



Maximum : 6°
Minimum : -7°
Humidity : 75%

SUNSET
Today 05:24 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:31 AM



P10 LIFE & TIMES

HOW MODERNA'S COVID-19 VACCINE COMPARES TO THAT OF PFIZER'S

US regulators authorized Moderna Inc's COVID-19 vaccine for ...

P6 THINK

THE TRAGIC CHRONICLES OF 'LOVE JIHAD'

These astonishingly ill - considered new laws have resulted in immense pain.



P12 OBSERVER OUTPOST

U.S BLACKLISTS TOP CHINESE CHIPMAKER, ALLEGING MILITARY TIES

The Trump administration blacklisted China's top chipmaker Friday ...



Wisdom Quote!

"Don't be afraid of the shadows, that only means there's a light nearby."

—Evanescence

news DIGEST

LG Pays Tributes To Ninth Sikh Guru

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha remembered the great sacrifice of the ninth Sikh Guru Sri Tegh Bahadur Ji on his Martyrdom day.

In his message, the Lt Governor said, "I bow to Dhan Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji, Guru Ji's sacrifice for upholding the principle of freedom of conscience and vision for inclusive society will be remembered till eternity"

Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji taught us about humanity, equality, courage, sacrifice, dignity, and religious freedom. I call upon all to imbibe his teachings in our life, he said.

Army Vehicle Mows Down Minor

Srinagar: A minor girl on Saturday sustained critical head injuries after being hit by an army vehicle at Bumhama area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Eight-year-old Muddabirah Ismail came under an army vehicle in her native village Bumhama on Saturday evening due to which she sustained serious head injuries, news agency GNS reported. The injured girl, report said, was removed to the nearby sub-District Hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred her to a tertiary Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment.

The report quoted an unnamed police officer as saying that the driver has been arrested and the vehicle seized.

"An FIR number 356/2020 has been registered in this regard under sections 279, 337 and further investigations taken up in this regard", the official said.

Trooper Suffers Heart Attack On Poll Duty

Srinagar: An Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) trooper suffered a heart attack during poll duty in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday.

The trooper identified as Ajay of B-Coys suffered a heart attack and collapsed on the ground during election duty in Hajin area of the north Kashmir district on Saturday, news agency KNS reported. The trooper was removed to the nearby medical facility for treatment.

Quoting an unnamed official, the report said that the condition of the trooper was stable.

3 Injured In Car-JCB Collision

Srinagar: At least three persons sustained injuries after collision between a JCB and a car in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday afternoon.

Ghulam Hassan Shiekh, Qaisar Ahmad Shiekh and Aijaz Ahmad Decca, all residents of Deesu Kokernag were injured when the car they were travelling in collided with a JCB in Deesu village on Saturday afternoon, news agency GNS reported. The trio, the report said, were removed to sub-district Hospital Kokernag, wherefrom they were referred to GMC Anantnag for advanced treatment.

Meanwhile, a police official said that they have taken cognizance of the case and further investigations set in motion.

JKCA SCAM

ED Attaches Properties Of Farooq Abdullah

NEW DELHI: The ED on Saturday attached residential and commercial properties worth nearly Rs 12 crore of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah in an ongoing case of alleged money laundering, drawing strong reaction from his party National Conference (NC) which said these properties were "largely ancestral" and he would challenge the action in a court of law.

Among the properties attached is a house on Gupkar Road where the 84-year-old leader has been residing for several decades. The house is said to have been built in the 1970s by his father late Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, the erstwhile state's chief minister, and is said to have been inherited by Farooq Abdullah.

The action, which comes hours after the eight-phased District Development Council (DDC) election was over, has been taken by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with its probe in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).



12 Properties To Be Sealed

Twelve properties of Farooq Abdullah ordered to be sealed include Residential Building on the land at Estate Sonwar (Gupkar Road), Tehsil Srinagar (South), District Srinagar, Four Commercial Buildings on the land at Estate Kothibagh, Tehsil Srinagar (South), District

➔ More On P8



Properties Attached Largely Ancestral: Omar

Former chief minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday termed the provisional attachment order of properties belonging to his father by the Enforcement Directorate as "baseless" and wondered how an ancestral property could be seen as

➔ More On P8



ED Move A 'Political Vendetta': Tarigami

Senior CPI(M) leader and former legislator M Y Tarigami on Saturday said attaching the property of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah is part of vindictive politics practiced by

➔ More On P8

No Let-Up In Cross-LoC Shelling

JAMMU: For the second consecutive day Saturday, Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

A defence spokesperson here said that Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire on Saturday with unprovoked firing and mortar shelling on forward posts and villages along the LoC in Poonch district. The Indian Army retaliated bitterly to silence the Pakistani guns, he added.

➔ More On P8

UN Probes Targeting Of Observer Vehicle

UNITED NATIONS: The UN is investigating an incident where a vehicle of the United Nations Military Observers (UNMO) in the Chirikot sector along the Line of Control (LoC) was hit by an unidentified object, a spokesperson for the Secretary General said Friday.

"At this stage, I believe that the details we have are in fact that there was no one hurt but there has been

➔ More On P8

51% Turnout In Last Phase

People Have Reposed Faith In Democracy With Overwhelming Participation: SEC

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The last phase of District Development Council (DDC) elections held across 28 constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir recorded nearly 51 per cent voter turnout, J&K State Election

Commissioner (SEC) K.K. Sharma said on Saturday

Addressing a press conference here, the SEC said that polling was peaceful in the poll going 28 constituencies of DDC including 13 in Kashmir division and 15 in Jammu division that

➔ More On P8



MALE VOTERS stand in a queue outside a polling booth in Budgam district during the last phase of DDC elections on Saturday. KO Pic: Abid Bhat

2 Candidates Hurt In Group Clashes

POONCH: At least fifteen people, including two DDC candidates were injured in four different incidents of group clashes in Poonch during the last phase of district polls on Saturday.

➔ More On P8

LG Praises Voters, Election Machinery

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday congratulated the voters of Jammu and Kashmir and the election machinery for the successful conduct of first-ever District Development

➔ More On P8

MINUS 6.6 DEGREE CELSIUS

Srinagar Records Second Coldest December Night Of Decade



A BOY WARMING his feet using traditional Kashmiri firepot (Kangri) in Srinagar outskirts on Saturday. —KO Pic: Abid Bhat

SRINAGAR: The second lowest December night temperature in ten years was recorded in Srinagar as the cold wave continued its firm grip across the Valley, the weatherman said on Saturday.

The mercury in the summer capital of the J&K plummeted to minus 6.6 °C, making it the second-lowest December night since 2010. While mercury on 27 December 2010 settled exactly the same

as recorded overnight, it had plummeted to minus 7.7°C on 27 December 2018 and was the lowest in 28 years.

On December 7, 1990, the minimum temperature had settled at minus 8.8 degree Celsius in Srinagar, the official said. The lowest ever temperature in December was minus 12.8 which was recorded on 13th of the month in 1934, the official said.

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COVID-19

J&K Reports 4 More Deaths

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed the lives of four more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, even as 301 fresh cases of Covid-19, including 13 travelers were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours, taking the total number of infected people to 118006.

Among the four victims, three were residents of Jammu division and one from Kashmir Valley, officials said Saturday. The victim from the Valley was a 52-year-old woman from

Bemina here. Among the three fatalities reported from Jammu division, two were residents of from Samba and one from Kathua.

With these deaths, the total fatality count in J&K reached 1837-1165 in the Valley and 672 in the Jammu region. Srinagar district with 441 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (342), Baramulla (170), Budgam (106), Pulwama (88), Kupwara (88), Anantnag (82), Doda (60), Bandipora (58), Udhampur (55),

➔ More On P8

PM To Roll Out SEHAT Scheme Next Week

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will roll out the Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme in Jammu and Kashmir on December 26, an official spokesperson said here on Saturday. He said Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo chaired a review meeting here to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme. At the meeting, Dulloo impressed upon officers to keep all arrangements in

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ceojakbopee@gmail.com

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE)

Subject: - Provisional Merit list of the candidates
applied for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing courses
-2020 and objections, if any, thereof.

Reference: - Notice No. 068-BOPEE of 2020 dated 28-
11-2020.

**Notification No: 062 -BOPEE of 2020
Dated: 19-12-2020.**

The Board vide Notification No. 029-BOPEE of 2020 dated 09-09-2020 invited on-line Application Forms from the eligible candidates for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Course-2020 in various institutions of UTs of J&K/ Ladakh. The Board has published list of eligible candidates who have applied for Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing courses 2020 vide Notice No. 068-BOPEE of 2020 dated 28-11-2020 where under the candidates advised to remove deficiencies till 07-12-2020 (up to 03:00 p.m). In response, the Board had received documents/ deficiencies from few candidates. The Board accordingly prepared a provisional merit list of the candidates which is annexed as Annexure "A" to this notification available on official website of the Board www.jkbopee.gov.in only. The interested candidate(s), if any, can submit his/her representation physically with the Board office Jammu / Srinagar during working days up to 23-12-2020 (4:00 P.M) against the position assigned to him/her in the list, failing which no claim whatsoever shall be entertained under any circumstances after the prescribed date and time. Note:-

1. The provisional Merit List of the candidates has been prepared on pro-rata basis of aggregate marks obtained in the qualifying examination i.e. in GNM course. In case of tie between candidates, the same is resolved by taking into account the date of birth of candidate's i.e candidate older in age is preferred first.
2. The intending candidates shall keep ready their all relevant documents including domicile certificate, as required by the concerned Principals at the time of admission to their respective colleges after allotment of seats to them.
3. The candidates must remain in touch with the official website of the Board so as to be abreast of the final schedule of the counseling which shall be held physically at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar simultaneously and shall be notified separately after the deposition of objections/documents, if any, received from intending candidates mentioned in the Provisional Merit List.
4. In case no objections are received within the cutoff date by the Board, the Provisional Merit List shall be deemed to be treated as final.

However, the candidate(s) who have not submitted their domicile certificates as of now are directed to produce the same at the time of counselling.
Errors & Omissions Excepted.
No. BOPEE/Exam-35(iv)/2020

(Dr Sunil Gupta)
Controller Of Examination,
J&K Bopee
Dated: 19-12-2020

DIPK-NB-4690/20

Syed Ali Rizvi of Syedpora No More

With profound grief we announce the sad demise of Syed Ali Rizvi, father of Hujjatul Islam Aga Syed Muzaffar Ali Rizvi of Syedpora, Zainageer.

A noted Quranic teacher Rizvi passed away after brief illness on Friday evening. During his lifetime he has taught scores of students the basics of Islam. He was famous for his calligraphic style of writing. Many religious, social and political organizations have expressed grief over his demise and expressed sympathy with the bereaved family.

His congregational Fateha Khwani will be held on 21st December Monday at Syedpora Sopore.

BEREAVED

XX

Number Plate Lost

After returning from a trip to Noorbagh from my residence at Nabdpipora Hawal on Friday (18/12/2020), I found the rear bumper of my car (Maruti 800) missing along with the registration plate (JK01R 1829). I scouted the area for it but could not find it. Later I reported the incident to PS Zadibal and am now informing public through this notice, so that I am not to be deemed responsible for any misuse.

Syed Aijaz Ahmad
Car owner JK01-R 1829
Contact: 7006650244
R/o Nabdpipora Hawal Srinagar

XX

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mohamad Huzaifa Pandit S/O Mohamad Ashraf R/O Alnoor Colony Chanapora have lost the following certificates: 10th, 12th, BA, MA, & SET.

Now I am applying for the duplicate. If anyone has any objection, convey it to concerned authorities within seven days of publication of this notice.

XX

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Office of the Executive Engineer, JAL SHAKTI PHE, Ground Water Div.

Bagh Ali Mardaan Nowshera, Srinagar Kashmir.

Gist of e-Tender.

NIT No: -PHE/GWDS 45 of 12/2020 Dated:17-12-2020

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in 02 Cover System for Exploration for Construction of production tube well at the following location/site from registered water well drillers/contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S. No	Site	Estim ated Cost	Cost of Tender Document	Cost of EMD	Time of completion	Valid-ity of Rates	Class of Contract	Pro-gramme
1.	Exploration for Construction of Production Tube Well at Takanwari Eidgah District Srinagar.	Rs. 6.22 lacs	Rs.500/- (Five Hundred only) (Non-Refundable)	Rs.12,440/- (in the shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar 190011)	30 Days	180 Days	Registration of machine drilled Production wells	CAPEX
2.	Exploration for Construction of Production Tube Well at Logripora District Baramulla.	Rs. 6.22 lacs	Rs.500/- (Five Hundred only) (Non-Refundable)	Rs.12,440/- (in the shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar 190011)	30 Days	180 Days	Registration of machine drilled Production wells	CAPEX

Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Note: Document Cost : Rs 500/= (500 Hundred only) (Non-Refundable) in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) on account of (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply) Critical Dates / Information.

1	Publishing Date	19-12-2020
2	Period of Downloading of Bids	19-12-2020 (11:00 A.M) to 24-12-2020 (1:00 P.M)
3	Period of Submission of bids	19-12-2020 (11:00 A.M) to 24-12-2020 (1:00 P.M)
4	Date of opening of Tender.	24-12-2020 at (3:00 P.M)

No: PHE/GWD/3875.
Dated:17-12-2020

DIPK-10667/20

Executive Engineer,
(Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Div.
Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) LANDSCAPING DIVISION KMR. ENGINEERING COMPLEX, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

TENDER NOTICE
NIT NO.E-72/2020-21/LSD/SRINAGAR/JAMMU
DATED:- 17/12/2020

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, 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	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Amt in Rs.)	Earnest Money/ Bid Security (Amt in Rs.)	Time of	Time & Date of Opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Beautification/Landscaping on Dr. Ali Jan Road at various spots.	Rs.11.887 Lacs	Rs. 600/-	Rs.23800/-	35 Days	23.12.2020 at 11.00AM	"BEE, CEE & DEE" Class Contractor"	State Sector 4059
2	Face lifting by way of repairs ,cleaning,washing & painting to existing grill fencing ,tree guards and Kerb stone of central verge on ESF road from Sangarmal shopping complex to Gousia Hospital incl.repair and fixing of new tree guards on Bab Domb eastern /western foreshore road incl. STP Naqushpora link part 2nd.	Rs.6.282 Lacs	Rs.300	Rs.12600/-	20 Days	23.12.2020 at 11.00AM	"CEE & DEE Class Contractor"	M&R 3054
3	Beautification Development central verge at SMS road from Ashai bridge to Masjid Bilal Nigeen club by way of Grill fencing.	Rs.6.26 Lacs	Rs.300/-	Rs.12600/-	20 Days	23.12.2020 at 11.00AM	"CEE & DEE Class Contractor"	State Sector 4059

Position of Funds: -Available.

Administrative approval: -Accorded.

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 date given below:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	17/12/2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17.12.2020 06.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	17.12.2020 from 06.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	22.12.2020 up to 06.00 PM
5.	Deadline for receiving the Hard copy (Original e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt and EMD)	Hard copy to be submitted by the successful bidder (L1) only within seven days after Financial evaluation.
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23.12.2020at 11.00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt (Non-refundable) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG(BG validity should be 45days more than bid validity days) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority). (The BG validity should be 45 days more than bid validity days) (The date of Earnest money/bid security, & Cost of tender document(Challan) should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date).

1. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)

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

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

50.The Employer can cancel the NIT/LOI/ALLOTMENT at any stage without any reason.

No: -LD/3128-36
Dated:-17-12-2020.

DIPK-10628/20

Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi Srinagar

E-Tender Notice No. 49 of 2020-21 Dated:- 18/12/2020

For and on behalf of Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar e-tenders (In single cover system) invited on item rate basis from approved /Registered Suppliers /Dealers Regd. with J&K State Government, for each of the following item /work.

S. No	Name of work	Est. cost (Rs in lacs).	Earnest money/ Bid Security (In Rs)	Cost of tender document (in Rs)	Time	Class of contract	Major Head of Account
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Supply of Razer Sharp Material and other machinery items for RSGC Srinagar	3.00 Lacs	6000 / = in Shape of CDR Or FDR in favour of Turf Manager RSGC	300/= Non Refundable in shape of DD in favour of Secretary RSGC or Bank Challan SB-12341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar	20 days	Eligible suppliers/ dealers	

Special conditions:-

I. In case the offered bid is below 60% of the advertised cost or more, such bid / bids will be outrightly rejected.

II. In case more than one bidder has quoted equal bid amounts or bids are found to a "Tie" Ist lowest will from draw of lots.

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawing, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details are appended and is also available from the departmental website www.jktender.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18.12.2020 4:00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18 -12 .2020 to 26 .12 .2020 (4.00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	16- 12 .2020 4:00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	26 -12 .2020 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	28.12.2020 11:30 PM in the office of Turf Manager RSGC Srinagar

General Conditions:

2. The successful bidder shall submit original Demand Drafts/CDR or FDR and copies of GST Registration Certificates and PANin person within two days from the opening of the bids failing which proceeding as warranted under rules shall be initiated in the matter.

3. The bidders will provide email ID and complete postal address including cell numbers.

4. 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

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

6. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

7. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

8. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days after fixation of contract.

9. Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender documents in shape of demand draft in favour of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi Srinagar and Earnest Money/Bid Security in Shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Turf Manager RSGC Cheshmashahi Srinagar (tender receiving authority)

10. Payment shall be made to the agency as and when funds are available with the department.

11. The date and time of opening of bid shall be as above as notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and will be conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mails addresses. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website at the office of the Turf Manager RSGC Srinagar as per schedule.

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

13.The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a. Any bidder /tenderer who withdraw his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or make any modification on 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 with 20 days after fixation of contract.

d. Suppliers/Dealers/ Contractor who participates in bid should be registered for the respective class of contract with document proof thereof.

No:- RSGC/TM/2020-21/292-94
DIPK-NB-4671/20
Dated: 18 .12.2020

Sd/
Turf Manager
Royal Springs Golf CourseSrinagar.

eomcbeerwah@gmail.com

Fax @ 01951-275340

Phone No: 01951-275340

Govt of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BEERWAH

DESTI QUOTATION

For and on behalf of Hon'able Lt. Governor Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir the Dasti Quotation affixed with Rs.6/- revenue stamps are invited for registered supplier/dealer for supply of below mentioned items .which should reach to this institution of undersigned by or before 23-12-2020 up to 2.00 Pm the quotation will be opened on the same day and any other subsequent day convenient to the opening authority in presence of Quotationers who wish to be present the quotation must be accompanied by CDR for an amount of Rs. 1000/-pledged to Executive Officer Municipal Committee Beerwah. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all of the questioners with out assigning any reason thereof.

