



Maximum : 28°C
Today : 07:46 PM
Minimum : 16°C
Humidity : 56%
SUNSET
TOMORROW
05:22 AM



News Digest

Hizb Militant, 12 Others Chargesheeted

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday filed a charge sheet against top Hizbul Mujahideen militant Jahangir Soroori, his two close associates and 10 over ground workers (OGWs) in Kishtwar district. The charge sheet was filed in the court of 3rd Additional District and Session Judge TADA/POTA Jammu in a case registered at police station Dachan early this year under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act, a police spokesman said. Besides Soroori, two other active militants named in the chargesheet are Mudassar Hussain of Dachhan and Riaz Ahmad of Marwah, he said, adding the 10 OGWs were charged ● P-02

Another Quake Jolts Ladakh

SRINAGAR: An earthquake of magnitude 4.4 on the Richter scale hit 332 km Northeast of Hanle in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. According to the National Centre for Seismology, the tremors were felt in the area at 12:32 hours (IST) today. Earlier on Friday, an earthquake of magnitude 3.3 on the Richter scale hit 79 km west of Tura in Meghalaya, as per the National Centre for Seismology.

Army Driver Booked Over Minor's Death

Srinagar: Police on Saturday filed a case against an army driver after his vehicle caused death of a minor boy in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday. According to reports, a case FIR (151/2020) u/s 304A and 279 MVA was filed against army driver Naik Bagh Singh from 47 RR by police in connection with the death of a 12-year-old boy Farhan Ahmad Sher Gojri in Shadipora-Kigam village on Friday evening. The boy as per the reports came under an Army vehicle. He sustained critical conditions and ● P-02

College Student Feared Drowned In Doda

Bhadrawah: A 22-year-old college student is feared to have drowned in a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Saturday, police said. Waris Alam, a resident of Bun village, was among a group of youth taking bath in Neeruriver. He went in deep water and was carried away by the strong current near Nai-Dhangri village this afternoon, the police said. "As soon, we came to know about the incident, a police team along with locals, volunteers of an NGO and sleuths of SDRF started the search and rescue operation but as the last ● P-02

14 More Test COVID-19 Positive InLadakh

Leh: Fourteen more people tested positive for coronavirus in Ladakh, taking the total number of cases in the union territory to 960 on Saturday, while the number of active cases dropped to 405, with 87 more COVID-19 patients getting discharged after recovery, health department officials said. Of the fresh virus cases, nine were reported in Kargil district and five in Leh district, they said. With this, the total number of cases in Ladakh -- 701 in Kargil and 259 in Leh -- has increased to 960, ● P-02

29 Foreign Militants Active In South Kashmir IGP

Press Trust Of India



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police said on Saturday that 29 foreign militants are active in South Kashmir but assured that the security forces are experienced enough to deal with them and wipe out militancy from whole of South Kashmir. "There is a presence of foreign militants in the upper reaches of Kokernag, Tral and Khrew. There are

PAGE 1 Anchor

Jyotsna Bharti

SRINAGAR: A few years ago, when Amreen's husband was killed in a shootout between armed forces and militants, she became the sole breadwinner of the family of five, including three children and one old mother.

What sustained the young widow during her tormenting time was her spinning wheel. She would turn the raw pashmina into fine threads used for weaving shawls.

Amreen's industrious and back-breaking labour would ensure the two-time honourable meal for her children. But now, she's finding it hard to put food

on the table of her family.

Recurrent lockdowns in her trouble-torn homeland and the frontier face-off at the faraway land fuelling her spinning wheel have ganged up to intrude her labour of love.

"There used to be a time in recent past when my room would be filled with yarns," Amreen told Kashmir Observer in an anguished voice. "I had work and money to run my family. But now, I don't know what to do, how to fulfill the necessities of my children."

Like Amreen, thousands of Pashmina artisans—mainly widows—are suddenly marooned in the middle of the crisis and uncertainty in the valley. They're either



Ladakhi nomads with Pashmina Goats. Photo Courtesy by Kashmir Loom

sitting idle without work or working as cleaners or maids in some plush Srinagar neighbourhoods

"Whenever I visit my local Pashmina vendor these days, he tells me that the raw material won't last long now," Amreen said. "Looks like the tradition which was preserved for centuries is now going extinct."

Cashmere Crisis

After some war-fronts reared their ugly heads nearby the winter pasturelands frequented by the Ladakhi nomads with their Pashmina goats, the valley known for producing branded Cashmere shawls suffered from yet another survival stress.

In case the dragon continues to occupy the significant Pashmina goat habitat in Ladakh, Kashmir's battered business consortium is

predicting one more stabbing collapse of the traditional crafts industry of the valley.

"We're staring at the imminent fall of the traditional industry, if China won't retreat from the winter grazing lands of Pashmina goats," Sheikh Ashiq, president of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) told Kashmir Observer.

Pashmina shawls have been the brand of Kashmir since ages. The wool, Cashmere or Pashm, is sent down to valley from the high altitude plateaus of Ladakh as a raw material.

But as the two nations are currently locking horns over LAC near-by winter pasturelands ●PAGE 02

India Deploys Missiles, More Troops In Ladakh To Meet Chinese Threat: Report

Observer Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: As tension continues to soar between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, the Indian armed forces have deployed advanced quick-reaction surface-to-air missile defence systems in the mountainous region to thwart any possible attack by Chinese forces, ANI reported Saturday.

Indian military is also amassing more men and material as a precautionary deployment along the 3,488-km-long disputed border to meet any eventuality.

The deployment, perhaps one of the biggest in the recent years, comes at a time when India and China are locked in a hitherto unprecedented standoff - for eight weeks now - at multiple points along their border.

Quoting government sources news agency ANI reported Saturday, that as part of the ongoing build-up in the sector, the air defence systems of both Indian Army and the Indian Air Force have been deployed in the sector to "prevent any misadventure by the Chinese Air Force fighter jets or the People's



Image for representation only

Cong Asks PM To 'Take Strong, Quick Action'

The Congress on Saturday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to publicly condemn China for its "brazen incursions" into Indian territory and urged the government to take "strong and quick action" to resolve the Line of Actual Control (LAC) issue. Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal said at a virtual press conference that the prime minister should address the nation and promise that anyone capturing Indian territory would ● P-02

Liberation Army choppers there."

India's move comes in the wake of massive Chinese buildup, including posting its superiority aircraft like the Sukhoi-30 and its strategic bombers to the rear locations which have been detected

flying near the Indian territory maintaining the 10 km plus distance from the boundary.

To keep a check on enemy flying, the report says India would deploy a highly capable air defence system as soon as it arrives from ●PAGE 02

THE INDIAN QUICK REACTION AIR DEFENCE MISSILE INCLUDES the Akash missile which can take down very fast-moving combat aircraft and drones in few seconds and many modifications and upgrades have already been done in it to make it suitable for deployment in the high mountainous terrain."

3 More Covid-19 Deaths In Kashmir, J&K Toll 94

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR-Three more Covid-19 positive patients died in Kashmir, taking the number of fatalities due to the disease in Jammu and Kashmir to 94, officials said on Saturday.

A 45-year-old woman Batengoo Khanabal area of south Kashmir passed away at SKIMS Soura hospital on Saturday, they said.

The woman was admitted to the hospital on Thursday with hypertension and other ailments. She tested positive for the vi-

35 Paramilitary Men, 2 Soldiers Among 204 Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday witnessed another jump in Covid-19 cases, as 204 more people, including 33 paramilitary personnel and two soldiers tested positive for ● P-02

rus on Friday and was then shifted to COVID block of the hospital, they officials said. ●PAGE 02

No Summer Respite From Covid Cases In Kashmir: DAK

SRINAGAR: The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday expressed concern over the rising coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that the hope of summer heat stopping Covid-19 does not seem to be the case.

"Despite high temperatures, Covid-19 cases are rising in Kashmir," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"With hundreds of new cases surfacing each day, Kashmir has recorded more than 4,000 Covid cases in last 26 days," he said.

"High levels of heat and humidity prevent spread of flu and other respiratory viruses, Dr Nisar said

adding "even some related coronavirus show fewer cases in summer and they mainly circulate in winter months."

"We were hoping the heat of summer will also reduce the viability of the novel virus," he said.

"But, Covid-19 seems to behave differently and the virus is spreading in spite of soaring temperatures," Dr Nisar said.

"The climate will become a factor in controlling the spread of Covid only after the emergence of collective immunity," he said.

"Those who have not yet developed immunity to the virus would get the disease no matter ●PAGE 02

Srinagar Records Season's Hottest Day At 32.9 Degree Celsius

SRINAGAR: Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory on Saturday recorded this season's highest temperature at 32.9 degrees Celsius, an official in the local Meteorological department said.

