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NEWS DIGEST

4 Cops Injured In Baramulla Accident

SRINAGAR: At least four policemen were injured, one of them critically after an escort vehicle of a former PDP legislator met with an accident in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, reports said Monday.

An escort vehicle of former Legislator Rafiqab Yawar Mir met with an accident near Stadium Colony Baramulla on Sunday evening leaving at least four policemen injured, news agency KNT reported. All the injured cops were removed to the nearby district hospital for treatment. However, one of the critically wounded cop identified as Muhammad Yousuf was referred to SKIMS Soura for further treatment.

Three other cops have been identified as Selection Grade Constable Ramesh Kumar of Kishtwar, Head Constable Ghulam Mustafa Khan of Ganderbal and Constable Tariq Hussain Jinder of Boniyar Baramulla.

Army Defuses Live Shell In Uri

URI: Army on Monday detonated unexploded shell fired from across the border last week in Kamalkote area of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

There was heavy exchange of gunfire and shells between the armies of India and Pakistan last Friday in Kamalkote and Hajipour sectors of Uri, leaving four civilians and two soldiers dead. A shell was found unexploded in residential house at Kamalkote and was defused by Army's Bomb disposal squared (BDS) today, reported news agency GNS.

SDPO Uri confirmed that the live shell was detonated in the area. He said a police team was also on spot.

According to reports several live shells are lying in Hajipour and Kamalkote sectors after last Friday's incident.

Grenades Hurling In Shopian, Kulgam

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Monday lobbed grenades at a police station and a police post in twin districts of Shopian and Kulgam in south Kashmir.

Around 6:12pm Monday, suspected militants hurled a grenade towards a Police post in Frisal area of Kulgam district, officials said. However, the grenade missed the intended target and exploded outside the building of police post.

No loss of life or property was reported in the incident even as the grenade throwers managed to flee from the spot taking advantage of darkness.

"The area has been cordoned off and search operations have been launched to nab the attackers," officials said.

In a similar incident, suspected militants lobbed a grenade towards Police Station Shopian, which, however, failed to explode, officials said.

They said that Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) was called to the spot who later defused the grenade—(KNO)

Property Worth Lakhs Destroyed In Bandipora Fire

SRINAGAR: Property worth lakhs of rupees has been damaged in an overnight devastating fire incident in Bandipora district of north Kashmir, official sources said on Monday.

The fire broke out in a shopping-cum-residential complex belonging to local Auqaf at Aloosa in Bandipora at 2 am. However, before the fire tenders could reach the spot and join the locals to control the leaping flames, fire spread to entire complex, housing six shops and four residential rooms.

Locals said that shopkeepers have lost their everything in the fire. However, there was no report of any loss of life or injury in the fire.

The cause of fire was not known, they said adding police has registered a case and initiated proceedings.

CBI Takes Over Roshni Probe, Files 3 Cases

Senior IAS Officer Among Those Under Scanner

SCAM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Taking up the cases in the Roshni Act Scam, the Central Bureau of investigation (CBI) on Monday filed three separate cases for alleged land grab in Jammu and Kashmir in collusion with government officials, in which a secretary-ranked officer at the Centre is also under scanner, officials said on Monday.

The cases were earlier probed by the State Vigilance Organisation and the CBI has taken over the probe on the orders of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, they said.

The cases relate to alleged land grab in Jammu and Samba districts, they said.

"...the officers/officials of Revenue Department of District Jammu had conferred undue benefits upon the illegal occupants of the state land by intentionally ignoring the laid down provisions of the Roshni Act & rules, thereby conferring ownership rights of the state land wrongfully to selective undeserving persons and hence inflicted huge monetary loss to the state exchequer," CBI spokesperson R K Gaur said here on one of the cases.

It is alleged that the land grabbing by undeserving elements defeated the purpose of Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (vesting of ownership rights to the Occupants) Act, 2001 aimed at generation of revenue for undertaking development works.

Another case from Jammu pertains to a businessman from Gandhi Nagar and unidentified officials of the revenue department, Jammu Development Authority. The revenue officers/officials of Jammu district had allegedly entered into a criminal conspiracy with the



Mehbooba Warns Govt Against Evicting Nomads

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday warned the government against evicting members of the Gujjar-Bakerwal community from forest areas in the union territory, saying if they are harassed, the consequences would be dangerous.

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businessman and conferred ownership rights with regard to land at village Deeli Tehsil. A senior IAS officer, now a secretary at the Centre, and another officer in the electricity department of the Union Territory, are also under the scanner of the agency, officials said.

"It was further alleged that the accused in pursuance of criminal conspiracy hatched among themselves had illegally regularised the said state land without existence of any entry in revenue record and issued NOC in favour of the beneficiary for construction of commercial building over the land," Gaur said.

The third case pertains to Samba district where revenue officials allegedly conferred undue pecuniary benefits upon the illegal occupants of the state land by intentionally contravening provisions of the Roshni Act.

"It was further alleged that in many cases, ownership rights over the state land were conferred in favour of individuals, who were not having the recorded possession in their respective names in the revenue records. It was also alleged that the rates were not fixed by the Price Fixation committee, as per the provisions of the Act and in many cases were not remitted to the Government Treasury, thereby causing huge loss to the state exchequer," Gaur said.

Shooting Stones, Landslides Block Highway

Hundreds Of Load Carriers, Passenger Vehicles Stranded



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only motorable road link, with rest of India was again closed on Monday due to snowfall and landslides, a traffic police official said.

The official said after initially allowing movement of some vehicles in the morning, traffic on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway was suspended after landslides and shooting stones at Battery Cheshma and Panthyal, triggered by rain.

There were about three to four inches of snowfall at Jawahar tunnel, Banihal and Shaitan Nallah and it was still snowing heavily when the reports last received at 0945 hrs, he said adding the road has become slippery due to which traffic movement was stopped.

The Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) were to play today from Jammu to Srinagar and Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMVs) from the opposite direction, he said.

The upper heights in Banihal on Jawahar tunnel area received more than one feet of snowfall, he said.

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has already put sophisticated machines and men at different places to clear the landslides and snow. However, continued snow and shooting stones are hampering the road clearance operation.

He said traffic will be resumed only after receiving green signal from the NHAI and BRO besides traffic police personnel deployed at different places on the highway.

However, he said, there is a forecast for more snow and rain during the next few days

Avalanche Warning Issued In 4 Districts

Authorities in Kashmir issued an avalanche warning in four districts of the valley on Monday as the higher reaches of the union territory received moderate to heavy snowfall, while the plains were lashed by rains.

The avalanche warning has been issued in Kupwara, Bandipora and Baramulla districts of north Kashmir, and Ganderbal district in central Kashmir, officials said.

While a medium danger avalanche warning has been issued for the higher reaches of Kupwara and Bandipora districts, a low danger avalanche warning has been issued for the higher

10 Civilians Rescued From Sinthan Pass

10 people, including two women and a child were rescued, after they were trapped in heavy snowfall at high altitude Sinthan pass in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Monday.

The rescue operation was carried out late Sunday night after information was received about a group of civilians stranded at Sinthan pass that connects Kishtwar district of Jammu region with Kashmir's Anantnag, they said.

Guns Roar Along LoC After Two-Day Lull

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: Three days after a deadly clash along the Line of Control (LoC) left five soldiers and five civilians dead, the India and Pakistan troops on Monday exchanged mortars and other weapons along the LoC in the frontier Kupwara district.

"Pakistan initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation along LoC in Tangdhar Sector, Kupwara district today evening by firing mortars & other weapons," Sri-nagar based Army Spokesperson, Col Rajesh Kalia said.

Army, he said gave a befitting response to the ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops.

Pakistan initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation along LoC in Tangdhar Sector, Kupwara district today evening by firing mortars & other weapons"

However, there were no immediate reports of any loss of lives or property in the Cross-LoC shelling that continued for some time.

On Friday, the LoC across north Kashmir witnessed unprecedented shelling leaving at least four soldiers, a border guard and five civilians dead and at least twenty people, including civilians and soldiers injured.

The horrific images and videos of men, women and children running for their lives in different areas of border town Uri took social media by storm. Many unverified videos on social media showed huge flames rising from the residential houses as the inmates were seen running for cover.

Corona Claims 7 More Lives In J&K, Toll 1598

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Seven more people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1598.

Officials said Monday that four people from Kashmir Valley lost the battle with the deadly infection, while three others succumbed to Covid-19 in Jammu division. Three among the victims from Valley were residents of Srinagar and one from south Kashmir's Pulwama district. With these deaths, the total count in the Valley has reached region has reached 1060 and 538 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 399 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (283), Baramulla (157), Budgam (97), Pulwama (85), Kupwara (78), Anantnag (75), Doda (50), Rajouri (48), Kulgam (48), Bandipora (48), Shopian (36), Ganderbal (37), Udhampur (35), Kathua (33), Samba (25), Poonch (22), Ramban (18), Kishtwar (16), and Reasi (8).

Newborn Among 390 More Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 390 new cases of coronavirus, including a 15-day-old baby and thirty eight travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in Union Territory to 103009. While Kashmir valley reported 240 new cases, the remaining 150 were confirmed by the officials from the Jammu division.

Giving district wise details, officials said that Srinagar reported 112 cases, Baramulla 58, Budgam 20, Pulwama 8, Kupwara 11, Anantnag 4, Bandipora 11, Ganderbal 13, Kulgam 3, Shopian 0, Jammu 97, Rajouri 2, Udhampur 17, Doda 3, Kathua 5, Poonch 1, Samba 10, Kishtwar 5, Ramban 8 and Reasi 2. Moreover, they said, 482 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 152 from Jammu Division and 330 from Kashmir Valley.

Cracks Widen In PDP As Party Leader Files Nomination Papers

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Cracks have started widening in the People Democratic Party, as a party leader has filed nomination papers for the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) elections from central Kashmir's Budgam district, where Peoples Alliance For Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of seven mainstream parties, including PDP has also fielded a candidate from National Conference.

Much to the embarrassment to the Mehbooba Mufti led PDP; the party's District President for Beerwah, Nazir Khan filed his nomination papers at DIET Beerwah as an independent candidate on Monday. Khan accused NC Vice-President Omar Abdullah of sabotaging his candidature as a PAGD candidate.

"Omar Abdullah played politics and without informing Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti nominated NC candidate, who has no ground in Beerwah, just to weaken my position," Khan said.

Khan became second independent candidate after Akhtar Ali from Hayatpora Beerwah who is also in the fray. Besides Khan and Ali, there is PAGD's candidate Muhammad Ashraf Lone from Poonchgun, BJP's Showkat Wani from Loolipora, and PDF candidate Javaid Beigh from Sonpah Beerwah.

"Omar Abdullah played a game, PAGD knew it well that I have strong ground in Beerwah. I have support of Narbal and Beerwah BDC's while BDC Khag was also my supporter who was killed in a militant attack," Khan added.

When asked if he was going against his own

Drones To Keep Eye Around Polling Stations: DGP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid fears of militants disrupting the maiden District Development Council (DDC) polls scheduled to be held in Jammu and Kashmir from November 28, the Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday decided to use drones to keep a close eye in and around the polling stations.

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NC, PDP 'Anti-National' Says BJP

Asks Congress to Come Clean

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday hit out at its rival parties in Jammu and Kashmir, saying their stand on a number of issues, including the demand for restoration of Article 370, is the same as that of countries like Pakistan, and asked the Congress if it agrees with the "anti-national" views of the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party over its support to them.

Addressing a press conference, senior BJP leader and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad cited a number of pro-people central

laws that have been brought in force in the union territory following the 2019 repeal of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and asked if the Congress supports their annulment by bringing back Article 370.

"I want to ask Sonia Gandhi (Congress president) and Rahul Gandhi, do they want restoration of Article 370? Please tell the nation categorically and clearly does the Congress support annulment of pro-people laws?" Prasad asked, attacking the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, an amalgamation of various Jammu and

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If a Muslim or Hindu girl from Jammu and Kashmir married a boy from outside, then she would have no right in the property of her father. We have changed it and restored her right to property"

Zoom Meetings Linked To Negative Self-Image, Increase In Plastic Surgery Demand, Experts Say

Press Trust Of India

Spending more time on virtual platforms could be affecting self-image of people and leading them to rush for facial treatments they may not have considered months before confronting a video screen, a new phenomenon called 'Zoom Dysmorphia', experts say.