S. No	Particulars	Rate per items
01	Brooms Sticks	Rate per Quintal
02	Shoes	Rate per No
03	Penja	Rate per No
04	Winter Gloves	Rate per No
05	Phora TATA	Rate per No

Terms and conditions:-

1. The rates offered by the agency shall remain unchanged and valid through all the contract period

2. The payment shall be released only after successful and satisfactory satisfaction to be issued the storekeeper of this institution.

3. Further details can be hard from Office of the undersigned on any working days .

MC/Bru/Actt./2020-21/ 1636-40
Dt.17/10/2020

Executive officer
Municipal Committee
Beerwah

DIPK-NB-4669/20

...SRINAGAR-LEH ROAD DAY 12

Strong Winds Lead To Snow Accumulation, Hamper Traffic

GANDERBAL: High speed winds at Zojila Pass hampered traffic movement on Srinagar-Ladakh highway on Saturday. Official sources said that traffic movement on 434 KM strategic Srinagar-Leh highway remained suspended for the 12 consecutive days on Saturday due to strong winds near Zojila Pass.

The highway was closed for traffic on 6 December following heavy snowfall particularly at Zojila, Meenmarg, Sonamarg, Matayan, Zero Point and other adjacent areas. Sources said that hundreds of vehicles have been stranded on both sides of the highway for the past twelve days.

A traffic police official said that a number of vehicles from Sonamarg were brought back to Gagangar. He said that due to freezing temperatures in Sonamarg, the drivers were



File Pic

facing a lot of difficulties, after which the vehicles had to be returned to Gagangar.

The official said that due to strong winds at Zojila pass, three feet of snow has accumulated on the road while the Border Road Organization is facing difficulties in clearing snow.

The Border Road Organization (BRO) has set up a camp in Zojila near Bajri Nallah, Sonamarg, where workers are operating.

According to the SDM Drass Asgar Hussain due to snow accumulation the road has been closed while men and machinery have been pressed into service to clear the road.

Artisans Of J&K Need Immediate Help To Craft Sustainable Future: NC

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) on Saturday said GOI has failed to provide support to artisans of Jammu and Kashmir to craft a sustainable future, saying the indifferent attitude of the government has plunged the entire lot into despondency.

With nearly zero sales now for over a year, the artisans and craftsmen associated with handicraft sector have become cash strapped said Party's senior leaders Mubarak Gul, Shameema Firdous, Irfan Shah, Muhammad Syed Akhoun and Muhammad Syed Akhoun in a joint statement while expressing concern over the plight of craftsmen associated with handicrafts sector.

According to a statement, the leaders said the incumbent government has left the artisans high and dry by not addressing their genuine woes on account of the decrease in production and sale cycle due to the successive clampdown and lockdown.

"In the post COVID-19 lockdown

rehabilitation programme the entire sector has been neglected. No substantial financial aid has been doled out to the ailing sector to start afresh. Nothing substantial has been worked out by the government to ensure universal interest subsidy on loans to the people associated with the trade. There is immediate need for easy access to a minimum two-three months of working capital - either as grant or zero interest loans to be repaid until when their cash flows. Besides that a loan waiver could go a long way in helping the entire lot to tide over the economic slump. If the government does not wake up to the challenges faced by the people associated with the sector, our heritage of thousands of years will be lost forever. A timely intervention from the central government will assist the artisans limp towards renewal," they said.



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in

NOTICE

It is notified for information of all the candidates selected for admission in B.Sc. Nursing programme at Syed Mantaqi Memorial College of Nursing & Medical Technology, Awantipora and Alamdar Memorial College of Nursing & Medical Technology, Charar-i-Sharief vide Notification No. 061-BOPEE of 2020 Dated: 18-12-2020 (available on JK-BOPEE website) to report to the office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora for admission formalities. Queries, if any, can be made on Email: admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in Phone: 01933-247252, Mobile: 9858306455, 9149474174. No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/20/769 Dated: 18-12-2020

Sd/-
Deputy Registrar, Academics

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER QUALITY CONTROL & PROCUREMENT DIVISION

PHE JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT HMT, SRINAGAR.

Phone: - 0194- 2496307,E-Mail:- xenmandp@gmail.com

Closure of e-NIT No: PHE/M&P/01 of 2020-21/e-Tender Dated: 18-05-2020

Subject: - Closure of e-NIT for Supply of Alumina Ferric Grade-IV conforming to IS 299:2012 with upto date amendments.

Ref: 1. This office NIT No: PHE/M&P/01 of 2020-21/e-Tender Dated: 18-05-2020.

2. DPC meeting held on 13-11-2020 circulated vide No: JSD/Misc/16857-58 dated: 13-11-2020.

As per the DPC Decision in its meeting held on 13-11-2020 circulated vide No: JSD/Misc/16857-58 dated: 13-11-2020, the above referred e-NIT stands short closed.

No: PHE/QC&PD/ 6155-58

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
QC&PD Jal Shakti
HMT Srinagar
Dated: 16-12-2020
DIPK-10654/20

Srinagar Smart City Holds Orientation Programme On Empowering Children In Need

There Is Need For Shared Values In Ecosystem Of Society At Large: Justice Magray

SRINAGAR: A day-long orientation programme on "Empowering Children in Need of Care & Protection" was Saturday organised by Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority Srinagar. The programme was held at SKICC.

Justice Ali Mohammed Magray, Chairman Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Other dignitaries who were present on the occasion included Abdul Rashid Malik, Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court Jammu & Kashmir; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department; Hial Bhat, Administrator Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Kashmir; and Bashir Ahmad Lone, Administrator Voluntary Medicare Society, Jammu and Kashmir.

Justice Magray while deliberating on the occasion emphasised the need for shared values in the ecosystem of the society at large. He was of the view that children with special needs or otherwise during their growing up years need the basic value system to be engrossed in their personalities. In this regard all the government officials, teachers, parents, friends and relatives need to take the collective responsibility of the society which would inculcate the mannerism and the discipline among the children especially the youth of Kashmir. He talked about the community responsibility in taking a step forward towards incorporating the values in the society at large.

The chairman of the Juvenile Justice Committee also insisted on adding on nutritious diet for the needy children. He highlighted the growing menace of drug addiction amongst the youth of



Kashmir and even gave out the alarming figures of drug addicts presently in the Kashmir valley as published by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. He was of the view that drugs availability and the lack of accountability by parents is a serious concern today.

Justice Magray also stressed upon the officials to listen to the genuine grievances of the aspiring sports persons and to take care about their needs so in more and more youth are attracted towards sports.

He said that keeping the famous quote "As the Child, so the Nation" in perspective the society at large should take care and protect its children and advised the officials to provide adequate facilities to the children and youth of the city so that the Srinagar can be called as Smart City in real terms.

In his welcome address, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, who is also the CEO Srinagar Smart City City Limited, stressed upon the need to organise such events more routinely to that self checks would be made on achieving the goals towards empowering Chil-

dren who need our care and protection. He also thanked the dignitaries present on the occasion and emphasised on the collective efforts to improve the lives of the children.

All dignitaries also spoke on the occasion. They emphasised the importance of nurturing the talent of Kashmir and protecting the children from addictive use of social media and other social evils. The participants were of the general view that a Smart City in real terms should have ample green spaces, amusement parks, skill development and entertainment facilities for the children and youth of the valley. Utmost care should be taken in providing the online safety to the children and prevent cyber bullying.

The list of children who were "achievers" and have made the society proud in their respective fields was also announced and they were facilitated on the occasion by the chief guest. Amongst the achievers two youngsters Syed Muzaffar Ahmad and Kabra Altaf spoke about their experiences in life and how they were able to achieve heights in their respective fields of being an advocate and a sportsperson.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER JKPCC UNIT 8th, BARAMULLA.

PRESS NOTE

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh NIT No. 57 /e-tendering of 2020-21/DGM/8th/Bla/JKPCC/ Dated: 17-12-2020

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, J&KPCC Ltd. e-tenders (in Double Cover System) are invited on **item rate basis** from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/ Central Governments/ for the following work:-

S No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T / DOC (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion In days	Class of Contractor	Call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
01	Sanitary work upto first manhole for academic block at Medical College Baramulla	73.85	1600	147700	60 days	AAY	2 nd
02	Finishing work of Tutor's Quarter Govt. Medical college Works Baramulla	30.67	1100	61340	45 days	AAY/BE E	2 nd

Position of funds: Available: - **AAA :- Accorded**

The Bidding documents Consisting of critical dates, 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 website www.jktenders.gov.in under PWD/MDJKPCC/Kashmir Circle.

DIPK-NB-4695/20

Sd/-
Dy.Gen.Manager,
J&KPCC Ltd Unit-8th Bla

UT Of Jammu and Kashmir

Board Of Technical Education

Office Jammu: Govt. Polytechnici Campus, Bikram Chowk, Jammu - 180004 (Nov. To Apr.)
Srinagar: A-Block, Old Secretariat , Srinagar - 190001 (May to Oct)
Ph/ Fax: Srinagar: Off. : 2485697 Jammu: Off: 2430059
Email ID: JK_SBOTE@REDIFFMAIL.COM

NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of general public that the below mentioned students have approached this office for name /Parentage/Caste/Sub-Caste correction in their marks certificates issued in his favour by the Board of Technical Education. The details of the candidate are as under:

S. No	Examination Roll No.	Sem	Branch	Name of the institution	Name already written in the records	Actual name as per DOB certificate
01	3801-17D1-21738 3801-16M2-42195 3801-19D3-64124 3801-20J4-25219 3801-18J5-71657 3801-18M6-79099	1 ST 2 ND 3 RD 4 TH 5 TH 6 TH	Civil Engg	Govt. Polytechnic College Budgam	BISMA ARIF D/O: ARIF KHAN	BISMA ARIF D/O: ARIF HUSSAIN DOOND
02	3703-18D1-14980 3703-20J2-37413 3703-19D3-63611 3703-20J4-27795 3703-19J5-42876 3703-20J6-13670	1 ST 2 ND 3 RD 4 TH 5 TH 6 TH	MECH ENGG	Govt. Polytechnic College Bandipora	UMER JAN D/O: GULAM MUHAMMAD GANIE	UMAR JAN D/O: GULAM MUHAMMAD GANIE
03	2801-18D1-11803 2801-17J2-54195 2801-19D3-21193 2801-19J4-71840 2801-19J5-40982 2801-18D6-60633	1 ST 2 ND 3 RD 4 TH 5 TH 6 TH	Civil Engg	IECS Polytechnic Jammu	KESHAB SINGH JANANK RAJ	KESHAB SINGH JANAK RAJ

Any person having objection, should submit his objection in writing to the officer of the undersigned within seven(07) days from the date of publishing of this notice, after which no objection will be entertained/accepted.

No: SBOTE/NC/20 /2001-2005 Dated: 18/12/2020

DIPK-10653/20

Er. Mahmood Ahmad Secretary
J&K, BOTE Jammu

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 - (Closed)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

This Day in History

- 69 - General Vespasian's troops occupy Rome after
- 1448 - Pope Nicholas V appoints Rudolf of Diepholt, Bishop of Utrecht, as cardinal.
- 1522 - Suleiman the Magnificent accepts surrender of the surviving Knights of Rhodes, who are allowed to evacuate. Eventually settle in Malta, become known as the Knights of Malta.
- 1585 - English fleet & Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, reach Vlissingen.
- 1626 - Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II and Prince of Transylvania Gabor Bethlen sign Peace of Pressburg (Bratislava).
- 1661 - Corporation Act enforced in England.
- 1669 - 1st jury trial in Delaware; Marcus Jacobson condemned for insurrection & sentenced to flogging, branding & slavery.
- 1688 - Prince William of Orange's troops arrive in London.
- 1694 - Frederik van Brandenburg flees Schweibn
- 1699 - Russian Tsar Peter the Great ordered Russian New Year changed from Sept 1 to Jan 1.
- 1780 - Britain declares war on Holland.
- 1790 - 1st successful US cotton mill to spin yarn (Pawtucket, RI).
- 1830 - Great Britain, France, Prussia, Austria and Russia recognize Belgium.
- 1860 - South Carolina secedes from the Union (US Civil War).
- 1879 - Tom Edison privately demonstrated incandescent light at Menlo Park.
- 1880 - Battle at Bronker's Spruit, Transvaal: Farmers beat Britten.
- 1892 - Pneumatic automobile tire patented, Syracuse, NY.
- 1900 - Giacobini discovers a comet (will be 1st comet visited by spacecraft).
- 1915 - Russian troops overrun Qom, Persia
- 1917 - Cheka formed - Soviet state security force and forerunner to the KGB, under Felix Dzerzhinsky after decree by Lenin.
- 1922 - 14 republics form Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).
- 1924 - Adolf Hitler freed from jail early.
- 1933 - Bolivia & Paraguay sign cease fire
- 1938 - Vladimir K Zworykin (Penn) receives patent on Iconoscope TV system.
- 1941 - Japanese troops lands on Mindanao.
- 1941 - World War II: First battle of the American Volunteer Group, better known as the "Flying Tigers" in Kunming, China.
- 1942 - 1st Japanese bombing of Calcutta.
- 1944 - Battle of Bastogne: Nazis surround 101st Airborne (NUTS!).
- 1967 - 474,300 US soldiers in Vietnam.
- 1971 - Pakistan president Yahya Khan resigns.
- 1974 - Ethiopia becomes socialist one-party state.
- 1976 - Israel's PM Yitzhak Rabin resigns.
- 1977 - 1st Space walk made by G Grechko from Salyut.
- 1983 - PLO chairman Yasser Arafat & 4,000 loyalists evacuate Lebanon.
- 1990 - Pentagon warns Saddam that US air power is ready to attack on 1/15.
- 1992 - Northwest & KLM introduce a new joint logo "Worldwide Reliability".
- 1995 - American Flight 965 crashes in Columbia, 159 die, 5 survive
- 1995 - NATO begins peacekeeping in Bosnia.
- 1999 - Portugal returns Macau to China.
- 2007 - Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II becomes the oldest ever monarch of the United Kingdom, surpassing Queen Victoria, who lived for 81 years, 7 months and 29 days.
- 2012 - Apple is denied a patent for mobile pinch-to-zoom gestures by the US patent authorities.
- 2015 - Landslide from construction waste in Shenzhen, China leaves 74 dead or missing and buries 30 buildings.

From KO Archives

Qaum Ka Gam Khateyhain, Dinner Key Saath

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Iftar parties being hosted by every Tom, Dick and Harry in this capital city these days have become a source of avoidable inconvenience to the general public. Amazingly the 'worthy' hosts are least bothered by what their lavish feasting by debit to the empty state exchequer meant to the city dwellers at a time when they hurry back to their homes after a day's work.

Residents of various downtown localities here had a taste of their rulers' indifference on Saturday when they found the -busy Maulana Azad Road blocked to vehicular traffic for most of its stretch. Lo and behold, it was the peak hour for all the commuters to rush back home to join their waiting, generally anxious, families over Iftar.

Location of what is known as the Banquet Hall in the premises of the erst-while chief minister's official residence on the main Civil Lines artery was the reason why vehicular traffic was di-verted towards Regal Chowk for onward journey through the equally crowded SP higher secondary school. Traffic police authorities may know better why its own 'one way' restriction was eased to choke the awfully narrow roads. Obviously, caught in a nasty traffic jam, hundreds of people on fast found them-selves helpless at the Iftar time. Mercifully, some citizens came out to serve some eatables to the stranded hundreds on the road.

"The ministers and bureaucrats hosting the Iftar parties at state expense should hang their heads in shame for subjecting innocent people to inconvenience during the holy month", an agitated downtown resident was heard saying.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 20 DECEMBER, 2000)

Khashoggi's fiancée urges Biden to release CIA's classified report into murder

Agencies

Ankara: The fiancée of slain prominent Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi has called on US President-elect Joe Biden to release the CIA's classified report on his gruesome murder as soon as he enters the White House.

Hatice Cengiz said the intelligence assessment, which has never been released but media outlets suggest that it concludes with "medium to high confidence" that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) ordered the killing, would "greatly assist" in finding the truth behind

would stop selling weapons to the kingdom if he won.

Most political pundits and Saudi dissidents, who are living in exile, agree that Biden would seek to shake up relations with Riyadh in his first weeks in office, in contrast to Donald Trump's posture toward Saudi Arabia's de facto leader.

But there is also skepticism such an ideal would happen, and issues like how far Biden will go and what specific issues he could influence remain a matter of question.

"I think [releasing the classified report on Khashoggi's murder] is an easy one for the



Khashoggi's fate, British daily newspaper The Guardian reported on Friday.

She noted that publication of a declassified version of the report would prove Biden is determined to make good on a campaign promise to get accountability in the Saudi dissident's 2018 slaying.

"I am calling on the president-elect to release the CIA's assessment and evidence. It will greatly assist in uncovering the truth about who is responsible for Jamal's murder," Cengiz said.

During the presidential election campaign, Biden emerged as an outspoken critic of MbS. He said during a Democratic debate that he would make Saudi Arabia "the pariah they are" if he was elected. He also said the United States

president to do. The ramifications will be profound," Safa Al Ahmad, a Saudi journalist and human rights campaigner who has lived outside the kingdom since 2014, said.

Bruce Riedel, a former CIA analyst and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, also said, "I think it is highly unlikely. To protect sources and methods it would need to be highly redacted. Such a document would not be very satisfying. To do otherwise would be to reduce significantly our ability to monitor activities."

Agnès Callamard, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, who investigated the Khashoggi murder, said she believed the report could be released without compromising CIA sources or methods.

Google blames Gmail, YouTube outage on error in User ID system

Malika Soni | Bloomberg

Google diagnosed a widespread outage that knocked out major services earlier this week, such as Gmail and YouTube, as a mistake with its system for identifying people online.

Alphabet Inc.'s Google has several tools that enable

Corp. has exposed companies including Microsoft Corp. and multiple US government agencies. A Google spokeswoman said on Friday that the internet giant has found no evidence the SolarWinds hack affected Alphabet or Google's systems.

About 15% of requests sent to Google's cloud storage service were disrupted during the



Monday outage, the company said. The cloud division offers an identification service similar to one from Okta Inc.

On Tuesday, Google's Gmail service had another disruption. The company attributed this to an issue with data migration

Monday outage, the company said. The cloud division offers an identification service similar to one from Okta Inc.

On Tuesday, Google's Gmail service had another disruption. The company attributed this to an issue with data migration



US Drug Regulator Investigating 5 Allergic Reactions After Pfizer Shot

Agencies

New York: The US Food and Drug Administration is investigating around five allergic reactions that happened after people were administered Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE's COVID-19 vaccine in the United States this week, a top FDA official said late on Friday.