The temperature in Kashmir is witnessing an upward trend and as per the officials, Srinagar has experienced this season's hottest day today.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Sonum Lotus said that there is possibility of further rise in day temperature.

"There will be a gradual rise in day as well as night temperature in upcoming days," he said, adding that there is possibility ● P-02

KCCI Sounds Alarm Over Mining Contracts

SRINAGAR: Describing the policy adopted by the Geology and Mining Department over allotment of mining and extraction as alarming, the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on Saturday said the move has deprived thousands of families of their livelihood and exposed consumers to exploitation by a mining syndicate.

In a statement issued here today, a KCCI spokesperson said that recent bidding for mineral blocks in Kashmir province clearly indicates that local stakeholders have been sidelined.

"Use of financial musclepower has totally wiped them out in Srinagar and reports from ● P-02

J&K Govt Speeds Up Domicile Certificate Process

50 Certificates Issued To WPRs, Others At A 'Special Camp' In Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Despite stiff opposition by the political parties, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday distributed domicile certificates among the 'non-locals', including West Pakistani refugees in this winter capital.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Sanjeev Verma in a special camp organized today distributed 50 domicile certificates to those sections of the society who were residing in J&K for the last more than 70 years but were 'deprived of their legitimate citizenship rights', an official spokesperson said.

Among those, the official spokesperson said included West Pakistani refugees, members of

Balmiki Samaj, Gorkhas and others from R S Pura, Bishnah, Bahu, Jammu South and several other parts of Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Verma said that with the distribution of domicile certificates the long pending demand of the public has been fulfilled.

"People who were living in Jammu and Kashmir for last many years but were deprived of citizenship rights now have equal rights as other citizens of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Under the Domicile Rules all those persons and their children who have resided for 15 years in Jammu and Kashmir or have studied for seven years and appeared in class 10th or 12th ●PAGE 02

PEOPLE WHO WERE LIVING IN JAMMU and Kashmir for last many years but were deprived of citizenship rights now have equal rights as other citizens of Jammu and Kashmir,"

MoS Jitendra, 8980

Others Get Domicile Certificates

Union Minister of State in Prime Minister Office Dr Jitendra Singh and as many as 8980 people from Doda district have received their domicile certificates, officials said Saturday. Singh, who is also Member Parliament Udhampur- Doda Constituency, received today his domicile certificate online, officials said. Singh hails from village Kalhota Malhori of Doda district. "The Union Minister applied for the domicile certificate through online mode by following all the rules, ● P-02

Pak Rejects Grant Of

Domicile Certificate To Non-Kashmiris

Pakistan on Saturday "rejected" the grant of domicile certificates by India to the people not originally from Jammu and Kashmir. As per the new domicile law, non-permanent residents who have residency proof of at least 15 years in Jammu and Kashmir are entitled to get domicile certificates. Over 30,000 people have till now received domicile certificates online in Jammu and Kashmir after the Indian government changed laws to grant residency to different categories of non-residents in the Union territory. ● P-02

Was Asked To Quit Politics For Freedom: Nayeem Akhtar

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Divulging his detention details days after being released from custody and subsequently evicted from his Gupkar residence, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) senior leader and former minister Naeem Akhtar said he was repeatedly visited by government representatives and intelligence officials during his captivity at "subsidiary jails".

"They persuaded me to ... sign a bond saying that I would not in-



dulge in any political activity after being released," Akhtar told Asian

Age's Kashmir bureau chief, Yusuf Jameel in an exclusive chat. "I was asked to quit politics to walk free, evade harrying and live a comfortable life with my family."

A onetime close-confidante of late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Akhtar had sought premature retirement from government services in 2008 to join the PDP.

"I was asked to sign the bond many times. I was, in fact, the first person among the detainees who was approached for it in ●PAGE 02

I WAS ASKED TO SIGN THE BOND MANY TIMES. I WAS, IN FACT, the first person among the detainees who was approached for it in September last year itself. They told me that since I'm facing several health issues it would be better for me to come out of the jail and go home,"

Farooq Abdullah Inaugurates Ice Cream Shop In Srinagar

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: In his first public appearance after release from house arrest former Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir Dr Farooq Abdullah Saturday inaugurated an ice cream shop in Srinagar.

Dr Abdullah who has been lying low ever since his release last month appeared at Sangarmal Shopping Complex on MA Road and inaugurated 'Nirula's Ice Cream' shop there.

Dr Farooq who is incumbent member of Parliament was placed under house arrest on August 5 following abrogation of Kashmir's special status and its division. At the inauguration of the ice cream joint, franchisee of popular Indian food chain Nirula's Dr Farooq was accompanied by his younger brother Dr

Sheikh Mustafa Kamal.

Dr Farooq declined to answer volley of questions from the journalists present there.



Nirula's is India's oldest fast food restaurant chain and its first restaurant was opened in the New Delhi's busiest Connaught Place in 1977.

Talking to Kashmir Observer Nirula's franchise owner Ashiq Rafiq Khan said that he plans to expand his business and open more branches ●PAGE 02

Private Schools Announce 100% Fee Waiver For Deserving Students

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Private Schools' Association of J&K (PSAJK) on Saturday announced a major fee waiver scheme for students, whose family income has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 lockdown.

The announcement about the fee waiver scheme was made during a press conference addressed by President PSAJK G N Var after holding deliberations with Parents Association of Privately Administered Schools (PAPAS), trade bodies and representatives of tourism, transporters and other sectors, a statement issued by the schools association here said.

"We are all together in it. The only way by which we can come out stronger from these trying

circumstances is when we help each other," Var said.

"On one hand we have to consider the families who have experienced almost zero income during this lockdown period and on the other hand we have to take care of thousands of employees of private schools. Thankfully together with all the stakeholders we have managed to create a balance between the two," he added.

The Association said that the private schools are very much part of the society and they have been equally affected by the lockdown. The Association said that those families who had zero income during this period will be given upto 100 percent fee waiver.

"Those students whose family income has become zero don't

need to worry about any extra burden. However the students whose parents are government employees, traders in medicine, grocery or doing such jobs which ensured direct or indirect income, will have to pay full fee," said Var.

The Association had classified the private schools in two groups based on the fee slab of Rs 800 per month.

"Schools with fee slab of Rs 800 or lower per month will give upto 50 percent discount to deserving students. They are economy schools and these calculations have been made considering various factors," said Var, adding "The schools where fee is above Rs 800 will provide upto 100 percent fee waiver to deserving students."

The Association said that to ensure that the benefit reaches to each

and every deserving student, every case will be approved after proper verification by concerned school management and a team of PSAJK.

The Association said that all those students whose parents fall in the category of such low or no income category should submit an application for fee waiver with their respective schools and or at PSAJK office by or before 07 July 2020. No application will be entertained after the said date.

"The applications will be cleared in expedited mode after verification," said Var.

"Regarding non-affected families or whose income continued during the lockdown period, they should clear all of their dues immediately," said Var.

The Association said that the private schools are vital for the

entire society and nobody can deny their role.

"In 1990's when entire education sector collapsed it was the private schools who held the beacon of learning," said Var.

"It was the time when all Pandit teachers left and government schools had become defunct. Just imagine if private schools too had shut down at that time, we would have been living in dark ages currently," he added.

The Associations said that currently entire education sector is in crisis mode and the society needs to come forward to help it.

"For the last few years our education sector has been highly stressed. Every year or alternate years schools are being closed for extended period of time. Around 250 private schools have been

closed as they became financially unviable. Even now a number of budget schools are on the brink of closure," said Var, adding "There is an uncertainty regarding opening of schools this year. At this juncture it is imperative upon both the government and public to come forward and rescue these schools for greater good of the society."

The Association said that the government has many schemes to help students of government schools but none for private schools.

"Be it midday meal scheme or free uniform for students everything is for poor students in government schools. Government should treat all students equally be it in private or government schools," said Var.

"Recently government has taken many steps to help the educa-

tion sector, which we appreciate. Now the next step by government should be to help poor students of private schools and in some cases school management and teachers," he added.

The Association said that it is in touch with the government too to explore the idea of providing government help to affected students.

The press conference was also attended by Sheikh Ashiq, President KCCL, AsmaGoni Convener PAPAS, representatives of Kashmir Traders & Manufacturers Association, Kashmir House Boat Owners Association, Kashmir Transport Welfare Association, All Kashmir Auto Rikshaw Association, Kashmir Tourist Taxi/Maxi Cab Transporters Federation and others.

'7 Lakh Kashmiris' Fear...

of Pashmina goats, the prized and popular Cashmere wool is facing the existential crisis.

