikely employproven they don't need to.

"We have managed to deliver projects and negotiate to-face that's necessary, but I deals very successfully, though would be OK without it." That remotely," MBC spokesman trend could spell big trouble Mazen Hayek said. MBC has refor hotels, airlines, convention duced trips by more than 85%, million employees, is the sec-



Havek said. Åmazon, which told it em-March, says it has saved nearly \$1 billion in travel expenses so far this year. The online shop-

At Southwest Airlines, CEO ployees to stop travelling in Gary Kelly said while overall passenger revenue is down 70%, business travel – normally more than one-third of Southping giant, with more than 1.1 west's traffic -- is off 90%.

Set\_No

ond-largest employer in the US. tinue for a long time. I'm very confident it will recover and pass 2019 levels, I just don't know when," Kelly told the AP. US hotels relied on business travel for around half their revenue in 2019, or closer to 60% in big "I think that's going to con- cities like Washington, according

hospitality data firm Kalibri Labs. Peter Belobaba, who teaches airline management at MIT, said business travel is down partly because some people are afraid to fly and partly because companies fear liability

if employees contract Covid-19 while travelling for work. Companies have also reined in travel because times are lean, he said. ExxonMobil cut business travel in February — even before the pandemic's full impact was felt in the US – because of fall-

ing global demand for oil. Those who want to travel may also be limited by travel restrictions, Belobaba added. Last month, Polestar CEO Thomas Ingenlath observed a mandatory 14-day quarantine in China after flying in from Sweden for the Beijing Auto Show. Polestar, an electric car brand

jointly owned by Sweden's Volvo and China's Geely, has always tried to limit travel for environmental reasons. But the 14-day quarantine has restricted travel even further, said Kiki Liu, Polestar's head of communications. The cutback in travel has been

to Cindy Estis Green, the CEO of a boon for teleconferencing services. Zoom said it had 370,200 customer businesses with at least 10 employees at the end of July, more than triple the number it had at the end of April.

But for some workers, teleconferencing can't replace being there in person.

Rebecca Lindland, an automotive consultant and founder of Rebecca Drives, used to travel 38 weeks each year for test drives and auto shows. This year, she didn't fly from March until September. Test drives have been cut back to regional events, so attendees don't have to travel as far. Sam Clarke, an assistant professor in the college of business at California State University San Marcos, agrees that some inperson events — like trade shows will still be important in the future. But he thinks new kinds of

business travel could also emerge. Lockdowns have taught employees how to adapt to different work environments, he says, so hotels, airlines and even cruise ships should beef up their connectivity and cater to business travellers.

Set\_No Quest\_No Answer Set\_No Quest\_No Answer

# Low Fitness Linked To **Higher Depression**, **Anxiety Risk: Study**



Agencies

to those with high levels of verall fitness

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, **J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD.** SEHKARI BHAWAN RAIL HEAD, PANAMA CHOWK JAMMU. (www.jkssb.nic.in)

### NOTICE

Subject:-Answer Key &seeking of representations (if any)for the Objective Type Written Test (OMR Based) held on 10th of November, 2020-regarding.

The J&K Services Selection Board conductedOMR Based Objective Type Written examinations conducted by the Board for the posts of Accounts Assistant (Panchayat) in Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No 02 of 2020 on 10th of November, 2020 (Tuesday). The Answer Keys of the four series of question booklets are hereby displayed/uploaded for information of all concerned as Annexure "A" of this notice. The candidates can submit their objections/representationsin respect of any question/answer (if any)can upload the same, along-with documentary evidence/referencethrough the online link available on the website of the Board i.ewww.ikssb.nic.in from 12<sup>th</sup> of November. 2020 to 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2020, Objections /representations through any other means shall not be entertained.

Important Instructions:

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eople with low aero-University College London symptoms. (UCL) researchers.

Medicine.

