



P9 LIFE & TIMES

COVID VACCINES CAN HAVE SIDE EFFECTS - THAT'S A GOOD THING

The new coronavirus vaccine appears to be extremely effective - blocking serious illness entirely in randomized trials ...

P5 OPINION

THE D IN DDC

As the name of the DDC elections itself suggests, they are being held around the discourse of "development". The obrogation of Article-370 was itself done around the



P12 OBSERVER OUTPOST

GOOGLE SERVICES GO DOWN; GMAIL, YOUTUBE AND MORE...

Google-owned services on Monday experienced a major outage in India and elsewhere.According to Downtdetector ...



Wisdom Quote!

"Everything you do is triggered by an emotion of either desire or fear."

—Brian Tracy

news DIGEST

Two Cops Booked For Extortion

SRINAGAR: Two policemen have been booked for demanding extortion from a man, hailing from south Kashmir's Pulwama district, reports said Monday.

Head Constable Ajaz Ahmed and Selection Grade Constable Bashir Ahmed were booked by police under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) after a man from Pulwama district identified as Ghulam Jeelani accused them of extortion, news agency KNT reported Monday.

➔ [More On P8](#)

Man Booked For Post On 'Temple Arson'

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday filed a case against a social media user for spreading rumours about the arson at a temple here in this capital city with the intention to disturb the religious harmony.

In a statement issued here on Monday evening, a police spokesperson said that a case has been registered against a social media user, who had posted about an alleged act of arson at Arya Samaj Temple Motiyar Rainawari, when the fact is that "no such incident has occurred and the said temple is safe and intact".

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7 Gamblers Held In City: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested seven gamblers in a raid in the Nehru Park area of this capital city.

Acting on an input, a police party carried out a raid at Zabarwan Park along the Boulevard road and apprehended seven gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Monday. He said playing cards and a cash of Rs 26,060/- were recovered from their possession.

"They have been arrested and shifted to PS RM Bagh where they remain in custody," the police spokesperson said.

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Employee Attempts Suicide, Hospitalised

SRINAGAR: A Sanitary Inspector on Monday morning allegedly attempted suicide by consuming some poisonous substance in Tangdhar area of north-Kashmir's Kupwara district, official sources said.

Shabir Ahmad Lone (38) a resident of Handwara allegedly took some poisonous substance this morning at his residential quarters in Tangdhar area of the border district, official sources said. Lone, they said, was airlifted to sub-district Hospital Kupwara for treatment.

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ACB Files Case Over Rice Embezzlement

SRINAGAR: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday filed a case of embezzlement of food grain in Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department.

In a statement issued here, an ACB spokesperson said that a verification conducted by the ACB revealed that Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department Kashmir has allotted additional 500 AAY Ration Tickets (RTs) to district Baramulla with effect from October 2017 under revised NFSAI target.

The additional allotment of rice 5075 quintals, he said, continuously flowed from the Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Kashmir to

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PDP Leader's PSO Shot Dead In Srinagar



Securitymen stand guard at the house of PDP leader Parvaiz Bhat after his PSO was shot dead . KO Pix Abid Bhat

SRINAGAR: Militants opened fire at the residence of a PDP leader in the Natipora area of the city on Monday, killing his personal security officer (PSO).

Parvaiz Bhat, the militant-turned-PDP leader, escaped the attack unhurt.

Bhat said militants dressed in 'pheran' -- traditional Kashmiri cloak worn during winter -- and armed with AK rifles came to his residence this morning.

As soon as the militants pulled out their weapons, the PSO opened fire, he said. The constable was injured in the firing by the militants.

The injured cop was taken to the nearby Bone and Joint Hospital for treatment, a police official said.

He said the policeman succumbed to injuries.

PSO's Killing Aimed To Disrupt Polls: DGP

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir police chief Dilbagh Singh Monday said that the killing of a Personal Security Officer (PSO) of a PDP leader at Natipora, Srinagar, is an attempt to disrupt the ongoing election process and the prevailing peaceful environment across Kashmir.

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Bhat claimed that it was third attack on his life since he joined mainstream politics. He was earlier a militant of Hizbul Mujahideen.

"The government has downgraded my security. I don't know what would have been the fate of my family if the alert PSO had not opened fire," Bhat told reporters at his residence.

He claimed that his security detail was reduced last year and he now had only two PSOs compared to five earlier.

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson in a handout issued here this afternoon said that a case has been registered in this regard under relevant sections of law.

"Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this crime. Area has been cordoned and search in the

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All Roshni Scamsters To Be Booked: Singh

REASI: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said those who allegedly illegally occupied lands in Jammu and Kashmir under the so called Roshni scam will be brought to book.

Campaigning for BJP candidates contesting the District Development Council (DDC) elections, Singh cautioned farmers against alleged mischievous propaganda being spread by the opposition parties that the government will take away their agricultural and other land as a consequence of the action taken on the Roshni scam.

"In the coming days to come, all these land grabbers (Roshni scam) will be brought to book and the investigation has already got initiated in several cases," he said.

Singh said the Roshni scamsters and land grabbers are spreading lies about the newly framed land laws

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After Prince, Gulshan & Kismat Sink In Troubled Dal Waters



KO WEB DESK

SRINAGAR: Breakdown of Kashmir's iconic houseboat community continues unabated as the 'sinking' tragedy once again struck the lockdown-hit tourism industry last Saturday -- the day the valley witnessed a moderate snowfall.

Under the weight of the season's fresh snowfall, three houseboats including Gulshan Palace, Kismat and New Dog Star sank in the middle of the Dal Lake, taking the overall toll of destroyed houseboats at 9 this year.

The fresh fallen houseboats belonged to Mohammed Sultan

Badyari and Bashir Ahmed Kolu. Earlier, on December 3, a residential houseboat named HB Prince met the same tragedy in river Jhelum.

"These three houseboats sank because of the snowfall," Yakoob Dunno, spokesperson of Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association (KHBOA) told Kashmir Observer. "Their pathetic conditions desperately needed repairs, but the ban on the house reconstruction and renovation has ended their fairytale forever now."

Dunno said pleas of Kashmir's houseboat community are repeatedly falling on deaf ears.

"The house is a wooden fringe unit which needs repairing, reconstruction and caulking from time to time," Dunno said, "But it seems nobody is bothered about our concerns."

With no business since last August, he said, the houseboat owners can't effort

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Srinagar To Get Metro Rail Soon: Govt

Once Approved, Project Should Be Completed Within 2 Years: LG



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday stressed upon speedy implementation of Jammu and Srinagar Metro rail projects and directed that the project once approved should be completed within two years from the date of commencement.

Chairing a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to steer Light Metro Rail Projects for Jammu and Srinagar, the LG observed that the elevated

Guidelines For COVID-19 Vaccination Drive Issued

NEW DELHI: Vaccinating 100-200 people in each session per day, monitoring them for 30 minutes after administering the shots for any adverse event and allowing only one beneficiary at a time are among the guidelines issued by the Centre for the COVID-19 inoculation drive.

According to the guidelines issued to states recently, the COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN) system--a digitalised platform--will be used to track enlisted beneficiaries for the vaccination and anti-coronavirus vaccines on a real-time basis.

At the vaccination site, only pre-registered beneficiaries will be vaccinated in accordance with the prioritisation, and there will be no provision for on-the-spot registrations.

The states have been asked, as far as possible, to allocate the vaccine from one

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SRINAGAR: The death toll due to coronavirus crossed 1800-mark in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday as three more people lost the battle with the deadly infection, while 246 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected in the Union Territory in the last 24 hours.

Among the three victims claimed by the virus in J&K, two were residents of Jammu region and one from Kashmir

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'I Feel Like Crying': C-Section Making Life Painful For Kashmiri Mothers

ASIF KHAN, ARBEENA SHAH

Inside Srinagar's Lal Ded hospital, Nazima is struggling with her baby bump.

Dressed in a sloppy Frock Shalwar, she's being assisted by her mother--reciting 'Bismillah' recurrently in a hope to give some spiritual strength and solace to her daughter.

While being wheeled to the observation room, Nazima is all set to go under surgical knife for delivering her first baby.

As her husband and mother trail behind, she looks a bit edgy but, for now she



just wants to get rid of the pain she is in. "Myoun Khoedah dee taar (My Allah will take care of you),"Nazima's mother comforts her daughter before taken to the theatre for Cesarean Section.

Lower segment Caesarean Section (LSCS) or simply C-Section is the surgical delivery of a baby through incisions in the abdomen and the uterus.

Kashmir is witnessing a hysteric rise

Usually, if there is a high risk pregnancy such as the expecting lady being hypertensive, diabetic, over-aged, or baby beech is detected, then we prefer delivery through C-Sections since the vaginal delivery can be risky"



Photo: Representation

in C-Section rates as more women are backing the wrong horse by opting for surgery to deliver the baby.

An RTI (Right to Information) filed by the rights activist M M Shuja recently disclosed that out of the total 20,329

deliveries carried out in five months--from April 01 to August 31, 2020--in Kashmir, at least 8,677 were conducted through C-Section.

These numbers put the overall percentage of C-Section in Kashmir at over 42.68, against the WHO-recommended 10-15 percent.

C-Section surgeries may be seen as a fast and easy way to deliver, usually to elude the labour pain, but it ties the women to a compromised health afterwards.

Ayesha Wasim, 33, who had delivered her lone child surgically four years ago, became an ugly

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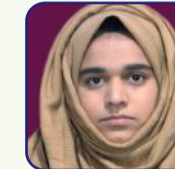





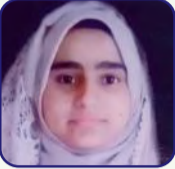






























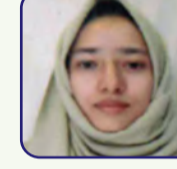
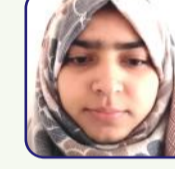

NEET - 2020

Wait is Over to display something astounding and hard to believe.

**From Kashmir Division
32% of NEET Selections (MBBS only) belong to KIE.**

145 MBBS Selections in NEET 2020

 S Mudasir Mehmood R.No. 2502211334 NEET Score: 646 MBBS/GMC	 Humaira Rashid R.No. 2502228164 NEET Score: 643 MBBS/GMC	 Saqib Afzal R.No. 2502113180 NEET Score: 630 MBBS/GMC	 Anam ul Haq R.No. 2502225072 NEET Score: 628 MBBS/GMC	 Javeed A Khanday R.No. 2502122201 NEET Score: 625 MBBS/GMC	 Lone M Faheem R.No. 2502103255 NEET Score: 624 MBBS/GMC	 S Suhail Farooq R.No. 2502228202 NEET Score: 621 MBBS/GMC	 Bilal Ahmad Mantoo R.No. 2502202440 NEET Score: 619 MBBS/GMC	 Khalid bin Shams R.No. 2502106297 NEET Score: 615 MBBS/GMC	 Maroof A Mir R.No. 2502229141 NEET Score: 612 MBBS/GMC
 Aafaq Ah Parrray R.No. 2502214092 NEET Score: 611 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Shahid Rasool R.No. 2502124046 NEET Score: 611(OSC) MBBS/GMC	 Amir Javadi R.No. 2502114276 NEET Score: 610 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Aubaid Gulzar R.No. 2502106021 NEET Score: 607 MBBS/GMC	 Safaora Jan R.No. 2502108436 NEET Score: 605 MBBS/GMC	 Momin Sattar R.No. 2502103271 NEET Score: 604 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Faisal Anwar Shrao R.No. 2502228079 NEET Score: 604 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Qaiser Hussain Dar R.No. 2502216055 NEET Score: 600 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Aalim Shafi Tantray R.No. 2502216055 NEET Score: 600 MBBS/GMC	 Fahad Gowhar R.No. 2502212280 NEET Score: 599 MBBS/SKIMSMC
 Murtaza Ah Beigh R.No. 2502216001 NEET Score: 599 MBBS/GMC	 Pzd Ahtisham ul Haq R.No. 2502212130 NEET Score: 596 MBBS/GMC	 S Wasim Showkat R.No. 2502112140 NEET Score: 592 MBBS/GMC	 Suhail Ahmad Bhat R.No. 2502214129 NEET Score: 592 MBBS/GMC	 Sahir Nabi Bhat R.No. 250221003 NEET Score: 589 MBBS/GMC	 Sheikh M Soliah R.No. 2502127081 NEET Score: 587 MBBS/GMC	 Suhail Mushtaq Itoo R.No. 2502205232 NEET Score: 587 MBBS/GMC	 Beenish Sheeraz R.No. 2502101178 NEET Score: 586 MBBS/GMC	 Hashir Farooq R.No. 2502204038 NEET Score: 585 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Umar Aslam Beigh R.No. 2502202173 NEET Score: 584 MBBS/GMC
 Abdul Wahid Sheikh R.No. 2502116092 NEET Score: 583 MBBS/GMC	 Kashif Nazir Attar R.No. 2502208022 NEET Score: 581 MBBS/GMC	 Umar Ahad Malik R.No. 2502110139 NEET Score: 581 MBBS/GMC	 Mohammad Adham R.No. 2502207381 NEET Score: 581 MBBS/GMC	 Sajad Ahmad Dar R.No. 2502212064 NEET Score: 577 MBBS/GMC	 Saqib Syed Shah R.No. 2502113452 NEET Score: 577 MBBS/GMC	 Sartaj Ah Malik R.No. 2502209227 NEET Score: 576 MBBS/GMC	 Suhail Yousuf Sheikh R.No. 2502209280 NEET Score: 574 (RBA) MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Umar Mohiuddin R.No. 2502102309 NEET Score: 573 MBBS/GMC	 Asif Ashraf Dar R.No. 2502202045 NEET Score: 572 MBBS/SKIMSMC
 Bisma Showkat R.No. 2502103406 NEET Score: 571 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Sameer Abdullah R.No. 2502117412 NEET Score: 571 MBBS/GMC	 Kaseer Ahmad Dar R.No. 2502225150 NEET Score: 570 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Sameed Hayat R.No. 2502119124 NEET Score: 570 MBBS/GMC	 Ubaid Sultan R.No. 2502223227 NEET Score: 569 MBBS/GMC	 Faizan Sajad Wani R.No. 2502109109 NEET Score: 569 MBBS/GMC	 Mohsin Javadi Itoo R.No. 2502202331 NEET Score: 569 MBBS/GMC	 Mir Saqib Reyaz R.No. 2501021169 NEET Score: 568 MBBS/GMC	 Jaish Mohammad R.No. 2502133082 NEET Score: 568 MBBS/GMC	 Mir Shabir Gowhar R.No. 2502106131 NEET Score: 567 MBBS/SKIMSMC
 Umer Sadiq Mir R.No. 2502126050 NEET Score: 567 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Aasif Ahmad Dar R.No. 2502218051 NEET Score: 567 MBBS/GMC	 Rasiq Mushtaq R.No. 2502117420 NEET Score: 567 MBBS/GMC	 Wajahat Fayaz Dar R.No. 2502222008 NEET Score: 566 MBBS/GMC	 Moin Aijaz Khan R.No. 2502120064 NEET Score: 566 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Dawood Ahmad Parrray R.No. 2502101321 NEET Score: 564 MBBS/GMC	 Hinar Naseer R.No. 2502220261 NEET Score: 564 MBBS/GMC	 Malik Abul Kalaam R.No. 2502205070 NEET Score: 563 MBBS/GMC	 Mir Uzair Mubarak R.No. 2502106715 NEET Score: 562 MBBS/GMC	 Rayees Fayaz R.No. 2502135085 NEET Score: 560 (EWS) MBBS/SKIMSMC
 Taiba Hassan R.No. 2502204099 NEET Score: 560 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Ikhlaz Ahmad Pala R.No. 2502137138 NEET Score: 559 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Shakir Rashid R.No. 2502226180 NEET Score: 558 MBBS/GMC	 Zubair Ahmad Rather R.No. 2502202064 NEET Score: 558 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Shah Faheem Rafiq R.No. 2502211031 NEET Score: 558 (EWS) MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Amir Sultan Kutto R.No. 2502213015 NEET Score: 558 MBBS/GMC	 Aiman Showkat R.No. 2502116328 NEET Score: 557 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Faisal Nabi Mir R.No. 2502215235 NEET Score: 557 (P&B) MBBS/ASCOMS	 M. Faizan Pala R.No. 2502101400 NEET Score: 557 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Yawar Amin Lone R.No. 2502103477 NEET Score: 557 (P&B) MBBS/ASCOMS
 Sadaf Fayaz R.No. 2502209256 NEET Score: 556 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Faisal Gani Mir R.No. 2502119227 NEET Score: 556 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Sajad Ahmad Mir R.No. 2502119257 NEET Score: 555 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Mahnoor Khan R.No. 2502112291 NEET Score: 555 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Sumira Bashir R.No. 2502131169 NEET Score: 552 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Pzd Nadeemul Islam R.No. 2502206015 NEET Score: 551 MBBS/ASCOMS	 Nighat Hussain R.No. 2502122083 NEET Score: 550 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Sheezan Majeed Bhat R.No. 2502214079 NEET Score: 550 MBBS/ASCOMS	 M. Aaqub Dar R.No. 2502125054 NEET Score: 549 (EWS) MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Naasir Hussain Dar R.No. 2502107448 NEET Score: 548 MBBS/ASCOMS
 M. Imran Reshi R.No. 2502207142 NEET Score: 548 MBBS/ASCOMS	 Sabreena Hassan R.No. 2502126224 NEET Score: 547 MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Asif Sidiq Bhat R.No. 2502226228 NEET Score: 546 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Zuhair Riyaz Shoga R.No. 2502105288 NEET Score: 546 MBBS/ASCOMS	 Tawseef A Khanday R.No. 2502118281 NEET Score: 545 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 S Shahnawaz Hussain R.No. 2502116084 NEET Score: 545 MBBS/ASCOMS	 Asgar Ali Rather R.No. 2502116084 NEET Score: 545 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Aamir Altarf R.No. 2502136032 NEET Score: 544 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Hafsa Jan R.No. 2502106043 NEET Score: 544 MBBS/GMC	 Khalid Akbar Lone R.No. 2502126066 NEET Score: 543 MBBS/GMC