"We all are aware how Pashmina goats in Ladakh are already dying on a larger scale," Ashiq continued. "Now, if this LAC dispute continues, then our workers, weavers, dyers, artists are going to face tremendous loss."

From ending June every year, Kashmiri Pashmina traders start receiving consignment from Ladakhi nomads – who shear their goats to produce the valued raw Pashmina.

But this year, Ashiq said, it looks like the chain has already been affected.

"A huge chunk of Kashmiri women is part of Pashmina industry. They produce Pashmina threads, weave them into the finest fabric, and do embroidery on shawls," Ashiq said.

"One can only imagine their plight if China continues to occupy the winter pasturelands of Pashmina goats."

Massive Industry At Stake

Kashmir's Pashmina industry is 600-year-old, which produces world-class shawls known for their grace, class, texture and warmth.

The industry of weaving yarns and manufacturing Pashmina shawls and scarfs is huge and caters to a massive market in the valley.

"As a major livelihood activity, there're 6-7 lakhs people involved in the Pashmina industry," said Showket Ahmed Mir, vice president, Genuine Kashmir Cottage handicraft production firm.

"This is their way of income, they're dependent on this. People here are hit by the border disruption and pandemic together. For a long time, the raw material hasn't come down from Ladakh. People are still managing with the old Pashmina stock." Majority of the Pashmina craftsmen, artisans and weavers belong to socio-economically backward classes.

"Most of the Pashmina artists are women, who support their family with their craft," said Parvez Ahmad of Kashmir Artisan Rehabilitation Forum.

"The crisis in the industry is on our head. We haven't got any new supply yet due to LAC faceoff. The entire chain is disturbed right now. Weavers, dyers, embroiders and designers will be badly hit. And these aren't well off people. We're already in a real bad shape and this is going to worsen our condition."

Unending Nightmare

From manufacturing units to the weavers to the distributors, everyone related and engaged to the Pashmina industry is having a tough time today. While New Delhi's "development" promise remains elusive, the Sino-India LAC showdown has only become another nightmare for the artisan community.

"Pashmina industry is slowly getting hit," said Imtiyaz Hussain Mir, a Pashmina manufacturing unit owner. "Few of our units are already out of the stock. The raw materials have not been coming. Our families, workers, artists are dependent on us. For a large number of women in the rural area, Pashmina is the only source of income."

If the standoff continues and China won't retreat, 80 percent of the industry will collapse, Mir said.

"This LAC tension has a huge impact on us," the Pashmina trader continued. "Already our economy is in shambles, and these tensions in the habitat of Pashmina goats are only going to eat away our ancestral self-sustaining line of work now."

India Deploys Missiles, More

a friendly country.

On Thursday, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava at an online media briefing said that China has been amassing a large contingent of troops and armaments along the LAC since early May and had alleged that the conduct of the Chinese forces has been in complete disregard of all mutually agreed norms.

ANI report also said that the Chinese choppers have been flying their very close to the Indian LAC in all the troubled sectors including the Sub Sector North (Daulat Beg Oldie sector), Galwan valley near Patrolling Point 14, Patrolling Point 15, Patrolling Point 17 and 17A (Hot Springs area) along with the Pangong Tso and Finger area where they are now moving closer to the Finger 3 area.

"The Indian quick reaction air defence missile includes the Akash missile which can take down very fast-moving combat aircraft and drones in few seconds and many modifications and upgrades have already been done in it to make it suitable for deployment in the high mountainous terrain," the report says. It adds that fighter aircrafts of the Indian Air Force have also been very active in the Eastern Ladakh area as they are coming into the troubled theatre fully loaded after taking off from the nearby air bases in the plains in few minutes. The report further says that the forces have plugged surveillance gaps and no enemy aircraft would be able to go undetected from the eyes of defence forces.

Soon after the Chinese started transgressing into Indian territory into the May first week, the Indian Air Force had sent its Su-30MKIs to Eastern Ladakh after they were found close to entering the Indian air space there. The Chinese choppers have been coming frequently up to their claim lines in the Ladakh sector including a construction site close to the Galwan valley there, the report added.

Cong Asks PM To 'Take...

be pushed back.

He said the entire nation and the entire opposition would stand behind him and his promise.

Alleging that the last six years have seen the biggest diplomatic failure under the Modi government, the former Union minister said "some quick action" should be taken to resolve the LAC issue with China.

"Some quick action is required," he said seeking early resolution of the border dispute with China, while noting that diplomacy and economic blockade with China would not work.

"Yes, the action should be strong (against China). The quality, nature and the timing of that action has to be decided by the government," he said when asked what "quick action" he was asking for. Sibal said it was for the government to decide and not the opposition.

The Congress leader alleged that China has erected tents and structures near PP-14 in Galwan Valley, the place where 20 Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives. He added that satellite imagery also reflects construction of new black top roads by Chinese forces on the Galwan riverbed, erection of large numbers of military tents and presence of bulldozers and other heavy equipment.

"What is our government doing about it? The PM must clear the air and condemn these brazen Chinese incursions," he said. Asking why the prime minister does not openly and publicly condemn the "brazen acts of infiltrations, incursions and occupation" of Indian territory by China, he said, "I want the PM to publicly condemn China. We will support the prime minister." Sibal said the situation is such that the PM's statement that nobody intruded into India is being used by the Chinese globally.

"We want the prime minister to address the nation and promise that if anyone has captured Indian territory, we will push them back. If you say so, the public and the entire opposition will stand behind you and your promise," he said.

There has been a standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in the eastern Ladakh area for over a month and a bloody clash took place between them on the night of June 15 in the Galwan Valley, resulting in the death of 20 Indian soldiers.

Srinagar Records Season's

of thunderstorm and gusty winds at scattered places across the Valley on tomorrow (Sunday)

He added that from June 29, the weather will remain mainly dry. (KNO)

KCCI Sounds Alarm Over

other districts are equally discouraging. The auction bid for 15 blocks in Pulwama has jumped from the previous Rs 2 Crores to a whopping Rs 17.82 Crores. There is no way that the local contractors can compete and thus disadvantaged," the spokesperson said.

He said while the Government may see the increase in revenue as a positive sign, the consequential increase in material costs for the consumers suggest that it is the locals consumers who have to pay the price.

"Instead of money flowing into the local economy there is all likelihood of a reverse outflow. The introduction of heavy machinery in the extraction process would leave the local sand diggers jobless and the environmental costs are also worrying," the spokesperson said.

"A non-local syndicate appears to have altogether muscled out local stakeholders and is now indulging in aggressive and unfair trade practices. The cost of sand has been more than doubled," he added.

The spokesperson further said that with the constitutional changes introduced post August 2019, the government was expected to be fully alert with regard to protection of local economic interests from predacious groups.

"The first claim on local resources rightfully belongs to the natives of Kashmir and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir – whatever constitutional structure it may acquire – is duty bound to protect the legitimate entitlement of people of Jammu and Kashmir. Utmost caution needs to be exercised in formulation of economic policies which may otherwise appear to dilute their claims or prove detrimental to the interests of people connected with trade, commerce and industry," the KCCI spokesperson said.

The KCCI urged government for urgent review of the mining and extraction policy to address local interests and incorporate protective clauses for stakeholders and consumers.

"The district wise share of local stakeholders needs to be reserved to the extent of nothing less than 80 percent and market prices of materials need to be capped. It is further urged that the engagement of local labour for sand digging be made mandatory and use of heavy machinery restricted," the spokesperson said.

The trade body urged LG Murmu to order the implementation of the new mining or extraction policy in abeyance till the time a revised policy is announced in consultation with stakeholders.

J&K Govt Speeds Up ...

examination in an educational institution in the UT are eligible for grant of domicile.

Children of Central Government officials, All India service Officers, officials of PSUs and Autonomous body of Central Government, Public Sector Banks, Officials of Statutory bodies, Officials of Central Universities and recognized research institutes of the Central Government, who have served in the Union territory of Jammu of Kashmir for a total period of ten years will also be eligible for Domicile status in the UT.

"Besides, all those migrants and their children who are registered with Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner will be granted Domicile certificate. Children of those residents of Jammu and Kashmir who reside outside the Union territory in connection with their employment of business or other professional or vocational reasons have become eligible for grant of domicile status," the official spokesperson said.

"West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs), Safai Karamcharis and Children of Women married outside Jammu and Kashmir who were earlier deprived are also eligible for Domicile Certificate. West Pakistani Refugees were part of the Parliamentary electoral roll but not of the erstwhile state electoral roll. They will now be covered under the 15 year residence rule or their children under the 7 year/ class 10/12 rule," he added.

MoS Jitendra, 8980 Others..

regulations and documentary formalities and accordingly Tehsildar Doda issued domicile certificate in his favour," officials added.

