



Maximum : 9°
Minimum : -2°
Humidity : 45%

SUNSET
Today 05:38 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:37 AM

Contact: -0194-2502327
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &
YOUR COPY OF



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Quote!
"No people who are ignorant can be truly free."
— Thomas Jefferson

NEWS DIGEST

LG Gets Briefing On Border Situation

JAMMU: BSF Inspector General N.S. Jamwal on Thursday called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and briefed him about the security situation along the International Border, officials said. The officer also apprised the Lt Governor about the threats prevailing on the border with Pakistan, the counter measures being taken by the Border Security Force (BSF) to meet the challenges and the border protection grid, they said. ● More On P6

Police Driver Injured In Stone Pelting

JAMMU: A policeman was injured after a joint team of special operations group (SOG) of police and Crime Branch officials were allegedly attacked in Mendhar area of Poonch district, officials said Thursday. They said a team of Crime Branch along with a party of SOG Mendhar reached the residence of Sayed Khan at Dhaki Mendhar around 0610 hours, where Khan and his family members quarrelled and attacked with stones the vehicle of crime branch, resulting in injuries to driver ASI Janteer Singh. ● More On P6

SUV Mows Down Two Girls In Kishtwar

SRINAGAR: Two girls returning from tuitions were crushed to death on Thursday by a speedy SUV in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. 10-year-old Aina Banoo and 20-year-old Nasreena Banoo, both residents of Mulchiter village in Kishtwar district were returning home after attending tuition classes when a Scorpio (DL 3CAY-5020) ran over them near Sangambati on Kishtwar-Chatroo road, an official said. ● More On P6

Electric Shock Kills PDP Worker

SRINAGAR: A Power Development Department (PDD) daily-wager on Thursday died of electrocution in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. Wali Mohammad of Banghal Thannamdi, suffered an electric shock when he was repairing an electricity line in Banghal village, officials said. The daily wagger, the officials said, died on the spot due to the massive impact of electric shock. ● More On P6

Army Defuses Mortar Shell In Uri

SRINAGAR: Army on Thursday detonated an unexploded mortar shell in Kamalkote area of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. "This shell was found unexploded in Jabda Kamalkote and was defused by Army's Bomb disposal Squad (BDS) today," a senior police officer said. A police team was also on spot, he added. Pertinently, Kamalkote and Hajipeer sectors of Uri witnessed massive cross-LoC shelling between the Indian and Pakistani troops in November last year. (GNS)

2 Soldiers Injured In Poonch Mine Blast

SRINAGAR: Two soldiers were injured on Thursday when they accidentally stepped on an anti-personnel mine along the Line of Control (LoC) in Mankote area of Poonch district. Around 3:00pm Thursday, two soldiers of 10 Jak rifles—Luvpreet Singh and Rifleman Vikramjeet were injured when they accidentally stepped upon an anti-personnel mine while patrolling near the Line of Control in Mankote area in Mendhar sector of Poonch district, officials said. Both the injured soldiers were airlifted to army hospital in. ● More On P6

LG Announces Rs 28,400 Cr Industrial Scheme For J&K

Says Scheme To Provide Employment To 4.5 Lakh People

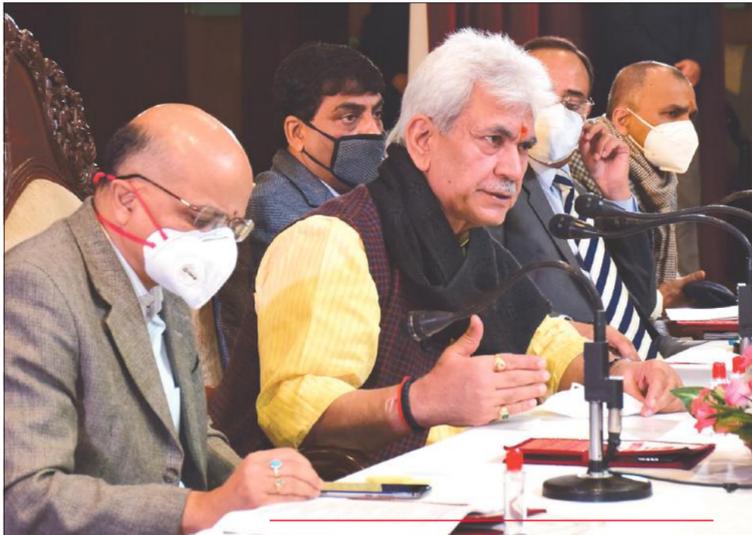
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday announced a new industrial developmental scheme (IDS) with a total outlay of Rs 28,400 crore to encourage new investment and to take industrial development to the block level. "In a major decision of far-reaching consequence, Government of India has approved a new Industrial Developmental Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced at a press conference here.

"The scheme will go a long way in ushering an era of socio-economic development of the region and for catering to the aspirations of people," he said. Sinha said that this scheme is from the period of date of notification up to the year 2037 with a total outlay of Rs 28,400 crore. He said that it is for the first time any industrial incentive scheme is taking development to the block level and added that it will promote far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The scheme will encourage new investment, substantial expansion and also nurture the existing industries in the Union territory. It will also provide employment to 4.5 lakh people besides leading to equitable, balanced and sustainable socio-economic development of the region," the LG said.

He said that manufacturing and service sector units in the union territory will benefit and noted that the scheme visualises a larger role of Jammu and Kashmir in the Indian economy. ● More On P6



LAWAYPORA 'ENCOUNTER'

Will Give Answer At Appropriate Time: LG
Says 'Good News' On High Speed Internet Restoration Soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said he will give an "appropriate answer" after looking into the facts in connection with December's Lawaypora 'encounter' in Srinagar in which three alleged militants were killed by government forces.

He said that he is looking into the facts that have come to him. "All facts are coming to us. I am personally looking into the issue. At appropriate time, we will give you an appropriate answer," Sinha said in response to a question at a press conference. A journalist had asked him whether the government will order a probe into the

Lawaypora 'encounter' and return the bodies to the families in a bid to do justice. The families are demanding the return of bodies and probe into the encounter.

Government forces had claimed to have killed three local militants in the encounter. Their families, however, said the youths killed in the encounter were civilians. ● More On P6

Govt Bans Poultry Import Into J&K

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE



SRINAGAR: Amid the looming threat of bird flu as reported in the neighbouring states, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday imposed a ban on import of poultry items into the Union Territory.

In an order issued on Thursday, Navin K Choudhary, Principal Secretary to the government announced a complete ban on import of poultry and unprocessed poultry meat for any purpose into J&K with immediate effect, till January 14.

"In the wake of spread of bird flu in neighbouring states of J&K as a measure of abundant precaution and in view of declaration of whole J&K as "Controlled Area" for bird flu disease. Government of UT J&K imposes complete ban on import of live birds including poultry and unprocessed poultry meat for any purpose into the union territory of J&K with immediate effect," the order reads. It further adds that the decision on the import ban will be reviewed based on the evolving situation.

The order on banning poultry imports comes a day after government said on Wednesday that no cases of bird flu or avian influenza has been detected in the union territory and urged people not to panic or stop using poultry products, even as it issued an advisory to poultry owners and dealers for the prevention of the spread of the disease. ● More On P6

Chill Returns To Kashmir After Heavy Snow Spell

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: After three days of snowfall, dry weather conditions returned to Kashmir on Thursday with mercury dropping in most places last night with Gulmarg recording a low of minus 8.5 degree Celsius.

The Kashmir Valley also remained cut-off from the rest of the country although ● More On P6



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Highway Remains Closed For Fifth Day

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway was shut for traffic for the fifth consecutive day on Thursday in the wake of heavy snowfall over the past four days. The 260 kilometre-long highway, the only all-weather road connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked by the accumulation of snow and landslides on Sunday. ● More On P6

Air Traffic Restored After 4 Days

SRINAGAR: Air traffic between Kashmir and the rest of the country was restored on Thursday after four days, but lack of snow clearance reroute Srinagar airport led to massive traffic jams, forcing many passengers to walk several kilometres, officials said. "As many as 26 flights arrived at Srinagar international airport on Thursday while 24 ● More On P6

KU Postpones Exams Scheduled On January 8-9

SRINAGAR: Kashmir University's Controller of Examinations Prof Irshad A Nawchoo said on Thursday that undergraduate 2nd year examination scheduled on 8th January 2021 (Friday) and UG 6th Semester examination scheduled on 9th January 2021 (Saturday) are postponed in. ● More On P6

Caved-In Roofs Expose Chinks In Kashmir's Architectural Armour

GOWHER HAMID

As 'blizzard' thawed and snow-laden roof-tops caved in to shock of Kashmir, octogenarian carpenter Abdul Khaliq Zaz stood vindicated. "Wousta' (Master) Khaliq had been predicting this 'pack of cards' moment for Kashmir's new-age architecture for many years now. "Our idea of living has drastically changed," said the old-timer sitting in his downtown home Srinagar. "Unlike our forefathers, our idea of construction has now become very cosmetic. But in an unpredictable place like Kashmir, such concept doesn't work. It just took a few days of snowfall to bust the make-believe façade of our homes." On January 6, roofs of many houses

"If you see the roof pattern in old houses you will observe many small wooden joints supporting the steep and slippery structure"



caved-in, sending shockwaves across the valley. Viral visuals of snowbound and buried houses panicked many people, who drove out, with spades and shovels, on a desperate snow-clearance drive. "Last year, the untimely snowfall damaged our trees," Khaliq continued. "And this year, this heavy snowfall exposed the delicate reality of our houses. These uncertain weather patterns were always there. That's how winter used to be in Kashmir. But akin to unexpected floods which caught government of the day pants down in 2014, this year's vintage snowfall exposed our misplaced priorities. It's clear that Kashmiris are investing more in show than in safety. And in a place like Kashmir, this can prove very dangerous." ● More On P6



'Plight Of Minorities In India Getting Worse'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said while New Delhi was "preaching" other countries to treat minorities in a dignified way, the plight of minorities in India was getting worse. Mufti was referring to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's statement during his visit to Sri Lanka. It is in Sri Lanka's own interest that the expectations of the Tamil people, for equality, justice, peace and dignity, within a united Sri Lanka are ● More On P6



Cancellation Of UK PM Visit Our Victory, Centre's "Defeat": Farmer Unions



Agencies

New Delhi: Farmer unions protesting against the three new agri laws Wednesday claimed the cancellation of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's visit to India later this month was a "political win" for them and a "diplomatic defeat" for the government, and asserted their agitation has been receiving global support.

Mr Johnson was scheduled to attend the Republic Day celebrations in India as Chief Guest, but the visit had to be cancelled due to the growing health crisis in the UK after a new variant of coronavirus emerged there.

"The cancellation of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's India visit is a political win for farmers and a diplomatic defeat for the Modi government...political and social organisations across the world have been supporting the agitation," Sankyukt Kisan Mor-

cha, an umbrella body of the protesting farmer unions, said in a statement in Hindi.

The statement said the farmers have already announced a tractor protest march on January 26 and a "rehearsal" for it on January 7.

"The cancellation of the UK prime minister's visit because of all these efforts is surely a big victory for farmers," the statement said.

According to a release issued by the Prime Minister's office here on Tuesday, PM Narendra Modi had a telephonic conversation with Johnson.

"Prime Minister Johnson reiterated his thanks for India's invitation for him as the Chief Guest of the forthcoming Republic Day celebrations, but regretted his inability to attend in view of the changed COVID-19 context prevailing in the UK. He reiterated his keenness to visit India in the near future," it had stated.

Farmers Hold Tractor March, Set A Deadline

Today's tractor march a trailer, wait for entire movie on January 26: Rakesh Tikait

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A cacophony of rumbling engines, Punjabi tunes and rousing slogans filled the air as rows of tractors took over the roads at the Singhu border for the protest march by farmers on Monday.

Thousands of farmers who have been protesting at the Delhi-Haryana borders for over 40 days took out a tractor march to strengthen their agitation against the new farm laws.

The tractor march started from four different points -- Singhu to Tikri Border, Tikri to Kundli, Ghazipur to Palwal and Rewasan to Palwal.

"The government has been hosting meeting after meeting. They know what we want. We want the laws to be repealed, but all we get are futile talks. With this rally we want to give them a glimpse of what we can do, and what we will do on January 26."

"Today the rally is happening on the periphery of Delhi, but when our farmer leaders decide that we need to enter the capital, we will do that," said Harjinder Singh from Punjab's Hoshiarpur.

Perched on their tractors, protesting farmers moved out of the protest site, and speakers on their vehicles belted out music keeping their spirits high. Some of tractors participating in the march were seen with national flags.

Other protestors lined the path providing their fellow farmers with all kinds of supplies, including peanuts, fritters, tea, and newspapers.

"We are the sons of soil. If the laws are passed, we will starve to death. This rally is our way of telling the government that we will not give up unless it gives in to our demands," said Jaspal Singh Deol from Punjab's Chamkaur Sahib.

According to Navpal Singh from Jalandhar, the rally was a show of farmers' might and strength.

