



Maximum : 12°
Minum : -4°
Humidity : 36%

SUNSET
Today 05:24 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:09 AM



NEWS DIGEST

IED Defused In Kulgam: Police

SRINAGAR: Government forces on Friday detected and later defused an improvised explosive device (IED) in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

An IED fitted in a pipe was detected near a local mosque at Shurat in the south Kashmir's Kulgam district, a police officer said. He said the explosive device was later destroyed by a bomb disposal squad team on the spot without causing any loss.

Burglars Strike Shrines, Loot Cash

SRINAGAR: Unidentified burglars struck two shrines in north Kashmir's Baramulla district and decamped with cash and other valuables, reports said Friday.

Unknown burglars struck a shrine in Delina and another in Rafiabadd's Yarbugh village on the intervening night of Friday-Saturday and decamped with the cash and other valuables after breaking the lockers.

Meanwhile, Police have registered formal cases in both the theft incidents and have set investigations into motion.

19 People Stuck On Mughal Road 'Rescued'

JAMMU: Nineteen people who were trapped in snow on the Mughal road in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district were rescued by government forces, officials said on Friday.

These people were travelling from Shopian to Poonch when their vehicles got stuck in the snow accumulated on the road at Pir Ki Gali on Thursday night, they said.

As soon as the information was received, teams from Army and police launched an operation to rescue the stranded passengers, the officials said. All the persons were rescued and taken to Poshana where they were provided food and other facilities, the officials said.

Man Killed in Bandipora Accident

SRINAGAR: A middle-aged man on Friday was killed in road accident in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

55-year-old Ali Mohammad Dar was hit by a motorcyclist on Friday evening in his native village Sarala Dangarpore in Sumbal area of the district, news agency GNS reported. Dut to the impact of the accident, Dar, the report said died while the biker identified as Feroz Ahmad Khandey of Ganderbal sustained injuries.

Khandey, the report said was removed to a nearby health facility for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to SMHS Srinagar for advanced treatment.

Meanwhile, case has been registered into the incident under relevant sections of law and further investigations taken up, the police official said.

Nearly Million Stranded J&K Residents Evacuated

JAMMU: A total of 9.28 lakh residents of Jammu and Kashmir who were stranded due to the coronavirus lockdown have been evacuated from other states so far, according to official data.

The administration has received 155 special trains at Jammu and Udhampur railway stations with a total 1,40,292 passengers till date, while 7,87,960 people, including 948 from abroad, have been evacuated by road till date, the data said. As per the detailed breakup of the figures, 10,762 stranded passengers have entered through Lakhnau in the past 24 hours.

All necessary guidelines and standard operating procedures were strictly observed, it added.

Candidates Say, 'Confined To Hotels, Unable To Campaign'



SRINAGAR: Murmurs of discontent from candidates rather than speeches can be heard ahead of local body elections in Kashmir with most parties in the fray claiming their leaders are confined to distant hotels in the guise of security and are unable to campaign freely because of the many restrictions imposed on them.

It's just not a level playing field, several candidates said ahead of the November 28 District Development Council polls, the first democratic exercise since Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 was revoked in August last year and the state was bifurcated into union territories.

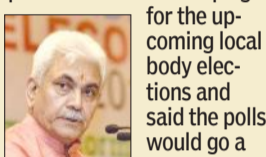
Seven parties, including the National Conference and the PDP, have come together on one platform, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), to contest the elections. But the lack of enthusiasm is evident with political parties expressing the administration of strictly restricting the hours of campaigning and not even allowing their candidates to move out, unless it is in a government car.

"BJP and 'Kings party' candidates and their junior-level workers are provided individual personal

security and bulletproof vehicles, while all others are hounded to far away government accommodations. Is this the 'new mantra' of providing a level playing field? asked Nasir Aslam Wani, NC provincial president, Kashmir. King's party is a reference to the Apni

LG Assures Parties Of Smooth Campaign

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has assured political parties of smooth campaign



for the upcoming local body elections and said the polls would go a long way in strengthening panchayati raj institutions in the Union Territory.

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Party, floated by businessman-turned-politician Altaf Bukhari. Wani said PAGD candidates have been locked up in hotels and guest-houses in several places and not allowed to campaign.

"I have never witnessed this kind of electioneering not since the political process started after the eruption of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. We have always had candidates

running around. How can you expect somebody to campaign only between 12 noon and 3 pm?"

The NC leader said the claims of the UT administration and Union Home Minister Amit Shah about the situation being peaceful in Jammu and Kashmir were either wrong or they were trying to influence this election.

"If we listen to what the home minister or the state administration has to say, militancy has been wiped out. Then is this being done to influence the election? You cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. You have to go one way about it.

"Either the situation is safe, as they claim, and let the candidates campaign. Or else, the security scenario is so bad that they cannot create a conducive environment. In that case, why have the polls then?" he added.

It is not just about the campaigning not taking place, Wani said. The party, he added, is also worried it may not get candidates to file their nominations for the rest of the eight-phase polls.

The administration, on its part, said collective security is necessary given the resource limitations.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said providing security to each candidate contesting the polls is difficult. "We are providing them collective security and they are being put up in secure areas," he said.

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BJP Says Article 370 'Buried', It Will Never Return

KO Photo: Abid Bhat



SRINAGAR: The BJP on Friday asserted that Article 370, which was revoked by the Centre last year, would never be restored in Jammu and Kashmir, and alleged that parties of 'Gupkar alliance' were befooling people by making promises over its restoration.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP national spokesperson Shah Nawaz also said the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls were being fought over local developmental issues and its results would not be a referendum on the Centre's last year's decision of revocation of the special status of the erstwhile state.

"We believe that when someone dies, he cannot return from the grave. Article 370 has also been buried and it will never return. It can never be restored and no world power can help in its restoration," he said.

The BJP leader, who is the party's incharge for Kashmir for the polls, said NC president Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti were befooling people by showing them dreams, but asserted their dreams would never come true.

"They are showing the people dreams and befooling them. There is no big a lie than that. These are the same leaders

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BJP Leader Guilty Of Contempt: ANC

Awami National Conference vice President, Muzaffar Shah on Friday said that the matter pertaining to abrogation of Article 370 is 'Subjudice' and passing remarks over it amounts to the contempt of court.

Shah according to the news agency KDC was responding to the statement of BJP leader and its national spokesperson Shanawaz Hussain, which he gave during a press conference in Srinagar

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Journalist Mudasir Ali Passes Away

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Mudasir Ali, a prominent journalist associated with 'Greater Kashmir', passed away due to cardiac arrest early Friday morning. He was 37.

Reports said that Mudasir, a resident of Charar-e-Sharif, Budgam, complained of pain in his chest and was driven to a hospital in Srinagar at around 2 am on Friday, however he passed away on the way to hospital.

His brother Jehangir Ali, who is also a journalist, shared the news of sudden death of Mudasir on social media. "My brother Mudasir Ali has left

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In Mudasir Ali, Kashmir Lost A People's Journalist

Kaisar Mir

As his teary-eyed tribe-members swarmed NundReshi's town of Charar-e-Sharif on the icy cold Friday morning to pay their condolences, they couldn't make believe that the humble heart has stopped beating forever.

The town wore a mournful look over the sudden death of native Mudasir Ali, the smiling and easy-going scribe, who left behind a legacy of upright penmanship during his 15-year-long untiring journalism career.

The fun-loving journalist who would always crack jokes with his colleagues triggered a tsunami of tribute on social media sites. Leading from the front, his

colleagues termed him a thorough professional and adown-to-earth human being.

A Topper

"When we sat for the entrance exam to join MERC in 2005, Mudasir topped the list," wrote Showkat Nanda, Kashmir's award-winning photo journalist, in his tribute to Ali who lost his life to a massive cardiac arrest.

"He left us behind in all the subsequent semester exams. Never knew he would be ahead of us in leaving this world too."

A Shining Star

Veteran media coach, Prof. Nasir Mirza, termed Ali as a shining star, an honest journalist and an asset in his tribute.

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Polls In GB To Hide 'Occupation': India



NEW DELHI: India on Thursday slammed Pakistan for holding elections in Gilgit-Baltistan, saying it was aimed at hid-

ing Pakistan's illegal occupation of its territory.

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava asserted that Gilgit-Baltistan was an integral part of India since 1947.

Asked at an online briefing about elections held in Gilgit-Baltistan and protests against the poll process there, he said, "I had given a few answers before the elections. Elections in Gilgit-Baltistan are nothing but a sham and their aim is to hide Pakistan's illegal occupation of areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir."

"We reiterate that along with Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan is an integral part of India since 1947," Mr Srivastava said.

India had earlier also 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. —PTI

'Nefarious' Plot Defeated: PM Modi On Jammu Encounter

Says Killing Of 4 Militants Foiled Efforts To Wreak 'Major Havoc And Destruction'



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a review meeting with top security brass in the wake of the killing of four JeM militants in Jammu and Kashmir, and asserted that security forces have thwarted their efforts to wreak "major havoc and destruction".

Government sources said that the militants were planning "something big" on the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attack.

In his tweets following the meeting, Modi said, "Neutralising of 4 terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed and the presence of large cache of weapons and explosives with them indicate that their efforts to wreak major havoc and destruction have once again been thwarted."

Hailing the state forces, he said they have once again displayed utmost bravery and professionalism.

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Pension Not Bounty To Employee: HC

Orders Release Of Pensionary Benefits To Ex-CGM of J&KSPDC

SRINAGAR: Observing that payment of pension is not a bounty to the employee, the J&K High Court has directed authorities to release pension and retiral benefits in favour of a former Chief General Manager of J&K State Power Development Corporation who had superannuated in 2014.

Disposing of a petition filed by the former CGM, Abdul Rashid Makroo, a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey said that law was well settled that pensionary or retiral benefits become the principal source of sustenance to an employee after his retirement. "The payment whereof is not a bounty being paid to the employee concerned, but these are paid in recognition of the service rendered by an employee to his employer,"

the court said and underlined that the purpose for grant of pensionary or retiral benefits is to ensure the employee is in a position to sustain himself.

"Besides, any delay in settlement and disbursement of pension has to be visited with the penalty of payment of interest at the current market rates till actual payment is made," the court said.

The liability to pay penal interest on these dues at the current market rates commences at the expiry of two months from the date of retirement, the court said.

"The delay of depriving retiral benefits, in this case, is clearly attributed to the (authorities concerned) and, thus, entitles the petitioner to interest on the dues at the current market rates

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4 More Lose Battle With Corona, J&K Toll 1622

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least four more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, raising the number of virus related fatalities in the Union Territory to 1622.

In Kashmir Valley, two more people lost their battle with the deadly infection, while two others died of the infection in Jammu division, officials said Friday. Among the victims from the Valley, officials said were a 65-year-old woman from Shahlaal Kupwara and a 67-year-old man from Pran Bawan Anantnag. Two other victims from the Union Territory were residents of Jammu city.

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661 More Test Covid-19 Positive

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 661 new cases of coronavirus, taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory to 105376.

While Kashmir Valley reported 408 new cases on Friday, the remaining 253 were confirmed by the officials from Jammu division.

Giving district-wise details, they said Srinagar reported 169 cases, Baramulla 63, Budgam 53, Pulwama 22,

► More On P2

Snowfall Blocks Mughal Road

SRINAGAR: The Mughal road, connecting Shopian and Poonch districts, has been closed even as authorities rescued 19 persons including a minor who had got trapped amid fresh snowfall along the thoroughfare last night, officials said on Friday.

"19 persons have been rescued by teams of police and Army from Pir Ki Gali area during a rescue operation last night," reported news agency GNS SSP Poonch Ramesh Angral said that all the persons were provided food and other logistic facilities at Poshana. DySP Traffic Rajouri Poonch said that the road has been closed due to slippery condition. "The road would be opened depending upon weather conditions

KEG Shocked Over Death

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) expressed shock over the untimely death of young journalist Mudasir Ali.

"This is the second such demise witnessed over the past two months when a young scribe died due to cardiac arrest", KEG said in a statement.

"KEG is paying rich tributes to these reporters who left us at the peak of their career. We sympathise with their families", the editors body said in a tweet.



FROM FRONT PAGE

Candidates Say...

Rayees Mattoo, a NC candidate of the PAGD from Khag area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, said he has been put up at a hotel here and candidates of the alliance are not allowed to campaign even while their competitors are freely working in the field.

Is this the way to hold an election? We are not provided with security or vehicles. I had three meetings scheduled for the day and had conveyed the same to the authorities well in advance. But I was not allowed to move out of the hotel as they say there is not enough vehicles or security available," he asserted.

His party colleague and candidate Mohammad Ashraf Lone said there are only six vehicles for about 40 candidates in the hotel he has been allotted.

"How can we all move around in just a few vehicles? The government says new faces should contest the polls and so we did. But if they cannot provide us with the facilities, how can we manage? If they do not want us to contest, let them say it then."

According to Lone, the candidates were told to use the vehicles to campaign but return before 4 pm. "The journey from our hotel to Beerwah (in central Kashmir's Budgam district) itself takes about two hours. How can we campaign in such a short time," he said.

Sabzar Ahmad, an independent candidate from Dooru area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, said he has been placed in a hotel in Pahalgam and is not allowed to move out.

"About 25 of us are here and we feel like prisoners. They do not let us move out, while candidates from other parties go out for campaigning," he said.

Another independent candidate, Akhtar Hussain Magray from Beerwah, withdrew his nomination papers, saying the authorities had failed to provide the candidates with security and other arrangements.