According to the officials, mass distribution of domicile certificates is on in Doda district as per the directions of the JK UT administration.

"Special camps are being organised by the District Administra-

tion whereat concerned Tehsildars are issuing domicile certificates on the spot. As per the district administration, around 8980 domicile certificates have been issued across the district by the respective Tehsildars," officials said.

Pak Rejects Grant Of...

The Foreign Office "rejected" the grant of domicile certificates by India to the people not originally from Jammu and Kashmir.

"The certificates issued to non-Kashmiris including, among others, the Indian government officials under Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure), 2020' are illegal, void and in complete violation of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, and International law including the 4th Geneva Convention, the FO said.

It asked the international community to intervene to stop India from what it called "changing the demographic structure of Kashmir".

No Summer Respite From...

the season," he added.

Dr Nisar said Covid-19 infection is likely to spread throughout the summer.

Quoting a new study published in Canadian Medical Association Journal, he said summer won't halt the spread of Covid as was previously hoped.

Dr Nisar said policy makers and public should remain vigilant in their response to the pandemic, rather than assuming that summer climate will naturally prevent spread of the virus.

"Studies have shown that public health measures like restrictions on mass gatherings, school closure, physical distancing and wearing face mask play an important role in stemming the spread of the disease," he said.

"People must continue to follow health guidelines and if they don't, we will end up in a big outbreak which will be difficult to control," said Dr Nisar.

3 More Covid-19 Deaths...

On Friday night, a 70-year-old woman from Sopore area of north Kashmir died at SMHS hospital, they said.

According to the officials, she was admitted to the hospital on Thursday and was suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia.

Her sample was taken on Friday and it returned as positive after her death, they said.

The third death was confirmed the officials at the Chest Diseases hospital here on Saturday evening.

The 70-year-old man from Mishipora, Kulgam died at CD hospital, one of the exclusive facilities for the covid-19 patients in Kashmir Valley.

The septuagenarian was shifted from SMHS with bilateral covid pneumonia in critical condition. He died on arrival at CD hospital Emergency ward today evening," Dr Salim Tak, medical Superintendent CD hospital said.

With these fatalities, the death toll in J&K due to COVID-19 has reached 94 – 83 in Valley and 11 in Jammu division.

Srinagar, with 22 deaths tops the list of Covid-19 fatalities followed by 15 in Baramulla, 13 in Kulgam, 10 in Shopian, seven each in Budgam & Jammu, six in Anantnag, five in Kupwara, four in Pulwama and one each in Bandipora, Udhampur, Doda, Poonch and Rajouri districts.

35 Paramilitary Men, 2 ...

virus, raising the number of infected people across the Union Territory to 6966.

"204 new Covid-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 191 of them are from Kashmir, 13 are from Jammu," the officials said. Among fresh cases, 52 cases were reported from Baramulla followed by 49 from Srinagar, 26 from Shopian, 20 from Pulwama, 13 from Budgam, nine from Kupwara, eight from Kulgam, six from Anantnag, four each from Bandipora & Ganderbal, three each Jammu & Rajouri, two each from Udhampur, Ramban & Kishtwar and one from Samba, they said.

Among today's new cases include 31 CRPF personnel from 44 battalion posted in HMT Srinagar, two BSF men from 102 battalion Kupwara and two soldiers from army's Badamibagh cantonment. Besides it, the fresh cases also comprise six-month-old baby and three other minors.

The officials said that 145 more patients recovered and were discharged from different hospitals.

The number of confirmed cases has now reached 6,966 out of which 5,475 are in Kashmir, while 1,509 are in Jammu, the officials said.

There are 2,648 active cases of the coronavirus disease in J&K – 2,200 in Kashmir and 448 in Jammu – and 4,225 (3,175 from Kashmir and 1,050 from Jammu) patients have recovered, according to officials.

The J&K has witnessed 94 Covid-19 (83 from Kashmir, 11 from Jammu) deaths so far.

29 Foreign Militants Active...

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a wreath-laying ceremony of the CRPF personnel killed in a militant attack in Bijbehara area of Anantnag district on Friday.

Asked whether foreign militants are a bigger challenge or the local ones, the IGP said both are a challenge but the forces are experienced enough to deal with them.

"Foreign militants or locals both are a challenge even though foreigners are more trained. Our security forces, especially SOG boys, are well trained and have been working for the last 25 years and we have developed an expertise in dealing with them. What matters is the pinpoint information and once we get it, we will neutralise them," he said.

Police Busts 'Narco-Militant

of the arrested.

"Kupwara Police & Army got huge success by arresting 02 #Nar-

coTerror #associates. Seized 13.5 Kg #narcotic substance worth of approx Rs 65 Cr (sic)," the Kashmir Zone Police said on its official Twitter handle.

A case has been registered and an investigation is in progress, the police said.

Was Asked To Quit Politics...

September last year itself. They told me that since I'm facing several health issues it would be better for me to come out of the jail and go home," he said.

The 69-year-old politician was released last week after Jammu and Kashmir authorities revoked his detention under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA). After he was placed under house arrest, he was visited by two officials of the estates department at 11am on Thursday, 'asking him to vacate his government accommodation in five hours or face forcible eviction'.

The house was allotted to him few years ago as he was a "protected person" in view of the threat perception. Akhtar had sold his own house in city's Barzulla locality some time ago after it was damaged in a series of attacks allegedly carried out by militants and protesters.

Currently living at his sister's place and planning to shift to a rented accommodation, Akhtar said he was asked to sign a "horribly worded" bond in detention.

"I don't think that people even in an autocracy would be asked to sign such a bond," Akhtar said who was shifted from a city hotel to Srinagar's MLAs hostel, also declared a subsidiary jail.

He said he was again visited by some officials who told him that considering his age and failing health, the government was willing to set him free on the condition that he agreed to retire from politics.

"They also told me that 'you are an elderly person', to which I said that there are many people who are older than me and yet incarcerated and that they should take a view of everybody if they are really concerned about our age and health issues," the former minister, whose PSA detention order mentions his endorsement to Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani's autobiography for students as an education minister, said.

"I told them that more than 100,000 people have already lost their lives in the three-decade-old turmoil, many of them just 14-15 years old. If an old man dies in your prison it won't be a big deal and I won't consider it as a sacrifice."

Akhtar said that it was after this meeting that he was detained under the PSA.

"After some time, I was again approached by some people who were not locals. I told them that the solution of Kashmir issue can't be evaded even if the government of India reduces J&K to a municipality," he said.

"I was unexpectedly released from the makeshift jail after my detention under the PSA was revoked last week. However, after being taken to my home I was placed under house arrest and barred from meeting anybody, including media representatives. I have also been instructed not to venture out without permission."

Farooq Abdullah Inaugurates

in the Valley once the pandemic is over.

"We will start hot shops, and Sunday stations on the lines of Nirula's CP branch. We will keep on adding varieties," he said.

"Brand doesn't need any introduction or endorsement. Nirula's is an oldest brand in India. I am optimistic this business venture will go well," he added.

Hizb Militant, 12 Others...

with harbouring, transportation and providing other logistic and financial aid to the active militants.

Saroori is the longest surviving militant active in Kishtwar over the past over 30 years and was the brain behind the revival of militancy in the district after a decade by killing a BJP leader and his brother in November 2018.

The killing followed the sensational militant attack in district hospital in April 2019 that left an RSS functionary and his personal security officer dead.

Though several militants involved in the killing were either killed or captured, Saroori is still at large along with a couple of his associates.

Earlier this month, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said Chenab valley districts of Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar in the Jammu region have almost been cleared of militancy once again.

Chenab valley has reached a stage where it will be declared militancy free shortly. No militant presence is in Ramban, one militant namely Masood from Doda is active in Kashmir, while three militants -- Saroori, Mudasir and Riaz -- are active in Kishtwar and are on the run. We are hopeful of clearing the area of the militancy, the DGP had said.

Army Driver Booked Over...

was evacuated to a nearby hospital. However doctors declared him brought dead. (GNS)

College Student Feared...

reports came in the boy could not be traced," Superintendent of Police, Baderwah, Raj Singh Gouria told PTI.

He said a teenager had also drowned at the same place last year.

14 More Test COVID-19 ...

the officials said.

One person from Leh had died of the disease, they added. Seventy patients were discharged after recovery in Kargil, while 17 patients recovered in Leh district, the officials said.

So far, 554 patients have recovered from the infection in both the districts, including 400 in Kargil, the officials said.

The number of active cases of COVID-19 in Ladakh has dropped to 405 -- 104 in Leh and 301 in Kargil -- and the condition of all of them is stable, they said.