Dr Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, said at a press conference that the allergic reactions had been reported in more than one state, including in Alaska.

Marks also said that a chemical called polyethylene glycol (PEG) that is an ingre-

dient in the Pfizer vaccine - as well as the Moderna Inc vaccine authorized on Friday - "could be the culprit" causing the reactions.

Marks said that allergic reactions to PEG could be somewhat more common than previously understood.

The cases in Alaska were similar to two cases reported last week in Britain.

Britain's medical regulator has said that anyone with a history of anaphylaxis, or severe allergic reactions to a medicine or food, should not be given the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

But the US Food and Drug Administration has said that most Americans with aller-

gies should be safe to receive the vaccine. It said only people who have previously had severe allergic reactions to vaccines or ingredients in this particular vaccine should avoid getting the shot.

On Friday, the FDA said the Moderna vaccine should not be given to individuals with a known history of a severe allergic reactions to any components of the shot.

The regulator is also requiring that appropriate medical treatments for immediate allergic reactions must be available when the shot is administered in case of an anaphylactic reaction.

Pfizer could not be immediately reached for comment.

Massive cyberattack targets US, hits other countries

Agencies

WASHINGTON: A devastating cyberattack on US government agencies has also hit targets worldwide with the list of victims still growing, according to researchers, heightening fears over computer security and espionage.

Microsoft said late on Thursday that it had notified more than 40 customers hit by the malware which security experts say came from hackers linked to the Russian government and which could allow attackers unfettered network access.

"While roughly 80 percent of these customers are located in the United States, this work so far has also identified victims in seven additional countries," Microsoft president Brad Smith said in a blog post.

Smith said the victims were also found in Canada, Mexico, Belgium, Spain, Britain, Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

It's certain that the number and location of victims will keep growing," Smith said, echoing concerns voiced this week by US officials on the grave threat from the attack. "This is not 'espionage as usual,' even in the digital age," Smith said.

"Instead, it represents an act of recklessness that created a serious technological vulnerability for the United States and the world," John Dickson of the security firm Denim Group said many private sector firms which could be vulnerable are scrambling to shore up security, even to the point of con-

sidering rebuilding their servers and other equipment.

"Everyone is in damage assessment now because it's so big," Dickson said.

"It's a severe body blow to confidence both in government and critical infrastructure." The threat comes from a long-running attack which is believed to have injected malware into computer networks using enterprise man-



agement network software made by the Texas-based IT company SolarWinds, with the hallmarks of a nation-state attack.

The National Security Agency, the secretive US military intelligence operation, called for increased vigilance to prevent unauthorized access to key military and civilian systems.

"The recent SolarWinds Orion code compromise is one serious example of how on-premises systems can be compromised, leading to abuse of federated authentication and malicious cloud access," the NSA said.

Analysts have said the attacks pose threats to national security by infiltrating key government systems, while also creating risks for key infrastructure controls for

systems such as electric power grids and other utilities.

The US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) said US government agencies, critical infrastructure entities, and private sector organizations had been targeted by what it called an "advanced persistent threat actor." CISA did not identify who was behind the malware attack but private security companies pointed a finger at hackers linked to the Russian government.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also suggested involvement by Moscow on Monday, saying the Russian government had made repeated attempts to breach US government networks.

President-elect Joe Biden expressed "great concern" over the computer breach while Utah Senator Mitt Romney blamed Russia and slammed what he called "inexcusable silence" from the White House.

Romney likened the cyberattack to a situation in which "Russian bombers have been repeatedly flying undetected over our entire country." Senator Marco Rubio told Fox News: "It is massive. It is still, I would argue, probably persistent. It is still ongoing... It's a grave risk to federal, to state, to local governments, to critical infrastructure, to the private sector."

CISA said the computer intrusions began in at least March 2020 and the actor behind them had "demonstrated patience, operational security and complex tradecraft."

15 children killed in Afghanistan bomb blast

Agencies

GHAZNI: At least 15 children were killed when a motorbike laden with explosives blew up near a religious gathering in eastern Afghanistan on Friday, officials said.

The children had gathered at a home in Ghazni province to recite verses of the Holy Quran, a regular activity on Friday, when the blast took place.

Violence has surged in Afghanistan in recent months despite the government and the Taliban launching peace talks to end the country's grinding war.

"Unfortunately, as a result of this incident 15 people, all children, were martyred," said Wahedullah Jumazada, spokesman for the province's governor.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack and Jumazada said an investigation was underway into why children were targeted.

However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid sent a message to the media claiming that the explosion was caused by the remains of unexploded ordnance in the area, which the children had allegedly picked up and brought to the merchant.

Mujahid gave a lower death toll, saying 12 children were killed.

Ahmad Khan Seerat, spokesman for the provincial police force, confirmed the blast, which he described as a Taliban attack. He added that 20 others were wounded, including children.

Interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arian earlier said the group had gathered to recite Quranic verses in remote

Gilan district, about 120 kilometres from Ghazni city, the provincial capital.

Taliban and government forces have regularly clashed in the province, where the insurgents control several areas. Thirty security personnel were killed last month when a suicide car bomber struck an army base near Ghazni city.

The government's talks with the Taliban — which opened in September in the Qatari capital of Doha — are currently on a break until early January.

The country has witnessed an increase in fighting, with the Taliban accused of trying to get an upper hand in the talks through violence.

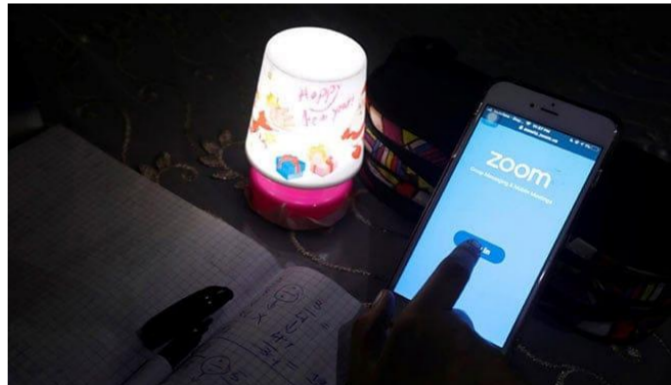
Afghan forces have also battled a number of attacks blamed on the militant Islamic State group in recent months.

Between January and September this year, more than 2,100 civilians were killed and more than 3,800 wounded in the violence, according to the UN mission in Afghanistan.

Outgoing US President Donald Trump has pushed to end America's longest war, with Washington signing a deal with the Taliban early this year committing to pulling all of its troops from the country by May 2021.

The Taliban have primarily targeted government forces in rural areas since signing the deal, in which they pledged to hold talks with the Afghan administration. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has called for the next round of negotiations to be held in Kabul, saying it was inappropriate to meet in Doha's "luxurious hotels".

Zoom To Cut Short 40-Minute Time Limit For Christmas, New Year



Agencies

London: Friends and families kept apart by COVID this Christmas and New Year will not find their virtual gatherings over Zoom cut short by the usual 40-minute limit for free subscribers.

Zoom Video Communications Inc, whose technology has become a feature of household get togethers in 2020's socially distanced world, said it was removing the time limit for its free accounts on all meetings globally for the holiday season.

This covers the Christian celebrations of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the end of Hannukah for Jews and Kwanzaa marked by African-Americans, as well as New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. All of them fall in late December or

early January.

The coronavirus pandemic has roared to new highs around the world during a second wave, forcing many people to stay home and plan gatherings with friends and family over the Internet instead.

"Whether coming together on the final day of Hanukkah, celebrating Christmas, ringing in the New Year, or marking the last days of Kwanzaa, those connecting with friends and family won't get cut short," a Zoom spokesman said.

Alphabet's Google Meet has already said free users would not have to limit conversations to 60 minutes till March.

Microsoft Teams and Cisco's Webex, who have usage grow during the pandemic, have so far not announced any relaxation in meeting length caps.

Myanmar gang-rape victim wins legal battle with military

After being gang-raped by soldiers, steely eyed Thein Nu went up against Myanmar's powerful military in a months-long fight for justice – a fight that paid off with a rare legal victory.

Her three rapists were jailed for 20 years with hard labour, a sentence she hopes will give other survivors the courage to speak up and challenge the military's impunity.

Lodging a legal complaint pitted the 36-year-old mother of four against Myanmar's most powerful institution, whose soldiers have long been accused by rights groups of using rape as a weapon of war in the country's conflict zones.

The crime was committed in June in northern Rakhine state – the site of a nearly two-year battle between the military and the Arakan Army, which is fighting for more autonomy for the ethnic Rakhine population.

"Many women like me have already endured the same thing," Thein



Nu – who has been given a pseudonym to protect her identity – told the AFP news agency.

Her victory came after an initial denial from the military, which said she made up the allegations, and she still faces the glare of widespread social stigma, including from her husband who refuses to speak to her.

COVID-19 Vaccine Can Turn People Into "Crocodiles": Brazilian President

Brasilia, Brazil: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has launched an attack on coronavirus vaccines, even suggesting that the one developed by Pfizer-BioNTech could turn people into crocodiles or bearded ladies.

The far-right leader has been sceptical of the coronavirus since it first emerged late last year, branding it "a little flu." This week he insisted he would not be vaccinated, even while launching the country's mass inoculation program.

"In the Pfizer contract it's very clear: 'we're not responsible for any side effects.' If you turn into a crocodile, it's your problem," Bolsonaro said on Thursday.

That vaccine has been undergoing tests in Brazil for weeks and is already being used



in the United States and Britain.

"If you become superhuman, if a woman starts to grow a beard or if a man starts to speak with an effeminate voice, they will not have anything to do with it," he said, referring to the drug manufacturers.

When launching the immunization campaign on Wednesday, Bolsonaro also said it would be free but not compulsory.

But the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the vaccine was obligatory, although could not be "forced" on people.

That means authorities can fine people for not being vaccinated and ban them from certain public spaces, but not force them to take it. Brazil has recorded more than 7.1 million cases and almost 185,000 deaths from Covid-19 amongst its 212 million population.

Bolsonaro said that once a vaccine has been certified by Brazil's regulatory agency Anvisa, "it will be available for everyone that wants it. But me, I won't get vaccinated."

"Some people say I'm giving a bad example. But to the imbeciles, to the idiots that say this, I tell them I've already caught the virus, I have the antibodies, so why get vaccinated?"

Joe Biden to receive COVID vaccine on Monday

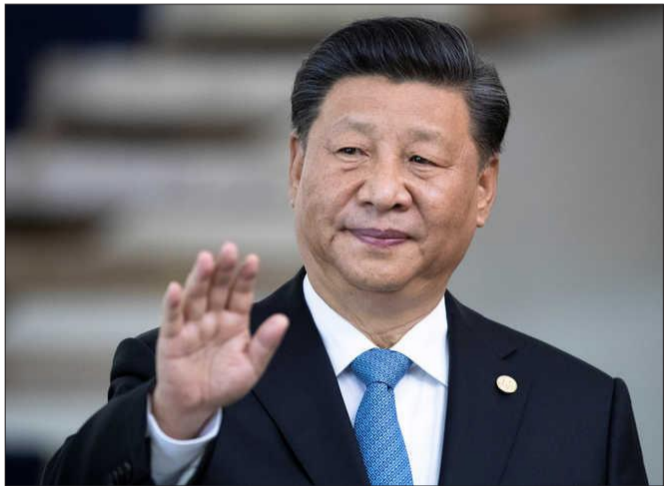
United States President-elect Joe Biden will receive his first dose of the coronavirus vaccine on Monday, his press secretary announced, as Vice President Mike Pence, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi became the highest-ranking government officials to receive their doses on Friday.

Biden's incoming press secretary, Jen Psaki, on Friday said that Biden's wife Jill, will also be getting an injection on Monday and that Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff, are expected to receive their doses the week after next. Psaki told reporters that Biden would be receiving the shot in public, as Pence did, in an effort event aimed at reassuring Americans the shot is safe.

President Donald Trump, who frequently downplayed the severity of the virus and feuded with his top public health officials, has so far largely remained out of sight five days into the largest vaccination campaign in the nation's history – one that could eventually put an end to the raging coronavirus pandemic.

NEWS MAKERS

Chinese President Xi Appoints
New General For PLA's
Western Theatre Command
Amidst Ladakh Standoff



BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has appointed a new General as the Commander of the People's Liberation Army's Western Theatre Command which oversees the Sino-Indian border, amidst the military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

President Xi, who heads the Central Military Commission (CMC), the overall high-command of the two million-strong People's Liberation Army (PLA), appointed Gen. Zhang Xudong as the Commander of the Western Theatre Command, according to the official media here.

Xi has promoted four senior Chinese military and armed police officers. Among them was Gen. Zhang, Commander of the Western Theatre Command of the PLA, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Friday.

The other officers who were promoted include Guo Puxiao, Political Commissar of the Logistic Support Department of the CMC; Li Wei, Political Commissar of the PLA Strategic Support Force and Wang Chunning, Commander.

The new appointments at the top of the PLA Western Command come in the midst of the standoff between the Chinese and Indian military in eastern

Ladakh since May.

Not much is known about Gen. Zhang, especially his association with Western Theatre Command, as he reportedly served mostly in other theatre commands of the PLA.

He succeeds 65-year-old Gen. Zhao Zongqi who headed the Western Theatre Command during the 2017 Doklam standoff where the Indian Army stood up against the PLA's plan of laying a road close to the Indian border in an area claimed by Bhutan.

The Ladakh standoff also happened under the watch of Gen. Zhao. It began in May after China dispatched thousands of troops which were mobilised for military exercises to eastern Ladakh borders, sparking a new round of tensions with India.

India and China have held several rounds of talks at the diplomatic and military-level to resolve the prolonged standoff.

At the latest round of foreign ministry-level talks on December 18, the two sides said that they have agreed to continue work towards ensuring complete disengagement of troops in all friction points along the LAC. The meeting also decided to hold the next round of military dialogue at an early date. --- PTI



Farmers at the Singhu border. Tribune file

Protesting Farmer Unions
To Decide Next Course Of
Action In '2-3 Days'

Farmer unions protesting against the three agri laws on Saturday said they will decide their next course of action in the next two-three days, after the Supreme Court earlier this week pointed out it was thinking of setting up an "impartial and independent" panel of agriculture experts and peasants' unions to resolve the deadlock.

Farmer leader Shiv Kumar Kakka said discussions among unions are currently underway to decide their strategy, adding that they are also seeking legal opinion on the matter.

"Our meetings are being held for the next course of action. We are hopeful that in the next two-three days, we will have clarity on whether we should be part of a committee as suggested by the court," Kakka told PTI.

Another leader Balbir Singh said farmers will not call off their protests until their demands are met.

"We are ready for a long haul. We

are here for our rights. We are in the process to decide our stand following the court's order," he also said.

Thousands of farmers have been staying put at several Delhi border points for the last 23 days, demanding a repeal of the new agri laws.

Meanwhile, All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) on Saturday claimed that 33 farmers participating in the ongoing protests have so far died since November 26 due to accidents, illness and cold weather conditions.

According to AIKS, 'Homage Day' will be observed in different parts of the country on Sunday to pay tributes to those farmers who lost their lives.

Earlier this week, the Supreme Court had acknowledged the right of farmers to non-violent protests and mooted the idea of putting on hold the contentious farm laws to enable negotiations with the agitating farmers, which was opposed by the Centre, which said the agriculturists would

not come forward for the talks then.

The apex court, which made it clear that the issue of farmers' protest and the right of others to move freely would be dealt on priority at the moment and not the validity of the laws, also said it was thinking of setting up an "impartial and independent" panel of agriculture experts and farmer unions to resolve the impasse.

The top court said it was of the view that the farmers' right to protest should not infringe the fundamental right of others to move freely and in getting essential food and other supplies as right to protest cannot mean blocking the entire city.

The apex court, which said it was worried with the way things are going on, was told by both the Centre and one of the farmers' unions that the negotiations are not happening at the moment.

It also said the farmers cannot keep on protesting without talking to the government.

Only 25% Of Lalu Yadav's
Kidneys Functioning, Says Son
Tejashwi Yadav



RANCHI: Leader of the Opposition in Bihar Tejashwi Yadav met his father and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav in Ranchi on Saturday.

Talking to reporters at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), he said, "You all know that only 25 per cent of Lalu ji's kidneys are functioning. I have not met him for the last 4-5 months. We have come to meet Lalu ji today for the first time after the Bihar elections."

It was Mr Tejashwi's first visit after the results of the Bihar Assembly elections where the Mahagathbandhan fell short to attain the majority figure and ultimately the National Democratic Alliance returned to power.

"We need to take precau-

tions and are talking not only to doctors at RIMS but some renowned doctors of Delhi and our family doctors. We have requested them to see Lalu ji once because it becomes serious when kidney functioning is reduced to 25 per cent," he added.

A few days back the physician under whom Lalu Yadav was getting medical treatment confirmed that his kidney functioning is reduced to 25 per cent which may lead to any emergency situation anytime.

Meanwhile, he hit out at the Nitish Kumar government and said, "Kidnappings are taking place in broad daylight in Bihar. The government seems to have failed completely. At the time of election, we used to say that Nitish ji is tired. The government is tired," Mr Tejashwi said.

Villagers Perform "Last Rites"
To Python Killed In Road
Accident In Tamil Nadu

KRISHNAGIRI: In a rare show of empathy, a group of villagers performed the last rites to a 12-foot long python killed in a road accident here, giving it some of the respects reserved for human beings in their final journey.

A few passers-by clicked selfies with the dead reptile, some others stood as mere spectators, but a group of villagers who noticed the serpent had other ideas.

The python was run over by a truck when it attempted to cross the road, at Nadar Kottai near Bargur in the district on Saturday morning, according to local people.

Some of them decided to give a "decent" burial to the python, garlanded the snake, paid their respects to the reptile, draped it in a white cloth, carried it in a procession and "laid it to rest," all rituals generally done



in these parts to a dead man or woman.

Earlier, rose water was also sprinkled on it.

A video of the people's act went viral.

"This is unusual. Such funeral processions for pythons are uncommon. This was done for the first time by some villagers who wanted to display to the python equal respect and unwavering love one expresses to human beings," Krishnan, a villager, said.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform that Ghulam Mustafa Shah of Nishat, Srinagar left for heavenly adobe on Friday afternoon (18th December). The deceased was a well known trader and the owner of M/s Zero Point Footwear, Lalchowk. The mourning will be held for 3 days only and the congregational Fateh khawani will be held at their ancestral graveyard Gupkar, Nishat on Sunday, 20th December at 11 AM.