"This rally is to show the government our strength and number, and educate people of the country about what we are doing, and why we are doing it."

"A lot of people who are not from farming families think that these laws will only affect the farmers, but it's important they know that if passed these laws are going to have an impact on every citizen of the country," he said.

Meanwhile, the crowd

thinned at the Singhu Border, the main protest site, but life continued as usual.

Langars kept dishing out meals, and medical camps distributed medicines to all those who stayed back, particularly the elderly and the women. Logs for burning have been brought in huge quantities to keep people warm in the chilling temperatures.

Braving severe cold and sporadic rains, thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and some other parts of the country have been camping at several Delhi border points for over 40 days, demanding repeal of the farm laws, a legal guarantee on minimum support price for their crops and other two issues.

Enacted in September, the three farm laws have been projected by the Centre as major reforms in the agriculture sector that will remove the middlemen and allow farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country.

However, the protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that the new laws would pave the way for eliminating the safety cushion of the MSP and do away with the "mandi" (wholesale market) system, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates.

Petrol price at all-time high, diesel crosses Rs 81 in Mumbai

Agencies

New Delhi: Petrol price on Thursday scaled to an all-time high of Rs 84.20 per litre in the national capital after state-owned fuel retailers hiked rates for the second day in a row.

Petrol price on Thursday was hiked by 23 paise per litre and diesel by 26 paise a litre, according to a price notification from oil marketing companies.

In Delhi, petrol now costs Rs 84.20 per litre and diesel is priced at Rs 74.38. In Mumbai, petrol comes for Rs 90.83 a litre and diesel for Rs 81.07.

This is the highest ever price of petrol in Delhi, while diesel is at record high in Mumbai.

State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) had on Wednesday resumed daily price revision after nearly a month-long hiatus.

Price had been raised by 26 paise per litre for petrol and 25 paise on diesel on Wednesday.

The previous highest ever rate of Rs 84 a litre for petrol in Delhi was touched on October 4, 2018. On that day, diesel too had scaled to an all-time high of Rs 75.45 a litre.

The government had responded to that situation by cutting excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 1.50 per litre

in a bid to ease inflationary pressure and boost consumer confidence. Alongside, state-owned fuel retailers cut prices by another Re 1 a litre, which they recouped later.

However, no tax cut is under consideration as of present, a senior government official had said on Wednesday.

Though petrol and diesel rates are to be revised on a daily basis in line with benchmark international price and foreign exchange, government-controlled fuel retailers have been moderating rates since the pandemic broke out.



They first did not pass on to the customers a reduction in price warranted from the slump in international oil rates witnessed due to demand erosion beginning March 2020.

While they promptly passed on an increase in sales tax by state governments such as the one in Delhi, they adjusted a steep increase in excise duty by the Central government against the reduction in retail price warranted.

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار ملتان ایگزیکٹو کمپلیٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ

درخواست منجانب: - باسٹھ شیخ ولد محمد شیخ صاحب من مصلحت من است ناگ بغرض حصول آر بی اے سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتراک برادر آغا گانگی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالکہ صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول آر بی اے سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہاؤس میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹیواری حلقہ تحصیل افراد کیہ بذیل درج ہے:-

نام صاحب	نمبر	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
غلام حسن ولد امداد برت	80	سال	عمر رسیدہ	
محمد شیخ ولد غلام حسن برت	50	سال	مزدوری	10000
حمید ہاؤس پٹیواری حلقہ تحصیل افراد کیہ بذیل درج ہے:-	45	سال	کھریلو کام	
ناظم شیخ دفتر	22	سال	زیر تعلیم	
ادویہ شیخ دفتر	19	سال	---	
باسٹھ شیخ دفتر	17	سال	---	

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کیہ میں موجود نہیں ہے سالکہ کابینہ پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے دھ بازہ میں ریاضیت پر ہے اور سالکہ کی کابینہ سالانہ آمدنی 145000/- تک ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوہر سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر نامدرار پٹیواری حلقہ تحصیل افراد ہاؤس میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گزارنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار ملتان

mja

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار ملتان ایگزیکٹو کمپلیٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ

درخواست منجانب: - نصرت زبیر پٹیواری حلقہ تحصیل من مصلحت من است ناگ بغرض حصول آر بی اے سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتراک برادر آغا گانگی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالکہ صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول آر بی اے سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہاؤس میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹیواری حلقہ تحصیل افراد کیہ بذیل درج ہے:-

نام صاحب	نمبر	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
زیر احمد شاہ ولد غلام احمد شاہ	49	سال	دوکانداری	
شیمیز زبیر پٹیواری حلقہ تحصیل من مصلحت من است ناگ بغرض حصول آر بی اے سرٹیفکیٹ	47	سال	کھریلو کام	
نصرت زبیر پٹیواری حلقہ تحصیل من مصلحت من است ناگ بغرض حصول آر بی اے سرٹیفکیٹ	22	سال	زیر تعلیم	
حسن احمد شاہ پیر	18	سال	---	
سرور احمد شاہ پیر	16	سال	---	

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کیہ میں موجود نہیں ہے سالکہ کابینہ پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے دھ بازہ میں ریاضیت پر ہے اور سالکہ کی کابینہ سالانہ آمدنی 145000/- تک ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوہر سرٹیفکیٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر نامدرار پٹیواری حلقہ تحصیل افراد ہاؤس میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گزارنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار ملتان

mja

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory
Mechanical Division, Srinagar.
Tel: 0194-2497056 Email: xenmds@gmail.com

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER
NO. MDS/TENDER/2020-21/ 166 ; DATE: - 07 .01.2021

Sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 5/= revenue stamps are invited for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory from registered firms/Contractors for:-

Description of the work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion	Position of Funds
Minor Repairs/replacements and allied works to Central Heating System of Provincial Snow Clearance Control Room and Direction Office of Mechanical Engineering Department Kashmir at MED Complex, Shalteng.	30,000/-	Rs. 200/-	03 days	Available

Date of sale of tender documents: 07-01-2021 to 11-01-2021 (up to 4.00 pm)
Last date of receipt of tenders: 12-01-2021 (up to 2.00 pm)
Date of opening of tenders: 12-01-2021
Tender receiving & opening authority: Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Srinagar

The Tender document can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours against cost mentioned above, in the form of IPO/Demand Draft or cash payment. The tender documents shall be issued subject to production of following documents:

- Self attested copy of Certificate of GST Registration.
- Application for issuance of Tender Document from the firm duly signed and stamped by the Proprietor, however, in case the Proprietor of the firm wishes to purchase the tender document through his representative, a valid authorization letter duly signed and stamped by the proprietor shall be produced prior to purchase of the document.

In case the last date of receipt of tenders happens to be a non-working day due to any reasons, the tenders shall be received in this office on next working day.

NO: MDS/TS / 6515-19
Date: 07 -01-2021

Sd/-
(Er. Abdul Rashid Bhat)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

DIPK-11429/20

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (JSD) PHE. DIVISION, PULWAMA
email : xenphepulwama@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT S. No. 96/PHEP of 2020-21 (SHORT)

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) (Short) e-tenders in single cover system are invited on Item Rate Basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	EMD (in)	Cost of TD (in)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Pro-gramme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Restoration of damages due to shot-circuit by way of replacing damaged MCCB, Voltmeters, Ameter including wiring etc, repairs to stabilizer, motors for RSPF WSS Palpora Astanpora	1.73	3460	200	10 days	DEE	NRDWP

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:-

S. No.	Description	DD	MM	YYYY	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	07	01	2021	14.00 Hrs.
2	Download start date	07	01	2021	14.00 Hrs.
3	Bid submission start date	07	01	2021	14.00 Hrs.
4	Bid submission end date	12	01	2021	16.00 Hrs.
5	Bid opening date	13	01	2021	10.00 Hrs.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission". To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.

Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (4&5) of the above table. Bid security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Pulwama and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Pulwama. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)

Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:

- Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Earnest Money Deposit CDR/FDR.
- Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.
- Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration.
- Affidavit regarding correctness of Bid.
- Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

The original instrument in respect of Treasury Receipt, EMD and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid Documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (L1) to Executive Engineer, PHE Division Pulwama by hand or by speed/registered post before the allotting of work or as and when demanded. If the bidder fails to produce the same within the prescribed time period, he will be debarred from taking part in tendering process in this division for at least one year.

1- Any other information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours.
2- All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD form No.25-double and FC 33

NO: PHEP/5495-5506
Dated:- 07-01-2021

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
(JSD)PHE. Div, Pulwama.

DIPK-11403/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
Mechanical Division, Srinagar.
Tel: 0194-2497056 Email: xenmds@gmail.com

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER
NO. MDS/TENDER/2020-21/165 ; DATE: - 04.01.2021.

Sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 5/= revenue stamps are invited for and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory from registered firms/Contractors for:-

Description of the work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion	Position of Funds
Providing and fitting of Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (UHMW-PE) Cutting Edges for Rigid Pavement Roads.	54,000/=	Rs.200/-	03 days	Available

Date of sale of tender documents: 06-01-2021 to 11-01-2021 (up to 4.00 pm)
Last date of receipt of tenders: 12-01-2021 (up to 2.00 pm)
Date of Opening of Tenders: 12-01-2021
Tender receiving & opening authority: Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Srinagar.

The Tender document can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours against cost mentioned above, in the form of IPO/Demand Draft or cash payment. The tender documents shall be issued subject to production of following documents:

- Self-attested copy of GST Certificate of Registration of the firm.
- Application for issuance of tender document from the firm duly signed and stamped by the proprietor, however, in case the proprietor of the firm wishes to purchase the tender document through his representative, a valid authorization letter duly signed and stamped by the proprietor shall have to be produced prior to purchase of tender document.

In case the last date of receipt of tenders happens to be a non-working day due to any reasons, the tenders shall be received in this office on next working day.

NO: MDS/TS / 6488-92
Date: 04-01-2021

Sd/=
(Abdul Rashid Bhat)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

DIPK-11386/20

How Can 15 JCBs Clear Snow From 15,000 Srinagar Lanes: City Mayor

Says Srinagar Neglected For 40 Years, Embarrassing To See SMC Men Clearing Roads With Shovels

SRINAGAR: Amid complaints of non-clearance of roads, the City Mayor, Junaid Azim Mattu Thursday said that 15 JCBs and loaders are the only equipments to clear 15,000 lanes across Srinagar.

"It is embarrassing to see the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) men clearing snow with shovels," Mattu said while addressing a news conference at his office here.

Mattu while admitting that SMC and other two departments clearing the snow on roads could have done better, urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to ascertain why the situation turned ugly on the ground following heavy snowfall. "I respect LG as he believes in delivering. I will also write a letter to him to ascertain why it took a long to clear the snow on roads," he said.

He added the response by the three department including Mechanical Engineering department, Roads and Building and SMC could have been better and there is no doubt over it. However, he said that as far



Ko Photo Abid Bhat

as SMC is concerned, the corporation has only 12-15 JCBs and loaders to deal with the situation after snowfall. "It is unfortunate that 15 JCBs and loaders are supposed to clear 15,000 lanes across Srinagar," he said. Commending SMC men for done great job on the ground, Mattu said, "It is embarrassing to see the SMC men clearing roads with shovels. Soon

after I assumed that charge as Mayor, I have asked for the procurement of 25 snow clearance machines, but unfortunately, I don't know why the machines were not procured despite having sufficient funds available," he said.

He added that had machines been procured, the SMC would have been able to clear the snow within 24 hours across Srinagar. "Srinagar, the face of Jammu and Kashmir has been neglected for last 40 years. But, as long as I am here as Mayor, I will push for systemic reforms in SMC," he said.

"It is a bitter truth that the corporation is ill equipped. A few hammers, shovels, JCBs and loaders are the only equipment corporation has," he said, adding that there is a need to beyond brooms and handcars.

"I will push for the procurement of machines yet again and will name and shame those officials who are sitting on the papers for no reasons," he added—Agencies

IT IS A BITTER TRUTH THAT THE CORPORATION IS ILL EQUIPPED. A FEW HAMMERS, SHOVELS, JCBs AND loaders are the only equipment corporation has," he said, adding that there is a need to beyond brooms and handcars.

De-Notifying Of Covid-19 Dedicated Hospitals Reviewed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: De-notifying of Covid-19 dedicated hospitals was reviewed at a meeting in Jammu today.

It was informed that in Kashmir division SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bemina, Super Speciality Hospital Srinagar, District Hospitals of Pulwama, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Budgam and Shopian, CHC Kupwara and Tibiya College Shivanth Bandipora would be declared as non-COVID-19 centres as those are receiving less number of COVID-19 patients.

SMGS Hospital Jammu, DHs of Reasi and Ramban, CHCs Surankote, Mendhar, Ramnagar and Chenani, SDH Katra and Accidental Hospital Ghagwal Samba would be declared as non-COVID-19 centres.

Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo, chaired the officers meeting to review de-notifying of Covid-19 dedicated hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir.