J&K PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.
(A J&K Govt. Undertaking)

e-NIT No: 17/E/I of 2020-21 Dt. 23-06-2020

On behalf of Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Ltd., the Deputy General Manager, Unit Electrical JKPC Ltd., Jammu invites e-tenders from approved and eligible electric contractors registered with JKPC Ltd./J&K Govt./CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Govt. undertaking for the following work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of document	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1.	External Electrification of Library, Hostel and Administrative Block of BGSBU Rajouri	Rs 19.00 Lacs	Rs.500/-	Rs. 38,000.00	In tandem with civil works	"A"

Qualification criteria, scope of work, tender documents, BOQ and all other terms & conditions can be seen and downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in.

Critical Dates:

1.	Period of downloading of NIT	24.06.2020. to 30 .06.2020 up to 1400 Hrs.
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	25.06.2020 at 1230 Hrs. in Office of Deputy General Manager, JKPC Ltd., Rail Head Complex, Jammu
3.	Bid submission dates along with proof of cost of Tender Document and EMD	26.06.2020 to 30.06.2020 up to 1400 Hrs.
4.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	02.07.2020 at 1230 Hrs. in Office of Deputy General Manager, JKPC Ltd., Rail Head Complex, Jammu
5.	Hard Copies of Technical Bid will be invited from L1 only	

Any other information regarding the e-tendering process can be had from the office of undersigned or e-tendering Cell, Jammu.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager,
Unit -Electrical, JKPC Ltd.
Jammu.

No: DGM/E/I/253-57 DIPK-NB-1006/20
Dated : 23-06-2020

Office of the Executive Engineer, Civil Maintenance Division, Sindh Valley Projects Kangan.

E-mail:-xensindh@gmail.com

e-NIT No: CMD/SVP/K/ 02 of 2020-21
D a t e d : 22.06.2020

For and on behalf of Managing Director Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited e-tenders (in single cover) are invited on itemized rates from Registered PWD Contractors of appropriate classes of J&K State for the following work:-

S No.	Name of work (CAPITAL WORKS)	Approx. Cost. Rs in lacs	Earnest money @ 2% & in 1% Rs	Class of Contract or	Time	Cost of Tender Document
1	Clearance of silt from forebay of USHP-I Sumbal.	1.50	3000.00	DEE Class	04 days	200.00

Position of AAA / TS: Submitted. **Position of Funds: Demanded**

1. The bidding documents consisting of BOQ (bill of quantities), set of terms and conditions of the contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the Departmental Website www.jktenders.gov.in
Date and time schedule for e-NIT:

Document download start date	27.06.2020 from 1000 hours
Document download end date	02.07.2020 up to 1800 hours
Bid submission start date.	28.02.2020 up to 1000 hours
Bid Submission close date	03.07.2020 Up to 1800 hours
Date & time of opening of Bids (on line).	04.07.2020 At 1000 hours.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of the tender documents in the shape of **demand draft in favor of "Executive Engineer, Civil Maintenance Division, and Sindh Valley Projects Kangan."** (Tender Inviting & Tender Opening Authority) and earnest money / bid security in the shape of **CDR pledged to "The Executive Engineer CMD Sindh Valley Projects Kangan."**

The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in / www.jkspdc.nic.in and conveyed to bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail addresses. The bids of responsive bidders shall be **opened on same website in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Maintenance Division, Sindh Valley Projects Kangan, on the scheduled dates and time.**

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:

- Any bidder/ tenderer with-draws his bid / tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time.
- Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Notes: -

- Cement to be used (JK Cement Jhelum Brand/Ambuja Cement/ACC Cement).
- Steel shall be from (SAIL).
- Rates to be quoted shall be inclusive of all materials, cement / steel / aggregate etc. and all Taxes in vogue in the State.
- No escalation will be paid to the agency on the allotted rates under whatever conditions.
- No claim will be entertained on account of dewatering / pumping / diversion etc.

Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process:

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option form "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in / www.jkspdc.nic.in acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid shall be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time and schedule mentioned in para-01 above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. The original / photo copies of documents related to the bid should be submitted physically / by registered post or through courier before the date specified in para-01 above.
- To scan all the documents on PDF with Black & White option.
- The Corporation will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
- Scanned copies of tender documents and Demand Drafts in favour of "Executive Engineer Civil Maintenance Division, Sindh Valley Projects Kangan" (Tender Inviting/ Opening Authority) and earnest money in the shape of CDR pledged to "Executive Engineer CMD Sindh Valley Projects Kangan for the work advertised in this e-NIT" must be uploaded with the documents of bid. **The original Demand Draft as cost of tender document, CDR as earnest money / bid security and relevant bid documents (attested copies of Registration cert's, Tin/GST No, PAN card's etc.) for the work may be sent to the office of Ex. Engineer Civil Maintenance Division, Sindh Valley Projects Kangan,** as convenient to the bidder.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to make similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the items inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- In case any date out of time schedule specified in the N.I.T. being a holiday or so the respective date will be considered on next official working day.

Performance security:
In case of lowest bid value is below the advertised cost, following additional Performance security in the shape of CDR, shall have to be deposited by the lowest bidder within 7 days from the date of intimation.
Up to 15% below the advertised cost = Nil
Beyond 15% below the advertised cost = 5%

In case of failure to deposit the additional performance security within the stipulated period, earnest money shall be forfeited and tender be considered as invalid and rejected. The performance security deposited shall be released after successful completion of work.

Price escalation and taxes:
The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed included price escalation and all taxes up to completion of work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contract on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery. No escalation is payable in respect of the instant contract. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" in their user on JKSPDC e-tendering portal to store documents as are required.

Nothing extra shall be paid on account of deviation, maintenance of service roads, diversion of irrigation khuls, etc.

For and on behalf of Managing Director JKSPDC.

No: CMD/ SVP/ K/ Executive Engineer
Dated: CMD SVP Kangan
DIPK-NB-997/20

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

Tender Notice

e-NIT No. STD-II / 07 of 2020-21 Dated:- 25-06-2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, (In Two Cover System) is hereby invited from reputed A-class electrical contractors / firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways /DGBPO or inspection Agency of Jammu and Kashmir, Power Development Department for "Repairs and Maintenance of 33/11KV Receiving stations falling under the jurisdiction of sub division-III, in Sub transmission division-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar for the year 2020-21 or till next rate contract.

SNO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	"Repairs and Maintenance of 33/11KV Receiving stations falling under the jurisdiction of sub division-III, Rawalpura in Sub transmission division-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar for the year 2020-21 or till next rate contract.	Rs. 31,100.00	Rs 1000.00	16-07-2020; 2:30pm

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 26-06-2020; 16:00PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	26-06-2020; 16:00PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	16-07-2020; 2:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	04-07-2020; 10:00am
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	16-07-2020; 2:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	17-07-2020; 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 31100.00 (Rupees Thirty One Thousand One Hundred only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No demand Draft shall be accepted.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
- Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e- Bids/ the e- Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" class III(b) As per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer along with original CDR and e-Challan /Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm should be clearly written on the cover.

The name of the bidder along with correspondence address and e-NIT no. should be clearly written on the cover. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar.

DIPK-NB-1025/20

No.: STD-II/339-41/Ts Dated:- 25-06-2020

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PHE DIVISION QAZIGUND

E-mail : gazigundphedivision@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 01931-235139

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NIT No: 11/EE/PHE/Qazigund/ 630-42 of 2020-21 Dated 24/06/2020.