Officials privy to the security plan for the polls said the government does not have resources to cater to the needs of every candidate.

"It is so difficult to manage with the resources that we have. There is more demand for logistics and manpower and it gets difficult to rationalise things," an official said.

Several candidates are being put up in cluster accommodations which are secured and their movement is facilitated so that they are able to reach their constituencies for campaigning.

IGP Vijay Kumar said the candidates are provided escort when they leave and the security forces secure the area for them to visit and campaign. "Whenever any candidate goes out for campaigning, we provide a double escort with him and secure the area for him to campaign," he said.

The PAGD, led by National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah, was formed to seek the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status. But the alliance announced a plunge into electoral politics to keep the BJP away. —PTI

LG Assures Parties ...

Responding to a letter by CPI(M) leader Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami who had raised the issue of candidates being kept away from their constituencies and not being allowed to campaign, Sinha said he has taken note of the concerns and conveyed "necessary instructions".

Tarigami, a former MLA from the militancy-hit Kulgam district of south Kashmir, had informed the Lt Governor that after filing their nomination papers, the candidates were not allowed to campaign due to "perceived threat to their lives" and had been bundled in "cluster accommodation".

"Confining candidates against their wishes has severely restricted their movement and ability to campaign. Even in some cases, they are not allowed to attend party meetings," the letter said.

Tarigami said that there had been instances that rival candidates were sent in the same vehicle and asked to campaign together.

"Several candidates from far-off places were sent to hotels in Srinagar soon after they filed the nomination forms last week. Not just the voters, but the families of the candidates are also concerned," he said.

In his response, the Lt Governor said, "I am sure that the coming elections will go a long way in strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions."

Tarigami released the Lt Governor's letter.

The former MLA said such arrangements were a big concern and there was a lot of dissatisfaction on ground over it.

"Who wins and who loses, the decision must lie on the electorate. Democracy must finally win. For that the process must be made secure and credible. It is advisable not to put avoidable restrictions on the contesting candidates and instead their legitimate movement for the campaigning in their respective areas must be effectively facilitated," he said. The CPI(M) is part of the newly formed People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) which comprises the National Conference, the PDP and four other local parties. The PAGD was formed to work for the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state democratic and legally.

The Jammu and Kashmir will go for an eight-phase District Development Council elections beginning November 28.

Pension Not ...

to commence at the expiry of two months from the date of retirement," the court said and directed release of the pensionary and retiral benefits alongwith arrears with interest @ 6 percent per annum in favour of Makroo. The court said that the same shall commence at the expiry of two months from the date of Makroo's retirement in accordance with the rules which are applicable to the employees of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The respondents shall pass orders, in this behalf, within a period of two months from the date copy of this order is served on them."

Makroo in his petition had stated that he was initially appointed in 1982 in the Jammu and Kashmir State Industrial Corporation. On the basis of his performance, he said that in 1995 he was sent on deputation in the Bureau of Public Enterprise. Subsequently, he was sent on deputation in the in 1997. Subsequently Makroo was absorbed permanently in the Corporation and promoted as Chief General Manager on 1 April 2008. Upon his absorption, he said, all the service conditions as applicable to the Government employees of the erstwhile State were made applicable to him and

as a corollary thereof, the Corporation discontinued the contribution of CP Fund of the petitioner and commenced contribution towards the General Provident Fund as per Government rules applicable in the Corporation.

Makroo had retired in 2014. However after his superannuation, the Corporation failed to settle all the post retiral benefits. He had stated that while the corporation released some post retiral benefits in the shape of gratuity, leave salary and GPF accumulations in his favour as per the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Rules, they failed to release the pensionary benefits to which he was legally entitled as per the rules pertaining to the other Government employees of the erstwhile State being followed in the Corporation.

He had said that despite repeated requests, the monthly pension as well as arrears were not released in his favour. (Agencies)

'Nefarious' Plot ...

"Thanks to their alertness, they have defeated a nefarious plot to target grassroots level democratic exercises in Jammu and Kashmir," the prime minister added. In the review meeting, Home Minister Amit Shah, NSA Ajit Doval, foreign secretary and top intelligence officials were present as Modi took stock of the situation.

Four Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad militants were killed and two policemen injured in a gunbattle in Nagrota on Thursday after a truck carrying them was intercepted, police had said.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu, Mukesh Singh, had said after the encounter that the militants had come to execute a "big plan" which has now been foiled. —PTI

661 More ...

Kupwara 27, Anantnag 16, Bandipora 21, Ganderbal 28, Kulgam 6, Shopian 3, Jammu 98, Rajouri 10, Udhampur 50, Doda 17, Kathua 8, Poonch 2, Samba 12, Kishtwar 36, Ramban 10 and Reasi 10. Moreover, officials said, 539 more patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals including 208 from Jammu Division and 331 from Kashmir Division.

4 More Lose ...

With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1072 and 550 in the Jammu region. Srinagar district with 402 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (287), Baramulla (159), Budgam (98), Pulwama (86), Kupwara (80), Anantnag (77), Doda (52), Bandipora (49), Rajouri (49), Kulgam (48), Ganderbal (37), Shopian (36), Udhampur (36), Kathua (35), Samba (26), Poonch (22), Ramban (18), Kishtwar (16), and Reasi (9). (With GNS inputs)

Journalist Mudasir ...

this material world," he wrote in his Facebook account. Hundreds of people, including friends and colleagues attended Ali's funeral prayers at the shrine of Sheikh Nooruddin Wali in his hometown Chrar-e-Sharif. Amidst tears and sobs, Ali was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard.

Demise widely condoled

The sudden demise of noted journalist Mudasir's Ali, who was associated with Greater Kashmir, has been widely condoled across Jammu and Kashmir.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that he was deeply saddened over the demise of Mudasir Ali. "Deeply saddened to learn about the unfortunate demise of young journalist Mudasir Ali. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, friends & colleagues," he said.

Government spokesman Rohit Kansal in a tweet said: "Deeply saddened to hear of the unfortunate and distressing news of the untimely demise of young journalist Mudassir Ali. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family." DIPR JK also condoled the sudden death of "young and promising journalist".

National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Vice President Omar Abdullah and party leaders expressed grief and sorrow over the sudden demise of the senior journalist. The leaders prayed for strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss and peace to departed, according to a party statement.

Omar in a tweet said that it was a terrible shock to hear of the sudden death of Mudasir Ali.

"He had a bright career as a journalist ahead of him & the fact that he died so young makes his passing even more difficult to comprehend. May Allah grant him Jannat & his family strength at the difficult time," he said, adding, "I've been interviewed by Mudassir a number of times & tried to dodge his tough questions at numerous press conferences. He was a tenacious reporter, always polite but never easy to fob off. He will be sorely missed. God speed Mudassir."

Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti in a tweet said that she finds the passing away of Mudassir hard to believe

"Saddened to know of Mudasir Ali's sudden demise. Have known him for years & he was a great person. Still find it hard to believe. May Allah give strength to his family to bear this loss," she said.

Peoples Conference chairman and former minister Sajjad Gani Lone said that Mudasir Ali was a very talented journalist at the Greater Kashmir. "Had sat with him so many times. Hard to believe he is no more. But that is life. My commiserations. May Allah grant him Jannat." Expressing deep shock and grief over the tragic and sudden death, CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami termed the demise as an irreparable loss.

"He was a veteran journalist. The contribution made by him in the field of journalism will always be remembered. In his death, we have lost a great asset and the vacuum left by his passing away in the media fraternity would be difficult to fill," he said in a statement.

President Jammu Kashmir People's Movement and former minister Javid Mustafa Mir said that the sudden demise of Mudasir Ali was disheartening. "My condolences may Allah grant him jannah 'Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un,'" he said in a tweet.

Apni Party senior vice president Ghulam Hassan Mir also condoled the demise of the "well-known journalist". He expressed solidarity with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul, as per the statement issued by the party.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Shahid Choudhary in a tweet said:

"Unbelievable. I am completely shocked to know of Mudassir Ali's passing away by cardiac arrest. A promising journalist and fine human being left us so soon. May his soul rest in eternal peace."

The department of information and public relations (DIPR) also expressed grief over the demise of Mudasir Ali.

In separate statements issued here, an official spokesperson said that a condolence meeting

was convened here under the Chairmanship of Joint Director, Information Kashmir, Haris Ahmad Handoo wherein deep grief and sorrow was expressed over the demise.

The Joint Director in his address said that his death is a great loss to the media fraternity as the deceased besides being a noble soul was an efficient journalist. He also offered sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

Director, DIPR Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar also held a condolence meet at her office in Jammu wherein deep sorrow and grief was expressed over the demise of Mudasir Ali, an official spokesperson said.

"Dr. Sehrish in her address said that his death is a great loss to the society as he played a leading role in highlighting the local public issues through his journalistic work," he added.

In Mudasir Ali ...

"I know him as an ideal student," Prof Mirza said. "He was highly focussed and truly devoted, blessed with all good qualities of head and heart. His sudden departure is a personal loss."

A Fun-loving Person

Journalist Bilal Hussain termed Ali as the full of life person.

"We at GK newsroom would party, crack jokes and have loads of fun," Hussain said. "While it is indeed hard to believe that you left this world, you have bequeathed us with lots of cherished memories and they will stay with us."

A Brilliant Journalist

Celebrated journalist Muzamiljaleel in his tribute termed Ali as a wonderful human being.

"The hearts of our youthful friends and colleagues are stopping suddenly," Jaleel said.

"There is so much grief in our lives. There is so much unbearable pain that we see and feel every day. Living, working, existing is a never ending struggle. And the good among us, those who aren't numb already, can't take it anymore. When will we start living again, when will our land stop seeing the frail shoulders of parents carrying the coffins of their young children ... when will we resume dying of old age... when will we start telling the happy stories..."

"Rest in peace, Mudasir Ali. You kept on telling the stories of our people, of our land till the end. You were a brilliant, hardworking journalist. You were a wonderful human being. You went too soon. We will always remember you."

Another Heart Attack

The terrible year continues to wreak havoc, said TV journalist Mir Fareed.

"Young journals dying of heart attack is another shocking thing that we have witnessed this year," Fareed wrote in his social media post.

"Is it to do with a changed work environment post August 5 or Covid-related financial stress or silent Covid itself? "But it's devastating to see young promising lives ending in such a tragic manner. Mudasir Ali, rest in peace!"

An Untiring Scribe

In his over 15 years of active journalism career, Ali never took rest, said journalist Nazir Ganaie.

"You were always on the go, working, and overthinking," Ganaie said. "You have now met your last deadline and your new and final journey has begun."

A Brave Reporter

Ali was among the very few brave reporters at Kashmir's press club reporting about the assault on Kashmir beginning August, 2019, journalist Baba Tamim said in his Facebook tribute

"When most of the reporters were scared and self-censored, he was one among the few on the streets risking it all, in the information black hole for the sake telling stories of his people," Tamin wrote.

"I don't know what stressed him but I know for sure most of us in the valley and from the valley have had a depressing life for decades, with no way to let out. And piling expectations to survive through the never ending miseries has burdened our shoulders too much to carry the coffins of our young brothers."

A Zen Master

In May, wrote Mir Hilal in his tribute to Ali, he thought of doing a story on the ordeal of parents of the militants, whose bodies were not handed to their families and were being buried in Sonmarg.

"The idea was to travel along with one such family. Instinctively, Mudasir came to my mind when I thought of someone with whom I could do this story. I called him. Talking to him always felt like talking to a Zen master. There would be pauses. Being mature beyond his age, he always took time to respond, as if he were weighing every syllable. And he always sounded right. When I told him about the idea, he said, "Gacchavhaez"," Hilal wrote.

Being a grounded reporter who always kept his finger on the pulse, Ali told Hilal if at all they were to do that story, they would have to leave at dawn "because Covid lockdown was also being used to prevent journalists from performing their job".

"Also, he said, they won't let us travel with a militant's family," Mir said.

"So, one day, at 5am, I reached his rented accommodation at Chhanpora. He had barely slept (he worked late into the night and always would be working on a couple of stories for outside portals). Eyes groggy and hastily gorging on two slices of bread and a fried egg, he said he was ready to go. He was right. Hardly any soldier or policeman was manning dozens of checkpoints along the Sonmarg route. At the graveyard, we were in a dilemma whether to take pictures, as this would attract the attention of the soldiers and policemen in the nearby army camp and police station. "Tulavhaez," he said, smiling, with the excitement of a contented reporter who had stumbled upon a good story."

On their way back, Hilal said, they stopped in Kangan. "He spoke about how journalism was becoming increasingly a difficult profession, problems at workplace. Then, out of nowhere, he said, "Isn't this story the reward in itself".

In the murky world of Kashmiri journalism, it is rare to find a journalist who has not dirtied his soul with myriad forms of corruption available to him. Mudasir was one of them."

A People's Journalist

In short, said journalist Gowher Geelani, Kashmir on Friday lost a people's journalist in Mudasir Ali.

"Mudasir would listen more, understand more, write more. And speak less," Geelani said.

FROM FRONT PAGE

BJP Says Article 370 ...

who were claiming Article 370 cannot be scrapped and even stated that nobody in J-K will raise tricolour if it is scrapped. However, the people are now raising tricolour without any objection," he said. Hussain said the leaders of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PGAD) - an amalgam of several parties, including the NC and the PDP, seeking the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state - had accepted the Centre's decision of revocation of Article 370.

