

Maximum : 9°
Minum : 4°
Humidity : 88%
SUNSET
Today 05:26 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:03 AM

News Digest

J&K CID Searches 22 Places In J&K, Delhi

JAMMU: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), a branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, on Saturday conducted searches at 22 places in Jammu and Kashmir, and Delhi in connection with a case pertaining to several dubious and irregular financial transactions, a police spokesman said.

Teams of intelligence officers affected searches at a total of 22 premises spread over Srinagar, Budgam and Anantnag in Kashmir, and in Jammu and Delhi which include private offices and residences, he said.

The spokesman said the searches were conducted against several suspects in connection with the investigation of a case registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

» More On P2

Youth Injured In Hit-And Run Accident

SRINAGAR: A youth was injured on Saturday after an army vehicle hit his car and fled from the spot in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

32-year-old Muhammad Akhter Khatana of Surraw village was injured when an army vehicle that was part of a convoy, hit his car (JK16-5434) near Haknar area of Gund along the Srinagar-Leh highway, news agency KNT reported. The injured youth, report said was taken to public health centre (PHC) Gund for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to sub-district hospital Kangan for advanced treatment.

The report quoted unnamed sources as saying that the police have taken cognizance of the accident as the army vehicle fled from the spot after injuring youth.

Electric Shock Injures KPDCL Employee

SRINAGAR: A Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) employee on Saturday was injured after receiving an electric shock in north-Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The employee identified as Mohammad Shafi Bhat of Kulangam sustained injuries after receiving an electric shock at Chotipora area of Handwara on Saturday evening, news agency GNS reported. Bhat, who sustained burns in his face and hands was rushed to District Hospital Handwara for treatment. His condition is said to be stable, the report said.

Ladakh Records 80 New COVID-19 Cases

LEH: Eighty new COVID-19 cases in Ladakh in a day took the infection tally in the Union Territory to 7,291 on Saturday, while 62 patients have recuperated from the disease during the same period, according to an official bulletin.

Ladakh had recorded a total of 89 deaths so far, of which 49 were in Leh district and 40 in Kargil district. As many as 6,213 people have recovered till date.

According to the bulletin released by the Directorate of Health Services, a total of 80 people tested positive for COVID-19 in a day, of them, 79 were in Leh and one in Kargil.

The Union Territory has 989 active cases of which 889 were in Leh and 100 in Kargil.

Haji Aspirants Told To Submit Documents

SRINAGAR: The Haji Committee on Saturday asked the pilgrims to submit all the relevant details, including bank details while uploading the online application form for Hajj 2021.

In a circular order issued today, the officials said that the intending Haji Pilgrims of Hajj 2021 while submitting the application form online shall upload copy of cancelled cheque or first page of Bank passbook depicting clearly 16 digit Bank Account Number along with IFSC Code, besides other documents like Passport, Photograph and Address Proof.

A DAY AFTER LoC BLOODBATH:

Abid Bhat

KAMALKOTE, URI: In this fear-filled village standing in the line of fire, residents on Saturday were wondering about a live shell which rested in a residence like a ticking bomb.

Some scattered shells on streets, courtyards and fields equally sounded an alarm.

A few panic calls were made to an army helpline number for bomb hunters to diffuse some tensions, which once again reared their ugly heads as the winter arrived in the valley.

The scenes were telling.

Some women returning from a "long night" were embracing each other in sheer joy and wonder. A baker was inspecting his glass-shattered shop. A grocer was assembling his scattered rice stock from ground. A handicap was standing in the backdrop of shell-shattered structure. A boy was gazing from a shell-bored wall.

Men were wondering about another possible round of shelling. Women were mourning another loss.

All these scenes made Kamalkote a



Family mourns Irshad Ahmad Gangyal, who was killed by a mortar shell outside a ration depot in Kamalkote on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

lamenting landscape, craving for a break from LoC fireworks once again erupting here a day before Diwali.

Rattled, villagers abandoned their homes, sheds and barns, fearing for their lives. On the panic-filled streets, kids

screamed in fear, while women beat their chest in anxiety.

Officials stated that at least 30 residential houses have suffered partial damage in Friday's cross-border shelling in Uri.

A desperate run—glimpses of which

LoC FLARE-UP

India Summons Pak Charge d'Affair

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistan High Commission and lodged a strong protest over the unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces on multiple sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India also condemned, in the strongest terms, the "deliberate targeting" of innocent civilians by Pakistani forces.

» More On P2

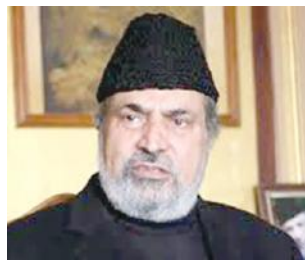
2G Remains Suspended In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: Mobile internet services remained suspended for the second consecutive day in north Kashmir's Kupwara district after Friday's deadly clashes along the Line of Control (LoC) in which five soldiers and five civilians were killed.

According to the locals, low speed internet services remained suspended for the second consecutive day

» More On P2

Cracks In PDP As Co-Founder Muzaffar Baig Quits Party



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Senior pro-India politician and former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig on Saturday announced his disassociation from People's Democratic Party (PDP) over the party's seat sharing agreement with the constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for the upcoming district development council (DDC) polls.

Baig, who co-founded PDP with Mufti Mohammad Sayed in 1999, said that he has apprised party President Mehbooba Mufti about her resignation as a member and a patron of the party.

"NC is fighting on majority seats. It is not in the interests of the PDP. I respect Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and I wish them luck. I am leaving PDP on principle," Baig said.

» More On P2

Mehbooba Asks India, Pak To Initiate Dialogue

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday asked India and Pakistan to rise above their political compulsions and initiate dialogue, saying it was sad to see mounting casualties on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC).

Mufti's remarks came after the two countries traded heavy fire on the LoC on Friday. The firing resulted in loss of lives on the both sides.

The former Jammu and

Kashmir chief minister said restoring the ceasefire that was agreed upon and implemented by former prime minister A B Vajpayee and ex-Pakistan president General Pervez Musharaf is a good place to start.

"Sad to see mounting casualties on both sides of LoC. If only Indian and Pakistani leadership could rise above their political compulsions and initiate dialogue. Restoring the ceasefire agreed upon and implemented by Vajpayee ji and Musharaf sahab is a good place to start," she said in a tweet.

» More On P2

Not Joined PAGD Yet: J&K Cong

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress party on Saturday said it is not yet part of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, a multi-party amalgam formed for the restoration of the Union Territory's statehood.

It, however, said it is in consultation with 'like-minded parties' for

seat adjustments for the upcoming District Development Council elections in J&K.

The mainstream parties, including the National Conference, PDP, Peoples Conference and CPI(M), formed the PAGD last month and are fighting the maiden DDC elections together.

» More On P2

Hurriyat Asks India, Pak

‘Shun Belligerence, Resolve Kashmir’

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Coming down heavily on the leadership of India and Pakistan following Friday's deadly clash along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) said on Saturday asked the two nuclear neighbours to shun belligerence and to put an end to the "senseless bloodshed" of humans on all sides.

In a hard hitting statement issued to media here, a Hurriyat spokesperson said that the deaths of innocent Kashmiri civilians on both sides of the LoC as well as soldiers of both nations, caught in the lingering conflict, was very "sad and shameful". He said the sufferings of the people of Jammu and Kashmir remain unending, even as the two neighbouring countries have been claiming for last 73 years that things have changed.

"Wars, going nuclear and constant upgradation of their military

arsenals have failed as a policy on both sides in settling the issue. Unilateralism and prolonging of the conflict has only complicated it and now China has also emerged on the scene," the Hurriyat spokesperson said.

The separatist conglomerate, he said reiterated its appeal to both India and Pakistan that for the sake of humanity and the millions of human lives involved in the J&K conflict to and address and resolve the dispute through peaceful means rather than use the conflict for their political expediency and upmanship domestically.

"APHC once again urges government of India and Pakistan to give up belligerence and come to the table to resolve the J&K dispute for times to come and end the senseless bloodshed of humans on all sides," the Hurriyat spokesperson added.

He said that the escalation along the LoC has claimed lives of over 15 civilians on the two sides of Kashmir.

“APHC once again urges government of India and Pakistan to give up belligerence and come to the table to resolve the J&K dispute for times to come and end the senseless bloodshed of humans on all sides”

First Snow Brings Down Mercury, Closes Highways



File photo

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh received fresh snowfall on Saturday, forcing the closure of the Srinagar-Leh road for traffic, while the plains were lashed by rains, officials said.

Many areas in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, including the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, north Kashmir's Baramulla district, and the tourist resort of Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district received snowfall which was going on when last reports came in, the officials said.

They said there were reports of snowfall from other areas in the higher reaches, including Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, besides in Zojila Pass and Drass (in Ladakh UT).

Razdan pass, which is the gateway to Gurez Valley, has also

received season's first snowfall, officials said.

The district administration Bandipora has already closed the 84-km Bandipora- Gurez road for traffic movement in view of weather advisory issued by the Meteorological department.

WEATHER WOES

They said due to the snowfall, authorities closed the Srinagar-Leh road, which passes through Zojila pass and connects Jammu and Kashmir with Ladakh union territory, for traffic.

"The road has been closed for traffic as a precautionary measure in the wake of snowfall," the officials said.

Meanwhile, most of the areas in the plains of the Kashmir valley received rains, bringing down the temperature.

» More On P2

Mughal Road, Zojila Closed For Traffic

JAMMU: The Mughal Road, an alternate link between the Kashmir Valley and Pir Panchal region was closed for vehicular traffic on Saturday following snowfall, officials said.

The road, connecting the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri with south Kashmir's Shopian, was closed as a precautionary measure in view of snowfall in the high altitude Peer Ki Gali and adjoining areas, they said.

A few inches of snow had accumulated on the ground, rendering the road unsafe for vehicular traffic, the officials said, adding given the prediction of moderate to heavy snowfall, the road was closed as a precautionary measure to avoid any untoward incident.

The road usually remains closed for winter owing to heavy snowfall in the Peer Ki Gali area.

"Subject to fair weather and good condition of road, only load carriers carrying fresh fruit would be allowed from Shopian towards Poonch between 11 am to 4 pm on Sunday," a traffic department official said.

» More On P2

COVID-19

J&K Reports 6 More Deaths

SRINAGAR: At least six more people succumbed to coronavirus in Kashmir Valley on Saturday, taking the number of Covid-19 related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1573.

According to the officials, the victims from the Valley included two each from Srinagar and Baramulla and one each from Budgam and Kupwara districts. In Srinagar, a middle-aged man from Rainawari and a 75-year-old man from Bemina lost their lives to the deadly infection.

Besides them, a 48-year-old male from Charar-e-Shareef, a 57-year-old woman from Baramulla, a 65-year-old man from Badibera Lolab and a 70-year-old man from Kaitangan Baramulla also succumbed to coronavirus infection at the various hospitals.

» More On P2

42 Travelers Among 565 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 565 fresh cases of novel coronavirus including 42 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 102159.

According to the officials, 306 new cases of Covid-19 were detected in Kashmir valley, while 259 more people tested positive for coronavirus in Jammu division.

Giving the district wise details, they said that Srinagar reported 152

» More On P2

SMC Conducts Anti-Encroachment Drive

Observer News Network

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Saturday carried out out a massive anti-encroachment drive in Brien and Shalimar area of the capital city.

On the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, SMC authorities under the supervision of Ward Officer Brien, Showkat Ahmad carried out anti-encroachment drive in Brien and Shalimar area and removed all encroachments and obstacle made by the shopkeepers, an official spokesperson said.

He said that these drives shall continue and all encroachments on roads particularly around the Shalimar Garden shall be removed.

"The encroachments on roads, pathways and footpaths were removed and shopkeepers were sensitized to desist from resorting to any violation in future, otherwise stringent action as per the law shall be taken against the violators," the official spokesperson added.

PAGD formed solely to safeguard interests of J-K residents: Mehbooba

SRINAGAR, NOV 14 (PTI): PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) was formed solely to safeguard the identity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the alliance parties have a bigger cause to fight for than bicker over DDC elections.

Mehbooba's remarks came as the alliance partners are currently engaged in consultations on seat-sharing for the District Development Council (DDC) polls. The alliance has announced the seat-sharing list for the first phase of the polls. The National Conference (NC) will contest on 21 seats out of 27, while the PDP will fight four and the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) two seats, respectively.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir said to assume the PAGD -- an alliance of several political parties seeking the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status -- was created for petty electoral



gains or to further party interests is erroneous.