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders in single cover system are invited **on item rate basis** from registered **Self Help Group of Engineers of District Anantnag** whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules for the following work:-

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs.in lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rupees)	Class of Contract	Time for Compl.	Cost of tender Document
1	Providing 80mm dia GI shunt line from Tangdar up to Badasgam due to widening of Hakura Badasgam Road by PMGSY Department (under Deposit Contib.)	2.87	2870.00	"SHG"	07 days	200/=

Position of funds : Demanded Position of AA : Submitted


- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), terms & condition of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the details shown below:-

i	Download start date	24/06/2020 from 04.00 PM
ii	Download end date	24/06/2020 from 04.00 PM
iii	Bid submission start date	24/06/2020 from 04.00 PM
iv	Bid submission end date	30/06/2020 upto 06.00 PM
v	Bid opening date	01/07/2020 at 10.00 AM
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz. Earnest Money and Additional Performance Security Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer PHE Division Qazigund and cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan as shown against the each item advertised which should be credited to MH:0215-PHE Government Account as per the format devised / attached with this NIT. Pre-dated CDRs shall not be accepted. Besides, the NIT No. & item No. of the work/ name of work should be clearly written on the Treasury Challan.
- Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25 double/Tender document.
No: PHQ/630-42
Dtd: 24/06/2020

Executive Engineer
PHE Division Qazigund


DIPK-2207/20

DIAL-EMMA



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


AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 


RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI CALENDAR

06 Zu al-Qa'dah 1441

PRAYERS	
FAJR	3: 37
ZUHR	12: 33
ASR	5:34
Magrib	7:50
ISHA	9:31

This Day In History

- 767 - St Paul I ends his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1098 - Fighters of the First Crusade defeat Kerbogha of Mosul.
- 1119 - Battle of Sarmada - Emir Ighazi defeats French Crusaders
- 1389- Ottomans defeat Serbian army in the bloody Battle of Kosovo, opening the way for the Ottoman conquest of Southeastern Europe (see Vidovdan).
- 1635 - French colony of Guadeloupe established in Caribbean
- 1651 - Battle of Beresteczko between Poles and Ukrainians starts.
- 1675 - Battle at Fehrbellin: Brandenburg army beats Sweden
- 1762-Russian tsarina Catherine II seizes power, declaring herself Catherine II, the sovereign ruler of Russia
- 1778 - Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey (General Washington beats Clinton)
- 1778 - Mary Ludwig Hayes "Molly Pitcher" aids American patriots
- 1807 - British troops land at Ensenada, Argentina
- 1820 - Tomato is proven to be non-poisonous by Colonel Robert Gibbon eating a tomato on steps of courthouse in Salem, New Jersey
- 1895 - French painter Paul Gauguin leaves France for Tahiti for the second time
- 1902- US buys concession to build Panama canal from French for \$40 million
- 1902- Germany, Italy, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire renew their Triple Alliance for six more years
- 1904-International Anti-Military Cooperation (IAMV) forms in Amsterdam
- 1919- Treaty of Versailles, ending WWI and establishing the League of Nations, is signed in France
- 1936- The Japanese puppet state of Mengjiang is formed in northern China.
- 1941- German & Romanian soldiers kill 11,000 Jews in Kishinev
- 1941- German troops occupy Galicia, Poland
- 1950 - North Korean forces capture Seoul, South Korea in opening phase of the Korean War
- 1956-1st atomic reactor built for private research operates Chicago III
- 1964- Organization for Afro-American Unity formed in New York by Malcolm X
- 1967- Israel annexes East Jerusalem
- 1971 - US Supreme Court (8-0) overrules draft evasion conviction of Muhammad Ali
- 1973 - New Zealand ship HMNZS Otago sails for Mururoa nuclear test zone after France's refusal to accept an International Court of Justice injunction against its atmospheric nuclear testing
- 1973 - Northern Ireland Assembly elections take place
- 1974 - Fall of earth and rocks kill 200 (Quebrada Blanca Canyon, Colombia)
- 1976 - Three British mercenaries are sentenced to death for their part in the Angolan civil war
- 1977 - The United Party, main political opposition party in South Africa, is formally disbanded by the majority faction after members leave the party to join other new political parties
- 1981 - 74 government officials die in attack in Iran
- 1982 - Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales, name their baby "William"
- 1983-NASA launches Galaxy-A
- 1991- South Africa signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- 2004- Estonia, Lithuania and Slovenia join the European Exchange Rate Mechanism
- 2004-The 17th NATO Summit starts in Istanbul.
- 2004- Sovereign power is handed to the interim government of Iraq by the Coalition Provisional Authority, ending the U.S.-led rule of that nation.
- 2006- The Republic of Montenegro was admitted as the 192nd Member of the United Nations by General Assembly resolution 60/264
- 2011 - Christine Lagarde becomes the 1st woman to be elected head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- 2012 - A series of car bombs in Iraq kills 14 and injures 50 people
- 2015 - Greek Credit Crisis: Greek government says banks closed for a week and ATM withdrawals restricted after European Central Bank refused to supply emergency funds
- 2016 - Suicide bombings and gun attacks at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport kill 42 and wound more than 200
- 2017 - Wilshire Grand Center becomes the tallest building in Los Angeles and in the US west of the Mississippi at 1,100 ft
- 2017 - China's president, Xi Jinping begins 3 day trip to Hong Kong to mark 20 years since the territory handed back to China

From KO Archives

Geelani accuses Pak of influencing OIC's move

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - perturbed over not being invited for OIC foreign ministers' meet in Yemen, the hard-line Hurriyat Conference today charged Pakistan with using its good offices in getting invitation for Mirwaiz-led Hurriyat from OIC and justifying its decision to recognise that faction as the real one.

"Since Pakistan recognises Mirwaiz Umer Farooq led Hurriyat as real Hurriyat to prove its decision correct it used its good offices and got invitation from OIC for the Hurriyat, hardline Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shall Geelani told here.

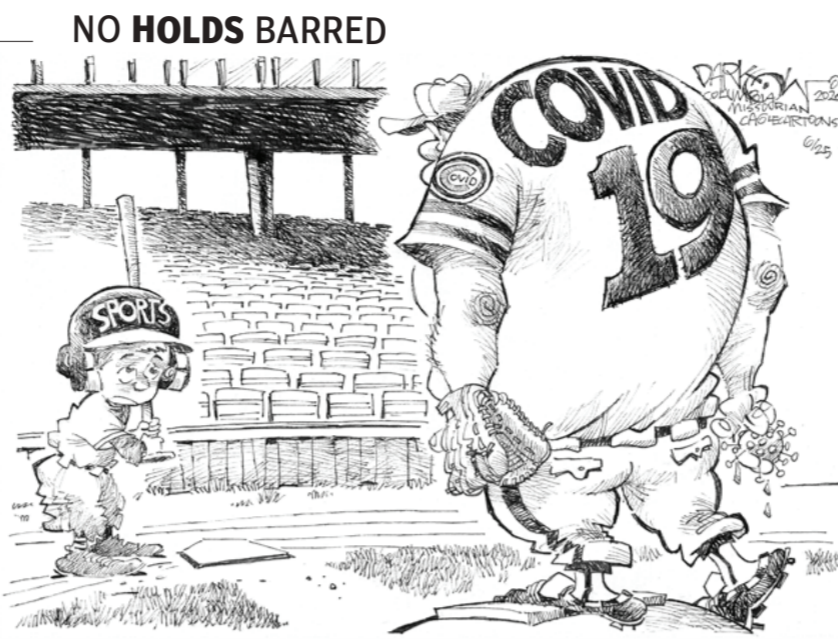
However, he said he was not worried for not being invited by OIC as Islamic countries have no role with regard to Kashmir issue.

"I Trust in God and not Islamic countries for resolution of Kashmir issue." he added.

Geelani said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have to decide and support the Hurriyat which represents them correctly.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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A careful reading of history will reveal that at almost every point, the most important decisions regarding the state, which have serious impact on the future of its people, have been taken “for” them from above and not “with” them

When Hoodbhoy Loses Job

Pakistani academician’s situation is reflective of the moral and intellectual crisis prevailing in most parts of the Muslim world

FAHEEM GUNDROO

For Al Ghazali the reason was enemy of Islam. In his celebrated tractate, The Incoherence of Philosophers, al Ghazali set out to show that reason, enshrined in the writings of western philosophers like Plato and Aristotle leads to nothing but darkness

The genesis of western civilization lies in the religion of Israel, culture of Greece and laws of Rome. Western civilization has continuously experimented with institutions, ideas, new scientific beliefs, new forms of political order. This continuous tradition of reinvention and experiment led to Enlightenment, to democracy, to social orders which believe in freedom of speech and opinion, freedom of religion and clear distinction between religious clergy and politics.

Pervez Hoodbhoy, a well known physicist in Pakistan was recently caught in controversy. Some of his statements of late were asking for trouble. I knew something was brimming underneath. Finally the apprehension came true. His university refused to renew his contract for next year. Happens often in our part of the world. Ultimately, however, it's the state's own loss and that of its people. Hoodbhoy will be welcomed by any top university in the west. He will be another addition to sub-continent's growing forced immigration.

Why have Muslims closed the doors to reason and science. Why is that a civilization which rose with such abundance of energy in the seventh century Hejaz area, and which spread across Africa, Far East to produce universities, libraries and a rule of law, in so many places is mute and resentful. Averse to ideas of science and civil liberties.

If the heart of Islam looked towards Mecca, its brain looked towards Cairo, Istanbul and Tehran. In that case, any development in Egypt's political capital has far reaching consequences on entire Muslim world. When in 1981 Anwar Sa-

dat was assassinated by his own guards, it was a triumph of takfiri Islam, which declares impious or unjust Muslims to be deserving of death- a basic precept behind many of today's militant groups. The actual story though goes a little back in time.