"They have accepted this decision and are now participating in the elections. They have ganged up. They have befooled the people of J-K. They have indulged in politics over the bodies of the youth of J-K to save their chair. They are sinners and no one will forgive them. They have committed big sins and are worse than gangsters and they live only for power and to benefit their families and relatives," he said.

Referring to the DDC polls, he said

the lotus - the BJP's election symbol - will bloom in the valley like the rest of the country.

"The polls are not a referendum. This is a local body election, about local issues. This is not about national politics," he said, when asked if the BJP losses the DDC polls, would it mean that the people of Kashmir have not accepted the abrogation of Article 370.

Seeking people's support for the polls, the former Union minister said the party would live up to the people's expectations.

"We are concerned about the people of Jammu and Kashmir and will ensure the development, which is the right of people and will be given to them. The J-K will see a new dawn of development and for which the work has already been started. Give the BJP a chance and God willing, we will live up to your expectations," he said.

Hussain said it was the desire of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to see massive development in J-K.

"Jammu and Kashmir is in the heart of PM Modi and he wants to develop it like other parts of the

country. J-K has the capability to give employment not only to the people here, but to the outsiders as well," he said. On a question about the eviction of nomads from forest areas, Hussain said nobody can snatch the lands of the people of J-K.

"This is only propaganda. The laws have already been implemented and the rights of the Gujjar and Bakerwal community will always be protected," he said.

BJP Leader ...

on Friday, in which he said no power on earth can restore Article 370 and is not subjudice.

"Is Shahnawaz Hussain going to decide on it or the Supreme Court?" Muzaffar Shah said. He said Chief Justice of India should take Suo-moto cognisance against Shahnawaz Hussain for belittling the highest court of the country. "Supreme Court and people of Jammu and Kashmir will decide on Article 370 and 35-A and not Shahnawaz Hussain," He said. "Article 370 was, is and will always remain alive. Article 370 and 35-A is the heartbeat of people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh" he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10th pass marks card bearing Roll No. 957415 year 2013 some where. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his / her objection in the office of the JKBOSE within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Irtiza Ali D/O: Ali Mohammad Dar
R/o: Matipora Pattan

Office Of The Hanfia Model High School
Chandilora Tangmarg

Managing Committee Of Hanfia Model High School Chandilora

For The Session 2020-21

| Sno. | Name | Parentage | Address | Designation |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Al Haj Syed Gulam Mohammad Shah | Syed Abdullah Shah | Warpora Sopore | Sarparstalla |
| 2. | Bashir Ahmad Mahjoo | Gulam Nabi Mahjoo | Khawaja Bagh Baramullah | Member |
| 3. | Abdul Majeed Wani | Khawaja Abdul Salam Wani | Wagoora Baramullah | Member |
| 4. | Showkat Ahamd Rathar | Mohammad Assadullah Rathar | Wagoora Baramullah | Member |
| 5. | Gulam Ahamd Ganie | Mohammad Sultan Ganie | Shrai Tangmarg | Member |
| 6. | Abdul Hameed Bharoo | Abdul Razaq Bharoo | Azad Gunj Baram-ullah | Member |
| 7. | Mohammad Altaf Wani | Ali Mohammad Wani | Tarhama Karhama | Principal Of The School |
| 8. | Syed Aijaz Ahmad Shah | Syed Gulam Mohammd Shah | Warpora Sopore | Member |
| 9. | Manzoor Ahmad Ganie | Abdul Aziz Ganie | Gokhama Kunzer | Member |
| 10. | Gulam Hassan Bhat | Abdul Samad Bhat | Reram Kunzer | Member |
| 11. | Irfan Ahmad Mir | Mohammad Maqbool Mir | Hariwantoo Tangmarg | Member |
| 12. | Mohammad Ashraf Dar | Gulam Mohammad Dar | Hardu-Ichloo Tangmarg | Member |
| 13. | Bashir Ahmad Parray | Ali Mohammad Parray | Druroo Tangmarg | Member |
| 14. | Miss. Kousar Fayaz | Fayaz Ahmad Bhat | Treran Tangmarg | Member |

Note: The above members are running the educational institution Hanfia model High school Chandilora Tangmarg. Anybody having any objection, submit the same to the office of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla within a period of seven days.

Walnut Ads 9796177177
Sd. Sarparstalla / Chairman
Hanfia Model High School Chandilora Tangmarg



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head Complex Jammu
Phone No: 0191-2477519 Fax No - 0191-2477389 Email ID: ceo-jk@nic.in
"Greater participation for a Stronger Democracy"



Notification

JAMMU, DATED THE 21st NOVEMBER, 2020

Whereas, Section 12 (1) of the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 & Section 19 (1) of the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000 envisage filling of vacant seats in Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils/Committees respectively, whenever such vacancies occur;

Whereas, Chief Electoral Officer, after necessary preparatory works in this regard, has announced the schedule of election to vacant seats in Urban Local Bodies in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 9 and Section 282 of the Jammu & Kashmir. Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 and the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Act 2000, respectively, the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K hereby appoints the following dates with respect to the conduct of elections for vacant seats in respect of Municipal Council and Municipal Committees, shown in the Annexure appended to this notification:-

- the 21st November, 2020 (Saturday) as the date of issuance of the Gazette Notification.
- the 28th November, 2020 (Saturday) as the last date for making nominations.
- the 01st December, 2020 (Tuesday) as the date for the scrutiny of nominations.
- the 03rd December, 2020 (Thursday) as the last date for withdrawal of candidature.
- The 16th December 2020 (Wednesday) as the date on which a poll, if necessary, shall be taken from 07:00 a.m. to 02:00 p.m.
- the 22nd December, 2020 (Tuesday) as the date of counting, unless notified otherwise.
- the 24th December, 2020 (Thursday) as the date before which the election shall be completed.

Encl: - Annexure

DIPK-NB-4031/20

No. 2173/CEO/ME/2020/1795-1804

ANNEXURE

To notification dated 21.11.2020 of Phase – VII Municipal By-Elections, 2020
JAMMU DIVISION

| S. No. | Name of the District | Municipal Corporation/Council/Committee | Ward Numbers |
|--------|----------------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | Ramban | Municipal Council Ramban | 2 |
| 2 | Reasi | Municipal Committee Katra | 11 |
| 3 | Kathua | Municipal Council Kathua | 2,7 |

KASHMIR DIVISION

| S. No. | Name of the District | Municipal Corporation/Council/Committee | Ward Numbers |
|--------|----------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Anantnag | Municipal Council Anantnag Municipal Committee Kokernag | 5,15,16,23,25 3,4 |
| 2 | Kulgam | Municipal Committee Frisal Municipal Committee Yariipura | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13 1,2,4 |

Autumn Ethnic Food, Craft Fest Today

SRINAGAR : Director Tourism, Kashmir, Nisar Ahmad Wani today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to finalise arrangements for two day tourism festival 'Autumn Ethnic Food and Craft Festival,' here.

The tourism festival is scheduled to begin with an event, 'Ethnic Food Competition' at Institute of Hotel Management, Srinagar, on November 21, 2020. The local women who have already registered with the department are allowed to participate in the event.

Besides Ethnic food, the local Craft and Culture will be showcased during the two day festival.

The tourism festival will conclude on November, 22 at Kongposh Restaurant, Zero bridge Srinagar.

The Director said that the festival will provide a platform for ladies to express themselves and will revive the local food culture.

He also said that Kashmir is open for tourists and with this festival the message is loud and clear that Kashmir is ready to host diversified tourists.

Lok Adalat at Anantnag on Dec 12

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 20: According to the Chairman District Legal Services Authority Anantnag, a National Lok Adalat will be organised under the Chairmanship of the Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. Distt. and Sessions Judge Ang.).

The National Lok Adalat is to be organised for amicable settlement of Pre-litigation/pending cases in the courts particularly cases u/s 138 NI Act, MACT, Matrimonial/Family disputes, Labour disputes, Civil cases, criminal cases, Bank Recovery cases, Electricity, Water Bills and other civil cases before the courts at District Headquarter Anantnag and in subordinate courts on 12 December, 2020.

In DDC polls, people will teach PAGD politicians a lesson: Naqvi

Srinagar: Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday said that the "Gupkar Declaration" will prove to be a "Death Declaration for Destructive and Dynasty Politics" in Jammu and Kashmir and people will teach them a lesson in the forthcoming DDC elections.

Minister said that the motive behind conducting DDC elections is that there should be people's participation in the political process, however, some leaders were trying to mislead common people and were becoming a hurdle in the political and democratic process.

Naqvi was addressing a convention of Bharatiya Janata Party workers in Balhama area in the outskirts of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that these leaders have earlier decided not to contest the elections but when they saw the common people tak-



There was no need to conduct elections after the abrogation of Article 370 but it was decided to conduct these elections with the sole motive of people's participation in the political process in Jammu and Kashmir

ing part in these elections they came up with the alliance called "Gupkar Declaration" which will prove to be a "Death Declaration for Dynasty and Destructive Politics" in Jammu and Kashmir.

"For how long this dynasty ego will run, one day it will have to crumble and people will make this dynasty ego crumble. This 'Khandani Garoor and Pandani Suroor' will not last long," he said.

He said that for the last 70 years, the funds which had been coming to Jammu and Kashmir for development have been looted by these dynasty leaders. "Even if only half of those funds would have been utilized for the development here, the roads would have been made of silver and gold in Jammu and Kashmir but these leaders built bungalows for themselves in every nook and corner of the world."

He said that they will have to

pay back every penny they have looted over the past 70 years even if they make many more alliances' like this. He also said that the motive of conducting DDC elections in Jammu and Kashmir is that every citizen of the UT will take part in the political process.

"There was no need to conduct elections after the abrogation of Article 370 but it was decided to conduct these elections with the sole motive of people's participation in the political process in Jammu and Kashmir."

He said that they would have run the affairs of Jammu and Kashmir like Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti did in the past, however, they wanted common people to participate in the political process and when there is people's participation in the political process, there will be people's participation in development, prosperity and progress.

IUST constitutes Intl' Ethics Committee

Awantipora, Nov 20: Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has taken a lead in constituting the Institutional Ethics Committee (Institutional Review Board) comprising experts from both outside and within the university. The committee will set forth procedures for upholding the highest ethical norms for research and development within the varsity.

The maiden meeting of the board was held today at the campus under the chairmanship of Prof. Shariq Masoodi (Head Endocrinology SKIMS), and was attended by Prof. Adil Hafiz (Head, Department of

Plastic Surgery), Dr. Arshad Ahmad Pandith (Sr. Scientist, Advanced Centre for Human Genetics SKIMS), Dr. Monisa Qadiri (IUST) Advocate Usman Gani, Asmat Parveen (IUST), Dr. Muzafar Ahmad Macha (IUST), Mohammad Latif Bhat (Awantipora).

Prof. Masoodi briefed all the members about the roles and responsibilities of this committee and welcomed the constitution of this committee by the IUST VC. The committee discussed various research proposals and carved a procedure for developing various SOPs, practices in future.

SAD DEMISE
It is to inform with great grief and sorrow that our beloved Bashir Ahmad Gujri S/o Aashur Gujri R/o Sheshyar Habba Kadal Srinagar, left for heavenly abode on 19 Nov 2020. The mourning will be held only on three days upto 22 Nov 2020 (Sunday). There will be no congregational Fateh Khwani.
Note: Ladies are requested to not bring any kind of fruits & other things.
BEREAVED FAMILY PH.NO.: 8082458639

Aakash Medical IIT-JEE Foundations
NOTIFICATION
It is hereby notified to all Parents/Students that there are a lot of fake calls going on which scammers are portraying to be us and are mentioning Aakash Faculties. Please do not pay any heed to such calls. Always check the number by calling our helplines.
Rajbagh: 8491047228 or 8491047229, Nigeen: 9107926842 or 9107926847, Rawalpota: 6006750448 or 6006750449, Whatsapp: 9419229143
Sincerely – Aakash Management
0194-2454540 | 0194-2436550 | 0194-2410540

Email: dlsa.sgr@gmail.com
Phone: - 0194-2489768
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
(Pr. District & Sessions Judge) SRINAGAR
NOTIFICATION
No: 10/cir/dlsa/sgr/20
Dated: 19/11/2020
District Legal Services Authority Srinagar is going to organize National Lok Adalat on 12-12-2020 in the premises of District Court Complex Moominabad Srinagar. Parties or their Advocates whose cases are pending before any Court at District Court Complex Moominabad Srinagar or before the Court of Additional Mobile Magistrate TFC Panthachowk and are desirous to settle their cases/ claims /matters through the Lok Adalat scheduled herein above shall approach the concerned Courts by or before 05-12-2020. Besides parties whose cases are not pending (i.e. Pre Litigation matters) in any court but desire to settle their disputes can also approach Secretary District Legal Services Authority Srinagar on cell no's 9419167570, 9797226035 and 9906921210 email id: dlsa.sgr@gmail.com by or before 05-12-2020. So that their cases, claims or matters can be settled amicably in the National Lok Adalat.
Following types of cases (Pre litigation and pending in courts)
Pre Litigation
i. NI Act cases under section 138;
ii. Money recovery cases
iii. Labour dispute cases
iv. Electricity and water bills cases (excluding non compoundable)
v. Maintenance cases
vi. Other (Criminal compoundable, and other civil disputes)
Pending in Courts
i. Criminal compoundable offence
ii. NI Act cases under section 138;
iii. Money recovery cases
iv. MACT cases
v. Labour dispute cases
vi. Electricity and water bills cases (excluding non compoundable)
vii. Matrimonial disputes (except Divorce)
viii. Land acquisition cases
ix. Service matters relating to pay and allowances and retiral benefits.
x. Revenue cases (Pending in District Courts and High Courts only)
xi. Other civil cases (Rent, easmentary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits) etc.
(Abdul Rashid Malik)
Chairman
District Legal Services Authority
(Pr. Distt & Sessions Judge) Srinagar
DIPK-9302/20
No: 1223/dlsa/sgr/20
Dated: 19/11/2020