Threadbare discussion was held on details of logistics present in COVID-19 care institutions in J&K, district wise isolation beds in Jammu / Kashmir divisions, dedicated COVID-19 hospitals (Category-I, II, III) and related issues.

During the meeting, Financial Commissioner took stock of facilities being provided to COVID-19 patients and their subsequent recovery from the disease. He also asked for detailed report on COVID-19 patients from district hospitals regarding the number of cases reported on daily basis and the trend with respect to the disease.

Accused Arrested In Sexual Assault Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: One person was arrested in Kulgam for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl.

Giving details a police spokesman said Police Station Devsar received a written complaint from a person stating that a minor girl was confined wrongfully and assaulted sexually by Abdul Rehman Laway son of Abdul Aziz Laway resident of Malwan, when she was alone at her home.

Accordingly, a case FIR No. 03/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Devsar and in-

vestigation was initiated.

"During the course of investigation, a special team headed by SHO Devsar under the supervision of DySP Kulgam Shri Aashaq Hussain-JKPS acted swiftly on specific information and arrested the accused person within one hour after the complaint was filed. He has been shifted to PS Devsar where he remains in custody," police spokesman said.

He added that after fulfilling all medico-legal formalities, the minor girl was handed over to her legal heirs. Investigation into the matter is in progress.

Free Coaching Camps To Remain Closed Till Jan 10

SRINAGAR: The free coaching centres run by the School of Education, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) in collaboration with local educational institutions in the Kashmir division of Jammu and Kashmir except one in Poonch of Jammu Division shall remain closed up to 10th of January 2021.

A statement said this has been done due to inclement weather conditions.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ELECTRIC DIVISION-IIIRD, SHEREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR.**

Notice Inviting Tender. Dated:- 04-01-2021

e-NIT No.:- e-ED-III/21 of 2020-21

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies or relevant class registered contractors/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency of JKPD, for Execution of OTT Sub Station Creation works, along-with LT Network, (on SITC basis) as details below:

Name of the work.	Estt. Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	EMD (In Rs)	Completion Period	Position of funds
Execution of Creation of 100 KVA DT Sub-Station along-with HT LT Net Work, at HMT Srinagar for KasbureMaunch Bee Keeping Cluster HMT Srinagar Electric Sub Division Zainakote	4.40	Rs. 500/-	8800/-	15 days	Funds Available with the intending deptt.

1. Bidders are advised to study the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) / Tender Specifications carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examine, of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.

2. The tender document is available on website <http://ktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

Sl. No.	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://ktenders.gov.in from
A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://ktenders.gov.in from 05-01-2021; 12:30 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	05-01-2021; 12:30 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	18-01-2021; 2:00PM.
D	Clarification start date	05-01-2021; 12:30 PM
E	Clarification End date	11-01-2021; 03:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format).	05-01-2021; 12:30 PM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	18-01-2021; 2:00PM.
H	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, EMD Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for LI only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	19-01-2021; 02:00PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer ED-II, Sgr.
L	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender), DD also acceptable, (however Original DD to be submitted on end date of e-Bid submission).	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only).
M	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (Copy of CDR/FDR/DD, duly pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-IIIRD, Shereen Bagh Srinagar, JKPD, should be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs.8800/-

DIPK-NB-4996/20
e-NIT No.:- ED-III/TS/7190-98
Dated:- 04-01-2021

Executive Engineer
Electric Division-II,
Srinagar.

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
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 871 - Battle of Ashdown: Ethelred of Wessex and his brother Alfred (the Great) beat invading Danish army
- 1297 - Monaco gains its independence.
- 1558 - French troops under Duc de Guise occupy Calais
- 1610 - Simon Marius, a German astronomer, independently discovers the first three moons of Jupiter one day after Galileo
- 1656 - Oldest surviving commercial newspaper begins (Haarlem, Netherlands)
- Music Premiere
- 1708 - Spanish armada headed by the San Jose and loaded with gold sunk after British squadron attacks off coast of Colombia (rediscovered 2015)
- 1745 - Britain, Austria, Netherlands & Saxony sign anti-Prussian Quadruple Alliance
- 1760 - Comet C/1760 A1 (Great comet) approaches within 0.0682 AUs of Earth.
- 1790 - 1st US President George Washington delivers 1st state of the union address
- 1800 - Austrians defeat French in Second Battle of Novi
- 1806 - Battle of Blaauwberg: British forces attack French vassal, the Batavian Republic near
- 1815 - Battle of New Orleans (War of 1812); the war had ended on 24th December 1814 but none of the combatants knew
- 1816 - Sophie Germain is the first woman to win a prize from the Paris Academy of Sciences for her paper on elasticity
- 1916 - WWI: ANZAC forces withdraw from the Gallipoli Peninsula after Ottoman forces successfully defend access to Constantinople
- 1917 - Austria-Hungarian troops conquer Forlani Italy
- 1926 - Abdulaziz Ibn Saud becomes King of Nejd and Hejaz; forerunner of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 1940 - Britain's 1st WW II rationing (bacon, butter & sugar)
- 1952 - Jordan adopts constitution
- 1958 - Cuban revolutionary forces capture Havana



PRAYERS

- FAJR 6:08
- ZUHR 12:35
- ASR 3:59
- MAGRIB 5:42
- ISHA 7:06

From KO Archives

Lone, Bhat, Malik Leave For Delhi

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI - In a move that could heal the wounds or widen the rift within the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), three senior members of the group's executive council left for New Delhi today for talks with Indian and Pakistani representatives to finalize plans for travel to Pakistan on January 15, an APHC leader has said.

According to reports, the APHC chairman, Prof Abdul Ghani Bhat, and senior Hurriyat leader and JKLF chairman, Muhammad Yaseen Malik, flew here today. Row-ever, a statement bearing the APHC stamp said that Malik was on his way to Calcutta to attend the seminar on Kashmir organised by the Subhash Chandra Bose foundation. The usually reliable APHC executive council leader, who declined to be named, said Prof Ghani is here for "a round of talks with Indian representatives and senior Pakistani diplomats". They will be joined by Abdul Ghani Lone, another senior leader, who arrived in the Indian capital on Wednesday, reportedly for a half-yearly medical checkup at the Escorts Heart Institute here.

"The Indian government is probably trying to wriggle out of its commitment to let us go to Pakistan," the leader said from Srinagar. "We are planning to foil their designs Prof Bhat will seek talks. With Indian and Pakistani sides to try to end the mystery about our passports.

Former Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq holds the only valid passport other than Lone, whose passport restricted to Pakistan, expires next month following his recent travel there.

Sources said Bhat would brief diplomats about the rift within the APHC triggered by misgivings over the pro-posed travel there. He will also scout for Indian officials who might have anything worthwhile to say on the APHC's demand on Tuesday that passports be issued to all its seven leaders.

Media reports have quoted Indian officials as saying that Jamaat-i-Islami leader Syed Ali Shah Gilani and People's League leader Sheikh Abdul Aziz would not be given passports. Both leaders expressed anguish at Tuesday's APHC meeting, forcing a vote, instead of a unanimous decision, that gave Bhat the authority to choose the delegation for Pakistan. The decision, erroneously reported in some of the Indian newspapers as unanimous, authorizes Bhat to pick and choose the team but only after everyone gets their passports. Gilani and Abdul Aziz wanted a meeting on Jan 10 to review the Indian stance, but they were overruled. A Hurriyat source said on Wednesday that regardless of the respect everyone has for unanimity, there was a possibility that a delegation may leave for Pakistan on Jan 15 nevertheless. That would hurt Gilani and anyone else likely to be left behind. According to the APHC leader who spoke to Dawn, Bhat would lobby with sympathetic Indian parliamentarians to procure travel documents for everyone.

There will be a Track II kind of talks regarding the visit and passports. If that succeeds we still won't like to miss the opportunity to dispatch a delegation to Pakistan anyway," he said "If Gilani doesn't get a passport than may be another person representing him in the general council, if not the executive, can go. But we shouldn't miss this opportunity to start an important process."

Gilani has had a brush recently with Malik when their supporters clashed in Srinagar publicly. Also, the demand by the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leaders and Pakistan's Jamaat-i-Islami leaders to send Gilani to Pakistan has not gone too well with some other members. Some leaders, however, said India was trying to split the Hurriyat Conference by deviously seeking to decide the composition of its delegation to Pakistan.

"They want to decide our team, we have decided to thwart this devious bid to divide us" Maulana Abbas Ansari a senior APHC leader told Dawn on Tuesday.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 08 January, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TLMD-VI (6), BEMINA, SRINAGAR

Tele No: 0194-2492429 Fax: 0194-2492429. | Email: tlcdistpdd@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: TLMD-VI/14 of 2020-21

Dated: 01/01/2021

Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, Bemina Srinagar on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT invites e-tenders (In Two Cover System) valid for 180 days from reputed, experienced and financially sound Electrical Contractors and Executors fulfilling the eligibility criteria specified in the standard bidding documents for the work detailed below. As per Govt Circular No: A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dt:22.12.2020, Bids need not to be accompanied by EMD. However the bidder has to submit declaration as per format given in standard bidding document. The complete bidding process is online. However, hardcopies are to be submitted only by the Lowest Bidder in the office of Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI Bemina Srinagar, on the day which will be communicated to lowest bidder. Financial bids must be submitted online only as per prescribed format.

The Standard Bidding Document is available at website <http://ktenders.gov.in>.

S.No	Scope of work	Qty	Estimated Cost in Lacs	Time of Completion
1	Supply, Installation, testing and Commissioning of Battery Bank (VRLA 220v DC), 132kv CVT and Relays (IEDs) for Grid Station Dalina, Baramulla as per BOQ/SBD/TS	Refer BOQ for details	41.31 Lacs	30 days

The information regarding schedule of downloading of the tender document, seeking of clarification and submission dates thereof is as per the table below:

Sl. No.	Publication date of NIT.	05-01-2020
1.	Publication date of NIT.	05-01-2020
2.	Downloading of bidding documents (Start).	05-01-2021 (2 pm)
3.	Downloading of bidding documents (End).	16-01-2021 (4pm)
4.	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission).	05-01-2021 (10am)
5.	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission supporting documents in PDF formats).	16-01-2021 (6pm)
6.	Online Techno-Commercial e-Bid opening date and time.	19-01-2021 (4pm)
7.	Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids.	Office of the Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, Bemina, Srinagar
8.	Cost of e-Bid document (to be submitted in the form of e-challan or treasury challan / receipt).	Rs 1000/-

- Only the bidders possessing the qualifying criteria as mentioned in the SBD should participate in the bidding process.
- Clarifications can also be sought from the office of the under signed on E-mail tlcdistpdd@gmail.com or fax 0194 - 2492429.
- Before participating in the bids, the bidder shall acquaint himself with the site of work and local conditions.
- The department reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

No: TLMD-VI/2422-24
DIPK-NB-5018/20

Dated:- 01-01-2021

Executive Engineer
TLMD-VI, Bemina Sgr.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Winter's Tale

This winter after a long time, Kashmir has experienced a heavy snowfall which has thrown life out of gear: electricity has been erratic, traffic movement has been affected, more so along Jammu-Srinagar highway and the flights have recurrently been grounded. This drastic change in weather followed an extended dry spell through November and December which had made people rule out snow this year – at least in the plains.

But the high altitude areas and the famous tourist resorts have been receiving snow since December. And this has helped bring the tourists back. At 8,960 feet, Gulmarg, Kashmir's wonderland of snow, has received a good number of tourists. According to the tourism department, the occupancy of the hotels in the famous hill resort has risen. The hoteliers are upbeat, so is the tourism department. Snowfall is a boon for the tourism. They hope to receive more tourists as the news of the snowfall goes out. Snow is important for its novelty for the ninety-nine percent of more than a billion Indians, so they look forward to visit Kashmir in winter. The tourism department is also organizing national winter games at Gulmarg in February 2021 under the "Khelo India" initiative.

The tourism this winter is reviving following two last winters when fewer tourists turned up because of the troubled situation. Right from February 2019 when Pulwama bombing that killed 40 CRPF security personnel triggered Indo-Pak skirmishes, tourism in the Valley has been in a freefall. The revocation of Article 370 in August last year did further damage. It evacuated Kashmir of all tourists. The situation is now turning favourable for tourism. And here's hoping that it lasts and the people associated with the trade make up for the lost time.

Similarly, for the local people while the snowfall brings with it many hardships, it is also a time for celebration. The heavy snow this winter has brought back the memory of the forgotten old winters, when raconteurs would narrate the fairy tales during the night. So like our distinct culture, the harsh snow-bound winter with all its hardships and joys is a part of our identity. While people take the season's difficulties in their stride, it is the successive state governments which have yet to adapt to its challenges and ensure that the basic services like power are restored at the earliest whenever heavy snowfall plunges Valley into a blackout. We hope this winter is the last when people have to put up indefinitely with the suspended public services whenever snowfall takes place

O T H E R O P I N O N

Trump caused the assault on the Capitol. He must be removed

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S refusal to accept his election defeat and his relentless incitement of his supporters led Wednesday to the unthinkable: an assault on the U.S. Capitol by a violent mob that overwhelmed police and drove Congress from its chambers as it was debating the counting of electoral votes. Responsibility for this act of sedition lies squarely with the president, who has shown that his continued tenure in office poses a grave threat to U.S. democracy. He should be removed.