Writing in the journal Facial Plastic Surgery & Aesthetic Medicine, the authors noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had seen a massive shift towards remote work and living, with people spending record amounts of time on virtual plat-

forms with evidence indicating that these remote trends will persist even when conditions improve.

Zoom had allowed life to go on in an ever-changing world but may be affecting the way individuals view themselves, they said.

The authors noted a surge in patients

citing their appearance on Zoom as a reason to seek care, particularly concerned with acne and wrinkles.

"A recent analysis of Google search trends during the pandemic showed the terms 'acne' and 'hair loss' are increasing in this newly virtual reality," the researchers said.

They attributed this trend to the association of acne and hair loss with anxiety and depression, common psychological conditions during quarantine.

"We suspect the trend may also arise from people constantly seeing themselves on video and becoming more aware of their appearance," said Arienne Shadi Kourosh, from Massachusetts General Hospital, US, and one of the authors of the article.

Before Zoom took over as the metric used to value one's appearance, people used selfies and an arsenal of photo editing apps to create filtered versions of themselves.



Dubbed "Snapchat dysmorphia," the influx of people hoping to look more like their edited selves has caused widespread concern for its potential to trigger body dysmorphic disorder.



FROM FRONT PAGE

Mehbooba Warns ...

Mehbooba visited the upper reaches of Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday and met people whose 'Dhoks' (temporary shelters) were demolished by authorities as part of an anti-encroachment drive.

"This is part of the illegal process started by central government in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, under which the people, who live here like nomads, Gujjars, Bakerwals, whose forefathers have been living here for centuries, are being evicted, Mehbooba said.

She said after the Centre made changes in the domicile law, it wants to bring people from the whole country to J-K and evict its own residents.

"This is not happening here (in Kashmir) only. If you see in Jammu, in places like Bhatindi, Sujwan, Chatta, wherever there is Muslim population, the Gujjars, the Bakerwals -- who are the real protectors of these forests -- they (government) pinpoint them and are evicting them. Where will the people go in the winter? she said.

Shooting Stones ...

which could affect highway. People are advised to travel on the highway only after confirming the status of the road from Traffic Control Units (TCUs) in Srinagar, Jammu and Ramban, he said.

He said as per schedule LMVs were to ply from Jammu to Srinagar while HMVs from the opposite direction. Meanwhile, hundreds of vehicles, including those carrying passengers, are stranded on the highway.

Avalanche Warning ...

reaches of Ganderbal and Baramulla districts, they said.

The warning was issued in view of snowfall which started on Saturday and continued till Monday morning, they added.

According to the officials, this is the season's first major snowfall in the famous ski resort of Gulmarg in Baramulla and the tourist resort of Sonamarg in Ganderbal.

Gulmarg received 19 cm of snow in the last 24 hours, while Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district received light snowfall, the officials said.

Gurez in north Kashmir's Baniptora district, Zojilla Pass on the Srinagar-Leh highway, and Drass in Ladakh also received snowfall, they said.

Due to the snowfall, the authorities closed the Srinagar-Leh road, which connects Jammu and Kashmir with Ladakh, for traffic on Saturday, they added.

The officials said most of the areas in the plains of the Kashmir valley received rains, bringing down the temperature.

The meteorological department said while the weather improved significantly in both the UTs on Monday, light rain or snow at scattered places is likely during the next 24 hours.

10 Civilians Rescued ...

The rescue team, comprising army and police personnel, walked for five hours along the National Highway 244 in zero visibility conditions during the night and brought the stranded people to Sinthan ground where they were provided with food and shelter, they said.

Cracks Widen ...

party's seat sharing agreement, Khan said there was no merit in the People's Alliance.

"I do believe in PAGD and support its stand, but the way Omar Abdullah backstabbed me and played politics has badly hurt me. PADG has fielded a weak candidate and I think Omar wants BJP should win Beerwah seat," he said.

Khan claimed that he received 'Authority Letter' from PDP at 8pm on Sunday night but the NC VP changed the list of PAGD candidates.

A local news agency KNT quoting sources reported that during a PAGD meeting that was held on Sunday at the residence of Farooq Abdullah, it was unanimously decided to field PDP's Nazir Khan from Beerwah for DDC polls.

"PDP even handed over an authority letter to Khan, but to the shock of Khan, his name was missing from the list published by PAGD," sources added.

Zoom Meetings ...

Dubbed "Snapchat dysmorphia," the influx of people hop-

ing to look more like their edited selves has caused widespread concern for its potential to trigger body dysmorphic disorder.

The authors noted that in 2019, 72 per cent of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery members reported seeing patients seeking cosmetic procedures to improve their selfies.

In addition, higher levels of engagement on social media have shown to correlate with increased body dissatisfaction, they said.

"Unlike the still and filtered selfies of social media, Zoom displays an unedited version of oneself in motion, a self-depiction very few people are used to seeing on a daily basis," explained Emmy Graber from the Dermatology Institute of Boston, US.

"This may have drastic effects on body dissatisfaction and desire to seek cosmetic procedures," Graber said.

The reasons behind this critical self-image, noted the researchers, is that during real-life conversations, people do not see their faces speaking and displaying emotions, and do not compare their faces side-by-side to others like they do on video calls.

In addition, cameras can distort video quality and create an inaccurate representation of true appearance, they said.

"One study found that a portrait taken from 12 inches away increases perceived nose size by 30 per cent when compared with that taken at 5 feet," said Shauna M Rice from Massachusetts General Hospital.

"Webcams, inevitably recording at shorter focal lengths, tend to produce an overall more rounded face, wider set eyes, and broader nose," Rice added.

The researchers noted that it is important for patients to recognise the limitations of webcams and understand that they are, at best, a flawed representation of reality. To further deconstruct the motivations behind this influx of patients in the era of Zoom, the authors turned to the facial feedback hypothesis.

The theory explains that treatment of sad-appearing wrinkles may reduce depression by making the patient appear less sad to others, which, in turn, makes them feel better about themselves.

"Perhaps there is a recent surge in patients seeking cosmetic procedures simply because they now see their imperfections on camera daily, or because the wrinkles they see on screen make them look more depressed to others and feel more depressed themselves," the authors added.

"The theory in the context of Zoom is particularly interesting, as the patient is also the viewer," they said.

They may perceive themselves as sad because of the wrinkles they see, which further negatively affects their emotions, leading to a dangerous cycle of self-deprecation, the authors said.

This becomes a major concern when an individual becomes excessively preoccupied with real or imagined defects, they added.

NC, PDP ...

Kashmir parties whose demands have drawn some support from the Congress.

He noted the "anti-national" views of National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, who had favoured China's support for Article 370's restoration, and PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, who had said she would not raise the national flag if the separate flag of Jammu and Kashmir is not restored, and sought to know the Congress' stand over them.

Prasad said women were earlier deprived of property rights in the union territory if they married outside and anti-corruption laws, reservation for the disadvantaged sections of society and various other "humanist" central laws were not implemented in the region and accused the Gupkar alliance of working to push Jammu and Kashmir towards "narrow conservatism".

"If a Muslim or Hindu girl from Jammu and Kashmir married a boy from outside, then she would have no right in the property of her father. We have changed it and restored her right to property," he said.

The alliance of about 10 regional parties have demanded restoration of Article 370, a demand supported by some senior Congress leaders, including P Chidambaram.

Earlier, while targeting the Congress over its ties with the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, BJP spokesper-

son Sambit Patra also had a go at its leader Rahul Gandhi over comments of the likes of former US president Barack Obama to RJD leader Shivanand Tiwari and Congress' Kapil Sibal.

When Obama got to know him (Rahul) in four-five days, then it is obvious that those who interact with him almost daily would also have realised what he is, Patra told reporters.

Congress leaders were praising him while carrying a burden of "100 tonnes of stone" on their chest, and now they feel suffocated, he said.

"The BJP had been saying so for long. Now a friend of Congress like Shivanand Tiwari is saying that he is a non-performing picknicking president," Patra said.

Tiwari had on Sunday questioned the campaign run by the Congress and also had taken a swipe at Gandhi for not spending much time electioneering in the state.

Sibal is part of a group of leaders in the Congress who have demanded an overhaul of the party's organisation.

Targeting the tie-up of the Jammu and Kashmir parties, known as 'Gupkar Alliance', the BJP spokesperson described it as "unholy", saying that it is aimed at opposing the implementation of laws duly passed by Indian Parliament.

"This Gupkar Alliance wants exactly what Pakistan and anti-India countries want. Pakistan has gone to every forum and spoken against the removal of Article 370. The Gupkar Alliance says the same thing," Patra said.

Drones To Keep Eye ...

Chairing a meeting to review the security plans and preparedness in central Kashmir for upcoming DDC polls and by-elections for Panchayats and urban local bodies (ULB), DGP Dilbagh Singh said that there was a need to be more vigilant and cautious in view of the possibility of militants attempting to disrupt the democratic process in J&K, saying that continuous attempts were being made by elements across the border to create trouble here, a police spokesperson said.

Lieutenant Governor's advisor R. R Bhatnagar was also present in the high-level meeting held at Police Control Room Kashmir on Monday.

The DGP, police spokesperson said directed the officers to devise the security plans and depute the security personnel as per the requirement besides emphasizing for making the effective use of drones to monitor the situation in and around the polls stations.

While complimenting the police personnel, central forces and intelligence agencies for achieving the highest degree of synergy and coordination in handling the internal security situation, Singh, as per police spokesperson said that forces need to continue coordinated efforts to accomplish this important task efficiently and peacefully.

"The DGP also stressed for efficient arrangements for the mobility and accommodation of forces deployed for elections. He stressed upon the officers to keep a vigil on the ground situation and ensure that people would exercise their franchise freely. He said the personnel on the ground should be briefed regularly for better results. He said that joint efforts by the stakeholders should be put in for timely action to deal with any situation," he added.

While appreciating Police and other forces in maintaining peace, stability, and law and order in J&K, LG's Advisor, the police spokesperson said reiterated the importance of maintaining a close watch on the inimical elements and stressed the need to maintain real-time coordination between the different Security Force agencies for the peaceful conduct of the elections.

Before the Advisor and the DGP joined the meeting, the police spokesperson said detailed discussions were held by IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar along with IG CRPF Ms Charu Sinha with the District SSP and CAPF commanders regarding ground situation and specific deployment requirements for conduct of the upcoming event.

DIG central Kashmir, Amit Kumar, DIG CRPF South Srinagar, D.S Maan, DIG CRPF, North Srinagar Dr. D.J Singh, DIG Sector Hqr, CRPF Ashok Samyal, SSP Srinagar, Dr. M. Haseeb Mughal, SSP Budgam Nagpure Amud Ashok, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmad Poswal and Nodal commandants of Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal also attended the meeting.



Div Com Reviews Status Of Land Acquisition Within Dal, Nigeen Lake Peripheries

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Monday chaired a High Level Committee meeting to review status of land acquisition within the Dal and Nigeen lake peripheries and shifting and rehabilitation of Dal dwellers.

The meeting among others was attended by VC LAWDA, Director Tourism, CE R&B, ADC Srinagar, JC SMC, SE UEED and others concerned.

At the outset, a sub-committee was constituted to be headed by DC Srinagar while as two officers from LAWDA and two concerned Teh-

sildars as its members.

The committee shall ensure speedy acquisition of land and rehabilitation of Dal dwellers.

The Div Com stressed on the acquisition of remaining land and structure within the peripheries on fast track basis, besides instructed concerned to submit details on the work done and process of remaining work to be completed on circular road project.

He emphasized on submitting of case wise details on mutations done by the next meeting. The meeting was informed that land ac-

quired under NLCP, PMRP/PMDP is land mass of 2400 kanals and 7029 kanals as watery land. While as land mass of 4950 kanals and watery land of 7742 kanals stand a balance land to be acquired.

While reviewing the progress made regarding allotment of plots to the dwellers, the Div Com stressed on the speedy acquisition of 2936 remaining structures identified inside Dal, Nigeen lake, from Ashai Bagh to Saidda Kadal under PMRP and structures by virtue of construction of WFR.

3 Men Held In Jammu For Duping People With Job Promise

JAMMU, NOV 16 (PTI) : Three men, including two brothers, were arrested here on Monday for allegedly duping people on the pretext of arranging government jobs and driving licenses besides issuing fake orders with regard to transfers and postings, a spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir's Crime Branch said.