 Muzamil Amin R.No. 2502112036 NEET Score: 543 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Danish Manzoor Attar R.No. 2502107369 NEET Score: 539 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Aaqib Rasheed Dar R.No. 2502105468 NEET Score: 537 MBBS/ASCOMS	 Mohd Azan Shah R.No. 2502117040 NEET Score: 537 MBBS/ASCOMS	 Tariq Ahmad Lone R.No. 2502110036 NEET Score: 537 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Owais Mushtaq R.No. 250220284 NEET Score: 535 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Aamina Bhat R.No. 2502110075 NEET Score: 534 MBBS/GMC	 Abdul Rawoof Naikoo R.No. 2502101679 NEET Score: 534 MBBS/ASCOMS	 Tajamul Nazir Lone R.No. 2502127239 NEET Score: 534 MBBS/ASCOMS	 Shabir Ahmad Tailee R.No. 2502109637 NEET Score: 532 (OSC) MBBS/GMC
 Faisal Amin Wani R.No. 2502119049 NEET Score: 529 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Mehroosh Khurshid R.No. 2502201126 NEET Score: 528 MBBS/GMC	 Irtiza Rashid R.No. 2502111410 NEET Score: 525 MBBS/GMC	 Allah u Deen Khurshid R.No. 2502131142 NEET Score: 525 (SP) MBBS/GMC	 Sahrooba Raheem R.No. 2502217162 NEET Score: 524 MBBS/GMC	 Danish Gul R.No. 2502206048 NEET Score: 524 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Suhail Owais Najar R.No. 2502208271 NEET Score: 523 (OSC) MBBS/GMC	 Tafazul Mehdi Jan R.No. 2502102360 NEET Score: 522 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Athar Afshan R.No. 2502105549 NEET Score: 521 MBBS/GMC	 Sahil Ahmad Dar R.No. 2502224127 NEET Score: 518 (RBA) MBBS/GMC
 Kulsooma Bint Ramzan R.No. 2502106031 NEET Score: 515 MBBS/GMC	 Nadiya Bashir Rather R.No. 2502226003 NEET Score: 515 MBBS/GMC	 Sairah Rasheed R.No. 2502132114 NEET Score: 515 MBBS/GMC	 Raja Rameez Bhat R.No. 2502113046 NEET Score: 514 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Shah Najmus Syed R.No. 2502130113 NEET Score: 512 MBBS/GMC	 Vikas Ali R.No. 2502224147 NEET Score: 510 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Muskan Rehman R.No. 2502225162 NEET Score: 510 (OSC) MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Basit Shafi R.No. 2502232064 NEET Score: 510 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Muneer Sidiq R.No. 2502120048 NEET Score: 506 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Sheema Tabasum R.No. 2501012021 NEET Score: 503 (EWS) MBBS/GMC
 Jafar Firdos R.No. 2502137073 NEET Score: 497 (SP) MBBS/GMC	 Mehru Nisa R.No. 2502230157 NEET Score: 494 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Zainab Un Nisa R.No. 2502117413 NEET Score: 490 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Muzamil Hussain Khan R.No. 2502110031 NEET Score: 489 (STO) MBBS/GMC	 Sheeza R.No. 2502229014 NEET Score: 487 (OSC) MBBS/GMC	 Juvaira Shamim R.No. 2502114188 NEET Score: 479 (RBA) MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Nusrat Jan R.No. 2502227090 NEET Score: 478 (RBA) MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Sabahat Farooq R.No. 2502112450 NEET Score: 474 (RBA) MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Sabee Jan R.No. 2502211035 NEET Score: 472 (RBA) MBBS/SKIMSMC	 Sunjeeda Tariq R.No. 2502205064 NEET Score: 469 (RBA) MBBS/SKIMSMC
 Urmila Aziz R.No. 2502108243 NEET Score: 469 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Mehreen Showkat R.No. 2502204305 NEET Score: 468 (SP) MBBS/GMC	 Neefa Bashir R.No. 2502126219 NEET Score: 467 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Hamaad Rashid Sandhu R.No. 2502111451 NEET Score: 466 (CDP) MBBS/GMC	 Heemu Jan R.No. 2502230102 NEET Score: 461 (EWS) MBBS/GMC	 Zill E Anam Wani R.No. 2502119313 NEET Score: 461 (SP) MBBS/GMC	 Mehvish Ishaq R.No. 2502105189 NEET Score: 461 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Wahida Nissar R.No. 2502202211 NEET Score: 460 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Mariya Jan R.No. 2502221170 NEET Score: 455 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Zeeshan Fareed R.No. 2502128212 NEET Score: 447 (RBA) MBBS/GMC
 Sana Shah R.No. 2502222139 NEET Score: 445 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Kulsuma Bashir R.No. 2502225175 NEET Score: 440 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Sonober Shabir R.No. 2502204275 NEET Score: 438 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Samiya Yousuf R.No. 2502106720 NEET Score: 421 (RBA) MBBS/GMC	 Shafee Hamid Lone R.No. 2502108573 NEET Score: 409 (CDP) MBBS/GMC					

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As part of Israel deal, US officially delists Sudan as state sponsor of terror

Agencies

KHARTOUM, Sudan — The United States on Monday formally removed Sudan's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, 27 years after putting the country on its blacklist, the US embassy in Khartoum announced.

The move accompanies Sudan's recent normalization of ties with Israel, which was brokered by Washington. Sudan confirmed in October that it had agreed to the deal in exchange for being removed from the US terror blacklist, acknowledging for the first time the existence of linkage between the two, which it had

US President Donald Trump announced in October that he was delisting Sudan, a step desperately sought by the nation's new civilian-backed government as the designation severely impeded foreign investment.

As part of a deal, Sudan agreed to pay \$335 million to compensate survivors and victims' families from a 2000 attack on the USS Cole off Yemen's coast and the twin 1998 attacks on US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, carried out when dictator Omar al-Bashir was welcoming al-Qaeda and hosting its then-leader Osama bin Laden. One of the chief planners of the embassy at-



previously denied.

"The congressional notification period of 45 days has lapsed and the Secretary of State has signed a notification stating rescission of Sudan's State Sponsor of Terrorism designation is effective as of today (December 14), to be published in the Federal Register," the US embassy said on Facebook.

tacks, Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, was killed in Tehran earlier this year, allegedly by Israeli agents.

Sudan's transitional government, which took over last year following Bashir's overthrow, also agreed to recognize Israel, a major goal for Trump, although Khartoum has sought to downplay the connection.

'Turkey appoints ambassador to Israel after two years'

Agencies

Ankara: Turkey has appointed a new ambassador to Israel after a two-year absence, reports say.

In May 2018, Ankara withdrew its envoy over deadly attacks against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip who were protesting US President Donald Trump's decision to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The move to appoint Ufuk Ulutas, 40, as the new Turkish ambassador is part of an attempt to improve ties with incoming President-elect Joe Biden's administration, a report by Al Monitor quoting "well-placed sources" revealed last week.

Ulutas, described as "very polished", "very clever" and "very pro-Palestinian" by sources quoted in the report, studied Hebrew and Middle Eastern politics in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is also an expert on Israel's regional rival, Iran, but is not a career diplomat.

Turkey first broke off diplomatic ties with Israel in 2010 after 10 pro-Palestinian Turkish activists were killed by Israeli commandos who boarded a Turkish-owned flotilla trying to deliver aid and break Israel's years-long

maritime blockade of Gaza.

They restored ties in 2016, but relations soured again in 2018 in the aftermath of the US embassy move.

Ulutas' appointment also comes as a number of Arab countries — Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates — agreed to normalise diplomatic ties with Israel in deals brokered by outgoing US President Trump.

The Palestinian leadership has slammed the deals as grave betrayals by the Arab states that further undermine Palestinian efforts to achieve self-determination.

Earlier this year, Trump proposed a so-called Middle East plan that overwhelmingly favoured Israel and was categorically rejected by the Palestinians.

Both Trump's proposal and the recent normalisation deals have been criticised by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has positioned himself as a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause in the Muslim world.

Despite the new reported appointment of Ulutas as ambassador, it remains to be seen whether Ankara will establish full diplomatic ties with Israel.



China again bails out Pakistan to pay Saudi debt

Shahbaz Rana

The Express Tribune

ISLAMABAD: China has again bailed out Pakistan as it agrees to immediately provide \$1.5 billion financing line to repay the \$2 billion Saudi Arabia debt, sources told The Express Tribune.

Out of \$2 billion, Pakistan is now set to return the \$1 billion on coming Monday, said the sources in the finance ministry and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The remaining \$1 billion is due in January, they added.

However, this time around, China has not given the loan from its State Administration of Foreign Exchange, commonly known as SAFE deposits, nor has it extended a commercial loan, said the sources.

Instead, both the countries have agreed to augment the size of a 2011 bilateral Currency-Swap Agreement (CSA) by an additional 10 billion Chinese Yuan or around \$1.5 billion, the sources said. This has increased the size of the overall trade facility to 20 billion Chinese Yuan or \$4.5 billion.

The CSA is a Chinese trade finance facility that Pakistan has been using since 2011 to repay foreign debt and keep its gross foreign currency reserves at comfortable levels

instead for trade related purposes.

The benefit of this arrangement will be that the additional \$1.5 billion Chinese loan will not reflect on the book of the federal government and it will not be treated as part of Pakistan's external public debt.

Spokespersons for both the SBP and the finance ministry neither denied nor confirmed the development. The spokesperson for the central bank ducked the questions while the ministry of finance said that it was a "bilateral confidential matter".

The Express Tribune had sent questions to the SBP about the CSA and a delay in uploading data on currency circulation, M2, on its website. "The M2 data will be updated soon on the website" was the terse response of the central bank, while maintaining silence on the question of currency deal.

What is CSA?

The bilateral Currency Swap Agreement was reached between the SBP and the Peoples Bank of China (PBOC) in December 2011 "in order to promote bilateral trade, finance direct investment and provide short-term liquidity support", according to the central bank.

Blast at Saudi Port Hits Oil Tanker as Red Sea Attacks Mount

Paul Wallace | Sharon Cho | Verity Ratcliffe | Noorhan Abusamra Bloomberg Quint

Riyadh: A ship was hit by an explosion at the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah, as attacks in the Red Sea mount.

While there were no casualties reported in Monday's incident, it comes just three weeks after an oil tanker was damaged, possibly by a mine, at the Saudi terminal of Shuqaiq and Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed a missile strike on a Saudi Aramco fuel depot in Jeddah.

Tensions in the area have risen as the U.S., a Saudi ally, ramps up sanctions on Iran, which backs the Houthis in Yemen's civil war.

Blast at Saudi Port Hits Oil Tanker as Red Sea Attacks Mount Tanker BW Rhine, which carries refined products, was

struck by an external source while discharging at Jeddah at about 12:40 a.m. local time on Monday, according to a statement from its owner, Hafnia. The Singapore-flagged vessel immediately ceased all discharge operations and the fire was extinguished without any injuries to the 22 crew members, it said.

"It is possible that some oil has escaped from the vessel," the statement read. "But this has not been confirmed and instrumentation currently indicates that oil levels on board are at the same level as before the incident."

Brent crude rose 1% to \$50.49 a barrel by 9:54 a.m. in London, paring earlier gains of as much as 1.7%.

"It's an isolated incident and therefore we don't need any significant change in mentality or activity," Kevin Wright, an

The original agreement had been renewed in December 2014 for a period of three years with overall limit of 10 billion yuan or \$1.5 billion. It was further extended in May 2018 for a period of three years, with the amount being increased to 20 billion Yuan or \$3 billion.

This agreement will expire in May next year, which the central bank has decided to request China to further extend it for three more years.

The central bank's financial statement for the year 2019-20 showed that the SBP utilised 20 billion yuan or Rs475 billion.

Pakistan paid Rs20.5 billion in interest to China on using the \$3 billion trade finance facility in the last fiscal year alone, showed the central bank's financial statement.

China has become Pakistan's largest creditor for the past few years. The trade facility, originally meant to promote bilateral trade in respective local currencies, has been used for paying foreign debt.

The \$3 billion money is part of the current \$13.4 billion in foreign currency reserves held by the central bank, the SBP had confirmed to The Express Tribune last month.

analyst at data intelligence firm Kpler, said in an interview with Dubai-based consultant Gulf Intelligence. "We will continue to see these pinpricks but they have limited impact."

Houthi Mines

The Houthis have previously used sea mines to attack ships in Saudi Arabian waters. The Shia group been fighting Yemen's United Nations-backed government since 2014. A Saudi-led coalition intervened a year later on the side of the government.

BW Rhine loaded gasoline at the Saudi port of Yanbu on Dec. 8 before sailing south to Jeddah, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. Jeddah, Saudi Arabia's second-biggest city, is about 370 miles (595 kilometers) from the Yemeni border.

Moroccan schools to teach Jewish history and culture

Agencies

RABAT: Jewish history and culture in Morocco will soon be part of the school curriculum — a "first" in the region and in the North African country, where Islam is the state religion.

The decision "has the impact of a tsunami," said Serge Berdugo, secretary general of the Council of Jewish Communities of Morocco. It "is a first in the Arab world," he said from Casablanca.

For years, although the kingdom had no official relationship with Israel, thousands of Jews of Moroccan origin visited the land of their ancestors, to celebrate religious holidays or make pilgrimages, including from Israel.

But Morocco this week be-

Morocco confirmed the deal, saying King Mohammed VI had told outgoing US President Donald Trump his country had agreed to establish diplomatic relations with Israel "with minimal delay".

The decision to add Jewish history and culture to lessons was discreetly launched before the diplomatic deal was announced.

Part of an ongoing revamp of Morocco's school curriculum since 2014, the lessons will be included from next term for children in their final year of primary school, aged 11, the education ministry said.

The move aims to "highlight Morocco's diverse identity", according to Fouad Chafiq, head of academic programmes at the ministry.

Morocco's Jewish commu-



came the fourth Arab nation since August to announce a US-brokered deal to normalise relations with Israel, following the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said liaison offices would be reopened in Tel Aviv and Rabat, which Morocco closed in 2000 at the start of the second Palestinian uprising, and full diplomatic relations would be established "as rapidly as possible".

nity has been present since antiquity and grew over the centuries, particularly with the arrival of Jews expelled from Spain by the Catholic kings after 1492.

At the end of the 1940s, Jewish Moroccans numbered about 250,000 — some 10 per cent of the population.

Many left after the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, and the community now numbers around 3,000, still the largest in North Africa.

Over 300 Schoolboys Still Missing After Nigeria School Attack

Agencies

Abuja: More than 300 schoolboys are still missing after gunmen attacked a secondary school in Kankara, a town in Nigeria's northwestern Katsina state, authorities said.

Attackers on motorcycles stormed the all-boys Government Science School late on Friday and engaged security forces in a fierce gun battle, forcing hundreds of students to flee and hide in the surrounding forest.

"So far we are yet to account for 333 pupils," Katsina Governor Aminu Masari said on Sunday after a meeting with security officials, adding that the boarding school had a total of 839 students.

Masari said students who managed to escape the attack have been coming out of hiding in the forest. It is unclear if the students initially hid or they escaped from their attackers.

"Efforts are being made to ascertain the actual num-

ber of children that have been kidnapped," said Masari.

Meanwhile, parents and family members on Sunday gathered at the school, issuing a plea to authorities to bring the missing boys to safety.

"If it's not government that will help us, we have no power to rescue our children," Murja Mohammed, whose son was taken, told Reuters news agency.

Meanwhile, the hashtag BringBackOurBoys was trending on social media in Nigeria on Sunday as public outrage grew about an attack that initially saw 600 boys missing.

Defence Minister Major General Bashir Salihi-Magash, who met Masari, the governor, said the military will pursue the attackers and rescue the students without any collateral damage.

"We will go the whole hog," said Salihi-Magash. "We have the intelligence, the information where they are and their movement and their method of operation."