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL
Address: Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Fresh NIT NO.132/2020-21 issue under endorsement No.10622-31
Dated-19-11-2020
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT J&K, CPWD, Railways and other UT/Central Governments for the following works:-
S. No Name of the Work Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees) Earnest Money (in Rs.) Time Class of Contractor Major Head of Account
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.
1 Balance items for sanitary fittings, plumbing and building drainage for Psychology block of Degree College Kangan under languishing. 10.37 Lacs 600/- 20740/= 15 Cal days DEE/CEE/Languishing BEE
1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-
1 Date of Issue of Tender Notice 19-11-2020
2 Period of downloading of bidding documents 19-11-2020 from 4:00 PM.
3 Bid submission Start Date 19-11-2020 from 4:30 PM.
4 Bid Submission End Date 26-11-2020 upto 4:00 PM.
5 Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) 26-11-2020 at 04:05 P.M in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-
Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.
Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-
(a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of E-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st-Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids. b) The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing E-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt. c) Similarly, instead of insisting on actual Call Deposit Receipt, a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However before allotting the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR should be obtained and kept on record.
Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) and earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/. The date of Treasury Challan earnest Money/Bid Security should be between the date of start of the bid and Bid submission end date) pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal (tender receiving authority) Failing which the bidder is liable for rejection and shall be recommend for Panel action.
1. 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 Ganderbal (tender receiving authority).
1. The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
3. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).
4. 50% of the normal deposits (Deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50% after completion of DLP.
5. Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG shall be released after D.L.P is over successfully.
DIPK-9323/20
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal
No. 10622-23
DATED:- 19-11-2020

DIAL-EMMA
TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 245222, 2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311
RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BUBHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153
HIGHWAY STATUS
Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

PRAYERS
FAJR 5:40
ZUHR 12:14
ASR 3:50
Magrib 5:30
ISHA 6:51
HIJRI CALENDAR
05 Rabi-us-Sani
1442

This Day In History
235 - St Anterus begins his reign as Catholic Pope
695 Pope Sergius names Willibrord as Archbishop Clemens of Friezen
1272 - Following Henry III of England's death on November 16, his son Prince Edward becomes King of England.
1317 - Frederik of Sierck/Zyrick becomes bishop of Utrecht
1620 - Pilgrim Fathers reach America: Provincetown Harbor, Mass
1729 - Thomas Edison announces his "talking machine" invention (phonograph), the 1st machine to play and record sound
1794 - Battle at Maxen: Prussian army surrenders to Austrians
1794 - Honolulu Harbor discovered
1806 - Decree of Berlin: Emperor Napoleon I bans all trade with Britain
1813 - Stettin surrenders to allied armies
1818 Russia's Tsar Alexander I petitions for a Jewish state in Palestine
1877 - Thomas Edison announces his "talking machine" invention (phonograph), the 1st machine to play and record sound
1906 - China prohibits the opium trade
1914 - British army conquers Bazra
1917 - Maxim Gorky calls Vladimir Lenin a blind fanatic and unthinking adventurer
1918 - 2 German ammunition trains explode in Hamont Belgium, 1,750 die
1924 - British Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin cancels Labour contract with USSR
1942 - Hitler names field marshal Erich von Manstein commander of the newly-created Army Group Don (Heeresgruppe Don)
1944 - The personnel & executive staff of Philips demonstrate for more food
1945 - Benjamin Britten's 2nd String quartet in C premieres
1945 - General Motors workers go on strike
1946 - Georgi Dimitrov elected premier of Bulgaria
1946 - Harry Truman becomes 1st US President to travel in a submerged sub
1947 - Bill Longson beats Lou Thesz in St Louis, to win National Wrestling Association world heavyweight title
1949 - Bill Veack sells Indians for \$22 million
1952 - 1st US postage stamp in 2 colors (rotary process) introduced
1953 - Authorities at the British Natural History Museum announce the "Piltdown Man" skull, one of the most famous fossil skulls in the world, is a hoax
1955 - Argentina asks Panama for return of ex-president Peron
1962 - The Chinese People's Liberation Army declares a unilateral cease-fire in the Sino-Indian War.
1967 - Vietnam War: American General William Westmoreland tells news reporters: "I am absolutely certain that whereas in 1965 the enemy was winning, today he is certainly losing."
1970 - General Hafez al-Assad becomes Prime Minister of Syria following military coup
1971 - Battle of Garibpur: Indian troops aided by Mukti Bahini (Bengali guerrillas) defeat the Pakistan army
1974 - Birmingham pub bombings: 21 civilians killed when bombs explode at two pubs in Birmingham, England (deadliest attack in England during "the Troubles")
1989 - Law banning smoking on most domestic flights signed by US President George H. W. Bush
2002 - NATO invites Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to become members.
2012 - An Israel and Hamas ceasefire is negotiated
2013 - 31 people are killed by a truck bomb in northeastern Iraq
2013 - The Alabama parole board grants posthumous pardons to three members of the Scottsboro boys
2016 - India celebrates 50th anniversary of IR8, rice variety specially bred that saved much of Asia from famine

From KO Archives
SPOs rape 2 women at gunpoint in Lolab
Observer News Service
BARAMULLA: A pair of special police officers assaulted two Dardpora women in Lolab forests last night. The perpetrators, who stalked the victims in the forest where they had gone to collect fire wood, have been identified as Nazir Ahmad Tantray, son of Ghulam Rasool Tantray and Manzoor Ahmad Lone, son of Jabbar Lone, both from Dardpora, Lolab, - the victims' native village. They have been arrested by the police.
A NAFA report said in Srinagar that two pro-government gunmen had entered a Warpora household with the intention of robbery. Finding the two women alone in the house - the rest of the family was away at a wedding - the Ikhwans assaulted them at gun point and later carried them to the nearby forests to repeatedly subject them to the heinous act. The village was seething with rage after the two traumatized women returned this morning and recounted what had befallen them.
ONS in Baramulla identified the victims as Shafiqua, daughter of Ghulam Nabi Mir, and Atiqua wife of Fayaz Ahmad. NAFA, however, said that both were married and Shafiqua was the wife of Ghulam Nabi Mir. The report said the victims as well as the criminals belong to Warpora. The criminals have been arrested by Lalpora police and two AK rifles recovered from them, it said.
(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 21 NOVEMBER, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



“Biden should recommit the US to the pursuit of global democracy, human rights and international law, while strongly condemning authoritarian regimes, dictators and human rights violators.”

Gilgit-Baltistan Elections

Why Kashmir's 'Pro-Azadi' Camp Isn't Celebrating

NILOOFAR QURESHI

Ever since its launch three decades ago, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has consistently been advocating the idea of 'Kashmir banega Pakistan' (Kashmir will become part of Pakistan). And on this issue, it has the full backing of Hizbul Mujahideen, which is carrying on an 'armed struggle' in Kashmir for the same purpose. Thus, Islamabad's grant of provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan and holding elections there should have been a cause of great rejoicing, especially since GB (which is part of J&K) now becoming 'part of Pakistan' amounts to a major psychological victory for both the separatist conglomerate and militant groups.

However, instead of celebrations, there's complete silence within APHC, which is a distinct sign that merger of GB with Pakistan has come as a rude shock for the pro-azadi camp in J&K. When Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan proposed grant of provincial status to GB, most people had thought that that this plan would fizzle out, just like it did when it was being considered in 2014 and again in 2016 since there was widespread opposition from APHC leadership Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK) assembly and even the HM supremo. This makes one wonder as to why the 'pro-azadi' camp and HM, (which owes its existence to Islamabad's support) which opposed this move twice in the past, hasn't it done so for the third time now?

In 2014, when Pakistan's Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan (KAGB) announced the GB merger plan, the PaK assembly opposed this idea and unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that, "Making Gilgit-Baltistan a fifth province will weaken Pakistan's national stand on Jammu and Kashmir at the international level. "The PaK Assembly logically justified this resolution by mentioning that, "Whenever a plebiscite is conducted the people of GB will also have the right to decide their future with the people of other parts of the State of Jammu and Kashmir". This is a very pertinent view as it fulfils the mandatory condition laid down in the UN resolution on self-determination, which the APHC is fighting for! Since KAGB didn't pursue this proposal any further, it seems that it was convinced by the PaK assembly's views.

Two years later, when the Nawaz Sharif government again announced the GB merger plan, the AHPC opposed it tooth and nail for several extremely valid reasons. In its statement, the joint resistance leadership (JRL) of APHC (represented by SAS Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Mohammad Yasin Malik) reminded Islamabad that, "Any proposal to declare GB as the fifth prov-



“In 2014, when Pakistan's Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan (KAGB) announced the GB merger plan, the PaK assembly opposed this idea and unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that making Gilgit-Baltistan a fifth province will weaken Pakistan's national stand on Jammu and Kashmir at the international level.”

ince of Pakistan is unacceptable as it tantamount to changing the disputed nature of Kashmir." The JRL also cautioned Islamabad that, "... any deviation in its stance about Kashmir and its geographical entity is improper and will prove detrimental for Kashmir cause."

For the first time in history, key Hurriyat leaders as well as United Jihad Council (UJC) chief Syed Salahuddin came out unanimously to outrightly condemn a proposal made by Islamabad, a clear sign that the GB merger plan was unwelcome. In his typically blunt and forthright style, Hurriyat (G) leader SAS Geelani hit out saying, "There are no constitutional as well as moral justification in making any decision over any part of this territory without the consent of its people and it is also a clear violation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir." JKLF chief Yasin Malik too wrote a letter to Sharif warning him that, "If Paki-

stan imposes its sovereign writ over GB, India will then have a political and moral right to integrate Kashmir with it. With one stroke, Pakistan will be helping India to consolidate its writ on Kashmir".

'Freedom Party' President Shabbir Ahmed Shah pointed out that, "it (GB merger) will have an adverse impact on the entire Kashmir dispute," as "this will also give India a chance to make a stronger claim for this side of Kashmir and also weaken our case at the UN." He also warned Islamabad that "merger of GB will also have a significant implication on the demand for implementation of the United Nations resolutions which call for referendum in the state as it existed prior to the division in 1947."

Even the HM supremo who generally avoids commenting on political issues, spoke up and said, "Such a step would impact the Kashmir dispute at the United Nations and give India a legal and moral pretext to lay claim on Kashmir" since

"such an act on part of Pakistan will have serious ramifications on Kashmir issue as well as Kashmir centric UN resolutions (as) Pakistan's move will give India justification in taking over parts of Kashmir". Due to such strong opposition, the GB merger proposal was shelved once again.

However, the Imran Khan led PTI government has now gone ahead and implemented this plan despite objections from some APHC leaders. However, what's ironic is not that Islamabad disregarded the appeals of APHC, but that the opposition to this plan from those heading the pro-azadi camp including UJC was so subdued that it gave an impression of being just a face-saving act and merely lip-service. This could be the actual reason why despite merger of GB with Pakistan being the very 'first step' towards fulfilling the APHC's 'Kashmir banega Pakistan' dream is not being hailed or celebrated by the separatist conglomerate. And it is quite likely that on instructions from Islamabad, the separatists are keeping silent and not expressing their true feelings!

However, (like Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had told his countrymen before the UNSC meet on Kashmir), let's not live in a fool's paradise. With CPEC running through GB, its merger with Pakistan was bound to happen because for Beijing, ensuring legal safeguard for this project matters more than the Kashmir issue and Islamabad has no other option but to oblige even if it means abandoning the Kashmir cause. This is why Islamabad made repeated to form consensus on GB merger.

This fact was well known to everyone including the APHC leadership right from the beginning and this is evident from the statements made by its leaders in the past. In January 2016, Geelani sahib made it clear to Islamabad that while, "we are not against the economic development and prosperity of the South Asian Region but creating trade routes (CPEC running through GB) on the cost of rights, interests, wishes and sacrifices of Kashmiri nation is injustice and unkind and it is also against the traditional and national Kashmir policy of Pakistan."

Whatever Islamabad may say now to justify GB's merger, the one thing that's now become very clear is that Islamabad has no reply to Geelani sahib's honest observation that "creating trade routes on the cost of rights, interests, wishes and sacrifices of Kashmiri nation is injustice and unkind and it is also against the traditional and national Kashmir policy of Pakistan".

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

The author is a New Delhi based analyst

In his election victory speech on 7 November, President-elect Joe Biden promised to "make America respected" again by salvaging its global reputation, which took a steep fall throughout President Donald Trump's tenure and dropped to record lows in 2020.

This represents an astonishing failure for Brand USA, given the dizzying heights to which American soft power had soared by the end of the Cold War, with the high-water mark of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, when the US men's basketball "Dream Team" and Michael Jackson's "Dangerous World Tour" were the hottest tickets on the planet. This was a year or so after Saddam Hussein's forces were removed from Kuwait, and a charismatic and energetic Bill Clinton was en route to the Oval Office.

The world couldn't get enough of anything emotionally and materially attached to Brand USA, from Hollywood films and American pop stars, to Nike shoes, IBM computers, McDonald's and Burger King. If it was American, it was desired. This is why when 19 hijackers brought the Twin Towers in New York City crumbling to the ground in 2001, taking with them thousands of lives, international newspaper headlines read: "We are all Americans."