PAGD was formed solely to safeguard the identity of people of J&K that's been under constant attack since Aug 2019. To assume it was created for petty electoral gains or to further party interests is erroneous. We have a bigger cause to fight for than bicker over DDC elections, Mehbooba said on Twitter.

Mehbooba is the vice-chairman

of the alliance, which is led by NC president Farooq Abdullah.

Reacting to Mehbooba's tweet, JKPC chairman Sajad Lone, whose party is also part of the alliance, said, I agree with every word and would further add that the reality as it exists is that statesmanship and magnanimity is still a missing trait in our polity. And the absence is being felt more than any other time.

NC dismayed over 'sorry state of affairs' on highway

SRINAGAR: The National Conference on Saturday expressed dismay over the sorry state of affairs on National highway saying the government must not only ensure smooth flow of fruit laden trucks along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, but also control transportation charges.

The stoppage of Fruit laden trucks on Srinagar-Jammu highway for last several days set in a worrying trend as the horticulture sector in Kashmir has already incurred huge losses in last two years on various accounts, said party Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar.

"The continuous stoppage of fruit laden trucks loaded from various Mandis of Kashmir has led to the huge losses to them and other perishable commodities. Besides it has created scarcity of various

commodities in Kashmir. Amidst all this mayhem the incumbent government and the divisional administration has again been caught napping. The problem of incessant log-jams, blockages and traffic stoppages only adds to the fruit grower's trouble, which includes sales of substandard pesticides, fertilizers, and lack of cold storage facilities. The fruit industry in Kashmir it goes without saying is undergoing a crisis due to the clampdown post August 5th measures last year, followed by unseasonal snowfall on November 07 last year," he said.

While impressing upon the government to devise a plan to prevent the local horticulture industry from collapsing, Imran said the situation on the national highway connecting Kashmir with rest of the country is getting messier with

each passing day.

He also said the newly announced fair subsidy for air transportation for notified vegetables and fruits from Himalayan states to any place in the country was yet to see light of day. "The air subsidies are subject to frequent changes and cannot provide long term relief to farmers and horticulturalists. Fruits like Cherry, Plum and Peach have not been covered under the freight subsidy scheme applied to Jammu and Kashmir. This selective approach will not provide succour to farmers. The best way to deal with the situation is by upgrading the Srinagar-Jammu highway, ensuring hassle free traffic on it and developing Mughal road as an all-weather alternative to Srinagar-Jammu highway," he said

Diwali: Delhi's air quality turns 'severe'; firecrackers add to misery



New Delhi, Nov 14 (PTI) Delhi's air quality turned "severe" on Saturday with stubble burning accounting for 32 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution and firecracker emissions making the situation even worse.

A layer of haze lingered over Delhi-NCR at night as people continued bursting firecrackers despite a ban, and calm winds allowed accumulation of pollutants.

The level of PM2.5 which is about three per cent the diameter of a human hair and can lead to premature deaths from heart and lung diseases was 331 microgram per cubic metre (g/m3) in Delhi-NCR at 10 pm, above the emergency threshold of 300 g/m3.

The PM10 level stood at 494 g/m3 at 10 pm, precariously close to the emergency threshold of 500 g/m3, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. PM10 levels below 100 g/m3 are considered safe in India.

According to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), the air quality is considered in the "severe plus" or "emergency" category if PM2.5 and PM10 levels persist above 300 g/m3 and 500 g/m3 respectively for more than 48 hours.

Earlier, the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, had said that the PM2.5 concentration in Delhi on Diwali was "likely to be the lowest" of the last four years if no firecrackers are burnt.

However, it had said that even a small increase in local additional emissions is likely to have "a significant deterioration impact on Sunday and Monday".

It said peak levels of PM10 and PM2.5 are expected between 1 am and 6 am in case of additional internal emissions. The city recorded an overall AQI of 414 at 4 pm on Saturday. It soared to 454 by 10 pm. The 24-hour average AQI was 339 on Friday and 314 on Thursday. Delhi recorded a 24-hour average AQI of 337 on Diwali last year (October 27), and 368 and 400 in the next two days. Thereafter, pollution levels remained in the "severe" category for three days on the trot.

In 2018, the 24-hour average AQI (281) on Diwali was recorded in the "poor" category. It deteriorated to 390 the next day and remained in the "severe" category on three consecutive days thereafter. In 2017, Delhi's 24-hour average AQI on Diwali (October 19) stood at 319. It, however, slipped into the "severe" zone the next day.

This time, the India Meteorological Department has said that a fresh western disturbance is likely to increase the wind speed and improve the air quality in Delhi-NCR post Diwali.

Light rain is likely on Sunday under the influence of a western disturbance. It is still to be seen if it is enough to wash away pollut-

ants, Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said.

"However, Delhi-NCR's air quality is likely to improve post Diwali due to an expected increase in the wind speed on Sunday," he said.

V K Soni, the head of the IMD's environment research centre, said the wind speed is expected to pick up thereafter and the wind direction will be east-southeasterly.

There will be a significant improvement in air quality by November 16, Soni said. The Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi also said the situation is likely to "improve significantly" on Sunday.

"Under the influence of a Western Disturbance, isolated rainfall over plains of northwest India and adjoining central India is likely on Sunday. The predominant surface wind is likely to be coming from East-Southeast direction of Delhi with wind speed up to 20 kmph," it said.

"Generally cloudy sky, light rain, thundershowers accompanied with gusty winds (speed 30-40 kmph) is likely towards afternoon-evening on Sunday," the central agency said.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Friday directed the CPCB and the states concerned to ensure there is no lapse

in the implementation of the National Green Tribunal's directions in view of the air quality scenario during the Diwali period.

"In pursuance of NGT order dated November 9 and considering the concerns of air quality scenario in the NCR and its adverse health impact, the commission directed CPCB, state governments and authorities concerned for strict compliance of the directions of NGT, with zero tolerance on violation," it said.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had on Monday imposed a total ban on sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in the National Capital Region (NCR) from November 9 midnight to November 30 midnight, saying "celebration by crackers is for happiness and not to celebrate deaths and diseases".

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel clarified that the direction will apply to all cities and towns in the country where the average of ambient air quality during November 2019 was in "poor" and above categories.

"At other places, restrictions are optional for the authorities but if there are more stringent measures under orders of the authorities, the same will prevail," the NGT had said.

FROM FRONT PAGE

India Will ...

India has become a forceful voice against forces of expansionism, he said and also took aim at Pakistan, adding that Indian soldiers have hit "sponsors of terrorism" in their home, a reference to air and surgical strikes against terror camps in the neighbouring country.

"No force in the world can prevent our brave soldiers from defending our borders The world today knows that we will not compromise with our interests even one bit at any cost," he said amid a standoff with China at Ladakh border.

He said India today believes in the policy of understanding others and making them understand but if it is tested, then it will give a fierce reply. The country has the capability and political will to give a befitting response to those who challenge it, he added.

The prime minister also underlined the importance of having strong capability, saying despite advanced international cooperation and equations, vigilance is the path to security, alertness leads to happiness and peace is the prize of having strength.

"History of the world tells us that only those nations have remained safe and advanced who had the ability to take on invaders," he said, adding that 130 crore Indians stand with the country's soldiers and bow to their bravely.

"They are proud of your valour," he told soldiers, saying their bravery has got better of all adversities, be it in deserts, forests or deep oceans.

Modi said his Diwali is complete only after he comes among soldiers, adding he cannot stay away from his own on this festival. He said the more time he spends with the soldiers, the stronger his resolve to serve and protect the country gets.

"Your sacrifices teach the country discipline and sense of service," the prime minister told soldiers, referring to his government's efforts to combat the coronavirus and also to restart the economic activity fully.

Urging soldiers to make innovation and yoga a part of their daily lives, he also asked them to learn one language other than Hindi, English and their mother tongue, saying it will enrich their lives.

The prime minister referred to his government's stress on self-reliance and 'vocal for local' campaign, and complimented the armed forces for the decision to bar import over 100 weapons and defence equipment.

Recalling the glorious battle of Longewala, he said it will always be remembered in the annals of strategic planning and military valour.

He said this was the time when Pakistan was exposed as its army was "terrorizing" innocent citizens of Bangladesh and committing atrocities against women.

"Pakistan opened the front on western border to divert the global attention but our forces gave them a befitting reply," he said.

On the occasion, he recalled the fierce fight the post had witnessed in the 1971 war against Pakistan and paid tributes to Brig Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri, a hero of the battle who was then a Major, saying he became "rashtra deep" with his feat of bravery.

It was also an example of exemplary coordination among Army, Navy and Air Force, he said.

India had defeated Pakistan in the 1971 war, leading to the independence of Bangladesh.

Modi has been visiting forward

posts every Diwali since his government came to power in 2014.

He was in Rajouri last year, in Utarakhand in 2018 and in Gurez in 2017.

Not Joined ...

There are certain commonalities of issues with the parties of alliance (PAGD) against the arbitrary actions of the BJP government but the Congress is not yet part of the alliance.

The high-powered policy planning group of the party will review the situation to take a final call on the issue, at the appropriate time, after taking into account the aspirations and sentiments of the people, J&K Pradesh Congress Committee chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said in a statement here.

Senior Congress leaders participated in a series of PAGD meetings last week, both in Srinagar and Jammu, to finalise candidates under the seat-sharing for the DDC elections and the Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) by-polls, which are scheduled to be held in eight phases from November 28 to December 24.

We are in consultation with certain like-minded parties for seat adjustments for the DDC elections, at the local level wherever possible, without compromising the aspirations of party cadres and the sentiments of people, Sharma said.

He said on the JKPC request, the party leadership has permitted the unit to go for seat adjustments at the local level wherever possible for the DDC elections.

The process of consultations is going on at various levels in Kashmir region and in Jammu division to share the seats, wherever possible, depending upon local situations but there shall be friendly contests at various seats as adjustments are not possible at maximum seats at this later stage, as there are aspirations of a large number of party rank and file, Sharma said.

At the same time, the Congress leader said the party's principles and the people's sentiments would not be compromised at any cost.

Cracks In PDP...

The former J&K Dy CM also said that he was not consulted regarding seat sharing agreement with PAGD affiliated parties.

When asked about his future course of action, Baig said that he will consult his friends and well-wishers about it. He is expected to address a news conference on Sunday.

An advocate turned politician, Baig started his political career in late 1970s with Abdul Gani Lone's Peoples Conference (PC). However, his political stint came to a halt when he was appointed advocate general of J&K by the then Chief Minister Ghulam Mohammad Shah in 1983, who had floated Awami National Conference, after breaking ties with National Conference (NC), a party led by his brother-in-law Farooq Abdullah.

The 73-year-old season politician was conferred the third-highest civilian award -- the Padma Bhushan by Modi-led BJP government in January this year, when most of the mainstream leaders, including his own party President and two other former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar were under detention.

Baig, a former Lok Sabha member from north Kashmir had also blamed her party Chief Mehbooba's statement that no one will hold the

tricolour in J&K if Article 370 is tampered with, for the downgrading of the state.

"Statements like that resulted in downgrading J&K from state to Union Territory. That did not help us. That should not have been made," Baig had said.

"My opinion is that if you want to talk about issues relating to people of Jammu and Kashmir, you will have to talk in a dignified and civilised manner. You can't achieve anything by coercing the Prime Minister, Home Minister or NSA," he had added.

Mughal Road ...

He said no vehicular traffic would be allowed after the cut off timing while no passenger vehicular or pedestrian would be allowed on the road.

The meteorological department had predicted moderate to heavy snowfall in the high altitude areas and rains in the plains in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir till Monday.

First Snow ...

The MET Office has said there will be an increase in precipitation during the next two days with the peak around Saturday night and Sunday.

The weather is likely to improve significantly thereafter, it said.

J&K Reports ...

With fresh deaths, Srinagar's district with 391 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (276), Baramulla (157), Budgam (96), Pulwama (84), Kupwara (78), Anantnag (75), Rajouri (48), Kulgam (48), Bandipora (48), Doda (50), Shopian (36), Ganderbal (36), Udhampur (35), Kathua (33), Samba (25), Poonch (22), Ramban (18), Kishtwar (16), and Reasi (8).