NEWS MAKERS

Iran Awards Military Medal To Nuclear Scientist Assassinated Last Month

Tehran: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday posthumously awarded a prestigious military decoration to top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was assassinated last month, state television reported.

Fakhrizadeh was killed on a major road outside Tehran in late November in a bomb and gun attack that the Islamic republic has blamed on its arch foe Israel.

The broadcaster said the first class Order of Nasr ("Victory" in Persian), bearing Khamenei's signature, was handed to the scientist's family by the armed forces chief of staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri.



"This is a decoration meant for dear ones who defend the Islamic revolution and Iran's territorial integrity and independence," Bagheri said.

He added that it is the highest medal awarded in recognition of logistics contribution and support of the troops.

After Fakhrizadeh's death, Defence Minister Amir Hatami referred to him as his deputy minister and head of the ministry's Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND), focusing on the field of "nuclear defence."

Master of espionage John le Carre dies at 89

John le Carre, the spy-turned-novelist whose elegant and intricate narratives defined the Cold War espionage thriller and brought acclaim to a genre critics had once ignored, has died. He was 89.

Le Carre's literary agency, Curtis Brown, said Sunday he died in Cornwall, southwest England on Saturday after a short illness. The agency said his death was not related to COVID-19.

His family said he died of pneumonia. In classics such as "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold," "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" and "The Honourable Schoolboy," Le Carre combined terse but lyrical prose with the kind of complexity expected in literary fiction.

His books grappled with betrayal, moral compromise and the psychological toll of a secret life. In the quiet, watchful spy-master George Smiley, he created one of 20th-century fiction's iconic characters — a decent man at the heart of a web of deceit.



"John le Carre has passed at the age of 89. This terrible year has claimed a literary giant and a humanitarian spirit," tweeted novelist Stephen King. Margaret Atwood said: "Very sorry to hear this. His Smiley novels are key to understanding the mid-20th century."

For le Carre, the world of espionage was a "metaphor for the human condition." "I'm not part of the literary bureaucracy if you like that categorizes everybody: Romantic, Thriller, Serious," le Carre told The Associated Press in 2008. "I just go with what I want to write about and the characters. I don't announce this to myself as a thriller or an entertainment."

Taliban leader got insured before murder

Selain Afghan Taliban chief Mullah Akhtar Mansour purchased a life insurance policy using a fake identity in Pakistan and paid Rs3 lakh in premium before being killed in a US drone attack, according to a media report on Sunday.

Mansour, who was killed in a US drone strike along the Pakistan-Iran border on May 21, 2016, assumed the leadership of the Taliban in July 2015, replacing its founder and the one-eyed reclusive long-time spiritual head Mullah Mohammad Omar who died in 2013.

The details about the insurance policy were revealed during the hearing of a terror funding case against him and his absconding accomplices on Saturday.

The insurance company provided this information to an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Karachi during the hearing of the case registered against Mansour and his accomplices by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) last year, Dawn news reported.

Except administration nobody is with BJP: Shah



Budgam: Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration visited dozens of Budgam areas seeking vote and support for their candidate. The campaign was run by ANC Senior vice president Muzaffar Ahmed Shah and Peoples Movement President Javaid Mustafa Mir.

These leaders visited and interacted people at Dandoosa Khumani Chowk, Laribal, Galwanpora, Harran, Soibug, Wadwan, Gariand Kallan, Wahabpora, Gariand Khurd, Nusrullahpora, Pathanpora, Sangam, Harran and Soibugh.

Muzafar Shah told people PAGD did its work and took a stand and now it is the job of people to decide what they want. He said PAGD stands for the restoration of Article 370 while elections

Blaming BJP of running away from the real issues and hardships faced by the people due to its wrong policies and decisions, Shah appealed to the people to ex-

pose and reject the politics of deceit and exploitation of the ruling party.

He said that BJP always tries to divert the attention of the people during elections from real issues faced by the people to exploit the emotions of people. People should see through the electoral designs and tactics of BJP and reject the forces of opportunism led by BJP.

In response to a question, Shah said except administration nobody is with BJP. "If Godforbid, BJP wins a single seat that will be because of the support it is getting from the administration," he said.

He said BJP won't win a single seat among 140 seats. "It is not the question of development but about the dignity of people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

On this occasion, Javaid Mustafa Mir said that the people should reject the political maneuvering of the ruling party at the strength of power.

Will Confront Divisive Forces: Bukhari

SRINAGAR, December 14: Apni Party President Syed Altaf Bukhari on Monday ridiculed the political forces that indulge in divisive politics and sow the seeds of discord in the socio-political fabric for reaping electoral dividends.

Addressing the Party's DDC election campaign convention held at Gund Khwaja Qasim-Singhpura-Pattan in district Baramulla, Bukhari said that his Party is committed to bridge the gap that has been deliberately created between the communities, regions and sub regions in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The cards of divisiveness and polarization played by some politicians with vested interests has not only created a huge gulf between the communities but has proved to be a huge hurdle in the way of development of the society in J&K," he remarked.

The occasion witnessed massive participation of people irrespective of the age and gender who responded to the speeches of Apni Party leadership with a thunderous applause.

Highlighting the dangers of divisive politics, Bukhari observed that this detestable trend poses a great risk to peace not only in Jammu and Kashmir given its political atmosphere but has far-reaching external ramifications as well.

"Apni Party wants all the communities to work together as a unit in J&K for making our society to witness peace and progress. Our party has pledged to unite all the



regions and sub regions of J&K to discard and confront these forces inimical to peace and amity with all its political might," he averred.

Bukhari said that the J&K has already suffered a lot due to divisive politics being played on the basis of community, sectarian or regional basis.

Speaking on the occasion, Apni Party Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir observed that there can be ideological differences in any society but that should not create an unmanageable gulf between the people.

"I think J&K's electorate is mature enough and have now resolved not to provide any space to the leaders who pit one section against the other," Mir remarked.

He said that the Apni Party is guided by the principles of inclusive politics and it would never condone the politics of sectarianism or communal polarization.

"We have great leaders here

who represent different ideologies and sects and have tremendous contribution in imparting socio-religious teachings among the people. But people should not fall prey to insinuations and think about the development of the society as a unit. This is what our Party's political philosophy envisions and we all are committed to further this agenda," Mir observed.

The event was also addressed by the Party's general secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir. In his speech, Mir appealed to the people to support the Apni Party contesting candidate Kaneez Fatima for her commitment and dedication shown for the public welfare.

"People should inculcate a habit of making their representatives accountable. We believe that the lack of public accountability is responsible for the prevailing underdevelopment of Jammu and Kashmir," the Apni Party General Secretary observed.

Children of deceased COVID Warriors DGHS invites applications for MBBS

JAMMU, DECEMBER 14: It is for the information to all the candidates, who have appeared and qualified for NEET examination conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) in September, 2020, that Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) have decided to allot five MBBS Seats to Children of COVID Warriors.

In this connection, the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC), Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) invites applications from interested and

eligible children of deceased COVID Warriors through respective Directorate of Medical Education (DME)/ Directorate Health Services (DHS) of their domicile states.

The applications filled along with all supporting documents, duly certified by respective Directorate of Medical Education (DME)/ Directorate Health Services (DHS), should be submitted to respective DME/DHS offices, who will forward these forms to MCC for allotment as per NEET Merit.

WHAT IF I FAIL ?

A Poem By Bhat Tasim



Today I woke up, being very sad.
Being so dull and feeling very bad.
Looked at the sky, the morning sun.
The sun replied, "oh! you one,
Why are you sad? still heights to climb,
Challenges will come, get through them.
Look towards me and be wise,
Evening I go down, but again I rise".

Then, I turned towards singing birds,
Singing in their own words.
Wandering over my head, they too said,
"Barriers will be there, you go ahead.
Look towards us and grow up,
Predators destroy our homes, still we set up".

Then, I noticed the beautiful butterfly,
It's little colourful wings, everything dignify.
It also asked me, "why are you stressful?
Fear will be there, but always be faithful.
Look towards me, whenever I fly
Birds eat me, but still I fly, even so high".

Lastly, I looked down at the tiny ant.
What a persistence! I never thought.
And it said, " hey! though I am a tiny ant,
I never give up, so why you stop?
You just start, wherever you are,
And believe, your success is not so far".
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tasimrafq2@gmail.com.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION SHOPIAN NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT S. No.38/PHS of 2020-21Dated:14.12.2020

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor J&K, e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of in (days)	Class of Contract	Head of Account
1	Providing & fixing of sub-main and distribution system for new colony Tulihaan and other outgrowths at Tulihaan.	9.76	19520/-	600/-	25 days	C&D	
2	Desilting of 0.40 lac Gallon SR at Watchi.	0.17	340/-	100/-	07 days	DEE	
3	Renovation/refurbishing of rooms: viz: Accounts Section, Establishment section and Drawing Branch of PHE Division Shopian.	1.11	2220/-	200/-	10 days	DEE	
4	Development of Head Works, Channelisation and creation of pondage upstream intakes in wake of winter 2020-2021: WSS Dangam Ratnipora, Tekipora, Tengpora, Trenz Turkwangam, Killora, Krawoora, Kunsoo Nolie, Mohapora, Therin Nadigam Kutpora, Check Sephora, Reshipora Alamgunj, D.K pora, Wangipora.	0.75	1500/-	100/-	10 days	DEE	
5	Development of Head Works, Channelisation and creation of pondage upstream intakes in wake of winter 2020-2021: WSS Rampathri at three spots, Kanipora and Habiipora.	0.50	1000/-	100/-	10 days	DEE	
6	Providing water supply facilities to Bren Colony and Sheikh Mohalla Meemender.	1.38	2760/-	200/-	10 days	DEE	

Position of A&A:- Accorded; Position of Funds:-

The Bidding Document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, Specification, Bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:-

S.No	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYY	
1.	Date of Publish of NIT	14	12	2020	900 Hrs
2.	Period of downloading of bidder documents	14	12	2020	900 Hrs
3.	Bid submission Start date	14	12	2020	900 Hrs
4.	Bid submission End date	26	12	2020	1700 Hrs
5.	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	26	12	2020	1800 Hrs

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tenders documents in shape of treasury Challan pledged in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Shopian (Account -0215)

Earnest Money/Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to:-

Executive Engineer PHE Division Shopian.

5. Earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of treasury challan.

The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidder automatically through an e-mail message on their mail id. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of, Executive Engineer PHE Division Shopian (tender receiving authority).

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

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double) Agreement Form.

DIPK-10416/20

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PHE Division Shopian,

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Telefax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

GIST of e-NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/224/e-tendering

Dated: 11.12.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered, reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

Name of Work	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Time of completion (in days)	Position of funds
1	3	4	5	6	
Supply Installation, Testing and commissioning of 32 CCTVs Cameras at MCH Building of Govt. District Hospital, Kulgam.	200	4300	2.15	10	Available as communicated by intending department

- The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 12.12.2020 (18.00 hrs).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 14.12.2020 (10:00 hrs) to 29.12.2020 (16:00 hrs) in two (02) covers.
- The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 30.12.2020 (14.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the Office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

No: MHCHD/ TS/ 6950-55

Dt:-11-12-2020

DIPK-10371/20

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
29 Rabi-us-Sani
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 58
ZUHR	12: 25
ASR	3:46
Magrib	5:27
ISHA	6:52

This Day In History

- 1256 - Hulagu Khan captures and destroys Hashshashin stronghold at Alamut, in present-day Iran, part of the Mongol offensive on Islamic southwest Asia.
- 1612 - German Astronomer Simon Marius is 1st to observe Andromeda galaxy through a telescope.
- 1745 - Battle at Kesseldorf: Prussia beats Saksen & Austria.
- 1840 - Napoleon Bonaparte receives a French state funeral in Paris 19 years after his death.
- 1864 - Battle of Nashville, TN.
- 1877 - Thomas Edison patents the phonograph.
- 1899 - Battle at Colenso, South Africa (Boers-British army).
- 1907 - In Persia, the Shah leads a coup d'etat against the liberal Prime Minister Nasir ul-Mulk and imprisons him, but a popular uprising forces the Shah to restore Nasir ul-Mulk.
- 1913 - Nicaragua becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.
- 1914 - Battle of Lodz ends; Russians retreat toward Moscow.
- 1914 - British fleet forfeits chance to destroy German fleet in North Sea.
- 1914 - Serbian troops retake Belgrade in Austria-Hungary.
- 1916 - French defeat Germans in WW I Battle of Verdun.
- 1917 - Moldavian Republic declares independence from Russia.
- 1917 - World War I: An armistice is reached between the new Russian Bolshevik government and the Central Powers.
- 1919 - Fiume (Rijeka) declares it's Independence.
- 1922 - IVVV (association) peace congress on war forms in Hague.
- 1941 - North Africa: allied assault up Italians Gazala-posing
- 1944 - Hizbu'llah (Arm forces for Allah) forms.
- 1952 - Christine Jorgenson is 1st person to undergo a sex-change operation.
- 1954 - Netherlands Antilles becomes co-equal part of Kingdom of Netherlands.
- 1964 - 1st time 4 people in space.
- 1965 - 3rd cyclone of year kills 15,000 at the mouths of the Ganges River in Bangladesh.
- 1965 - Gemini 6 launched; makes 1st rendezvous in space (with Gemini 7).
- 1966 - Aumudin Dollfus discovers 10th satellite of Saturn, Janus.
- 1967 - The Silver Bridge collapses, killing 46 people.
- 1970 - S Korean ferry Namyong-Ho sinks in Strait of Korea, 308 killed.
- 1970 - Soviet Venera 7 is 1st spacecraft to land on another planet (Venus).
- 1971 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR.
- 1976 - Samoa becomes a member of the UN.
- 1979 - Deposed Shah of Iran leaves US for Panama.
- 1979 - World Court in Hague rules Iran should release all US hostages
- launches Intelsat V satellite, no. 503.
- 1984 - USSR launches Vega 1 for rendezvous with Halley's Comet.
- 1986 - 150 killed during race riot in Karachi.
- 1994 - Palau becomes a member of the UN.
- 2001 - The Leaning Tower of Pisa reopens after 11 years and \$27,000,000 to fortify it, without fixing its famous lean.

From KO Archives

Internet Telephony Soon

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: In a major policy decision, the government has decided to scrap the old Telegraph Act and replace it with a new Convergence Act, which allows making telephone calls through the In-ternet, Union Information Technology Minister Pramod Mahajan announced in Pune on Sunday.

Under the existing 1886 Telegraph Act, there were separate rules for delivery of voice and picture data through telecommunication channels and hence using the Internet to make telephone calls (In-ternet telephony) was not permissible, he said addressing the concluding function of a two-day conference on Information Tech-nology and Biotechnology.

The new Convergence Act takes into consideration all these aspects and evolves a uniform law, Mahajan said. He said the Convergence Act will have uniform laws regarding the delivery system of voice, picture, digital and other forms of data through telecommunication channels. He said the final version of the new Convergence Act was ready and will be cleared by December 21 by a Group of Minister dealing with this act. By December 25, it will be released on the Net for people to give suggestions and objections.

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KASHMIR
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Eviction Drives

In a surprise move, J&K Government recently moved a review petition in the high court about its recent order voiding the Roshni Act that had allowed the occupants of the state land to own it against payment to the government on existing market rate. The government rethink followed after thousands of kanals of land was found to have been regularised in favour of the people, many of them poor.

According to the high court, 604,602 kanals of the state government land had been transferred to the occupants. Of this, the Jammu region accounted for a lion's share of 571,210 kanals. One of the major factors that persuaded the government to seek a review of the government order was the growing unease in its core constituency Jammu, over the forcible retrieval of the transferred land. Though the BJP had accused the past governments who passed the Roshni Act of allotting government land to Muslims in Jammu with an intention to change the demography of the region, it turned out that only 1180 kanals of the 44,000 kanals regularised in Jammu district, had gone to Muslims.

So, the drive to retrieve the government land had generated deep resentment in Jammu division forcing the BJP to change its mind. More so, at a time when J&K is in the midst of District Development Council polls where the BJP seems at a serious disadvantage with regard to its political rivals.

Earlier in October, the J&K High Court in a judgement with far reaching consequences ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take over the probe of Rs 25,000 crore Roshni land scam in Jammu and Kashmir. Court also declared all allotments made under the legislation "void" from the beginning.

The court asked J&K Chief Secretary B. V. R. Subrahmanyam to ensure uninterrupted investigation including against those officers in whose tenures the land encroachments had been made. The court also said that all Deputy Commissioners and Divisional Commissioners will be held in contempt of court if they do not cooperate with the investigation.

Now, with the CBI taking over the case and land allotments being cancelled, it is likely to open a Pandora box. The land and properties sold under the repealed Roshni Act are already under the occupation of their new owners. It remains to be seen whether the government will take steps to evict them or make them pay at the latest market rates for such properties

Meanwhile, the government is issuing notices to thousands of people to vacate the government land, a significant number of them living near forest areas. This despite the fact that the government has filed a review petition in the high court and also plans to implement the Forest Rights Act. This raises questions about why the government is pushing ahead with the eviction drive. It is time that the Government reconsiders the decision considering it too is now taking measures to regularize the state land in favour of their poor occupants.