Mr. Trump encouraged the mob to gather on Wednesday, as Congress was set to convene, and to "be wild." After repeating a panoply of absurd conspiracy theories about the election, he urged the crowd to march on the Capitol. "We're going to walk down, and I'll be there with you," he said. "You'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength, and you have to be strong." The president did not follow the mob, but instead passively watched it on television as its members tore down fences around the Capitol and overwhelmed police guarding the building. House members and senators were forced to flee. Shots were fired, and at least one person was struck and killed.

Rather than immediately denouncing the violence and calling on his supporters to stand down, Mr. Trump issued two mild tweets in which he called on them to "remain" or "stay" peaceful. Following appeals from senior Republicans, he finally released a video in which he asked people to go home, but doubled down on the lies fueling the vigilantes. "We love you. You're very special," he told his sedition posse. Later, he excused the riot, tweeting that "these are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously & viciously stripped away."

The president is unfit to remain in office for the next 14 days. Every second he retains the vast powers of the presidency is a threat to public order and national security.

Now that the stakes are viscerally clear, Mr. McConnell and every other Republican, almost all of whom bear some blame for what occurred on Wednesday, have an overriding responsibility to the nation: stopping Mr. Trump and restoring faith in democracy.

The chaos confirmed once again the voters' wisdom in rejecting Mr. Trump in favor of Joe Biden. The president-elect rose to the moment. "I call on this mob, now, to pull back and allow the work of democracy to go forward," Mr. Biden said. "It's not protest. It's insurrection."

Mr. Trump is a menace, and as long as he remains in the White House, the country will be in danger.

The Washington Post



Back to a Bipolar World

Qasim A. Moini

“The Sino-American rivalry, while having impacts on both states, has naturally reverberated across the world. South Asia has also been affected, as both Washington and Beijing compete for influence and clout in this region, amongst others.”

THE China-US relationship is like a bad marriage that must continue due to the vested – and common – interests of both the parties. There is deep mistrust of each other within the respective establishments in Washington and Beijing, but it is also a fact that both sides enjoy bilateral trade relations worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

Relations in 2020 began on a somewhat positive note with a bilateral deal being signed in January, signalling the easing of the vicious trade war between the two parties. But as the tumultuous year ended, relations were at a low ebb, with Donald Trump lambasting Beijing for the "Chinese virus" – a politically incorrect and offensive term for Covid-19 – while the Americans have also pilloried the People's Republic for "human rights abuses" in Hong Kong and Xinjiang.

As both the US and China jockey for power and influence across the world, the outlines of a new Cold War have emerged. But while the 20th century conflict was an ideological confrontation between the Eastern and Western blocs, with the Americans and the Soviets as its major protagonists, the current confrontation between the US and China is primarily economic and technological. Perhaps the alarm in Washington has been raised by projections that China will overtake the US as the world's largest economy possibly within this decade.

Interestingly, while the rhetoric coming out of the US has been combative and aggressive, the reaction from China, while firm, has been more measured, perhaps indicating that while Beijing is willing to play the great power game, it does not want to take the confrontation to the point of no return.

There were a number of incidents in 2020 that indicated that all was not well on the Sino-US front. Even before taking office, Trump had criticised the Chinese for "ripping off" America. However, after entering the White House he invited Chinese President Xi Jinping to his golf club in Florida for a summit, ostensibly to sort things out. While the optics may have been good, there seemed to be few long-lasting benefits that emerged from the conclave, perhaps because of the deep-seated mistrust of China amongst Trump's right-wing inner coterie.

The emergence of Covid-19 gave Trump a chance to rip into

the Chinese, blaming Beijing for the pandemic. It would only go downhill from there in 2020. There was a mutual expulsion of each other's journalists, while the US sanctioned Hong Kong's chief executive to 'punish' the self-governing Chinese territory for cracking down on anti-government protests.

In July, the US ordered the closure of the Chinese consulate in Houston over allegations of espionage and intellectual property theft. China replied in kind by calling for the American consulate in Chengdu to be shuttered.

Also in July, an indication of things ahead came when US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo delivered a speech right out of the classic Cold War playbook, titled 'Communist China and the Free World's Future'. The message from Washington was clear, and it was one of confrontation. There would be no more Mr Nice Guy as Pompeo thoroughly demonised Beijing in the speech, calling for "democracies worldwide" to pressure China to "change its behaviour".

Impact on South Asia

The Sino-American rivalry, while having impacts on both states, has naturally reverberated across the world. South Asia has also been affected, as both Washington and Beijing compete for influence and clout in this region, amongst others.

Where Pakistan is concerned, the US has made its displeasure over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor evident on more than one occasions. Both Pakistan and China have questioned US allegations that CPEC is not transparent, and have reiterated their resolve to work together. Considering the deep political, economic and strategic relationship between Islamabad and Beijing, Pakistan will have to play its cards carefully where balancing relations with the US goes, especially if the Sino-American confrontation intensifies.

Elsewhere in the region, the US continues to pamper India as a counterweight to China. In late October Secretary Pompeo was in New Delhi to ink a military agreement with the Indians. The message to Beijing was clear as Pompeo said "we stand shoulder to shoulder ... in light of increasing aggression and destabilising activities by China". There was little ambiguity or diplomatic niceties in the pugnacious American official's tone as he fired off the warn-

ing to Beijing while standing in the Indian capital.

However, China is also throwing its geopolitical weight around to send the Americans the message that the two can play at this game. The People's Republic adopted an aggressive posture where its border dispute with India in the Ladakh/Line of Actual Control area is concerned. Moreover, a potential multibillion-dollar long-term bilateral deal between Iran and China sends the message to Washington that despite American pressure on the international community to avoid Tehran, Beijing is free to choose its friends and enemies. The deal also supports the argument of an emerging bloc led by China and Russia, which includes Iran, to confront America and its clients in the Middle East.

Today, the big question is how the incoming Biden administration will deal with China, considering the wide gulf of mistrust created by Trump and company. While Joe Biden is very likely to bring down the temperature with China, and bring policy coherence compared to team Trump, a return to business as usual will not be likely, especially if those elements within the US establishment that see China as a threat to American global hegemony have anything to do with it.

While military confrontations harking back to the Cold War are unlikely – barring black swan events or brinksmanship displayed by either side – the quest for global dominance and influence will continue. While both the Chinese and American establishments are mostly rational actors, events like the Trump presidency have shown that expectations and analyses can be turned on their head if irrational actors enter the game even briefly.

Therefore, in 2021, the Sino-US relationship is likely to remain in a cool phase, with Washington and Beijing competing in soft and hard power theatres across the world in order to win influence, while paradoxically also realising that their economies are intertwined, and anything that seriously rocks the boat will have an impact on both sides.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

Dawn



**OBSERVER
MAIL**

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Taxed for Trifles

It has been almost a decade, ever since a huge project of expanding the Srinagar-Jammu Highway was initiated. It was a project aimed at ensuring convenience and all weather road connectivity of Valley with Jammu. However, very less has met the expectations of the public. Different sections of our society had varying expectations from the initiative, those expectations have been seldom met, but the taxation system on this highway has advanced and streamlined into several toll plazas. Our ve-

hicles are taxed at several toll plazas without the highway being fully operational into its full projected potential, the wear and tear of the vehicles has increased due to the dilapidated condition of this road stretch through major lengths, apart from that frequent traffic jams is a phenomenon of almost routine basis on this highway. This highway is forced to suspend vehicular movement on slightest of rainfall or inclement weather, shooting stones on this highway are also very common, posing a threat to the life and property

of the commuters using this highway. The truckers and transporters are one of the most badly hit sections of road users, earlier they used to take a day to reach Srinagar from Jammu, ever since this project has started, it takes them days to travel a distance of 300 odd kilometres. It has increased their expenditure and service costs of their vehicles, forcing them sometimes to bear the brunt of heavy losses. Frequent landslides threaten the life and property of everyone using this highway, which again is a matter of grave

concern. This project has been in work for a long period of time now and even before its completion, toll plazas have already been set up which extract taxes from the vehicles passing through this highway. The speedy expedition of this project should be prioritised so that time, life and money can be saved. It's totally unethical and unreasonable to tax people when the facility they're being taxed for isn't even being provided to the people.

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Mindful Fridays

Who is a Clinical Psychologist?

Isha Malik and Wasim Kakroo

A Clinical Psychologist is a mental health professional who holds an M.Phil. degree in Clinical Psychology from an institute recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). During his or her training, the clinical psychologist trainee gets trained in hospital settings and observes and works upon the cases related to various mental health issues while working shoulder to shoulder with the M.D psychiatry trainees. As per the RCI Act, a clinical psychologist can conduct independent psychological evaluation, testing, psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, hypnosis, biofeedback and behavioral modification for the purpose of prevention and treatment of mild to severe psychological conditions. Currently, the qualification of Ph.D in clinical Psychology is not recognized by RCI as a valid degree for practicing as a clinical psychologist as it is a research qualification and has little emphasis on clinical practice.

What does a clinical psychologist do?

Clinical psychologists meet with patients to identify problems—emotional, mental, and behavioral—in their lives. Through observation, interviews, and tests, the clinical psychologist will diagnose any existing or potential disorders. Then, together with the patient, they formulate a treatment plan according to the patient's needs. Clinical psychologists also monitor the patient's progress on a regular basis to ensure that their needs are met by the course of action and make adjustments if necessary.

Clinical Psychologists use scientific methods to study the factors that influence people's thoughts, perceptions, emotions, and actions. They use evidence-based strategies and psychotherapeutic interventions to help people overcome challenges and cope with life issues such as various mental illnesses (including anxiety, depression, eating disorders, panic disorder and substance addiction etc.), relationship problems, parenting issues, challenges in adolescence, lifestyle effects on health etc.

Clinical psychologists do not prescribe medications to treat mental illnesses. Rather, they are specialized and trained in psychotherapies and use psychological techniques to treat mental health disorders. Clinical psychologists usually work in close collaboration with psychiatrists and other mental health professionals.

On the job, clinical psychologists:

- Identify and diagnose psychological, emotional or behavioral issues via observation, interviews and psychometric tests.
- Develop and implement non-pharmacological treatment plans. The treatment plans are tailored for each client, keeping their individual differences in consideration.
- Monitor patient progress through regular follow up sessions.
- Help patients define goals and plan action to achieve personal, social, educational, vocational development and adjustment and make positive changes in their lives.
- Provide psychological support to the caregivers of clients.
- Teach and supervise clinical psychology trainees.
- Meet and create a liaison with other medical and mental health professionals in order to facilitate referrals and provide them a second opinion or advice.
- Conduct applied research, adding to the evidence base of practice in context of different mental health conditions.
- Writing medico-legal reports, needed in case of legal proceedings (for e.g., in case of sexual offenders, juvenile delinquents, domestic violence, divorce/separation, claiming child custody, claiming disability benefits/rights.)

Behavioral medicine as a link between clinical psychology and various fields of medicine:

Clinical Psychologists work in collaboration with other mental health professionals such as Psychiatrists, Psychiatric social workers, special educators,



rehabilitation psychologists etc. However, their role cannot be restricted only to the field of mental health. Their role needs to be understood in connection with many of the other fields of medicine including cardiology, pulmonology, dermatology, oncology etc. In order to understand this better, we first need to understand the sub specialization of clinical psychology known as behavioral medicine.

Behavioral Medicine is one of the most popular and fastest growing subspecialties of clinical psychology. Behavioral medicine is basically an interdisciplinary approach which utilizes knowledge from different fields of healthcare in order to integrate behavioral and biomedical information for the diagnosis, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of both psychological as well as medical problems.

Clinical psychologists who by the nature of their training, understand the connection between mind and bodily functioning, can help people cope better with chronic medical illnesses such as chronic kidney disease (CKD), chronic pain, asthma, COPD, cancer, dementia etc. as well as prevent potential illnesses (e.g. diabetes type 2, cardiovascular diseases, IBS etc.) from developing or worsening. One of the fundamental concepts on which this specialty is based is that psychosocial factors also affect the etiology and maintenance of diseases through alteration of various physiological functions. Certain diseases which were previously considered purely biological are now being studied through a bio-psycho-social approach.

The bio-psycho-social model views health as a product of various factors, which include biological factors (e.g. genetic predisposition), behavioral factors (e.g. lifestyle, stress levels, health beliefs, attitude towards seeking healthcare services) and social conditions (e.g. culture, family dynamics, socioeconomic background, ethnicity and social support). This conceptualization has many practical advantages. Firstly it reduces the risk of people developing certain health problems, secondly they receive more effective treatment and thirdly it makes treatment more cost-effective when they seek treatment from a multi-disciplinary team.