42 Travelers ...

cases, Baramulla 45, Budgam 19, Pulwama 8, Kupwara 29, Anantnag 11, Bandipora 8, Ganderbal 25, Kulgam 3, Shopian 6, Jammu 91, Rajouri 15, Udhampur 41, Doda 26, Kathua 20, Poonch 8, Samba 9, Kishtwar 25, Ramban 14 and Reasi 10.

Moreover, they said, 476 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals -- 183 from Jammu Division and 293 from Kashmir Valley. (With GNS inputs)

India Summons ...

saying it was highly deplorable that Pakistan chose a festive occasion in India to disrupt peace and perpetrate violence in Jammu and Kashmir through coordinated firing along the LoC.

"The Charge d'Affaires of the High Commission of Pakistan was summoned by the Ministry of External Affairs today and a strong protest was lodged over unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces, on multiple sectors along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir on November 13, resulting in the death of four innocent civilians and serious injuries to 19 others," the MEA said.

Apart from the civilians, five security forces personnel were killed in the Pakistani action.

Indian forces retaliated strongly to the Pakistani shelling in which killing eight Pakistani soldiers and injuring 12 others, official sources said.

"India also strongly protested Pakistan's continued support to cross border terrorist infiltration into India, including through support-

ing cover fire provided by Pakistan forces," the MEA said.

"Pakistan was once again reminded of its bilateral commitment to not allow any territory under its control to be used for terrorism against India in any manner," it said.

2G Remains ...

Saturday in view of tension in the border district following Friday's killings in LoC shelling. Though did not say any word about snapping of internet services, the locals believe that the uneasy tension along the LoC in the border district was the reason.

The disruption has restricted the ability of the people of the district to communicate and also is affecting the students preparing for various exams, locals told news agency KDC.

Lament And Live ...

"For years now, our people have been losing their limbs to shells here," says Mushtaq, another villager. "In yesterday's firing, a 36-year-old villager Syed Nadir Hussain has lost both his legs to shelling."

Hussain was brought to an Uri hospital in critical condition and was immediately rushed to Srinagar's hospital for specialized treatment, where he is now lying in his bed with amputated limbs. Travesty of life is such that the villagers now read their own deadly life pattern.

"Like always, we will be forced to take shelter in some school campus till the guns fall silent," said an elderly woman. "This is our life and this is our helplessness. I don't know how long this madness is going to consume Kashmiris?"

J&K CID ...

Armed with search warrants issued by competent judicial authority and overseen by executive magistrates as witnesses, teams of CID investigators looked for additional evidence pertaining to several dubious and irregular financial transactions, the spokesman said.

He said many of these involve suspected collusion between bank officials, private persons and public servants.

The suspected irregularities amounting to a variety of offences under different provisions of law include concealment of suspicious and dubious transactions from identification and scrutiny by closing Anti-Money Laundering (AML) alerts, wrongly closing alerts that were to be mandatorily furnished by the bank under the regulatory directions notified by the RBI with faulty and false closure remarks as "STR" (suspicious transaction reports) or "already reported in STR" or other related comments, whereas STR MIS did not contain these alerts.

"Dishonest exporters in collusion with bank officials obtained in advance but did not submit invoices and documents to prove that the advance so obtained from the bank have been utilised lawfully, bank officials failing to raise alerts wherein funds flowed from many different accounts into one account even when these transactions involved acceptance of huge deposits and withdrawals in cash in violation of banking rules and regulations," the spokesman said.

He said the raids led to recovery of incriminating evidence which would be analysed for further action and form useful pieces of evidence in the investigation.

Do You Get Your Copy
of Kashmir Observer
Regularly?

If Not

Contact
Circulation
Incharge:
Pervez Ahmad
9419565003
Or
210 6304



Covid Positive Woman Refused Admission, Delivers Baby At Hospital Gates

CMO Bandipora Orders Inquiry

Srinagar: Chief Medical Officer Bandipora has asked doctors at the District Hospital to explain their position within 24 hours after a Covid-19 patient in labour delivered a baby at the hospital gates.

The woman was reportedly denied admission in the hospital after the mandatory test for Covid-19 came positive. Despite pleas by her attendants, the hospital allegedly refused the admission and the woman writhing in pain later delivered a baby at the hospital entrance.

The woman hails from Vewan village of Bandipora and

has been identified as Haleema Begum wife of Abdul Aziz Bhat.

Admitting that the incident was embarrassing Chief Medical Officer Bandipora, Dr Bashir Ahmed Lone has asked Medical Superintendent District Hospital Bandipora to explain their position within 24 hours.

“My sister was forced to leave the hospital after she tested positive for Covid-19 and despite writhing in pain she was suggested to go to Covid-19 designated hospital located at Hajin, however, she delivered near the hospital gate,” said Nazir Ahmed.

“It has come to the notice of higher authorities that a Covid-19 labor patient who was fully dilated was brought to hospital today. Doctor on duty has adopted inhuman act & without considering the sensitivity of the case referred the said patient to CHC Hajin and the patient delivered within the premises of District Hospital which is a matter of concern & it reveals negligence on the part of concerned doctors,” the Show Cause Notice issued by the CMO reads.

It further reads that: “In case the concerned doctors would have worn proper pro-

TECTIVE gear they may have conducted the delivery of the patient and this scene would have been avoided. It has also been observed that Dr Yasmeen Gul Consultant Gynecologist was present and has failed to consider the gravity of the situation and of the case.”

“There are two consultant Gynecologists & one Medical Officer possessing MCH degree posted at District Hospital Bandipora & had they adopted SOP’s nothing would have been done with the said patient.”

Chief Medical Officer further writes that the Department

has to cut a sorry figure whereas it was also reported that neither Dr Fancy Bulbul Gynecologist nor Dr Inam-ul-Haq Medical Officer (MCH) was present and it reveals poor supervision and monitoring on your part which has been viewed seriously by the authorities.”

“You are asked to explain your position within 24 hours positively as to why action shall not be initiated against you for dereliction of your duties and in the meantime you are directed to submit an action taken report against the concerned doctors.” With inputs from KNT

Bahar-e-Adab organises book release function at Pattan

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 14: To highlight the literary contributions of two well known poets Rasheed Roshan and Gh Hasan Darvesh, Bahar-I-Adab today organised a literary function at Palpora, Pattan.

During the proceedings two poetic collections titled “Khabe Halem” and “Drav Ne Poshe Wathrun Waash” were released.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr G N Itoo presided over the function as the chief guest whereas a prominent Kashmiri writer and critic Prof Bashar Bashir was present as the Guest of Honour at the event.

The function was organized in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture

and languages.

On the occasion, an array of cultural activities were organised wherein some well known poets, literary personalities, critics, among other prominent stakeholders presented their literary works and highlighted the importance of promoting and preserving rich art and culture.

Deputy Commissioner, in his address applauded the authors for their literary work and said that such efforts play a vital role in the promotion of our Kashmiri language. He said that a diversified art and literature is necessary in our educational curriculum and emphasized upon the writers to continue their endeavors in this regard.

30,000 applications pending for renewal of old vehicles in J&K

Srinagar: More than 30,000 applications are pending before authorities of Transport Department as Jammu and Kashmir administration has put on hold renewal of the registration of old vehicles since last year.

An official said that ARTOs have received over 30,000 applications for renewal of the registration of old vehicles which are over 15 years old.

“After 15 years, the owner of a vehicle has to seek renewal of the registration for two or maximum five years. Once officials check the condition of the vehicles, they decide whether its registration can be extended or it has to be condemned,” the official said.

The official said there is no clarity on fees applicable for renewal.

Manzoor Ahmad, one of the applicants said he has applied for renewal of registration of his car two months

before the RTO office Srinagar. “But nothing has been done so far. My car has plied around 90,000 kms and is in good condition. But I have to keep it at my home as its registration is over. Unlike other UTs like Delhi, vehicles in J&K are in good condition and could even ply for 25 years. But we continue to suffer as our applications are pending with the government and not making any clarity on this issue,” he said.

While the aggrieved people are running from pillar to post for ascertain the fate of their vehicle’s registration, the authorities are in a fix because of no clarity on the same.

A senior official of the Transport Department said they are waiting for Centre’s notification in this regard. “We have raised this issue with the Finance Department and the Centre. Hopefully notification will be issued within three weeks. We have already

issued a notification that vehicles above 15-years of age can ply till December 31, 2020,” the official said.

Motor vehicles were being given registration for an initial 15 years against the payment of one time token fee of Rs 8700 for the vehicles upto 1300 CC capacity and Rs 22800 for the vehicles above 1300 CC. After 15 years, the registration of old vehicles used to be renewed for next five years against the payment of Rs 3000 and then for three and two years.

Last year, the Principal Secretary Transport Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, issued SRO 392, dated August 1, 2019, according to which nine percent of sale value of the motor vehicle has been applied as One Time Token Tax for registration of all the newly purchased vehicles in J&K.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER

ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL

SHORT TERM NIT NO 87 OF R&B/Khanabal/2020-21 /E-TENDERING/6388-98 DATED 12-11-2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K-tenders are invited on item rate basis (as the case may be) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in RS)	Time of completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of counting Halls and Strong Rooms in various class rooms /Halls and making of other necessary arrangements in Govt Boys Degree College Khanabal Anantnag for upcoming DDC Election 2020	23.17	800/-	43400/-	07 days	2015- Election	BEE & CEE Class only

Position of AAA = **Accorded**
Position of funds = **AVAILABLE**
1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12-11-2020
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 13-11-2020 To 18-11-2020 (01:00 PM) (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 13-10-2020 To 18-11-2020 (10:00 AM) (04:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 18-11-2020 (04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	18-11-2020 (04:15 PM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal

2. Bids must be accompanied Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury chalan / receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (tender inviting authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order no. O.M No. A/24 (2017)- 651 Dt 07-06-2018 and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDRpledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender receiving authority).
3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal.
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
1. Bidders are advised to use “My Documents” area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
2. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

(ErQaziJaveed Amin)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Khanabal//SK//

DIPK-8976/20

Office of the Executive Engineer lake Division No. 1st.

J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority Srinagar

FINAL NOTICE

M/S AAJ Construction,
G/L: Mr. Adil Rashid Khan,
Reg.No.11430/Kmr of 2019
S/o: Ghulam Hussain Kand
R/o: Lakripora Awantipora.

NO.LD-I/5098-5102
Dated:10.11.2020

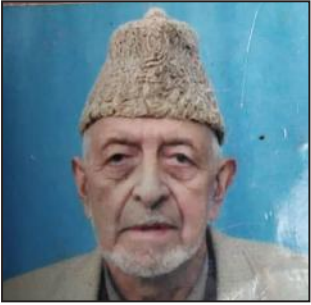
Subject:- Laying of angle iron mesh over existing RCC Chamber on Open Nallah after dismantling RCC Slab at Wani Mohalla, Brein including cleaning of chamber near the House of Dr. Mohammad Yousuf part A and cleaning of sewer line and man holes at Dankha Gani Mhalla Brein Part B.
Reference:- Allotment No. LD-II/107-12 dated:28.05.2020.
01/- LSD/E/227 dated:20.8.2020.
02/- LSD/E/204-06 dated:06.8.2020.
03/- LSD/E/1087-88 dated:22.07.2020.

You will refer to above notices from (1 to 3) issued to you regarding the above subject work left incomplete by you. Despite issuance of notices you have completely failed to resume and complete the work till date.
You are as such given a final opportunity to start the work within two day from the date of publication of this notice in the print media and complete the same without any further delay. Otherwise fresh tenders for the work shall be invited at the risk & cost and your EMD shall be forfeited besides you will be debarred from tendering in this organization at least for two year which may be noted.

DIPK-NB-3810/20

Lake Division No.1st
Executive Engineer,

SAD DEMISE



I inform with profound grief the sad demise of my father Sheikh Gull Mohammed S/O Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah R/O Gurgari Mohalla. Due to Covid-19 no congregational Fateha will be held and the condolence will be received only for three days at our residence Gurgari Mohalla, Zaina Kadal, Inshaallah.

Bereaved
Sheikh Bilal Ahmad

Public Notice

My Mother's name has been wrongly mentioned in my Passport bearing No. J6071708 as Parveena Bashir, while her actual name is Parveena Dar. Now I am applying for its correction. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same with Concerned Authority within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that No objection will be entertained.

Usman Bashir
S/o. Bashir Ahmad Dar
Mother's Name: Parveena Dar
R/o. Rampora, Chattabal, Sgr.