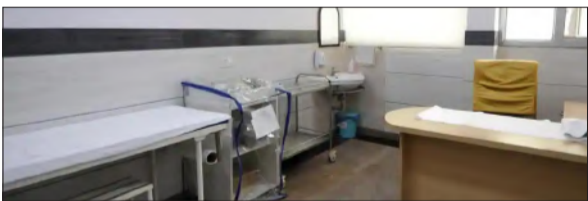
-Bereaved

North Kerala On High Alert After 11-Yr-Old Boy
Dies Due To Shigella Bacterial Infection

North Kerala has been put on high alert after an 11-year-old boy died and 20 suspected cases of shigella bacterial infection were reported in Kozhikode on Saturday, district medical officer Dr Jayashree said.

She said the death took place two days back and later 20 people with symptoms, mild diarrhoea and fever, were admitted in various hospitals. Most of the infected were people who came in direct contact with the deceased.

State health minister K K Shailaja said the health department will conduct a health camp in the area



in a couple of days and investigation is on to locate the main source of the infection. She said health experts have said the infection spread through water and food and keeping good hygiene was the primary way to check the spread.

Worried health authorities have super chlorinated all water bodies

in the area on Friday. Last year over 40 children of the West Lower Primary School, Keezhppayyur, were hospitalised after they complained of vomiting and diarrhoea. The presence of shigella bacteria was confirmed in the stool samples of at least two of these students, who recovered later. Later the district

health department traced the presence of the bacteria from the water body in the siblings' house.

According to health experts, shigellosis is an infectious disease caused by the shigella bacteria, which triggers stomach pain, diarrhoea and fever in those infected. Though a worldwide problem, shigella is more often seen in developing countries, especially in crowded locations such as schools, day care centres, nursing homes or regions with poor sanitation. In some cases, people infected with the shigella bacteria do not have symptoms, but are still contagious.

'No Evidence': Two Men, Arrested Under UP's
Anti-Conversion Law, Freed

MORADABAD, UP: A Muslim man and his brother, arrested and jailed under Uttar Pradesh's new law against "unlawful" conversion, were freed this morning after spending nearly two weeks in prison in Moradabad district. The UP Police was unable to find any evidence of forced conversion against them, said sources.

The man was arrested - along with his brother - earlier this month after he tried to get his marriage registered with a 22-year-old Hindu woman in Moradabad's Kanth area, about 350 km from state capital Lucknow. The couple was heckled by a right-wing group, the Bajrang Dal, and the pregnant woman

was taken to a shelter after the men were arrested; the government had denied her claims that she was given an injection "to induce miscarriage".

The men were freed after a court ordered their release, news agency PTI reported, amid heightened sensitivity about "Love Jihad", the right-wing conspiracy theory that Muslim men try to seduce Hindu women to have them convert their religion.

"What can I say. We married with consent. I spent 15 days in jail. I am very happy today," the man said after stepping out of the prison. When asked if he felt the police had misused the new law, he refused to comment. A video showed him meeting his

family as he received a tearful welcome.

The men were handed over to the police after a group of people from a right-wing group, the Bajrang Dal, accosted them and the 22-year-old woman at the marriage registration office and stopped them from going ahead with the registration formalities.

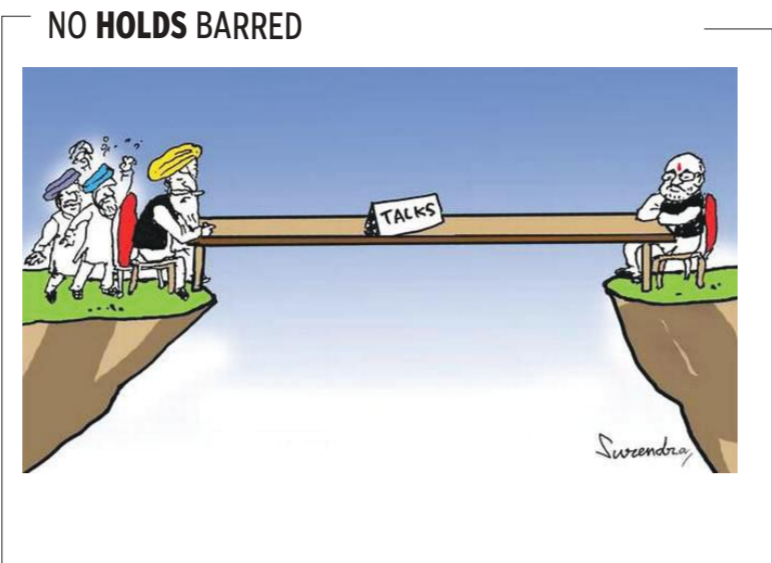
In a nearly one minute long video, widely shared on social media, the men from Bajrang Dal can be seen surrounding the woman at the police station.

"Show us the permission you have from the DM (District Magistrate) to convert your religion," a man is heard telling her, as at least two policemen, one of them with a baton, looks on.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir								
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SPL SUB DIV. TANGDAR								
NOTICE INVITING TENDER								
NIT No.55SSD Tangdar of2020-21 e-tendering DATED:19/12/2020								
For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on percentage % basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-								
S. No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
01	Constt of SR and sluice chamber pandla Tangdar for WSS Lontha Short-pallah.	10.88	600/-	21760/-	20days	31/12/2020	BEE CEE DEE	NRDWP
Position of AAA/TS : Approved Position of funds : committed								
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:-								
01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	19/12/2020						
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20/12/2020 to 30/12/2020 (4.00P.M)						
03.	Bid submission start date	21/12/2020 from (10.00A.M)						
04.	Bid submission end date	30/12/2021 upto (04.00P.M)						
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	31/12/2020 at (11.00A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar						
1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of E Challan /Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar (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 the Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar (Tender receiving authority)								
3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.								
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.								
d. Failure of submission of Tender document fee by the bidder using the site shall entail him for blacklisting.								
4. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.								
1-1 process. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission								
1-2 vendor. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved								
1-3 vendor. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.								
1-4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.								
1-5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Beside , original/Photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically/by registered post/through courier before the date specified in Para-1.								
Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.								
5. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.								
7. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of E challan /Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar and Earnest Money/Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR if applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar must be uploaded with the bid. The original E challan /Treasury receipt (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR (earnest money/bid security) and relevant documents to be submitted to the tender opening authority by registered post/Courier /by hand before due date of submission of tender/as per time schedule specified contents. In case they should attempt to create similar BQQ manually. The BQQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.								
9. Price escalation and taxes:-The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.								
10. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.								
No:3318-26 Dt:19/12/2020		DIPK-10691/20					Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar	

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Most epidemics do not just happen; they are a result of what we do to nature. In the case of pathogens, if loss of diversity causes an increase in density of competent hosts, it will very likely increase transmission

The Tragic Chronicles Of ‘Love Jihad’

These astonishingly ill-considered new laws have resulted in immense pain

VIVEK MENEZES

It should be noted these noxious prejudices are not exclusive to Hindus. Earlier this year, the Syro-Malabar Church -- which represents millions of adherents in Kerala -- officially complained that Christian women are being targeted for marriage and conversion by Muslim conspirators, and “are even being recruited to Islamic State (the IS terrorist group) through this.”

As hatred for Muslims becomes increasingly entrenched in Indian state policy, the latest atrocity is making it illegal to love them. Earlier this month, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan (he is a senior leader of Narendra Modi’s BJP) put it this way: “Government belongs to everyone, all religions and castes. There is no discrimination, but if someone tries to do anything disgusting with our daughters, then I’ll break you. If someone plots religious conversion or does anything like love jihad, you will be destroyed.” Chouhan’s braggadocio came after giant Uttar Pradesh (its population of 200 million is larger than Bangladesh) promulgated the Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance banning “unlawful conversion from one religion to another by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurements, or by any other fraudulent means or by marriage.” This extraordinary legislation defines “allurement” as “offer of any temptation” including “gratification” -- and designates “any aggrieved person” including “parents, brother, sister, or any other person who is related to him/her by blood, marriage or adoption” as “competent to lodge a First Information Report” that could lead directly to arrest and imprisonment. Entirely predictably, these astonishingly ill-considered (and many argue, outright immoral) new laws have immediately resulted in immense pain. The very first couple detained -- Rashid and Pinki Ali of Moradabad -- reportedly suffered the miscarriage of their first child. Pinki told the BBC: “When my condition deteriorated, they took

me to a hospital [on December 11]. After a blood test, I was admitted and they gave me injections, after which I started bleeding.” She said she lost the baby after another set of injections. This is not the only case. In just over two weeks since the rules came into effect, several different interfaith weddings have been halted, with the bridegrooms -- always Muslim -- arrested and hauled away by the police. A few days ago in Kushnigar, 39-year-old Haider Ali was jailed -- and, he says, beaten with a leather belt while being tortured for hours -- on the mere suspicion that his 28-year-old bride Shabeela Khatun was not originally Muslim (in fact, she was). Instead of learning from this instant catastrophe, other BJP-ruled states are scheming to implement identical legislation. They have figured out that anxiety about Muslim men is an unbeatable political trump card, especially across the “cow belt” of North India where education and human development is abysmally low, even by poor regional standards. That mindset is neatly encapsulated in Mihir Srivastava and Rahul Irani’s Love Jihadis: An Open-Minded Journey into the Heart of Western Uttar Pradesh, which spends some pages dwelling on Chetna Devi -- aka Yati Maa Chetnanand Saraswati -- the head of the Hindu revivalist organization Akhand Hindustan Morcha in Meerut. She told the authors her “scientific theory” that “since Muslims as a community are relatively poor, they live in small houses without privacy. Young children, therefore, witness their parents in the act of sex very early on. Since they are initiated into sexual intimacy early, they are bet-

ter at satisfying a woman’s desire. Therefore, if a Hindu girl experiences intimacy with a Muslim boy, she falls madly in love, and even the honour of her family becomes a secondary consideration.” Srivastava and Irani responded, more or less: “So what?” To which Chetna said: “The Hindus are sleeping. The way things are these days, [love jihad] will only culminate in nar-shaghar or mass extermination.” It should be noted these noxious prejudices are not exclusive to Hindus. Earlier this year, the Syro-Malabar Church -- which represents millions of adherents in Kerala -- officially complained that Christian women are being targeted for marriage and conversion by Muslim conspirators, and “are even being recruited to Islamic State (the IS terrorist group) through this.” Happily, as you might expect from the wildly pluralistic social and cultural landscape of India, there have been innumerable objections, complaints, and acts of defiance against these regressive trends. One of the most poignant is the India Love Project on Instagram and Facebook, started up by veteran editors Niloufer Venkatraman, Priya Ramani, and Samar Halarnkar (the latter two are married to each other), to celebrate “love and marriage outside the shackles of faith, caste, ethnicity, and gender.” Venkatraman told me: “All around us we’re seeing this unacceptable and disheartening increase in the demonizing of interfaith marriages. As a product of an interfaith marriage myself -- and married to someone of another faith -- I feel that this is very personal. We, the offspring of interfaith marriages, exist. You can-

not wish us away.” She added: “The state already plays a significant role in our lives, but if it starts to legislate our choice of mate, aren’t we doomed? We often assume that there is progress in thought, and society becomes more open and accepting. But this is a huge move backwards, against everything we believe about our democracy, and our freedom. If young people in India today are increasingly hearing that you have to stick to your own kind, that non-mainstream relationships are illegitimate or wrong, and if it now becomes illegal too, then we’re surely headed towards losing all of our basic freedoms. It’s tragic.” In just a few weeks, India Love Project has attracted almost 30,000 followers, and an unstoppable barrage of private messages and pleas for assistance. Ramani told me: “We were forced to evolve fast when couples began writing to us for help. Now we have a database of volunteer lawyers and counsellors, and we just tied up with the mental health team at The Listeners Collective (thelisterscollective.org).” Since ILP went live, Venkatraman says, she learned “that we are not alone in our thinking, and there are an overwhelming number of like-minded people. That hate is not the conversation this country wants to hear. I think it feels good for everyone to hear a story about how someone else acted from the heart.” “There is a substantial audience out there that is seeking alternative choices, and wants to challenge the mainstream narrative. I think where there was little hope, I’ve learnt to have hope.” The Dhaka Tribune

Doomsday Is Creeping

Most epidemics do not just happen; they are a result of what we do to nature

ANAMITRA ANURAG DANDA

Most people alive today are unlikely to have experienced a single year resembling 2020, both for the rapid spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the response to it worldwide. On the last day of last year, Chinese health officials informed the WHO about a cluster of 41 patients with a mysterious pneumonia and on December 8 this year, a 90-year-old grandmother in the United Kingdom was the first person in the world to be vaccinated against the virus. In the interim, worldwide, about a million and a half succumbed to the new virus. The current global death toll stands at about 1.6 million; about the same number of deaths are attributed to the combined effects of ambient (outdoor) and household air pollution in India annually. Air pollution causes about seven million premature deaths every year. We may or may not witness such alacrity ever again to deal with a pandemic but we now know that it is possible. A fraction of this zeal and speed directed at halting biodiversity loss since the Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force in 1993 may have changed the course of the year, 2020. At the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the CBD was opened for signature in recognition of the fact that biological diversity was being lost at an unprecedented rate. The rate of loss of species has accelerated since then; the global rate of species extinction is already at least tens to hundreds of times higher than it has averaged over the past 10 million years. Loss of biodiversity tends to increase pathogen transmission and disease incidence. Most epidemics do not just happen; they are a result of what we do to nature. In the case of pathogens, if loss of diversity causes an increase in density of competent hosts, it will very likely increase transmission. There are at least a dozen examples of pathogens for which species loss leads to increase in total transmission. Pathogens that establish in new species do so



through multiple steps, including the initial invasion into a new host known as ‘spillover’, the production of transmission stages within the new host and, finally, the establishment of the pathogen in the host population as a whole. Once spillover of the pathogen into a new host has occurred, high densities of that host species facilitate pathogen establishment and transmission within the new host. Disaster that was in the making over these stages has now manifested. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs defines slow-onset disaster “as one that does not emerge from a single, distinct event but one that emerges gradually over time, often based on a confluence of different events.” The pandemic, premature deaths due to air pollution and the impacts of climate change would all qualify as slow-onset disasters.

We may or may not witness such alacrity ever again to deal with a pandemic but we now know that it is possible. A fraction of this zeal and speed directed at halting biodiversity loss since the Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force in 1993 may have changed the course of the year, 2020

However, a disaster is commonly understood as a situation where severe disruption occurs at scale, over a short or long period of time, causing widespread human, material, economic or environmental loss, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. It is therefore not difficult to see why we are so ill equipped to deal with slow-onset hazards and disasters despite the knowledge that these affect more people on aggregate than sudden-onset disasters do. It has to do with the way disaster is conceptualized and defined, besides lack of political attention. In India, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 defines disaster as “a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or manmade causes, or by accident or negligence which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property, or damage to, or degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area.” Notice that ‘occurrence’ is the operative word and the terms used are characteristic of sudden-onset disasters. Under such a framing, how can response precede the sudden-onset event with grave consequences? Moreover, the specialized agencies dealing with disasters operate in a ‘fire-fighting’ mode that requires bursts of energy and action over short periods of time after which ‘everybody goes home’, but slow-onset hazards require attention over longer time frames and there is no ‘going home.’ It is also politically problematic to assign the same attention to slow-onset hazards and disasters as the sudden-onset ones since constituents do not see the creeping hazards and their impacts. It is, therefore, important that constituents make themselves aware of the creeping hazards and demand appropriate legislative and policy action. Only then will disasters be re-conceptualized and the emphasis shift from response to preparedness; but then politicians will lose their mojo of being rescuers of a hapless populace. The recent election-time promise of providing free Covid-19 vaccine is but one such instance.

Telegraph India

Perils of Capitalism

JAWAAD NISHAAT & SHEIKH IMRAN

To keep up with their hegemony these powerful capitalists have established de facto colonies around the world either through military might or tactical breaking of the barriers of international market in turn leading the local small scale business of different countries to suffer.

Human minds can be corruptive in nature and capitalism grows on the manipulation of human minds. People walking barefoot yet glamorising luxurious and top notch brands are equally responsible for creating a great disparity of classes among people.

If we go back in history to see how the cavemen survived without brands and luxuries will somehow open the debate for corruption of minds and how it is created. Here we are talking about the avarice mentality for making money and dreaming about luxuries.

Here we are proposing something which usually leads to the creation of unnecessary social classes based on our fantasies and our ephemeral attitude towards material. Material accumulation to an extent is necessary for the survival of the people but making it a statement of pride and dividing people on the basis of their possessions is a case we should plaintiff and the court of law should be based on humanitarian grounds rather than sordid grounds. St. Augustine, from early church warned about three sins, if committed can prove fatal for mankind which are lust for power, sexual lust and lust for money. Though he had ambivalent views about lust for power and sexual lusts explaining as under controlled manner these two sins can still be somewhat neutral to the society but as far as lust for money is concerned he was clear for his condemnation.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle described production of goods to satisfy physical wants such as food and clothing as useful economic activity. Farming, raising livestock and manufacturing were all productive in contrast, trade (exchange of goods for another), hire (which lent out goods for money) and usury, which lent out money for money, produced nothing that satisfied physical wants. This journey from basic needs to brand glamourising mentality has derailed human consciousness to a point where misery and exploitation has been ostracised from human dictionaries.

We have forgotten that all men are equal and we are almost convinced on the dictum that some are more equal than others, beautifully described by George Orwell in his book Animal Farm. How needs got converted into deplorable brands is a story constructed through feudalism and is now continued through capitalism.

Some needs were basic and some were created just to sell products by calling them luxury. Irony is that most people buy into this idea of business and are directly or indirectly contributing to the widening of the parity between classes. People justify their fealty attitude towards big brands as marvelous and their desire to have them is so great, with the help of a ladder which their feudal forefathers have left for them in this world is one of the way outs for them. They start exploiting their vassals and transform into bandits who are not only morally corrupt but they also imbue their desires to go to any extent for that matter. Remedial measures are far from discussion as we are not even ready to call it a disease created by us because we are parochial in nature. Rightly said by famous Pakistani writer Habib Jalib in his verses

Khuda se dekho kitna dar raha hun
Tijori jaeb donun bhar raha hun
Padosi bhooka hai teesra din hai
Mein chawthi baar umrah kar raha hun.

As the feudal hegemony diminished and its ruins



led to the creation of capitalism it robbed us of many things which were otherwise sacrosanct and sacred to us. When the feudal society was replaced by modern bourgeois society it established new systems of oppression and exploitation, with the help of modern technological advancements the latter has proved to be more intense and dangerous than the former.

It started a trend of colonisation and imperialism where the powerful nations took control of less militarily advanced countries and drained them off their resources for centuries.