OTHER OPINION

Vaccine: Science over speed

India began assessing options for a coronavirus vaccine this week, reviewing submissions by two pharma companies for emergency approval. At the outset, a panel of experts deemed that the data was insufficient to judge the two key parameters — safety and efficacy. While it may seem like this decision will delay the rollout of inoculations for Indians, it is an encouraging sign that the experts are upholding the process to the necessary standards. The nature of the recommendations they offered to both companies suggested that they had jumped the gun in filing their submissions. Serum Institute of India (SII) has to now wait till authorities in the United Kingdom (UK), where clinical trials were held, take a decision on their shot. Bharat Biotech will need to present efficacy data from phase 3 trials that have only just begun.

Neither company has offered comments on the timing or the nature of their submissions, but a quick look at the regulatory literature indicates the bar they failed to meet was clearly defined. Vaccines need to demonstrate safety as well as efficacy, with the latter usually determined only in phase 3 trials. And if the vaccine is made outside of India (such as the Oxford-AstraZeneca one that SII sought cleared), it needs to be approved in a foreign market first. It is only Pfizer, the third vaccine developer that also applied but later requested more time, that ticks both these boxes. But even in Pfizer's case, news broke yesterday that people predisposed to allergic drug reactions should be closely monitored after some people in the UK who got the shot developed reactions. These were deemed not worrying, but they highlight the risk of unknowns that can still persist when a process that takes years is collapsed into months.

It is thus important that domain experts are armed with every bit of information, and free of any pressure of anticipation, to make the right decision on the vaccines.

Hindustan Times



The D in DDC

As the name of the DDC elections itself suggests, they are being held around the discourse of "development". The abrogation of Article-370 was itself done around the same narrative

Haris Rashid

Parties belonging to the PAGD are being marginalized in the polls for sticking to their previous political language surrounding the Kashmir-issue and autonomy. Adapting to this new language of politics of development will not be easy for them. This is, however, a challenge for all, as the discourse of development will not find many buyers in Kashmir.

The ongoing District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir are an exercise in political liberalization and replacement of the political elite at the same time. Being the first after the abrogation of Article-370, the elections serve as an opener to the political and democratic process in J&K. Though the elections are being held around the claim of democracy and development, but to take them for this face value would be a mistake. From the discourse that is surrounding the election campaign of DDC polls, it can be discerned that there is a larger game of transforming the politics of J&K at play. These elections seem an extension of the process that began with the revocation of the special status.

As the name of the DDC elections itself suggest, they are being held around the discourse of "development". The abrogation of Article-370 was itself done around the same narrative. Prime Minister Modi had then claimed in his first address to the nation after the revocation, that the special status was a "big obstacle" to the development in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The DDC elections are the continuation of that very narrative.

At the same time, any reference by mainstream politicians to the Kashmir issue or the restoration of special status seems under attack from the government. The PAGD, an alliance of several mainstream political parties that seeks restoration of special status and statehood, constitutes all those political parties like National Conference (NC), Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), People's Conference (PC) and others who have been contesting their elections around the narrative of Kashmir-issue including the issue of special status. These political parties are not compatible with the

new politics of development that is being touted in Jammu and Kashmir by the political dispensations in power at the moment. In fact, Home Minister Amit Shah had recently attacked the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), calling it an "unholy global gathbandhan" which would no longer be tolerated by the people of India for their "anti-national" activities.

Regarding political liberalization, there is an attempt to decentralize power in J&K. The elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies were held in 2018 which the PDP and the NC had boycotted due to the situation con-

larger scheme of things.

Parties belonging to the PAGD are being marginalized in the polls for sticking to their previous political language surrounding the Kashmir-issue and autonomy. Adapting to this new language of politics of development will not be easy for them as they have created their vote banks using their ideologies, which do not necessarily seem to encompass development, or at least, are not restricted to development. Hence, it is in replacing these parties that the politics of development can be attempted to be the only feature of the future elections in J&K.

This is, however, a challenge for

The BDCs form the second-tier of Panchayati Raj Institutions while the ongoing DDCs form the third-tier. In the BDC elections, there were 217 independent winning candidates while the BJP had emerged as the largest party with its 81 candidates winning the elections

cerning special status at that time. Two months after the revocation of special status, there were elections to Block Development Councils (BDCs) in October 2019. The BDCs form the second-tier of Panchayati Raj Institutions while the ongoing DDCs form the third-tier. In the BDC elections, there were 217 independent winning candidates while the BJP had emerged as the largest party with its 81 candidates winning the elections. With the election to DDCs going on, J&K would for the first time have all the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions. This would decentralize power and authority, leading to the dilution of the power of the legislative assembly. It will make sure that nobody has absolute authority in J&K so that no politician matters in the

all as the discourse of development will not find buyers in Kashmir. Unlike elections held before the revocation of special status in Jammu and Kashmir, DDC elections do not seem to matter at any level and are unlikely to aid any narrative that validates or invalidates the aspirations of Kashmiris. It is too early to truly assess this new landscape of politics in Kashmir but as political process is opened up gradually, we'd be in a better position to see the duel of narratives and identify its refurbished peddlers.

Views expressed in this article are author's own and do not necessarily represent that of Kashmir Observer
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DDC Polling Videos as Theatre of Absurd

One of the greatest American comedians, Groucho Marx once said, "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies." It holds rather true in the context of Jammu and Kashmir where DDC elections are currently being held as the latest episode of an unending political drama. The problem of J&K has been diagnosed as that of development hampered by local political parties that have traditionally enjoyed power in the erstwhile state. Hence, in order to give an impression that some semblance of procedural democracy exists in J&K, all the political

stake holders have tried their best to field candidates that could bring glory to their dugouts. However, the recent barrage of videos that have surfaced on the social media are telling a different, more comical story of these candidates.

In one of the videos, an election candidate was asked what DDC stood for and in a state that could either be described as panic or over-enthusiasm, he stuttered and stammered his way to saying that DDC meant, "Sab ka vikas sab ka vishwas". In similar videos, other candidates were also seen struggling to answer what the full form was. The voting population also chipped in with their verbal contribution to the

great election drama. An old lady, probably in her 70s, was asked what motivated her to cast a vote to which she replied, "For freedom". Freedom from what? A question that remained untouched.

However, the one interview which took the cake was of a man outside a polling station who was asked whether the candidates were going to work for the welfare of the common people. He promptly replied in a serious and yet an amusing tone, "yim karan ne kiheen lastas (They aren't going to do anything in the end)". When asked why he had casted his vote then, he answered that he hadn't and that he was on his way to his home.

The baffled look on the journalist's face summed up the entire conversation and was emblematic of the absurdity surrounding these elections as well.

It will be futile to ask whether the diagnosis of the problem of J&K was accurate or not because that ship appears to have sailed already. But in all of the jabberwocky surrounding politics in Kashmir, "Yim karan ne kiheen lastas" appears to be a statement of unadulterated genius at the moment.

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How Does A Virus Stop?

Erin Smith

Some Scientists say we will never be able to make the COVID virus go away completely. Instead, it will probably become a disease that makes some people sick every year, like the flu. It will almost certainly be with us for a long time, even after the pandemic is over

There's a scene in the movie "Wreck It Ralph" where Sergeant Calhoun describes some of the bad guys, called "Cy-Bugs". Calhoun says "Cy-Bugs are like a virus... All they know is eat, kill, multiply". She goes on to say "viruses do not stop!" Well, do they? It's a great question. It can be confusing when some people, like the president of the United States, say this new COVID virus will go away on its own. The short answer is that while some viruses gradually disappear, most viruses don't just "go away". Viruses are actually really clever at finding ways to hide, just waiting for an opportunity to come back.

Some viruses do disappear
You might already know that some viruses give us the flu. You might not know that every flu virus that infected humans until about 120 years ago has now disappeared (or "gone extinct", as scientists say). Some other more recent ones have disappeared too. For instance, the virus that caused a terrible flu outbreak in 1957, which killed about 100,000 people in the United States, has now disappeared.

A virus that caused a horrible disease called "Spanish flu" is another good example. Back in 1918, this virus caused a worldwide disease outbreak (a pandemic) and lots of people sadly died. The virus continued to pop up in some places until 1921. But by then, lots of people were immune to it, because their bodies had learned how to fight it off. This meant it didn't carry on spreading like a pandemic, but instead just popped up here and there. Because of this, the strain that caused the pandemic mainly disappeared.

So can we get rid of the COVID virus too?
Sometimes we try to make a virus go extinct on purpose. We generally use vaccines (sometimes called "needles" or "jabs") to do that. A vaccine helped us get rid of a virus called smallpox, which used to be one of the world's scariest diseases. Vaccines are also hopefully going to get rid of viruses called po-



The situation is a bit similar to another new disease, called swine flu, which appeared about 11 years ago. It was different from other flu strains, so it spread a lot and became a pandemic. The same thing has happened now with COVID.

lio and measles. Scientists are trying as hard as they can to make a COVID vaccine. In fact we might end up with more than one type of vaccine to fight the COVID virus. If we do get them, they will help a lot but might not stop the virus completely. This means some people would still get infected, although nowhere near as many people as before. The situation is a bit similar to another new disease, called swine flu, which appeared about 11 years ago. It was different from other flu strains, so it spread a lot and became a pandemic. The same thing has happened now with COVID. About one person in every ten people in the world caught the swine flu virus before scientists could make

a vaccine. After a year, the vaccine had arrived and less and less people were getting swine flu. The swine flu virus didn't disappear — it was still hiding out ready to infect people. But because we had a vaccine, not as many people got sick. **How and when will COVID end?** SARS is a virus similar to COVID. It was identified in 2003 and infected more than 8,000 people. But since 2004, it has not been seen again in humans. We got rid of it by doing a mixture of different things. This included isolation and quarantine, which you might know as "iso". We're using similar measures to fight COVID. So why did they work to

stop SARS, but haven't got rid of COVID yet? One big problem is that COVID can spread without someone even feeling ill. This means you can pass it on even if you don't have a cough or a runny nose. For this reason, some scientists say we will never be able to make the COVID virus go away completely. Instead, it will probably become a disease that makes some people sick every year, like the flu. It will almost certainly be with us for a long time, even after the pandemic is over.

By Arrangement with
The Conversation

Coronavirus Dreamscape

Mark Blagrove

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed nearly every aspect of our lives. Our dreams are no different. Soon after the first lockdowns started, people reported having more dreams than before, with different content. This was explained by the fact that many people were sleeping for longer, and waking without alarm clocks or an immediate schedule. Other people were experiencing more stress, which can also alter dreaming. Now a new study, published in PLOS, has analysed hundreds of dream reports before and during lockdown to give detailed results of the pandemic's impact on dreaming. It has proven difficult to study dreams during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because it was unexpected, it was a challenge to find baseline dream data with which to compare the pandemic data. A similar problem occurred when researchers aimed to study how dreams changed due to the events of 9/11, and after the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. One method is to ask participants whether their dreams have changed during the pandemic, compared to previously. This was done in March 2020, when a representative sample in the US was contacted by YouGov. Nearly 30% of the participants reported that they could remember more dreams, whereas only 7.5% reported lower dream recall. People also reported that their dreams had become more negative emotionally. However, only 8% of respondents actually reported that they'd had a dream with content related to COVID-19. A second method is to collect written descriptions of dreams, called dream reports, and compare them to reports collected several years previously by other authors. An online survey such as this was posted by Harvard Medical School researcher Deirdre Barrett from March to July 2020. It requested the submission of "any dreams you have had related to the COVID-19 coronavirus". Dreams from 2,888 people were processed by Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC), which is a computerised text analysis method. It identifies emo-



Pandemic dreams had significantly more anger and sadness than pre-pandemic dreams. Fascinatingly, the level of anger and sadness in dreams was also related to how much mental suffering the person had as a result of social isolation during lockdown.

tions, such as happiness or sadness, and other content categories. The study found that pandemic dreams had more negative emotions and fewer positive emotions, compared to pre-pandemic dreams. **Improving understanding** The new study, by Natália Mota from the Federal University of Rio Grande in Brazil and colleagues, uses a third method. They collected dream reports from 67 Brazilian participants using the same procedure before and during lockdown. One group of participants had submit-

ted dream reports during September and November 2019, and another submitted them during the Brazilian lockdown in March and April 2020. The two groups of participants were well matched for education level, age and sex distribution. The study assessed all dreams recalled by the participants during each period. Dreams were therefore not selected by the participants. This is important because such selection can bias results. The study also used LIWC to automatically identify emotional words in

the dream reports. In total, 239 dream reports were assessed. The researchers discovered that the dream reports during the pandemic were longer, when measured in words, than pre-pandemic reports. They also noted that pandemic dreams had significantly more anger and sadness than pre-pandemic dreams. This effect was found even when the increased length of dream reports was taken into account. Fascinatingly, the level of anger and sadness in dreams was also related to how much mental suffering the per-

son had as a result of social isolation during lockdown. This is consistent with the emotional regulation theory of dreaming, which suggests that we process and regulate our emotions when we sleep. Pandemic dreams also had more references to contamination and cleanliness. The authors link this to the threat simulation theory, which holds that we practice overcoming threats in the virtual reality of our dreams. At the end of the study, participants rated how much they observed their dreams or told them to others during the study. It turned out that such behaviour happened more in people who were happy (versus sad), energetic (versus tired), peaceful (versus aggressive), altruistic (versus selfish) and creative (versus confused). This could be because feeling positive makes you more likely to observe and share your dreams. But it may also be that considering your dreams and talking about them has these positive benefits. The latter theory is supported by work we have conducted on the benefits of dream sharing. In particular, we found that discussing a dream for 30 minutes with a friend or family member and relating it to recent waking life circumstances can make the listener feel empathy towards the person sharing the dream. This can help us feel less lonely. Perhaps people who share pandemic dreams are more likely to take seriously the fear, anger and sadness they feel – emotions we can often brush away during waking hours. Talking about the dreams with others can therefore be helpful in managing the emotions, rather than suffering in silence. The authors of the new study conclude that paying attention to and telling our dreams is a "relatively safe way for self-observation and mental health management that can be recommended during this period of uncertainty." This is evidence for the view that the sharing of dreams with family and friends has benefits for the dreamer and wider society.

By Arrangement with
The Conversation

FROM FRONT PAGE

PDP Leader's ...

area is going on," he said. Meanwhile, hundreds of people participated in the funeral of the killed PSO Manzoor Ahmed at his native village Nagam in Chadoora area of Budgam district.

According to the locals, Manzoor is survived by his elderly parents, wife and two children and he was the only bread earner of his family. The locals said that Manzoor was very noble and his death is a big shock for them.

"He has elderly parents, who have no source of income. They are helpless now," the locals said.

58% Votes ...

women, out of which 52,609 exercised their franchise, Sharma said. In the Jammu division, 74.92 per cent polling was recorded whereas it was 46.13 per cent in the Kashmir division in the sarpanch bypolls, he said.

In the panch by-elections, Doda district in the Jammu division recorded the highest voter turnout of 92.27 per cent followed by Jammu with 87.15 per cent and Udhampur with 84.48 per cent, Sharma said. In the Kashmir division, Kupwara district recorded 71.70 per cent followed by Kulgam with 67.57 per cent and Ganderbal with 63.50 per cent, he said.

On division-wise voter turnout break up for sarpanch bypolls, Sharma said in the Kashmir division, Ganderbal district recorded the highest at 66.26 per cent followed by Bandipora with 54.67 per cent and Baramulla with 51.71 per cent.

In the Jammu division, Reasi district recorded 85.41 per cent turnout followed by Poonch with 80.65 per cent and Rajouri with 79.80 per cent, he said.

The SEC said that polling was peaceful and smooth at all polling stations.

Guidelines For ...

manufacturer to a district to avoid mixing of different COVID-19 vaccines in the field. As per the "COVID-19 Vaccine Operational Guidelines", all measures should be taken to avoid exposing the vaccine carrier, vaccine vials or ice packs to direct sunlight, the document said.

Vaccines and diluents should be kept inside the vaccine carrier with the lid closed until a beneficiary comes to the centre for vaccination.

"There may not be vaccine vial monitors (VVM) and Date of Expiry on the label of COVID-19 vaccine, this should not discourage vaccinators from using the vaccine. At the end of the session, the vaccine carrier with all ice packs and unopened vaccine vials should be sent back to the distributing cold chain point," the guidelines said.

States have been asked to implement an integrated 360-degree comprehensive advocacy communication and social mobilisation strategy to address the challenges surrounding vaccine rollout progress and benefits.

The Centre has stated that the country stands on the cusp of COVID-19 vaccine administration, even as certain challenges need to be countered well in time.

"These may include the challenge of ensuring over 1.3 billion people in India receive factual and timely information and updates on vaccine rollout progress and benefits, public's anxiety and queries regarding government's decision for prioritisation of vaccine administration, apprehension about the vaccines introduced after a short trial raising safety concerns, and fear of adverse events, misconception about vaccine efficacy, rumours and negative narrative in media/social media space and laxity observed in public adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour," the document stated.