Aaron Kandola (UCL Psychi- sures used here. atry) said: "Here we have mental health benefits."

with increasing resistance, fitness." while their muscular fitanxiety symptoms.

with better mental health disorders." seven years later.

health disorders, compared of mental illness.'

researchers ac-The bic and muscular counted for potentially fitness are nearly confounding factors at twice as likely to baselines such as diet, soexperience depression, ac- cioeconomic status, chronic cording to a study led by illness, and mental illness

Previous studies have Low fitness levels also found that people who expredicted a 60 per cent ercise more are less likely to greater chance of anxiety, experience mental illnessover a seven-year follow- es, but most studies rely on up, according to the find- people self-reporting their ings published in BMC activity levels, which can be less reliable than the objec-Lead author, PhD student tive physical fitness mea-

Senior author Dr Joseph provided further evidence Hayes (UCL Psychiatry and of a relationship between Camden and Islington NHS physical and mental health, Foundation Trust) said: and that structured exercise "Our findings suggest that aimed at improving differ- encouraging people to exent types of fitness is not ercise more could have exonly good for your physical tensive public health benhealth, but may also have efits, improving not only our physical health but our The study involved mental health too. Improv-152,978 participants aged ing fitness through a com-40 to 69 of the UK Biobank bination of cardio exercise study. Their baseline aero- and strength and resistance bic fitness at the start of training appears to be more the study period was tested beneficial than just focusby using a stationary bike ing on aerobic or muscular

Aaron Kandola added: ness was measured with a "Reports that people are grip strength test. They also not as active as they used completed a questionnaire to be are worrying, and gauging depression and even more so now that global lockdowns have Seven years later they closed gyms and limited

were tested again for de- how much time people are pression and anxiety symp- spending out of the house. toms, and the researchers Physical activity is an imfound that high aerobic and portant part of our lives muscular fitness at the start and can play a key role in of the study was associated preventing mental health

"Other studies have People with the low- found that just a few weeks est combined aerobic and of regular intensive exermuscular fitness had 98 cise can make substantial per cent higher odds of de- improvements to aerobic pression, 60 per cent higher and muscular fitness, so we odds of anxiety, and 81% are hopeful that it may not higher odds of having either take much time to make a one of the common mental big difference to your risk

Candidates are requested to login with their Application FormNo and Date of Birth to view their Answer Key. Candidates can Click on 'SAVE AND CONTINUE' to

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# News

# **Over 10 Million Danish Mink Are Slaughtered As Farms Shut Down**

### Agencies

Copenhagen : At least 10 million Danish mink have already been slaughtered, after farmers acted on a government order that has since been retracted because it broke the law.

The fate of the animals, some of which were killed in such haste that there were evewitness reports of thousands of mink carcasses strewn across a public motorway, provides a graphic reminder of the real-world consequences of a string of political missteps in Denmark that could have global consequences.

The country is grappling with a new mutation of the coronavirus found in its mink population. Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen says the

variant has the potential to de-

rail efforts to develop a Covid

vaccine. The only option left to

Denmark, she says, is to cull

its entire mink population of

association estimates that

two-thirds of that population

situation, with the industry

being shut down in a single

blow," said Tage Pedersen,

the chairman of the group.

"There's no way back...even

if a few farmers somehow sur-

vive, there's still no future. We

can only survive if we have a

Denmark's fur breeders'

"It's a terrible and difficult

roughly 17 million animals.

are now dead.

large, robust business."

### **Political Fight**

Frederiksen's handling of the crisis has drawn condemnation from a united parliament after mink farmers were ordered to cull their herds, including healthy animals. Frederiksen's government has said it didn't know the order required new legislation. An emergency bill needing a three-quarters majority has since failed, and the legislative process is now in limbo.

For the country's mink farmers, the damage already done is so great that many wonder whether the industry will survive. What's more, Frederiksen's government. which still expects a standard bill to pass with more than

50%, wants all Danish mink

farming to be banned until

2022. That means breeding an-

imals will be wiped out, effec-

tively shuttering the industry.

is misunderstood.

risk," he said.

As Denmark gets dragged



# **Saudi King Urges World To Take 'Decisive Stance' Against Iran**

### Agencies

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud urged the world on Thursday to take "a decisive stance" to address efforts by Iran to develop nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, in his annual address to the top government advisory body.

"The kingdom stresses the dangers of Iran's regional project, its interference in other countries. its fostering of terrorism, its fanning the flames of sectarianism and calls for a decisive stance from the international community against Iran that guarantees a drastic handling of its efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction and develop its ballistic missiles

into a domestic political batprogramme," the king said. They were the 84-year-old tle, scientists worry that the risk that mink mutations pose ruler's first public remarks since he addressed the United Nations The arrival of Covid-19 in General Assembly in Septem-Denmark was a clear "game ber via videolink, where he also changer" for its mink farmers, took aim at Iran condemning its Kare Molbak, the country's "expansionism". Sunni Muslimtop epidemiologist, told newsmajority Saudi Arabia and Shiapaper Politiken. Maintaining dominated Iran are locked in the industry now "represents several proxy wars in the region. far too high a national health including in Yemen where a Sau-

di-led coalition has been battling the Tehran-aligned Houthi movement for more than five years.