Public Notice

My Mother's name has been wrongly mentioned in my Passport bearing No. J6071708 as Parveena Bashir, while her actual name is Parveena Dar. Now I am applying for its correction. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same with Concerned Authority within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that No objection will be entertained.


Rizwan Bashir
S/o. Bashir Ahmad Dar
Mother's Name: Parveena Dar
R/o. Rampora, Chattabal, Sgr.

Public Notice

My Mother's name has been wrongly mentioned in my Passport bearing No. J6071708 as Parveena Bashir, while her actual name is Parveena Dar. Now I am applying for its correction. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same with Concerned Authority within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that No objection will be entertained.


A bid Bashir
S/o. Bashir Ahmad Dar
Mother's Name: Parveena Dar
R/o. Rampora, Chattabal, Sgr.

DIAL-EMMA




- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS


SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 

RAILWAYS




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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI

CALENDAR

28 Rabi-ul-Awwal

1442

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 38

ZUHR 12: 14

ASR 3:50

Magrib 5:31

ISHA 6:55

This Day In History

- 655 - Battle of the Winwaed: Penda of Mercia is defeated by Oswiu of Bernicia.
- 1315 - Battle of Morgarten: Swiss beat duke Leopold I of Austria
- 1954 - 1st regularly scheduled commercial flights over North Pole begins
- 1955 - Poland & Yugoslavia sign trade agreement
- 1969 - An estimated 2 million people take part in the Vietnam War Moratorium demonstration across the United States
- 1971 - Intel advertises 4004-processor
- 1972 - Small Astronomy Satellite Explorer 48 launched to study gamma rays
- 1973 - Egypt & Israel exchange prisoners of war
- 1974 - International Energy Agency formed in Paris within OECD framework in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis
- 1976 - Syrian army conquers Beirut
- 1979 - ABC-TV announces it would broadcast nightly specials on Iran hostage
- 1979 - Iran cancels all contracts with U.S. oil companies
- 1980 - 30th NASCAR Sprint Cup: Dale Earnhardt wins
- 1982 - Funeral service held in Moscow's Red Square for Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev
- 1983 - Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus proclaimed
- 1988 - Soviet space shuttle makes unmanned maiden flight (2 orbits)
- 1990 - US President George H. W. Bush signs Clear Air Act of 1990
- 1995 - Space shuttle Atlantis docks with orbiting Russian space station Mir
- 2000 - A chartered Antonov AN-24 crashes after takeoff from Luanda, Angola killing more than 40 people
- 2000 - New state of Jharkhand comes into existence in India
- 2002 - Hu Jintao becomes the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China
- 2003 - First day of the Istanbul Bombings takes place, followed by additional bombings on November 20th
- 2005 - Boeing formally launches the stretched Boeing 747-8 variant with orders from Cargolux and Nippon Cargo Airlines
- 2007 - A devastating Cyclone named Sidr hit Bangladesh, killing an estimated 5000 people and destroyed the world's largest mangrove forest, Sundarbans.
- 2012 - At least 95 people are killed in Syrian conflicts
- 2013 - Sony launches the Playstation Four, selling one million units on the first day
- 2014 - Vladimir Putin's press secretary says media reports that the Russian president plans to leave the G20 Summit in Brisbane early are nonsense Vladimir Putin
- 2014 - World leaders gather in Brisbane for G20 Summit, which will focus on economic growth
- 2014 - The parents of 43 Mexican students who disappeared start a nationwide bus tour in protest at the government's handling of the case
- 2014 - A 7.3 magnitude earthquake strikes under the Molucca Sea in eastern Indonesia, triggering a tsunami warning
- 2015 - France launches air strikes on Isis stronghold Raqqa in Syria in wake of terror attack on Paris

From KO Archives

Lone allowed to attend son's wedding in Pak

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

S

RINAGAR: Senior Hurriyat Conference leader Abdul Ghani Lone has been finally granted permission to travel to Pakistan for his son's wedding, official sources said Monday.

Lone has been allowed to go to Rawalpindi to attend the marriage of his son Sajjad Lone to Asma Khan on November 19. Khan is the daughter of the chairman of the Jammu and I Kashmir Liberation Front, Amanullah Khan, who lives in Pakistani-controlled-Kashmir.

The permission has been granted and it now depends upon Abdul Ghani Lone if he wishes to attend the marriage, official sources said on condition of anonymity.

Nearly all the pro-independence, pro-Pakistan and pro-India leaders in Indian Kashmir, including the chief minister, Farooq Abdullah, have been invited to the wedding.

“There is a shift in New Delhi’s policy,” Prof Abdul Ghani, chairman of the All Party Hurriyat Conference said, welcoming the move to allow Lone to attend his son’s wedding.

(Kashmir Observer, November 15 , 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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

NO HOLDS BARRED



Netanyahu has spent a lifetime in politics telling Israelis not to worry about US reactions because he knows how to deal with Washington. It is time he is proven wrong. Biden has already defeated America's Netanyahu; it is time he takes on Israel's Trump.

One Judiciary, Two Judgments

R. RAJ RAO

Yet the families of those arrested in the Bhima-Koregaon case, as well as the families of hundreds of Kashmiris who are in jail without trial since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, can express their displeasure with their respective court judgments, which are invariably against their favour, for fear of being held for contempt of court.

Last week, I wrote about journalist Arnab Goswami's arrest by the Mumbai Police in a suicide abetment case, and his failure to be given bail by the Bombay High Court.

A day later, however, Goswami was granted bail by the Supreme Court and released from the Taloja Jail where he was lodged. Following Goswami's release, his channel, Republic TV, made him out to be a veritable hero and gave him a homecoming worthy of a prodigal son, though unlike the prodigal son in one of Jesus Christ's parables, Goswami was hardly repentant for any of his actions. If anything, he and his cronies appeared on his channel the very next day with renewed arrogance.

Lodged in the same Taloja Jail as Goswami is 80-year-old ailing Telugu poet Varavara Rao who was arrested in what has come to be known as the Bhima-Koregaon case. This refers to a riot that broke out in a village named Bhima-Koregaon, near Pune where I live, on 1st January 2018, during a celebratory event that was held to mark the 200th anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon battle, in which the upper-caste Peshwas and the British were defeated by the lower caste Dalits. Varavara Rao along with some of his communist comrades like Sudha Bharadwaj, Gautam Navlakha, Anand Teltumbde, Vernon Gonsalves, Arun Ferreira and Hany Babu, all were accused by the Pune Police of triggering the riot. They have been branded as 'Urban Naxals' and are in jail without trial ever since, although there is no evidence to link them to the violence.

Varavara Rao is very sick. He tested positive for Covid 19 at the same time as actor Amitabh Bachchan in July this year, and in fact was in the same Nanavati Hospital in Mumbai as Amitabh Bachchan. But after treatment, Varavara Rao was sent back to jail.

On the very day that Goswami was granted bail by the Supreme Court, Varavara Rao was once again refused bail by the Bombay High Court, his medical condition notwithstanding. This is patently unfair. However, the thing about court judgments in India, unlike court judgments in the UK and US, is that one cannot pass



adverse comments on them without being held for contempt of court.

This is exactly what Goswami's bête noire, stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra did. He tweeted against the judgment, parodying the two judges who delivered it. Contempt charges were immediately levelled against him.

A few months ago, similar contempt charges were levelled against Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan for passing critical comments on Twitter against the office of the Chief Justice of India. Bhushan got away by paying a nominal fine of a rupee, and this was like the one day jail sentence awarded to writer Arundhati Roy for questioning a Supreme Court judgment. But Kamra, it is possible, will not be so lucky. After all, as I pointed out in my previous article, many airlines imposed a six-month embargo on Kamra for heckling Arnab Goswami on a Mumbai-Lucknow Indigo flight. Could they have received orders to do so from the Civil Aviation Ministry?

Justice Krishna Iyer has famously said that "Bail should be the rule, and jail should be the exception." If one goes

by this rule, and compares the arrests of Arnab Goswami on the one hand, and Varavara Rao and his colleagues on the other, one comes to the conclusion that rule is selectively applied in India today. What is ironic is that in the case of Varavara Rao and the others, the Pune Police have been unable to furnish evidence that connects them to the Bhima-Koregaon riot. Whereas in Arnab Goswami's case, evidence that architect Anvay Naik ended his life on account of the financial loss of Rs. 83 lakhs that he suffered at the hands of Goswami exists in the form of a suicide note that he left behind, in which he actually names Goswami. Still, today it is Arnab Goswami who is out of jail, while Varavara Rao and his colleagues are behind bars. This is a shame.

Goswami's release also invites us to spare a thought for the bereaved family of Anvay Naik. From their point of view, it is as if justice in India is merely for the high and mighty, while ordinary citizens are doomed to suffer injustice. To Naik's daughter, whose hopes of bringing justice to her dead father were revived when she met the DIG, and the Mumbai Police reopened the

case that had been closed during the reign of the Fadnavis government, Goswami's bail must come across as insensitive.

Likewise, continual refusal of bail to Varavara Rao, without regard to his age and his health, must seem insensitive to his wife and children. They must painfully wonder whether they are ever likely to see their beloved husband and beloved father alive, or whether some day news of his death might reach them through a dreaded telephone call.

Yet neither Anvay Naik's nor Varavara Rao's families, and the families of others arrested in the Bhima-Koregaon case, as well as the families of hundreds of Kashmiris who are in jail without trial since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, can express their displeasure with their respective court judgments, which are invariably against their favour, for fear of being held for contempt of court.

I would like to end this article with a poem by Varavara Rao, translated from the Telugu by Maithri and me:

BLOOD FOR LIGHT

A freedom-seeker is always in jail.
The coloniser won't sleep
before putting an innocent
In shackles.
Only in nightmares
Do the echoes of the oppressed
Resound.
Boundless thoughts
Are wound by steel chains.
The warriors who tread the path of pain
Become lamp posts
That light the path
To revolution.

Views expressed in this article are author's own and do not necessarily reflect that of Kashmir Observer

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

Trump is gone, Netanyahu is next

It is time Biden resets US relations with Israel.

MARWAN BISHARA

No one is as devastated by President Donald Trump's defeat as Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Not even the crown princes of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

These Gulf leaders may have been dependent on Trump for pursuing regional mischief and are sad to see him go, but compared to them, Netanyahu has lost much more than a partner in crime: he lost his soul mate, his American alter ego.

So what made their relationship so special and what does the future hold for Netanyahu now that Trump is pass?

A match made in hell

Trump and Netanyahu saw eye to eye on almost everything, starting with their hatred for Barack Obama and the Obama-Biden administration, which they expressed with much venom.

For four years, they did everything possible to undo all that Obama left behind, starting with reversing his decoupling of the US and Israeli regional strategies and exiting the Iran nuclear deal.

They demonised the Iranian leadership, praised Arab dictators, and worked diligently to establish a new strategic partnership between these autocrats and Israel in order to confront the Arab people and Iran.

Trump and Netanyahu criticised and even humiliated Europe for upholding its liberal values and honouring its foreign policy commitments, especially for abiding by the Iran nuclear agreement.

And they held similar contemptuous and hostile views towards the United Nations and its various international agencies.

Most outrageously, they ganged up on the Palestinians, who have been suffering under Israeli occupation for decades, blackmailing their leaders and stripping them of all aid and stature to force them to submit to their dictates.

In this, they were aided by Trump's son-in-law

and Netanyahu's family friend, Jared Kushner, the sneaky arriviste who made sure that both egocentric leaders remain on good terms.

A Zionist extremist, Kushner is the architect of Trump's infamous "deal of the century", which adopted Netanyahu's racist colonial logic in Palestine.

But that is not all that made the Trump-Netanyahu bromance so eerie. As I wrote earlier this year, there are other more disturbing personal similarities between the two cynics.

Both are known to be serial liars; both have a history of adultery and have been divorced twice; and both have faced charges of misuse of public office for personal and political gain.

And still, both have been able to command the support of religious fanatics who have come to consider the two morally challenged sinners as God's vessels, serving, albeit unintentionally, a divine purpose.

Indeed, Trump has embraced the same ultra-

These Gulf leaders may have been dependent on Trump for pursuing regional mischief and are sad to see him go, but compared to them, Netanyahu has lost much more than a partner in crime: he lost his soul mate, his American alter ego.

nationalist, even racist, agendas that Netanyahu has long championed in Israel and the Middle East.

Both men are populist showmen, rallying their right-wing constituencies around their populist personas even when they proved incompetent in managing their countries' worst crises, including the coronavirus pandemic.