The vaccination team will consist of five members, it said.

Each session should be planned for 100 beneficiaries per day. If the session site has adequate logistics and space available for waiting room and observation room along with arrangement for crowd management, one more vaccinator officer can be added to create a session for 200 beneficiaries, the guidelines stated.

The COVID-19 vaccine will be offered first to healthcare workers, frontline workers and to persons above 50 years of age, followed by persons younger than 50 years of age with associated comorbidities based on the evolving pandemic situation, and finally to the remaining population based on the disease epidemiology and vaccine availability.

The priority group of above 50 years may be further subdivided into those above 60 years of age and those between 50 to 60 years of age for purposes of phasing of rollout based on the pandemic situation and vaccine availability.

"The latest electoral roll for Lok Sabha and legislative assembly election will be used to identify the population aged 50 years or more," the guidelines stated.

Under phase one of the vaccination, it is planned to vaccinate nearly 30 crore population. Twelve photo-identity documents, including Voter ID, Aadhar card, driving license, passport and pension document, will be required for self-registration on the Co-WIN website, it added. (PTI)

PSO's Killing Aimed ...

He said that police have clues about the number of militants involved in the attack and area where they came from and that "attackers will soon be brought to book."

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of wreath laying ceremony of slain cop

Manzoor Ahmed at District Police Lines (DPL) Srinagar, the DGP said that one must understand that J&K is going through an important exercise at present—the exercise at the grassroots level and there is a huge participation of people, which is commendable.

PSO Manzoor was guarding PDP senior leader Haji Pervez Ahmed at Natipora, Srinagar, and sustained bullet wounds after militants fired at him early this morning. He was shifted to Bone and Joints Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

"There have been elaborate security arrangements but we can't put the movement of people to a complete halt while ensuring the grassroot level exercise. In between, there is a hidden movement of an odd number of anti-national elements as well," he said.

The DGP said that in Poonch, a group of Lashkar-e-Taiba militants had infiltrated and were trying to reach Shopian but couldn't due to snow accumulation in the area.

"Their motive too was to disrupt the ongoing election process. We offered them surrender multiple times with an aim that we could show the world that how our neighbour is fomenting trouble in Kashmir. But the militants refused to surrender and were killed in the encounter," he said, adding that "we have enough evidence and incriminating material recovered from the slain militants by which we can prove what their motive was."

About PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's tweet wherein she has alleged that J&K administration has left the opposition leaders in a vulnerable position by downgrading their security, the DGP termed the allegations as baseless.

"The PDP leader at whose residence SPO Manzoor was killed, was asked by the police to shift the location on the pretext that his residence was in a congested area and prone to militant attacks. He never paid heed to our suggestions," the DGP said.

"He regularly violated security advisories. We reviewed his security and found there was a need of one PSO for him, but two were provided to him," he added.

To a query about the motive of militants behind today's attack, the J&K police chief said that the killing was to disrupt the ongoing election process and the peaceful environment prevailing in the Valley that was "managed by people and the security agencies including police after a lot of efforts."

He said attacks like the one happened today can happen despite the security cover to the politicians.

"BJP youth leader Waseem Bari had 10 PSOs but still got killed. "In today's attack, we have a fair amount of clues about the number of militants who carried out the attack and the area from where they came from. I am sure police will track them down soon and bring them to justice," the DGP said—(KNO)

Srinagar To Get ...

Metro Rail corridors. "It was informed that the Jammu Light Rail System will have a 23-kilometer length with 22 stations between Bantalab and Bari Brahmana; whereas Srinagar Light Rail System will have a 25-kilometer length which included 12.5-kilometer length from Indira Nagar to HMT Junction and 12.5-kilometer length from Hazuri Bagh to Osmanabad with 24 stations (12 stations on each corridor)," the official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said, stressed upon speedy implementation and directed that the project once approved should be completed within two years from the date of commencement.

Chief Secretary, BVR Subrahmanyam; Principal Secretary Housing and Urban Development, Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor, Nitishwar Kumar, MD/ CEO, Jammu/Srinagar Mass Rapid Transit Corporation, Ankita Kar, besides representatives from MAHA-Metro and other senior officers were also present in the meeting.

After Prince ...

caulking—an important procedure for the safeguard of houseboats. It costs around Rs 50,000 to each houseboat owner every year. Earlier, Kashmir Observer reported how Amid Repair Ban and New Policy, Houseboats Are Sinking in Kashmir.

In the same report, Nazir Ahmad, Director Tourism, said the houseboat owners have to follow a proper procedure now.

"The court directed the department to frame a policy to reconstruct, repair, registration and renewal of houseboats," he said.

"We comply with the orders and framed the same. However, it was unacceptable to houseboat owners as they maintained that they were not involved while framing the policy. Hence they challenged it." A new updated policy has now been submitted to the government for approval.

"In the name of repairing," Director Tourism had said, "we won't allow illegal constructions. Over 910 houseboats are registered with Tourism Department and all are in good condition."

But Dunno said that over 200 houseboats are in urgent need of repairs. "The government is disallowing reconstruction and repair of houseboats as the High Court believes these boats are a 'major source' of pollution," Dunno said.

All Roshni Scamsters ...

for Jammu and Kashmir and trying to save their illegally occupied land from being retrieved by raising a false alarm of poor man's land being taken away as a result of the new law.

Singh, the Union minister for the PMO, said, such propaganda was being spread precisely by those who had misused the provisions of the Roshni Act through their influence or money to "illegally acquire" large chunks of land at much lower prices and thus deprived the poor farmers to whom this land should have actually gone.

Singh, who hails from Jammu and Kashmir, said all the schemes and laws of the Narendra Modi government are intended to benefit the farmers and poor people.

At the same time, the Modi government exercises zero-tolerance towards corruption or embezzlement, he said.

The minister said those whose names have figured in the Roshni scam for having "dubiously manipulated" poor people's land and unlawfully acquiring its ownership, are feeling threatened that they would lose their "ill-gotten property" and are therefore desperately making a vain bid to provoke the poor man.

It is no secret, he said, that even outside the Roshni scam, large chunks of government land and other unauthorised land had been forcibly grabbed by several influential people or their relatives who had then used this land to set up commercial establishments, franchise institutions, palatial bungalows, etc. PTI

Corona Crosses ...

Valley—a 70-year-old from Guzarbal in Ganderbal district, officials said. Both the victims from Jammu division belonged to the J&K's winter capital and one of them was from Burt Mandir Paryal, they said.

With these deaths, the total fatality count in J&K reached 1801–1152 in the Valley and 650 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 433 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (332), Baramulla (169), Budgam (105), Pulwama (88), Kupwara (88), Anantnag (82), Doda (58), Bandipora (57), Udhampur (53), Kulgam (52), Rajouri (53), Kathua (45), Ganderbal (41), Shopian (37), Samba (34), Poonch (22), Ramban (21), Kishtwar (21), and Reasi (11).

Meanwhile, 246 more people tested positive for coronavirus in J&K ON Monday, taking the total number of people infected by the virus to 116254.

Among the new cases, officials said that Srinagar reported 58 cases, Baramulla 9, Budgam 16, Kupwara 5, Pulwama 6, Anantnag 8, Bandipora 11, Ganderbal 6, Kulgam 1, Jammu 87, Udhampur 7, Rajouri 3, Kathua 4, Kishtwar 7, Samba 4, Ramban 9 and Reasi 5. (With GNS inputs)

J&K Water ...

monitoring mechanism as well as Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM). As per an order issued by Commissioner Secretary to government Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, a copy of which lies with GNS, the panel has been asked to submit periodical reports to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)/Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

I Feel Like Crying ...

example when her abdominal stitches developed abscesses and thus, began her saga of pain and suffering.

"My back gives up on me whenever I try to do some work," she sighed in pain.

Like Ayesha, there're several young mothers running into some sort of hitch after undergoing C-Section surgery.

Aqsa Azam, a newly mother in her late 20s, preferably sought C-Section as an easy way out.

"I thought I couldn't endure the labour pain," she said.

Howbeit, she now seems to lament her choice as she experiences habitual backache and is unable to carry out the routine work duly.

"Although C-section procedure went smooth and pain-free," said Aqsa, holding the baby boy in her arms while being seated on a chair, "I now feel certain discomfort inside, in addition to backache."

She prefers to breastfeed her baby on a chair rather than sitting down.

Another mother in her 30s, Nusrat, still feels the aftermath effects of the surgery that she had undergone couple of years ago.

"I feel like crying whenever I change my position during sleep as my back starts aching severely," she narrated her nightmare.

Apart from low vigour and backache, these young mothers are also annoyed and irritated about the unbridled hair fall.

While carefully fixing her crinkly hair, Bisma Jan, 32, who underwent the surgery a year ago, said, "My hair falls rapidly now, and there seems no end to it."

Like her, Aaliya Adnan, 33, longs for her voluminous hair which started thinning after the surgery.

"Initially, it happened because I was anaemic post delivery," Aaliya said. "But, even after four long years, I'm unable to see any improvement in my hair."

carrying and delivering a life is a woman's unique power and the most unexplainable emotion in her life, the prevailing health sector is being accused for making it a distressing experience for the mothers by not meeting their expectations.

PRIVACY AND OTHER ISSUES

Apart from the fear of labour pain, there're plethora of other reasons that drive a mother towards Cesarean surgery.

And one of which remains the

lack of privacy in Kashmir's government hospitals.

The observation ward, where a woman dressed in a maternity gown, is shifted immediately post delivery of her child, doesn't protect her from the outsiders' gaze.

Her privacy is compromised when local attendants as well as the ward boys repeatedly peek into the room.

"The authorities need to make the special arrangements in maternity hospitals so that our privacy is honored," said 37-year-old, Sameera Shafiq.

Witnessing such inapt situation with her own eyes, Sameera was convinced to deliver her baby surgically.

Another young mother, Azfa Andrabi, in her mid-twenties, shared the similar experience with government hospitals and hence, sought refuge in a private nursing home.

Besides privacy, these mothers criticize the poor infrastructure, non-availability of trained midwives and lack of proper counseling in the state-run hospitals.

Aliya Adnan asserted that she wasn't even counseled for the delivery procedure.

"There should be systematic counseling of women throughout their pregnancy in order to apprise and prepare them for natural childbirth," she said.

WHAT DOCTORS SAY

The gynecologists reveal that a Caesarean section is recommended in case any threat to a mother or baby is recognised.

"Usually, if there is a high risk pregnancy such as the expecting lady being hypertensive, diabetic, over-aged, or baby breech is detected, then we prefer delivery through C-Sections since the vaginal delivery can be risky," Dr. Sumeena, working as a Registrar at Lal Ded Hospital, told Kashmir Observer.

Another Consultant from SKIMS Medical College, Dr. Sami Jan, said that C-section is on rise globally and "women mainly prefer it to avoid the labour pain".

However, women undergoing C-section are prescribed a prolonged bed-rest, unlike those who deliver normally. They also end up complaining a searing backache after delivery.

Besides, women undergoing C-Section have to bear the anesthetic complications as the surgery is carried out under local anesthesia.

Despite all these complications, the modern trend reveals that women voluntarily opt for surgery because they believe it is less painful and safer.

"Women tend to Google the complications of vaginal delivery even before coming to us," Dr. Sumeena continued.

"They catch fear prior to their delivery and thus, prefer to go against the natural process."

Further, as per the gynecologists, if a woman undergoes C-Section, her uterus becomes weak due to the incision.

As such, during her second pregnancy, the baby is delivered via C-Section only, probably around 37 weeks instead of full 40 weeks.

A senior Consultant at Lal Ded Hospital told Kashmir Observer that women who undergo multiple C-Sections are at higher risk of placental problems as well as heavy bleeding, "which sometimes require surgical removal of the uterus".

ECONOMIC INFLUENCE

C-sections also serve as a status-symbol for the elite section that prefers private over government hospitals.

The charges vary greatly from a government to private sector, inspiring the rise of many nursing homes in Kashmir as they mostly witness Caesarean surgeries.

"Private sector also contributes to the rising levels of C-Section as there is no infrastructure for carrying out a normal

delivery there," Dr. Sumeena said.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECT

Isha Malik, Clinical Psychologist, said that fear of complications during birth, phobia related to child birth, history of sexual abuse, dysfunctional beliefs about childbirth, history of traumatic births, pre-existing diagnosis of prenatal depression and anxiety, and other psychiatric and psychosomatic issues can lead a woman towards the decision to undergo C-Section.

"Most of the times women are never referred to a psychologist to evaluate the underlying cause of fear and thus, don't receive the required psychological intervention," Isha said.

Moreover, vicarious birth experiences i.e., hearing negative stories or receiving alarming information related to childbirth from family and friends also induce fear in expecting mothers.

Two Cops ...

The complainant alleged that the two cops were demanding money from him on the one or another.

Quoting sources, the report said that taking cognizance of the complaint; both the cops were booked for extortion and a case FIR no 97/2020 under section 34, 380, 384, 420, 506 IPC was registered against them at the police station Kothi Bagh here.

The report also quoted an unnamed police officer as saying that the accused cops haven't been arrested yet.

"The complainant is out of station and once he will be here, matter will be investigated," the police officer added.

Man Booked ...

"The accused has used provocative language while posting this falsehood with criminal intention to hurt the religious sentiments of Hindu community and to promote enmity & ill will between different religious groups," the police spokesperson said.

Therefore taking cognizance of the false post, the police spokesperson said, a case FIR No. 61/2020 under section 153, 153-A, 295-A, 298 and 505 IPC has been registered in Police Station Rainawari and investigation into the matter has been initiated.

7 Gamblers ...

He identified the accused as Shabir Ahmad Guroo, Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Ishfaq Ahmad Banjari, Taseen Ahmad Khan, Irshad Ahmad Shah, Mudasis Ahmad Irshad and Gowher Ahmad Zargar.

"Accordingly, a case FIR No. 128/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station RM Bagh and investigation has been initiated," he added.

Employee Attempts ...

Meanwhile, In-charge BMO Kupwara Dr. Iqbal told news agency GNS that the employee has been referred to a Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment.

A police official said that an FSL report has been sought in this regard.

"An FIR number 102/2020 under sections 309 IPC has been registered and further investigations set in motion", he added.

ACB Files Case ...

district Baramulla for 29 months from the month of October 2017 to February 2020. "The officials of FCS&CA department instead of identifying the additional

500 AAY beneficiaries, misappropriated quantity of additional allotment in league with their Tehsil Supply Officers (TSOs) and Storekeepers resulting in a loss of Rs. 1,00,75,155 to the State Exchequer," the ACB spokesperson said, adding that a case FIR No. 05/2020 has been registered in P/S ACB Baramulla u/s 5(1)(c), 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) J&K P.C Act Svt. 2006 and section 120-B, 409 RPC.

After the registration of FIR, searches were carried out at various locations after obtaining a search warrant from court, ACB said adding that during the searches, "incriminating documents" related to the case were recovered.

Further investigation of the case is going on, ACB said.

Delay In Payment Of Family Pension Not Expected: HC

SRINAGAR: The authorities at the helm of the affairs are not expected to delay the payment of family pension to the next kin and kith, the High Court observed on Monday even as it asked Secretary Ministry of Finance Department to examine the approach adopted in the matters pertaining to the family pension of the employees.

The direction was passed by a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey while hearing a contempt petition in which the court on October 6 had directed the Accountant General to finalize the family pension case of the petitioner— Shama Agha— in terms of the judgment passed by it regarding implementation of judgment seeking release of family pension,

The Accountant General filed statement of facts in compliance to the court's October 6 order, mentioning that Shama's case for payment of family pension has been taken up with the Senior Accounts Officer (AIS), Central Pension Accounting Office New Delhi.

The statement of facts reveals that the matter has been forwarded for payment of family pension to the office of India Audit and Accounts Department, the court observed.

"Ordinarily, authorities at the helm of the affairs, are not expected to delay the payment of family pension to the next kin and kith, who has served the Government for considerable time," the court said, adding, "The Court feels it necessary that while seeking response from the Accountant General, qua payment of family pension to the petitioner, a copy of the Judgment out of which the instant contempt petition has arisen along with copies of orders passed in the contempt petition from 10.03.2020 till date be send to Secretary to Ministry of Finance Department, Government of India for examining the approach adopted in the matters pertaining to the family pension of the employees."