Rakesh Singh, his brother Sudesh Singh and another co-accused Suresh Singh, all residents of Khour in Jammu district, were constantly evading arrest by frequently changing their locations but were finally caught by sleuths of the Crime

Branch from their village after hectic efforts, the spokesperson said.

He said two cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) stand registered against the accused who have duped many people of their hard earned money on the pretext of arranging government jobs apart from issuing fake transfer and posting orders.

In one of the cases registered in 2019, the prime accused Rakesh had impersonated as a Regional Transport Officer (RTO) and lured the complainant and other gullible people by issuing fake driving licens-

es, the spokesperson said.

Earlier, a communication was received on March 19, 2018 by Additional Secretary to the government Rajnish Kumar seeking a probe into a fake order of transfers in the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports.

Preliminary verification was initiated based on the information and evidence was gathered during an enquiry that substantiated the allegations, the spokesman further said.

He added that a formal case was registered against the three accused for an in-depth investigation.

CBI Books 16 For 'Defamatory' Content Against SC, Andhra HC Judges On Social Media

NEW DELHI/AMRAVATI, NOV 16 (PTI) The CBI has booked 16 individuals for posting alleged defamatory material against Supreme Court and Andhra Pradesh High Court judges on social media, taking over investigations from the state CID, officials said on Monday.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), on the orders of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, has taken over the investigation in 12 cases registered by the state CID on the complaint of B Rajasekhara, the registrar general of the court, the officials said.

It was alleged in the complaint that "key personnel, who are occupying posts of prominence in the state of Andhra Pradesh, by intentionally targeting the judges, made interviews/posts/speeches attributing motives, caste and corrupt allegations to some of the Supreme Court judges and High Court judges in delivering orders/judgments and they posted abusive, life threatening and intimidating postings against judges in social media i.e Facebook, Twitter over recent orders and judgments delivered by judges of High Court of Andhra Pradesh".

On October 12, the high court directed the CBI to probe the case and submit a report to it in a sealed cover within eight weeks. The next hearing of the case is on December 14.

Taking cognizance of the alleged defamatory posts, the court had directed the CBI to probe the role of prominent persons in the southern

state, who were intentionally targeting the Supreme Court and high court judges.

"...the postings were made to bring hatred, contempt, incite disaffection and ill-will against the High Court and Hon'ble judges," the court had noted.

A bench comprising justices Rakesh Kumar and J Uma Devi had passed the order after a series of alleged derogatory posts were made on social media platforms against judges and the judiciary, following some court verdicts that went against the state government.

On the directions of the high court, its registrar general got a complaint lodged with the CID, giving names and related evidence, but the state police wing reportedly booked only nine people.

"Their comments are perilous to democracy and amounted to an attack on the judiciary. If some ordinary person makes any comment against the government, cases are promptly registered against such persons.

"When persons in positions made comments against the judges and the courts, why have cases not been filed? Looking at things, we are left to infer that a war has been declared on the judiciary," the bench commented orally during a hearing.

The CBI office in Visakhapatnam registered the case under various sections, including 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 67 of the Information Technology Act.

While handing over the probe to the central agency, the high court had expressed serious displeasure over the CID investigation in its October 12 order. It had noted that the speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and the deputy chief minister had also not restrained themselves from making "scathing remarks" against the judiciary.

"Member of Rajya Sabha, namely, Vijayasai Reddy, has joined together in a move to make scathing remarks against the High Court.

"Such comments from the key personnel who are occupying posts of prominence, authoritative and constitutional in nature, targeting the judges, had severely affected the reputation of the judiciary as an independent institution. Thus, it appears that a concerted effort has been made to malign the institution, having a larger conspiracy," the court had noted.

It had also named YSRC MP (Lok Sabha) Nandagam Suresh, former MLA Amanchi Krishna Mohan, standing counsel for the Andhra Pradesh Assembly Metta Chandrasekhar Rao and others in the case and found fault with the CID that no proper action, as mandated under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), was taken against the accused till date.

Govt Mulls Unique Identification Number For Landholdings

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir government has sought suggestions from its officers for implementation of unique land parcel identification number (ULPIN) in the Union Territory.

Documents reveal that Divisional Commissioner Kashmir's office has written to Director Land Records Kashmir, seeking his inputs/suggestion for implementation of ULPIN in J&K UT.

"I am directed to request you to kindly look into the matter and furnish your valuable suggestions/inputs for implementation of the ULPIN in the UT of J&K directly to the Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K Govt under an intimation to this office," reads the letter written by Assistant Commissioner (Central) Kashmir.

The development comes after Financial

Commissioner, Revenue wrote to both divisional commissioners in July this year seeking their inputs for implementation of ULPIN in J&K following Centre's missive to all states/Union Territories to identify the districts for pilot projects in consultation with their respective State NIC.

Under the project, a unique identification number is assigned to all surveyed landholdings. The idea behind ULPIN is to put an end to fraudulent land and increase transparency.

The unique number will have ownership details of the plot besides its size and longitudinal and latitudinal details.

The department of land resources, under the ministry of rural development, had roll-out the pilot project in the six states in September 2019—(KNO)

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Mehbooba visits Pahalgam, meets evicted nomadic families



Srinagar: Days after nomadic families who had illegally occupied the forest land in the upper reaches of Pahalgam were evicted, former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday visited the area and held meetings with the evicted families.

Mehbooba met dozens of the families of the nomadic community whose temporary residential Dhokas were demolished and evicted by the authorities in the upper reaches of South

Kashmir's Pahalgam. While lashing out at the authorities Mehbooba said that the eviction was the part of last year's decision adding that such anti-people moves need to stop immediately otherwise the consequences of such moves will be dangerous.

She expresses solidarity with the nomadic families and said these evicted families have been protecting the forest land for decades and in turn authorities have pushed them to the wall.

Director SKIMS calls on Lt Governor

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 16: Director SKIMS, Prof. A. G Ahangar today called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan.

The Lt Governor held a detailed discussion with the Director SKIMS and enquired about functioning of the Institution and

necessary life saving equipment, besides measures undertaken to combat Covid-19 at SKIMS.

The Lt Governor advised the Director to take all necessary steps to ensure better patient care at the institution.

He hoped that the



healthcare facilities being provided to the patients. He also sought update regarding management of Covid-19 at SKIMS.

On the occasion, Director SKIMS briefed the Lt Governor about the healthcare facilities and available infrastructure including

SKIMS would be instrumental in providing best health care to the people and asked for putting in additional efforts to create patient friendly atmosphere and said every patient visiting the hospital should be given best possible medical treatment.

DEMISE



With profound sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother Mrs Rashida Khan W/o late Muhammad Zaheen Khan R/O Balgarden Srinagar. She left for heavenly abode on 15/11/2020. May her sole rest in peace. Inshallah condolence will be observed only for three days according to the Qur'an and sunnah at Shamsabad bemaia

Bereaved

Anwar Javid khan, Farooq Javid khan, Naseer Javid khan
9419000646, 9906962368

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Ghulam Hassan Khan S/o: Mohammad Akbar Khan R/o: Gojra Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Wagon R . Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C - 5447. Chasis number 737669 Engine no. 684754 Model 2014. in favour of Shri. Omar Rasool Bhat S/o. Raof Ahmad Bhat R/o Dangerpora Tail-bal Srinagar (Transferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1844
Dated 16-11-2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

DDC Polls in Absence of Er Rashid

AIP Questions Centre, BJP & PAGD

Srinagar: Lashing out at the government for its claims of conducting DDC polls for strengthening democracy at grass root level, Awami Itehad Party (AIP) on Monday termed these claims as "ingloriously false, far from reality and an odious insult to the people at large".

"When one of the most trusted political voices of Kashmir, Er Rashid continues to be in illegal detention how can these polls be called legitimate", a party spokesperson said in a statement.

"The party which outperformed everyone in entire North Kashmir has been forced to remain out of the

race. The fact is that New Delhi is allowing and facilitating, parties of its own choice and the real indigent voices of the people are being

players like PAGD, Congress and BJP and its allies who are contesting these elections are more than happy with Er Rashid's de-

When one of the most trusted political voices of Kashmir, Er Rashid continues to be in illegal detention how can these polls be called legitimate

unabashedly suppressed", the statement alleged.

"What can be the justification for the illegal detention of AIP Supremo Er Rashid and making tall claims of strengthening grass root democracy?", it asked.

"The irony is that traditional

attention as they know pretty well that he will call spade a spade and it would be a repeat of 2019 Baramulla-Lok Sabha elections where a seven year old party gave everyone a run for their money especially those bred and fed by New Delhi.", it said.

J&K Projects Construction Corporation LTD

(A J&K State Govt. Undertaking)

OFFICE OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER, UNIT 3rd, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

For and on behalf of Managing Director J&KPC Ltd. J&K (U.T) E- tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K (UT) / CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works: -
NIT No: 38/E-Tendering/DGM/3rd/Sgr /JKPCC/2020-21 Dated: 12/11/2020

S No	Name of work	Approx. cost (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest money (Amount in Lacs.)	Cost of Bid document (Amount in Rs.)	Time	Class of contract
1	Construction of Abutment caps, granular filling, crate work (protection work) for gogijadji bridge.	42.30	0.846	1100.00	60 Days	Registered "B" and "A" Class Govt. Contractor CPWD

Position of funds:- Available under world bank Norms.
The NIT Consisting of qualifying information eligibility criteria, technical specification bill of quantities set of terms and condition and other details can be seen/downloaded from the J&K Govt. official web site www.jktenders.gov.in

1	No of covers					
2	Date of issue of tender notice					
3	Date and time of publication of NIT online					
4	Date and time for downloading the NIT on line.					
5	Date and time for submission of Bid on line					
6	End date and time for submission of bids on line					
7	Date time and place for opening of Technical bid online. (the date should be on day after deadline for receiving of hard copies)					
8	Date and time of opening of financial bids on line					
9	Check list of documents required for bidder to be uploaded on line					

No: Ten/9718-22
Dated: 12-11-2020

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager,
JKPCC Limited Unit 3rd,
Srinagar

DIPK-NB-3875/20

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Assistant Conservator Of Forests Department Of Soil & Water Conservation

DISTRICT SRINAGAR

E-NIT NO: 09 (Fresh) OF 2020-21 DATED: 13-11-2020

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir UT, E-Tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractor registered with J&K UT /Central Govt. Organization for the following works:

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs.)	Earnest Money (Rs. in lacs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion
1.	Providing and Fixing of Angle Iron with Barbed Wire Fencing in cement Concrete blocks at Benihama-III Co-4, Ganderbal.	6.75	0.135	"DEE" & "CEE"	Rs. 300/-	15 days
2.	Construction of DRSM check dams at Benihmam-III Co.4 Ganderbal.	2.75	0.055	"DEE"	Rs.200/-	15 days
3.	Providing and laying of crate wire structure at Benihmam-III Co.4 Ganderbal.	2.93	0.059	"DEE"	Rs.200/-	15 days

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the government website <https://jktenders.gov.in>

Position of funds: Allotted

Position of AA/TS: Accorded.

Receiving/ Opening Authority: Tender Opening Committee

Publishing date	13-11-2020
Download Start Date:	14-11-2020 from 09:00 AM
Bid submission start Date:	14-11-2020 from 09:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	21-11-2020 upto 06:00 PM
Date of opening of Bids through online:	23-11-2020 at 02:00 PM

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the govt. website:
- Bids must accompany cost of tender document as shown against each work in the shape of Govt Treasury Challan Receipt for the amount shown against the work to be deposited in any Govt. Treasury in the U. T of Jammu & Kashmir under Account Head 0406-Forests and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Asstt. Conservator of Forests, Department of Soil & Water Conservation, District Srinagar.
- In case the bid of lowest/successful bidder is found unbalanced then he has to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee from scheduled bank valid till completion of work before issuance allotment as per details given below:
 - Up to and including 15% below rate over advertised cost = Nil
 - Greater than 15% up to and including 20% below rate over advertised cost = 5% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.
 - Greater 20% upto and including 25% below rate over advertised cost = 10% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.
 - Greater than 25% upto and including 30% below rate over advertised cost 15% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.
 - Greater than 30% below rate over advertised cost 20% in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from: Bidders Manual Kit".
- To participate in bidding process bidders can get Digital Certificate from Govt. approved vendor.
- The bidder(s) must submit their financial bids on line in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical/ hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. CDR valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current year, PAN, Valid Tin registration, Demand Draft (cost of Tender Document).
- The successful bidder has to produce valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award on contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of information regarding publishing the NIT. In any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however, reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.
- The contractor shall attach the tax clearance certificates with respect to income tax and GST clearance certificate.
- The work shall be completed strictly as per the specifications and drawings (as per annexure to NIT).
- The quantities mentioned in the NIT are subject to increase or decrease depending on availability of funds.
- No activity shall be undertaken by the contractor against the provision of J&K Soil & Water Conservation Act, and in case of any violation action under the provisions of the Act, shall be initiated against the contractor, his representative or worker if any.
- The successful bidder shall have to furnish the test check certificate of material to be utilized at his own cost from NIT Srinagar.