Netanyahu in Trump's footsteps

After driving itself to the edge, America gazed into the abyss and decided to pull back last week.

The majority has rejected four more years of Tsunami Trump, fearing he would end up destroying their democracy and national unity.

Instead, they voted for the restoration of the country's democratic and liberal institutions, and for heal-

ing the nation's wounds.

But just as Trump has tried to undo everything Obama, Biden is about to reverse Trump's reversals, and perhaps more.

He is set to rejoin the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Iran nuclear deal, the World Health Organization and probably UNESCO, among other agreements and institutions Trump has challenged or abandoned. He has also vowed to end the travel ban from Muslim-majority countries.

And he seems set to bring relations with the Palestinians back to their Obama-era level, resuming aid, reinstating the Palestinian Liberation Organization office in Washington, rejecting annexation, pursuing a two-state solution, etc.

This will not be enough to change the situation in Palestine, let alone end the occupation and bring about an independent Palestinian state.

Biden, who once boasted of being a non-Jewish

Zionist, is not about to project his hostility to the Trump-Netanyahu axis onto US relations with Israel.

He will not veer too far from traditional US policy on Israel, regurgitating the old mantras about preserving Israeli security and regional military superiority. But there are things Biden can and should do to put Netanyahu in a bind.

Time for a reset

Biden could deny the embattled Israeli premier any of the customary support and courtesy afforded to Israeli leaders. And he may not tolerate any of the prime minister's humiliating outbursts or hostile criticisms, which became his habit during the Obama era.

Likewise, Biden could reject Netanyahu's unilat-

eral moves in Palestine, or in the region, if they are illegal and are made without prior coordination with Washington.

So, in short, Biden could make the coming months debilitating, inhibiting, and outright humiliating for the Israeli prime minister.

He may even turn his back on Netanyahu and make him persona non grata at the White House.

Bibi, as the prime minister is called in Israel, is already facing trial on three charges of corruption that carry prison sentences, making it a matter of time before his coalition or party turns on him.

That is why Biden needs to go beyond Netanyahu and deliver a clear message to the Israeli right.

He needs to back his verbal opposition to Israel's settlement and annexation policy with action, notably by leveraging US aid to pressure the Israeli government into doing the right thing.

This is indispensable to reset the US-Israel relationship that has gone awry during the Trump administration.

It will also be an important lesson for the next prime minister of Israel who, judging from the list of potential candidates, may be as bad as, if not worse than, Netanyahu.

It is indeed high time that the president of the US abandons appeasement, which has long proven counterproductive, even destructive, in favour of pressure or "tough love", as they like to say in Washington, which by contrast has proven effective with Israel and beneficial for peace and security.

Netanyahu has spent a lifetime in politics telling Israelis not to worry about US reactions because he knows how to deal with Washington.

It is time he is proven wrong. Biden has already defeated America's Netanyahu; it is time he takes on Israel's Trump.

Goodbye Donald, bye Jared, and bye-bye Bibi.

A New Language of Theistic Aesthetics: After the ‘Halal Love Story’

ABDUL RAHMAN O M

For the liberal lens of perception, who see the Kerala Muslim community with dogmatic presumptions, this is the time to remove such strong prejudices. As they are sharing stories of love and life with their own aesthetics, the audience must sit in peace, listen, and think

Halal Love Story is out on Amazon Prime for the whole world to watch. A Non-Malayali might need subtitles to watch the movie. But whatever this is, be it a Malayali or the non-Malayali speakers, many filmophiles could not comprehend subtle points of discussions and creative ideas the film tries to engage. While many argued that the film is poorly written to resolve the disdainful representation of Muslim stories in Kerala, other critics doubt the strength of the contentions placed by the director. Across social media platforms and film enthusiasts, a popular notion was that the movie is over-radiating Muslim-ness. In this background, this essay will be a humble attempt to engage with such skeptic criticism of the Halal Love Story.

Muslim representation in the creative and technical side of the movie continues to be meager in India except for a few legendary actors in the mainstream Indian movie productions. The public consciousness hardly knew any real Muslim-written stories about their community. Hence, the already heavily stereotyped, the less-talked-about Muslim was a total stranger to an average movie watcher across Kerala. As a Malayali, I wonder what sense the movie will make for the North Indian and international audience who might be expecting another classic in the line of Sudani from Nigeria. Remaining narratives in films about Muslims have always falsely tried to homogenize Muslims into a single category.

While watching Halal Love Story, I recalled the old telefilms I had watched back in my childhood. These telefilms were produced by a handful of film enthusiasts who were practicing Muslims too, like ‘Parethan Thirichu Varunnu’ directed by Salam Kodyathur. These telemovies in Malayalam never caught the attention of the mainstream. The audience for these small-scale productions is always confined to the Malabari Muslim households. Many of these were about migrant workers in the Muslim families in Malabar who returned home ‘rich’. Their personal conflicts within the family and society and domestic conflicts where women suffered the most, innocent, and rude Muslim mothers manipulating their sons against sisters-in-law appeared in many of these movies. There were both: bold and naïve; educated and uneducated Muslim men and women. Some movies spent time with the interesting personas of the villages, many with a good amount of humor, wit, and odd characteristics and mannerisms.



These movies produced by members of some Muslim organizations were funded by the director himself or some expatriates. A major feature of all these movies was that they showed the Muslim society in Northern Malabar realistically. I wondered if they are rightly showing the Muslim women in my house as well. 24/7, the Muslim women in the telefilms wore dupattas on their head, while my mom wore it around her head only if some strange man comes to visit the house: a new guest, postman, or likewise.

On the other hand, Halal Love Story, more than a film, is a movie about these telefilms and their producers who tried to present and mark themselves in the medium of movie. They displayed more restraint while showing the domestic space and women that might be coming from religious ideas that ask to be conscious always.

Halal Love Story, as its title goes, asserts that the medium of film, considered as a haram mode of art by many in the community, hitherto is a myth. Rejecting the haram and halal binaries, they have developed a beautiful universe of possibilities of creative self-assertion in the middle ground. The act of taking part in a film is an artistic and theistic devotion for S Salam Kodyathur's character who plays the aspiring actor. Although he is rejected from the cast, he has no complaints. He is disappointed but not totally unhappy. The movie's plot of two cadres working for a telefilm challenging the skeptic dull establishment confines of the organisation, might not be as universally appealing

as Sudani. But the significance of this locally-oriented plot where (a movie within a movie to make a small home cinema) lies in the bold attempt of a small religious minority in the Southern tip of a nation to film their own stories using their own modes of aesthetics to the mainstream.

Needless to say, the liberal world might find it hard to come to terms with this strange location of a story in a beautiful village in Malabar, set in the early 2000s, displaying everyday Muslim life in detail. Unlike the diehard football fanfare in the Malapuram youth as showcased in Sudani from Nigeria, HLS is talking about the practicing Muslim men trying to produce a movie on their life with their own aesthetics and religious morality.

As for the creative teams of the telefilm, they are inspired not from the local films but from the internationally acclaimed Tornatore's Cinema Paradiso and Majid Majidi's Children of Heaven. Their priorities are hence to speak in a different aesthetics of visual language radiant with elements of daily life Muslim symbols and rituals. In other words, they don't cater to the present mode of aesthetics in the film as well. A small example is sheer visibility to the religious practices with no explanations and subtitle of meanings provided to act as a mediating translator.

Who are we to deny the element of faith of the artists in their product of art? Why should they hide their religio-ethical preferences and most importantly, why should the audience bother or deny this personal freedom

to the artists? Are we also manufacturing a kind of fear about the Other, marginalized in the socio-political reality, typcasting their own aesthetics as restricted by morality?

Zakariya and his team had aimed to develop a different aesthetics of creative culture within the movie world that could be more inclusive and accommodative. The liberal critics habituated to stereotype the Muslim aesthetics of Muslim daily life might find the location of culture, setting, and the semantic vocabulary with constant dhikrs, recurring images of routine-prayers hard to digest.

A common question raised in many reviews about the movie was if there is any Muslim organisation in India with members engaging in political issues like the Coca-colaisation. Performing street dramas in response to socio-political development to making telefilms? Yes, but you didn't know, says the movie. The movie stresses the fact that a strong community of Muslims politically conscious, educated, well-read, creatively active existed and were existing in the Southern Indian state.

For the liberal lens of perception, who see the Kerala Muslim community with dogmatic presumptions, this is the time to remove such strong prejudices. As they are sharing stories of love and life with their own aesthetics, the audience must sit in peace, listen, and think.

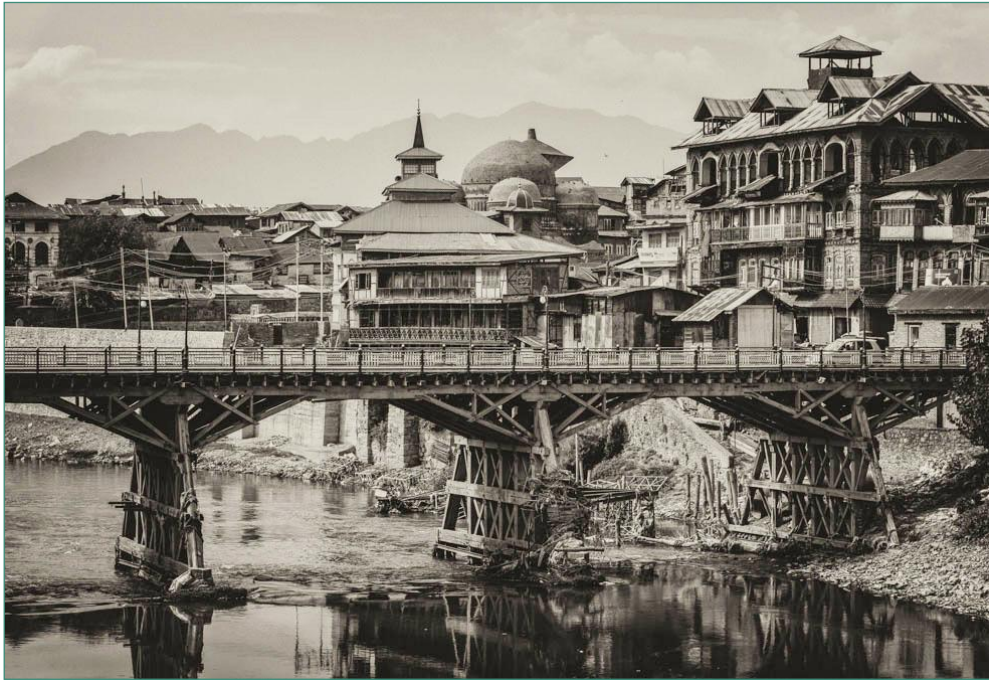
The author can be reached at inksdream@gmail.com

Antiquity

Kashmiris as Empire Builders

PROF F M HASSNAIN

Surely there must have been something great about Kashmir. When we examine the whole panorama of the history of Kashmir, we see certain periods, when the Kashmiris excelled not only in fame but also in power. The accounts of their conquests are scattered all over the



Kashmiris are celebrated for their arts and crafts, for their intelligence, workmanship and industry. They are inferior to none in poetry, science and literature. In these words, Bernier praises the Kashmiris of the Mughal times. But he has no word to speak about their valour and bravery. What is the reason for it? Perhaps he would not offend the Mughals, during whose period, he visited Kashmir. Is it not a fact that the Kashmiris were vanquished and re-vanquished by the invaders like the Mughals, “who have murdered, oppressed and enslaved their ancestors and so ground the life and heart out of them that their better selves have been crushed.” But this

was not the case prior to 1588, when Akbar fell on Sultan Yusuf Shah Chak. Kashmiris were defiled during the domination of the Mughal, the Afghan, the Sikh and the Dogra rulers. That is the reason that we have forgotten their tales of valour, courage and bravery.

Our ancient chronicles, like the Rajatrangini, inform us that the ancient rulers of Kashmir were not content with their patrimony. They not only launched expeditions against the rulers of Gandhara, Central Asia, the Punjab, Sind, Kanauj Bengal and Ceylon, but converted the small valley of Kashmir into, what may be termed as Greater Kashmir. It is for this reason that the Greeks, the Chinese and the Arabs have

mentioned the country of Kashmiris in their writings. We are an ancient country. The geologists would tell us that the valley of Kashmir came into existence nearly ten million years ago.