Its worst effects can be examined in Asia, Americas, Africa and the Caribbean, there are nations in these parts of the world who despite winning their freedom from their occupiers are yet to recover from the economical degradation and drainage of resources they suffered at the hands of the powerful alliance of bourgeois for centuries.

The Industrial revolution which started in Britain is a best example of abuse of humans by powerful capitalists at that time, the working conditions of the workers was pathetic, child labour was a rage and the wage disparity on the basis of gender was a normal thing. The West developed and created luxuries at the expense of the human resource enslaved from Asia, Africa and Caribbean, after establishing themselves as the superpowers both in the matters of military might, arms race and economically this alliance of bourgeois needed a market to survive and maintain their hegemony so capitalism was promoted through various methods and manipulations like branding of luxuries which most of the people in the the world countries cannot afford.

The continuous exploitation of the proletarians even didn't spare the modern world of the hegemonic advancement of the powerful countries. To keep up with their hegemony these powerful capitalists have established de facto colonies around the world either through military might or tactical breaking of the barriers of international market in turn leading the local small scale business of different countries to suffer. The unholy alliance of capitalists advanced into the Middle-East, created a situation of unrest and chaos thereby established their military presence there which is an undeclared form of colonialism and imperialism in quest of greed and acquiring more and more.

This exploitation has also led to men/women losing their value and a few wealthy individuals thrive through tactical exploitation of the poor majority in most countries in which developing and underdeveloped countries remain the worst affected. Today we even are witnessing a deterioration of the values and honour which were attached to different professions earlier.

Famous German scholar Karl Marx in his Communist Manifesto rightly wrote, "The Bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honoured and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage labourers.

The bourgeoisie has torn away from the family its sentimental veil, and reduced the family relation to a mere money relation".

In such a situation when such treatment with common working class men is already being meted out with it becomes meaningless and senseless to glorify and idolise something whose foundations are based on the basis of exploitation of others. The worth of professionals as well as a labourer is reduced only to a shaft which is rotating and withering away itself to keep the machine of capitalism going.

This exploitation has not only disturbed a global equilibrium of parity it has also intruded into the families and taken away the sanctity of this otherwise revered institution.

The corruption which has contagiously multiplied among us is a major concern because it can be instrumental in promoting a culture of exploitation, inequity, deplorable poverty at one end and enormous accumulation of possessions at the other. Homo Sapiens are the most intelligent amongst its predecessors, individuals are duty bound to discover this characteristic in them and draw a line between the exploitative mercenaries and the exploited proletariat using their ration and intelligence.

We can't just be mechanical parts of a large machine which only spin us to an extent resulting in complete elimination of ourselves in the process of benefiting an idea which doesn't really care about us.

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Jahangir's course is directed by a woman and is now, as it were, shut up by her so that all justice or care of anything or public affair either sleeps or depends on her, who is most inaccessible than any goddess or mystery of heathen impietye." So wrote in 1617 the disgruntled Thomas Roe, then British ambassador to the Mughal court, of the influence of the emperor's 20th wife, Nur Jahan. Men everywhere, it seems, were threatened by the rise and reign of women, their racism and misogyny tied together in knots.

It is the disentanglement of some of these that Ruby Lal attempts in Empress, a luminous biography of a woman dabbed out of history, first by vengeful successors to her husband, the emperor Jahangir, then by colonialist historians and ultimately by nationalists who wanted to write their own history of the empire. What Lal presents is the story of a woman from the imperial harem without the usual obsession with the harem as a realm of cheap erotic associations. It is a captivating account, its depth of detail recreating a world whose constraints of lineage would seem to preclude the advance of an unknown, self-made, widowed queen. Nur Jahan was born Mihr-un-Nisa to noble but refugee parents, Asmat and Ghias, who fled Iran following Ghias's fall from favour in the court there. It was a hurried exit; the two and their retinue had to join a commercial caravan despite the fact that Asmat was visibly pregnant. The baby, the intrepid empress-to-be, was born by the side of the road, near the town of Kandahar, her birth "a moment of pleasure to the caravan community amid the hardships of the road".

book jacket

Propelled by the optimism and ambition that is such a part of migration, then and now, Ghias and Asmat managed to make good in their new home. Their noble Persian lineage and the connection of a cousin led them, in just a few years, into courtly circles. The Mughal monarch at the time was Akbar, the second of the Four Great Mughals; a man deeply committed to exemplifying a religious and cultural cosmopolitanism unparalleled in the era. Lal translates what this meant for those raising daughters within the ambit of the court. Girls of nobility were not educated in the traditional sense, but were well taught in lore and legend, ritual and tradition, not to mention the management of relationships that could translate to social mobility. By the time Mihr, the Nur Jahan to be, reached puberty, her mother had managed invitations to visit the royal harem as guest of the emperor Akbar's Persian wife Salimeh.

Review Empress Ruby Lal

The rise and reign of a self-made Mughal queen.

A compelling feminist historiography of the 20th wife of the Mughal emperor Jahangir

RAFIA ZAKARIA



It may well have been on just those visits that the audacious Mihr encountered the young Prince Salim, who would eventually obtain the title Jahangir. There are multiple versions of the pair's first rendezvous. All agree that it must have been momentous, so much so that the emperor Akbar, irked at his already betrothed prince's infatuation, hastily helped to arrange Nur Jahan's marriage to another man. In a seeming instant, the 17-year-old Nur was sent off in 1594 with her new husband to the far-flung province of Bihar, where he filled an imperial post. For the next 12 years, Mihr-un-Nisa

languished in Bengal with only her wet-nurse Dai Dilaram for company and her husband away on military campaigns. He returned long enough to get her pregnant and a few years after being wed, Mihr gave birth to a daughter called "Ladli" or "loved one". Back at court, Prince Salim became Emperor Jahangir, an aesthete renowned as a "sensuous person with no fewer than 300 young and beautiful women attached to his bed". None were enough, apparently, to make him forget his childhood sweetheart.

On 11 May 1611, Mihr-un-Nisa, whose husband

had conveniently perished, married Jahangir. Her ascent up the ranks of the harem had been rapid. Amid the women, she set about winning over the Persian matriarchs with know-how and respect for her lineage. Before her new husband, she was witty and audacious, displaying the grit of a huntress and not failing to massage his ego.

Paintings from the time show a pair taking a moonlit walk in the Palace Gardens, engaged in the hushed and secret tete-a-tete of lovers. Nur Jahan encouraged the emperor's penchant for travel, not least because it allowed her to escape the constraints of the court in Agra and to deepen her relationship with her husband. The two (accompanied by servants, horses, elephants, tents

What Lal presents is the story of a woman from the imperial harem without the usual obsession with the harem as a realm of cheap erotic associations. It is a captivating account, its depth of detail recreating a world whose constraints of lineage would seem to preclude the advance of an unknown, self-made, widowed queen

and carpets) went everywhere, from overnight trips to melon fields to months-long excursions to the gardens of Kashmir on the edge of the Himalayas. All was well until it wasn't. Nur Jahan's "rise to power had been relatively swift"; her fall was "even swifter".

Lal's book is an act of feminist historiography. Beyond its excavation of the achievements of a queen deliberately "effaced from the record", it usefully portrays Nur Jahan as an imperfect character, though an exceptionally courageous one. In a world and time in which a woman's power depended on the men she could manipulate, Nur Jahan deployed charm, wit and threat in the service of her own influence.

The Guardian

FROM FRONT PAGE

51% Turnout ...

witnessed 50.98 per cent of polling. The SEC said that polling was held in 1703 polling stations including 1028 from Kashmir division and 675 from Jammu division.

"Jammu division recorded an average voter turnout of 72.71% with Poonch district recording the highest percentage of 83.58% followed by Reasi district with 81.92% and Rajouri with 77.31%," Sharma said.

"The Kashmir Division recorded 29.91% average voter turnout with Kupwara district recording the highest polling at 63.80% followed by Bandipora with 56.56% and Baramulla district recorded 44.60% polling," he added.

Giving district wise details, the SEC said that in Kashmir division the polling percentage recorded in Budgam was 35.12%, Anantnag 8.66%, Kulgam 11.20%, Pulwama 8.50% and 8.58% polling was registered in Shopian.

Similarly, in Jammu division, he said, poll percentage of 73.65% was recorded in Samba, 73.93% in Kathua, 73.42% in Ramban, 73.45% per cent in Kishtwar, 60.49% in Udhampur, 70.33% in Doda and 69.39% in Jammu district.

The SEC said that the elections were held to 280 DDC constituencies for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is very promising to note that a very good participation of people was observed and enthusiasm among the people could be found on its peak keeping in view the fact that these elections are going to have on the developmental scenario in the rural community," he said, adding "Besides these, 1088 Panchayat Halqas and 12153 Panch constituencies went to elections."

Sharma further said that re-polling was ordered after contesting candidates from several political parties, other candidates and voters complained about unlawful activities during polling at some polling stations of Mendhar and Shopian DDC Constituencies. Besides, attempt to create ruckus at some polling stations.

Giving further details, the SEC said, that the re-polling has been done at four polling stations of Poshana (Bunfiarz DDC constituency) today.

He said that the same would be done in two polling stations of 17-PS Hajama and 32-MS Gallian (Mendhar-A DDC constituency), two polling stations of 29-Sakhimaidan & 30-GMS Sakhimaidan (Mendhar-B DDC Constituency) besides at two polling stations of Balpora (DDC Constituency Shopian-II) on 21st December.

He further added that the poll timing would be 7 am to 2 pm whereas the counting shall be done on December 22, 2020 along with the rest of the DDC constituencies as per the schedule notified by the Election Authority.

The SEC further expressed thanks to the Administration, Health department, Security forces, J&K Police, Political Parties, contesting candidates and Media for helping to conduct peaceful, transparent, free and fair elections.

"The Administration has played a pivotal role in making the elections a success as they have actually made it happen. In Kashmir the government officials have braved the chilling cold to ensure that democratic process comes out successful," Sharma said.

He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir "overwhelmingly" participated in the election process thus reposing their faith in democracy and democratic process.

I want to recognise the role of political parties and independents for participating in these polls. Also, I thank the government machinery including the police and CAPFs for their efforts, Sharma said.

On a question about the possibility of the assembly polls in the UT after the successful culmination of the DDC polls, Sharma said, "Assembly election is the mandate of the ECI (Election Commission of India). It is not right for me to comment. But, they (assembly polls) will happen sometime and the ECI will take steps for it."

Further, Sharma said that counting of votes for Sarpanch and Panch constituencies which went to poll in the eighth phase is being conducted.

2 Candidates ...

Officials said that voting under the last phase was held in Mankote and Mendhar-C constituencies of Poonch district on Saturday.

In Mankote constituency, a scuffle took place at Chajila where Mohammad Ashraf, an independent candidate and three of his supporters got injured after stones were pelted on their vehicles.

"At Kalaban and Jagal areas of Mendhar-C constituency, scuffle near polling stations took place between supporters of PAGD candidate and an independent candidate in which two persons got injured at Kalaban and one at Jagal area," an official said.

Meanwhile, at Salwah area of Mendhar-C, four-person got injured in the morning after supporters of PAGD candidate and independent candidate entered in a scuffle.

However, fourth and the major incident took place at Sakhi Maidan area of Mendhar-B DDC constituency where re-polling at Sakhi Maidan polling station were ordered after suspected bogus voting was reported during the 7th phase.

"Congress candidate from Mendhar-B, Parveen Khan was on way to Sakhi Maidan when her vehicle came under heavy stone pelting leaving her and two of her PSOs injured," officials said.

"Sensing threat to the life of protected Congress leader, one of her PSO resorted to aerial firing to scare away the attackers," officials said.

Many vehicles also suffered damage in

the incidents of stone-pelting.

"We have four incidents in the area today in which around fifteen people including two DDC candidates got injured," Dr. PA Khan, BMO of Mendhar sub-division said.

Khan said that all the injured are stable and out of danger with minor injuries and only one among them has been shifted to a hospital for some specialised treatment.

LG Praises Voters ...

Council (DDC) elections in the Union Territory.

Strengthening the 3-Tiers of Panchayati Raj System in J&K, the DDC elections were held for the first time in the UT and the response to the DDC Elections has been very encouraging, he said, as per an official spokesperson.

"Youth and first-time voters of J&K voted for new and better tomorrow," he said.

The LG further said that the polling stations across the UT witnessed long queues of enthusiastic voters and people came out to vote in large numbers, with the voter turnout percentage even in the traditionally low percentage areas registering manifold increase as compared to earlier held Parliamentary and Panchayat elections, which itself manifests that faith of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the democratic process has deepened.

"I thank all the on-duty officers/officials for their commitment and determined efforts for the smooth conduct of the DDC elections and above all, I thank and congratulate the people of J&K for participating in the elections with such enthusiasm and zeal and making the elections a massive success," Sinha as per an official spokesperson said.

He added that with the culmination of DDC elections, the people of J&K will, for the first time in history, see a truly empowered grassroots democracy entailing direct funding and decentralized decision making in the planning and development of rural areas.

"I reassure the people of J&K that we will sincerely work towards the betterment of all and J&K will march ahead on the path of peace and progress without any discrimination," Sinha added.

12 Properties ...

Srinagar, Residential Building / construction at Katipora, Tehsil Tanmarg (District Baramulla, Zoonimar, Tehsil Eidgah, District Srinagar, Katipora, Tehsil Tanmarg, District Baramulla, Khallamulla, Tehsil Ganderbal, District Ganderbal, Village Sunjwan, Bhatindi, Tehsil Bahu, District Jammu, Land at Estate Sonwar (Gupkar Road), Tehsil Srinagar (South), District Srinagar, Land at Estate Kothibagh, Tehsil Srinagar (South), District Srinagar, where Dr. Farooq Abdullah is lessee, Balance leased land out of 10 Kanal& 15 Marla at Estate Kothibagh, Tehsil Srinagar (South), District Srinagar valued at Rs 6,46,99,259, where Dr. Farooq Abdullah holds 1/3rd share, Village Sunjwan, Bhatindi (Jammu), State and Forest land occupied by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Khasra No. 04 (State Land), Khasra Nos. 05 &06 (Forest Land), Residential House at Village Sunjwan, Bhatindi, Tehsil Bahu, District Jammu, on State and Forest Land at Village Sunjwan, Bhatindi (Jammu), Khasra No. 04 (State Land) and Khasra Nos. 05 & 06 (Forest Land).

Properties Attached ...

proceeds of "crime".

In a series of tweets, Omar, who is the vice president of the National Conference, said his father, Farooq Abdullah, "is in touch with his lawyers and will fight all these baseless charges in the one place that matters - a court of law".

He said everyone is presumed to be innocent and is entitled to a fair trial "unlike in the court of the media or the court of BJP managed social media".

Omar expressed wonder that the properties attached are largely ancestral dating from the 1970s with the most recent one built before 2003.

"There can be no justification for the seizures because they fail the very basic test of having been acquired as the proceeds of the 'crime' being investigated," he said.

He said that his father came to know about the attachment of his properties in the ongoing investigation into the JKCA matter through the media.

"Not surprisingly the media was tipped off regarding the seizure before he had received any official notice or documentation," he said.

PM To Roll Out ...

place for effective roll-out of the scheme by the prime minister and also to ensure that the process of card distribution is expedited so that maximum people take its benefits, the spokesperson said.

He directed chief medical officers (CMOs) to expedite the process of registration under this scheme so that no family is left out.

Dulloo also asked the officers to utilise the services of the Common Service Centre (CSC) operators effectively for successful implementation of SEHAT scheme, the spokesperson said.

Regarding the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana, the financial commissioner directed the officers to see that all Indoor Patient Department (IPD) cases are registered under this scheme besides COVID patients.

The financial commissioner asked the administrators and principals of different medical colleges to utilise the services of Arogya Mitras effectively so that maximum people are covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the spokesperson said.

Dulloo also directed the managing director of the J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited to keep medicines available for the

hospitals so that the public does not face any inconvenience, the official added.

ED Move ...

the central government to kill dissent and disagreement across the country.

The Enforcement Directorate has attached assets worth Rs 11.86 crore of the former chief minister and others in connection with its money laundering probe linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association.

The media reports about ED attaching property of Farooq Abdullah is nothing but a political vendetta as the BJP government has been unnerved by the support of people to Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Deceleration (PAGD) in the just concluded District Development Council (DDC) polls, Tarigami said in a statement here. PAGD is an alliance of seven mainstream parties including the National Conference, the PDP and the CPI(M), and is headed by Abdullah.

Attaching the property of Farooq Abdullah is part of vindictive politics practiced by the Central government to kill dissent and disagreement across the country and the present case has surfaced at a time when the DDC polls have just concluded, the CPI(M) leader said.

He said the BJP government must realise the dangers of witch-hunting and intimidation and desist from vindictive designs .

It is time for secular democratic forces across the country to raise their voice against such designs of the BJP government, Tarigami said.

No Let-Up ...

"At about 5 pm, Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars in Kirni and Malt sectors," the official said.

He said there was no report of any casualty on the Indian side.

The LoC has witnessed heavy firing and shelling during the last few weeks, resulting in an increased number of casualties and triggering a fear psychosis among the residents of border areas.

On December 1, the Pakistan army violated the ceasefire by shelling forward posts in Rajouri sector along the LoC. A BSF sub-inspector was killed in the shelling.

On November 27, two soldiers of the Indian Army were killed when Pakistani troops opened heavy fire and shelled forward posts in Sunderbani sector in Rajouri district.

On November 26, a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Army was killed and a civilian critically injured in shelling by Pakistani troops in Kirni and Qasba sectors of Poonch.

UN Probes ...

a vehicle damaged in an incident and a mission is currently investigating the incident, UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq said. Official sources in New Delhi have said the reports emerging from the Pakistani side regarding attacks on the UN vehicle by Indian troops along the Line of Control are completely false, baseless and factually incorrect.

The sources said there was no firing from the Indian side in that sector on Friday.

Since movements of UN vehicles are known in advance, the question does not arise of any such firing, the sources said, adding the allegations are baseless.

In response to a question by PTI, Haq said the UN is aware of what both sides have been saying at this stage about the incident.

We're simply aware that a vehicle was hit by an unidentified object. Like I said, no one was harmed in this incident but a vehicle sustained some damage, and we are investigating the incident.

Separately, Indian military sources also rejected the allegation by the Pakistan Army. "Reports of targeting United Nations vehicle are not true," said a military source.

India maintains that the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, established in January 1949, has outlived its utility and is irrelevant after the Shimla agreement and the consequent establishment of the LoC. PTI

ED Attaches ...