Need to send the copy of judgment and orders has arisen to update the Secretary to Ministry of Finance Department for taking an overall view in these matters, the court said. It also granted ten days' time to Accountant General to file compliance, ensuring payment of family pension to the petitioner, failing which he shall appear in person on the next date of hearing on December 31. (GNS)

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 168/MDB/9932-52 of 2020-21 DATED: 14.12.2020

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Upgradation of Yarikhah Kralpathri road (Main) Govt. High School Yarikhah by way of Providing and Laying of WBM G-II.	8.96 Lacs	600/-	71920/-	15 days	DEE/CEE	Back to village
2	Upgradation of road from Main Doodapathri road Kuchpuran at Kralpathri by way of P/L of WBM G-II	3.50 Lacs	200/-	7000/-	15 days	DEE	Back to village
3	Upgradation of road at Bonpora Soznipora Kralpathri by way of Providing and Laying of GSB course in full	2.05 Lacs	200/-	4100/-	15 days	DEE	Back to village
4	Upgradation of road from Main to Khudpora Herpora Mohalla at Kralpathri by way of Providing and Laying of GSB course	2.60 Lacs	200/-	5200/-	15 days	DEE	Back to village

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14.12.2020 4.00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	14.12.2020 from 4.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	14.12.2020 from 4.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	21.12.2020 upto 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	22.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR (The Date of Treasury Challan earnest money/Bid Security should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission End dated) pledged to Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).
2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).
3. The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
 - a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No: 9932-52
Date: 14.12.2020

DIPK-10432/20

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

Covid Vaccines Can Have Side Effects - That's A Good Thing

The new coronavirus vaccine appears to be extremely effective - blocking serious illness entirely in randomized trials - and it has passed strict safety reviews and won emergency authorization from regulators in five countries so far, including the United States. But news bulletins in the past week provided a reminder that this remains a revolutionary pharmaceutical agent that will be scrutinized in the months ahead as shots go into arms.

JOEL ACHENBACH
THE WASHINGTON POST

Among the unknowns: To what extent does the vaccine prevent infection vs. simply preventing clinical illness?

Can a vaccinated person who becomes infected, but not sick, transmit the virus to someone else? That's a pivotal factor in forecasting how rapidly the pandemic will be quashed once there is widespread distribution of vaccines.

Another unknown: How long will the protective effect of the vaccine last?

Scientists will also be vigilant for severe allergic reactions. Last week, two health-care workers in the United Kingdom who were among the first batch of people to get the vaccine after it was authorized developed anaphylaxis, a severe allergic response.

Both were known to have a history of severe allergic reactions, and both were treated and recovered. A third person reportedly suffered a rapid heartbeat. British authorities issued new guidance saying people with a history of anaphylaxis should consult with their doctor before taking the vaccine. Researchers do not know what substance in the vaccine formula triggered the severe allergic response.

"When you make a decision to launch a vaccine like this, it's not because you know everything," said Paul Offit, a pediatrician and vaccine expert at Children's

Hospital of Philadelphia and member of a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel that endorsed the vaccine Thursday. But he added, "I think we know enough."

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said Saturday, "I don't think that

He said officials will continue to monitor the safety of the vaccines long after they have received emergency authorization.

"Observation of safety does not end when you start administering vaccines to the general public," he said.

The big picture is that covid-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus, is a



the allergic reactions are even close to being a show-stopper for the Pfizer vaccine."

He said the criteria for participation in the random trials excluded people with a history of severe allergic reactions, and it is not surprising that, as the vaccine reached the general population, such rare allergic responses emerged.

known killer, and has already taken nearly 300,000 lives in the United States and more than 1 million worldwide. Vaccines are essential to crushing the pandemic. US public health officials hope at least 70 percent of the population will agree to be inoculated with one of the vaccines rolled out in the coming months.

"I feel like we're doing something historic, and there's multiple vaccines, and we should be able to lick this," said immunologist Stanley Perlman of the University of Iowa, who is also a member of the advisory panel that voted Thursday to bless the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

But he acknowledged he is concerned about potential side effects that may not yet have been identified.

"I worry about something coming up that we don't know anything about. The unknown," he said.

Two criteria for a good vaccine are "effective" and "safe." The coronavirus vaccine technically named BNT162b2 and developed by industry giant Pfizer and BioNTech meets both standards, according to the professionals who have developed the vaccine, conducted randomized clinical trials and reviewed resulting data during the past several months.

It has received emergency authorization from the FDA and from regulators in the United Kingdom, Canada, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Another, similar vaccine from biotechnology company Moderna is poised to be greenlighted by the FDA this week after a meeting of an advisory panel.

Data from the randomized Pfizer-BioNTech trial showed the two-dose vaccine to be 100 percent effective in preventing severe illness from covid-19.

But in roughly half the people who get the shot, it can produce modest side effects, including fever, headache, fatigue

and pain at the injection site. That's typical for most vaccines.

This is not a flaw or a failure, vaccine

“ Things like fever or soreness at the injection site are normal, and actually they indicate that your body is reacting to the vaccine, which is what you want”

Ellen F. Foxman, an immunologist at the Yale School of Medicine

experts hasten to point out. Side effects are a sign the immune system is kicking into gear, as intended. They're a feature and not a bug, to borrow the language of computer programmers.

"Things like fever or soreness at the injection site are normal, and actually they indicate that your body is reacting to the vaccine, which is what you want," said Ellen F. Foxman, an immunologist at the Yale School of Medicine. "That's a good thing."

Side effects were roughly the same in trial volunteers who got the vaccine and

those who got a saltwater placebo.

"The immune system needs a better public-relations team, because it's just the immune system doing what it does," Offit said.

The newly authorized vaccine, like the Moderna shot, uses a synthesized scrap of genetic information, called messenger RNA, that is wrapped in a protective fat layer to keep it from disintegrating. When it goes into cells in the muscle of the upper arm, it incites cellular machinery to manufacture a protein that mimics the shape of the spike protein that protrudes from the surface of the coronavirus.

At no point, in this type of vaccine, is the coronavirus itself or even part of the coronavirus injected into the body. The body, in effect, becomes the vaccine maker, creating a new protein that triggers an immune response. The immune system manufactures antibodies that can disable anything with structural features resembling this protein - including the coronavirus.

Such a vaccine has never been deployed before.

"It's very important to think about the whole picture," Foxman said. "The vaccine prevents a disease that we know has a lot of bad outcomes, right? Mortality is an outcome - death."

She added, "To me it's very clear it's very beneficial to avoid all the known problems of getting covid 19. I would take this vaccine in a minute if I were offered it."

US Scientists Decode How Coronavirus Hijacks And Damages Lung Cells

Scientists have decoded the chain of molecular responses of human lung cells to infection with the novel coronavirus, an advance which may aid in the identification of clinically approved medications that can be re-purposed for COVID-19 treatment.

The study, published in the journal Molecular Cell, assessed engineered cells of the human lungs' air sacs using precise mass spectrometry technology that can characterise the molecules present in samples.

According to the study, phosphorylation of proteins plays a major role in regulating protein function inside the cells of an organism.

It noted that both protein abundance and protein phosphorylation are typically highly controlled processes in the case of healthy cells.

However, the scientists discovered that SARS-CoV-2 throws the lung cells into disarray, causing abnormal changes in protein amounts and frequency of protein phosphorylation

new viruses form which subsequently exit the exhausted and brutally damaged lung cell, leaving them to self-destruct," said Andrew Emili, study co-author from BUSM.

"These new viruses then infect other cells, where the same cycle is repeated," Emili explained.

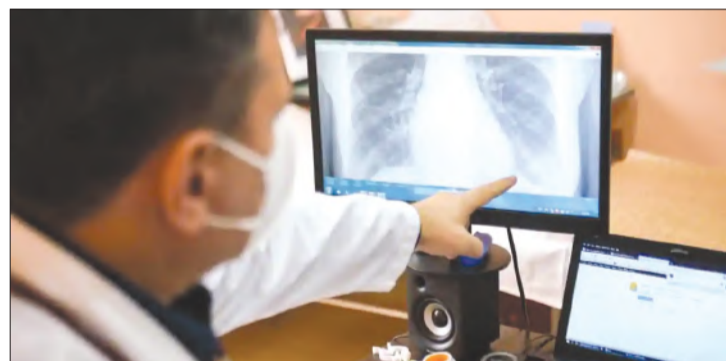
In the study, the scientists examined lung alveolar cells from one to 24 hours after infection with SARS-CoV-2 to understand what changes occur in these cells immediately -- at one, three and six hours after infection by SARS-CoV-2 -- and what changes occur later -- at 24 hours after infection.

"Our results showed that in comparison to normal/uninfected lung cells, SARS-CoV-2 infected lung cells showed dramatic changes in the abundance of thousands of proteins and phosphorylation events," said Darrell Kotton, study co-author and professor of pathology & laboratory medicine at BUSM.

"Moreover, our data also showed that the SARS-CoV-2 virus induces a significant number of these changes as early as one hour post infection and lays the foundation for a complete hijack of the host lung cells," added Elke Muhlberger, another co-author of the study.

The researchers also identified at least 18 pre-existing clinically approved drugs which were developed originally for other medical conditions that could be re-purposed for use towards COVID-19 therapy.

They believe further studies can shed light on the potential of these drugs to block the proliferation of the novel coronavirus in human lung cells. -PTI



Based on the analysis, the scientists from Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) in the US, identified proteins and pathways of molecules in lung cells whose levels change upon infection by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The researchers believe the findings provide insights into disease pathology and new therapeutic targets to block COVID-19. They found that a crucial type of protein modification called "phosphorylation" becomes aberrant in these infected lung cells.

inside these cells.

These abnormal changes, the scientists said, help the virus to multiply -- eventually destroying the cells and resulting in widespread lung injury.

Upon infection, the researchers said the coronavirus rapidly begins to exploit the cell's core resources, which are otherwise required for the cell's normal growth and function.

"The virus uses these resources to proliferate while evading attack by the body's immune system. In this way

present life on Mars and where humans who eventually travel to the planet could look for water.

"We took all major phase changes of liquids into account--freezing, boiling and evaporation--instead of just a single phase, as has commonly been the approach in the past," said study author Vincent Chevrier from the University of Arkansas in the US. "It is looking at all the properties at the same time, instead of one at a time. Then we build maps taking into account all those processes simultaneously," Chevrier added.

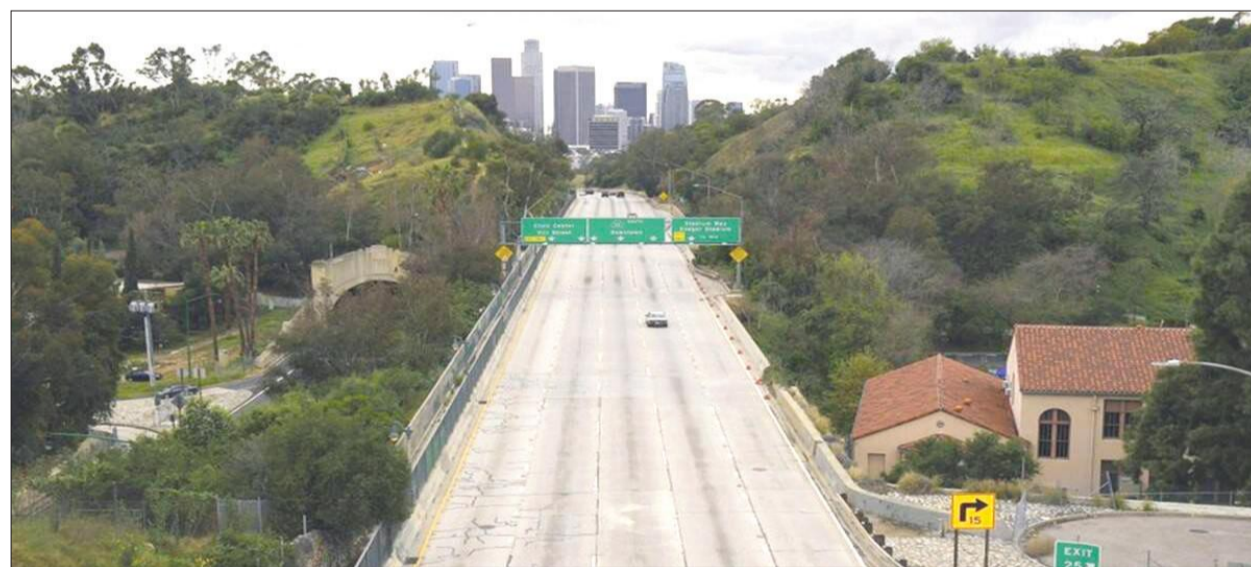
Doing so indicates that previous studies may have overestimated how long brines remain on the surface in the cold, thin and arid Martian atmosphere.

"The most important conclusion is that if you do not take all these processes together, you always overestimate the stability of brines. That is the reality of the situation," Chevrier said.

Favourable conditions for stable brines on the planet's surface are most likely to be present in mid-to high-northern latitudes, and in large impact craters in the southern hemisphere, he said. In the shallow subsurface, brines might be present near the equator.

In the best-case scenario, brines could be present for up to 12 hours per day. "Nowhere is any brine stable for an entire day on Mars," Chevrier noted. -Agencies

World carbon dioxide emissions drop 7% in pandemic-hit 2020



A locked-down pandemic-struck world cut its carbon dioxide emissions this year by 7%, the biggest drop ever, new preliminary figures show.

The Global Carbon Project, an authoritative group of dozens of international scientists who track emissions, calculated that the world will have put 37 billion US tons (34 billion metric tons) of carbon dioxide in the air in 2020. That's down from 40.1 billion US tons (36.4 billion metric tons) in 2019, according to a study published on Thursday in the journal Earth System Science Data.

Scientists say this drop is chiefly because people are staying home, travelling less by car and plane, and that emissions are expected to jump back up after the pandemic ends. Ground transportation makes up about one-fifth of emissions of carbon dioxide, the chief man-made heat-trapping gas.

"Of course, lockdown is absolutely no the way to tackle climate change," said study co-author Corinne LeQuere, a climate scientist

at the University of East Anglia. The same group of scientists months ago predicted emission drops of 4% to 7%, depending on the progression of COVID-19. A second coronavirus wave and continued travel reductions pushed the decrease to 7%, LeQuere said.

Emissions dropped 12% in the United States and 11% in Europe, but only 1.7% in China. That's because China had an earlier lockdown with less of a second wave. Also, China's emissions are more industrial-based than other countries and its industry was less affected than transportation, LeQuere said.

The calculations -- based on reports detailing energy use, industrial production and daily mobility counts -- were praised as accurate by outside scientists. Even with the drop in 2020, the world on average put 1,185 tons (1,075 metric tons) of carbon dioxide into the air every second.

Final figures for 2019 published in the

same study show that from 2018 to 2019 emissions of the main man-made heat-trapping gas increased only 0.1%, much smaller than annual jumps of around 3% a decade or two ago. Even with emissions expected to rise after the pandemic, scientists are wondering if 2019 be the peak of carbon pollution, LeQuere said.

"We are certainly very close to an emissions peak if we can keep the global community together," said United Nations Development Director Achim Steiner.

Chris Field, director of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, thinks emissions will increase after the pandemic but said "I am optimistic that we have, as a society learned some lessons that may help decrease emissions in the future." "For example," he added, "as people get good at telecommuting a couple of days a week or realise they don't need quite so many business trips, we might see behaviour-related future emissions decreases." -Agencies

'Water on Mars not as widespread as previously thought'

Researchers have revealed that water on Mars, in the form of brines, may not be as widespread as previously thought.

The research team combined data on brine evaporation rates, collected through experiments at the centre's Mars simulation chamber, with a global weather circulation model of the planet to create planetwide maps of where brines are most likely to be found.

According to the study, published in The Planetary Science Journal, brines are mixtures of water and salts that are more resistant to boiling, freezing and evaporation than pure water.

Finding them has implications for where scientists will look for past or

Government Degree College for Women Anantnag

NAAC Re-Accredited Grade B (CGPA 2.81)

WCA/20/Tender-Notice/SM/5131

Dated:14/12/2020

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Sealed Quotations/tenders affixed with Revenue Stamp worth Rs.10/- are hereby invited from the Authorized Distributors & suppliers for Science Lab. Material.

The Tender documents along with the detailed terms and conditions can be had from the College Administrative Office during all working days within the stipulated time of 07 days from the date of publication of this Tender Notice.

The Quotations/tenders complete in all respects along with earnest Money in the shape of CDR of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two thousand only) pledged to the Principal of the College payable at any Branch of J&K Bank Anantnag should reach to the office of the undersigned within Seven days from the date of publication of this Tender Notice in local Daily News Paper/s.

The tenderer must attach the registration (licenses) certificate and also GST clearance.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or to reject any Tender without assigning any reasons.

DIPK-10401/20

Sd/
(Dr. Ali Mohammad Dar)
Principal



Wholesale Inflation At 9-Month High In November



The wholesale price-based inflation rose to a 9-month high of 1.55 per cent in November as manufactured products turned costlier, while food prices eased. The WPI inflation was 1.48 per cent in October 2020 and 0.58 per cent in November last year.

This is the highest level of Wholesale price index-based (WPI) inflation since February,

when it was 2.26 per cent.

While food articles saw softening in inflation in November, manufactured items witnessed hardening of prices.

Food inflation in November stood at 3.94 per cent, against 6.37 per cent in the previous month. The rate of price rise in vegetables and potato remained high at 12.24 per cent and 115.12 per cent during the month.

Inflation in non-food articles was higher at 8.43 per cent in November. Fuel and power basket softened to (-) 9.87 per cent in November.