Some have spoken of Kashmir as “a miniature England in the heart of Asia” and some have predicted that it will become the focus of Asiatic civilization”. Surely there must have been something great about Kashmir. When we examine the whole panorama of the history of Kashmir, we see certain periods, when the Kashmiris excelled not only in fame but also in power. The accounts of their conquests are scattered all over the pages of our history. According to the celebrated geographer Ptolemy, our territories extended to the greater parts of North West India. Kalhana speaks about Lalitaditya as the “universal monarch”, who passed his life chiefly on expeditions to far-off lands, like the movement of the sun round the earth. His forces subdued the rulers of the Ganges, who accepted his suzerainty over them. He subdued the eastern parts of Afghanistan and created a defensive front against the Arabs. This is a historical fact about the illustrious Lalitaditya, who was titled as the Kind, even by Chinese.

It is also a historical fact that Mahmud of Ghazna raided India seventeen times and his eleventh expedition was directed towards Kashmir. He humbled the rulers of the Punjab, Ajmer, Kanauj and Delhi but could not succeed in Kashmir, which was ruled by the queen, Dida Rani. When the snow began to fall heavily on the army of Mahmud, the Kashmiri soldiers fell upon the invaders. The victor of North India had to return to Ghazna with humiliation.

This article is being reproduced from Kashmir Observer's archives and was originally published on June 12, 2010

Common Mutation May Make COVID-19 More Vulnerable To Vaccine, Says Study

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: A common mutation in the novel coronavirus that has enabled it to spread quickly around the world may also make it more susceptible to a vaccine, according to a study that proves some of the first concrete findings about how SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, is evolving.

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the US noted that the new strain of coronavirus, called D614G, emerged in Europe and has become the most common in the world.

Their study, published in the journal Science, shows the D614G strain replicates faster, and is more transmissible than the virus, originating in China, that spread in the beginning of the pandemic.

While the D614G strain spreads faster, in animal studies it was not associated with more severe disease, and the strain is slightly more sensitive to neutralisation by antibody drugs, the researchers said.

"The D614G virus outcompetes and outgrows the ancestral strain by about 10-fold and replicates extremely efficiently in primary nasal epithelial cells, which are a potentially important site for person-to-person transmission," said Ralph Baric, a professor at the UNC-Chapel Hill.



Researchers believe the D614G strain of coronavirus dominates because it increases the spike protein's ability to open cells for the virus to enter. The D614G mutation causes a flap on the tip of one spike to pop open, allowing the virus to infect cells more efficiently but also creating a pathway to the virus' vulnerable core, the researchers said.

With one flap open, it's easier for antibodies -- like the ones in the vaccines currently being tested -- to infiltrate and disable the virus, they said.

"The original spike protein had a 'D' at this position, and it was replaced by a 'G,'" said Yoshihiro Kawaoka, a virologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "Several papers had already described that this mutation makes the protein more functional and more efficient at getting into cells," Yoshihiro Kawaoka said.

That earlier work, however, relied on a pseudotyped virus (chronic), caused by factors such as poor diet, obesity, stress and high blood pressure, is damaging instead of healing, particularly when it comes to cardiovascular health. The findings of this study suggest walnuts are one food that may lessen chronic inflammation, which could help to reduce the risk for heart disease -- a condition we become more susceptible to as we age," added Ros.

Chronic inflammation is a critical factor in the development and progression of atherosclerosis, which is the

The next day, eight uninfected hamsters were placed into cages next to infected hamsters. There was a divider between them so they could not touch, but air could pass between the cages. Researchers began looking for replication of the virus in the uninfected animals on day two. Both viruses passed between animals via airborne transmission, but the timing was different.

With the mutant virus, the researchers saw transmission to six out of eight hamsters within two days, and to all the hamsters by day four.

With the original virus, they saw no transmission on day two, though all of the exposed animals were infected by day four.

"We saw that the mutant virus transmits better airborne than the original virus, which may explain why this virus dominated in humans," Yoshihiro Kawaoka said.

The researchers also examined the pathology of the two coronavirus strains. Once hamsters were infected, they presented essentially the same viral load and symptoms.

This suggests that while the mutant virus is much better at infecting hosts, it doesn't cause significantly worse illness, they said.

However, the researchers caution that the pathology results may not hold true in human studies

SEVERAL PAPERS HAD ALREADY DESCRIBED THAT THIS MUTATION MAKES THE PROTEIN MORE functional and more efficient at getting into cells,"

Study Shows Walnuts May Have Anti-Inflammatory Effects That Reduce Risk Of Heart Disease

Agencies

Findings from a randomized controlled trial indicate that people in their 60s and 70s who regularly consume walnuts may have reduced inflammation, a factor associated with a lower risk of heart disease, compared to those who do not eat walnuts.

The research was part of the Walnuts and Healthy Aging (WAHA) study - the largest and longest trial to date exploring the benefits of daily walnut consumption. The study has been published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

In the study, conducted by Dr. Emilio Ros from the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, in partnership with Loma Linda University, more than 600 healthy older adults consumed 30 to 60 grams of walnuts per day as part of their typical diet or followed their standard diet (without walnuts) for two years.

Those who consumed walnuts had a significant reduction in inflammation, measured by the concentration of known inflammatory markers in the blood, which were reduced by up to 11.5 per cent.

Of the 10 well-known inflammatory markers that were measured in the study, six were significantly reduced on the walnut diet, including interleukin-1b, a potent pro-inflammatory cytokine which pharmacologic inactivation has been strongly associated with reduced rates of coronary heart disease.

The study's conclusion is that the anti-inflammatory effects of walnuts provide a mechanistic explanation for cardiovascular disease reduction beyond cholesterol lowering.

"Acute inflammation is a physiological process due to activation of the immune system by injuries such as trauma or infection, and is an important defense of the body", said Dr. Emilio Ros, a lead researcher in the study.

"Short-term inflammation helps us heal wounds and fight infections, but inflammation that persists over time (chronic), caused by factors such as poor diet, obesity, stress and high blood pressure, is damaging instead of healing, particularly when it comes to cardiovascular health. The findings of this study suggest walnuts are one food that may lessen chronic inflammation, which could help to reduce the risk for heart disease -- a condition we become more susceptible to as we age," added Ros.

Chronic inflammation is a critical factor in the development and progression of atherosclerosis, which is the



Office Of The Executive Engineer
Muffasil R&B Division, Budgam

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 147/MDB/8640-60 of 2020-21 DATED:13.11.2020

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs)	E/M (in Rs.)	Time	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Ghat near Opposite site H/O Gh. Ahmad Mir at Abshar colony Yagipora Magam	1.15 Lacs	200/-	2300/-	10 days	DEE	UDS
2	Repairement of Ghat near Graveyard at Alamdarpora pattan road W.No: 7 at Magam	0.81 Lacs	200/-	1620/-	10 days	DEE	UDS
3	Construction of Shed/Cabin at the Graveyard at Khanpora near JNV on Bank of River/Channel MC Budgam	2.07 Lacs	200/-	4140/-	10 days	DEE	USD

(i) Position of AAA:- Accorded

(ii) Position of funds: Available

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.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13.11.2020 4.00 P.M.
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13.11.2020 from 4.00 P.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	13.11.2020 from 4.00 P.M.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	18.11.2020 upto 4.00 P.M.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).

3. The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Muffasil (R&B) Division, Budgam.

No: 8640-60
Date: 13.11.2020

DIPK-9025/20

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR,
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT NO.77/XEN/EDS/2020-21 OF 11-2020

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on item rate basis from approved and eligible Registered Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Amt. In Rs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Amt. In Rs)	Time of completion	Class of Major Contract	Head Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	
1	Remodelling by way of construction of Bath Room, Store and other allied works Govt. Quarter No. J-40 at Jawahir Nagar Srinagar.	5.50 lacs	11000/-	300/-	25 days	DEE	4059-Plan
2	Renovation of Flat No. F-10 and F-17 by way of face lifting, Wall papering, wardrobes and other Allied Works at Jawahir Nagar Sgr.	5.00 lacs	10000/-	200/-	20 days	DEE	4059-Plan
3	Remodelling of Flat No. F-01 to F-30 by way of replacement of damaged Joinery items including other allied works at Jawahir Nagar Srinagar.	6.10 lacs	13200/-	300/-	25 days	DEE	4059-Plan

Position of AA Accorded

1. Date of Publishing 13-11-2020

2. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 03.00 PM on 13-11-2020.

3. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 13-11-2020 up to 3.00 PM to 19-11-2020 up to 4.00 PM.

4. The complete bidding process will be on line.

5. The bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer, Estates Division Srinagar on 20-11-2020 at 11.00 AM.

6. The lowest bidder i.e. Lowest-1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within three days from opening of financial bids

7. The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan/receipt and upload the same.

8. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in and documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specification, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

9. The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding

10. Bids must be accompanied by bid security in column 05 of the table payable at Srinagar pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Estates Division Srinagar. Bid security will have to be in the form of CDR/FDR and shall have to be valid for six months or more after last date of receipt of Bid. The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be in form of treasury challan/receipt.

11. Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, Estates Division Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue

12. The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall be stand forfeited.

13. No Engineer or Gazetted Rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government Service, without permission of the Government. The contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as other aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the contractor's service.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

DIPK-9008/20

No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/2515-25/2020 /T-1
Dated: - 13-11-2020

Villagers burn Karabakh houses ahead of Azerbaijan takeover

Agencies

Baku: Villagers in Nagorno-Karabakh set their houses on fire Saturday before fleeing to Armenia ahead of a weekend deadline that will see parts of the territory handed over to Azerbaijan as part of a peace agreement.

Residents of the Kalbajar district in Azerbaijan that was controlled by Armenian separatists for decades began a mass exodus this week after it was announced Azerbaijan would regain control on Sunday.

Fighting between the separatists backed by Armenian troops and the Azerbaijan army erupted in late September and raged for six weeks, leaving more than 1,400 dead and forcing thousands to flee their homes.

In the village of Charektar,

menians, said one resident as he threw burning wooden planks and rags soaked in gasoline into a completely empty house.

"Everybody is going to burn down their house today... We were given until midnight to leave," he said. On Friday at least 10 houses were burned in and around Charektar.

The ex-Soviet rivals agreed to end hostilities earlier this week after previous efforts by Russia, France and the United States to get a ceasefire fell through.

A key part of the peace deal includes Armenia's return of Kalbajar, as well as the Aghdam district by November 20 and the Lachin district by December 1, which have been held by Armenians since a devastating war in the 1990s.

Russian peacekeepers began



on the border with the neighbouring district of Martakert which is to remain under Armenian control, at least six houses were on fire Saturday morning with thick plumes of gray smoke rising over the valley, an AFP journalist saw.

"This is my house, I can't leave it to the Turks," as Azerbaijanis are often called by Ar-

menians, said one resident as he threw burning wooden planks and rags soaked in gasoline into a completely empty house.

menians, said one resident as he threw burning wooden planks and rags soaked in gasoline into a completely empty house.

Kabul University attack mastermind arrested

Agencies

Kabul: Afghan Vice President Amrullah Saleh on Saturday confirmed that the mastermind behind the deadly attack on Kabul University that left at least 22 people dead, has been arrested.

In a Facebook post, Saleh said the suspect, Adil, a resident of Panjshir province, was recruited by Sanaulah, a member of the Haqqani Network terror group, TOLO News reported.

Saleh said the suspect had confessed that he was assigned to carry out the activities that could pressure the Afghan government.

The First Vice President said Adil had been missing for the last three years and it was rumoured that he had gone abroad for "studies and war".

He said those who conducted the attack had multiple identities as sometimes they

affiliated themselves to Hizb ut-Tahrir, or the Taliban and the Islamic State (IS).

According to Saleh, Adil has confessed that he received the weapons for the attack from the Haqqani network in Khost province.

The IS has claimed responsibility for the attack but the Afghan government



had blamed the Taliban for the attack.

The Taliban has denied involvement in the attack, which also injured 40 others.

Of the 22 victims, 18 were students of the Public Administration School and Law Faculty. IANS



Trump Comes Close To Admitting Defeat

Agencies

New York: United States President Donald Trump has hinted that he may accept defeat by Joe Biden as media declared the Democrat the winner in Georgia while the counting was still going on, solidifying his lead in the electoral college.

Trump, who has so far refused to concede the election to Biden and has vowed to continue to challenge some of the results in courts, said on Friday while discussing the possibility of a coronavirus-induced lockdown, "Whatever happens in the future, who knows, which administration will be, I guess time will tell." This was likely his first time thinking aloud in public of another administration taking over on January 20.