The central probe agency issued a provisional order for attachment of the properties under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against which an appeal could be filed before the adjudicating authority of the PMLA within six month period.

The authority decides on the merit of the attachment and if it okays the ED action, the agency proceeds to confiscate the said asset.

The accused can further appeal against this order of the adjudicating authority before the appellate authority of the PMLA followed by the trial court, high court and the Supreme Court.

According to the ED statement, "the attached properties include three residential houses -- one at Gupkar Road in Srinagar, another at KatiporaTehsil in Tanmarg and one at Bhatindi in Sunjwan village of Jammu." "A commercial building at posh Residency Road in Srinagar has also been attached besides lands at four different places in J&K," the agency said in a statement.

While the book value of these attached properties is Rs 11.86 crore, their market value is estimated to be about Rs 60-70 crore, officials said. The 84-year-old NC patron has been questioned by the ED in this case a number of times, the last being in October at Srinagar.

The attached properties of Abdullah at Gupkar Road and at Residency Road (prime upmarket locations) are on state land that has been obtained on lease, it said.

The house at Bhatindi (Jammu) has been

constructed by Abdullah on a "grabbed" forest land of the government, the agency alleged. The ED alleged Abdullah "mis-used" his position as the president of the JKCA in the past and made appointments in the sports body so that BCCI sponsored funds could be laundered.

The statement said ED probe has found that "JKCA funds to the tune of more than Rs 45 crore have been siphoned, which includes huge cash withdrawals to the tune of Rs 25 crore, with no corresponding justification".

It said between 2005-2011, JKCA received a total Rs 109.78 crore funds from the BCCI for conducting various cricket activities in the erstwhile state.

"Between 2006-January 2012, when Dr Farooq Abdullah was the President of JKCA, he misused his position and clout by illegal appointments of office bearers at JKCA to whom he gave financial powers for the purpose of laundering of JKCA funds."

"Abdullah was instrumental as well as beneficiary of the laundered funds of JKCA," the agency alleged.

It said that "despite existing regular bank account of JKCA, six new bank accounts were opened for parking of JKCA funds and siphoning of the same."

"One dormant bank account in the name of Kashmir wing of JKCA was also made operational for the same purpose," the ED said, adding the JKCA funds were "layered" by way of complex inter-bank transfers in all the bank accounts and also by transfer to several personal bank accounts, followed by siphoning of the funds.

Srinagar Records ...

A meteorological department official said that today's minimum temperature in Srinagar was almost five degrees below the normal for this time of the year.

The temperature also recorded a plunge overnight in other parts of the Valley with Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort, recorded a low of minus 9.6 degrees Celsius, two degrees up from the previous two nights.

However, he said, Gulmarg was the second coldest place in Kashmir Valley after Pahalgam, the famous tourist destination of the Valley which recorded a low of minus 9.5 degree Celsius against 9.2 on previous night. Qazigund recorded minus 5.9°C, Kupwara minus 6.0°C and Kokernag minus 6.0°C.

Due to harsh weather conditions, people are facing a lot of problems. The water from taps has frozen in many places, causing a lot of inconvenience to the people who mostly start their activity late in the morning. Some portions of the Dal Lake were also frozen due to the cold wave. The scheduled and unscheduled power cuts have made things worse for the inhabitants.

The weatherman has forecast mainly dry weather over Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for next few days, post 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day period of harshest winter in Kashmir, which begins on December 21. While it will end on January 31, the cold wave, however, continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold). (GNS)

J&K Reports ...

Gulgam (53), Rajouri (54), Kathua (48), Ganderbal (42), Shopian (37), Samba (36), Poonch (22), Ramban (21), Kishtwar(21), and Reasi (13).

Meanwhile, thirteen travelers were among 301 fresh Covid-19 cases reported in J&K in the last 24 hours, officials said. Among them, 165 were from Jammu division and the remaining 136 from Kashmir Valley.

Giving district wise break-up of cases, the officials said, Srinagar reported 61, Baramulla 14, Budgam 11, Kupwara 7, Pulwama 14, Anantnag 14, Bandipora 10, Ganderbal 5, Kulgam 1, Shopian 2, Jammu 97, Udhampur 6, Rajouri 9, Doda 7, Kathua 14, Kishtwar 1, Samba 8, Poonch 4, Ramban 11and Reasi 8 new cases of Covid-19.

Moreover, they said 465 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—184 from Jammu Division and 281 from Kashmir Valley.

Biker dies in Nowgam road accident

SRINAGAR: A biker died on spot after being hit by a vehicle on Srinagar-Nowgam Bypass on Friday late evening.

Police sources said a Tavera Vehicle (JL01M/5869) hit a motor-cycle (JK01AK/3138) driven by one Irfan Aijaz Khan, a resident of Aribagh Nowgam. Though the biker died on spot yet he was shifted to hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. A case in this has been registered at police station Nowgam while the vehicle has been seized.

Ladakh Records One More Corona Death

LEH: Ladakh has recorded one more coronavirus-related death and nine fresh cases, taking the infection tally to 9,252 and death toll to 124, officials said on Saturday.

With this death, the fatality figure in Leh district reached 81, while rest of the 43 COVID-related deaths had taken place in Kargil district since the outbreak of the disease in March.

The officials said 32 COVID patients were discharged after successful treatment, taking the number of recovered patients to 8,654, which is 94 per cent of the total cases in the Union Territory, while the active number of cases dropped to 474—381 in Leh and 93 in Kargil.

86 Encounters In J&K Left 203 People Dead

178 Militants, 20 Security Personnel Among Those Killed In Year 2020

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed at least 86 gunfights in the ongoing year leaving 203 people dead, including 178 militants, five civilians and 20 personnel of police and central armed forces.

77 encounters raged in different parts of the Valley in which some of the top militants, including Hizbul Mujhadeen Operational Commander, Reyaz Naiko, Junaid Sehrai, Dr Saifullah, Sajad Nawabi, Asif Dar, Ansar Ghazwatul Hind Commander Burhan Koka, Tahir Bhat, IED expert Ikram alias Faujibhai, Zubair Wani, Waleed and Jaish Kashmir Chief, Qari Yasir were killed by the state forces, news agency KNT reported Saturday.

In the nine deadly encounters in Jammu division, the report said,17 militants and 3 soldiers were also killed. The areas that fall under the jurisdiction of Jammu region and witnessed gunfights this year included Khari-Taharat and Nowshera areas of Rajouri, Doda, Dachan Kishtwar and Nagrota.

Seven militants were alone killed in twin gunfights of Nagrota Jammu. In the recent gunfight, the truck driver ferrying Jaish militants managed to escape from the spot and is still absconding.

Some villages in Kashmir Valley witnessed more than one gunfight. These areas included Zantral Khrew, Meej Pampore and Melhora and Pinjora in Shopian. Among 10 districts of Kashmir Valley, Ganderbal in Central Kashmir witnessed no gunfight at all, though militants in this district carried out few attacks. South Kashmir's Pulwama district witnessed large number of gunfights. These gunfights in the district raged in Charsoo, Gulshanpora Tral, Kuchalman Tral, Chelwora Tral, Machohoma Tral, Saimoh Tral, Zantral Khrew, Hari Pari Awantipora,

Kangan, Goripora Barsoo, Dangarpore, Meej, Bandzoo, Gusso, Kamrazpora, Zadora, Samboora Pampore, Dadoora, Hakripora Kakapora, Noorpora Awantipora, Begpora, Shar Shali Khrew, and Tikan village, the report said.

The data as per the report, also reveals that militants and joint forces engaged in 7 gunfights in Kashmir capital Srinagar. The areas where these gunfights took place included Lawaypora, Zoonimar, Malabagh, Batamalo, Barzulla, Pantha Chowk, Kani Mazar Nawakadal and Rangreith,

According to the report, the areas in Budgam that witnessed gunfights in the ongoing year included Behrampora Chadoora, Nawhar Chara-e-Sharif and Aribagh Mochwa. In Baramulla district of North Kashmir these areas include Shatlu Rafiabab, Armpora Sopore, Hardshiva Sopore, Reban Sopore, Naugam Sector, Nowan Kreeri and Yedipora Pattan. Keran, Chang Mohalla Handwara, Ganawpora Kralgund Handwara and Machil areas in frontier district Kupwara witnessed gunfights.

South Kashmir's Shopian district also witnessed gunfights in Wachi, Reban,Keegam, Melhora, Turkawangam, Mool Chitragam, Kilora, Sugan, Chakokra and Kutpora villages. Another district of South Kashmir's Kulgam witnessed only 5 encounters while in Anantnag encounters rage in Sirhama Bijbehara, Arwani, Sangam, Kharpora, Wanghama, Watargam, Ronipora, Reban, Pinjora and Kokernag.

June this year, as per the report, was the bloodiest month in Kashmir. Joint Forces managed to kill 45 militants in this month. A Para-military trooper was also killed in June in Bandzoo village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Landslide Blocks Banihal Highway, 100's Of Vehicles Stranded

BANIHAL: A landslide struck the 270-km-long Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district on Saturday evening, leaving hundreds of Jammu-bound vehicles stranded, officials said.

The landslide hit the road at Bhoom in Chanderkote area, completely blocking the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, they said.

The officials said two vehicles suffered some damages after being hit by debris, but their occupants escaped unhurt.

Road maintenance agencies have pressed men and machinery, and efforts

are on to restore vehicular movement on the highway, they said, adding that it is expected to take nearly four hours.

Earlier during the day, a truck turned turtle at Nachlana in Ramban, causing a temporary blockade of the highway.

Traffic movement on the highway is restricted to one-way in view of the ongoing four-laning project and accordingly, vehicles were allowed from Srinagar to Jammu this morning as per the already announced schedule under which traffic plies alternately from the twin capital cities.

BOSE Revises Gen English Syllabus For 11, 12 Classes

SRINAGAR: The Board of School Education (BOSE) on Saturday revised the syllabi of General English subject for 11th and 12th standard classes of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh UT's.

The board in this regard issued a notification, a copy of which lies with the news agency—KNO.Besides change in syllabi, the BOSE also changed the assessment criteria of these classes.

The BOSE notification reads, "The syllabi and textbooks of General English for classes 11th and 12th have been revised and changed in UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh."

"As per the new syllabi and scheme of assessment, 80 marks shall be

allotted to theory examination and 20 marks for the internal assessment of both the classes," it reads.

According to BOSE, Hornbill (Core Course) General English and Snapshots (Supplementary Reader) are the new general English books for 11th standard, that are been published by NCERT and for the 12th standard, Flamingo (Core Course) and Vistas (Supplementary Reader) respectively.

The BOSE notification reads that the question papers of the both subjects shall be set from the revised syllabi and courses of study for annual, regular examination including of those fresh private candidates who are to appear in upcoming exams.

Massive Turnout In DDC Polls Victory For Democracy In J&K: BJP

JAMMU:Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta on Saturday said the "massive" turnout in the District Development Council (DDC) elections of Jammu and Kashmir had proved a decisive victory for democracy in the Union Territory.

The eight-phase DDC elections, first democratic exercise post abrogation of special status and bifurcation of the erstwhile state last year, concluded on Saturday with nearly 51 per cent electorate exercising their franchise in the final phase.

"This will be written as a great election in the history of Jammu and Kashmir because the people here have shown that democracy has won," Gupta said, expressing his gratitude to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for participating in the DDC polls.

He said the DDC polls, which recorded a "massive" voter turnout in all the eight phases, have not only proved the victory of democracy over guns and bullets, but also "opened the eyes of Gupkar leaders who exploited the people of the Kashmir valley for the last 70 years and deprived them of their due rights".

The former deputy chief minister attacked the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic

Party (PDP), alleging that the two parties had "let loose a rein of loot and plunder in the erstwhile state".

"Political outfits like the NC, PDP and Congress are opposing the BJP for the sake of opposition otherwise they have no valid reason or issue to contest the saffron party's dedication towards people," he said.

Gupta asserted that progressive changes which took place in Jammu and Kashmir after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government came into power have convinced people that the "BJP is only party which values nationalism, public good and development the most".

He said the progressive changes include abrogation of contentious Article 370 and Article 35A, bringing region under direct control of the Centre, holding of DDC elections, elimination of militants and stronger vigil along the borders.

"It is time to show the doors to such political groups which indulge in anti-national activities and sway innocents towards the death-knell," he said, claiming that the overwhelming response of people and "massive voter turnout shows that the BJP is going to win the DDC polls with a thumping majority".

LG Inaugurates Experience Centre Cum Sales Outlet Of JKI



JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha inaugurated the "Experience Centre cum Sales Outlet" of Jammu Kashmir Industries (JKI) Ltd worth Rs 6.50 crores, at Shaheedi Chowk, Residency road here today.

Advisor to Lt Governor, Sh. Baseer Ahmad Khan; Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Department, Sh M.K. Dwivedi. Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sh. Sanjeev Verma; Managing Director JKI Sh. Sanjay Handoo; senior officers of the concerned department were present.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor observed that the Experience Centre cum Sales Outlet would lead to a substantial increase in the sales of the products being manufactured by JKI and would also play an important role in making the organization a profitable and viable entity.

It would facilitate the people who found it difficult and cumbersome to visit the manufacturing units of JKI located in the Industrial Estate of Bari Brahmana, Jammu, he maintained.

The Lt Governor stressed to formulate a viable marketing strategy and to open sale outlets outside Jammu and Kashmir. He directed for constituting a three members committee to finalise Brand names of silk and woollen products by organising a public competition to get suggestions for the brand names.

He further impressed upon officers of JKI to work with high zeal and added efforts so that utilisation of raw material and produc-

tion reaches its full capacity.

On revival plan of JKI, the Lt Governor was briefed that the revival plan is being implemented while focusing on making the organization a profitable and viable entity, besides providing livelihood support to the marginalized sectors of the society, especially those associated with the cocoon rearing and production of wool.

Accordingly, the revival plan of JKI has focused primarily upon revival/modernization/establishment of units associated with the silk, wool and joinery sectors only, it was informed.

It was also informed that with the establishment of Experience Centre cum Sales Outlet, the units associated with silk and joinery sectors in the Jammu division have been made fully functional under the revival plan. It would increase market visibility and boost the sales of furniture and joinery items, silk and woollen products being manufactured by Jammu Kashmir Industries Ltd.

The facility located in the heart of Jammu city, at Residency Road constructed with a project cost of Rs.6.50 crores, has a total floor area of 11000sq.ft and is spread over three floors. It also houses facilities like display cum sale of furniture and joinery items, silk and wool products being manufactured by JKI, parking space, fire fighting system, lifts besides others.



India Requires Rs 80,000 Cr For Vaccine Distribution Next Year: Sii

Pune-based vaccine-maker Serum Institute of India, which has partnered with AstraZeneca to manufacture the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, on Saturday said that the country would require a massive funding of Rs 80,000 crore for distribution of the COVID vaccine for the next one year.

The Central government plans to vaccinate nearly 30 crore people in the first phase of drive. It will be offered to one crore healthcare workers, along with two crore frontline and essential workers and 27 crore elderly, mostly above the age of 50 years with comorbidities.

Three vaccine candidates - Serum Institute-Oxford's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Pfizer vaccine are in the fray for emergency use authorization. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has sought additional data from the Serum Institute as well as Bharat Biotech to get approval.

Speaking about the logistics of the vaccine after it is granted

approval, Dr. Satish D. Ravetkar, Executive Director of Serum Institute of India said, "The funding for such large scale distribution would be huge, and India should be ready with a funding of around Rs 80,000 crore for next one year for distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine."

The Executive Director added that India would further have to ensure adequate power supply that could help maintain the temperature required to keep the vaccine safe in the remote areas of the country.

"It is a huge challenge, and all the stakeholders have to work together to take up the challenge of such large scale operation," he said at NASSCOM's webinar on 'Vaccine Trials - Optimizing the Supply Chain', emphasizing on the need for a clear communication from the Central government.

Dr. Ravetkar said, "Everything starts with government getting into action. IT-enabled supply chain management should be established as at Serum Institute we produce 1.6 million doses an-

nually. So, we can roll out this vaccine fast. He said that it will be easier for all manufacturers to plan their production"

Alluding to the menace of counterfeiting, he said, "We have experience in counterfeiting and in this Covid-19, this is bound to happen as there is a huge demand for it. We have to establish machinery and system to control this."

India has eight Covid-19 vaccine candidates, including three indigenous vaccines, under different stages of clinical trials which could be ready for authorization in near future.

It includes AstraZeneca and Oxford university developed and Serum Institute of India manufactured Covishield, Covaxin by Bharat Biotech Limited, ZyCoV-D by Zydus Cadila and Russian vaccine candidate Sputnik-V.

The list also contains NVX-CoV2373 by SII, HGC019 by Geneva, and two unlabeled vaccines Recombinant Protein Antigen based vaccine by Biological E Limited and Inactivated rabies vector platform by Bharat Biotech.

'Why India' To 'Why Not India': PM Modi On Change His Reforms Have Brought

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hard sold his government's reforms spanning from manufacturing to taxation to labour, saying they have changed the world perception about the country from 'why India' to 'why not India' and went on to quote record foreign investment during the pandemic as a testimony to that.

Speaking at industry association Assocham's Foundation Week event, Modi also said agriculture reforms brought by his government six months back have started benefiting farmers.

"There was a situation in the past when investors would question 'why India' (for investing in the country). With reforms (of past six years) and their effects, its proposition has changed to 'why not India'," he said.

He cited scrapping of 1,500 old and obsolete laws and farming new ones that in tune with the changing investment order as an example of his government's outlook.

"Earlier investors cited high tax rates to say Why India but today (corporate) tax rates are so competitive that they say 'why not India'," he said.

Previously, a web of regulations and rules were cited by investors to ask why to invest in India but easing compliance burden in the new labour laws have made them say 'why not India', he said.

Red tape previously made investors say Why India but a red carpet is now making them say 'why not India', he said.

"From a non-existent culture for innovation to a new ecosystem promoting and nurturing startups has given the world confidence to say 'why not India'."

"Earlier there was so much government interference that investors said 'why India'. Today the faith reposed by the government in the private sector and encouragement of foreign investors have made the same people say 'why not India'," he said.

He stated that new India is pushing towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

The government's main focus is on manufacturing and production linked incentives have



been given to boost domestic capabilities and capacity, he said.

The Prime Minister called on the industry to make all efforts to make India self-reliant.

"Reforms have changed global perception from 'why India' to 'why not India'," he said. "The world trusts the Indian economy. Record FDI and FPI during pandemic testimony of that."

Modi asked the industry to adopt the best corporate governance and profit-sharing practices.

He also said investment in research and development (R&D) must be increased and the private sector must scale up investments.