Role of clinical psychologist in the healthcare sector?

Have you ever noticed that some people fall sick

more frequently than others or take more time to recover as compared to others? We usually consider these differences as a result of various physiological factors but psychological and social factors also play a significant role. Clinical Psychologists are trained to understand the connection between the various physiological/biological factors, psychological factors and social factors in the emergence of various mental as well as physical illnesses. The main four ways in which clinical psychologists can contribute to the health care sector are:

- To promote and advocate maintenance of health and well-being
- To prevent and treat certain illnesses
- To identify the causal factors and psychological correlates of health, illness, and related dysfunctions.
- To analyze and improve the healthcare system and policies.

Major areas in which clinical psychologists can work in the healthcare sector are:

- Weight management/ lifestyle management
- Drug de-addiction
- Chronic Pain management
- Stress management
- Coping and adjustment to chronic lifelong diseases such as Diabetes, Cardio-Vascular Diseases, Cancer, Skin diseases etc.
- Management of the psychological correlates of some medical problems
- Improving treatment compliance and patient-doctor communication
- Palliative care
- Provision of psychological support to patients admitted in ICU
- Psychological support to long-term primary caregivers who are experiencing care-giver burnout.
- Psychological support before and after surgery or any intensive medical procedure.
- Disclosing critical diagnosis such as cancer, HIV etc and poor prognosis to the patient and family in a professional way so that they feel supported in the times of distress.
- Help patients cope with the side effects of treatment such chemotherapy, radiotherapy, dialysis etc.

Different populations who can benefit from the services of clinical psychologists are:

- Healthy people—for promoting healthy behaviors and disease prevention
- People at high risk for a disease (for e.g. genetic carriers of a disease or people who engage in high-risk behaviors)
- People with complex healthcare needs or diagnosed with acute health problems
- People diagnosed with chronic illness

How a trained/certified clinical Psychologist can help people with various health conditions other than mental health disorders:

Example: Heart diseases/cardiovascular diseases:

The relationship between psychology and cardiovascular diseases is two way; psychosocial factors affect the heart and vascular system and cardiovascular diseases also affect the mental states of individuals. A clinical Psychologist can help an individual with genetic predisposition to develop various heart conditions to develop a healthy lifestyle so that he or she does not develop it. On the other hand, a person with any heart condition is helped by a trained clinical psychologist to reduce the stress related to the disease and help him make lifestyle changes so that his or her heart condition does not get worsened. Similarly, clinical psychologists have a significant role in the treatment and management of high blood pressure. A variety of behavioral and cognitive-behavioral methods can help in successfully lowering blood pressure. Some techniques that help achieve relaxation include biofeedback, progressive muscle relaxation, hypnosis and meditation, all of which reduce blood pressure via the induction of a state of low arousal. Deep breathing and guided imagery are often added to accomplish this task. Even giving patients feedback about exactly how their compliance efforts are can improve blood pressure. Other stress management techniques train people to identify their particular stressors and to develop plans for dealing with them. The programs include training in self-reinforcement, self-calming talk, goal setting and time-management. The fact that anger has been associated with hypertension suggests that teaching people how to manage their anger might also be useful.

Thus, through these examples we want to emphasize the fact that clinical psychologists have a significant role even beyond the identification, diagnosis, and management of mental illnesses.

Conclusion:

Public as well as administration needs to understand the role of clinical psychologists in the various fields of medicine beyond mental health care. They need to understand how clinical psychologists and medical doctors (from almost all fraternities) can work in collaboration and integrate their services, skills and knowledge in order to help in prevention, screening and early detection, etiology of diseases, management of disease, promotion and maintenance of health, factors for good prognosis of treatment, rehabilitation, post-recovery adjustment and quality of life etc. The role of clinical psychologists in the treatment of common medical conditions needs to be highlighted in order to help other medical professionals understand when to refer patients for psychological evaluation and intervention. By acknowledging and accepting the role of clinical psychologists in the health sector we can improve healthcare services and formulation of health policies and help humanity to prosper with a sound body and sound mind.

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Mental health problems continue to carry a heavy stigma. People who experience them are often feared, excluded, shamed and discriminated against. Overcoming that stigma is a high priority, not least because it's a barrier to engaging people in treatments that might help them.

People suffering from mental health problems are not the only ones to experience the stigma of mental illness, however. Those who treat them sometimes share the burden. Just as the shadow of death falls on workers in the funeral industry, psychiatric stigma casts a shadow on the public image of mental health professionals.

Psychiatrists in particular have been concerned they are held in low esteem by the public and within the medical profession. This negative view of the field has significant consequences, such as making it difficult to recruit students into psychiatric training. The chronic under-funding of mental health research and treatment arguably reflects the same devaluation.

Two articles published this week shine a revealing light on how the general public views mental health care and its practitioners. Their findings appear paradoxical, but on closer inspection they tell an important story.

Public views of mental health treatment

The first article takes a close look at how laypeople perceive mental health treatment, and how their perceptions have evolved. The authors review 162 surveys, conducted around the globe between 2000 and 2015, that explore how the public views treatments of depression and schizophrenia. Their findings are

surprisingly optimistic.

First, large majorities of survey respondents recommended psychiatrists or psychologists as sources of help. Although these specialists were recommended for the treatment of depression to a similar degree as general practitioners, they were clearly preferred for treating schizophrenia. Australia was an exception to the global rule: there, general practitioners were favoured over mental health professionals for depression and seen as equally appropriate for schizophrenia.

Second, most survey respondents had favourable views of standard mental health treatments. Medication was recommended by half of them for depression and by two thirds for schizophrenia, with more than three quarters recommending some form of talk therapy.

Does more treatment lead to better mental health?

The second article offers some evidence for this optimistic scenario, but then gives it a sharp twist. Its authors examine whether increases in the provision of treatment for common mental health problems have delivered reductions in their prevalence. They compare developments in the USA, the UK, Canada and Australia.

One consistent finding is rates of mental health treatment have indeed ris-

More Mental Health Treatment and Less Stigma?

Nick Haslam

Alternatively, real improvements in mental health might be obscured by a growing tendency for people to report mental health problems. Ironically, the public's mental health may appear to be worsening – or at least not improving – precisely because the stigma of mental health problems is eroding

en, sometimes sharply. A higher proportion of people experiencing mental health problems are now receiving help, narrowing the so-called "treatment gap". In particular, antidepressant prescription rates have skyrocketed.

Crucially, though, these rising rates of treatment have not been accompanied by falling rates of diagnosis. There is no good evidence in any of the four countries that common mental health conditions

are becoming less prevalent or that average levels of psychiatric symptoms in the population are dropping. Instead, they are either static or on a gentle upswing.

How to explain this puzzle of more mental health treatment without more mental health? The authors dismiss the possibility these treatments do not work, noting many have established their efficacy through tightly controlled clinical trials. They propose a few alternative explanations.

Increased treatment might have a positive impact that is masked by other factors. Perhaps improvements in population mental health due to the greater uptake of treatment have been counteracted by declines due to rising levels of adversity or other risk factors. The authors dismiss this too: there is little evidence life in high income countries has become steadily harder in recent decades.

Alternatively, real improvements in mental health might be obscured by a growing tendency for people to report mental health problems. Ironically, the public's mental health may appear to be worsening – or at least not improving – precisely because the stigma of mental health problems is eroding. If disclosing psychiatric distress is no longer a source of shame, more people will disclose.

The 'treatment gap' and the 'quality gap'

The authors of the article find little evidence for this explanation but consider it credible. However they prefer another. Rising rates of treatment may have disappointing effects on population mental health not because those effects are masked, but because the treatment is poorly implemented.

Too much mental health treatment is not evidence-based. Too much treatment does not target the right people, and too much is inadequately delivered. Insufficient attention is paid to preventing mental health problems in the first place.

Take rampant antidepressant use as an example. As the authors of the article argue, these medications are commonly prescribed for mild depressions, or for people who do not even merit a diagnosis, when they are more suitable for severe cases. Prescribing practice disproportionately targets older adults, who have relatively low rates of depression. Prescriptions are often too short or they are abandoned prematurely.

The message of this research is clear and urgent. In addition to closing the treatment gap and ensuring that more affected people receive treatment, we must close the "quality gap" and ensure treatment is sound. Part of the solution surely lies in advancing evidence-based psychotherapies which, as we have seen, the public tends to prefer to medication.

We still have a way to go with reducing stigma. We may have even further to go with implementing effective mental health treatments.

...
By arrangement with
The Conversation

Chill Returns To Kashmir After Heavy Snow ...



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

the air traffic to and fro the valley was restored on Thursday morning.

However, lack of snow clearance reroute to Srinagar airport led to massive traffic jams, forcing many passengers to travel several kilometres by foot.

The heavy snowfall threw life out of gear in the valley with the administration pressing men and machinery into service to clear the roads of snow.

Srinagar city, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature in Gulmarg tourist resort settled at minus 8.4 degrees Celsius compared to minus 3.5 degrees Celsius a night earlier.

Here in Srinagar, residents accused the government of "abandoning" them to snow as most lanes and by-lanes remain blocked.

"It is more than two days since the snowfall stopped but most lanes and by-lanes are still blocked with snow," residents of Lal Bazar area of Srinagar said.

"It is not for the first time that there has been snowfall but such a callous approach was not seen in the past," they said, adding, "The government has abandoned people to snow."

Residents of Naribal Amda Kadal said that it was impossible to move through lanes and urged the government to think "at least about the patients."

"God forbid if there is an exigency, the loss could be irreparable," a resident of the area said. "It seems that both government and the people have to bank on sunshine." Reports regarding lanes and by-lanes remaining blocked with snow were received from almost all areas of Srinagar and other districts.

"The government is meant for people. We are not even getting milk and vegetable supplies as milkmen and vendors are unable to move load carriers,"

DGST CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Gets ...

Several issues related to border areas, including development of Suchetgarh and Chamliyal as tourist destinations jointly by the BSF and the Jammu and Kashmir tourism department, were also discussed, the officials said.

Jamwal also strongly batted for road connectivity to BSF posts and areas along the International Border (IB) for the benefit of people, they said.

The Jammu and Kashmir government's assistance was also sought to clear wild growth in areas along the fences of the border to encourage farming, the officials said.

The inspector general sought Lt Governor Sinha's intervention for speedy disposal of land acquisition cases for creation of BSF infrastructure, they said.

He also invited Sinha to visit border areas to interact with locals and BSF troops, the official said.

Police Driver ...

The injured policeman, officials said, was shifted to SDH Mendhar for treatment. SDPO Mendhar Z A JAFRI said that a case has been registered and further investigations have been taken up. (GNS)

SUV Mows ...

He said that three others including the driver of the vehicle were also injured and were shifted to district hospital Kishtwar for treatment. The official said that the driver of the vehicle lost control due to a snow slide.

Electric Shock ...

Quoting an unnamed police official, a local news agency GNS said that an FIR has been registered in this regard and further investigations started.

2 Soldiers ...

Udhampur. While Luvpreet suffered wounds in the right ankle, Vikramjeet has splinter injuries. (GNS)

Div Com Takes Stock of Snow Clearance, Functioning of Hospitals

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole today conducted an extensive tour of Srinagar to take stock of snow clearance work and restoration of essential services.

The Div Com also visited SKIMS Soura and JLN Rainawari hospitals to take firsthand appraisal of functioning of health care and availability of medicines.

He was accompanied by Director Health Kashmir, Commissioner SMC, CE R&B, Director SKIMS Soura and other concerned officers.

Emphasizing on providing hassle-free health services to the general public, the Div Com instructed concerned to ensure that healthcare system functions smoothly and better patient care is provided at all health institutions.

The Div Com also visited Srinagar

International Airport and took stock of the resumption of flight operation which remained suspended for past 3 days due to heavy snowfall.

Taking on spot stock of snow clearance work in city and old quarters of Srinagar, the Div Com visited Regal Chowk, Khanyar, Rainawari, SaidaKadal, Hazratbal, Lal Bazar, Soura, Safakadal, Karanagar, Jahangir Chowk and other adjoining areas.

He also inspected the snow clearance work in Rambagh, Hyderpora, Peerbagh, Humhama and Airport Road and took stock of restoration of road connectivity and restoration of essential services across these areas. Deputy Commissioner Budgam, ADC Budgam also accompanied the Div Com on this leg of the tour.

The Div Com stressed on speedy snow clearance work in all areas of Srinagar and Airport Road to ensure smooth and hassle-free travel to the people.

Plan to Revive Agricultural Activities On Zero Line Discussed

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Sanjeev Verma today discussed the plan to resume agriculture activities on their land on the zero line across the border fencing, here at a meeting with Deputy Commissioners of border districts and concerned Officers.

The meeting was attended by IG BSF, N S Jamwal; Director Agriculture, Inderjeet; Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Gansham Singh and other concerned officers, while Deputy Commissioner Samba and Kathua attended the meeting through video conferencing.