There have been speculations about how he would finally deal with a defeat, with hyperbolic scenarios painted by some of his hard-core critics of him not leaving the White House leading to a constitutional crisis.

An unidentified senior

aide to Trump was quoted by NBC as saying that he was likely to accept the election verdict while not admitting that he lost.

Amid signs of a second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic sweeping the country, Trump said he was not going to impose a nation-wide lockdown.

He said, "Ideally we won't go to a lockdown. I will not go, this administration will not be going to a lockdown hopefully. Whatever happens in the future, who knows, which administration will be, I guess time will tell, but I can tell you this administration will not go to a lockdown." He was speaking at the White House about his Operation Warp speed to get vaccines against Covid-19 as quickly as possible. He claimed success in the operation that involved private pharmaceutical companies and the military and said the vaccine distribution can begin next month.

Although the counting of votes is still on and the results have not been officially declared, the media has crowned Biden the winner based on

their projections and on that basis, Biden and the Democrats have demanded that he be accorded the official status of the president-elect.

While conceding North Carolina to Trump and Georgia to Biden on Friday, several media outlets gave 306 electoral college votes to Biden and 232 to Trump. To win 270 electoral college votes are needed.

Only 14,000 votes or 0.3 per cent put Biden ahead in the official count in Georgia and officials have said that a manual recount of the postal ballots was required before a final declaration can be made.

If Biden is officially declared the winner in Georgia, he will be the first Democrat since Bill Clinton in 1992 to take the state that has been Republican bastion. A spokesperson for the Biden transition, Jen Psaki, complained during a briefing that they did not have access "to the ongoing work on Covid, so that we can prepare to govern" or to national intelligence briefing and other important information.

Trump supporters head to the streets as he pushes false election claims

Agencies

Washington: President Donald Trump's supporters will take to the streets on Saturday to back his unsubstantiated claims of election fraud as he pushes ahead with a flurry of longshot legal challenges to overturn President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

Trump has made little headway in the courts with his lawsuits and for the first time on Friday, he began to sound doubtful about his prospects, telling reporters "time will tell" who occupies the White House from January 20.

There have been other pro-Trump protests around the country since Biden was projected the winner on November 7 but they have been small and unfolded with few

incidents.

The pro-Trump demonstrations in Washington and other cities are scheduled to feature a mix of the President's backers, far-right personalities and members of the Oath Keepers militia and Proud Boys in a public display of support for his effort to stay in power.

Organisers have given the rallies various names, including the Million MAGA March, the March for Trump and Stop the Steal. MAGA is an acronym for the Trump campaign slogan "Make America Great Again." Trump has tweeted his support.

Some left-wing groups are planning counter-demonstrations in Washington and other cities.

Biden further solidified his victory on Friday as results

from Edison Research showed him winning Georgia, giving him a final tally of 306 Electoral College votes, far more than the 270 needed to be elected president and above Trump's 232.

The 306 votes was equal to what Trump won in his 2016 victory over Hillary Clinton, which he then called a "landslide".

Trump briefly appeared close to acknowledging the likelihood he will be leaving the White House in January during remarks at a White House event.

"This administration will not be going to a lockdown. Hopefully the, uh, whatever happens in the future - who knows which administration it will be? I guess time will tell," Trump said in his first public remarks since Biden was projected as the election's winner a week ago.

Biden's possible India links spark genealogical frenzy

Agencies

Washington: A pastor shows a memorial tablet of Christopher Biden, a potential ancestor of US President-elect Joe Biden, at the St George's Cathedral, in Chennai on November 10, 2020 AFP

Biden said he had received a letter from an Indian Biden after becoming a senator in 1972, suggesting they could be related.

Already bursting with pride at Kamala Harris's ancestry, India has now started digging up potential local roots for US President-elect Joe Biden.

The next leader of the United States has speculated that he might have had relatives in colonial India. While there is no proof, the Biden name has become a genealogical target of investigation across the country.

A plaque commemorating 19th-century British ship captain Christopher Biden has been a popular selfie spot in the eastern city of Chennai since the US election.

And a Biden family in western India says it has become "exhausted" by calls since their namesake staked his claim to the White House.

The American vote has been under the spotlight in India because Biden's running mate is the daughter of a migrant from Tamil Nadu state.

The 56-year-old Harris has made much of her Indian connections and how she likes to eat "idli with a really good sambar" - typical food from the south.

Less attention has been paid to Biden, who has established Irish links. But he spoke of possible Indian connections on a trip to Mumbai in 2013 when he was vice president.

Biden said in a speech that

he had received a letter from an Indian Biden after becoming a senator in 1972, suggesting they could be related.

"One of the first letters I received and I regret I never followed up on it," he said.

Mumbai Bidens lie low

The letter said their "mutual, great, great, great, something or other worked for the East India Trading Company back in the 1700s."

It sparked excitement in Chennai, capital of Tamil Nadu state, which is also home to Harris's Indian relatives.

A plaque at St George's Cathedral in Chennai that celebrates Christopher Biden, born in 1789, has suddenly become a local tourist draw.

"We've come to know the records of two Bidens - William Biden and Christopher Biden - who were brothers and became captains of the East India Company on merchant ships in the 19th century," the Bishop of Madras, Reverend J George Stephen, told AFP.

"While William Biden died at an early age, Christopher Biden went on to captain several ships, and eventually settled down in Madras," which is now known as Chennai.

Despite the speculation, there has been no confirmation that the Biden brothers are related to the 77-year-old American.

If the president-elect does have an Indian ancestor, Christopher is considered the most likely candidate, according to experts who have studied family records.

There are also Bidens in Mumbai and Nagpur in Maharashtra state who could be descendants of Christopher, one of eight children of a John Biden who could be the common link.

Iran denies claims al-Qaeda member killed in Tehran

Agencies

Tehran, Iran - Iran rejected claims that a top al-Qaeda figure was killed in Tehran in August by Israeli operatives, warning United States media of falling for "Hollywood-style scenario-making" by US and Israeli officials.

In a statement on Saturday, hours after a New York Times article said al-Qaeda's second-highest leader was killed in Iran, foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the "terrorist" group was formed as a result of failed American policies in the region.

"In order to dodge responsibility for the criminal activities of this group and other terrorist groups in the region, Washington and Tel Aviv from time to time try to paint Iran as being tied to these groups through weaving lies and leaking fabricated information to the media," he said.

The Times cited US intelligence officials as saying Muhammad al-Masri, accused of being one of the masterminds of two deadly 1998 attacks on American embassies in Africa, was gunned down by two assassins on motorcycles on August 7.

He was killed, the report said, along with his daughter, Miriam, the widow of Osama bin Laden's son Hamza bin Laden.

After news of the shooting broke, news media in Iran identified the victims as Lebanese history professor Habib Daoud and his daughter Maryam. A Lebanese news channel and a number of unofficial social media accounts in Iran said Daoud was a member of Hezbollah, the Iran-backed political and armed group in Lebanon.

But the Times report said Daoud was an alias Iranian officials gave al-Masri and the history teaching job was a cover.



NEWSMAKERS

Man, Woman Caught Leaving London For Dubai With Cash-Filled Suitcases

London: Two Czech nationals caught at London's Heathrow airport bound for Dubai with 1.2 million pounds (\$1.58 million) in their suitcases have been charged with money laundering, the British government said on Friday.

The pair, a man aged 37 and a woman aged 26, were stopped by border officials at 0900 GMT on Nov. 8. The banknotes were found in three suitcase and two hand-luggage bags.

"Clamping down on the export of undeclared cash from the UK is vital in our fight against organised criminal gangs," minister Chris Philp said in a statement.

It is the second large cash seizure in a little over a month after a woman was stopped in October, also bound for Dubai, with cash worth 1.9 million pounds.

Pakistan businessman under tax evasion probe over lavish wedding

Islamabad: Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has completed an initial probe into a businessman who allegedly spent 2 billion PKR on his daughter's wedding in Punjab province.

The FBR on Friday directed the businessman to explain the source of income, after which his withholding tax will be ascertained and a legal action will be followed if tax evasion is found, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the tax body's investigation, the man who runs a business of tiles under the name of "Master Tiles" spent 150 million PKR on a luxurious country club in provincial capital of Lahore which he booked for 120 days for wedding festivities, according to a local media report.

Apart from it, 20 million PKR were given to an event management company for arrangements at the wedding, and the same amount of money was spent on decorations and flowers, the report said, adding that another 10 million PKR and 9.5 million PKR were used for fireworks



and photography, respectively.

A leading singer of the country also charged 15 million PKR for performing at the wedding, while the rest was spent on jewellery, meals, gifts, dresses and other things, the report said.

The wedding trended on social media platforms for several days because of its lavish spending, and many celeb-

rities attended it. The current Pakistani government has set tax collection as one of its prime focuses after coming to power, and tax evaders face legal actions by the government.

In October, the office of a cellular company was sealed in Islamabad for non-payment of taxes worth 25.3 billion PKR. IANS

FBI get their man, after almost 50 years on the run

Leonard Moses had been jailed for life for throwing Molotov cocktails during riots that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr in 1968

A man who had been on the run from the FBI for almost 50 years after escaping police during his grandmother's funeral has been re-arrested, authorities said Friday.

Leonard Moses had been jailed for life for throwing Molotov cocktails together with a group of others during riots that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr in 1968. The petrol bombs set fire to the Pittsburgh house of Mary Ample, who was severely burned and later died as a result of her injuries.

In 1971, Moses was grant-

ed a furlough to attend the funeral of his grandmother and used the occasion to give police the slip, changing his name to Paul Dickson and working, at least since 1999, as a traveling pharmacist in the state of Michigan, police said.

The FBI renewed their search in 2016, questioning his family once again and offering a reward for his arrest, as well as setting up a dedicated tip hotline.

Despite more than 2,000 tip-offs, the FBI were "still unable to locate and apprehend Leonard Moses," said FBI agent Michael Christman, an FBI official at a press conference in Pittsburgh.

But at the beginning of this year, he was detained and questioned in the course of a separate investigation, whose nature the FBI did not disclose.

ED Director S K Mishra's Tenure Extended By One Year



NEW DELHI: The Union government has extended the tenure of ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra by a year after modifying his appointment order that was issued in 2018, officials said.

Mishra, 60, is a 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service officer of the Income Tax cadre and was appointed the Enforcement Directorate chief on November 19, 2018.

His tenure was to end next week as the ED director's post comes with a fixed term of two years.

As per an order issued by the Department of Revenue under the Union finance ministry on Friday, the 2018 order for ap-

pointment of Mishra has been modified.

"The President of India is pleased to approve the modification in the earlier order dated November 19, 2018, appointing Shri Sanjay Kumar Mishra as director of enforcement in the Enforcement Directorate," it said.

It added that his appointment will be for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

The ED is a central investigative agency that enforces two central laws-- the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

These laws were enacted to curb money laundering, terror financing, black money and hawala or illegal financial transactions that have cross-border ramifications.

PM Modi's Dream To Make Ayodhya "Vedic Ramayana City": Yogi Adityanath

AYODHYA: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream to develop Ayodhya as "Vedic Ramayana City".

"Our generation is not only fortunate to see the beginning of the Ram Temple's construction in Ayodhya but also attend the historic event. In the 500-year-struggle, many saints died with a dream to see the construction start. I thank PM Modi who implemented the ideology of Ram Rajya," Yogi Adityanath said while addressing the fourth "Deepotsav", an event to mark Diwali, in Ayodhya.

The prime minister had performed the "bhoomi puja" of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on August 5 this year, bringing to fruition the BJP's "mandir" movement that defined its politics for three decades.

The chief minister said earlier when he would visit Ayodhya, people used to say, "Yogiji, Ram mandir nirman karwaiye (Yogiji get the construction of Ram temple done)."

"I would only ask them to trust Modiji," he added.

"It is the dream of PM Modi to develop Ayodhya as Vedic Ramayana City and for it to be the most beautiful," the chief minister said.



"PM Modi himself came to begin the construction of the Ram temple while following all COVID-19 protocols and gave strength to the concept of Ram Rajya, where there is no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion, language, region, area, etc. There is honour and security for all. He introduced schemes like Ayushman Bharat, free cylinders, power connection, toilets for the poor and paved the way for development," Yogi Adityanath added.

The chief minister said there would have been a grand "Deepotsav" event this year had there be no pandemic.