Assistant Conservator of Forests
District Srinagar

No: DSCO/Sgr-Gbl/562-66

Dated: 13-11-2020

DIPK-9042/20

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
01 Rabi-ul-Sani
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 38
ZUHR	12: 14
ASR	3: 50
Magrib	5: 31
ISHA	6: 56

This Day In History

- 473 - The future Zeno I is named associate emperor by Emperor Leo I.
- 1183 - Battle of Mizushima: Japanese Taira clan defeat the Minamoto
- 1278 - 680 Jews arrested (293 hanged) in England for counterfeiting coins
- 1292 - (O.S.) John Balliol becomes King of Scots.
- 1511 - England, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire sign anti-French covenant The Treaty of Westminster.
- 1555 - William of Orange becomes member of Council of State.
- 1558 - Elizabeth I aged 25 ascends English throne upon death of her half sister Queen "Bloody" Mary.
- 1558 - The Church of England is re-established.
- Event of interest: Event of Interest
- 1603 - English explorer, writer and courtier Sir Walter Raleigh goes on trial for treason.
- 1636 - Henrique Dias, Brazilian general, wins a decisive battle against the Dutch in Brazil.
- 1659 - Peace of the Pyrenees is signed between France and Spain.
- 1796 - Battle of Arcole-Napoleon I's French forces beat Austrians in Italy.
- 1812 - Napoleonic Wars: Battle of Krasnoi during Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.
- 1869 - Suez Canal in Egypt opens, linking Mediterranean and Red seas
- 1877 - Russia launches a surprise night attack that overruns Turkish forces at Kars, Armenia.
- 1903 - In the Treaty of Petropolis, Bolivia cedes the territory of Arce to Brazil; Bolivia gains rail and water outlets in the east.
- 1913 - The first ship sails through the Panama Canal, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans
- 1917 - Lenin defends "temporary" removal of freedom of the press.
- 1918 - German troops evacuate Brussels.
- 1922 - The last sultan of the Ottoman Empire Mehmed VI is expelled to Malta on British warship
- 1933 - United States recognizes Soviet Union, opens trade.
- 1945 - New world air speed record 606 mph (975 kph) set by HJ Wilson of RAF.
- 1951 - Britain reports development of the world's first nuclear-powered heating system.
- 1953 - United States joins the United Nations in condemning Israel's raid on Jordan on October 4, 1953.
- 1956 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test.
- 1967 - Surveyor 6 becomes 1st man-made object to lift off Moon.
- 1970 - Russia lands Lunokhod 1 unmanned remote-controlled vehicle on Moon.
- 1970 - Douglas Engelbart receives the patent for the first computer mouse.
- 1973 - Greek regime attacks students with tanks, 100s killed.
- 1976 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC.
- 1977 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat formally accepts invitation to visit Israel.
- 1979 - Ayatollah Khomeini frees most black & female US hostages.
- 1993 - Antonov AN-124 flies in South Iran against mountain: 17 killed.
- 1993 - Gen. Sani Abacha leads a military coup in Nigeria that overthrows the government of Ernest Shonekan.
- 1997 - In Luxor, Egypt, 62 people are killed by 6 militants outside the Temple of Hatshepsut, known as Luxor massacre (The police then kill the assailants).
- 2008 - Japan, the world's second-biggest economy, slides into its first recession in seven years.
- 2012 - 50 schoolchildren and a bus driver are killed after a train collides with a school bus in Manfalut, Egypt.

From KO Archives

Baderwah labourers killed as militants

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The three persons described as militants claimed to have been killed in an encounter in Baderwah area of Doda district three days ago have turned out to be innocent labourers whom the security forces had picked up.

According to a report, the security forces had taken three local mazdoors working with a contractor in a forest of Baderwah area for guiding them. However, they did not return till late in the eve-ming. Next day, the government claimed killing of 'three militants' in an 'encounter' with the security-forces in the same forest.

Bodies of the slain 'militants', the agency report said, were handed over to the local police station where these remained unidentified for two days.

Meanwhile, the contractor approached the police station to lodge the first information report (FIR) about the missing labourers. He was stunned on seeing the bodies of the three labourers lying there. They were identified as Muhammad Yousuf s/o Muhammad Qasim of Dunadhi Gandoh, Muhammad Yaqub s/o Sain Gujjar of Balgara and Muhammad Ishaq of Teeligarh, Chanote, Baderwah.

It may be recalled a 9th class student identified as Ishrat Qayoom was killed in an encounter in the area two days earlier. A militant, Abu Hasan, had also been killed in the gunbattle.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 17 NOVEMBER, 2000)

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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobservers.net

Dangerous spiral

On Friday last India and Pakistan engaged in one of their fiercest skirmishes along the Line of Control leading to loss of sixteen lives on both sides, ten of them on Indian side that included four security personnel. On Pakistani side, the government acknowledged the losses of five civilians and one soldier. This is a huge loss. Both sides accused each other of using heavy weapons against each other which not only led to the loss of lives but also destroyed the property. The videos of the damage to the property on both sides went viral on social media. This was like witnessing the scenes from a war.

Mercifully, the situation has since returned to normal. But it's only a matter of time before the situation is likely to go back to square one. Ever since 2003 LoC ceasefire agreement began to fray around a decade ago, the border skirmishes have grown in frequency leading to loss of lives on both sides. This year so far 4,052 ceasefire violations by Pakistan have been reported of which 394 took place in October. 3,233 incidents were reported last year.

Going forward, the situation is hardly going to change. This intermittent killing of soldiers, civilians and also displacement of the civilian population has become an addictive bloody ritual. This gives a cathartic vent to a long entrenched pathological animosity, which is now pursued for its own sake. And there's no way it can be addressed unless the two counties arrive at a fundamental understanding that addresses the core issues at the root of their lingering estrangement. But that prospect appears now farther off than ever before.

More so, after the revocation of Article 370 last year that has further drifted the neighbours apart. Pakistan sees India's withdrawal of Kashmir's special status enshrined in Article 370 as a dilution of what it sees as the disputed status of the region. But New Delhi sees the changes to the constitutional position of J&K as its internal matter. Two positions look all but irreconcilable. But for a durable peace in the region, the two countries have to find a way to get together. This requires statesmanship on both sides. And this will only be possible if there's willingness on the part of the neighbors to resolve their issues. But the Fridays escalation gives no such confidence. The situation looks set to go further downhill from hereon. That is, if the leadership of the two countries doesn't step back and seek to put their relationship back on rails.

OTHER OPINION

All eyes on the economy

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the third Atmanirbhar Bharat package on Thursday. The announcements came on a day when the two important economic numbers were announced. The Index of Industrial Production came out of contraction zone — it grew at 0.2% on an annual basis — in September for the first time since the imposition of a nationwide lockdown. The Purchasing Managers' Index manufacturing had entered expansion zone in August and has been gathering momentum since then. India's retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, grew at 7.61% on an annual basis in October. This is the highest monthly growth in inflation since June 2014, the first full month after Narendra Modi assumed office. To be sure, the inflation spike is a result of seasonal shocks to food prices and the government's taxation policy on petroleum products, rather than an overheating of the economy.

Given the fact that the government will be presenting the next Union Budget in just over 75 days, it is reasonable to assume that no significant measures will be announced before it. While there is an acknowledgement of the fact that sequential economic recovery has been gaining momentum, it remains to be seen how much of this is preserved after the festive season. Keeping food inflation under control has been one of the key political economy priorities of this government. If things do not improve quickly, there could be more curbs on both domestic and foreign trade in food items, which goes against the spirit of agricultural reforms announced earlier this year. More broadly, the government's measures are positive — but whether they will be enough remains a big question.

The Hindustan Times

ECONOMY CENTRAL

Employment Paradox

Ejaz Ayoub

As per India's leading business Information Company, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), J&K's unemployment ratio as on October 2020 hovered at around 16 percent. This is way above the all India average of 6.98 percent for the same period. In terms of absolute value, J&K is therefore currently crowded with a staggering number of approximately 7.5 Lakh unemployed people. The actual situation on ground, however, is much worse than what the sample survey based CMIE has estimated-as envisaged in this column (J&K's employment drought 5th Sep 2020). As a matter of established fact, this poor performance on account of employment in J&K is not a new phenomenon and is surely not driven by the prevailing pandemic alone. A quick view of the monthly unemployment rates in J&K on CMIE platform depict a continuously dismal performance throughout the past 48 months, with unemployment rates even touching 30 percent at times.

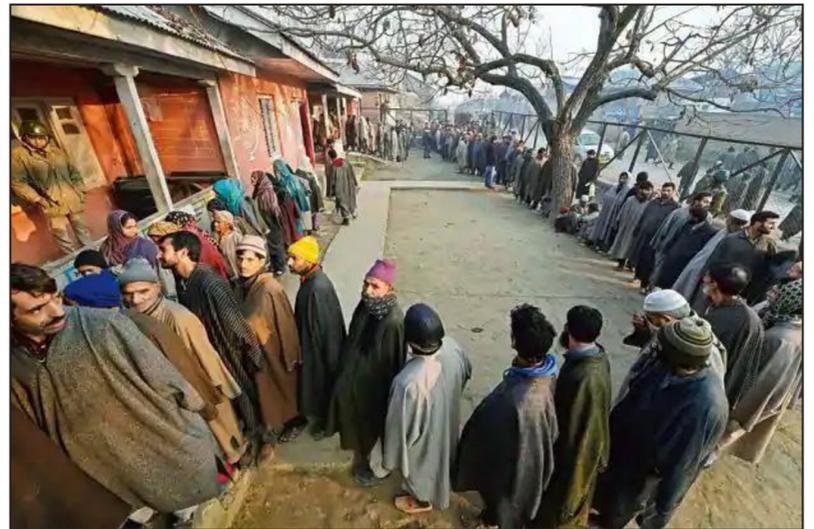
Logically, the situation of unemployment arises when the number of available manpower exceeds the volume of jobs available in the market. However, the same economy where lakhs of indigenous workers are unable to find jobs, paradoxically, provides secure stable and consistently growing livelihood to lakhs of migrant labor force with fair amount of efficiency. This conundrum of employment irony is what is referred to as an "Employment Paradox" and is definitely not unique with our economy.

How much do non-local workers earn?

Various Govt and private estimates regarding the number of migratory labor force working in J&K has put the number between a range of 5 Lakh to 10 Lakh. Barring the climatically hostile months of December and January, most of these workers spend around 300 days in J&K from February till November. Their daily wage ranges from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1200 depending upon the skill level and the nature of job. Pertinently, these rates are 40-50 percent higher than what they normally earn in their home states of Bihar, UP, Rajasthan, West Bengal etc. From toiling unskilled construction workers and agrarian laborers, these migrant workers over a period of decades have gradually cemented their way into more skillful and high earning roles in manufacturing plants, tailoring shops, salons, gymnasiums, restaurants, masonry, carpentry, tiling and even gold smithing. Add to this their prolific growth in trading sector as well. Door to door selling of textiles, blankets and scores of migrant hawkers selling street food & road side merchandise can be witnessed across the region.

Assuming 75% of working days (225 days) at an average daily wage of Rs. 700 across the skill spectrum, a conservative number of five Lakh migrant laborers skim a fortune of Rs. 7875 Crore annually from J&K. To put things into perspective, this is almost equal to our flagships Apple, Walnut and Saffron industries put together, which support over 7 Lakh families in the region. This entire earning pie gets normally divided in two parts. A typical ratio of 60% saving (transferred to their families back home) and 40% on local consumption (on rentals, conveyance and food), is followed. In other words, it means an annual flight of approximately Rs. 4725 crore and a domestically created demand of around Rs. 3150 Crore.

Why are local workers not competing in this segment?