Sadly, it took President George W Bush all of five minutes to unwind this unprecedented level of global solidarity and goodwill towards the US. The world was repulsed by his buffoonish, cartoonish cowboy swagger, and divided by his false binary of being "with us or against us". Citizens of the world are far more complex and nuanced than the obnoxious and jingoistic "my country, right or wrong" odes sung by US hyper-patriots.

The illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003; the grotesque abuses against detainees at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and CIA black sites around the world; the secretive drone wars; and the unrelenting killing of civilians by warplanes carrying the US flag and that

Can Joe Biden restore Brand America?

CJ WERLEMAN

of its allies in Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan, Mali, Yemen and elsewhere led around a third of respondents in a 2017 Pew survey to identify the US as a major threat to global peace.

Recommitting to democracy

Needless to say, Biden has an enormously heavy lift to restore his country's reputation to the levels it enjoyed in the post-Cold War and pre-

man Rights Council, Unesco, UNRWA, the World Health Organization, the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris climate accords - and mend damage done by Trump to longtime US alliances, including Nato and the European Union.

Biden should reset the Israeli-Palestinian peace process by promising to act as an honest and impartial broker, ending the uncritical support the Trump administration handed the Netanyahu

“Biden Should End The secretive US drone war, which continues to kill civilians in many parts of the world, including Somalia, Afghanistan and Yemen. He should promise to resolve the conflict in Kashmir.”

9/11 era, but there are a number of places where he could and should start.

Biden should recommit the US to the pursuit of global democracy, human rights and international law, while strongly condemning authoritarian regimes, dictators and human rights violators. In the same vein, he should recommit the US to multilateral institutions and treaties - including the UN Hu-

man Rights Council, Unesco, UNRWA, the World Health Organization, the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris climate accords - and mend damage done by Trump to longtime US alliances, including Nato and the European Union.

In addition, Biden should end the Muslim travel ban, which has cruelly deprived Arab American

families of visits to their loved ones for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, funerals and to see sick relatives. He should give a clear and unambiguous condemnation of white supremacy, white nationalism and other violent, far-right ideologies.

In Yemen, Biden should end US military support for the Saudi-led war, which has claimed more than 100,000 lives and created the world's largest humanitarian crisis. He should end blank-cheque military support for serial human rights violators, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Israel.

Preserving international law

Biden should end the secretive US drone war, which continues to kill civilians in many parts of the world, including Somalia, Afghanistan and Yemen. He should promise to resolve the conflict in Kashmir and condemn the Indian government for its human rights violations in the Muslim-majority territory.

The incoming president should also recommit to international law as it pertains to the prevention of genocide and ethnic cleansing, and hold accountable those responsible for the persecution of Uighur Muslims in China, Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, displaced Syrian refugees in Idlib, and others subjected to state terrorism.

On the domestic front, Biden needs to take measurable and meaningful steps to resolve racial injustices and other forms of inequality in the US.

Obviously, the measures identified above are non-exhaustive. There's an array of deeds and words the incoming White House administration could take to salvage the country's tarnished global reputation - but ultimately, the world won't follow or re-follow the US until it once again chooses to lead by example.

...
Middle-East Eye



Aquatic Orb: Fisheries in J&K

UZAIR KHANDAY

There is an urgent need to sharpen the awareness of the people and encourage them towards aquaculture, while putting a stop to the pollution of water bodies. A comprehensive plan for giving boost to the fisheries sector is needed in J&K

Each year, on the 21st of November, World Fisheries Day is celebrated in order to highlight the importance of the human lives involved in this sector and the water bodies that sustain aquatic lives. This day explores solutions to the increasingly interconnected worldwide problems in the implementation of the sustainable model. This day marks the future goals and milestones, bringing together not just the fisheries department but many other departments which are correlated with fisheries, under one roof. This day serves as an important reminder of the need to change the way we manage the fisheries sector in order to maintain stocks and healthy aquatic ecosystems. Fish diversity, apart from being a crucial source of food and livelihood, determines the health of the water bodies. Fish and Fisheries sector occupy a very important place in the socio-economic development of the state. This realm has been recognized as a powerful income and employment source of cheap and nutritious food, besides being a source of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population of UT of J&K. One in 10 people on the planet rely on fisheries and aquaculture to support their livelihood. In J&K, 93000 people are associated with the fisheries sector. The fisheries sector in J&K is considered as an emerging sector as the domain has an immense potential in to become a world class industry, with a water area as huge as 50000 hectares. The production from this vast water area is just 20000 tonnes per year while the requirement is 1.5 lakh tonnes, which can be easily achieved, provided that ample scientific techniques in culture and capture are used.

Even though the total fish production in J&K has increased a tad bit, as per a research conducted by a research scholar, Rather Tajamul, the fish production in Kashmir has decreased over the years.

The percentage share in total fish production from Kashmir declined from 84.18% in 2000 to 73.21% in 2018, implying a 10.97% decrease in fish production. The decreasing pace of growth of fisheries sector seems to be consistent with the decline in Kashmir's fish production. The deterioration of the fisheries sector is due to less government attention than it calls for, in terms of investment and creating of infrastructure.

The indigenous fish species of Kashmir are at high risk. Out of 13 species, 8 are extinct while remaining are waning. The fisheries code of conduct is not even being followed by licence holders who have been given permission for fishing. People are using chemicals like bleaching powder and dynamite to kill fish, although it is an offence under J&K Fisheries Act 1960. The department of fisheries is not able to put a check on all these offences due to a lack of manpower. J&K department of fisheries is left with just a handful of employees (around 1800 for all the districts and projects in J&K), out of which many are on the verge of retiring in a couple of years. Also, the punishments under J&K Fisheries Act 1960 are lenient. As per this act, if a person is found fishing in a prohibited area, they will be fined Rs 100 or undergo a jail term for 2 months or both and if a person is found using dynamites to kill fish, they will be fined Rs 50 or imprisoned for a month or both. This act had been formulated way back in 1960 and the punishments (as well as their implementation) are so less that offences could be committed repeatedly.

In June 2019, K Skandan, the then advisor to the Governor, speaking in a two day conference on Fisheries and climate change in SKUAST K, mentioned that massive fisheries and aquaculture programme has been undertaken by govt. to boost the fisheries industry in J&K. However, till date we have not seen an iota of development on that mas-

sive programme. The need of the hour is to overhaul the fisheries sector completely by recruiting the technical staff, using scientific techniques and vouching for a coordination with other concerned departments and academic institutions. Sher e Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology has established a separate faculty for fisheries which produces more than 50 fisheries graduates and post graduates per year who are technically sound and trained with scientific aids, specifically in the respective arena. The Government must take steps and utilise the services of these experts for the upliftment of fisheries sector in J&K. There is an urgent need to sharpen the awareness of the people and encourage them towards aquaculture, while putting a stop to the pollution of water bodies. A comprehensive plan for giving boost to the fisheries sector is needed in J&K. Fishing in the breeding season should be banned, leading to some positive help in increasing their number. New legislation which ensures stringent punishment to people for mass killing of fish is needed. The officers of the department should frequently visit villages located near the rivers, nallahs and streams to create awareness among the local people about the misuse of bleaching powder. The social activists from the Department of Environment in Environmental NGO's also have a great role to play in the uprooting of mass slaughter of fish. The directorate also needs to activate its officials, especially the field staff. Until measures are implemented in letter and spirit, the case of restoration of fisheries in J&K will remain an unfulfilled dream.

The author has a Bachelors in Fisheries science from Faculty of Fisheries SKUAST K and a Masters in Fisheries science from College of Fisheries Mangalore, Karnataka.

Let's Be Optimistic, Not Complacent

A vaccine may be on the way, but we shouldn't let down our guard until then

RAQIBUL MOHAMMAD ANWAR

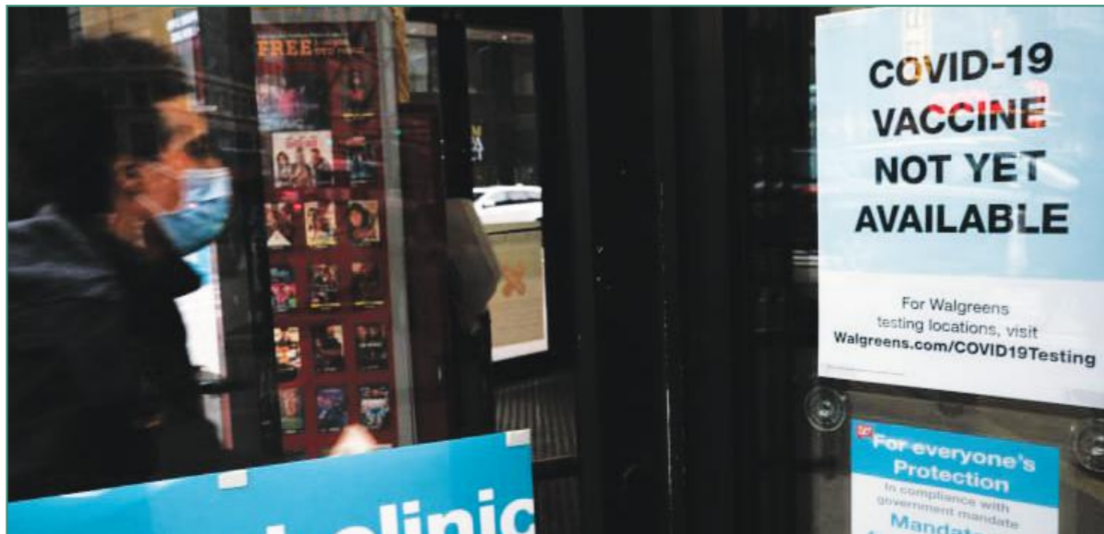
The breakthrough in the development of an effective vaccine against the deadliest virus of the century has so inspired and accelerated our optimism that even the most ardent scientific mind cast away any caution, repudiated by the excitement and enthusiasm.

Professor Sir John Bell, Regius professor of medicine at Oxford University and a member of the UK government's vaccine taskforce, stated with plentiful conviction and confidence that the invention and development of a vaccine, effective for over 90% of people inoculated in preventing Covid-19 infection, would be distributed early, and would be instrumental in returning life to normal by the coming spring.

Professor Bell commented to the members of the UK parliament that normalcy by spring time was a distinct possibility provided the distribution of the vaccine went without any glitch. Professor Bell had to tone down his enthusiasm, as he was muzzled by higher authorities and was obliged to mention that refusal by people to be vaccinated could cause concern, but his enthusiasm continued, and he reiterated his view on returning to normal by coming spring.

Since the race to develop a coronavirus vaccine started, and early trial phases demonstrated encouraging results on safety and immune responses, the real concern for everyone has been if any successfully developed vaccine would be effective in preventing the Covid infection. I only recently mentioned in the Dhaka Tribune's "Surgeon's Note" that research led by Professor David Matthews, from Bristol's School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, had concluded that the Oxford coronavirus vaccine functions comprehensively in the human body after inoculation and builds strong immunity to Covid-19, preventing the disease and not merely lessening the severity of infection.

The vaccine developed by German company BioNTech and American pharmaceutical company Pfizer is claimed to have outperformed expectations and has demonstrated effectiveness over 90%. The news of the Covid vaccine breakthrough sparked the



tales of a series of financial success-stories too, particularly the personalities steering the development, behind the scene, of not-so-well-known German company BioNTech.

Overnight, the company's value has ascended to a staggering \$22 billion. BioNTech was founded about 12 years ago by German scientists U r ahin and Özlem Türeci, who with the Austrian oncologist Christoph Huber, developed its vaccine. In contrast to the conventional vaccine that takes genetic information from a virus and cultivates it in a human cell, the mRNA method team led by U r ahin merely required the virus's genetic code, thus shortening the production process by many months.

Two doses of the vaccine are used at a time difference of three weeks, and provide possible immunity for at least a year. U r ahin, also the chief executive of BioNTech, firmly believes that the vaccine is capable of halting the pandemic as even prevention of symptomatic infection would dramatically improve the situation. Though the technology of the vaccine by BioNTech is different from that of the Oxford vac-

cine, both are capable of imparting strong immune responses through both antibody and T-cell mechanism.

The jointly developed vaccine candidate had outperformed expectations in its vital phase-3 trial, stopping people from falling ill, but the data has not been peer reviewed and is yet to be published in the scientific journals, and this failure makes it impossible for the scientific community to decide on the acceptability and the authenticity of the claim for the vaccine without reservation.

Information is also not available if the vaccine protects against Covid infection, or allows infection but not development of Covid symptoms. The effectiveness of the vaccine in asymptomatic Covid patients is also unknown. There is, however, speculation that if the vaccine prevents infection, by default, it should also prevent transmission of infection between individuals.

But if it allows asymptomatic infection, it may not be effective in preventing transmission of the disease, opening up of all possibilities of the disease manifestations on the newly infected individual. Usually, though the effectiveness of a vaccine is less

pronounced in the old age group, it is impossible to accurately comment on the effectiveness of BioNTech and Pfizer vaccines on the elderly. Analysis of data is also not available, which is essential to deduce the reasons for a proportion of people's failure to respond to the vaccine.

Though enthusiasm provides a healthy buzz through a body's natural endorphins, over-enthusiasm and enthusiasm mistimed or misplaced, often may create the unpleasant emotions of disappointments. In case of Professor Bell, enthusiasm may have been mistimed, particularly when expectation of improvement is not due for another several months and the infection rate and mortality from this deadly virus has exceeded this month those observed in the spring and the summer in many European countries and the US.