At the outset Divisional Commissioner enquired from the Deputy Commissioners about the cultivated and uncultivated land available in the districts. The concerned Deputy Commissioners apprised him of total land including cultivated, uncultivated, private and state land at zero line along the border fencing in their respective districts.

The Divisional Commissioner asked the DCs to encourage farmers for cultivating their land on the zero line across the border fencing and provide them every support for the same.

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Govt Bans ...

The advisory was issued by the Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Department to stakeholders related to the poultry sector including poultry owners, dealers, retailers and consumers.

The advisory directed the poultry farmers to improve bio-security measures in the farms and not allow any artificial ponds, small water bodies inside and around the farm premises which may attract wild birds and is a risk to the poultry.

The administration had also said district surveillance committees would be constituted immediately to ensure checking of all poultry units and sale points.

Meanwhile, some birds, mostly crows, were found lying dead near Rajouri town's Panj Peer area of Rajouri prompting the administration to rush a team of experts for inspection.

'Plight Of ...

fulfilled, Jaishankar said in Colombo. The former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state said in a tweet, "Preaching to other countries about treating minorities in a dignified way even though the plight of minorities in India is getting worse." The Peoples Democratic Party president said social cohesion was essential for progress of any country, including India.

"The only Muslim majority state here has been dismembered & disempowered. Social cohesion is essential for progress of any country, including India," she added. (PTI)

LG Announces ...

"The scheme will optimise utilisation of the local strengths of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

While giving details of the scheme, Sinha said it will give a major push to the economy of the region and provide huge opportunities of employment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The main purpose of the scheme is to generate employment beyond government jobs in both manufacturing and service sectors," he added.

Sinha said that the scheme is being implemented with the vision that industry and service-led development of Jammu and Kashmir needs to be given a fresh thrust with emphasis on job creation, skill development and sustainable development by attracting new investment and nurturing the existing ones.

"The scheme will provide a major support to local industry besides creation of new business opportunities," he added.

The scheme has four more incentives, the LG added.

Sinha said that capital investment incentive will be made available at the rate of 30 per cent in Zone A (urban) and 50 per cent in Zone B (rural) on investment made in plant and machinery (in manufacturing) or construction of building and other durable physical assets (in service sector).

"Units with an investment up to Rs 50 crore will be eligible to avail this incentive. Maximum limit of incentive is Rs 5 crore and Rs 7.5 crore in Zone A and Zone B respectively," he added.

Similarly capital interest subvention is at the annual rate of 6 per cent for maximum seven years on loan amount up to Rs 500 crore for investment in plant and machinery (in manufacturing) or construction of building and all other durable physical assets (in service sector), he added.

Besides this, GST linked incentive is a financial incentive based on gross GST and this will incentivise output up to 300 per cent of the eligible value of actual investment made in plant and machinery (in manufacturing) or construction in building and all other durable physical assets (in service sector) for 10 years, he said.

However, the amount of incentive in a financial year will not exceed one-tenth of the total eligible amount of incentive, he added.

The LG further said that the working capital interest incentive is for all existing units at the annual rate of five per cent for maximum five years and maximum limit of incentive is Rs 1 crore.

Giving details about key features, he said that the scheme has been made attractive for both smaller and larger units.

"Smaller units with an investment in plant and machinery up to Rs 50 crore will get a capital incentive up to Rs 7.5 crore and get capital interest subvention at the rate of 6 per cent for maximum seven years," he added. (PTI)

Will Give ...

Sinha further said that if there is any suspicion, a probe will be done. "But Jammu and Kashmir is a sensitive union territory. I feel there is a need to maintain a fine balance (in bid to ensure the morale of forces does not fall)," he said.

Last Thursday, DGP Dilbag Singh had said that there is no reason to dispute the version of an army commander that the three alleged militants killed had plans to carry out a "big strike".

He had also said that if there is any truth in the statement of the parents of the slain youths, police will act accordingly.

"My initial impression of this operation is that the operation has been conducted in the right manner," Singh had said.

Replying to a question about restoration of 4G services in Jammu and Kashmir, the LG said, "There is a committee examining the issue. Hopefully, there will be good news soon in the coming days."

In response to another question about regional discrimination, the LG said that Kashmir and Jammu regions are two eyes and there will be no regional and religious discrimination with any region.

On rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley, Sinha said that he has met and talked to various leaders of the community and whatever is needed will be done for their rehabilitation.

Caved-In Roofs ...

Seconding Khaliq, his 55-year-old apprentice, Rehman Dar, said old houses would withstand heavier snow due to intricate and impeccable carpentry.

"If you see the roof pattern in old houses you will observe many small wooden joints supporting the steep and slippery structure," Dar said. "Besides the network of those wooden joints, Kashmiri carpenters would nail the roofs extensively. I think this is where the difference lies."

Set-in-Cement Story Like these master carpenters of downtown, many see the mindless mushrooming of Kashmir's new-age architecture as the reason for the caved-in mishaps.

Set in cement, many of these houses greatly altered the architectural landscape of Kashmir from 2000 onwards.

"By then," said Showkat Khan, an executive engineer from Srinagar, "we were

assured about our moderate winters. We would receive very scanty snowfall making many of us believe that Kashmir's weather patterns have changed for good. As the quest for cemented modern houses increased, mud was snubbed and sand became Kashmir's 'only' construction material.

"But most of us forgot that Kashmir's winters last for over six months. With the result, we ended up undoing the winter full-proof system in our homes."

Unlike modern day houses—most of whom fell like a pack of cards during 2005 earthquake—many architectural houses, like a seven-storey house in Anantnag of circa 1930 has survived five earthquakes and two floods, said Saleem Beg.

"That house is still structurally sound," Beg, convener INTACH, said. "But now, we mostly imitate the warm houses of North India."

This is where, many believe, Kashmiri architecture—now crumbling under a few days of snowfall—has lost its durable syncretism status and become weak edifices.

"Modernization and technology have been the primary factors for the shift in taste among the natives," argued scholar Salika Rashid from Srinagar. "Even insulation and comfort were trampled for the 'cold modernity'."

But the transition from a mud-wood house to cement-brick structure, the scholar said, has consumed the valley in its grip. "Even though," she added, "this step was in direction for structural stability only."

Apart from being a carpentry marvel, Kashmir's old houses were testifying the traditions of time, she said.

Every house had a wooden balcony attached with a room called Dub. Taq, DhajjiDewari, wood, mud and bricks were prominently representing the magnificence of architecture. These old structures were warmer, she said, despite lacking the modern-day hamams.

But the construction of modern structures totally dismissed this rich culture and made life numb with cold inside these structures, besides prone to accidents.

"And therefore," Salika said, "it's imperative for the people to re-analyse what they are trading for their synthetic beauty and durability because Kashmir is a place which teaches the world about the balance of life with nature."

Architectural historian, Randolph Langenbach, seconds the scholar's claims.

In his 1992 paper on Kashmir's architecture, Langenbach writes that Kashmir could have a lot to teach the world about life in balance with nature, but first it must rediscover the value of its own traditions.

"The place to begin is to rediscover the advantages of the timber and mud houses – not in order to return to the past but to bring this technology into the future as an essential step in the effort to return intrinsic wealth to the people in the form of affordability, comfort, family closeness, and social compatibility."

A Matter of Safety As many concrete structures either developed cracks or their roofs caved in due to heavy snowfall lately, many netizens wondered about the safety of their 'modern' structures.

Amid debate, many pointed out the practical flaws. "Almost all houses now have the snow-breakers used atop roofs," Mir Faheem, a former scribe, said. "May be

PIAs for Training Youth approved

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Apex Committee for Himayat scheme approved additional 20 Projects with a target of 14847 beneficiaries in over 25 trades for a period of 3 years to various Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) empanelled with Union Ministry of Rural Development for training and placement of youth of J&K.

Chairman, Apex Committee stressed on on-boarding more PIAs having effective industry tie-ups. He added that SOPs issued by MoHFW with respect to COVID-19 should be strictly followed.

The Committee held threadbare discussion on the targets and trades proposed by the PIAs and set a revised, rational and achievable target for the agencies.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary RDD stated "Only those PIAs have been placed before the committee for consideration who have proper training and placement vision."

Only those PIAs have been placed before the committee for consideration who have proper training and placement vision."

She also added that some of these recommended training agencies offer new and viable trades which will create new job opportunities for youth.

Chief Operating Officer, Himayat, apprised the committee about Himayat programme and highlighted the achievement of the programme besides the challenges being faced in its implementation. He said as many as 17379 candidates have been trained out of which more than 7500 candidates have been placed and are currently working in prominent companies. It was also informed that COVID pandemic has posed a serious challenge in the implementation of the scheme as the classroom strength had to be reduced.

Govt Nod To 8 Power Projects On Indus In Ladakh

New Delhi: The government has cleared eight hydropower projects of 144 MW on the Indus river and its tributaries in Ladakh, the highest so far, sources in the Jal Shakti Ministry said on Thursday.

At present, there are several small projects, with a collective capacity of 113 MW on Indus in Ladakh, and the new projects will have much more capacity than those constructed so far, a senior official added. The official said the new projects have been cleared by the Central Water Commission as well as the Indus Commissioner after a separate Union Territory of Ladakh was announced last year. These projects will come

up in Kargil and Leh districts of Ladakh.

Because of its topography, it is not feasible to construct big hydropower projects in the Ladakh region. Durbuk Shyok (19 MW), Shankoo (18.5 MW), Nimu Chilling (24 MW), Rongdo (12 MW), Ratan Nag (10.5 MW) hydropower projects have been cleared for Leh, while Mangdum Sangra (19 MW), Kargil Hunderman (25 MW) and Tamasha (12 MW) have been cleared for Kargil, the official added. Many of the existing projects as small as 1 MW of capacity. The construction of the new projects will begin after other mandatory clearances are obtained, the official said.

J&K Reports ...

Of the fresh 127 cases of coronavirus, 106 were from the Jammu division and 21 from the Kashmir division, they said.

Jammu district recorded the highest number of fresh cases at 47, followed by 44 in Udhampur district, the officials said. Eight districts -- Budgam, Bandipora, Anantnag, Kulgam, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi -- did not report any fresh cases. Ten other districts recorded fresh cases in single digits.

The number of active cases dropped to 2,396 in the union territory. So far, 1,17,877 patients have recovered, the officials said. (PTI)

Highway Remains ...

"No fresh vehicle movement has been allowed on the highway today as well," an official of the Traffic control room said.

He said men and machinery were on the job to clear the highway, but the road was still blocked at several places.

"The highway is blocked at Samrolli, Nashree, Cafeteria Morh, Seri, Marog and Jawahar Tunnel," he said.

The official said once the highway was cleared, stranded traffic would be allowed to ply.

However, Mughal Road, the alternate road-link which connects the valley to Jammu Division through Shopian-Rajouri axis, was closed for traffic due to heavy snowfall in the region, he said.

The Kashmir Valley was cut-off from the rest of the country on Sunday as the surface and the aerial connections were suspended because of the heavy snowfall. However, the air traffic to and fro the valley was restored on Thursday morning as flight operations took place at the Srinagar airport after four days.

The heavy snowfall threw life out of gear in the valley with the administration pressing men and machinery into service to clear the roads of snow. While most of the main roads have been cleared, many link roads were yet to be cleared, the officials said. Power supply has also been restored at most places in the valley, they added. (PTI)

NIA Conducts ...

of Tarn Taran and his Jammu-based associates Jasraj Singh, Sham Lal, Bishan Dass, Ajeet Kumar and Gurbaksh Singh.

"All the six accused were arrested for hatching a criminal conspiracy for carrying out anti-national and unlawful activities, and to help the militant organisations by collecting funds and channelizing the proceeds of drugs for furthering the activities of such militant organisations like Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), the spokesperson said.

He said a case under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was registered at Arnia police station in Jammu district near the International Border on September 20 last year, following the

seizure of a huge cache of narcotic substance along with arms and ammunition along an unprovoked firing by Pakistan on a police patrolling team to provide cover for the smuggling activity.

The NIA re-registered the case on November 26, 2020 and took up the investigation, the spokesperson said.

In the second week of September, he said, Gurpratap Singh had received 10 kg of heroin from Pakistan-based handlers through his associates.

The consignment in the instant case was also intended to be received by him to fund the activities of BKI in Punjab, the spokesperson said. (PTI)

Flights Take ...

between Srinagar airport, the only civilian airport in Kashmir, and rest of the country was suspended on Sunday due to snowfall which continued till Wednesday.

KU Postpones ...

view of heavy snowfall. Fresh dates for the deferred UG examinations will be notified later on, he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the LL2 2nd semester examination papers which were scheduled to be held on January 8, 2021 (Friday) have been rescheduled.

"The examination of LM17216DCE and LM17217DCE papers shall now be held on 14 January 2021. The time and venue shall remain unchanged," Head and Dean School of Law, Prof M Ayub said.

Prof Ayub said the examination of BALLB 7th semester paper (Property Law), scheduled on January 9, 2021 is rescheduled and will now be held on January 11, 2021.