Logically, the situation of unemployment arises when the number of available manpower exceeds the volume of jobs available in the market. However, the same economy where lakhs of indigenous workers are unable to find jobs, paradoxically, provides secure stable and consistently growing livelihood to lakhs of migrant labor force with fair amount of efficiency

Despite chronic regional unemployment, the local market forces have been more than willing to let the trend continue. Why has this issue never become a part of the political debate in J&K? The answer is surprisingly simple - nobody actually wants these jobs. This economically ironic behavior is surely not without an explanation and there are a host of social as well as economic reasons for this employment conundrum.

Firstly, the disruption caused in the categorization of economic classes in 1950, when land was distributed evenly among peasants and landlords blurred class lines. This iconic decision resulted in an economically homogeneous society with majority of the people lying somewhere in the middle of the income bell curve. Land ownership has been a great leveler and this is why even today after almost seven decades, the below poverty ratio in J&K at 10.35% is less than half of all India average of 21.92%. This is precisely the reason why it is very difficult for us to find indigenous workers for lower strata jobs in the economy.

Secondly, due to comparatively blurred levels among social classes, the education levels among generations too have been almost at par with minor inequality. With vast majority of workforce carrying respectable academic credentials, the expectations for an office going white collar job too have been acting as a spoil sport. We have examples where people have preferred a Rs. 1500 per month RET job rather than earning almost 10 times more in the open market.

Thirdly, there has been a growing chasm of skill mismatch. While our educational institutions have been awarding diplomas and degrees to growing number of youth, the stress has mostly been on theoretical aspects - unfortunately even in technical courses. Ideally, the skilled and technical human resource requirement of an economy is supplied by ITIs and Polytechniques. We do have both these supply chains established long back with numerous employees and branches spanning across the region but somehow it seems that they have lost the plot. What they train is obsolete and what is demanded is absent. Despite our manufacturing & construction sector creating decent salaried jobs, the skill starved youth are finding it difficult to compete with experienced migrant workers in this segment.

Without a doubt, the sustained political

conflict has been the main building block around which these structural flaws have emerged. The backwardness of our industry and private sector which has forced it to remain small and primitive has resulted in very elementary levels of job creation. The impact on our technical and vocational skill centers too has been severe. Operating within an environment of frequent restrictions on physical movement and sustained communication shut down have resulted in chronic down gradation of the regional private sectors' ability to soak middle income level employment. As a natural response, job seekers and likewise the educational sector adjusted negatively.

Poverty is a great influencer but so is social approval and perception of dignity. With time the stereotype constructed by the economically backward migrant workers in construction, orchards and brick kilns, the stigma of rubbing shoulders with such class of laborers at work erected huge social barriers even among people who are desperately in need of earnings. There is a tacit structural hierarchy of work and migrant laborers are being perceived at the lowest step of the work ladder. This is why we see local farmers paying Rs. 600 per day to migrant workers in their paddy fields and orchards so that they can spare themselves to work in a contractual Govt job at Rs. 225 per day. This is beyond financial loss and gain for them. This is more about gaining social equity.

Nevertheless, things are changing fast. The sustained economic shocks are pushing more indigenous people below the poverty line and the skill sets needed for new jobs is changing fast. Moreover, the migrant labor force has slowly but growingly been competing in more skill based sectors. How these fast changing dynamics will govern the job markets in future will determine the fate of this paradox. We can only hope that timely policy interventions and effective responses from job seekers change the situation for better.

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

The author has been working in the BFSI industry in the field of Financial Risk Management, Strategy and Foreign Exchange. He can be reached at: ejaz.ayoub@gmail.com



OBSERVER
MAIL

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Online Shopping and Changing Dynamics

Smartphones and online mode of shopping has drastically changed our products and purchasing capabilities. Product sales have numerous advantages, offering cash on delivery, cash back delivery, less or no shipping charges, 24 hours online delivery, hassle free shopping, options of product description with text, photos and multimedia files. A wide variety of online products cater to our requirements and budgets.

However, online shopping has more risk than offline purchase in stores. There is a higher risk of fraud, hacking of accounts, theft of data, money deductions and other privacy issues. The downsides of online shopping also include delayed deliveries and no possibility of bargaining or negotiating the price of the product. It has negative environmental impact due to the use of plastic package which increases hazardous plastic waste.

Definitely online access to the products have numerous advantages but they are less reliable and risk of distrust remain forever from the unknown seller. Some security measures like use of authenticated websites, update of software and operating, effective passwords and anti-virus reduce the risk of malpractices or online hazards. Use of reliable online stores enhance the opportunity of personal and payment information secure on

paying online. We should avoid using unknown files sent via e-mail, storing password and personal information on our computer. Beware of variety of scams in the world of internet user. Always remain in contact with the nearest bank and search about their policies about debit cards or credit cards purchases and follow necessary guidelines for online purchase.

Muneer Shameer
muneer.udl@gmail.com

Surging Menace of Child Labor



Azra Bashir

In addition to denying Children the right to education, working at such a young age also exposes children to threats to life. They have a risk of being victims of crime and may in fact be led into it because of vulnerability.

Our screens have been filled with distressing images of people from economically underprivileged sections suffering because of the pandemic, loss of job, the unprecedented lockdown and our general apathy towards them. The fallout of the migrant crisis, floods, cyclones and other challenges exposed people to different risks which had severe impacts because they were coupled with the threat of Covid-19.

Consequently, this year has been tough on everyone especially families from underprivileged backgrounds. This has in turn exposed people to more and more vulnerabilities. One such alarm has to be rung on the front of increasing risks to children especially through child labor.

One in ten children is laboring in the global economy today. Children don't even get a chance to start school because of poverty pushing them into being trafficked, prostitution and manual labor. They are often separated from their parents. Children are often put in illegal sectors which do not have any income regulations. This encourages child labor as children are considered a cheap labor. These children are often also victims of physical, mental, and sexual violence.

In addition to denying Children the right to education, working at such a young age also exposes children to threats to life. They have a risk of being victims of crime and may in fact be led into it because of vulnerability. There also severe health risks associated with child labor. In the world's poorest countries, around 1 in 4 children are engaged in child labor.

Worldwide 218 million children between 5 and 17 years are in employment. Among

them, 152 million are victims of child labor; almost half of them, 73 million, work in hazardous child labor. Among 152 million children in child labor, 88 million are boys and 64 million are girls.

The pandemic has adversely impacted children as many have had to drop out of schools and work to make ends meet. Girls have been pushed further away from education because in a patriar-

are likely to be paid lower wages in hazardous and exploitative work conditions, due to their vulnerability and poorer bargaining power as compared to adults.

Parents do not always know the huge cost and negative consequences it has when they allow or even force children to work. They only look at the short term and let the child work because they need the money for food, clothes or

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chal society, their education is never considered as a necessity. With financial constraints, girl's education maybe a far cry now, augmented by structural consequences of poverty.

The recent changes in labour laws in India are likely going to weaken laws that discourage child labor. With a view to boost the economy, states such as Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Assam have amended the Factories Act, 1948 through an ordinance, to allow companies to extend a factory worker's daily shift from eight to 12 hours per day. Most of these states also have a high burden of child and adolescent labourers. Though the recent changes do not affect child labour legislation per se, they may fuel an increase in demand for adolescent workers who

housing. You can educate them that in the long term it is better that the child is educated, so they can have a better job. Also tell them that the child has the right not to be forced to work! Organize a debate evening in your community in which you can share information and let parents and children talk to each other about this problem.

Is a child in your class suddenly not coming to school anymore? Or does a friend tell you that he or she needs to work to earn money? Often there are people you can report this to: a local organization, social workers, and teachers. Research who can help you and report the case to them so they can take action.

The author is a student at Islamic University of Science and Technology

Up and Running: Beat the Winter Blues

Ruth Lowry and Jo Barton

As winter descends and as the temperature drops and daylight hours shorten, many people may want to spend more time indoors. And those of us under lockdown may feel even less inclined to get outside and exercise. But staying indoors may have unintended health consequences, due to both a lack of physical activity and exposure to daylight.

Being physically active all year long has many benefits to both physical and mental health. Exercise may even counter some of the negative effects winter weather can have on our energy levels and mood.

Research shows people exercise for an average of eight minutes less during the cooler months. People also drop other activities they do during warmer months, such as active travelling. Light intensity activity (such as slow walking and housework) is shown to decrease during the winter, while time spent sitting and sleeping increased.

But, despite decreases in light intensity activity and sleeping more, researchers did not find any differences in terms of sleep quality, nor did it find a drop in moderate and vigorous activities – such as planned exercise classes or walking the dog – which people still did, despite the weather. A preprint (not yet peer-reviewed) study also suggests that activity levels were lower during the first spring lockdown. This could mean people may be even less active this winter.

There are many reasons we may lose our motivation to exercise during the winter months. In the winter, low levels of ambient light coupled with shorter days reduces

exposure to vitamin D. This causes us to feel tired or fatigued. People often experience disrupted sleep during winter months as well, further contributing to low energy levels.

Seasonal mood disturbances may also make it difficult to find the motivation to get up and move. Many people (particularly women) experience low mood as the weather gets colder. Some even develop mental health disorders such as seasonal affective disorder (SAD), in which a person experiences symptoms of depression during the winter months.

Staying indoors may have unintended health consequences, due to both a lack of physical activity and exposure to daylight. Being physically active all year long has many benefits to both physical and mental health. Exercise may even counter some of the negative effects winter weather can have on our energy levels and mood.

The reasons why we exercise can also affect our motivation levels. For example, motivation is shown to waver if the primary focus of our exercise is on improving health and body image, rather than exercising for enjoyment and accomplishment. Research also shows that people who exercise outdoors all year round are better at finding the time to stick to their routine, and are more motivated by their enjoyment, or the challenge of their exercise compared to those who are only active during warmer months. So it's easy to see how a person's mood can lead to a more sedentary lifestyle.

Exercise benefits

The benefits of engaging in regular physical activity are widely reported for physical health – including reductions in weight, coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, strokes and certain types of cancer. It's also associated with greater immune function.

Physical activity is also important for wellbeing. It's been shown to reduce fatigue and enhance job satisfaction, optimism, self-esteem and better stress management. Exercise can also be used effectively to treat mental health conditions such as depression and

anxiety SAD, and promotes positive mood. Though winter weather might not always allow it, exercising outdoors is also great at reducing mental fatigue and stress, improving wellbeing, life satisfaction and happiness. Adolescents in particular benefit mentally from being in natural spaces. Blue spaces – such as coastal regions and inland waterways – also have similar restorative benefits for mental health.

Outdoor exercise also provides more opportunities for social interaction, which, if allowed, is important for our health and wellbeing during this winter lockdown. Exercis-

ing outdoors in natural light is also linked to improvements in sleep quality, physical health and wellbeing.

To achieve these mental and physical benefits, it's important to make sure you're getting enough exercise. The UK's NHS recommends a weekly health target of 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity (or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity), which can easily be broken down into smaller chunks of ten minutes throughout the week. Moderate activity is enough to raise your heart rate, make you feel warmer and breathe faster. An easy way to tell is that you can still talk but find it difficult to sing. Two days of the week should also focus on strengthening activities.

Though it can sometimes be hard to find the motivation to exercise, carrying an activity monitor (wearable accelerometer) or phone app that records activity (such as step count) can motivate and enable people to set and achieve goals. Committing to activity can also be easier if you have someone to exercise with. Increasing the challenge – such as the number of activity sessions, the intensity (such as walking speed or weight lifted) or the time spent in each session – can also increase fitness and strength.

Thankfully, there are plenty of ways to be active during the winter. In addition to sport and forms of exercise, taking active transport (walking and cycling to work), or doing chores will all contribute. Of most importance is to break up time sitting with movement and activity outside, in daylight, to ensure you profit from the additional health benefits.

The Conversation

Work Stress, Burnout Are Mutually Reinforcing: Study

Agencies

Work stress and burnout are mutually reinforcing, suggests a recent study conducted on work-related stress.

However, contrary to popular belief, burnout has a much greater impact on work stress than vice versa.

"This means that the more severe a person's burnout becomes, the more stressed they will feel at work, such as being under time pressure, for example," said Professor Christian Dormann of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU).

Employees suffering from burnout should be timely provided with adequate support in order to break the vicious circle between work stress and burnout. Symptoms of burnout include exhaustion, cynicism, and reduced performance.

"The most important burnout symptom is the feeling of total exhaustion - to the extent that it cannot be remedied by normal recovery phases of an evening, a weekend, or even a vacation," said Dormann.