In America, the coronavirus surge has shattered daily records for cases and hospital admissions and is set to last longer. It is now being estimated that the daily incidents may exceed a million a day towards the end of the current year. European authorities are especially concerned that the news of the breakthrough in developing a potent vaccine has caused disproportionate and premature enthusiasm regarding expectations of normal life soon, with hope of a near-normal Christmas.

This hope and expectation gravely worried European officials, who believe that such overzealous aspirations would surely bring complacency leading to the ignoring of measures designed to prevent worsening of the winter surge of Covid infection. Their concern is that if people become complacent and decide to ignore lockdowns and public health measures against Covid, many would miss the opportunity to observe the days when our life returns to normal, as a vaccine would not come soon enough for many.

Dr Raqibul Mohammad Anwar is Specialist Surgeon, and Global Health Policy and Planning Expert, Retired Colonel, Royal Army Medical Corps, UK Armed Forces.

Dhaka Tribune

Smartwatches could help detect COVID-19 before symptoms appear: Study



Smartwatches and other wearable devices that continuously measure vital signs can detect changes in the body up to nine days before COVID-19 symptoms appear, according to a study.

The researchers from Stanford University School of Medicine in the US analysed data from 32 individuals infected with COVID-19, identified from a group of nearly 5,300 participants.

They found that 26 of them (81 per cent) had alterations in their heart rate, number of daily steps or time asleep.

The study, published in the journal Nature Biomedical Engineering, found that for 22 cases they were able to detect changes before or at symptom onset, with four cases detected at least nine days earlier. The findings suggest that activity tracking and health monitoring via smartwatches and similar devices may be used for the large-scale, real-time detection of respiratory infections.

Early detection of infectious disease is important to mitigate the spread of disease by increasing self-isolation and early treatments, the researchers said.

Presently, most diagnostic methods involve sampling nasal fluids, saliva or blood, followed by nucleic acid-based tests for detecting active infections or blood-based serological detec-

tion for past infections.

"Although they are highly sensitive, nucleic acid-based diagnostics may require samples gathered several days post-exposure for unambiguous positive detection," the study authors said.

"Moreover, they cannot be implemented routinely at low cost and are constrained by emerging shortages in key reagents," they said. The researchers noted that smartwatches and other wearable devices are already used by tens of millions of people worldwide and measure many physiological parameters, such as heart rate, skin temperature and sleep.

They investigated the use of wearable devices for the early detection of COVID-19 in a retrospective manner, and also present an approach for using wearable device-detected physiological parameters for real-time health monitoring and surveillance.

"Using heart rate and steps data from a large cohort of 5,262 individuals, we show that heart rate signals from fitness trackers can be used to retrospectively detect COVID-19 infection well in advance of symptom onset," the authors said.

"In addition, we developed an online detection algorithm to identify early stages of infection by real-time heart rate monitoring," they said. (PTI)

Although they are highly sensitive, nucleic acid-based diagnostics may require samples gathered several days post-exposure for unambiguous positive detection"

How are Travel Insurance & COVID-19 Connected in the New Normal?

Sponsored Feature

With the fear of Coronavirus instilled in our minds, most of us have been staying indoors since the time lockdown restrictions were first imposed. Although no-commute guidelines were meant for public benefit, it had created a dullness on the roads and in the sky. Now that the count of COVID-19 cases has reduced over time, national and international skies are opening up again for transit.

If you are making plans to fly abroad in the time ahead, buying traveler's insurance should be one of your top priorities. Particularly if you have the elderly accompanying you on the trip, it is crucial to purchase travel insurance for senior citizens to travel abroad. There are many reasons why buying traveler's insurance is worth it during the COVID pandemic.

1. Coverage for Flight Delays or Cancellation

When you travel to a foreign country, flight cancellation or delays might impact your plans severely. The harm it causes can be even bigger at the time when you are returning from the trip. It is because you will need to arrange for accommodation and other expenses for an uncertain time.

Traveler's insurance, in general, covers flight delays or cancellation. Take the case of Tata AIG International Travel Guard plan under which you can get additional expenses reimbursed if the flight gets delayed for more than 12 hours. It solves many problems that may arise otherwise for not being able to stay back in a foreign land on financial grounds.

2. Medical Cover

Healthcare emergencies can occur anytime, without us being aware of the outcome. Lack of preparedness for such emergencies often results in a financial burden, especially when you are not in your homeland. Under traveler's insurance, you will be compensated for the treatment incurred on account of sickness or injury during the foreign trip.

Many travel insurance providers are now following strict guidelines related to medical cover during COVID times. In most cases,

medical expenses related to COVID-19 treatment are covered but only if it leads to emergency hospitalization. You should check the COVID-related terms of these plans before you buy any of them.

3. Accidental Death

A health crisis can also lead to accidental death during a foreign trip. While you cannot predict such eventualities, you can stay prepared for them with a suitable traveler's insurance plan. In case of accidental death, the insurance provider pays the principal sum, as defined in the policy document.

You should know that there is a specific limit to the compensation one can get under such events. You are allowed to increase this limit or opt for a higher sum assured voluntarily. Check with the insurer about further details in this aspect.



What Else Should You Know While Buying Travel Insurance During COVID?

1. Isolation or self-quarantine in a foreign land may not be covered under traveler's insurance. If the health experts would advise isolation to you, you have to incur the related costs.
2. Travel insurance providers may ask you about the recent travel history or exposure to a COVID-19 patient to decide on offering the policy. Also, the current COVID-19 situation in the destination land you are traveling to may impact the insurance premium. Insurance companies could also avoid selling travel insurance for some specific countries where the risk of Coronavirus infection is high.
3. It is crucial to check traveler's insurance exclusions related to pre-existing conditions in the policy document carefully, particularly for travel insurance for senior citizens to travel abroad. This will help you avoid any hassle at the time of settling claims.

Math shows diverse thinkers equal better results

Whether it is ants forming a trail or individuals crossing the street, the exchange of information is key in making everyday decisions. But new Florida State University research shows that the group decision-making process may work best when members process information a bit differently.

Bhargav Karamched, assistant professor of mathematics, and a team of researchers published a new study today that tackles how groups make decisions and the dynamics that make for fast and accurate decision making. He found that networks that consisted of both impulsive and deliberate individuals made, on average, quicker and better decisions than a group with homogenous thinkers.

"In groups with impulsive and deliberate individuals, the first decision is made quickly by an impulsive individual who needs little evidence to make a choice," Karamched said. "But, even when wrong, this fast decision can reveal the correct options to everyone else. This is not the case in homogenous groups."

The paper is published in Physical Review Letters.

Researchers noted in the paper that the exchange of information is crucial in a variety of biological and social functions. But Karamched said although information sharing in networks has been studied quite a bit, very little work has been done on how individuals in a network should integrate information from their peers with their own private evidence accumulation. Most of the studies, both theoretical and experimental, have focused on how isolated individuals optimally gather evidence to make a choice.

"This work was motivated by that," Karamched said. "How

should individuals optimally accumulate evidence they see for themselves with evidence they obtain from their peers to make the best possible decisions?"

Kresimir Josi, Moores Professor of Mathematics, Biology and Biochemistry at the University of Houston and senior author of the study, noted that the process works best when individuals in a group make the most of their varied backgrounds to collect the necessary materials and knowledge to make a final decision.

"In groups with impulsive and deliberate individuals, the first decision is made quickly by an impulsive individual who needs little evidence to make a choice"

"Collective social decision making is valuable if all individuals have access to different types of information," Josi said. Karamched used mathematical modelling to reach his conclusion but said there is plenty of room for follow-up research.

Karamched said that his model assumes that evidence accrued by one individual is independent of evidence collected by another member of the group. If a group of individuals is trying to make a decision based on information that is available to everyone, additional modelling would need to account for how correlations in the information affect collective decision-making.

"For example, to choose between voting Republican or Democrat in an election, the information available to everyone is common and not specifically made for one individual," he said. "Including correlations will require developing novel techniques to analyze models we develop." Agencies.

Collective social decision making is valuable if all individuals have access to different types of information"

Query on insomnia surged amid Covid lockdown: Study

Researchers have found a significant increase in the number of online search queries for 'insomnia' when governments around the world implemented stay-at-home orders in response to the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak.

The results, published in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine, there were 2.77 million Google searches for insomnia in the US for the first five months of 2020, an increase of 58 per cent compared with the same period from the previous three years.

While searches for insomnia trended downward from January through March 2020, consistent with prior years, they surged upward in April and May 2020. This increase also was associated with the cumulative number of Covid-19-related deaths in the spring.



"I think it's safe to say, based on our findings as well as those from survey studies showing an increased level of insomnia symptoms in certain populations, that a lot of people were having trouble sleeping during the first months of the pandemic," said lead author Kirsy-Marja Zitting from the Brigham and Women's Hospital in the US.

I think it's safe to say, based on our findings as well as those from survey studies showing an increased level of insomnia symptoms in certain populations, that a lot of people were having trouble sleeping during the first months of the pandemic"

Insomnia involves difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep, or regularly waking up earlier than desired, despite allowing enough time in bed for sleep.

The researchers analysed Google search data in the US and worldwide between January 1, 2004, and May 31, 2020.

Consistent with prior years, searches for insomnia in 2020 occurred most frequently during typical sleeping hours between midnight and 5 a.m., peaking around 3 a.m.

"This is the prime time for sleeping, so all these people were awake and probably wondering why they couldn't sleep," said Zitting.

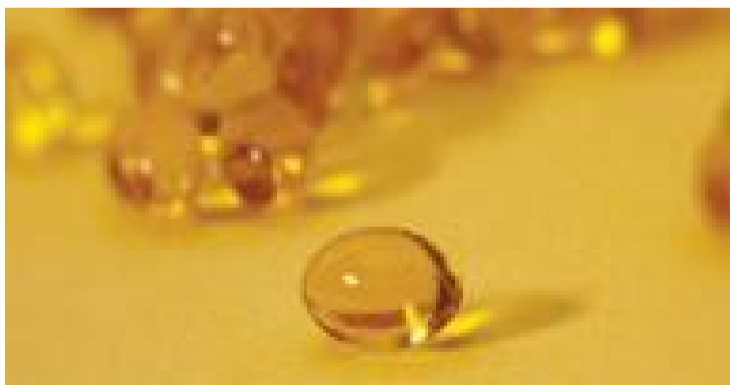
Due to concern about the potential long-term impact of the pandemic on sleep quality, the researcher said that she plans to continue tracking searches for insomnia.

"While acute insomnia, typically triggered by stress or a traumatic event, will often go away on its own, I am worried that the longer this pandemic drags on, the greater the number of people who go on to develop chronic insomnia," Zitting said.

"And unlike acute insomnia, chronic insomnia can be difficult to treat," she added. (Agencies)

'Take VitaminD supplements to reduce cancer risk'

It seems like we have now one more reason to take vitamin D supplements as researchers have found that vitamin D was associated with an overall 17 per cent risk reduction for advanced cancer.



When the research team looked at only participants with a normal body mass index (BMI), they found a 38 per cent risk reduction, suggesting that body mass may influence the relationship between vitamin D and decreased risk of advanced cancer.

"The findings suggest that vitamin D may reduce the risk of developing advanced cancers," said study author Paulette Chandler from the Brigham and Women's Hospital in the US.

"Vitamin D is a supplement that's readily available, cheap and has been used and studied for decades. Our findings, especially the strong risk reduction seen," Chandler added.

The researchers conducted the Vitamin D and Omega-3 Trial (VITAL) study, which was a rigorous, placebo-controlled study that took place over a span of more than five years.

VITAL study was designed to test the independent effects of vitamin D and Omega-3 supplements as well as to test for synergy between the two.

Participants were divided into four groups: vitamin D plus Omega-3s, vitamin D plus placebo, Omega-3s plus placebo, and placebos for both. Primary endpoints were major adverse cardiovascular events and the incidence of cancer.

VITAL did not find a statistical difference in overall cancer rates, but researchers did observe a reduction in the cancer-related deaths.

In their secondary analysis, the research team followed up on the possible reduction in cancer deaths with an evaluation of advanced (metastatic or fatal) cancer among participants who did or did not take vitamin D supplements during the trial.

They also examined the possible

modifying effect of BMI.

Among the more than 25,000 participants in the VITAL study, 1,617 were diagnosed with invasive cancer over the next five years.

This included a broad mix of cancers (breast, prostate, colorectal, lung and more). Of the almost 13,000 participants who received vitamin D, 226 were diagnosed with advanced cancer compared to 274 who received the placebo.

Of the 7,843 participants with a normal body mass index (BMI less than 25) taking vitamin D, only 58 were diagnosed with advanced cancer compared with 96 taking the placebo.

"Our findings, along with results from previous studies, support the ongoing evaluation of vitamin D supplementation for preventing metastatic cancer -- a connection that is biologically plausible," said Chandler. Agencies

Vitamin D is a supplement

that's readily available, cheap and has been used and studied for decades. Our findings, especially the strong risk reduction seen"

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Name of my Son Shran Shabir Wrongly entered as Sehran Shabir. While my Son's Correct name is Shran Shabir. I want to be Corrected in the School Office. If anybody in this regard she/he my file this in the Office of Saint Xains International School Anantnag with in a period of Seven days.