"There is a great need to increase investment in R&D. In the US, 70 per cent of investments in R&D is done by the private sector, in India the same is done by the public sector. A big chunk of this is in the IT, pharma and transport sectors. Today the need is of increasing the private sector share of investment in R&D," he said.

More R&D funds should be set aside across sectors such as agriculture, defence, space, energy, and construction.

"Today when we are on mission mode to make local-global, we have to react fast to geopolitical developments. A mechanism has to be developed to see how India can meet any sudden spurt in demand in the global supply chain," he said adding there was a need for better coordination between the Ministry of External Affairs, Commerce and Trade, and industry associations.

"I would urge you to give suggestions on how to react fast and respond on global transformation, how better mechanism can be developed," he told India Inc.

Budget 2021: Finance Minister Promises 'Never Before' Like Union Budget, Seeks Inputs

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday promised a "never before" like Union Budget as the government looks to steer the pandemic-battered economy and push growth. While investment in health, medical Research & Development (R&D) and developing greater skills to handle telemedicine is going to be critical, livelihood challenges would have to be seen in a newer canvas with newer perspective on vocational training and skill development.

"Send me your inputs so that we can see a Budget which is a Budget like never before, in a way. 100 years of India wouldn't have seen a Budget being made post-pandemic like this. "And that is not going to be possible unless I get your inputs and wish list, clear observation of what has put you through the challenge... Without that, it is impossible for me to draft something which is going to be that Budget like never before, a Budget which is being made after a pandemic," Sitharaman said while addressing the CII Partnership Summit 2020.

The Union Budget for 2021-22 is scheduled to be presented in



Parliament on February 1, 2021. The minister said that to revive growth, support has to be extended to those areas which have been disrupted badly due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as to those areas which are now going to be the centres for newer demand and newer engines of growth.

"Considering our size, population and potential that India hold for good growth and building of economy, I wouldn't hesitate here to say that we shall be the engine of global growth along with a few other countries. We will be a significant contributor to global economic revival," she said.

Further, Sitharaman said that while providing more funding for infrastructure, it would be important to bring in private partnerships for not just providing buildings and hospitals, but also for providing the capacities to run these hospitals.

Dwivedi Holds Meeting With Construction Agencies Of Major Development Projects

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Department of Geology and Mining, M. K. Dwivedi, today convened an officers meeting to discuss and facilitate availability of key construction material to various construction agencies especially involved in execution of major development projects.

Commissioner Secretary informed that the Department has taken several measures to streamline the system of Mining Leases. Complying with the directions of NGT to put in place leases with environmental clearance, the Department has successfully carried out transparent e-auction in all the districts across the UT, he added. He said that the whole process of grant of Lease and securing Environment Clearance has been fast-tracked and the position on ground is improving.

He said that the objective of the meeting was to give impetus to major developmental projects of National importance and improve the co-ordination at various levels to effectively make seamless availability

of construction material for the projects. He maintained that the major projects of Railways, National Highway, AIIMS and other prestigious projects need proactive facilitation by all the stakeholders for timely execution. Various issues and requirements of the construction agencies were elaborately discussed in the meeting and instructions issued for speedy disposal of issues.

Chief Engineer, R. K. Hedge, CHOD, KRCL requested for issuance of fresh STPs in district Reasi.

Director, Geology and Mining, Vikas Sharma informed that 6 STPs were earlier issued and the issuance of fresh STPs has been fast tracked besides the extraction at Kanthan and Pai Khad sites are being operationalized.

Representing IRCON, Chief Engineer (North), B. S. Tomar raised the issue that the Department of Fisheries has issued NOC with validity for six months only, which is grossly inadequate and needs to be extended to at least 3 years.

M. K. Dwivedi advised IRCON to formally take up the issue with Fish-

eries authorities for extending the validity of NOC.

Regional Officer NHAI informed that they have been issued Disposal Permits by the Department for the Ring Road work.

Regarding the STPs, Dwivedi issued instructions for immediate processing of STPs after these have been duly submitted to the Mining Department.

NHIDCL requested for inclusion of the Agency within the ambit of S.O. 345.

The Fisheries department was instructed to immediately issue necessary NOCs for pending cases of PSUs and other cases as grant of leases have been held up for the same.

The meeting had also detailed assessment of requirements of AIIMS project at Vijaypur and decisions were taken up for meeting the same to ensure expeditious execution of this significant project. JKPC and JKML were asked to provide material to AIIMS, IIT and other important projects as their leases are likely to get operational soon which shall ease the position for these projects.

Tourism Department Gears Up To Celebrate Christmas, New Year

Secretary Tourism Reviews Preparations For Winter Season

SRINAGAR: With the onset of Winter and on the eve of Christmas and the New Year, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism is all geared up to celebrate and organise various gala events in the coming weeks across various Tourism destinations in both the Kashmir and Jammu Divisions.

In this regard, Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez on Saturday chaired a meeting at TRC Srinagar to review the preparations for these events.

Director, Tourism Kashmir, Director, SKICC, CEO, Gulmarg Development Authority, CEO, Pahalgam Development Authority, Joint Director, Tourism, Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports, Divisional Sports Officer, Srinagar, Manager, J&K Cable Car Corporation, Gulmarg and senior officers of the Tourism Department were present in the meeting.

Secretary, Tourism urged the officers to work as a team in order to achieve the desired outcomes. He

said winter activities and celebrations should be organized across various Tourism destinations, so that Tourism stakeholders and Tourists present there are able to participate and enjoy in the festival's and colorful events. "The upcoming Christmas and New Year should be celebrated in a manner befitting the occasions" he said.

Secretary, Tourism added that following the opening up of Tourism sector in July, 2020, after months of lockdown, Tourism Department immediately started organising various events across various Tourism Destinations to send a message to the intending tourists that the UT is ready to welcome and host them. He said the Department also organized interactive meets with Tourism stakeholders across the country including with the Travel Trade Fraternity of Kolkata, Maharashtra, Gujarat and other States.

NEWS MAKERS

Training Program On Mushroom Cultivation Held At Khonmoh

SRINAGAR: The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare today organised a training program regarding Mushroom Cultivation on "Commercial Scale and its Sustainability," under centrally sponsored scheme Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PM-KKKY) in the mining affected area of Khonmoh.

The Project Coordinator Mushroom, Farooq Ahmad Shah inaugurated the training camp. He said that the main objective of conducting such training camps is to give technical knowhow on commercial cultivation of Mushroom on scientific lines with main thrust on sustainability so that the youth engage

themselves in self employment generation activities.

he Project Coordinator said that mushroom cultivation has commercial dimensions which can uplift the socio-economic status of growers. He impressed upon the concerned Officers to ensure that all the innovative steps are being taken to promote the mushroom sector.

He said that there has been a record breaking yield and production of mushrooms in the year 2020-21, and urged upon the mushroom experts and scientists of the department involved with the scheme to organize special training programs on scientific cultivation of mushrooms for the

unemployed.

Mushroom Development Officer, Srinagar informed that Zewan village of Block Khonmoh has been adopted by the department as Mushroom village under PMKKKY and had established 52 mushroom units and all the units are running successfully.

He said that the beneficiaries of the village were given various inputs, training and awareness to update and engage them in the mushroom cultivation activity on a full time basis besides motivating others.

Meanwhile, the programme was attended by beneficiaries, educated unemployed youths of mining affected areas and other senior officers involved with the scheme.

PM Modi Lauds Tata Group For Its Role In India's Development

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday praised Tata Group for its role in India's development.

Speaking at the Assocham Foundation Week 2020 event, Modi said in the last 100 years the industry chamber has witnessed ups and downs of India's development, including the country's independence struggle.

"Tata Group has played an important role in India's development," Modi said after presenting the 'Assocham Enterprise of the Century Award' to Ratan Tata, marking the contribution of the business group in the nation's progress.

Speaking at the event, Tata Group Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata thanked Modi for leading the coun-



try from front during the difficult time of pandemic and hoped that the industry will now take forward the benefits of his strong leadership.

"Yes there will be periods of discontent, there will be opposition, but there is never any dithering or any ... running away ... You want

a lockdown, you got a lockdown, you showed the country as one that responded to shutting out of power and lights for few minutes, you made that happen.

"It's not cosmetic, it's not showmanship, it has put the country together showing we can stand up

and marshal our efforts to do what you have set ourselves to do.

"It is now our job as industry, to follow this, to show the benefits of this leadership which I am quite confident we will do," Tata said.

Thanking the Prime Minister for leading the country through this difficult period, Tata said "I think if we all stand together and follow what you have said, what you have done and what you have shown, we will have a situation where the world will look at us and say this Prime Minister said it could happen and he made it happen".

Meanwhile, salt-to-software conglomerate Tata Group was among "multiple" entities that earlier this week put in preliminary bids for buying loss-making carrier Air India.

How Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine Compares To That Of Pfizer's

US regulators authorized Moderna Inc's COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use on Friday, a week after granting the first US authorization to Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE's coronavirus shot.



The following is a comparison of the two vaccines and what to expect as both become available:

How are the vaccines similar?

Both vaccines use messenger RNA (mRNA) technology, which contains instructions for human cells to make proteins that mimic part of the coronavirus. The instructions spur the immune system into action, turning the body into a virus-zapping vaccine factory. No actual virus is contained in the vaccines.

Both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines target the crown-like spikes on the surface of the coronavirus that it uses to break into healthy human cells. The spikes also give the family of viruses their distinctive name.

The vaccines appear to be similarly effective. Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine was around 95 per cent effective at preventing disease symptoms in its late-stage trial, while Moderna's vaccine was around 94 per cent effective.

Both are given in two doses; Pfizer's 21 days apart and

Moderna's 28 days apart. Very few participants who received the vaccine in either trial got sick with COVID-19 and almost none got seriously ill.

Data the companies have submitted to the Food and Drug Administration suggest that they start offering partial protection against COVID-19 around two weeks after recipients receive their first dose.

How are they different?

Cold versus ultra-cold

The main difference between the two vaccines is the temperature required to keep them stable long-term.

Pfizer's vaccine must be stored at ultra-cold temperatures of minus 70 degrees Celsius (-94 Fahrenheit). Once thawed, it can only be refrigerated for 5 days. The vaccine requires a special shipping container packed with dry ice to keep it at the proper temperature.

Moderna's vaccine can be stored at standard freezer temperatures of -20 Celsius (-4

Pfizer's vaccine must be stored at ultra-cold temperatures of minus 70 degrees Celsius (-94 Fahrenheit). Once thawed, it can only be refrigerated for 5 days. The vaccine requires a special shipping container packed with dry ice to keep it at the proper temperature.

Side effects and safety

Neither of the two large-scale clinical trials of the vaccines turned up any serious long-term side effects. But the vaccines do have slightly different short-term side effect profiles.

While the vaccines have not been compared head-to-head, Moderna's vaccine appears to be associated with slightly more severe cases of fatigue, headache and fever in the day or two following the second shot, especially in people younger than 65.

Although not seen in its clinical trial, Pfizer's vaccine has been linked with a few cases of severe allergic reactions as it has been rolled out in the UK and the United States. At least two healthcare workers in Britain and two in Alaska have reported severe allergic reactions soon after receiving the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

Britain's medical regulator has said anyone with a history of anaphylaxis, or severe

allergic reactions to a medicine or food should not get the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

But the US Food and Drug Administration has said it should be safe for most Americans with allergies to receive the vaccine.

Will masks still be needed?

More data is needed to understand exactly how effective either vaccine is at preventing virus transmission. While they are both highly effective at keeping symptoms and severe illness at bay, we do not know if they prevent someone from becoming infected. Until that is known, experts say, masks will still be needed to ensure that vaccinated people do not spread the virus.

Will Americans get to choose?

At this point, with vaccines in short supply, few people will have the luxury of expressing a preference of which they receive. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that the first doses be given to healthcare workers and residents in long-term care facilities and most states plan to do that. -Agencies

Study suggests social holidays improve overall well-being

Social holidays improve holiday makers' overall satisfaction with life, as well as satisfaction with the quantity and quality of their leisure time, and social life, according to a new study from the University of Eastern Finland.

The study analysed the effect of social holidays on holiday makers' subjective well-being and experience of inclusion.

Social holidays refer to holidays that are granted to disadvantaged persons or families usually on economic, social or health-related grounds, allowing them to go on a holiday away from home that would otherwise be beyond their reach. Different countries have different systems of funding social holidays, and in Finland, they are funded

by revenues from the state-owned gambling game company, Veikkaus. The researchers were surprised to discover that besides an increase in overall life satisfaction, social holidays also increased, for instance, holiday makers' satisfaction with their employment and economic situation. "It is possible that going on a holiday away from home makes people look at their life in a more positive light, which may be reflected in our results. Social holidays are all-inclusive and not having to buy groceries can have a very concrete effect on some holiday makers' financial situation," Project Researcher Elli Vento from the University of Eastern Finland says.

The researchers also found that social

holidays strengthened feelings of equality among families with children. Earlier studies have shown that disadvantaged parents are well aware that their children are missing out on things that are possible for most of their peers.

"Going on a holiday away from home is, in itself, a very unequal phenomenon. This is often illustrated by examples of children sharing their holidays memories in school. Some children may have travelled abroad and visited theme parks, whereas others don't necessarily have anything to say about their holiday: they've simply stayed home without any possibility for activities typically associated with holidays," Vento says.



New study suggests link between pregnancy loss and health of fathers-to-be

The findings of a new study suggest that more than a quarter of pregnancies might be ectopic or end in miscarriage or stillbirth if the father-to-be is unhealthy and has three or more medical conditions such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol levels.

In a retrospective study of nearly a million pregnancies between 2009 and 2016 in the US, published today in the journal Human Reproduction, researchers found that if the father was diagnosed with metabolic syndrome, which includes these medical conditions, there was an increased risk of the mother losing the pregnancy.

Compared to men who had none of the components of metabolic syndrome, the risk of pregnancy loss increased by 10%, 15% and 19% respectively for men with one, two or three or more components.

Associate Professor Michael Eisenberg from Stanford University

School of Medicine (California, USA), who led the research, said: "It's been known for some time that the health of mothers has an impact on the developing foetus and events at the time of birth. This is the first study to suggest that pregnancies sired by men with increasing numbers of medical conditions are at higher risk of ending in miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy or stillbirth.

"In the group of men we studied, the risk of losing the pregnancy was 17% in couples where the father had no components of the metabolic syndrome but increased to 21% in couples where the father has one metabolic syndrome component, 23% where he has two, and 27% where he has three or more.

"While this study cannot prove that poor paternal health is a cause of pregnancy loss, it shows there is an association. The clinical implications of these findings are that pre-conception counselling should not forget the father, as his health

may have an important impact on the pregnancy."

The researchers analysed data from US insurance claims covering 958,804 pregnancies. As well as metabolic syndrome, they gathered information on other medical conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), depression and heart disease. They also calculated the burden of chronic disease for all patients, which included age and medical history of problems such as heart failure, heart attack, diseases of the blood vessels, kidney and liver disease, cancer, stroke and dementia. They adjusted their calculations to take account of other factors that could affect pregnancy, in particular, the mother's age, health, weight, and whether or not the father or mother smoked.

A total of 4.6% of men in the study were aged over 45 years and 23.3% had at least one component of metabolic syndrome prior to



conception. There were 785,809 live births and 172,995 pregnancies (22%) lost to ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage or stillbirth during the period of the study.

As expected, pregnancy losses increased with the mother's age and the number of other medical conditions she had. However, the association with the health of the father and pregnancy loss remained. The risk of losing a pregnancy also increased with the age of the father.

The mechanisms by which the father's health might affect the risk of pregnancy loss is not known.

Prof Eisenberg said: "We hypothesise that the father's health and lifestyle could adversely affect the genetic make-up and expression in the sperm, and that this may alter how well the placenta functions. If the placenta isn't working properly then this could lead

to the pregnancy losses that we observed; for instance, we know already that paternal smoking and diet can affect sperm quality."

Limitations of the study include: potential lack of detail and accurate diagnoses inherent in obtaining information from insurance claims databases; pregnancy losses that did not result in a medical claim, for instance, early miscarriage, were not included in the database, although the frequency of miscarriages, still births and ectopic pregnancies observed in the study were similar to estimates for the general US population; as the findings include only privately insured and employed parents, the findings might not be generalisable to other populations; information on important factors such as sociodemographic status, race and substance abuse, was incomplete. -Agencies

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

IIT Ropar Dept. of Chemical Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2020

Description: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar invites applications for IIT Ropar Dept. of Chemical Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2020 from master's degree holders. The fellows are required to work on the SERB sponsored project titled, "Spatial stress correlations in strong colloidal gel and its connection to yielding/plasticity".

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates who hold a master's degree in Chemical/ Biochemical/ Petroleum/ petrochemical/ Polymer Engineering OR hold a master's degree by research in Chemical/ Biochemical/ Petroleum/ petrochemical/ Polymer Engineering or Technology with a GATE or CSIR UGC NET qualified score. Experience in numerical simulation/ solid mechanics/ colloidal systems/ rheology/ soft matter will be an added advantage.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 per month

Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2020

Application mode: Via email only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ITJ7

DMRL-DRDO Junior Research Fellowship/Research Associateship 2020

Description: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) invites applications for DMRL-DRDO Junior Research Fellowship/Research Associateship 2020 from BE/BTech/PhD degree holders.

Eligibility: For Research Associateship, the candidates must be below 35 years of age. They must hold an ME/MTech degree with first-division with 3 years of experience or hold a PhD degree in Metallurgical Engineering/ Material Science and Engineering.

For JRF, the candidates must be below 28 years of age. They must hold a BE/BTech degree in Metallurgical Engineering/ Materials Science and Engineering/Materials Science/Materials Engineering/Materials Technology with first division.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 54,000 per month plus HRA

Last Date to Apply: 02-01-2021

Application mode: Via email only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LDR3

Mi Scholarship for Class 11 and 12 Students 2020-21

Description: Xiaomi India invites applications from students studying in Class 11/12 and undergraduate level. The scholarship is meant to support meritorious students who belong to underprivileged sections of the society.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. The applicants must be studying in Class 11/12 or undergraduate (any stream) level. They must have secured at least 70% marks in their previous qualifying examination.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 5,800

Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2020

Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/MISC1

'Individuals with ADHD-traits are more vulnerable to insomnia'

Individuals with high ADHD-traits that do not meet the criteria for a diagnosis are less able to perform tasks involving attentional regulation or emotional control after a sleepless night than individuals with low ADHD-traits, suggest the findings a new study. The study from Karolinska Institutet published in Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging reports.