The RBI in its monetary policy earlier this month had said that inflation will remain elevated, barring transient relief in the winter months. It had projected retail inflation, based on consumer price index, at 6.8 per cent in the October-December quarter.

Over 200 Air India Employees Bid For 51% Stake In Airline



A group of 219 Air India Ltd. employees submitted a bid to purchase 51 per cent of the loss-making state-owned carrier.

The remaining 49 per cent will be held by a financial partner, according to Meenakshi Malik, who is Air India's commercial director. Each employee will have to contribute at least 1 lakh (\$1,360) toward the bid, she said.

Air India has been on sale since 2017 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet signed off on a plan to sell all or part of the debt-ridden carrier. The government sweetened the deal earlier this year when it extended the bid deadline to December 14 from October 30, saying potential suitors will be allowed to decide how much of the flag carrier's debt they want to take on as part of the transaction. The rules before that required bidders to take over the carrier's \$3.3 billion of aircraft debt, deterring buyers.

"We always believed Air India can be a profitable set up," said Malik. "The government has removed a huge part of the debt, so we thought who better than us? We know the airline inside out, we know where the problems are. We're not bidding to win or lose, we're doing it because we believe we can run the airline well."

Air India has been unprofitable since its 2007 merger with state-owned domestic operator Indian Airlines Ltd., and has re-

lied on taxpayer money to keep flying, with the bailouts adding to the pressure on already strained government finances.

The airline, which began operations in 1932 as a mail carrier before winning commercial popularity, saw its fortunes fade with the emergence of cutthroat low-cost competition. The state-run carrier's entire debt totals more than \$8 billion. The government didn't find a single bidder when it tried to sell the company before.

That said, the airline does have some lucrative assets, including prized slots at London's Heathrow airport, a fleet of more than 100 planes and thousands of trained pilots and crew.

Malik said a financial partner had already been found, without disclosing that entity's name. Employee participation has come from "the most junior employees to the most senior board members," she said, without elaborating.

A local media report Monday said that U.S.-based Interups Inc. plans to bid with the employees. Interups Chairman Laxmi Prasad confirmed the development, telling Moneycontrol that we "will be submitting a bid later today." Tata Group has submitted an expression of interest for Air India. Its interest was submitted via AirAsia India, in which Tata Sons Pvt Ltd. has a significant majority stake. Singapore Airlines Ltd., with which Tata Sons operates full-service airline Vistara, won't be part of the bid in the initial stages, according to a report.

Spicehealth Inks Pact With Ccbm For Dry Swab Covid-19 Test

HYDERABAD: Health-care company SpiceHealth has signed an MoU with the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) here for using the latter's COVID-19 dry swab direct RT-PCR test technology, billed as a "game changer" that would cut down the time and cost in diagnosing the infection, officials said on Monday.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recently granted approval to the CCMB, a premier research institute, to commercially use the technology of dry swab RNA extraction- free Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing method for detecting coronavirus.

SpiceHealth, founded by the promoters of SpiceJet, currently has five functioning labs at government requested locations around Delhi NCR, conducting 10,000-15,000 tests per day, the company said.

The memorandum of under-

standing (MoU) with the CSIR-CCMB was for conducting tests using the technology in Spice Health's mobile testing laboratories.

"The dry swab method, developed by CSIR-CCMB, will reduce testing time by 1.5 hours, significantly reduce cost and further revolutionise RT-PCR testing," SpiceHealth Chief Executive Officer Avani Singh said.

SpiceHealth was proud to be the first Indian laboratory to incorporate this method, he said.

CSIR-CCMB Director Rakesh Mishra said the dry swab testing method will be a game-changer in testing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The method is safer, faster and



Multiple Snow Sports Activities Held At Gulmarg

Tourists, Adventure Lovers Enjoy Colorful Extravaganza

GULMARG: Following the beginning of the Snow based activities last week, Gulmarg continues to remain abuzz with various Snow Sports activities being held here.

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir on Monday organized Snowmobile race, Snow tube race, snow cycling race and All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) race in which scores of youth enthusiastically participated.

A large number of Tourists were seen enjoying the colorful eye-catching events amidst

sunny weather & blue skies.

"It is heartening to see the large number of youth enthusiastically participating in the snow based activities this winter season after a long gloomy summer. The early snow is a good omen and tourists arriving in Gulmarg are enjoying the colorful events being organized since last week here" Assistant Director, Tourism, Gulmarg, Dr Javid-ur-Rehman said.

He said this winter season, Directorate of Tourism Kash-

mir will be organising many introductory Ski Courses for the boys and girls between the age of 16 & 25 years. Out of the six groups, two groups will be exclusive for girls. " Apart from Tourism Department, the Department of Youth Services and Sports is also organising various ski courses for boys and girls" Dr Javid-ur-Rehman added.

Many more events are slated to be organized in coming weeks.

Later in the day, prizes were also distributed among the winners.

Leaders Tottenham Held To Draw At Palace

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane scored his ninth Premier League goal of the season but Jeffrey Schlupp's late equaliser left the leaders frustrated in a 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace on Sunday.

Kane struck in the 23rd minute with a low long-range shot that deceived Palace keeper Vicente Guaita as Tottenham began in confident fashion in the Selhurst Park drizzle.

But Palace responded impressively to dominate after the break and Schlupp grabbed a deserved leveller from close range in the 81st minute.

Ben Davies struck the crossbar and Guaita made stunning saves from Kane and Eric Dier as Tottenham sparked back into life late on but they had to be content with a draw.

Tottenham moved to 25 points from 12 games, one ahead of second-placed Liverpool who play at Fulham later.

Southampton striker Che Adams scored against his former club, and midfielders Stuart Armstrong and Nathan Redmond struck after the interval as they beat Sheffield United 3-0 at St Mary's Stadium to go third in the table.

Southampton dominated possession and went ahead on 34 minutes as the Blades failed to properly deal with a James Ward-Prowse free kick and Adams reacted quickest to tap home his fourth league goal of the season in front of 2,000 supporters.

Armstrong doubled the home side's lead in the second half with a low shot, while substitute Redmond scored his first goal of the season seven minutes from time.

Chelsea's 17-match unbeaten run came to an end with a 1-0 defeat at



Everton, while the Manchester derby between United and City ended goalless on Saturday.

Chelsea hoped to grab first place but a first-half penalty by Iceland's Gylfi Sigurdsson gave Everton victory on the return of 2,000 fans at Goodison Park.

The home side went ahead in the 22nd minute when Dominic Calvert-Lewin was brought down in the box by Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy and Sigurdsson stroked home the spot kick.

Everton moved up to seventh in the standings on 20 points while Chelsea remain third on 22 after 12 games.

The Manchester derby at an empty Old Trafford lacked its usual excitement with both sides cautious and few chances.

The only major incident saw United awarded a penalty in the 48th minute when Kyle Walker kicked Marcus Rashford's foot in the box but the decision was overruled after VAR found the England striker had been in an offside position.

The nearest an unusually flat City

came to scoring was a first half effort from Riyad Mahrez that was well saved by David De Gea, with Kevin De Bruyne unable to make the most of the loose ball.

Newcastle United shook off the effects of a Covid-19 outbreak at the club when Miguel Almiron netted the fastest Premier League goal this season and Dwight Gayle scored a late winner in a 2-1 home victory over West Bromwich Albion.

Almiron fired Newcastle ahead after 20 seconds when a mistake by defender Branislav Ivanovic allowed the hosts to counter-attack and Joelinton found the Paraguay-an midfielder unmarked in the box as West Brom scrambled to recover.

The visitors equalised five minutes after the restart when Matt Phillips' cross was met by Darnell Furlong who stretched to volley into the bottom corner.

Gayle grabbed the winner against his former club in the 82nd minute when he connected with fellow substitute Jacob Murphy's cross and his bullet header crashed in off the bar.

Australia vs India: Aaron Finch Wary Of Virat Kohli Ahead Of First Test Match

Australia white-ball skipper Aaron Finch feels a measured and balanced approach from the hosts will be required when they confront India captain Virat Kohli in the first Test at the Adelaide Oval. Finch believes if Kohli, who thrives on emotions, is sledged too much during the pink-ball Test which gets underway on Thursday, the Indian skipper can be "ruthless" on the hosts. "I think the change is in the way he (Kohli) goes about it now. I think as a person he is probably a bit more relaxed out on the field and understands the tempo of the game," Sydney Morning Herald quoted Finch as saying.

"I think there will be times when things boil over and when you have got strong characters on either team that's going to come to a head at some point. [But] there is a fine balance there, isn't there? You don't want him to get up and about in the



contest. When he does, he can be ruthless on an opposition," he added.

Finch, who played under Kohli in the Indian Premier League (IPL), pointed out how the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) skipper instilled confidence in his players during the league. The Australia skipper was surprised to see Kohli's relaxed approach in the RCB camp.

"What really surprised me was how he obviously does a lot of planning and preparation himself, and into the opposition, but he never focused more on the opposition than his own team," Finch said.

"At Bangalore, he was always confident in the XI players that were picked and knew that if you played well, you had every chance of winning," he further said.

"I was really surprised by how confident he was in everyone, he had a lot of time for everyone. He was great around the group, a lot more relaxed. I had never played with him, I had only played against him," Finch added. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

Kohli will be playing just the first Test against Australia as he will return home after being granted paternity leave by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Australia has the best record in day-night Tests as the side has not lost a single match that has been played with the pink ball. Earlier, Australia had won the ODI series while the Men in Blue walked away with the honours in the T20I series.

Mohammedan Sporting To Meet Real Kashmir In Semis

Mohammedan Sporting Club made it to the semifinals of the 123rd IFA Shield football by downing Gokulam Kerala FC by a solitary goal in the quarterfinals at Kalyani Stadium on Monday.

Tirthankar Sarkar scored an early penalty to help Mohammedan Sporting get past Gokulam Kerala FC. Mohammedan SC will take on Real Kashmir FC, which beat local side Southern Samity 1-0 in another quarterfinal match, in the



semifinals to be played at the Salt Lake Stadium on Wednesday.

The other semifinal will be played between United SC meeting George Telegraph SC.

The Results (Quarterfinals):

Mohammedan Sporting 1 (Tirthankar Sarkar 8 - pen) bt Gokulam Kerala FC 0 at Kalyani Stadium;

Real Kashmir FC 1 (Danish Farooq 22) bt Southern Samity 0 at East Bengal ground;

George Telegraph SC 1 (Tanmoy Ghosh 46) bt Peerless SC 0 at Mohun Bagan ground;

United SC 0 (4) bt Kalighat MS 0 (3) via tie-breaker at Howrah Stadium.

Advisor Baseer Khan Visits Industrial Estate Bari Brahmana Reviews Functioning Of Successful Business Units

SAMBA: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan, today undertook an extensive tour of Bari Brahmana Industrial Estate to assess and address the difficulties faced by the industrial unit holders besides taking stock of functioning of several successful units of the Jammu industrial sector.

While speaking on the occasion, Advisor said that it is being ensured that the entrepreneurs are optimally benefitted by ease of doing business and innovation ecosystem saying that several reforms have been taken up by the government in this regard.

During the tour, Advisor enquired about the number of units that have turned sick during the previous year. He directed the officers to have a diagnostic study of the sick units to find out the reasons for their non-performing assets status.

Advisor visited various industrial units including Medley Pharmaceuticals, Dabur India Limited, Haldiram's and had a

Brahmana Industrial Association (BBIA) and dwelt on various issues concerning the Industries.

The members of BBIA led by its Chairman Lalit Mahajan submitted memorandum to the Advisor pertaining to various demands and issues.

They drew attention of Advisor towards difficulties they are facing to achieve the adoption of ease of doing business by JKSIDCO, time bound clearance of files in respect of approval of building plans, ease of doing business concept by PDD for sanction/transfer/surrender of power load by industrial units. They also demanded that the government should buy the products from the local industrial units to enhance their market.

After listening to the demands of the association, Advisor said that the genuine issues are under active consideration of the government adding that in near future more will be done towards ease of doing business.

Director Industries Jammu, Anoo Malhotra, Managing Di-



first hand account of their functioning.

Earlier, Advisor held an extensive interaction with the Bari

rector SIDCO, Mohammad Harun, Vice President BBIA Tarun Singla and other officers were present on the occasion.

Jio Writes To Trai Blaming Rivals Of Spreading Rumours, Airtel Rebuts

NEW DELHI: Reliance Jio has approached the telecom regulator, saying that its rivals Bharti Airtel and Vodafone India have resorted to "unethical" means and have spread "false" rumours that the Mukesh Ambani-led company will benefit from the recent farm bills.

The farm bills which the government says would bring in reforms to Indian agriculture have resulted in widespread protests among the farmers. Farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are protesting over the past few weeks at the borders of the national capital.

In a letter to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Jio has blamed both its major rivals of running a vicious campaign. As per the company, it has received a large number of port out requests have, wherein the customers have cited that it is the sole reason for porting out of Jio, although they don't have any complaints or other issues related to its services.

"This is further to our aforementioned letter dated 28 September 2020 highlighting the unethical and anti-competitive MNP campaign, being run by Airtel and Vodafone India to capitalise on the ongoing farmers protests in the northern parts of the country," Jio said in the letter dated December 11.

Jio claimed that both Airtel and Vodafone India are directly or indirectly involved in supporting and furthering the ensued notions, and "false frivolous" rumours of Reliance being an undue beneficiary of the farm bills.

In response to the complaint by Jio, Airtel has written to TRAI described the complaint as "outrageous" and "scurrilous".

In its letter, Airtel said: "Airtel has operated in the telecom industry for 25 years. During this period, we have competed hard in the market place and striven to serve our customers with excellence. At the same time we take great pride in treating our competitors and partners with respect."

Average Daily Time Spent On Smartphone Up 25% In India: Report



NEW DELHI: Amid the pandemic, the daily time spent on smartphone has increased by 25 per cent on average in India, a new study claimed on Monday.

While 66 per cent of Indians believe smartphone improves their quality of life, nearly 70 per cent of Indians feel that if their smartphone usage continues to increase, it is likely to impact their mental/physical health, according to the study by smartphone brand Vivo.

"Amid the socially-distant lives that the pandemic pushed us to lead, the smartphone emerged as the central nervous system for everything be it working or learning from home or staying connected with friends and family," said Nipun Marya, Director-Brand Strategy, Vivo India.

Additionally, 74 per cent of

respondents said that periodically switching off their mobile phone can help them spend more time with family. However, only 18 per cent of users have actually switched off their phone on their own.

According to study titled 'Smartphones and their impact on human relationships 2020,' Indians are spending more time on smartphone since lockdown (April 2020) OTT (59 per cent), social media (55 per cent) and gaming (45 per cent).

Meanwhile, 79 per cent users agreed that a smartphone helps them stay connected with their loved ones.

While smartphone emerged as a necessity and had given much-needed flexibility to people, its excessive usage has triggered addiction.

Nearly 88 per cent users agree that people point them out for using the phone when they are with them, 46 per cent people pick up the phone at least five times in an hour-long conversation.

The study, conducted by CyberMedia research (CMR) for Vivo, had 2,000 respondents aged 15-45 years.

Khalistan Supporters Vandalise Mahatma Gandhi's Statue In US

WASHINGTON: Members of Khalistani separatists desecrated the statue of Mahatma Gandhi during a protest organised by Sikh-American youths in support of farmers who are protesting against the recently enacted agri laws in India.

Hundreds of Sikhs from in and around Greater Washington DC area, Maryland and Virginia, along with many from other states like New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio and North Carolina, on Saturday carried out a car rally to the Indian Embassy in downtown Washington DC, where they gathered to express solidarity with the protesting farmers.

However, the peaceful protest was soon hijacked by the separatist Sikhs who were carrying Khalistani flags with anti-India posters and banners which said they represent The Republic of Khalistan.

During the protest, many of the pro-Khalistan Sikh youths flashing Kirpans jumped on the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and pasted a poster over it. The group was raising anti-India and pro-Khalistan slogans. The Indian Embassy condemned the mischievous act by hooligans masquerading as protesters.

"The statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Plaza in front of the Embassy was defaced by Khalistani elements on 12 December 2020. The Embassy strongly condemns this mischievous act by hooligans masquerading as protesters against the universally respected icon of peace and justice," it said in a statement.

The Embassy said it has lodged a strong protest with

the US law enforcement agencies and has also taken up the matter with the Department of State for an early investigation and action against the culprits under the applicable law.

The Washington DC Police and Secret Services had a sizeable presence when all this happened Saturday afternoon.

Around half-an-hour later, another group of pro-Khalistani supporters hung a dummy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's picture with a rope around the neck of the statue.

After more than an hour, a secret service agent was seen coming near the statue and apparently telling the youths that they were violating the law by indulging in vandalism.

On June 26, President Donald Trump had signed an executive order, according to which an individual can be imprisoned for up to 10 years for destroying, damaging, vandalising, or desecrating a monument, memorial, or statue within the United States or otherwise vandalises government property.

The statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled by then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the presence of then US president Bill Clinton on September 16, 2000, after the US Congress passed a law in this regard in 1998.