Centre Asks ...

Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand -- will be received from their respective government medical store depots.

"All the states and UTs are likely to receive the first supply of COVID-19 vaccine shortly.

"In this regard, you are requested to ensure the advance preparation and readiness for the acceptance of forthcoming supply of the vaccine," Dr Pradeep Halder, advisor, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) in the health ministry, said in the letter dated January 5.

The further distribution of vaccine to the districts will be done as per the registered beneficiaries, for which a separate communication will be done shortly, the letter stated.

The country's drugs regulator on Sunday approved Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield and indigenously developed Covaxin of Bharat Biotech for restricted emergency use in the country.

The Health Ministry on Tuesday said it is prepared for COVID-19 vaccine roll-out within ten days of the vaccines getting approved for restricted emergency use on January 3, but a final decision on the launch date would be taken by the government.

Meanwhile, as a simulation of actual execution of COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, another round of dry run will be conducted in all districts of all states and union territories, except Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, on January 8 to ensure efficient planning and management for vaccine delivery in each district. (PTI)

"Beautiful Sight": China Goes Online To Mock US Capitol Chaos



Agencies

BEIJING: China's internet erupted in mirth at America's troubled democracy after supporters of President Donald Trump broke into the US Capitol, with Beijing criticising the "sharp contrast" between Washington's response to the chaos and the 2019 Hong Kong anti-government protests.

On Thursday morning, state media tabloid Global Times tweeted side-by-side photo comparisons of Hong Kong protesters occupying the city's Legislative Council Complex in July 2019 with Wednesday's Washington riots.

The latter saw hardcore Trump fans invade the US Capitol to protest the election defeat, taking selfies, scuffling with security and ransacking parts of the building.

"@SpeakerPelosi once referred to the Hong Kong riots as 'a beautiful sight to behold,'" the Global Times said in the tweet, referring to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's June 2019 comment about Hong Kong's mass pro-democracy demonstrations, which at that time were mostly peaceful.

"It remains yet to be seen whether she will say the same about the recent developments in Capitol Hill."

China's Communist Youth League also described the unrest as a "beautiful sight" on the Twitter-like Weibo platform.

Beijing's foreign ministry echoed those sentiments, saying "the reaction of some people in the US, including that of some media outlets, is completely different."

Speaking at a press briefing Thursday, ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that the "sharp contrast (in reactions) makes one ponder, and deserves serious and

profound reflection."

The hashtag "Trump supporters storm US Capitol" pinballed across China's Weibo on Thursday, racking up 570 million views, as users compared the global support for Hong Kong's protesters with the outpouring of condemnation for the pro-Trump mob.

"At present, all European countries' leaders have shown double standards and condemned it (Washington rioting)," read one Weibo comment which gained over 5,000 likes.

"I don't know what kind of double-standard reports will be carried by Hong Kong or Taiwan media this time."

"What happened in the Hong Kong Legislative Council last year is being repeated in the US Capitol," wrote another user in a comment with over 4,500 likes.

While the tactics were similar, there are stark differences in the causes and motivations of the two legislative stormings.

Hong Kong protesters broke into the Legislative Council to demand full democracy and halt an unpopular bill that was being pushed through by the city's unelected leadership.

Citizens of the semi-autonomous Chinese city do not enjoy full democratic rights, the cause of years of popular protests.

Beijing responded to the 2019 unrest with a crackdown, imposing a harsh security law on the restless city, arresting scores of critics and smothering dissent.

In contrast, those storming the US Capitol were trying to overturn the results of what has been declared a free and fair presidential election.

US President-elect Joe Biden has accused the US rioters of undermining democracy by trying to overturn his victory in November's election.



US CAPITOL SIEGE: Donald Trump supporters swarmed the US Capitol on Wednesday.

4 Dead In US Capitol Siege By Pro-Trump Mob, World Condemns Attack

Agencies

WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES: Four people died, including one woman who was shot by a police officer, amid protests and rioting on Capitol Hill by supporters of Donald Trump who swarmed inside the building amid a session of Congress to certify Joe Biden's election win, triggering unprecedented chaos and violence at the heart of American democracy and accusations the outgoing president was attempting a coup.

In a late-night news conference, Metropolitan Police Department Chief Robert J. Contee said that 52 were arrested over the violence that saw pro-Trump rioters breaking windows, climbing on rafters, ripping down U.S. flags and roaming the Senate chamber. Lawmakers were told to grab gas masks as police deployed tear gas inside the Rotunda, the ornate area under the dome that connects the House and the Senate, according to the Washington Post.

Both the House and Senate and the entire Capitol were placed under a lockdown. Vice President Mike Pence and lawmakers were evacuated to safe locations.

Security forces fired tear gas

in a four-hour operation to clear the Capitol. Vowing not to be deterred, Congress resumed their work on certifying Biden's Electoral College win, with debate stretching into the early hours of Thursday. After debate, the House and Senate rejected two objections to the tally and certified the final Electoral College vote with Biden receiving 306 votes and Trump 232 votes.

The chaos at the Capitol came a day after Biden enjoyed a new triumph, with his Democrats projected to win two Senate seats in runoff in Georgia -- handing the party full control of Congress and dramatically increasing Biden's ability to pass legislation, starting with new Covid-19 relief.

Historians said it was the first time that the Capitol had been taken over since 1814 when the British burned it during the War of 1812.

Trump has only two weeks left in office but, with little on his public schedule for weeks and multiple reports he is losing his grip on reality, several news reports said his cabinet was whispering about removing him as unfit for office under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution.

"President Trump's willingness

to incite violence and social unrest to overturn the election results by force clearly meet this standard," all Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee wrote in a letter to Vice President Mike Pence.

In an angry, rambling speech outside the White House before the violence, Trump urged his supporters to march to the Capitol and demanded that Pence, who ceremonially led the session, intervene to reverse their loss.

But Pence -- dutifully loyal to Trump for four years and quiet since the election -- said in a last-minute statement that he did not believe he had authority to intervene.

Thousands of Trump supporters headed to Washington at his urging in recent days, with downtown businesses boarding up in fear of violence and Mayor Muriel Bowser ordering a curfew Wednesday night.

"I can't say I respect our election process anymore," said Gail Shaw, 76, who drove down from New Jersey. "We will take our nation back."

Biden won in excess of seven million votes more than Trump in the November 3 election and leads him 306-232 in the state-by-state Electoral College count that determines elections, with Republicans unable to prove in court a single allegation of fraud.

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"President Trump's willingness

'Disgraceful': World Reacts As Trump supporters storm US Capitol



Agencies

Donald Trump's supporters stormed a session of Congress which was being held to certify Joe Biden's election win with world leaders following the developments in Washington, DC, with "concern".

Hours after an extraordinary rally by Trump challenging his defeat, flag-waving backers broke down barricades outside the Capitol and swarmed inside, with the special session going into an emergency recess as protesters entered the chambers.

The desperate last-minute bid by Trump to overturn his election loss sparked chaos and accusations of a "coup" attempt, with several countries calling on Trump's supporters to show calm and restraint.

United Nations
UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was "saddened" by the breach of the US Capitol building, according to his spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

"In such circumstances, it is important that political leaders impress on their followers the need to refrain from violence, as well as to respect democratic processes and the rule of law," Dujarric said in a statement.

The president of the General Assembly Volkan Bozkir, meanwhile, said he was "deeply concerned" by the violence and the interruption of the democratic process in the US, where the UN headquarters is located.

New Zealand
New Zealand's Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said the events in Washington were a source of regret and that New Zealand looked forward to

the peaceful transition of power.

"Violence has no place in thwarting democracy," she wrote on Twitter. "We look forward to the peaceful transition of the political administration, which is the hallmark of democracy." Mahuta ended her post with a Maori blessing.

Australia
Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison condemned what he described as "very distressing scenes" in the US Congress, and said Australia looked forward to the peaceful transfer of power to the newly-elected administration.

It was, he said on Twitter, a "great American democratic tradition".

France
In a video posted to Twitter, French President Emmanuel Macron described the attack on Congress as "not America" and said he had "confidence in the strength of democracy in the United States."

Earlier, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on Twitter: "The violence against the American institutions is a grave attack on democracy. I condemn it. The will and the vote of the American people must be respected."

European Union
Charles Michel, president of the European Council, said he was shocked at events in Washington, describing the US Congress as a "temple of democracy" and urging the peaceful transfer of power.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stressed the "strength of US institutions and democracy" and said she was looking forward to working with Joe Biden as the next president.

Israel Strikes On Syria Kills 3 Iran-Backed Fighters: War Monitor



Agencies

BEIRUT, LEBANON: Strikes conducted overnight by Israel in Syria left three fighters from Iran-backed groups dead, a war monitor reported Thursday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based organisation with an extensive network on the ground, was not immediately able to provide the casualties' nationalities.

Syrian state media had reported an "Israeli aggression" overnight against targets in the south of the country, adding that its anti-air defence system had intercepted most missiles.

Israel routinely carries out raids in Syria, mostly against targets affiliated with Iran in what it says is a bid to prevent its archfoe from securing further foothold along its borders.

Iran has members of its own military as well as fighters from a variety of nationalities fighting with militias it supports deployed across Syria.

Last month, Israel said it had hit about 50 targets in the neighbouring country in 2020.

The Israeli army has carried out hundreds of air and missile strikes on Syria since the civil war broke out in 2011, targeting Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah forces as well as government troops.

The Jewish state rarely acknowledges individual strikes, but has done so when responding to what it describes as aggression inside Israeli territory.

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US Lawmakers Went To Underground Tunnel As Pro-Trump Mob Stormed Capitol

Agencies

At first, the disruption surrounding the Capitol seemed like a curiosity at best, a nuisance at worst. Thousands of pro-Trump protesters were pushing into the East Front of the Capitol grounds, past barricades, some waving Trump flags, some American flags.

But the situation quickly turned grave, with security officials inside the House of Representatives chamber warning that "lots of people" had broken past a perimeter that had been set up.

"Hold the line and make sure we secure the building," Paul Irving, the House sergeant at arms, could be heard saying into his phone.

Whoever he was talking to, it didn't work. Within minutes, word came that Vice President Mike Pence was leaving the Senate chamber where lawmakers were debating a Republican objection to accepting Electoral College votes for President-elect Joe Biden.

Protesters could be seen climbing the stairs of the Rotunda, a central



domed structure that connects the House and Senate. The group grew in number, as officers ran to the Rotunda. Officers ordered anyone in the halls into their secure offices.

For reporters, that meant the House chamber. But once there, nothing seemed secure. Lawmakers who were in the chamber were now told to stay in place but be prepared to evacuate. All doors were locked.

"Everyone sit down, stay calm," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's floor director, Keith Stern, said. House Rules Committee Chairman Jim McGovern told colleagues to stay put for more instructions. A deputy sergeant at arms said everyone needed to sit tight.

"We now have individuals who are in the Capitol rotunda area," said another official.

Then came an even more worrying development: an announcement that some sort of gas had been released into the Capitol rotunda and members were told to grab gas masks stored underneath their seats.

"Call your friend! Call Trump," Representative Steve Cohen, a Tennessee Democrat, shouted to Republicans.

Several sharp bangs were heard as protesters tried to get into the chamber. Police blocked the main door -- through which the president usually enters on his way to delivering State of the Union and other speeches -- with a piece of furniture.

NEWS MAKERS

Indonesia Aims For Halal Ruling Before COVID Vaccine Roll Out

Agencies

Indonesia's highest Muslim clerical council aims to issue a ruling on whether a COVID-19 vaccine is halal or permissible under Islam before the country starts a mass inoculation campaign with a Chinese vaccine next week.

The world's largest Muslim-majority country plans to launch the programme on January 13 after obtaining three million doses of the vaccine developed by China's Sinovac. President Joko Widodo will be the first to receive a dose to boost public confidence in the vaccines.

Gelatin derived from pigs is used as a stabiliser in some vac-



cines but the consumption of pork is strictly forbidden to Muslims, who make up some 90 percent of the Indonesian population.

Controversy over whether vaccines adhere to Islamic principles has hindered public health initiatives before,

then," said Muti Arintawati, an official at MUI in charge of analysing food and drugs to assess whether they are halal.

Indonesia is struggling with the worst COVID-19 outbreak in Southeast Asia and authorities hope the vaccine will help alleviate the health and economic crises ravaging the country.

Asked about the risk of public resistance, a health ministry official said the government would wait for MUI's decision.

Ahmad Ishomuddin, an official at Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia's biggest mainstream Muslim organisation, said emergency vaccines that were not halal could be used if there were no other options.

Twitter, Facebook Freeze Trump's Accounts After Congress Assault

Agencies

Social media giants Twitter and Facebook temporarily locked the accounts of US President Donald Trump, as they scrambled to crack down on his baseless claims about the US presidential elections after his supporters stormed the US Capitol in Washington, DC and temporarily forced a halt to proceedings.