"To protect themselves from further exhaustion, some try to build a psychological distance to their work, that is, they alienate themselves from their work



time is too short, and work stress is too great.

"When exhausted, the ability to cope with stress usually decreases. As a result, even smaller tasks can be perceived as significantly more strenuous," said Guthrie, the first author of the article.

"We expected an effect of burnout on work stress; the strength of the effect was very surprising," she noted.

The effect of burnout on perceived work stress can be somewhat mitigated if employees have more control over their own work and receive support from colleagues or superiors.

According to Dormann, a new research area is emerging on the basis of this unique data because the strong boomerang effect of burnout on work stress has not yet been investigated.

Key questions that need to be addressed are: how can the effects of burnout on perceived work stress be reduced and how can the development of this vicious circle be prevented? Dormann and Guthrie suggest that the place to start is with management behaviour.

Employees should have the opportunity to give feedback on their work stress at any time and be appreciated. Last but not least, proper recovery could also help to stop the downward spiral.

as well as the people associated with it and become more cynical," added Dr. Christina Guthrie.

She conducted the study as part of her doctoral thesis in Dormann's research group and was awarded the dissertation prize of the Alfred Teves Foundation in 2020. The study has recently been published in Psychological Bulletin.

For the joint publication with Professor Christian Dormann and Professor Manuel Volke of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Christina Guthrie evaluated 48 longitudinal studies of burnout and work stress comprising 26,319 participants. The average age in the initial survey was about 42 years, 44 per cent of the respondents were men.

The longitudinal studies from

1986 to 2019 came from various countries, including predominantly European countries as well as Israel, the USA, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, Australia, China, and Taiwan.

Stopping the downward spiral and reducing the effect of burnout on work stressThe results challenge or at least relativize, the common perception that work stress is the driving force behind burnout.

"Burnout can be triggered by a work situation, but that is not always the case," Dormann said.

Once burnout begins, it develops only very gradually, building up slowly over time. Ultimately it leads to work being increasingly perceived as stressful: The amount of work is too much,

Men Feel Less Powerful In Their Private Lives

Agencies

Men perceive themselves as having less power in their private lives as opposed to their public lives, a new study from Lund University has suggested.

Furthermore, both men and women agree: power in your private life matters more than that in public life.

Power is often associated with men who possess visible status and money. But it can also be exercised in one's private life to initiate and relationships with a partner, children, and friends.

Researchers from Lund University, Stockholm University, and Gävle University asked 808 Americans which areas they believe are important in life, and where they felt they had the most power. "The debate on gender equality tends

to focus on topics in the public domain such as salaries, leadership in companies, and politics, where women are underrepresented. However, our results influence how we should view power today," said Sverker Sikstrom, professor of psychology at Lund University in Sweden.

The study showed that men perceive themselves as having more power in public life, while women view themselves as having more power in their private life. Notably, the participants valued private life over public life.

When power in the various areas was weighted by the importance participants assigned to each area, perceived gender differences in power disappeared.

"It is difficult to maintain the position that men have more power than women, when women are perceived



as having more power in the areas that are viewed as the most important. The case for equality also needs to be made in the private life, where men often lose custody cases, are more negatively affected by separations, and have weaker networks of friends. Thus, equality needs to be improved both for men and women, in both private and public life", said Sverker Sikstrom.

'COVID-19 Triggers OCD In Children And Young People'

Press Trust Of India

Children and young people with obsessive thoughts and compulsions may experience their OCD, anxiety, and depressive symptoms worsen during a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new study.

While previous research had shown that trauma and stress can trigger or worsen obsessive-compulsive disorder, or OCD, the current study, published in the journal BMC Psychiatry, assessed how children and young people with the condition experience the ongoing pandemic.

In the study, scientists, including those from Aarhus University in Denmark, sent a questionnaire to two groups of children and young people between the ages of seven and 21.

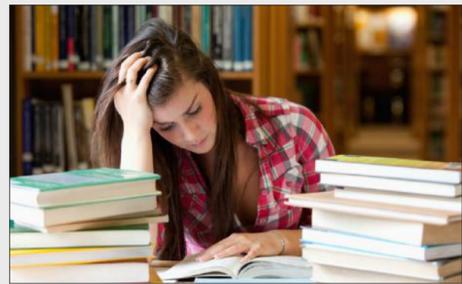
They said one group had been diagnosed with OCD in a specialised section at the Centre for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry - and all had been in contact with a therapist at the hospital.

The other group consisted mostly of children and young people who had been diagnosed years ago, identified through the Danish OCD Association.

According to the study, a total of 102 children responded to the questionnaire.

"Their experience was that their OCD, anxiety, and depressive symptoms worsened during a crisis like COVID-19. This worsening was most pronounced for the group identified through the OCD Association," said Per Hove Thomsen, study co-author from Aarhus University.

Nearly half of the children and young people who belonged to the first group re-



ported that their symptoms had become worse, while a third of them replied that their anxiety had worsened, the study noted.

The scientists said a third of the participants reported a worsening of their depressive symptoms.

And of these, they said almost a fifth experienced that both symptoms had become worse.

In the other group, the researchers said, 73 per cent reported that their condition had worsened, just over half that their anxiety had worsened, and 43 per cent answered that the depressive symptoms had increased.

"The disorder is particularly interesting to study in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, because OCD is a disorder with many different clinical expressions, including, not least, health anxiety, fear of bacteria and dirt, and excessive hand washing/use of disinfection," said Judith Nissen, a co-author of the study.

"It's therefore important to examine how such a significant crisis can affect the expression, frequency, and progression of the disorder," she added.

According to the study, the participants in the questionnaire who had described thoughts and anxiety over how something serious could

happen - such as worrying that they may lose family members - experienced the most significant worsening of their symptoms.

In particular, the scientists said children who had begun suffering from OCD at an early age experienced the most pronounced worsening.

"For children who are already anxious about loss, the daily descriptions in the media of illness and death and recommendations about isolation and focus on infection can exacerbate these anxious thoughts, perhaps also especially for the youngest children," Nissen said.

She believes these children may have greater difficulty understanding the significance of the infection, and are also very dependent on parents and grandparents, and thus most vulnerable to loss.

However, the researchers said the study could not find any correlation with anxiety about infection and impulsive hand washing.

The findings, according to the scientists, indicates that children and young people with OCD may be vulnerable in relation to a crisis such as COVID-19, where anxiety about something serious happening characterises a particularly vulnerable group.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ELECTRIC DIVISION BARAMULLA**
Fax No/Tel:- 01952-234241 Tel-01952-234480 email:- tsedbla@rediffmail.com
e-NIT No:EDB/17 of 2020-21, Dated:13/11/2020
STANDARD BIDDING DOCUMENT AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

a) INVITATION:-

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders are hereby invited from registered A class Electrical Contractors registered with Inspection Agency of KPDCCL or any other relevant Government agency enlisted with CPWD, MES, Railway, DGBRO of appropriate class/rate Contract for labour cum Providing, fixing, Testing, Commissioning for HT/LT improvement by way of replacing Barbed Wire / Under sized conductor/Worn-Out Conductor / Wooden Poles/Wooden Supports etc. within the jurisdiction of Electric Sub Division Mohuraasper terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document.

A	Date & Time of down loading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 13 th November 2020; 04:00PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	13 th November 2020; 04:00PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	23 rd November 2020; 04:00PM
D	Clarifications start date	13 th November 2020; 04:00PM
E	Clarifications end date	14 th November 2020; 04:00PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	14 th November 2020; 04:00PM
G	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	23 rd November 2020; 04:00PM
H	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	24 th November 2020; 02:00PM
I	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the Commercial & technical qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technical Qualified Bidders
J	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION BARAMULLA
K	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 399.00 (Non-refundable)
L	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 37000.00
M	Estimated cost	-----
N	Position of Funds	Authorized

The interested bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexures forming part of this tender document.

- The Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after site visit, careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
- The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below.
- The bidders need to upload the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through Demand Draft (Preferably J&K Bank) pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division Baramulla, payable at Baramulla. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original Demand Draft should be submitted by all the participants within 2 days from the last date of submission of e Bid in the office of Executive Engineer Electric Division Baramulla upon information. No interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited.
- Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be submitted by the lowest bidder to the office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division Baramulla.
- The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site at office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division Baramulla.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced.
- The Executive Engineer Electric Division Baramulla reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of Executive Engineer Electric Division Baramulla will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III (b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- The allotment of works orders shall be awarded to the L1 after the funds will be made available to this office.
- The L1 has to execute the work strictly as per the drawings attached with this tender.
- The quantum of work may increase or decrease by 30% at the time of execution of work.
- The bidders should upload Contact detail document (e.g. Address, Mobile No, e-mail ID etc.)
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit the additional performance security in the shape of CDR or FDR only before award of contract in case bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply thereto:

S.No.	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz a viz estimated cost upto and including 15% below	Additional performance security to be deposited
01	>50% upto and including 20% below	5.0 % of estimated cost
02	>20% upto and including 25% below	10.00 % of estimated cost
03	>25% upto and including 30% below	15.00 % of estimated cost
04	>30% below	20.00 % of estimated cost

It may be noted that for evaluation purposes the uploaded offer documents will be treated as authentic and final.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electric Division Baramulla

DIPK-NB-3887/20
NO: EDB/17/5026-32
Date: 13/11/2020

**Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
(NIT UNDER SINGLE COVER SYSTEM)
Office Of The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Handwara
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. 35 -R&B DIVISION HAND. of 2020-21 e-tendering End: _4094-99 DATED:- _12-11-2020**

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S.No	Name of work	Est. cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of T/Doc (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time for completion	Time and date of opening of Bid	Class of contractor	Major head of account
1	Updgd. of New Colony Ananwan link road at spots (near culvert) by way of const. of R/wall and laying of RCC span pipes.	7.47	14940/-	300/-	20days	23-11-2020	C & D	3054-M&R
2	Restoration of Brushpora link road by way of nallah muck filling incl. laying of RCC span pipes	4.98	9960/-	200/-	15days	23-11-2020	DEE	3054-M&R
3	Updgd. of Natnussa Trich road by way of nallah muck filling and WBM G-II	5.33	10660/-	300/-	15days	23-11-2020	C & D	3054-M&R
4	Improvement/restoration of Lilum Kakraosa road by way of re-construction of drain in Km 7th.	8.60	17200/-	600/-	20days	23-11-2020	C & D	3054-M&R
5	Updgd. of Khanpora Batpora road by way of nallah muck filling in patches/ stretches and P/L WBM G-II in full.	2.17	4340/-	200/-	10days	23-11-2020	DEE	District Sector
6	Updgd. of Kulangam link road by way of construction of cement concrete drain (Balance portion)	3.75	7500/-	200/-	15days	23-11-2020	DEE	3054-M&R
7	Restoration of Langate Tulwari Haril road Km 5th onwards by way of nallah muck filling, WBM G-II and const. of Kacha drain, laying of pipes	14.96	29920/-	600/-	20days	23-11-2020	B, C & D	Deposit Contribution District Sector
8	Updgd. of Handwara Magam Bumdoge roads by way of P/L WBM G-II.	3.28	6560/-	200/-	15days	23-11-2020	DEE	District Sector
9	Improvement/Updgd. of Altaf Hussain link road and Khazir Mohd. Lone link road near Mominabad Masjid Sharief on HMS road.	1.92	3840/-	200/-	10days	23-11-2020	DEE	3054-M&R
10	Updgd. of Neelipora Bagund road by way of const. of approach wall over existing wall.	2.45	4900/-	200/-	10days	23-11-2020	DEE	District Sector
11	Updgd. of Pir Mohalla Haril road by way of P/L Nallah muck filling and P/L WBM G-II.	3.00	6000/-	200/-	15days	23-11-2020	DEE	3054-M&R
12	Updgd. of Village Gund Chogal incl. Chogal inner links (Vodhpora Iqbal colony B road) by way of construction of cement concrete drain and nallah muck filling	3.10	6200/-	200/-	15days	23-11-2020	DEE	State Sector
13	Updgd. of Sheikhpora Lachipora road incl. Bagmohalla, Bagatpora Bypass road, etc (Sheikh Colony Bagatpora Near Masque) by way of const. of R/wall and B/wall (Fresh)	6.10	300/-	12200/-	20days	23-11-2020	C & D	State Sector
14	Easing of grade by way of Earth work, const. of cement concrete drain in Km 1st RD: 370Mtr of Larbal Bown road. (Fresh)	2.00	200/-	4000/-	10days	23-11-2020	DEE	District Sector
15	Const. of Edge wall for culvert at Khanmohalla Natnussa Check road (Fresh)	1.40	200/-	2800/-	07days	23-11-2020	DEE	3054-M&R
16	Laying of RCC span pipes at various roads of Langate Constituency. (Fresh)	2.98	200/-	5960/-	15days	23-11-2020	DEE	District Sector

Position of AA/TS : Accorded
Position of funds : Approved plan

- 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 in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	12-11-2020
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 13-11-2020 (10:00AM) upto 21-11-2020 (4:00PM)
03.	Bid submission start date	16-11-2020 from (10.30AM)
04.	Bid submission end date	21-11-2020 (4:00PM)
06.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	23-11-2020 at (11.00AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Handwara.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of E-Chelan (Treasury Receipt) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Handwara and earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/B.G. pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Handwara.
- 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 Handwara
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening technical bids
- All other terms and conditions are as per detailed NIT No. 01/2020-21 and PWD form 25(double agreement form).