There was no immediate reaction from Iran to the king's remarks. Tehran described the king's UN remarks as "baseless allegations" and has denied arming groups in the Middle East.

State news agency SPA published a full transcript of the king's speech after midnight, and state television broadcast photos of what appeared to be the king addressing council members via videolink from his palace in Neom.

Tensions have risen in the region since United States President Donald Trump pulled the US out of a landmark nuclear deal with world powers in 2018 and reimposed stringent economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

The relationship Trump shares with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) had provided a buffer against international criticism over Riyadh's rights record sparked by the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Riyadh's role in Yemen's war and the detention of women activists.

#### Saudi-US relationship

But US President-elect Joe Biden pledged in his campaign to reassess ties with the kingdom, a major oil exporter and buyer of US weapons and military equipment.

Saudi Arabia was an enthusiastic backer of Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran. But Biden has said he would return to a 2015 nuclear pact between world powers and Tehran, a deal negotiated when Biden was vice president in Barack Obama's administration.

In Yemen, where the war has killed tens of thousands of people and triggered a humanitarian crisis, King Salman said the kingdom continues to support UN-led efforts to reach a political settlement.

He also condemned what he alleged was the Houthi movement's "deliberate and methodological" targeting of civilians inside Saudi Arabia via drones and ballistic missiles.

Riyadh was working to guarantee the stability of global oil supplies to serve both producers and consumers, despite CO-VID-19's impact on oil markets, the king said.

# 'Countdown to catastrophe' in Yemen as UN again warns of famine

### Agencies

Washinton: The United Nations has once again warned of millions of men, women and children in war-torn Yemen are facing famine as it issued yet another appeal for more money to prevent it.

"We are on a countdown right now to a catastrophe," UN World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director David Beasley told the UN Security Council on Wednesday.

"We have been here before We did almost the same dogand-pony show. We sounded the alarm then," the head of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning UN body said. The UN describes Yemen as the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with 80 percent of the country's 30 million people in need of help.

'If we choose to look away there's no doubt in my mind Yemen will be plunged into a devastating famine within a few short months," Beasley told the 15-member council.

'Yemenis not going hungry, they're being starved'

In late 2017, UN aid chief Mark Lowcock warned that Yemen was then facing "the largest famine the world has seen for many decades with millions of victims". "We prevented famine two years ago," Lowcock told the Security Council on Wednesday. "More money for the aid operation is the quickest and most efficient way to support famine prevention efforts right now.'

He said the world body had received less than half of what it needed - about \$1.5bn - this year for its humanitarian operations in Yemen. Last year it received \$3bn.

On September 15, Lowcock for the first time singled out Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait for not responding to the UN's appeal.

Days later, Kuwait announced a \$20m donation and Saudi Arabia publicly committed to providing \$204m to UN aid agencies, part of its \$500m pledged in June.



A Saudi Arabia-led military coalition intervened in Yemen in 2015, backing government forces fighting the Iran-allied Houthi group, which had captured the capital Sanaa a year earlier. Since then, more than

100,000 people – fighters and civilians – have been killed.

UN officials are trying to revive peace talks to end the war as the country's suffering has also been worsened by an economic and currency collapse and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UAE, which is a part of the Saudi-led coalition, did not announce any funding for this year. On Wednesday, Germany's UN Ambassador Christoph Heusgen called on its leaders to respond to the UN appeal.

Lowcock described in graphic detail "the horrors inflicted by famine on the body and on the soul," saying as they starve, people, especially children, are likelier to fall sick or die from diseases they may otherwise have resisted.