While it can cause multiple cognitive impairments, there is considerable individual variation in sensitivity to the effects of insomnia. The reason for this variability has been an unresolved research question for long. In the present study, KI researchers investigated how sleep deprivation affects our executive functions, which is to say the central

cognitive processes that govern our thoughts and actions. They also wanted to ascertain if people with ADHD tendencies are more sensitive to insomnia, with more severe functional impairments as a result.

ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) is characterised by inattention, impulsiveness and hyperactivity; however, the symptoms vary from person to person and often also include emotional instability.

"You could say that many people have some subclinical ADHD-like symptoms but a diagnosis is only made once the symptoms become so prominent that they interfere with our everyday lives," says Predrag Petrovic, consultant and associate professor in psychiatry at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience at

Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, who led the study along with Tina Sundelin and John Axelsson, both researchers at Karolinska Institutet and the Stress Research Institute at Stockholm University.

The study included 180 healthy participants between the ages of 17 and 45 without an ADHD diagnosis. Tendencies towards inattentiveness and emotional instability were assessed on the Brown Attention Deficit Disorder (B-ADD) scale.

The participants were randomly assigned to two groups, one that was allowed to sleep normally and one that was deprived of sleep for one night. They were then instructed to perform a test that measures executive functions and emotional control the following day (a Stroop test with neutral and emotional faces).

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

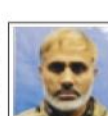
No.101-155-ARTO-ANG

Date:- 18/12/2020

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Nazir Ahmad Ganie S/O Gh Hassan Ganie R/O Zadipora Tailwani Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller)



Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd. No.JK03H-2155(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Mohd Yousuf Ganie S/O Abdul Rahiem Ganie R/O Kanganhal Anantnag (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation/Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with N/A.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

MJA

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

No.4271/MVD/ANG

Date:- 19/12/2020

NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Mohd Shafi Bhat S/O Wali Mohd Bhat R/O Adlash Magam Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Alto 800 Bearing Regd. No.JK03E-8445(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Irshad Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Majid Bhat R/O Dhonepora Sangam Anantnag (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation/Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with Nilil.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.



MJA

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag



WITH THE WAY INDIA BATTED & BOWLED IN THE 1ST
innings, they were in the driver's seat, but the Aussies came back really hard this morning. That is the beauty of Test cricket.

WE HAD A LEAD OF 60-ODD
when we arrived, and then just collapsed. We played two days of good cricket to get in a position and then just lose it in an hour. It really hurts."

INDIA SLUMP

To Lowest Ever Score As Australia Clinch First Test

Adevastated India crashed to their lowest ever score of 36 on Saturday as Australia ran riot to win the opening Test in Adelaide by eight wickets after Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins produced a bowling masterclass.

India started the third day of the pink-ball Test on nine for one and with a 62-run lead, looking to build a competitive second innings total for the hosts to chase.

But their hopes were left in tatters by a wicket with bounce and deviation as Hazlewood took 5-8, including his 200th Test wicket, and Cummins 4-21.

Wicketkeeper Tim Paine claimed five

catches as the bowlers found the edge.

"I didn't expect it to come that quick, I was expecting a real dogfight," said skipper Paine. "To hang in, give our bowlers a chance, and then turn up and start the day the way we did, full credit to our bowling attack again."

"It's nice to get off to a good start. Chuffed with the way we bowled in this Test."

It was an incredible Indian collapse, with no batsman reaching double figures during a capitulation that lasted less than 22 overs, in contrast to their battling first innings' 244.

That included skipper Virat Kohli, who fell for four and now heads home

for the birth of his first child, leaving his stunned team to face three more Tests, starting in Melbourne on Boxing Day, without him. Ajinkya Rahane will assume the captaincy.

"It's very hard to put those feelings into words," said a disconsolate Kohli.

"We had a lead of 60-odd when we arrived, and then just collapsed. We played two days of good cricket to get in a position and then just lose it in an hour. It really hurts."

India's previous Test low was 42 against England at Lord's in 1974. Their 36 was the joint fourth lowest of all time, with New Zealand's 26 facing England in 1955 at Auckland the worst ever.

The carnage left Australia, who scored 191 in the first innings, needing 90 to win, with out-of-form Joe Burns hitting a confidence-building 51 not out, including a six to win the match.

Matthew Wade made 33 and Marnus Labuschagne six with Steve Smith not out one.

In trouble
Cummins wasted no time removing nightwatchman Jasprit Bumrah for two in the second over of the day, tempting him to push at a slower ball that popped back up to him.

That brought the stubborn Cheteshwar Pujara to the crease. He saw off an over from Cummins, but that was as good as it

got for the veteran who fell without scoring. Cummins, the world's number one Test bowler, sent down a delivery that had to be played and Pujara caught an edge that carried to wicketkeeper Paine.

It left India on 15 for three, and it only got worse with opener Mayank Agarwal back in the pavilion five balls later for nine, again caught by Paine on Hazlewood's opening delivery.

Hazlewood and Paine again combined to get rid of Rahane for naught, after which Cummins picked up the massive wicket of Kohli.

The superstar batsman had smacked Cummins for four but was gone the next ball after a review, caught by debutant

Cameron Green as he attempted a cover drive.

At 19 for six, India were in real danger of making their lowest ever score and when Wriddhiman Saha (4) chipped a Hazlewood delivery to Marnus Labuschagne and Ravi Ashwin was out next ball it became a reality.

A four from Hanuma Vihari spared them some shame, taking India past New Zealand's all-time low. But Vihari (8) didn't last much longer, caught by Paine with Hazlewood again doing the damage to complete an excellent five-wicket haul, before Mohammed Shami was forced to retire hurt after a Cummins thunderbolt hit his right arm.

Getting Bowled Out For 36 Is Going To Create Headaches For India, Feels Hazlewood



ADELAIDE: India will feel the aftershocks of crumbing to their lowest Test total of 36 heading into the remainder of the four-match series against Australia, Adelaide Oval's wrecked-in-chief Josh Hazlewood said on Saturday.

Virat Kohli leaving for paternity leave from the second Test will also add to the visitors' woes, according to Hazlewood, who snared five wickets in mere 25 balls to help his team post an eight-wicket win in the opening Day/Night Test and take a 1-0 lead in the four-match rubber.

"Getting bowled out for 36 is going to leave a few headaches here and there and their best batter (Virat) is leaving as well, it is going to leave a bit of whole," Hazlewood said at the post-match press conference.

Kohli's absence is also an opportunity for others to prove their mettle after the forgettable outing at the Adelaide Oval.

"...But they have got plenty of class batters on the side-lines to come in, not of Virat's class. But in terms of the series, it is great to be one up, it is better than being one-down, as we found out last time," he added.

It was in the company of pace colleague Pat Cummins that

Hazlewood scripted one of their biggest wins in recent times.

The pacer though cautioned his teammates that the win was history now and they must look forward to the coming matches.

"It is probably a fresh start to a degree for the batters and bowlers, and they have a player coming for Virat and they have got some class players on the bench to be honest, so good players are going to come in and we will have some plans for (them) no doubt," he said.

Mohammed Shami was taken to a hospital for scans after being hit on the hands and Hazlewood said the visitors would have to dig deep into their reserves if the India pacer was ruled out of the second Test.

"It is obviously a blow, we don't know how bad it is yet, we will wait and find out how much damage has been done."

"But he (Shami) is a class bowler and he has shown in this game, so they might have to dig deep in their arsenal to cover him but we probably expect him to play."

"I am not too sure how bad it is, to be honest," he said when asked whether injury to Shami would give the Australians a psychological edge. PTI

The OTP To Forget Is 49204084041: Cricket World Reacts After India Collapse To Its Lowest Test Score

ADELAIDE: With shock and amazement, the cricket fraternity reacted to the nightmare that the Indian team endured in broad daylight before crumbing to its lowest-ever Test score of 36 here on Saturday.

India's much-vaunted batting line-up was blown away by the menacing pace duo of Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood as Australia recorded a convincing eight-wicket win inside two and half days in the opening Day/Night Test.

"The OTP to forget is 49204084041," former India opener Virender Sehwag tweeted in reference to the batsmen's sequence of scores in the second innings.

None of the Indian batsmen managed to reach double digits. Sehwag's idol, Sachin Tendulkar, conceded India were outclassed.

"With the way India batted & bowled in the 1st innings, they were in the driver's seat, but the Aussies came back really hard this morning. That is the beauty of Test cricket. It's NEVER over till it's over. India was outclassed in the 2nd half. Congratulations to Australia!" Tendulkar wrote.

India's previous lowest Test

score was 42 against England at the Lord's in 1974.

Batting great Sunil Gavaskar felt the Australian pacers were brilliant.

"... It's not fair to blame the Indian batsmen for the way they got out because it was just simply superb bowling by the Australian bowlers," Gavaskar told Channel Seven.

While pointing out the current batsmen's defensive

- 165, 191, 242, 124, 244, 36. Clearly India needs to improve its defensive skills. Easier said than done in today's environment."

Australian spin legend Shane Warne said: "Wow!! What a bowling display that was from Pat Cummins & Josh Hazlewood here in Adelaide. Just outstanding. Have to



frailties, former batsman Sanjay Manjrekar observed: "36 will no doubt be looked at in isolation & should be too, but here's India's totals in last 3 Tests (2 in NZ) when the ball has moved around

feel for the Indian batsman as never saw that coming - it was one of those days where the batsman nicked everything & didn't play and miss at all! Unbelievable..."

Comparing India's 2 Lowest Test Totals: 1974 Vs England & 2020 Vs Australia



India's lowest Test innings total of 36 on Saturday at the Adelaide Oval against Australia is in many ways different from their previous lowest of 42 that Ajit Wadekar's team managed in 1974 at Lord's against England.

Though there was one major similarity -- India did not lose all 10 wickets as the No. 11 on both occasions was injured.

To start with, the Lord's innings came after the Indian team was already under the cosh following on in the face of a 327-run deficit. England had hammered 629 in the first innings and India could reply with 302 in their first. India already had their backs to the wall entering the second innings back then, unlike this time when they went into the disastrous second innings with a 53-run lead in first innings. In fact, nine runs were already added to the lead for the loss of just one wicket on Friday night, the second day of

the ongoing day-night Test.

Then, India were reduced to 19/6 on Saturday which is their lowest at six wickets down. In that Lord's Test, India lost their sixth wicket at 28.

The fiasco at Lord's, which was hosting the second Test of the series, had followed a Test loss at Manchester by 113 runs. The ongoing Test at Adelaide is the first of the series.

In that Lord's Test, at least one batsman managed to get into double figures with Eknath Solkar managing an unbeaten 17-ball 18, hitting a six and two fours.

In the innings at Adelaide, no Indian batsman could get into double figures with Mayank Agarwal's nine being the highest.

India's worst play on Saturday came during a phase of just under six overs between the last ball of the eighth over and the fourth of the 14th over when they lost five wickets for just four runs. They lost four wickets at the team total of 15.

IFA Shield: Real Kashmir Defeat George Telegraph In Final

Real Kashmir FC clinched their maiden major trophy by lifting the IFA Shield after beating George Telegraph 2-1 in the summit clash on Saturday, though the 127-year-old tournament was held without some of the country's top sides. In fact, in recent years, most of the top clubs have not taken part. This year, four I-League teams and eight Calcutta Premier League sides took part in the competition.

Besides RKFC, Mohammedan Sporting, Gokulam Kerala and Indian Arrows were the other I-League sides. Fresh from a hat-trick against Mohammedan Sporting in the semifinals, Nigerian forward Luk-

man Adefemi broke the deadlock (38th minute) from a penalty but the Georgians restored parity in the second half with a terrific solo run by substitute Gautam Das (50th).

But 10 minutes later, skipper Mason Robertson snatched the lead for the Snow Leopards with a towering header.

There was more drama in store at the Saltlake Stadium as the Real Kashmir captain conceded a penalty in the 80th minute when he brought down Vivek Singh inside the box. But, Real Kashmir goalkeeper Mit-hun Samanta turned out to be their hero, diving it to perfection to deny Tanmoy Ghosh's spot kick. Samanta



was brilliant under the bar and it was his second save of the day to be awarded the Man-of-the-Match.

"It is a great moment for the

team to win this historic tournament. We feel good and we will go into I-League on the back of this championship and try to play

even better. It feels good to save a decisive penalty in a big final like this," Samanta said.

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Just before the I-League starting on January 9, it turned out to be a perfect pre-season outing for the Snow Leopards and coach David Robertson was all excited.

"We are really happy after winning the historical IFA Shield. We know the history of this Shield. We were confident of winning the IFA Shield and at last we did it. We didn't look at it as a preparation for the I-League but it was a different tournament for us," the coach said.

Shiv Sena's Urmila Trolled For Having Kashmiri Muslim Husband



KO WEB DESK

SRINAGAR: Actress-turned-politician Urmila Matondkar whose Instagram account was recently hacked says her Kashmiri origin husband Mohsin Akhtar has been subjected to extreme trolling.

Urmila's Instagram account was hacked recently and restored later. But she has revealed that her Wikipedia page was edited too, her husband Mohsin Akhtar was trolled on social media, and they both had to face a lot of online hate and abuse.

In a conversation with Mojo Story, Urmila Matondkar shared how her in-laws and her husband have been constantly trolled for being Kashmiri Muslim.

"My husband was called a "terrorist, a Pakistani. I mean, there is a limit to where it should go... They have even infiltrated my Wikipedia page and they have gone and put my mother's name as Rukhsana Ahmed and my father's name as Shivsingh Singh, two human beings who must be living somewhere in India but I don't know of. My father's name is Shrikant Matondkar and my mother's name is Sunita Matondkar."

She added, "To top it all, my husband is not only a Muslim but a Kashmiri Muslim. We both follow our religions in an equally staunch way. That gave them a bigger platform to troll me and constantly target him

and his family. It was very unfortunate."

Talking about compassion and the strongest aspects of being a woman, Matondkar said, "I don't have a thick skin but I have too beautiful a skin to let it be dirtied by these kind of things that come my way. I think sensitivity is one of the strongest points of a woman. Being able to have that compassion, that empathy and that sensitivity is what makes me a woman."

The actress was a child actor in Shekhar Kapur's Masoom in 1983 and she went on to do films like Chamatkar, Aflaton, Daud, Rangeela, Satya, Kaun, Mast, Jungle, Bhoot, and Karzzzz.

Urmila Matondkar, who unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections on a Congress ticket, joined the Shiv Sena earlier this month.

Matondkar, 46, quit the Congress in September 2019, nearly five months after she was defeated by BJP's Gopal Shetty from North Mumbai Lok Sabha seat.

She joined the Shiv Sena in the presence of party president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray at his residence 'Matoshri' in Mumbai's Bandra area. Sena sources said Matondkar's name was forwarded to Governor B S Koshiyari by the party recently for nomination to the Legislative Council from the Governor's quota.



RESCUE VESSEL: To tackle emergency cases in Dal Lake, first floating ambulance was recently pressed into services.

US blacklists top Chinese chipmaker, alleging military ties

The Trump administration blacklisted China's top chipmaker Friday, limiting the Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp's access to advanced US technology because of its alleged ties to the Chinese military.

"We will not allow advanced US technology to help build the military of an increasingly belligerent adversary," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement explaining the decision to put SMIC on the US government's so-called Entity List.

SMIC has previously said it has no ties to the Chinese government.

The Department of Commerce is putting more than 60 other firms on the list for such things as allegedly supporting the Chinese military, assisting the Chinese government's crackdown on dissent, being involved in the theft of trade secrets and helping Beijing's aggressive efforts to claim territory in the South China Sea.

Technology that helps with the production of the most-advanced chips -- those 10 nanometers or smaller -- face the presumption of denial," Commerce said. Other items will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The decision comes barely a month before President-elect Joe Biden takes office.

A senior Commerce Department official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, said the move had not been coordinated with the Biden transition team. But SMIC is the most high-profile target.

The move means that US companies will need to get a license to sell sophisticated technology to SMIC.

Nithyananda wants 1 lakh people to settle in 'Kailasa'



Swami Nithyananda, the high-profile, self-styled godman who founded a country, is now planning to have atleast 1 lakh people to settle in 'Kailasa'

Swami Nithyananda, the high-profile, self-styled godman who founded a country, is now planning to have atleast 1 lakh people to settle in 'Kailasa'.

"I am planning for atleast 100,000 people to settle in #KAILASA," Nithyananda announced on Friday on the occasion of International Migrants Day. "Migration due to globalisation advances communication, transportation should be encouraged. But migration due to man made calamity needs to be addressed," he added.

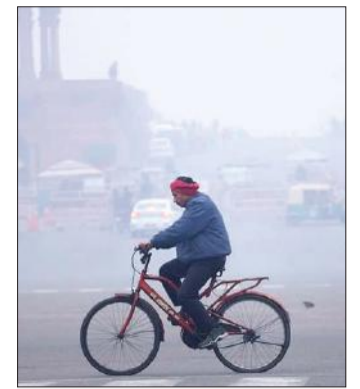
He has also set up a Reserve Bank in Kailasa. Nithyananda has

now started issuing visas for visitors. The visas are being issued for a visit to Kailasa, a Hindu sovereign nation, that was set up by the absconding godman.

A rape accused in India, Nithyananda also announced that a flight will ferry visitors from Australia to the country he founded, 'Kailasa'. It is not clear if or where Kailasa is. Nithyananda has said that visitors will be allowed to stay in 'Kailasa' for "not more than three days". He said that the visitors will be allowed to visit "Param Shiva" during their stay in the 'island nation'.

Delhi Shivers At 3.9°C

Records Season's Lowest Minimum Temperature: IMD



Cold conditions prevailed in the national capital on Saturday as the minimum temperature dropped to 3.9 degrees Celsius, the lowest so far this season.

"The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, recorded a low of 3.9 degrees Celsius, four notches below normal. The maximum temperature settled at 21.8 degrees Celsius," an IMD official said.

The mercury dipped 3.3 degrees Celsius and 3.4 degrees Celsius at Lodhi Road and Ayanagar weather stations, respectively, as icy winds from snow-laden Western Himalayas continued to sweep the city, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

On Friday, the minimum temperature had plunged to 2.7 degrees Celsius at Jafarpur.

The city had recorded a "severe" cold day on Thursday as the maximum temperature dropped to 15.2 degrees Celsius, seven notches below normal and the lowest so far this season. On Friday, it rose to 19.8 degrees Celsius.

A "cold day" is when the minimum temperature is less than 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum is at least 4.4 degrees Celsius below normal. A "severe" cold day is when the maximum temperature is at least 6.5 notches below normal.

Partly cloudy skies are predicted over the national capital towards the evening, the IMD said.

The minimum temperature is expected to hover around 5 degrees Celsius for the next five to six days, it said.

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