It is hereby notified to all Parents/Students that there are a lot of fake calls going on which scammers are portraying to be us and are mentioning Aakash Faculties. Please do not pay any heed to such calls. Always check the number by calling our helplines.
Rajbagh: 8491047228 or 8491047229, **Nigeen:** 9107926842 or 9107926847, **Rawalpura:** 6006750448 or 6006750449, **Whatsapp:** 9419229143
Sincerely – Aakash Management

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Genuine Ads | 9419031137

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the executive Officer Municipal Council Budgam

Subject:- Public Notification regarding Prohibited Materials.

Ref:- Director Urban Local Bodies Kahsmir No. DULB/CC/19513-19593 dated 13-11-2010.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Within the territorial jurisdiction of Municipal Council Budgam, it is hereby ordered that:

1. No Persons including a Shopkeepers, Vendor, Wholesaler or retailer, Traders, Hawker or Radda Walla (i.e. which shall include all kind of hand pushed/ pulled carts which are used to sell various commodities) shall sell or store or use any kind of Plastic carry bags (less than 50 micron) for storing or dispensing of any eatable or non-eatable goods or materials.
2. No person shall manufacture or import, store, sell or transport any kind of plastic carry bags (less than 50 micron) including that a Poly Propylene, Non-woven fabric type carry bags along with the cutlery thermocoles within the jurisdiction of Municipal Council Budgam.
3. No person shall use any kind of Plastic cover, plastic sheet or plastic film of plastic tube to pack or cover any book including magazine and invitation card or greeting card.
4. No person shall deposit construction material in and around water bodies.
- a. Any violation if noticed shall be punishable as per law.
- b. The vehicle owner carrying any kind of Prohibited material shall also be dealt in accordance with law.

DIPK-NB-4004/20

No:-MC/BUD/2020-21/4194-99

Dated:-18-1-2020

Sd/
Executive Officer,
Municipal Council,
Budgam

Azerbaijan Enters Nagorno-Karabakh District After Peace Deal

Agencies

Baku: Azerbaijan's army says it has entered the district of Aghdam, the first of three to be handed back by Armenia as part of a Russian-brokered peace deal to end the fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"Units of the Azerbaijan Army entered the Aghdam region on November 20," Azerbaijan's defence ministry said of the district, which had been controlled by Armenian separatists for nearly 30 years.

AFP journalists on Thursday saw Armenian soldiers

the historical town of Shusha.

Armenia will also hand over the Kalbajar district wedged between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia on November 25 and the Lachin district by December 1.

The exchange of territory was originally due to begin on Sunday, with Armenians in the Kalbajar district fleeing en masse before the official deadline for Azerbaijan's takeover.

But Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev postponed the deadline by one week over "humanitarian" considerations.

Speaking from Aghdam,



destroying buildings of their headquarters in Aghdam.

In the hours leading up to the handover, residents of the district set their homes on fire, leaving nothing behind for their longstanding rivals.

As part of last week's peace deal, Armenia agreed to return some 15 to 20 percent of the Nagorno-Karabakh territory captured by Azerbaijan in recent fighting, including

Al Jazeera's Osama Bin Javid said the area has become a ghost town.

"This place was one of the most populated areas in Nagorno-Karabakh," he said. "Almost 200,000 people used to live here. All of them became displaced into Azerbaijan."

"We're speaking to many who want to return to Aghdam but they say the area is not safe," he continued.

Controversial Pakistani cleric Khadim Hussain Rizvi passes away at 54

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: Firebrand Pakistani cleric Khadim Hussain Rizvi died here on Thursday at the age of 54, his political party TLP said. Though the cause of his demise was not immediately clear, there are speculations that he had contracted COVID-19.

Rizvi breathed his last at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC), Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) leader Sheikh Nawaz told PTI.

The TLP chief had fever for the last 10 days or so. Despite that, he attended the TLP protest on Sunday in Rawalpindi against the publication of "blasphemous" caricatures in France, Nawaz said.

"Today he felt severe pain in his chest at his home in Chowk Yateem Khana in Lahore. He was rushed to PIC where he passed away before getting any treatment," he said.

Replying to a question about Rizvi having diagnosed with COVID-19 symptoms, Nawaz said he couldn't confirm this, but the TLP chief had severe fever and cough.

Hundreds of TLP activ-

ists on Monday laid partial siege to the national capital to denounce the publication of blasphemous cartoons in a French magazine and force the government to expel the



French ambassador.

After two days of violent clashes between TLP protesters and police in Rawalpindi, the Imran Khan government on Tuesday allegedly struck a deal with the Islamist political party, agreeing to one of its demands of not appointing any Pakistani envoy to France. There was, however, no official announcement of any such agreement.

TLP had secured 2.4 million votes in 2018 elections. It was alleged that the military establishment had created this religious outfit to field in politics to achieve its designs.



Grounded Boeing 737 MAX aircraft are seen parked at Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake, Washington. REUTERS

"REALLY GOOD NEWS" COVID-19 Reinfection Unlikely For 6 Months, Says Study

Agencies

London: People who've had COVID-19 are highly unlikely to contract it again for at least six months after their first infection, according to a British study of healthcare workers on the front-line of fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

The findings should offer some reassurance for the more than 51 million people worldwide who have been infected with the pandemic disease, researchers at the University of Oxford said.

"This is really good news, because we can be confident that, at least in the short term, most people who get COVID-19 won't get it again," said David Eyre, a professor at Oxford's Nuffield Department of Population Health, who co-led the study.

Isolated cases of re-infection with COVID-19, the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, had raised concerns that immunity might be short-lived and that recovered patients may swiftly fall sick again.

But the results of this study, carried out in a cohort of UK healthcare workers - who are among those at highest risk of contracting COVID-19 - suggest cases of reinfection are likely to remain

extremely rare.

"Being infected with COVID-19 does offer protection against re-infection for most people for at least six months," Eyre said. "We found no new symptomatic infections in any of the participants who had tested positive for antibodies."

while none of the 1,246 staff with antibodies developed a symptomatic infection.

Staff with antibodies were also less likely to test positive for COVID-19 without symptoms, the researchers said, with 76 without antibodies testing positive, com-



The study, part of a major staff testing programme, covered a 30-week period between April and November 2020. Its results have not peer-reviewed by other scientists but were published before review on the MedRxiv website.

During the study, 89 of 11,052 staff without antibodies developed a new infection with symptoms,

pared to only three with antibodies. Those three were all well and did not develop COVID-19 symptoms, they added.

"We will continue to follow this cohort of staff carefully to see how long protection lasts and whether previous infection affects the severity of infection if people do get infected again," Eyre said.

WHO Advises Against Remdesivir For Coronavirus Treatment

Agencies

Paris: The anti-viral drug remdesivir should not be used to treat Covid-19 patients no matter how severe their illness as it has "no important effect" on survival chances, the World Health Organization said Friday.

Scratching one of the few treatments that had shown some initial promise in severe patients, a WHO Guideline Development Group (GDG) of international experts said there was "no evidence based on currently available data that it does improve patient-important outcomes".

The United States, the European Union and other countries have granted temporary approval

for the use of remdesivir after initial research showed it may shorten recovery time in some coronavirus patients.

US President Donald Trump was treated with remdesivir among other medicines after he tested positive for Covid-19 in October.

Friday's WHO recommendation was based on four international randomised trials among more than 7,000 patients hospitalised with the virus.

Publishing updated treatment guidance in the BMJ medical journal, the panel acknowledged that their recommendation does not mean that remdesivir has no benefit for patients.

But based on the latest figures, costs and delivery methods, it ad-

vised "against administering remdesivir in addition to usual care for the treatment of patients hospitalised with Covid-19, regardless of disease severity".

Manufacturer Gilead said last month that the drug had boosted 2020 third quarter sales by almost \$900 million.

Initially developed as a treatment for the Ebola virus, remdesivir was found in one study published in May to reduce the length of hospital stays for Covid-19 sufferers from 15 to 11 days on average.

A subsequent WHO pre-print however found the drug "appeared to have little or no effect" on mortality or length of hospitalisation among more than 11,000 hospitalised patients across 30 countries.

Iranian Military Adviser: American Attack Risks 'Full-Fledged War'

Agencies

Tehran: An Iranian military adviser to the country's supreme leader - and a possible 2021 presidential candidate - warned that any US attack on the Islamic Republic could lead to a "fully-fledged war."

Hossein Dehghan, a former defense minister under President Hassan Rouhani, and who also served in Iran's paramilitary Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), struck a familiar headline tone.

"We don't welcome a crisis. We don't welcome war. We are not after starting a war," Dehghan said in an interview with The Associated Press (AP). "But we are not after negotiations for the sake of negotiations either."

The 63-year-old brigadier general who was formerly the head of the Guard's air force, describes himself as a "nationalist" with "no conventional political tendency."

With President Hassan Rouhani prevented from running again due to term limits, Dehghan will likely run against a "young technocrat with ties to Iranian intelligence and former hard-line president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad," cited AP.

He mirrored Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's stance when he reiterated that any negotiations with the West could not include Iran's ballistic missiles, which he described as a "deterrent" to Tehran's adversaries.

The timing of Dehghan's warning is not incidental. Incumbent US President Donald Trump was reported to have

met earlier this week with senior military and defense advisers about the feasibility of striking sites linked to Iran's nuclear program.

Having been told that such an action could potentially spiral



out of control and lead to a more extensive conflict, the president nixed the idea and instead continued the successful policy of "maximum pressure" applying further sanctions to the Tehran regime and its leaders.

Iran is clearly attempting to exert its own influence on presumptive President-elect Joe Biden, who has hinted that under his administration, the United States may well rejoin the nuclear deal that his former boss President Barack Obama signed in 2015, but which Trump unilaterally left in 2018.

Dehghan also remarked that Israel's "expanding presence" in the Middle East could turn into a "strategic mistake." In addition, he maintained that Iran continues to seek the expulsion of all American forces from the region in retaliation for the US drone strike that killed former Quds Force Gen. Qassem Soleimani in January.

Man's "Lie" At Pizza Bar Led To Drastic 6-Day South Australia Lockdown

Agencies

Sydney: South Australia's drastic six-day coronavirus lockdown was triggered by a "lie" to contact tracers from a man who tested positive and restrictions across the state are set to be lifted much sooner than first planned, authorities said on Friday.

The shock announcement came just two days after the state government ordered people to stay at home and shut many businesses to combat what was considered a highly contagious outbreak of coronavirus.

South Australia state Premier Steven Marshall told a media conference in Adelaide that one man at a pizza bar tied to the outbreak told contact tracers he had only bought a pizza there, when he had actually worked several shifts at the food outlet alongside another worker who tested positive.

Authorities assumed the man, who wasn't named, had caught the virus during a very short exposure, leading them to believe the strain must be highly contagious.

"Their (the man's) story didn't add up. We pursued them. We now know that they lied," Marshall told reporters. "Had this person been truthful to the contact tracing teams, we would not have gone into a six-day lockdown."

"To say I am fuming about the actions of this individual is an absolute understatement. This selfish actions of this individual have put our whole state in a very difficult situation."

While the outbreak was still worrying, Marshall said restrictions would be lifted early with a stay-at-home order ending at midnight on Saturday when most businesses would also be allowed to open.

Asked what punishment the individual might face, Police Commissioner Grant Stevens said there was "no penalty" for lying to tracers under the current law, though that would likely be reviewed.

NEWSMAKERS

Scottish writer Douglas Stuart wins Booker Prize

LONDON: Scottish writer Douglas Stuart won the Booker Prize for fiction on Thursday for Shuggie Bain, the story of a boy's turbulent coming of age in hard-scrabble 1980s Glasgow.

Stuart, 44, won the prestigious 50,000 pound (\$66,000) award for his first published novel, the product of a decade of work. He was the only UK-born author on a US-dominated list of six finalists for the prize, which is open to English-language novels from around the world.

A fashion designer who is based in New York, Stuart drew on his own experience growing up gay in economically ravaged Thatcher-era Glasgow for the story of young Shuggie and his



relationship with his alcoholic mother, Agnes. Stuart dedicated the book to own mother, who died when he was 16.

"My mother is in every page of this book, and without her I wouldn't be here and my work wouldn't be here," said Bain, who declared himself absolutely stunned to win.

The novel's sweep, vivid characters and unflinching

look at poverty have been compared to the work of Charles Dickens.

Publisher and editor Margaret Busby, who chaired the judging panel, said Shuggie Bain was intimate and gripping, challenging but hopeful in its exploration of Shuggie's burgeoning sexuality and the complex but loving relationship between mother and son.

"It's hard to come away from that book without thinking this is going to be a classic," she said.

In contrast to last year, when deadlocked judges split the prize between Canada's Margaret Atwood for The Testaments and Britain's Bernardine Evaristo for Girl, Woman, Other, this year's decision was quick and unanimous.

Trump's Lawyer Appears To Sweat Hair Dye In Bizarre Press Briefing



It's very simple, according to Rudy Giuliani and the rest of President Donald Trump's legal posse, but also very vast. China is in on it. Cuba is on it. Antifa and George Soros are in on it. At least two presidents of Venezuela, one dead and one living, are in on it. Big Tech is in on it; a Web server from Germany is involved (there's always a server involved). Multiple major U.S. cities are in on it, as are decent American citizens who volunteer at polling precincts. Argentina is in on it, too, sort of. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley was in on it back in 1960, when, according to an unproved conspiracy theory, he stole the presidency for John F. Kennedy, thereby launching an ongoing pattern of corrupt cities stuffing or scrapping ballots. The "it" is a massive, pre-meditated scheme to steal the

election from Donald Trump, according to Giuliani, and it also involved corralling poll watchers at great distances from the ballot counting.