# 22 Wedding Guests Killed As Rickshaw Falls Into **Canal In Pakistan**

### Agencies

Peshawar, Pakistan; Twenty-two wedding guests were killed

# YouTube Back Up After Worldwide Outage That Affected Nearly 286,000 Users

### Agencies

**T**ouTube, owned by Alphabet Inc's Google, id late on Wednesday

plaining what had caused the outage. And w

said in a tweet, without ex-

# Pakistan, Iran concerned over growing trend of Islamophobia

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran on Wednesday expressed concern over the growing trend of Islamophobia and agreed on close coordination to support efforts for neace

Prime Minister Imran Khan said during the meeting with Iranian FM that Pakistan and Iran enjoy close and cordial relations, underscoring the need to work closely for promotion of peace, security and development in the region. He also emphasized that the two countries must further strengthen bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit. The prime minister extended condolences over the loss of precious lives in Iran due to COVID-19 pandemic. Sharing Pakistan's experience, the prime minister saidthat the "smart lockdown" strategy and other measures taken by his government led to significant containment of the pandemic in Pakistan.

with special emphasis on bi lateral trade and economic relations. He also underscored the need to work closely for promoting peace, security and development in the region.

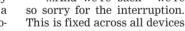
Highlighting Pakistan's facilitating forts towards

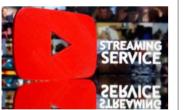
it had fixed a glitch that led to a worldwide outage of the videostreaming service.

DownDetector.com, a website which monitors outages, showed nearly 286,000 incidents of people reporting issues with the service.

The issue started at around 6:53 p.m. ET (23:53 GMT), according to Downdetector.com, with users complaining about trouble in watching videos on the platform.

"We're so sorry for the interruption. This is fixed across all devices & You-Tube services," YouTube





& YouTube services, thanks for being patient with us https://t.co/1s0qbxQqc6

Google did not respond to a Reuters request for comment on the outage.

and reconciliation in Afghanistan at a time when militant attacks continue inside the country and the intra-Afghan negotiations have stalled. Pakistan also conveyed deep appreciation for the Iran's supreme leader's steadfast support for the Kashmir cause. Iranian Foreign Minister

Javad Zarif, who arrived with his delegation on Tuesday. called on Prime Minister Imran Khan, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa separately.

The prime minister also emphasised the need for enhanced bilateral cooperation

peace and stability in Afghanistan, the prime minister said that there was no military solution to the Afghan conflict. The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Afghanled and Afghan-owned peace process and hoped that this historic opportunity would be seized by all Afghan parties to secure a political settlement.

The prime minister added that peace in Afghanistan would be beneficial for the entire region as it would create new opportunities for trade and economic cooperation as well as regional connectivity.

when the rickshaw they were riding in fell into a canal in northwestern Pakistan, police said Wednesday at the end of a recovery mission.

The three-wheeler was overloaded with 29 people when the accident happened on Monday, near the city of Dera Ismail Khan.

We have recovered 22 bodies which include 16 women and six children", Muhammad Ramzan, a senior police official, told AFP.

The victims were from the same extended family, and at least seven of them were from the same household, he added. Seven people were rescued.

Bilal Muhammad Faizi, a spokesman for the local rescue agency, confirmed the number of deaths and said the last bodies were retrieved on Wednesday.

Rickshaws are a common mode of transport across Pakistan, and accidents occur frequently.

Pakistan has one of the world's worst records for fatal traffic accidents, mostly blamed on poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.

## NEWSMAKERS

# **British Nurse Charged With Murders Of Eight Babies, 10 Attempted Killings**

ondon: Police in the northwestern Eng lish city Chester said Wednesday they had charged a nurse with eight counts of murder and ten of attempted murder against babies at a local hospital.

A 30-year-old named as Lucy Letby was arrested on Tuesday and charged with the crimes once prosecutors gave the goahead, Cheshire police said in a statement.

The charges relate to "a number of baby deaths and nonfatal collapses at the neonatal unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital" between June 2015 and June 2016, they added.

Letby is being held in custody ahead of a first appearance before magistrates in nearby Warrington on Thursday.

She had previously been arrested but released without charge in 2018 and 2019.



Letby is being held in custody ahead of a first appearance before magistrates in nearby Warrington on Thursday.

# New Iranian note with pale zeros symbolizes transition to new currency

he Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has launched a new version of the most frequently-used bank note in the country to signify a transition to the new currency toman.

Four zeros on CBI's new 100,000 rials note were light-hued, a picture of the note circulating in the local media on Wednesday showed.