This is for the second time that Gandhi's statue has been desecrated by miscreants. The first such incident was reported on the intervening night of June 2 and 3.

Farmers from different parts of the country, especially Haryana and Punjab, have been camping at various border points of Delhi for over two weeks to demand a repeal of the three farm laws.



ARMED FORCES TO STOCK WEAPONS: Authorisation approved some time ago-Sources(Representational)

Armed Forces To Stock Weapons, Ammunition For 15-Day Intense War: Report

NEW DELHI: In the middle of a conflict with China, India has taken a significant step by authorising the defence forces to enhance their stocking of weapons and ammunition for a 15-day intense war now.

Making use of the extended stocking requirements and the emergency financial powers in the ongoing conflict with China in Eastern Ladakh, the defence forces are expected to spend over 50,000 crore for acquisition of equipment and ammunition from both local and foreign sources.

The authorisation to increase the weapon and ammunition reserves to minimum 15-1 levels from the earlier existing 10-day stocking is to prepare the defence forces for a two-front war with both China and Pakistan.

"A number of weapon systems and ammunition are being ac-

quired now under the authorisation of having reserves to fight a 15-day intense war with the enemies. The stocking would now be at 15-1 level from the 10-1 levels," government sources told ANI.

The authorisation for enhanced stocking for the defence forces was approved some time ago, they said.

As per the authorisation many years ago, the armed forces were supposed to stock for a 40-day intense war but it was then brought down to 10-1 level due to issues with the storage of weapons and ammunition as well as the changing nature of warfare.

After the Uri attack, it was realised that the war wastage reserves stocks were low and the then Manohar Parrikar-led defence ministry enhanced financial powers of the vice chiefs of

Army, Navy and Air Force to 500 crore from 100 crore.

The three services were also given the emergency financial powers to procure items worth 300 crore to buy any equipment which they felt could be of use to them for fighting wars.

The defence forces have been buying a number of spares, weapons, missiles and systems for effectively taking on the two adversaries.

Sources say a large number of missiles and ammunition for tanks and artillery have been acquired in satisfactory amounts to shed worries for the troops on the ground.

India has been engaged with China in the Eastern Ladakh sector where the Chinese have been transgressed at multiple locations and trying to change the status quo on the LAC.

Aggression On Himalayan Frontier Reminder Of How World Is Changing: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said India's armed forces stood up to aggression along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh and fought the Chinese military with "utmost bravery", forcing it to go back.

In an address at the annual general meeting of industry chamber FICCI, Singh said the "unprovoked aggression" on India's Himalayan frontiers is a reminder of how the world is changing and how existing agreements are being challenged.

"They fought the PLA (Peoples Liberation Army) with utmost bravery and forced them to go back. The coming generations of this nation will be proud of what our forces have managed to achieve this year," the defence minister said.

Without elaborating, Singh said Indian armed forces have shown exemplary courage and



remarkable fortitude in dealing with the challenge.

"The unprovoked aggression on our Himalayan frontiers is a reminder of how the world is changing, how existing agreements are being challenged, how power is being asserted not just in the Himalayas but across the Indo-Pacific," Singh said.

"And how uncertain the future of the region and world could be in this backdrop. As you are aware, there is a big build-up of armed forces at the

LAC in Ladakh," he said.

In an indirect reference to the farmers' agitation, Singh said there is no question of taking "retrograde steps against our agricultural sector ever".

"The recent reforms have been undertaken with the best interests of India's farmers in mind. We are, however, always willing to listen to our farmer brothers, allay their misgivings and provide them with assurances we can provide," Singh said.

Calling agriculture the mother sector, he said the government is always open to discussion and dialogue to resolve issues.

"Agriculture has been one sector that has been able to avoid the adverse effects of the pandemic and, in fact, come out the best. Our produce and procurement have been plentiful and our warehouses are full. There is no question of taking retrograde steps against our agricultural sector ever," he said.

Army Chief Naravane Meets Top Saudi Generals, Discusses Ways To Bolster Defence Ties

NEW DELHI : Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General MM Naravane called on top Saudi Generals to discuss issues of mutual interest and defence cooperation as part of his second leg of the two-nation visit.

According to the Indian Army, it was for the first time that an Indian Army Chief visited the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

"Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane visited Ministry of Defence Riyadh and called on General Fayyad bin Hamid Ruwaili, Chief of General Staff CGS. He discussed issues of mutual interest and defence cooperation," the Indian Army said in a tweet on Sunday.

It further said, "General MM Naravane COAS interacted with Lieutenant General Mutlaq bin

Salim bin Al-Azima Commander of the Joint Forces Saudi Arabia and exchanged views on defence cooperation."The Army Chief had earlier visited the United Arab Emirates from 9 to 10 December 2020. In the UAE, he had called on senior military officials to discuss avenues for enhancing India-UAE defence relations.

He then travelled to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for a two-day visit from December 13 to 14.

Last month, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar was in the UAE to discuss the advancement of strategic cooperation between the two countries as coronavirus crisis seems to ebb away with the imminent roll-out of COVID vaccine.

Digital Media Has Empowered Citizenry: Suresh

GANDERBAL: The Vice Chancellor, Makhlanal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Prof K. G. Suresh, Monday said the new age digital media has empowered the citizenry to the extent that they are now setting the news agenda, earlier done by the mainstream media organizations, comprising print and electronics.

"Technology has completely revolutionized the media. The content hasn't changed that much, but the digital media including popular social networking sites of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram has democratized the media content and become a powerful tool for the people to raise their voice, share their thoughts and opinions about contemporary issues and reach out to the power corridors without any hindrance," Prof K. G. Suresh said while delivering his keynote address on the theme, "Media in the Digital Age: Challenges and Opportunities," during the inaugural ceremony of the 5-day Induction Programme for the freshers, organised by the Department of Convergent Journalism (DCJ) Central University of Kashmir (CUK) at Tulmulla Campus. He said that through social media, an individual can reach out to millions of people, including those holding powerful positions, across the world and put forth his point of view on diverse and contentious issues. Prof. Suresh said that dynamics have changed as earlier the mainstream media owned by few big media houses used to decide the contents to be aired, but now even a road side vendor or a rickshaw puller can produce instant content in the form of videos and photographs on his smartphone and share the same to the millions across the world, thus

challenging the mainstream media. "People have started breaking news on the social media platforms and even the news channels have started monitoring the social media posts to gather the news," he said. He however cautioned that some vested interests and divisive forces were misusing the digital media to create divide among the people by uploading hate speeches and morphed videos and pictures. "The need of the hour is to fact check all the contents available on the social media before being forwarded," he said, adding that Makhlanal Chaturvedi National University has started a full-fledged media literacy programme to counter the misinformation and disinformation campaigns launched by the certain vested interests, trying to create disharmony.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, CUK, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir hailed the DCJ for organizing the induction programme and said the media has and is playing a pivotal role in highlighting the problems and grievances of people across the country, through objective reportage. He said the social media has now provided a huge platform to the media professionals to produce and showcase their content, not only to the local populace, but to the people across the world. Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir however also identified the negative aspects associated with the social media. He said that the credibility of the social media is at stake as certain individuals in order to gain fame and earn quick buck are disseminating the information or the news without even checking the facts. He asked the students to grab the opportunity vis-à-vis working on social media platforms in order to carve a niche for themselves in the field.

“THE NEED OF THE HOUR IS TO FACT check all the contents available on the social media before being forwarded,” he said, adding that Makhlanal Chaturvedi National University has started a full-fledged media literacy programme to counter the misinformation and disinformation campaigns launched by the certain vested interests, trying to create disharmony.

NEWS MAKERS

Colonel On The Run After 'Raping' Friend's Russian Wife

KANPUR: An Army officer, in the rank of Colonel, posted at the Central Ordnance Depot (COD) in Kanpur, allegedly raped his friend's Russian wife at the officer's mess in the Cantt area after sedating the husband.

The incident took place on December 10, but came to light when an FIR was lodged against the Colonel under section 376 (rape) and other relevant section of IPC following a complaint by the woman's husband at the Cantt police station on Saturday.

According to the woman's husband, his friend Neeraj Gehlot, who is Colonel in COD, invited him and his Russian wife for dinner at his place. He



agreed and they reached Kanpur from Lucknow on December 10.

Superintendent of Police Raj Kumar Agarwal said, "After shopping in the day, they went to the Colonel's official bungalow in COD where the latter offered him a drink laced with sedatives. Soon after consuming it, he became unconscious. The Colonel then dragged his friend's wife to another room and tried to force himself on her. She

pushed him away and shouted, but he brutally assaulted her. The woman lost her consciousness."

The woman narrated her ordeal to her husband when he regained consciousness. The victim's husband accompanied her to the Cantt police station on Sunday to file a complaint. He told police that his wife was a Russian and had been living in India for the past 10 years.

The police officer said, "We have sent the woman for a medical examination and the report is awaited."

Police said the survivor would be produced before a magistrate on Monday. "The Colonel is currently on the run," the SP added.IANS

Cluster University Students Demand Online Exam

SRINAGAR: Students of semester 1st from Cluster University Srinagar staged a protest at Press Enclave Srinagar demanding online examination and syllabus reduction for the scheduled semester exams.

Tahir Ahmad, 1st semester student at Amar Singh college said, "We have studied least in these pandemic times, it's impossible for us to appear for offline exams as it may have consequences on our health".

The students demanded that they should be given at least 30-40 percent re-



CLUSTER UNIVERSITY SRINAGAR

laxation in the syllabus. "There has been a lot of distraction already, it's pretty much difficult for us to prepare all the stuff", said another student.

Pertinently, the university held its semester 3rd and 5th exams by offline mode adhering to all the necessary SOPs last month amid COVID-19. -KDC

Why New Parl Building When Half Of Nation Is Hungry? Haasan To Pm

CHENNAI: Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) chief Kamal Haasan on Sunday demanded that PM Narendra Modi spell out the rationale behind constructing a new Parliament building for Rs 1,000 crore "when half of India is hungry due to the Covid-19 pandemic triggered loss of livelihoods".

Seeking to liken the proposed construction of the new edifice to the Great Wall of China, he claimed that "thousands of people perished" during its construction, but the dragon nation rulers said the wall was to "guard" the people.

"To protect whom is a new Parliament building being constructed at a cost



of Rs 1,000 crore when half of India is hungry due to the pandemic," he asked in a tweet.

"Answer honourable elected Prime Minister," he said hours before kick-starting the first phase of his campaign for the Assembly polls

from Madurai.

Speaking to mediapersons, Haasan alleged that the authorities had at the last minute not granted permission for MNM to campaign within urban areas, though they had got the nod to go ahead in "many places".

Asked about the focus of his party's campaign, he said would be ushering in a complete transformation in Tamil Nadu. "There is no doubt about degeneration in the state... People know that well and there is no point lamenting... MNM will talk about what needs to be done now," he said, apparently targeting the two Dravidian parties, AIADMK and DMK. — PTI

Maulana Showkat Killing: Family Rejects Court Verdict

SRINAGAR: Family members of Jamiat e Ahle Hadees Chief Maulana Showkat Shah reject court verdict of eviction of prime accused in his death.

Talking to reporters here at Press Enclave Srinagar, the family members of Jammu and Kashmir Jamiat e Ahle- Hadees Chief said, "The news that people who are involved in the killing of Maulana Showkat have been acquitted by a local court in Srinagar has once again unmasked the true face of selective prosecution. This decision has rubbed salt on our wounds".

While rejecting the verdict of a local court, the family members said, "Though much was not expected from the state machinery in 2011 when Maulana was killed but due to the mounting public pressure and unprecedented unity among the diverse stakeholders, the state had to act promptly. It

proved itself victorious by claiming to have solved the case in a short span of time which resulted in the arrest of the accused".

"In the first time of Jammu and Kashmir's history, all stakeholders unanimously agreed to unmask the "unknown gunmen" who carried out the killing of Maulana at the behest of vested interests. This was done to establish that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had stood against the assassination of its intellectuals and nation builders. The investigation based on the evidence, inputs and reports from different government agencies revealed that the persons arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police were the actual accused persons of crime against humanity", said his brother Molvi Riyaz Ahmad Shah.

"Today acquitting the accused by the court is a proof that the case was pursued by the state in a

way which shows a clear 'malafide intention'. The decision of the court to acquit the accused is a question mark on the institution of policing and institution of justice in Jammu and Kashmir", Shah alleged. "If the people who have been acquitted of charges are not convicts then who killed Maulana Showkat in broad day light?" asked his son Shoaib Ahmad.

He said, "The judiciary has set all the accused of Maulana Showkat free in this world and we as Muslims have this firm belief that we will be given justice in the court of almighty Allah. We the family of Maulana Showkat were never part of the trials, but we on the day of that assassination have put forth our case before our lord Allah. The day is surely coming when we all will be standing in Allah's court and on that day true justice will be delivered.

Team of experts from Gol to visit J&K within 10 days

LG for Comprehensive Master Plan for Restoration of Cultural Heritage

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today visited the Mubarak Mandi complex and took a first-hand appraisal of the status of conservation and restoration works being undertaken at the heritage complex.

The Lt Governor was accompanied by Sh. Raghvendra Singh, Secretary/CEO Development of Museums, Ministry of Culture Gol, Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary, and Sh. Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor took an extensive tour of various segments and sections of the Mubarak Mandi Complex and sought a detailed briefing on the progress of the ongoing restoration and renovation works of the heritage complex.

Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society, Ms. Deepika Sharma informed the Lt Governor about the status of ongoing restoration work, besides several other important issues pertaining to the restoration of Dogra Art Museum, preservation of historical records, and important components.

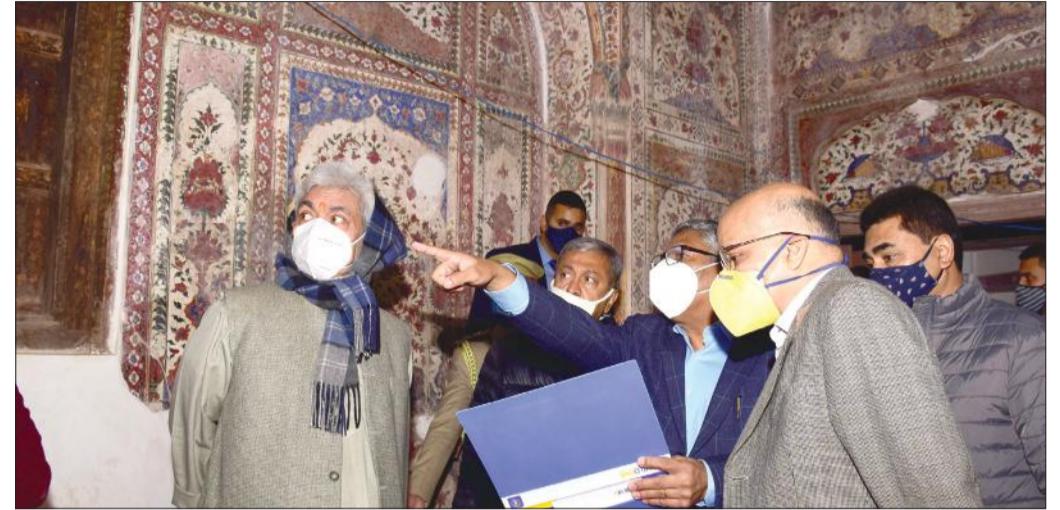
Later, a high-level meeting was held at Raj Bhavan to discuss the restoration, preservation, and conservation of Mubarak Mandi Jammu.

A comprehensive plan for the preservation and restoration of heritage sites and places of historical importance has already been given in-principle approval during the first meeting of the National Implementation Committee (NIC)

for commemorating the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, chaired by Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, Mubarak Mandi Jammu, Shergarhi in Srinagar, both cultural heritages will be taken up

this architectural heritage requires a comprehensive plan involving experts, conservationists, and round-the-clock monitoring to restore its glory in a time-bound manner. It was informed that the lighting

and heritage of J&K, the Lt Governor observed that the Government is putting untiring efforts for restoration of places of historical importance and has fast-tracked the work on the areas that need immediate



Google Services Go Down; Gmail, YouTube And More Offline

NEW DELHI: Google-owned services on Monday experienced a major outage in India and elsewhere.

According to Downdetector, YouTube, Google, Google Meet, Google Hangouts, Google Play and Gmail were down.

With Gmail, nearly 15 per cent faced problems with the website, 79 per cent had problems in logging in while 14 per cent mentioned messages issues.

Meanwhile, 52 per cent issued problems in watching videos, 39 per cent reported website related issue and 8 per cent issued log-in issue with YouTube. The website further claimed that the aforementioned services are not only facing troubles in India but in many parts of the world including parts of Europe, the United States and more.

"Just when you thought 2020 couldn't get any crazier, instead

of a Snow Day, we could have a #GoogleDown Day," a twitter user wrote from his account. Another Twitter user said: "2020 is incredible, even Google didn't make it through it #googledown."

Google was earlier hit by a significant outage in August this year, which also took down its suite of online services and YouTube. Its products also experienced a small-scale outage last month.

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