Perhaps a cinematic example would help explain.

"Did you all watch 'My Cousin Vinny?' You know, the movie?" Giuliani asked Thursday. He was sweating at a lectern in the small lobby of the Republican National Com-

mittee headquarters on Capitol Hill. "It's one of my favorite law movies, 'cause he comes from Brooklyn."

About 100 journalists and hangers-on had crammed into this potential coronavirus incubator for a news conference on the perverse legal strategy of President Donald Trump's failed reelection campaign, which Giuliani is trying to hustle toward a twist ending. As the former New York mayor digressed about votes that could've been cast by dead people and Mickey Mouse, Trump campaign officials were at their headquarters in nearby Rosslyn, Va., winding down operations and closing out the budget.

"How many fingus do I got up?" Giuliani said at the lectern, doing a terrible Joe Pesci, from the scene where he cross-examines an elderly eye-

witness with bad eyesight. Giuliani was trying to analogize the claims of Republican poll watchers, who say they were too far away from ballot counting to adequately observe it. Fifteen minutes later, as he was describing the election results as "a massive fraud," black liquid began to slowly streak from each of his temples, down his cheeks. It might have been perspiration liquefying his hair dye, or sluicing the black polymer off his eyeglasses. One Manhattan stylist told the New York Times that it might've been running mascara; perhaps Giuliani had applied it to touch up the color of his sideburns.

One Trump campaign adviser texted a Washington Post journalist as the black streaks inched toward Rudy's jowls: "Is he deteriorating in real time?"

Digital Taxis To Be Rolled Out In J&K Soon



JAMMU, NOV 20: The Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam today chaired a meeting to review the preparations to roll out plying of digital taxi services in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Administrative Secretaries of the departments of Housing & Urban Development, and Transport, Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar and Jammu, and RTO, Jammu participated in the meeting.

The Transport Department informed that any company registered under the Companies' Act or a firm registered under the Partnership Act can apply for a license. The Department will, however, give preference to a registered company/firm of IT professionals from Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the notified rules, the applicants are required to be in operation for at least three years, have valid GST

and PAN besides a fleet of at least 50 taxis/ autos, a developed MIS system or 24X7 control room or web-portal/ mobile app for operation along with audited financial statements, and a registered office in the area of operation.

The license granted under these rules shall be valid for a period of five years and is subject to be suspended/ cancelled by the licensing authority if the licensee fails to comply with any prescribed terms/conditions or any complaint against the licensee by any passenger has been proved.

Further, the Rules provide that the fare charged by these digital cabs shall not be more than as notified by the Government and the licensee shall display the fare rate along with a fare rate estimator on the website/ internet-enabled app which will connect the licensee with drivers and passengers.

As per the notified rules, the applicants are required to be in operation for at least three years, have valid GST and PAN besides a fleet of at least 50 taxis/ autos, a developed MIS system or 24X7 control room or web-portal/ mobile app for operation along with audited financial statements, and a registered office in the area of operation.

DCs in Jammu Asked to Submit Roshni Land Details

Observer News Service

JAMMU, NOV 20: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma on Friday reviewed progress on cancellation of mutations of land transferred under Roshni Act in the districts and asked the Deputy Commissioners to submit details to his office at the earliest.

He passed these directions during a video conference meeting with Deputy Commissioners of Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch convened in this regard. The DCs informed that they are in process of cancellation of mutations of land transferred under Roshni Act and preparing village wise data of land.

The Divisional Commissioner also asked the DCs to share details of other state land illegally encroached in their respective districts. He directed them to expunge all entries of encroached state land from the revenue record.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the progress on finalization

of stamp duty rates of immovable property in the districts.

The DCs informed them about the progress in their respective districts. It was informed that the stamp duty rates have been finalized in all the three districts and would be submitted soon. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Central, Kulbushan Khajuria and other concerned, while Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Later, in another meeting the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the progress on identification of suitable patch of land for establishment of Private Hospitals under health care investment policy in the districts. The Deputy Commissioners apprised the Divisional Commissioner about the land identified in their respective districts. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners along with other concerned officers of Samba, Udhampur and Jammu through video conferencing.

HC Declares Marriage Between First Cousins Illegal



The assertion came after a 21-year-old man moved HC seeking anticipatory bail



The Punjab and Haryana High Court has said that marriage between first cousins is illegal.

The court said that marriage which petitioner man wants to perform with a girl, who is his first cousin, was also per se illegal.

"...the submission in the present petition that as and when she (the girl) attains the age of 18 years, they will perform marriage is also per se illegal," the judge said on Thursday while hearing the petition.

The assertion came after a 21-year-old man moved the high court against state of Punjab seeking anticipatory bail in a case registered under Sections 363 (kidnapping), 366A (procurement of minor girl) of the IPC at police station Khanna City-2 in Ludhiana district on August 18. The state counsel, while opposing the bail plea, contended that the girl was a minor and her parents had lodged the FIR as she and the man were first cousins and their fathers were brothers.

The man's counsel told Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan that the petitioner had also filed a criminal writ petition, along with the girl, for protection of life and liberty.

The court file of the criminal writ petition was summoned during the hearing and as per its memorandum of parties, the girl was stated to be 17 years of age and the petitioner man had filed the petition with the submission that both of them were in a "live-in-relationship".

It was stated in the petition that date of birth of the girl was August 2003 and on the date of filing the petition on September 3, 2020, she was of the age of 17 years and 14 days.

Along with petition, a representation was also annexed, in which the girl had stated that her parents loved their sons but ignored her, therefore, she decided to live with her friend (petitioner) and on that account, she was apprehending that her parents can harass them and disturb the peace of their mind.

The court disposed of this petition on September 7. The state was directed to grant them protection if any threat was perceived to the man and the girl. However, the judge made it clear "that this order shall not be taken to

protect the petitioners (man and the girl) from legal action for violation of law, if any, committed by them".

The judge, after hearing counsel for the parties in the present petition, said, "I find that in the present petition also, the petitioner has not disclosed about the fact that he is first cousin of the girl and, therefore, the submission in the present petition that as and when she attains the age of 18 years, they will perform marriage is also per se illegal."



Once the petitioner and the girl are prohibited from performing marriage with each other, there is no question of their being in any live-in-relationship, which is per se immoral and not acceptable in the society"

While opposing the anticipatory bail plea, the state counsel argued "that the girl was aged about 17 years and is a minor, therefore, her parents have got the FIR registered as the youth and the girl are the first cousins as their fathers are real brothers".

"Hence the petitioner has concealed the fact in the petition that they fall in the prohibited 'sapinda' (which prohibits marriage between two individuals if they have common ancestor) under the Hindu Marriage Act and cannot perform marriage with each other," the state counsel argued.

"Once the petitioner and the girl are prohibited from performing marriage with each other, there is no question of their being in any live-in-relationship, which is per se immoral and not acceptable in the society," it was argued. The counsel for the petitioner has sought time from the court to address arguments and the case was adjourned to January next year. (PTI)

France Expresses Interest In Potential Projects In Northeast, J&K

French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain said France wants to explore the avenues and opportunities of collaboration in different sectors in the northeastern states as well as tourism and other potentials in Jammu and Kashmir.



NEW DELHI: France has expressed interest to explore opportunities of collaboration in tourism and other potential sectors in the northeastern region and Jammu and Kashmir. This was conveyed by French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain when he called on Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh on Friday, an official statement said.

Mr Singh also discussed with him various potential projects in the northeastern states.

The ambassador conveyed to the Union minister the desire of the government of France to explore the avenues and

opportunities of collaboration in different sectors in the northeastern states as well as tourism and other potentials in Jammu and Kashmir, the statement said.

Mr Lenain recalled the fond memories of his visit to Kashmir valley early this year as part of a group of ambassadors.

The minister spelt out different sectors in which, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, collaborative initiatives had been undertaken in the Northeast. He referred to the Centre of Excellence Citrus Fruit Park set up in Mizoram with Israeli collaboration and the collaboration of Japan in some of the infrastructure projects.

KIIT DU: Humanity, Compassion & Innovation



ACHYUTA SAMANTA

GRADUATION is not the end; it is just the beginning of one's career. Every student enrolled in a university waits for the day of graduation - the day of convocation. This day comes after a long interval for each student but for the University, it remains an annual event. Convocation Day is the reflection of a journey from the achievements of the past to goals to be achieved in future. Like every year, KIIT is holding its Convocation this year as well. Though it is different from all previous years due to the pandemic, it is our whole-hearted effort to conduct it in the best possible way maintaining the Covid-19 protocols. The 16th Convocation of KIIT Deemed to be University on 21 November 2020 will be a big day for the University which has grown exponentially in the last 17 years as a University and over 23 years as an institution and for the students and the staff as it marks the beginning of a new journey.

KIIT University has created a place in the global and Indian academic map in a short span of 25 years. It started with a small seed money of Rs. 5000 (Equivalent to \$100) in 1992-93. It began spreading its wings and became a vibrant educational hub by 1997. It was KIIT's commitment to excellence that led to the grant of Deemed to be University status in 2004. KIIT has the distinction of being the youngest institute of the country to get University status in six years. Today, the university, comprising 28 schools, stands majestically on an area spread of over 25 square kilometers with 23 aesthetically laid out, independent but contiguous campuses offering graduate, post-graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral programmes. It has been recognised as an 'Institution of Eminence' by the Govt. of India. KIIT has been ranked No. 1 among self-financing institutions of the country in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIA),



KIIT Deemed to be University is unique as it is a student and parent friendly University. 30000 Students from all over India and 55 countries study here and find a home in the University. 95% of the students are from outside Odisha. It is a multifaceted University with the integration of cultures- a melting point of diversity with glaring unity.

2020 of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. KIIT's Computer Science Faculty has been ranked in the band of 501-600 by The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021. It is also pertinent to mention that KIIT has been ranked in the 601-800 band for its Engineering and Technology streams.

KIIT Deemed to be University is unique as it is a student and parent friendly University. 30000 Students from all over India and 55 countries study here and find a home in the University. 95% of the students are from outside Odisha. It is a multifaceted University with the integration of cultures- a melting point of diversity with

glaring unity. The student friendliness is achieved through a vibrant Tutor-Mentor System that puts every student in the individual care of faculties who not only monitor students' academic performance but also counsel them regularly at a personal level. The principle of Human touch at KIIT is conducive for the parents. Once they bank their trust on KIIT University by enrolling their wards, the University takes holistic care of them. KIIT has been maintaining 100% placement of its students consistently since its inception. For KIIT University, students' wellbeing is the utmost concern. It has a super-speciality hospital that addresses a wide range of students' and staff's health concerns besides catering to the healthcare needs of the public at large. KIIT has also won The Times Higher Education (THE) Awards Asia 2020 for 'Workplace of the Year'.

A University is known for its Research and Publications. Besides inhouse publications by various schools, the researchers and faculty members of various schools regularly publish their research papers in reputed journals, authored books, got research projects and fellowships to research abroad and on joint projects. Currently nearly 100 research and consultancy projects funded by various national and international funding agencies with substantial budget outlay. With state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure progressively developed over the years, KIIT University has become the most sought-after destination for MICE Tourism. It is the only

University in India to have 22 Nobel laureates visiting campus and addressing the students. Over hundreds of collaborations made with universities far and wide across the globe have been facilitating student and faculty exchanges, research collaborations and membership in international associations for cooperation in raising standards of education around the globe and global visibility with an aim to make KIIT globally acclaimed Centre of Excellence in education, embracing Internationalization of Education.

Dutee Chand, a student of KIIT represented India in the Rio Olympics - 2016 and won 2 silver medals at Asian Games 2018. She is also the first Indian to win Gold in the World University Games 2019. KIIT student Amiya Mallick is the fastest runner in India. KIIT has huge sports infrastructure and a home to many sporting events. The academic achievements are exemplary. The Alumni of KIIT are in respectable positions in Corporates, Business, Startups, Education, Jurisdiction, Civil Services and so on.

It is the only University in the world to integrate formal education with social work. The humane face of KIIT is best illustrated through its protégé - Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), which provides food, accommodation, health care and education from Kindergarten to Post Graduation to 30,000 underprivileged tribal children absolutely free. The stakeholders of KIIT support KISS University, the first exclusive tribal University in the world.

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KIIT has converted the remote village 'Kalarabanka' in Cuttack, Odisha into a model village in 2006 and then consequently to Smart Village in 2016 and the entire Manpur Panchayat into a model Panchayat (cluster of villages) with all city amenities. There has been peripheral development and growth of full-fledged township around KIIT and KISS. Even during these testing times of Covid-19, KIIT came forward to bolster the fight against virus by reaching out to three lakh distressed people with food, ration and essential supplies, assuring professional education to the children of deceased during COVID-19 in Odisha free of cost, running four standalone COVID hospitals in the state with 1200 beds, taking care of hundreds of orphans during COVID-19 and delivering dry foods with study materials to the 30,000 children of KISS at their doorstep in the hinterlands of Odisha since April 2020.

Thus, the greatest lesson learnt from the journey of KIIT is that of humanity, compassion and innovation. The success of the University from nothing to that of prominence is an example that nothing is impossible. One can achieve success and maintain it by working hard towards the goal without compromising on ethics, principles and humanity. And in such bleak moments like fighting the virus, history will remember the Class of 2020 not for what the students and youth lost, but for what they changed. The long arc of history tells us we have every reason to be hopeful. —Achyuta Samanta is founder KIIT & KISS