That signified Iran's ongoing move toward toman, the new currency which will be equal to 10,000 rials once it is introduced in Iran in early 2022

A law endorsed by the previous Iranian parliament in May stipulated that a full transition to toman would need at least two vears to allow markets and businesses to adapt to the



new situation

"The plan to slash four zeroes is being pursued in the new parliament but the CBI would print zeroes in a lighthued form in the new to large denomination notes it prints so that it

could symbolize a transition." said Hemmati.

Toman is still used as the popular denomination currency in Iran less than a century after it was dropped in favor of the rial. The popular toman is equal to 10 rials, much lower in value compared to the toman that is planned to be circulated.

Government authorities have repeatedly insisted that introducing a higher currency would only serve to simplify administrative and financial processes and it has nothing to do with efforts to contain inflation in the country.

The rial rebounded against international currencies in early November and after the presidential elections in the United States.

CBI chief Abdolnasser Hemmati said recently that printing bank notes with four pale zeroes had already started with a change of design applied

currency bills.

# **08** FRIDAY 13.11.2020 KASHMIR OBSERVER

# **Contempt Proceedings Launched Against Kunal Kamra**



the line between humour and contempt of the court , said Venugopal in his letter to one of the applicants who had sought consent of the top law officer for initiation of contempt proceedings against Kamra. I therefore grant consent to pro-

ceed by way of initiating contempt proceedings against Kunal Kamra, Venugopal said in his letter.

ttorney General K K Venugopal on Thursday granted consent for initiation of contempt proceedings against stand-up comic artist Kunal Kamra for his tweets which allegedly criticised the Supreme Court. The tweets which I am ex-

in bad taste but clearly cross

In one of the letters seeking Attorney General's consent for initiation of contempt proceedings against Kamra, three lawyers have claimed that he allegedly attempted to lower the authority of the Supreme Court of India through his tweets after the apex court had granted intracting below are not only

terim bail to Republic TV Editorin-Chief Arnab Goswami.

# 2 Arrested For Cheating Homebuyers Of 29 **Crore In Delhi: Police**

NEW DELHI: Two persons have been arrested for allegedly duping around 250 homebuyers of 29 crore on the pretext of a housing society project under a scheme of the Delhi Development Authority, police said on Thursday.

Ratan Singh Negi (39), a resident of Faridabad, and his woman accomplice are office-bearers of the Aerocity Dwarka multistate cooperative group housing society. Before joining it, both were employed with another real estate firm in managerial ca-

pacity, according to police. On the pretext that their upcoming project is duly licensed from the DDA, the suspects collected 29 crore from approximately 250 investors. Only 6.75 crore out of it was utilised for purchase of the land for the

project, while the remaining amount was misappropriated and siphoned off to various other entities, an officer said. The arrests on Wednesday

came following inputs that Negi and the associate, who were on a run after dismissal of their antici- in the name of registration, he said



Police are also investigating the roles of other conspirators and associated persons in connection with the case, the officer said.

Police official OP Mishra said that various attractive schemes were being floated in the market by different societies and builders in the name of the DDA's land pooling policy (LPP) and registration fee or initial payment booking of property

or flat were being sought. The DDA started the LPP to ensure availability of sufficient houses under a planned development of Delhi. A probe found that various builders and promoters grabbed it as an opportunity to exploit the situation by cheating flat buyers and raised huge amounts

# **RTI Activist Seeks Details Of Backlog Of Interim Bail Petitions Pending Before Sc** Registry

**NEW DELHI:** Activist Saket Supreme Court and the average ale on Thursday filed an RTL waiting period between filing (



tempered by concerns over the logistical patory bails, were visiting Delhi. challenges of ensuring access to billions of people. Meanwhile, caseloads are rising, leading governments to re-instate restrictions on business and other activities to battle the pandemic.

from them for advance bookings

well when people stay home and work remotely rallied, Mizuho Bank said in a commentary But it added, "Fact of the matter is, progress on vaccine development is at worst two steps forward one step back, and not one step forward and two steps back on a sustained basis. Germany's DAX lost 0.8% to 13,104.87

Thursday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

stocks fell back on

Thursday after an overnight

comeback by big technolo-

gy shares that have thrived

Excitement over news of potentially

'Vaccine trades reversed to give way

to stay home' trades," as shares of tech-

effective vaccines for COVID-19 has been

during the pandemic.

and the CAC 40 in Paris declined 0.9% to 5,393.76. In Britain, the FTSE 100 gave up 0.6% to 6,342.53. On Wall Street, the future for the S&P 500 slipped 0.6% while the contract for the Dow industrials lost 0.7%. In Asian trading, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index gained 0.7% to 25,520.88 despite a

report that machinery orders fell in September, suggesting weakness in corporate investment. The benchmark has been trading near 30-year highs despite a resurgence of COVID-19 cases that has officials urging people to stay home over the holidays.