Twitter hid and required the removal of three of Trump's tweets "as a result of the unprecedented and ongoing violent situation in Washington, DC," after the president's supporters attempted to force Congress to block the appointment of President-elect Joe Biden.



While urging his supporters to "go home", Trump also praised the mob as "special" and telling them that they were "loved".

"Future violations of the Twitter Rules, including our Civic Integrity or Violent Threats policies, will result in permanent suspension of the @realDonaldTrump account," Twitter officials said in a

statement. The social media handle used by the president is followed by some 88 million people.

Twitter said Trump's account would be locked for 12 hours and that if the offending tweets were not removed, "the account will remain locked".

In a rapidly evolving sequence of events, Facebook and YouTube also took down videos posted by the president.

"This is an emergency situation and we are taking appropriate emergency measures, including removing President Trump's video," Facebook Vice President of Integrity Guy Rosen said in a tweet.

"We removed it because on balance we believe it contributes to rather than diminishes

the risk of ongoing violence."

Meanwhile, Trump's account on Instagram, with 24.5 million followers, remains active. Instagram is owned by Facebook.

Baseless attacks
YouTube also removed a Trump video that repeated his baseless attacks on the integrity of the election he lost in November, following its policy barring claims challenging election results.

"As the situation at the United States Capitol Building unfolds, our teams are working to quickly remove live streams and other content that violates our policies, including those against incitement to violence or regarding footage of graphic violence," said YouTube spokesman Alex Joseph.

AUS Vs IND 3rd Test Day 1

'Was Looking To Put Ashwin Under Pressure,' Says Smith

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SYDNEY: Australian batting mainstay Steve Smith on Thursday said he was looking to put Ravichandran Ashwin under pressure after being at the receiving end of the India off-spinner's guile in the first two Tests.

Breaking his run of poor scores, Smith played some attacking shots and marched to an unbeaten 31 by the close of play on the opening day of the third Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Australia were comfortable 166 for two at stumps of a rain-marred day, with Marnus Labuschagne giving Smith company on 67.

"I'm good, nice to spend a bit of time out there, nice to stitch in a partnership with Marnus. I wanted to put him (Ashwin) under a little bit of pressure which I haven't done

this series," Smith said at the end of the day's play.

As he faced the Indian bowlers, Smith looked determined to make a statement after his uncharacteristic run of low scores in the first two Tests of the four-match series.

"I was just trying to hold the grip a bit tighter, I've been struggling, so I was getting into good positions today. I was good to get a couple of boundaries early. Marnus played well, hopefully we go along well tomorrow," the star batsman added.

Smith and Labuschagne added 60 runs for the third wicket to help Australia regain some lost ground after the comprehensive defeat to the visitors in the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne. The series is currently locked at 1-1.

Debutant Will Pucovski Rates Ashwin As Most Unique Bowler

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SYDNEY: It was just the kind of debut Will Pucovski was hoping for as the young Australian opener cherished "incredible experience" on day one of the third Test during which he found Indian off-spinner R Ashwin the most unique bowler to face in Sydney on Thursday.

The 22-year-old hit an impressive 62 after missing the first two Tests of the series due to concussion-related issues. He was hit on the head during the warm-up game ahead of the series-opener.

"It was a pretty incredible experience. It's meant everything to be honest, that I am putting in a lot of hard yards on and off the field, hopeful that this day would come and it was a very special day," Pucovski said at the virtual post-day press conference.

Pucovski steadied the Australian ship along with Marnus Labuschagne (67 not out), as the hosts ended the rain-curtailed opening day at 166 for two. Pucovski singled out Ashwin as the bowler who he thought was challenging due to the variations he uses.

"They (Indian bowlers) are all very good. Playing your first game,

I would say Ashwin, probably, is the one who is the most unique in a way.

"Obviously (Jasprit) Bumrah has his unique action but Ashwin just with his different variations and how he uses the same to sort of bowl. But yes his little-different variations, was something that I hadn't really experienced before, so that was quite challenging," said Pucovski.

Pucovski became the youngest Australian to score a half-century on debut and is confident that Australia will dominate the match.

"It was a very nice batting wicket. I am very hopeful that with the amount of batting in the team now and what we have got to come, we can post a really good total and then with the world-class attack that we have put them (India) under the pump, hopefully dominate the game," he said. Pucovski was expecting a barrage of short balls from the Indian bowlers. He said he was well-prepared for it.

"I've been bounced non-stop in all cricket I've played really, just with my history of concussion. It's part of it, to be honest. I knew India would come at me pretty hard with it. I felt like I handled it well at times and probably went out of my bubble at other times.

Glenn McGrath Laments 'Timid' Approach Of Australian Batsmen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SYDNEY: Least impressed by the Australian batsmen's "timid" approach in the ongoing Test series against India, bowling legend Glenn McGrath has asked them to take a leaf out of Ajinkya Rahane and Shubman Gill's book.

McGrath rued the approach taken by the Australian batsmen so far in the four-match series, which is locked at 1-1 at the moment.

"I think, probably majority with India, the way they bowled, a little bit with just the mindset of the Australian batsmen, as I mentioned before, they were timid," McGrath said during a conference call organised by official broadcasters Sony.

"They are looking to survive rather than to go there and score runs and dominate the bowlers."

The pacer, who dominated batsmen with pinpoint accuracy and sharpness in his heydays, added, "When you have got batsmen looking to survive on pitches that are just offering little bit to bowlers, then it is only a matter of time before they get out.

"I think, you look at the way (Ajinkya) Rahane batted, (Shubman) Gill batted, Rishabh Pant, (Ravindra) Jadeja, those guys they showed what should be done."

McGrath lavished praise on the Indian bowlers and called himself a "big fan" of Jasprit Bumrah.

"You can't take anything away from Indian bowlers. The way Jasprit Bumrah has bowled this series has been amazing. I am a big fan of Bumrah, I have spoken to him a few times and I liked the way he thinks and the way he goes about it."

McGrath praised the Indian attack for the lengths they have hit.

"He (Bumrah) quite enjoys bowling in Australian conditions. A Mohammed Siraj coming in, I just think they bowled very good lengths, sometimes you can get carried away with the bounce in Australia and bowl too short, but they have bowled good lengths," he added. He was also effusive in his praise for senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, describing his performance as exceptional.

"Ravi Ashwin, the way he has bowled. He always bowls well in

the first Test and then something seems goes missing the rest of the series, sometimes, but the way he bowled in Melbourne was exceptional as well," said the bowler, who has 563 Test wickets to his credit.

In the absence of Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma, McGrath said the onus will be on Bumrah and Ashwin in the remainder of the four-match series. "You have got a couple of young guys coming in, Siraj playing his second Test, (Navdeep) Saini playing his first, so a lot will rest on Jasprit Bumrah, maybe Ashwin and (Ravindra) Jadeja, they are all very experienced," he said.

He said it remains to be seen how newcomers Siraj and Saini stand up to pressure situations.

"Once the pressure of Test cricket comes, if Australia are doing well, that's when you need the experience, and that's where experience will come into play and whether that will impact these young bowlers a little bit more.

"Australian batting line-up have the ability to put the pressure back on bowlers and that is going to be the big test. If Australian batsmen do put pressure how do Siraj, Saini stand up, that is the big question.

"But I'm looking forward to the two exciting bowlers, who have a big impact in shorter version, IPL probably more so," he said.

McGrath also said that both the teams will be lifted by the inclusion of star openers Rohit Sharma and David Warner in the third Test. "I think it is a big lift for both sides. With Rohit coming in with his experience, he is quite an aggressive batsman as well, very similar to David Warner"

The India-Australia match at the Sydney Cricket Ground will be the 13th Pink Test and McGrath said both the teams will be donating their Baggy Pink caps.

"So, here we are again... number 13. Things are a little bit different with COVID and crowd restrictions and what you can do at the ground, but looking forward to it.

"Both teams will be donating their Baggy Pink caps and they will sign them, they will go for auction," he signed off.



'Pakistan Deserve To Be Criticised,' Says Coach Misbah-ul-Haq After New Zealand Hammering

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KARACHI: Pakistan head coach Misbah-ul-Haq feels his struggling team deserves every bit of the criticism that is being thrown at it after a 0-2 loss to New Zealand in the just-concluded away Test series.

Misbah has made similar statements after Pakistan lost on tours to Australia and England earlier.

"We deserve to be criticised for our performances. When people expect good performances from you and you don't deliver they are justified to criticise you," Misbah said in a podcast issued by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Misbah said his team was below-par in all departments of the game.

"The way we fought hard in the first Test was very good and everyone expected a similar performance in the second Test but that didn't happen. We had opportunities in the series to win matches

but we didn't take them," he said.

"This is something we have to look at as to why we can't cross that line between winning and losing a match. I have seen it happen many times in recent matches," he said.

He said fielding has always been a problem for the Pakistan team and this trend needs to change now.

"These things ultimately affected the result of the series. We need to improve our fielding," he said.

Misbah said the team management will analyse the mistakes made in the New Zealand series before finalising any changes for the upcoming home series against South Africa.

"We will look at making changes according to the home conditions and the South African team. We may also consider top performers from the ongoing Quaid-e-Azam Trophy for the South African series," he concluded.

We deserve to be criticised for our performances. When people expect good performances from you and you don't deliver they are justified to criticise you"

Indian Rider CS Santosh In Medically-Induced Coma After Suffering Horrific Dakar Rally Crash



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

RIYADH: Renowned Indian motorcycle racer CS Santosh suffered a crash during the ongoing Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia and was put in a medically-induced coma after being airlifted to a hospital in Riyadh.

The 37-year-old Santosh, who was representing the Hero MotoSports in one of the world's biggest rallies, crashed on Wednesday and is being kept under a 24-hour observation.

"In an unfortunate incident, @cs_santosh22 suffered a crash in Stage 4 of #Dakar2021 today. He has been taken to a hospital in Riyadh. In the initial assessment, he seems stable. Join us in wishing him a speedy recovery," Hero MotoSports said in a tweet. He has a suspected head injury. According to reports, he was conscious when paramedics arrived on the

scene before he was rushed to Riyadh. The incident occurred on the same stage where last year, Hero MotoSport rider Paulo Goncalves died while competing in the Dakar 2020. Hero MotoSport withdrew from the rally after the death of Goncalves.

Santosh crashed around 135km into the stage on a gravel track and had to forfeit the stage. This was Santosh's seventh attempt at the Dakar Rally, considered the world's most gruelling off-road motorsport event.

He was the first Indian to complete the race in 2015, and replicated the effort in two further editions. Santosh had a near-fatal accident during the 2013 Abu Dhabi desert challenge, suffering burns to his neck after his Suzuki MX450X caught fire. The January 2-16 rally divided into 12 stages has competitors traversing 7646km. Stage 4 is, incidentally, the longest stage of the rally, spanning a total of 813km.

ISL 7: Murgaonkar Saves FC Goa Blushes After A 1-1 Draw Against SC East Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

VASCO: A late goal saved the day for FC Goa as they managed to grab a point after a hard-fought 1-1 draw against SC East Bengal in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

In what was initially a cagey contest, SCEB took the lead through Bright Enobakhare's (79th) stunning solo goal. But FC Goa fought back with a goal from substitute Devendra Murgaonkar (81st) to deny their opponents a second successive win.

SC East Bengal played most part of the second half with 10 men after captain Daniel Fox was sent off in the 56th minute.

FC Goa dominated the first half, keeping possession and creating chances but couldn't find a way to score. While FC Goa keeper Mohammad Nawaz was hardly tested, SCEB custodian Debjit Majumder pulled off four crucial saves.

The first big chance of the game came in the fourth minute for FC Goa after Scott Neville tripped Jorge Ortiz Mendoza. Brandon Fernandes took the free-kick and swung a teasing cross at the far post for James Donachie, whose header was parried away by Majumder.

FC Goa continued to play in the opposition half after that early chance but SCEB defended resolutely despite being on the backfoot. However, the Red and Gold outfit also missed two back-to-back chances to grab the lead around the half-hour mark from set-pieces. Aaron Amadi-Holloway first missed an open header from a free-kick. A minute later, SCEB won a throw-in

and Raju Gaikwad found an unmarked Daniel Fox at the far post but failed to keep his shot on target.

FC Goa continued to pile on the pressure on their opponents after the change of ends. But SCEB's hopes of grabbing control of the game suffered a huge blow when Fox was sent off in the 56th minute. The SCEB captain received his marching orders for a rough challenge on Alexander Jesuraj.



Despite the man-advantage, a defensive error from Goa almost gifted SCEB the lead. Matti Steinmann pounced on a sloppy pass from Princeton Rebello and made his way into the box before firing his shot wide. SCEB soon made amends for the missed opportunity as they scored the opener.

Enobakhare displayed a moment of magic and made his way into the box beating four markers before placing his shot into the bottom corner as he finished off a stunning solo goal. But FC Goa soon drew parity as SCEB's defence was caught napping.

Saviour Gama delivered a cross at the near post and Murgaonkar rose high to put FC Goa on level terms. Both sides continued to hunt for the winner but in the end, settled for a draw.

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