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Handwara.

NO:- 4094-99
DT:- 12-11-2020
DIPK-9062/20

COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery To Begin By End Of This Year, Or Next Year Beginning: Scientist

London: If coronavirus vaccinations are rolled out widely, life could return to "normal" by next winter, one of the scientists behind the front-running coronavirus vaccine told British television on



Ugur Sahin, the Turkish co-founder of German firm BioNTech, told the BBC's The Andrew Marr Show that "this winter will be hard" without any major impact from vaccinations.

gining of next year," Sahin said.

"Our goal is to deliver more than 300 million doses by April next year, which could already have an impact," he said.

The infection rate will then go down in summer, he predicted, adding that it is essential that there is a high take-up of the vaccination by autumn.

"I'm confident that this will happen, he said.

A number of vaccination companies are working to increase the supply, he said: "so we could have a normal winter next (year)."

Sahin and his wife Ozlem Tureci founded BioNTech in the western German city of Mainz in 2008.

Having identified promising vaccine blueprints, the company formed a partnership in March with American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer.

The announcement on Monday that their vaccine was more than 90 percent effective in trials led news bulletins around the world and sent stock markets and hopes soaring.

BioNTech is now worth \$25.8 billion (21.8 billion euros), more than Germany's largest lender Deutsche Bank.



"I Concede Nothing": Trump's U-Turn After Accepting Biden "Won"

Washington: President Donald Trump on Sunday briefly acknowledged losing the U.S. election in a morning Twitter post but then backtracked, saying he concedes "nothing" and vowing to keep up a court fight that election-law experts say is unlikely to succeed.

President-elect Joe Biden focused on the coronavirus pandemic, setting meetings with vaccine developers as the crisis intensifies. The number of U.S. coronavirus cases passed 11 million on Sunday, a million more new cases than a week ago and the fastest increase since the pandemic began.

Biden defeated Trump in the Nov. 3 election by the same 306-232 margin in the state-by-state Electoral College that Trump proclaimed a "landslide" when he won it in 2016. The Democratic former vice president also won the national popular vote by at least 5.5 million votes, or 3.6 percentage points, with some ballots still being counted.

Trump, pursuing long-shot litigation to contest election results in several states, made conflicting comments on Twitter. He initially appeared to admit for the first time publicly that Biden won, then reversed course. Trump also repeated unfounded claims of widespread voter fraud.

"He won because the Election was Rigged," Trump wrote, not referring to Biden by name, adding a list of complaints

about vote counting. About 90 minutes later, Trump wrote: "The only won in the eyes of the FAKE NEWS MEDIA. I concede NOTHING!"

After golfing at a club he owns in Virginia, Trump said on Twitter he would soon file "big cases showing the unconstitutionality of the 2020 Election." Trump's campaign has filed lawsuits seeking to overturn the results in multiple states, without success.

Legal experts have said the Trump litigation stands little chance of altering the election's outcome, and election officials of both parties have said there is no evidence of major irregularities.

"Donald Trump's Twitter feed doesn't make Joe Biden president or not president. The American people did that," Ron Klain, Biden's choice as White House chief of staff, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

More than a week after Biden was declared the victor by major news organizations based on state-by-state vote counts, the General Services Administration still has not recognized him as president-elect, preventing his team from gaining access to government office space and funding normally afforded to an incoming administration to ensure a smooth transition.

Without explicitly mentioning the transition, Trump praised the GSA administrator he appointed, Emily Murphy, writing on Twitter: "Great job Emily!"

Klain said Murphy's agency must formally recognize

Biden, saying it is critical to ensure the president-elect receives intelligence briefings before taking office and to facilitate coordination with the White House coronavirus task force. Klain urged Congress to pass bipartisan coronavirus relief legislation by year's end. Talks on such legislation have stalled.

Some congressional Republicans and former members of Trump's administration have also called on the White House to allow Biden's transition team access to more information to prepare to govern.

The health crisis will be a paramount concern for Biden, who takes office on Jan. 20. Klain said Biden's scientific advisers would meet with Pfizer Inc and other drugmakers starting this week to prepare for the "giant logistical project" of widespread vaccination against a virus that has killed more than 245,000 Americans and thrown millions more out of work.

Pfizer said last week its vaccine candidate proved more than 90% effective in initial trials, giving hope that widespread vaccination in the coming months could help get the pandemic under control.

Other companies also are in advanced stages of developing promising vaccines.

"It's great to have a vaccine, but vaccines don't save lives. Vaccinations save lives," Klain said. "And that means you've got to get that vaccine into people's arms all over this country."

UAE Extends "Golden" Visa Eligibility, Allows 10-Year Residency To Some Professions

Dubai: The United Arab Emirates will extend its "golden" visa system - which grants 10-year residency in the Gulf state - to certain professionals, specialised degree-holders and others, the UAE's vice president said on Sunday.

Foreigners in the UAE usually have renewable visas valid for only a few years tied to employment. The government in the past couple of years has made its visa policy more flexible, offering longer residencies for certain types of investors, students and professionals.

All holders of doctorate degrees, medical doctors and also computer, electronics, programming, electrical and biotechnology engineers are eligible, UAE Vice President and the ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum said in a statement.

Also eligible are those with specialised degrees in artificial intelligence, big data and epidemiology, as well as high school students living in the UAE who rank top in the country and students from certain universities with a GPA of 3.8 or higher.

After first announcing a long-term visa plan in 2018, the UAE in 2019 started granting 5- and 10-year renewable visas to certain foreign investors, entrepreneurs, chief executives, scientists and outstanding students.

The emirate of Dubai, a Middle East trade and tourism hub, in September said it would grant visas renewable every five years to wealthy foreign retirees.

An oil and gas producer, the UAE's economy has been hit by the coronavirus pandemic and low oil prices, prompting many expatriates to leave.

Bahraini ministers to pay first official visit to Israel for tripartite meeting

Jerusalem: Two Bahraini ministers are set to make the first official visit by ministers from the tiny island to Israel in order to attend a tripartite meeting with Israeli and US officials.

Israel's Walla news site reported on Sunday that Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdulatif bin Rashid Alzayani and Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed Bin Rashid Al Zayani will pay a visit to Israel later this week.

They are expected to attend a meeting with Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and his US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Jerusalem al-

Quds on Wednesday. Israel's foreign minister Gabi Ashkenazi will also participate in the meeting.

According to Israeli sources, the parties are due to sign an aviation agreement for direct flights between Tel Aviv and Manama during the meeting.

They will also discuss opening embassies and exchanging ambassadors.

On September 11, US President Donald Trump announced that Bahrain was following the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in normalizing ties with Israel.

Four days later, Netanyahu signed agreements with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan

and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdulatif Al Zayani during an official ceremony hosted by Trump at the White House.

Palestinians, who seek an independent state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, with East Jerusalem al-Quds as its capital, have condemned the deals as a betrayal of their cause against the Israeli occupation.

Bahrain's main opposition group, the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, has denounced the deal as an "ultimate betrayal of Islam and Arabs and a departure from the Islamic, Arab and national consensus."

It has said the Israel-Bahrain agreement is void of any legitimacy whatsoever.

'Israel, Working With US, Killed Qaeda Deputy In Drive-By Attack'

Jerusalem: Israeli agents acting at the behest of American officials assassinated al-Qaida's second-in-command in August, in a brazen drive-by shooting in Iran's capital, according to a senior U.S. official.

Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, whose nom de guerre was Abu Muhammad al-Masri, was killed along with his daughter, Maryam, as they were driving in an upscale Tehran neighborhood, according to the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity.

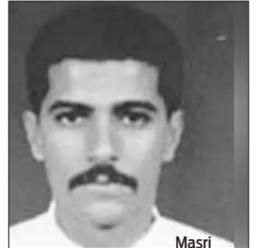
The operation, first reported Friday by the New York Times, further slims the leadership ranks of al-Qaida and removes the accused mastermind of the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa that killed more than 200 people.

Al-Qaida has not officially acknowledged Masri's death, and no country has claimed responsibility. The Israelis coordinated the operation with the CIA, according to the official. The CIA, FBI and Pentagon declined to comment, and the White House did not respond to a request for comment. The Israeli prime minister's office and intelligence ministry also declined to comment.

Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement Saturday denying the report and the presence of any Qaeda members in

Iran, accusing the United States and Israel of trying "to draw a link between Iran and such groups through falsification and the leakage of fabricated information to the media."

A report about Masri's death was posted and quickly



deleted from a private al-Qaida forum last month, according to SITE Intelligence Group, which tracks extremism online. al-Qaida has repeatedly failed to acknowledge the deaths of its leaders in the past two years, fearful that to do so would betray its weakness, SITE founder Rita Katz said.

Iran, a Shiite Muslim theocracy whose ideology is at odds with that of Sunni Islamic groups such as al-Qaida, has long denied it has harbored al-Qaida, though top leaders such as Masri fled from Afghanistan after the 2001 terrorist attacks and sought refuge there. The Washington Post first reported in 2003 that Masri was in Iran.

Nawaz Sharif's Brother, Others Charged In Money Laundering Case



Lahore: Pakistan's top investigative body has registered an FIR against top Opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif, Prime Minister Imran Khan's friend, and three others in a multi-billion sugar scam.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered the case on Sunday against Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President Shahbaz Sharif, his sons- Hamza and Suleman, Prime Minister Imran Khan's friend Jahangir Tareen and his son Ali Tareen under money laundering, forgery, criminal breach of trust and cheating of public shareholders.

Ali Tareen and his son are accused of defrauding and laundering 4.35 billion in the case, while Shahbaz Sharif and his sons are facing similar charges amounting to 25 billion.

The complaint comes days after the Lahore High Court struck down a case filed by the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) with the FIA against Tareen's JDW Sugar Mills and Farooqi Pulp Mills and Shahbaz Sharif's Al-Arabia

Sugar Mills on the basis of "procedural unfairness and for being a dictated exercise".

The FIA said the court in fact has empowered it to go against those involved in the sugar scam without any discrimination.

Sharif Shahbaz and his son Hamza are in Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore on judicial remand in another case of money laundering instituted by the country's anti-graft body, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), while his younger son Suleman is in London and has already been declared an absconder by a local court in the NAB's money laundering case.

Tareen and his son have recently returned from London. Ali is the owner of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Multan Sultans.

The FIA has not made an arrest in this case so far. The forensic audit report of the sugar inquiry commission, which was made public in May last had exposed over rupees 150 billion fraud in production, sale and export of the commodity every year by sugar barons including Tareen and a brother of sitting federal minister Khusró Bakhtiar.

Belgian Racing Pigeon "New Kim" Sold For Record \$1.9 Million

Brussels: An unidentified Chinese buyer on Sunday paid a world record 1.6 million euros (\$1.9 million) for a female homing pigeon called New Kim, online auctioneers Pigeon Paradise (PIPA) said.

The sale beat the 1.25 million euros paid for male pigeon Armando last year, according to PIPA.

New Kim, a well-bred two-year-old from a renowned Antwerp loft, was put up for auction at just 200 euros. "I believe it's a world record, there has never been an officially documented sale at such a price," PIPA chairman Nikolaas Gyselbrecht told AFP.

"I didn't think we could reach that amount." The buyer, who was not named, "will probably want to breed her", he added.

New Kim won the 2018 crown as "Ace Pigeon Grand National Middle Distance" in competitions held at Chateauroux and Argenton-sur-Creuse in France.