The mood was more sombre elsewhere in the region.

CLEANING AGENTS: Dal dwellers rowing their waterweed-laden Shikaras in the iconic lake on

**Over COVID Vaccines, Outbreaks** 

**World Shares Slip On Doubts** 

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 0.2% to 26,169.38 and the Shanghai Composite index declined 0.1% to 3,338.68. In Seoul, the Kospi shed 0.4% to 2,475.62. Australia's nology companies and others that do S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.5% to 6418.20.

Chinese technology shares have taken beating this week, losing about 290 billion in market capitalization after the government issued new proposed antitrust regulations for digital industries, said Jeffrey Halley of Oanda.

Overnight, the Dow Jones Industrial Average edged 0.1% lower, to 29,397.63, falling back on news that New York would put restrictions on bars, restaurants and gyms as COVID-19 infections rose in the state.

The S&P 500 rose 0.8%, to 3,572.66 and is just 8 points below the record high it set in September. The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite rose 2%, to 11,786.43. Investors have embraced hopes that one or more coronavirus vaccines could help corral the virus by the second half

of next year, encouraging people to return to life as it was before the pandemic. All that economic activity would come

**India-China Escalation "Can Be** 

on top of the tremendous aid that the Federal Reserve and other central banks around the world are pumping into the economy through very low interest rates and massive purchases of bonds.

Hope also remains that the US government may eventually deliver some form of support for the economy, though its total size would likely be smaller than if Democrats had swept this month's elections.

Wall Street strategists have been raising their forecasts for stock prices on expectations that political control of Washington will remain split between the parties. Republicans look set to keep the Senate, as long as runoff elections go their way in Georgia in January, while Democrats will hold the House of Representatives.

Democrat Joe Biden has clinched enough electoral votes to win the White House, clearing some of the uncertainty that weighed on the market through the vicious campaign. Investors are looking past President Donald Trump's refusal to concede and assuming that a split Washington under Biden could keep tax rates low while offering more steady and predictable policies.

In other trading, benchmark US crude oil picked up 17 cents to 41.62 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It climbed 9 cents to 41.45 on Wednesday.

Brent crude, the international standard, added 16 cents to 43.97 per barrel. The US dollar weakened to 105.32 Japanese yen from 105.42 yen. The euro climbed to 1.1786 from 1.1776.

# **TN Varsity Removes** Arundhati Roy's Book On **Maoists From Syllabus**

**After ABVP's Protest** 

fter complaints from several people, including the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad against Arundhati Roy's 'Walking with the Comrades' being part of its MA English syllabus, a staterun university in Tamil Nadu has removed it from the curriculum. The ABVP and others alleged

the book glorified the ultras and was anti-national in content.

Opposition parties, the DMK and CPI(M), have opposed the move to take the book off the syllabus that chronicles the author's journey to hideouts of Maoists in Chhattisgarh and the way they operated out of the jungles.

The book has been part of the syllabus from 2017-18 batch for the third semester of MA in English Literature of Tirunelveli based Manonmaniam Sundaranar University's affiliated colleges.

"Last week we got a written complaint from the ABVP. Subsequently, there were lot of other representations. We received complaints from our syndicate members as well," MSU's Vice Chancellor K Pitchumani told PTI. Such complaints underscored the 'controversial' con-

tents in the book and wanted it to be deleted from the curriculam for students, he said. Hence, a committee compris-

ing senior academicians was set up to look into the matter. The former chairman of the board of studies who framed the syllabus and the incumbent chief were also part of it, he said.

"The committee met on Wednesday and they decided the withdrawal of the book from syllabus for its sensitive nature and in its place, a book of Padma awardee and naturalist, M Krishnan's 'My Native Land, Essays on Nature' has been in-



immediately," he said. Krishnan (1912-96) was a renowned naturalist, a pioneer in Indian wildlife photography and writer and he was awarded

the Padma Shri in 1969. The decision would be approved at a meeting of the university's Standing Committee of Academic Affairs, he said, adding they were not for 'controversy' since academics alone were important.