"Countries like Korea, Thailand, Nepal, Japan, Fiji had connections to Ayodhya earlier as well but Deepotsav showed a modern way for them to relate to the city," he said.

Hailing the prime minister for India's fight against the coronavirus, the chief minister said, "We are fighting strongly under his leadership and we will defeat the virus."

Cop Who Disappeared Years Ago Found On Footpath By Former Colleagues

GWALIOR: A police officer who had gone missing 15 years ago was accidentally found by two of his colleagues on the footpath here.

Suffering from mental derangement, he was found, earlier this week, in a completely disheveled state, shivering with cold.

Deputy Superintendents of Police Ratnesh Singh Tomar and Vijay Singh Bahadur were driving along a marriage hall in the city on Tuesday night when they spotted a man who looked like a beggar.

He was searching for left-over food while shivering badly. Moved by the sight, the two officers got down and one of them offered him his warm jacket.

They were shocked when the man called them by their first

names, Tomar told reporters on Saturday.

They realized that he was none else but their former colleague Manish Mishra, who had gone missing in 2005 while being posted as an inspector in Datia.

"All these years, nobody knew his whereabouts," said Tomar, now DSP of the Gwalior crime branch.

Tomar and Bahadur took him to a shelter run by an NGO where he will stay for some time till further arrangements are made.

"Mishra was a good athlete and sharp-shooter who joined the police force along with us in 1999. He began to suffer from mental issues after some years. His family got him treated, but one day he went missing," Tomar said.



SNOWY MEADOW: Kashmir's famed hill station Gulmarg received season's fresh snowfall on Saturday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Stanford University Names World's Top 2% Scientists, 36 Are From 2 IITs

NEW DELHI: At least 14 scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Banaras Hindu University have figured among the top two per cent scientists in a global list compiled by the prestigious Stanford University.

The list also includes 22 faculty members or researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati.

The US-based Stanford University has recently released a list that represents the top 2 per cent of the most-cited scientists in various disciplines. The exhaustive list has 1,59,683 persons with nearly 1,500 scientists, doctors and engineers in India.

"The list includes the name of 14 professors of Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University). All these have been selected on the basis of their research paper's international evaluation," IIT BHU Director Pramod Kumar Jain said.

The fourteen faculty members from IIT-BHU include - Rajiv Prakash, Dean (Research and Development); Pralaya Maiti and Dhananjay Pandey from the



School of Material Science and Technology; Yogesh Chandra Sharma and PC Pandey from the Chemistry Department; Brahmeshwar Mishra, Sanjay Singh, SK Singh and MS Muthu from Pharmaceutical Engineering and Technology; Devendra Kumar from Ceramic Engineering; Subir Das from Mathematical Sciences; Rakesh Kumar Singh from Physics; Zahra Sarkar from Mechanical Department and Om Prakash.

Led by Professor TG Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati, the IIT Guwahati faculty members have been ranked for their research publications citations for 2019 and their lifetime contribution to their fields of research.

"This recognition of several faculty in the world's top 2% of Scientists List has placed IIT Guwahati in the global map of science and has brought great pride to the institute. I congratulate all the 22 Scientists and their hard-work and commitment to furthering Science," Prof. Sitharam said in a statement.

The report was prepared by Prof. John PA Ioannidis of Stanford University and his team. The database, according to IIT Guwahati, was created to provide updated analyses and a publicly available database of top scientists that provide standardized information on citations, h-index, co-authorship-adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions, and a composite indicator.

The IIT Guwahati faculty members featured in the list are from various scientific fields -- the Departments of civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Chemical Engineering, Biosciences and Bioengineering, Chemistry, Electrical and Electronics.

Under Pressure To Recognize Israel, Says Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that his government is under pressure to recognize Israel, insisting that Islamabad would never establish relations with the "Zionists".

Khan revealed this during an interview with a private television, where he stated that after the recognition of Israel by Arab countries including the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain, Islamabad is also being asked to recognize Israel, something that his government has rejected till now.

"I have no second thought about recognizing Israel unless there is a just settlement, which satisfies Palestinians," he said.

When asked to name the countries, which have insisted on Islamabad to recognize Israel, Khan refrained from pin pointing and opted to be silent on the question.

"There are things we cannot say. We have good relations with them," he said.

Khan reiterated that founding father of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azad Muhammad Ali Jinnah had refused to recognize Israel, adding: "Islamabad would continue to follow in Jinnah's footsteps vis-a-vis Palestine."

Khan said Israel has a strong influence in the US, which he said is "another country pressurizing him to recognize



Israel".

"The pressure is because of Israel's deep impact (influence) in the US. This influence was in fact extraordinary during the (US President Donald) Trump stint," he said.

The recent recognition of Israel by the UAE and Bahrain has resulted in diplomatic economic relations with Tel Aviv, while many other Arab countries are also considering normalization of relations with Israel.

Pakistan being an externally economic dependent country, recognition of Israel and establishment of economic ties can be a major support for Islamabad.

However, Khan has said that Islam-

abad would regain its economic strength and stand on its own feet first, on its own.

Khan said US President-elect Jo Biden's approach on the issue of Israel needs to be seen, stating that "Afghanistan is not the real issue, but Israel is".

"Afghanistan is not the real issue. The real issue is Israel. It is to be seen how Biden deals with that. Whether he changes Trump's policies about Israel or continues with them".

"I am not sure about Biden's policy on Israel, Iran and Kashmir but I am sure there will be no change in Washington's Afghan policy. The Democrats too want to pull out of Afghanistan," he added.

I AM NOT SURE ABOUT BIDEN'S POLICY ON ISRAEL, IRAN AND KASHMIR but I am sure there will be no change in Washington's Afghan policy. The Democrats too want to pull out of Afghanistan,"

Muhurat Trading: Sensex, Nifty Jump To Lifetime Highs

Market benchmark BSE Sensex rallied 381 points to a fresh lifetime high in the opening trade of the special Muhurat session on Saturday to mark the beginning of Hindu Samvat year 2077.

The 30-share index was trading higher by 380.76 points, or 0.88 per cent, at 43,823.76 in the first few minutes of trade.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 117.85 points or 0.93 per cent to its new record of 12,808.65.

All BSE sectoral indices were in the green, led by telecom, capital goods, industrials and finance.

Brokers said buying activity gathered momentum as investors opened their books on the first session of Samvat 2077.



Major gainers in the Sensex pack were Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel, L&T, Axis Bank and ITC, spurring up to 1.93 per cent.

However, NTPC, PowerGrid and Nestle India slipped up to 0.77 per cent.

Meanwhile, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) net bought shares worth Rs 1,935.92 crore on Friday, while domestic institutional investors sold to the tune of Rs 2,462.42 crore, as per provisional exchange data.

Four Held For 'Selling Beef' In Maharashtra



THANE: Four persons have been arrested in Bhiwandi area of Thane district for selling beef, the police said on Saturday.

Beef worth Rs 1.43 lakh in illicit markets was also seized from their possession, an official said.

The police conducted a raid in Shantinagar area on Friday and held four persons.

They were booked under the Maharashtra Animal Preservation Act of 1976 and relevant IPC sections.

SI, Constable Booked In Connection With Journalist's Death In UP's Unnao Suspended

UNNAO (UP): A sub-inspector and a constable booked in connection with the death of a 22-year-old journalist, whose body was found on a railway track here, have been suspended for disappearing from their place of posting, police said on Saturday.

Journalist Suraj Pande's body was found on Thursday. He used to work for a local Hindi daily. An FIR was registered against Sub-Inspector Sunita Chaurasia, Constable Amar Singh and one other person after the victim's family members said they suspected Chaurasia to be behind the incident and claimed that they were friends.

"The SI and the constable (driver) have been suspended as they disappeared from their place of posting without permission. On the complaints lodged by the family of the deceased journalist, a case of murder has been registered against Sunita Chaurasia, the SI posted at the Bihar police station here, and Amar Singh, the constable, on Friday. A team has been formed under CO, City, Gaurav Tripathi to probe the case," Additional Superintendent of Police Vinod Kumar Pandey said.

Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police Anand Kulkarni said that as per the post-mortem report, prima facie the injuries seem to have been caused by trains.

"The case seems to be of a suicide, as per evidence collected from the spot. A case has been registered on the complaint of the family members, and all points are being intensively probed," Kulkarni added.

The family members of the journalist have also alleged that he was killed and his body thrown on the railway track in the Sadar Kotwali area on Thursday evening.

The victim's mother, Lakshmi Pande, has said in her complaint to the police that Suraj Pande and Sunita Chaurasia were friends and because of this, Constable Amar Singh had on November 11 threatened him over the phone.

She said her son received a phone call on Thursday morning before he left home. There was no information about him after that, and his body was found on the railway track later that day, Lakshmi Pande added.

Telangana Announces 50 Per Cent Waiver In Domestic Property Tax

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government on

Saturday announced a 50 per cent waiver in property tax to (domestic) house owners in Hyderabad and 140 other towns across the state as a Deepavali gift, in view of the financial difficulties being faced by people following the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We decided to give some relief to people in the property tax (for the year 2020-21) in Hyderabad and towns across the state," state Municipal Administration Min-

ister K T Rama Rao told reporters here. He said several ministers, in a cabinet meeting held on Friday, sought more help to be extended to people in view of the adverse economic impact of COVID-19.

Accordingly, as per the directives of Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao, the relief has been finalised, he said.

He said house owners who pay property tax up to Rs 15,000 in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits would get a 50 per cent subsidy.

NEWS MAKER

Mohamed Salah Tests Positive For Covid-19

Egyptian football star Mohamed Salah has tested positive for COVID-19, the Egyptian soccer association said on Friday. The announcement came on the eve of a match against Togo. Salah had returned to Egypt recently for games in the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

Egypt was to play Togo in Cairo on Saturday and in Lome, Togo's capital, on Tuesday. The Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers resumed on Wednesday, after being suspended for eight months.

"All those who were exposed to him have also been quarantined, added the Egyptian team's statement. The statement did not name any of the players. It was also unclear if any other players would miss out on the games with Togo," Associated Press reported.

"Salah was the first Egyptian player to become a Premier League champion--global stardom gained on the strength of a single brilliant season with Liverpool, which he joined in 2018 from Roma--and is beloved among fellow Egyptians who see him as a sign of hope for a third-world country battered by poverty and years of political turmoil," Associated Press said.



Madhya Pradesh Cops Find Missing Ex-Colleague On Footpath After 15 Years

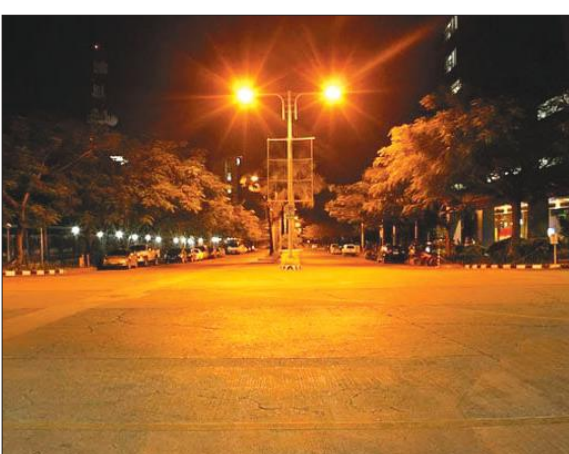
GWALIOR: A police officer who had gone missing 15 years ago was accidentally found by two of his colleagues on the footpath Gwalior.

Suffering from mental derangement, he was found, earlier this week, in a completely disheveled state, shivering with cold.

Deputy Superintendents of Police Ratnesh Singh Tomar and Vijay Singh Bahadur were driving along a marriage hall in the city on Tuesday night when they spotted a man who looked like a beggar.

He was searching for left-over food while shivering badly.

Moved by the sight, the two officers got down and one of them offered him his warm



jacket.

They were shocked when the man called them by their first names, Mr Tomar told reporters on Saturday.

They realized that he was none else but their former colleague Manish Mishra, who had gone missing in 2005 while being posted as an in-

spector in Datia.

"All these years, nobody knew his whereabouts," said Mr Tomar, now DSP of the Gwalior crime branch.

Mr Tomar and Bahadur took him to a shelter run by an NGO where he will stay for some time till further arrangements are made.

"Mishra was a good athlete and sharp-shooter who joined the police force along with us in 1999. He began to suffer from mental issues after some years. His family got him treated, but one day he went missing," Mr Tomar said.

"We, his friends, will try and get the best treatment available for him so that he becomes his normal self again," the DSP added.