The downfall of Islamic civilization started almost around 12th century. By then many factions had developed, none more bigger than the shias with the rise of Safavid dynasty in Persia in later centuries. Cataclysmic events like the Crusades, the Mongol invasion led to doubt and turmoil in Muslim world. A consequent internal struggle led to defeat of Islam's philosophical thinkers at the hands of their purist opponents. Rationalism was seen as a culprit. In the words of Imam Ghazali and Ibn Taymiyyah, the goal of the believer was not to know God, but to obey him. It was a master-slave relationship, far different to what earlier Muslim thinkers like Ibn Rushd, Ibn Sina saw it as.

The moral and intellectual crisis in the Muslim world led to its turning back on philosophy and taking refuge in dogma. The Ash'rite sect in Muslim found a potent voice in Imam Ghazali (died in 1111), a brilliant philosopher and theologian. As per him the human reason teaches us to ask questions, discover things, and to make new laws for better governance. For Al Ghazali the reason was enemy of Islam. In his celebrated tractate, The Incoherence of Philosophers, al Ghazali set out to show that reason, enshrined in the writings of western philosophers like Plato and Aristotle leads to nothing but darkness. His arguments were soundly refuted by Ibn

Rushd in his The Incoherence of the Incoherence, but it was that moment of reckoning where Muslims turned to Ash'rite doctrine. Ibn Rushd was sent from Andalusia into exile, and the voice of reason was heard no more in the courts of Sunni Muslim princes.

The assault on philosophy went hand-in-hand with an equally determined assault on law and jurisprudence. The early Islamic jurists had sought to arbitrate Quran and traditions with demands of justice, and had developed a system of law which could be applied in developing circumstances of social life. The interpretation of the law was subject to study and amendment by individual effort called Ijtihad. However, in the 11th century of our era, it became accepted that 'the gate of Ijtihad closed' - as al-Ghazali himself declared. Since then no new interpretations of the law can be entertained and what seemed right in 12th century Baghdad or Cairo, is right for 21st century as well.

Over time as Islamic civilization was taken over by European Renaissance in 14th century, the decadence was visible in Muslim world. While west was advancing on ideas of reason and science, by early 20th century, the last Muslim Caliphate fell in Turkey sending Muslim world again in introspection. Following the credo of cause and effect, there rose a movement of Islamic revivalism in Cairo, led by Hassan-al Bana. He and later his disciple Syed Qutb, were fundamentally students of Imam Ghazali and Ibn Taymiyyah. They believed Islam as a total system, meaning classical western concepts of separation of church from state did not apply to Muslim world.

In his seminal work Milestones, Syed Qutb widely criticizes west, blaming it for complete annihilation of humanity and vital values. He stressed on new world leadership. His growing obsession with 'jahiliyah' - the non-muslims and calls for renunciation of everything that belongs to jahili environment was problematic from the onset.

However, like in 12th century, Syed Qutb found followers in abundance across Muslim world and to the day continues to pull weight among young muslims. His works are widely distributed among Muslim diaspora in the west- whose existential crisis is fed by likes of Syed Qutb.

By drawing the curve of Islamic civilization, it is very clear how its medieval glory proved its ability to generate new ideas, leading to wider cause of human development. Science and experiments were at the core of its civilization. By reading Prophet Muhammad's life, it becomes clear on many occasions that this was his purpose. Unfortunately the later decline owes to the shunning of those basic ideas. This was not what Islam had taught. There is in fact a Quranic verse that shows God's displeasure at an inactive mind. "The worst of creatures for Allah are deaf, dumb, those who will not reason."

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AIJAZ ASHRAF WANI

Jammu and Kashmir has been going through a continuous political churn ever since 5 August 2019, when the BJP government in New Delhi abrogated Article 370. Along with revoking its Constitutionally-guaranteed special position, the Centre has abrogated Art 35A and divided it into two Union Territories. Now the government has released new domicile rules for the erstwhile state. The new rules have generated fresh scepticism, fear and suspicion, particularly in the Kashmir valley and the Muslim-dominated regions of Jammu.

The manner in which these decisions are being taken and implemented—during a lockdown, in the midst of a worldwide battle against the Covid-19 pandemic—reaffirms that Kashmir remains in what the Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben has called a “state of exception”.

KASHMIR AS STATE OF EXCEPTION:

If you ask New Delhi why it has taken any harsh step with regards to Kashmir, you will get the answer that it is because Kashmir is not like any other “normal” place. This is true of all governments, irrespective of their leanings to the right or left. Everything from imposing governments to rigging elections, from tightening state surveillance and harsh security laws to growing military presence, is justified in Kashmir in the name of “national security” and its being an “abnormal” place.

For instance, the people of Kashmir are denied basic rights such as access to the internet, which people in the rest of the country can simply take for granted. The same arguments were put forth in defence of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A and for downgrading the state to two Union Territories.

A careful reading of history will reveal that at almost every point, the most important decisions regarding the state, which have serious impact on the future of its people, have been taken “for” them from above and not “with” them. Even the pro-Indian mainstream leaders, be it Sheikh Abdullah and his children or another former chief minister Mufti Sayeed and his

progeny, were sidelined, even declared anti-national at will by governments at the Centre. This has completely eroded the trust of institutions among people—but is this not exactly how a “state of exception” is governed?

In his book, State of Exception, Agamben argues that in areas that are designated exceptional, inhabitants are stripped of their rights, reduced to “bare life” and submitted to the sovereign power of the state. The literary critic Leland de la Durantaye has expanded Agamben’s “state of exception” to mean “that political point at which jurisdiction stops, and a sovereign unaccountability begins; it is where the dam of individual liberties breaks and a society is flooded with the sovereign power of the state.”

Not just individuals, even the authority of elected institutions are taken over by nominated ones as the Centre appropriates the powers of local representative bodies. In other words, encounters with the state as well as basic notions and experiences of state, nation and citizen significantly vary between “peaceful” and “disturbed” areas. The peaceful areas represent the “core” whereas the “disturbed” or “exceptional” areas remain on the margins of the state.

The “state of exception” also constitutes what anthropologist Carolyn Nordstrom calls the “shadows”. In her book, Shadows of War: Violence, Power, and International Profitteering in the Twenty-first Century, Nordstrom defines as the “shadow” those areas which exist as “part of the formal state, but at the same time remain excluded from it in terms of violent realities of everyday life”. To cite such a parallel in Kashmir, while mass protest could be a standard tool of normal politics elsewhere in India, in Kashmir it is unacceptable. This is because from the state’s

point of view protest in Kashmir is a non-violent expression of separatism, which, if left unfettered, would engulf all Muslim-dominated areas of the state.

Recently, the Supreme Court refused to pass an order to restore 4G internet services in Kashmir and instead asked the Centre to constitute a committee to look into the matter. This is ironic in this context, given that it is the government which had banned internet access and has constantly been resisting its restoration at full speed, even in Supreme Court.

INSTITUTIONAL TRUST DEFICIT:

Kashmir is also exceptional in the sense that it was never considered worthy of democracy and civil liberties. Elections were mostly a farce and free and fair polls were seen as an “anti-nation” activity that would hand over Kashmir to “anti-national” forces. Over time, “client” governments imposed on the region by New Delhi had been eroding Kashmir’s special position.

There were exceptions, such as the 1977 election, which was by and large won fair and square by the National Conference. Yet the pressure on the Sheikh Abdullah-headed state government from the authoritarian and interventionist Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was so intense that his Principal Secretary Ghulam Ahmad recorded in his book, My Years with Sheikh Abdullah, that the “erstwhile lion became mortally afraid of Mrs. Gandhi.”

Not much changed as the decades passed. The Abdullahs and the Muftis were choked and made to fall in line from time to time. The policy of imposing governments and the denial of democracy turned the state, as the political scientist Sumantra Bose has said in his book, Contested Lands, into a “...police state in

which civil rights and political liberties were virtually non-existent.”

Not much changed even when militancy began to wane and elections generated huge mass participation. To an extent, the emergence of militancy and the global governance ethic did force the rulers in New Delhi and Srinagar to revisit their strategy of managing the state. Thus, where electoral democracy was regarded as a serious threat to peace for about half a century, in that very place the deepening of the electoral process started being regarded as an effective instrument to restore “order”. In his paper, “Kashmir in 2003: Counterinsurgency and the Paradox of ‘Normalcy’”, the political scientist Paul Staniland notes that such a paradox arises when “...liberal democracy clashes with the state’s preference for a political status quo.”

That is, the state encourages electoral competition but local politics is “carefully controlled and manipulated; the rule of law is hailed, but state accountability is extremely weak” and non-violent protest is the official aspiration of the state, but practically it is “met with heavy-handed security forces”.