Advertisement for Belgian racing pigeons, listing names like 'New Kim' and 'Armando' with details on sales and breeding information.

Advertisement for a tripartite meeting between Bahrain, Israel, and the USA, including a table with names and details.

Advertisement for a money laundering case involving Nawaz Sharif's brother and others, detailing the charges and legal proceedings.

Media Doing Exceptional Work In Spreading Awareness On Covid: PM Modi



NEW DELHI: The media has been doing exceptional service by spreading awareness against COVID-19 and has acted as a valuable stakeholder in helping the government in its initiatives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on the occasion of National Press Day on Monday.

Be it positive criticism or highlighting success stories, the media has been continuously adding strength to India's democratic ethos, the prime minister added in his written message on the day, being celebrated virtually with a webinar organised by the Press Council of India.

"From creating mass awareness about important issues to contributing to a behavioural change in society for the larger good, we have seen how the media, as a valued stakeholder, has furthered the efforts of the government and helped many initiatives like Swachh Bharat and water conservation grow into mass movements in the last few years," he said.

In his message, read out by PCI chairperson C K Prasad, PM

Modi said he was heartened to learn that the Council was celebrating the day. The webinar being held on the theme "Role of media during the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the media" with participants from several other countries also reflects the "enabling power of technology," he said.

The Prime Minister added that at a time the world is up against an unprecedented crisis in the form of COVID-19, the nation's fight against the pandemic is powered by the restraint and resolve of its 130 crore citizens.

"In such a scenario, the media has been continuously doing exceptional service by spreading awareness against the COVID pandemic.

"In a post COVID world, India is marching ahead with its resolve to build a strong and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat". Media is giving our resolve the shape of a big campaign and carrying forward the message of "Vocal for Local", he said.

The prime minister said the world is rapidly changing and there is need to harness India's entrepreneurial energy, intent and talent to expand this vision across all sectors.

"With digital technology showing the way, Indian media's endeavour towards ensuring a stronger presence globally will strengthen our vibrant media landscape," he said.

"Go To High Court": Top Court On Bail Plea Of Man Arrested Over Tweets

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea for bail of a man who was last month arrested from Gujarat for posting allegedly objectionable comments in tweets against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his minister-son, Aaditya Thackeray.

A bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian asked the counsel for Sameer Thakkar to approach the Bombay High Court with the plea, saying it can also uphold his fundamental rights.

"The High Court can also uphold your fundamental rights. It can also transfer the case and grant you bail. Then why are you coming under 32 (under Article 32 of the Constitution, writ pleas are filed in the Supreme Court).

"You please go to the High Court," the bench told senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani who was appearing for Mr Thakkar.

Mr Jethmalani said that Mr Thakkar was arrested for "bailable offences" and this will "shock your Lordships". "We are quite immune from shock. We see it everyday. Nothing shocks us," the bench observed and asked him to approach the High Court.

Meanwhile, the counsel for Maharashtra said the state will not oppose the bail plea of the accused in the magisterial court on Monday as the custodial interrogation of Mr Thakkar was over in the case.

He was later granted bail by a court in Mumbai.

Mr Jethmalani said that as many as three FIRs had been



lodged against Mr Thakkar for his tweets only and he was arrested on October 24 from Rajkot.

Then he was taken to Nagpur on transit remand and was quizzed in police custody for his tweets and moreover, his custody was extended as well.

"His neck was tied with rope and he was paraded on roads," the senior lawyer said.

"What makes you think that we are approving all this. We are only telling you repeatedly that you can make these arguments before the High Court. Let us have the view of High Court," the bench said.

Mr Jethmalani then withdrew the plea of Mr Thakkar, who besides seeking bail, had sought consolidation of three FIRs registered against him for the posts.

Mr Thakkar, who has 59,000 followers on Twitter and is followed by some prominent government functionaries on the social media platform, was arrested from Rajkot on October 24 over his posts.

He has been granted bail in one case by a Nagpur court and was arrested by Maharashtra police in connection with other FIR.



Two tourist girls wearing Kashmiri attire play with Chinar leaves inside a Mughal Garden here on Monday.

Pakistan: Ruling PTI Wins Most Seats In Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Election

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on Monday won most of the seats in the legislative assembly election in Gilgit-Baltistan in northern Pakistan, keeping alive the tradition of success in the region by the party ruling the country.

India has slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold elections in Gilgit-Baltistan and said any action to alter the status of the militarily-occupied region has no legal basis.

Elections were held on 23 seats of the third legislative assembly on Sunday amidst tight security due to the threat of militancy.

Unofficial results compiled by the various media outlets showed that PTI won at least 8 to 9 seats, but it was still well short of majority to form the government. However, it was in a position to form the government as 6-7 independent candidates also won.

Geo TV reported that PTI won 8 seats, independent candidates 6, Pakistan People Party (PPP) 5, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) 2, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) and Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen (MWM) 1 seat each.

However, Dunya TV reported that PTI won 9 seats, independents 7, PPP 4, PML-N 2 and MWM 1 seat.

The official results were still not known as election authorities may take some time to announce the final outcome.



Polling was due on 24 seats but it was postponed on one seat after the death of one of the contestants.

As many as 330 candidates, including four women contested the election.

Out of 1,141 polling stations, 577 have been declared sensitive and 297 highly sensitive. Over 15,000 security personnel from Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan were deployed at the polling stations.

It is the third election for the current legislative assembly after political reform introduced in 2010.

Traditionally, the party ruling in Islamabad have won the Gilgit-Baltistan polls. The first election was won by PPP when it got 15 seats, followed by PML-N, the then ruling party, in 2015 when it won 16 seats.

The voters kept the tradition but with a difference as PTI failed to get an outright majority. PML-N emerged as the biggest loser as it ruled from 2015-2020

and was popular in the region.

Both the Opposition parties PPP and PML-N have alleged poll rigging.

PPP Secretary General Nayyar Bukhari on Sunday demanded disqualification of ruling PTI candidates from the election.

Regardless of who wins the polls, it is expected that some changes in the status of the region would be announced after the new government was formed in the region.

In a ruling earlier this year, the Pakistan Supreme Court allowed Islamabad to amend a 2018 administrative order to conduct general elections in the region. The Gilgit-Baltistan Order of 2018 provided for administrative changes, including authorising the prime minister of Pakistan to legislate on an array of subjects.

Following the verdict, India issued a demarche to a senior Pakistani diplomat in New Delhi and lodged a strong protest over the apex court ruling.

India also clearly conveyed to Pakistan that the entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of the country.

The polls in Gilgit-Baltistan were to be held on August 18, but Pakistan's election commission on July 11 postponed them due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The five-year term of the previous assembly had ended on June 24, bringing an end to the five-year rule of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

WPI Inflation At 8-Month High In October On Costlier Manufactured Items



The wholesale price-based inflation rose to an eight-month high of 1.48 per cent in October, as manufactured products turned costlier. The WPI inflation was 1.32 per cent in September and zero per cent in October last year.

This is the highest level of Wholesale price index-based (WPI) inflation since February when it was 2.26 per cent. While food article prices softened in October, manufactured items witnessed hardening of prices, according to data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Monday.

Food inflation in October stood at 6.37 per cent, as against 8.17 per cent in the previous month. The rate of price rise in vegetables and potato remained high at 25.23 per cent and 107.70 per cent, respectively, during the month.

Inflation in non-food articles and minerals was higher at 2.85 per cent and 9.11 per cent, re-

spectively. In the manufactured products category, inflation stood at 2.12 per cent in October, compared to 1.61 per cent in September.

Prices in fuel and power basket softened to (-) 10.95 per cent in October. The retail inflation, based on the consumer price index, was 7.61 per cent in October, data released last week showed.

The Reserve Bank in a report on the state of economy last week had also flagged unrelenting pressure of inflation as a downside risk confronting the prospects of economic recovery. "The foremost is the unrelenting pressure of inflation, with no signs of waning in spite of supply management measures... There is a grave risk of generalisation of price pressures, unanchoring of inflation expectations feeding into a loss of credibility in policy interventions and the eventual corrosion of the nascent growth impulses that are making their appearance," the RBI said.

Colleges In Karnataka Gear Up To Resume Classes

Higher educational institutions in Karnataka have geared up to resume regular classes following government directions to reopen degree, engineering and diploma colleges from Tuesday after being closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the lockdown.

Schools and colleges are shut since March in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown across the country.

While the primary and secondary education department is yet to take a call whether to open the schools and pre-university colleges, the higher education department has decided to open colleges from November 17.

Medical, dental, paramedical, nursing and AYUSH colleges will reopen from December 1.

Many government and government-aided degree colleges have started preparations by sanitising the classrooms with spraying of disinfectants and setting up hand sanitisers at the entrance of the college and classrooms.

The government said there was an option for students to either be physically present in the classroom or attend online classes.

However, teachers, staff and the students will have to produce a negative RT-PCR test report.

Students will also have to



submit a no-objection certificate by their parents, permitting their wards to attend regular classes.

Ahead of the reopening of colleges, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who holds the higher education portfolio, told reporters guidelines have already been given to them (colleges) in view of the coronavirus scare.

He said the government is also keenly monitoring the measures taken by colleges.

According to him, each college has to set up a taskforce consisting of teachers, staff and students to ensure that the regulations are strictly adhered to.

A senior official in the education department said education was badly hampered due to the lockdown for eight months.

Also, students faced problems with regard to online classes such as affordability of smartphones, health issues as a result of being glued to the screens and internet connectivity.

Keeping these problems in mind, the government decided to start regular classes with a set of conditions to fulfill.

Nearly 2 Lakh Indian Students Chose US For Higher Studies In 2019-20 Academic Year: Report

NEW DELHI: Nearly two lakh Indian students chose the United States as their destination to pursue higher education in the 2019-20 academic year, according to the Open Doors Report released by the US Embassy on Monday.

Indian students comprised nearly 20 per cent of the over one million students from around the world, and the US has seen a steady increase in the number of undergraduate students from India, the report stated.

"Over the last 10 years, the number of Indians studying in the United States has roughly doubled, and we know why the US is the gold standard for higher education, providing practical application and experience that gives our graduates an advantage in the global economy," said Minister Counsellor for Public Affairs David Kennedy.

To assist Indian students, the US Department of State offers advising services to prospective students through seven EducationUSA advising centres throughout India - in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.



"Early next year, a second EducationUSA Center is opening in Hyderabad hosted by Y-Axis Foundation. All centres are staffed by EducationUSA advisors who offer accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date information about opportunities to study in the United States, helping Indian students find the best programme and the right fit from among the 4,500 accredited higher-education institutions in the United States," an official statement by the Embassy said.

Students seeking additional facts about studying in the US can download the Edu-

ationUSA India app, available for free on iOS and Android devices, it said.

"At the click of a button, the app provides the latest information about the college application process and is a quick and easy first step to planning higher education in the US," the statement said.

The Institute of International Education (IIE) publishes the Open Doors report every year.

It also compiles the number of international scholars at US universities and international students enrolled in pre-academic Intensive English Programs.

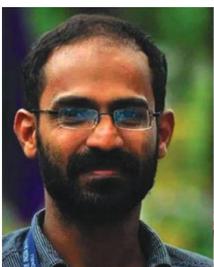
NEWS MAKER

SC Seeks UP Govt's Response Over Arrest Of Journalist Going To Hathras

The Supreme Court on Monday sought response of the Uttar Pradesh government on a plea challenging the arrest of Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan on his way to Hathras where a young dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped.

A bench of Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian asked the counsel for the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) as to why it has not approached the Allahabad High Court and came to it straightaway.

"We will issue notice. We are



keeping it on Friday," the bench said when senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the association, sought bail for the scribe,



saying that there was nothing against him.

"The FIR does not name him. No offences alleged. He is in jail since

October 5," Sibal said.

While raising questions about not approaching the High Court, the bench said, "We are not on merits of the case. Why haven't you gone to the High Court?"

Earlier, the top court had said it would hear the plea after four weeks and in the meantime, the journalists' body could approach the Allahabad High Court for the relief.

Journalist Siddique Kappan was arrested on October 5 while he was on his way to Hathras, home to the young dalit woman who died after being gang-raped, allegedly by four upper-caste men.

WE WILL ISSUE NOTICE. WE ARE KEEPING IT ON FRIDAY," THE BENCH SAID WHEN senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the association, sought bail for the scribe, saying that there was nothing against him.

E-mail: tariqbhat72@gmail.com



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