Asked if the 'sensitive' nature of the book was not taken into account when it was included in the syllabus, the top university official said,"probably it went unnoticed." However, as soon as representations were received against the book, prompt follow-

up action was taken, he said. In its complaint, the ABVP's south Tamil Nadu unit alleged Roy's book openly supported Maoists and disseminated antinational views.

"It is a matter of regret that this book has been part of the syllabus for the past three years. Through this, the Naxal and Maoist ideology has been imposed on the students," the ABVP said demanding the book's withdrawal

# **Cop Assault Case: Arnab Goswami's Pre-Arrest Bail Hearing Adjourned Till** November 23

MUMBAI: A sessions court in Mumbai has adjourned till November 23 the hearing into the pre-arrest bail plea of Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami and his wife in a case registered against them by Mumbai Police for allegedly assaulting a woman police officer.



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with the Supreme Court seeking to know the backlog of interim bail petitions pending before the registry, a day after Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami was granted bail by the apex court within two days of his plea that was earlier rejected by the Bombay High Court.

Goswami was denied bail by the high court on November 9 in a case of abetment to suicide of an interior designer in 2018. The designer's family had levelled allegations of nonpayment of dues and issuing life threats on three accused, including Goswami, in the case.

The high-profile TV journalist had challenged it before the Supreme Court which had given him bail on Wednesday.

Gokhale filed the RTI seekbail applications before the listed," Gokhale told PTI.

interim bail applications with the Registry and their listing before an appropriate bench.

There are lot of Kashmir habeus corpus hearings or cases of political prisoners such as those arrested in Bheema Koregaon or Delhi riots case where "personal liberty" has been trampled upon, he alleged.

When such matters were mentioned before the Supreme Court, the petitioners were told to go to high courts first, he claimed.

"In this overall thing, the reason to file RTI is to find out how many such interim bail applications are pending with the registry of the Supreme Court. What we are seeing is there are certain matters which tend to get urgent hearing even if it is a defective matter whereas there are certain matters which are pend-

ing to know pending interim ing for a long time but never get

### escalation in the border tension between India and China amid the global turbulence and unpredictability would further trigger regional instability in Eurasia, and the friction can be misused by other players in their geo-political purpose.

At an online media briefing, Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin said Russia is "naturally concerned" over the tensions between the two Asian powers, noting that it was "very important" for both the countries to engage more in "constructive dialogue". Referring to both India and China

being members of the SCO and BRICS groupings. Mr Babushkin said respectful dialogue is a main tool when it comes to cooperation in the framework of multilateral platforms. "It is clear that amid global turbulence

and unpredictability, escalation between India and China would further affect regional instability in our common home

#### NEW DELHI: Russia on Thursday said any Eurasia. The escalation we are witness- dia and China and these relationships are ining can be misused by other players in their geo-political purposes," he said.

**Misused By Other Players": Russia** 

"We feel it is very important to encourage both our friendly Asian countries to be more engaged in constructive dialogue. Recent news about their commitment to exercise restraint and continue communication through diplomatic and military channels to remove tensions are absolutely welcoming developments," he added. India and China are locked in a bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over six months. Both sides are now working on proposals on disengagement of troops from the high-altitude region. The Eurasian region has also been witnessing turmoil in the last few months primarily due to rising cases of coronavirus and tense relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"Russia remains in a unique position since it has special strategic relations with both In- dia, China, and South Africa.

dependent in nature. We are naturally concerned with the current tensions between India and China. However, we believe that a peaceful solution is inevitable sooner rather than later," Mr Babushkin said. "Both are global and responsible neighbouring powers with huge economic and defence potential as well as civilisational wisdom," he added.

When asked whether the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the BRICS groups can play a role in defusing tensions between two of their member nations, the Russian diplomat said both the groupings have developed mechanisms for positive engagements "Certainly respectful dialogue is the main tool when it comes to cooperation in the framework of the SCO and BRICS. Both associations have developed dozens of mechanisms of sector wise cooperation and let me assure you that their relevant interest is growing," he said.

The BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, In-

Their lawyer Shyam Kalyan-

(passed on Wednesday granting

bail to Arnab Goswami in anoth-

er matter)," Mr Kalyankar said.

The Supreme Court on Wednes-

day granted interim bail to Arnab

Goswami in a case of alleged

Arnab Goswami, who was ar-

designer Anvay Naik in 2018.

**BREAKING: Film Actor Asif Basra** 

**Found Hanging In A Private Complex** 

He played the father of Em-

did not preside.

vember 23," he said.

kar said the plea could not be heard on Thursday as the judge "The anticipatory bail plea

of Arnab Goswami and his wife tered against Arnab Goswami. his wife Samyabrata Ray Goswas simply adjourned till Nowami and his son at NM Joshi "We did not seek any interim Marg police station in central protection from arrest today as Mumbai for allegedly assaulting we are waiting for the detailed a woman police officer when a order of the Supreme Court

police team went to his house to arrest him on November 4. Currently, Arnab Goswami and his wife have filed an anticipatory bail plea in the as-

sault case. They have been charged under Indian Penal Code sections 353 (assault to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) and under the

Navi Mumbai late last evening. Last week, an FIR was regis-

### "abetment to suicide" of interior rested on November 4, was released from the Taloja prison in Damage to Public Property Act.

### NEWS MAKER

# PUBG To Return With Indian Subsidiary, Pumps \$100Mn Into Gaming

**D**ringing cheers to Indian mobile Bgamers ahead of Diwali, PUBG Corporation on Thursday said it is making a comeback to the India market with the creation of an Indian subsidiary and a new game.

With its South Korean parent company Krafton, Inc., PUBG Corp also plans to make investments worth \$100 million in India to cultivate the local video game, esports, entertainment, and IT industries, the company said.

The immensely popular PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG) Mobile app was among the 118 Chinese apps that the Indian government banned in September over national security concerns.

To get the ban lifted, PUBG Corp made the decision to no longer authorise the PUBG Mobile franchise to China-based Tencent Games in India.

Confirming this on Thursday, PUBG said it is preparing to launch PUBG Mobile India, a new game created specifically for the Indian market.

The Indian subsidiary will hire over 100 employees specialising in busi-



ness, esports, and game development, PUBG Corp said.

In addition to establishing a local office, the company will look to actively collaborate and leverage local businesses to strengthen its gaming service, it added. The company also revealed plans to provide a secure and healthy gameplay environment alongside investments to cultivate local video game, esports, entertainment, and IT industries.

To assuage privacy and data security concerns, PUBG said it will conduct regular audits and verifications on the storage systems holding Indian users'

virtual nature of the game.

**ARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE GAME WILL BE** customized for Indian gamers, such as the game now being set in a virtual simulation training ground, new characters automatically starting clothed, and green hit effects to reflect the

personally identifiable information to reinforce security and ensure that their data is safely managed.

To build and foster a healthy gameplay environment, in-game content will be improved and tailored to reflect local needs, it added. Various aspects of the game will be customized for Indian gamers, such as the game now being set in a virtual simulation training ground, new characters automatically starting clothed, and green hit effects to reflect the virtual nature of the game.

The company will include a feature that places restrictions on game time to promote healthy gameplay habits

close the launch date of PUBG Mobile India.

place regularly. A well established theatre actor, Asif Basra dabbled in TV and film acting as well. He is known for his role in the thriller series Paatal Lok. In his over two decade-long career, Basra played supporting parts Khan and Shahid Kapoor. in many critically-acclaimed features like "Black Friday",

In Dharamshala

raan Hashmi's Shoaib Khan in "Parzania" and "Outsourced". Milan Luthria's "Once Upon a



Among his notable per- Time in Mumbaai" (2010). formances in Hindi cinema, He had also starred in sev-Basra played a cunning stall eral plays in India and abroad, owner in Imtiaz Ali's 2007 performing in English, Hindi film "Jab We Met", alongside and Urdu theatre producthe likes of Kareena Kapoor tions.

Basra was born in Maharashtra's Amravati in 1967. He moved to Mumbai in 1989 to pursue a career in acting.



for the past five-six years in McLeodganj, Upper Dharamshala, and used to visit the

for younger players. The company, however, did not dis-

lim actor Asif Basra was found hanging in a private complex in Dharamshala. Forensic team is at the spot and police are investigating the matter It is being reported that the actor had a property on lease