Staniland argues that in Kashmir the fundamental spirit of democracy gets compromised because it is a “patronage democracy”. Political parties are propped up and the Centre establishes control over them, through what he calls “patronage money”. While political parties and their leaders are given some leverage, within a Lakshman Rekha, in crucial matters of “security” and the central policies on Kashmir, the local government becomes a non-entity. Political parties may float proposals (such as for autonomy or self-rule) and may raise slogans (“withdraw AFSPA” or ‘promote cross-LoC trade’) but in prac-

tice they do not matter.

Manipulating parties, eroding their credibility and base, and the dual emphasis on patronising and marginalising local governments has undermined governance and democratic credentials in J&K. This politics of manipulation and impunity erodes the trust of people in institutions. This is also clear from the following CSDS-Lokniti data.

When asked about institutional trust during a post-poll survey in 2002, the sampled respondents expressed their opinion as follows:

Not much has changed over the years. The question was asked during the 2014 election survey as well, and the responses are recorded below.

Similar opinions were expressed with regard to the paramilitary forces as well as local police. It is pertinent to mention that while the data provided here relates only to the Kashmir region, if data for the state as a whole is analysed, one will notice significant regional variations. This variation may not be visible for state institutions, however, with respect to central institutions, the Jammu region, and especially its Hindu dominated areas, show a very positive attitude.

Every move by New Delhi since last August has been carried out with the promise of fostering national integration, stopping militancy and ushering in a new era of development. This idea of developmentalism is not new for Kashmir. It has been used from time to time, with little success. One does not find any noticeable private investment having come to Kashmir since the abrogation of Art 370 and Art 35A. Political activity continues to be curtailed. The prominent Kashmir-based political parties are caught in a Catch-22 situation, while new political formulations are being propped up. On issues such as the domicile law, there is scepticism even in Jammu. There is an eerie silence on the ground and how this is going to unfold only time will tell.

(Aijaz Ashraf Wani is author of What Happened to Governance in Kashmir? published by Oxford University Press in 2019. The views are personal)

COVID-19: Europe is looking at ‘smart lockdowns’

Germany, Italy and Portugal are betting on smaller, local shutdowns to prevent new surge

Ferdinando Giugliano

Smart lockdowns require the collaboration of citizens: Wearing masks and maintaining social distancing are two ways to reduce the risk of a new surge in cases. However, much of the burden falls on governments. They have to identify new cases early through rapid testing and contact tracing in order to circumscribe contagion

European Union countries are experimenting with new ways of dealing with the coronavirus. Germany, Portugal and Italy have all enforced selective or “smart” lockdowns, shutting down smaller regions in response to new outbreaks as opposed to bringing their entire countries to a halt.

This approach is the only hope of returning to a more normal life as we wait for a vaccine. However, it also puts a much larger onus on the public sector compared to generalised lockdowns. Health officials have to ensure small outbreaks do not get out of control and force the need for harsher measures.

Germany has seen a number of outbreaks in abattoirs, leading local governments to declare new lockdowns, such as in the municipality of Guetersloh, and enforce partial lockdowns, such as in the nearby town of Warendorf.

Smart lockdowns require the collaboration of citizens: Wearing masks and maintaining social distancing are two ways to reduce the risk of a new surge in cases. However, much of the burden falls on governments. They have to identify new cases early through rapid testing and contact tracing in order to circumscribe contagion

Over the past few months, Italy has managed to contain some small flare-ups, including one in the tiny region of Molise and one in Rome, without having to impose additional restrictions.

Worrying new spike

But the southern region of Calabria has recently imposed quarantine on an area of the seaside town of Palmi, after a handful of cases were reported. And after a worrying new spike in cases, Portugal has ordered stores in parts of the Lisbon region to shut down early, among other restrictions.

Some of these cases show striking similarities. For example, many of these new outbreaks originated in migrant communities facing overcrowded living quarters or unsafe working conditions.

This was true of one meat processing plant owned by the Toennies Group in Germany, where more than a thousand employees, most of them migrants from Eastern Europe, came down with Covid-19. This was also the case of the much smaller outbreak in Italy’s central region of Marche.

It was similar in Portugal: At the end of May, an outbreak emerged in Lisbon’s Jamaica neighbourhood, which was already struggling with a housing crisis. Health-care facilities are another potential source of contagion, as was the case for the recent flare-up in Rome.

Containing the outbreak

So far, the authorities have managed to contain these outbreaks. In Italy, the number of new infections has been stable in the low hundreds for the past few weeks, despite a substantial reopening of the economy.

In Germany, the reproduction rate “R” of the coronavirus, which measures how many people a virus carrier infects on average, shot up to nearly three last weekend — well above the level of one needed to believe the outbreak is under control.

Fortunately, this factor has begun to decline. According to the country’s Robert Koch Institute, it also



Domenico di Massa and Mariantonia Gangemi embrace their granddaughter Cecilia for the first time in two months after Italy allowed families to see each other again as the country begins a staged end to a nationwide lockdown due to a spread of coronavirus

does not appear to be too alarming since the overall number of cases remains relatively low.

This tailored approach to lockdowns is in no way a repudiation of the more draconian measures most European countries enforced earlier.

Not feasible for all nations

In fact, the current strategy can only work because Europe has largely brought new infections under control. It doesn’t look as feasible for countries such as the US and Brazil, where new infections are still on the rise in many areas.

Smart lockdowns require the collaboration of citizens: Wearing masks and maintaining social distancing are two ways to reduce the risk of a new surge in cases. However, much of the burden falls on governments. They have to identify new cases early through rapid testing and contact tracing in order to circumscribe contagion.

Getting more people to download contact-tracing

apps would help on this front (not enough have done so in France and Italy), but the authorities will also have to ensure local health-care systems have enough staff to trace infections effectively.

Finally, they’ll need to manage the process of reopening borders carefully, especially when it comes to countries that have not yet kept the virus in check.

Of course, all of this may not be enough. A few “superspreader events” or even individual “superspreaders” could prove particularly challenging to manage. But if Europe is successful in this new phase of its fight against the pandemic, the economic and social benefits could be huge.

Only a vaccine or a benign mutation will ensure that the Covid-19 threat is over. Until then, smart lockdowns are the best hope we have.

Ferdinando Giugliano is a columnist specialising in European affairs

Bloomberg

How Millennials Spoofed Superstitions Around Eclipse

Many women in some South Asian communities have false beliefs around food and eclipse

Mahmood Saberi | Gulf News

We have this huge, ancient Indian almond tree just outside the bedroom window and sometimes peacocks from the neighbouring plantation visit us and sit on the branches and scream in the night, and it is like someone being strangled.

Then we have the melodic Koel, and suddenly in the middle of this beautiful bird song, we hear a cat meowing in tune, and it is the Catbird, that mimics various species. So we have chirping and yowling, all at the same time.

A Solar Eclipse does not mean the end of the world, but in many cultures it is still a very inauspicious event that should be avoided by every possible means.

To add to the chorus, there is a strange, deep sonorous sound, that goes ‘whoop’, ‘whoop’ in the darkness. “That is a vampire bat, I am sure, looking for fresh blood,” I tell my wife as she gets up to shut the window, as it becomes even more noisier than the honking traffic on Bellary Road as the night progresses.

Deathly quiet

But today it was deathly quiet. Maybe the birds could sense something was not right, even if you could not witness the Solar Eclipse in Bengaluru.

The only spots where you could see the “ring of fire” in India was from Dehra Dun, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Haryana, as the sun was fully covered by the Moon’s shadow, with only the rim showing.

Birds and animals can sense if anything is wrong and if things are awry in nature. It is said dogs can predict an earthquake and start howling



much before it occurs.

I remember one scene in the War of the Worlds when people are fighting to get on board a ferry to escape from the Aliens who are just behind them, and Lucy the young girl character in the movie, looks up as chaos reigns around her, and sees birds, in their thousands, fleeing from inland to the open waters of the ocean.

A Solar Eclipse does not mean the end of the world, but in many cultures it is still a very inauspicious event that should be avoided by every possible means.

Desi moms and superstitions

Desi moms (moms from the subcontinent and that includes Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi)

stop everyone in the household from eating while the eclipse is on. In India, it is believed that a demon called Rahu comes and swallows the Sun.

On the social media platforms, Indian millennials were having a great time spoofing the superstitions, and of course, the heated topic of discussion was fasting during the eclipse.

It is not just during an eclipse, but Rahu Kalam, the period of time that is inauspicious, occurs every day in India, and there are certain things one is supposed to avoid doing during these hours.

Here is a conversation most people from India can relate to:

Daughter: Mom, the guests will be arriving from 3pm and as you know the wedding ceremony is 3.45 and please let’s not delay anything.

Dad’s voice thundering from inside his room: Which silly priest gave you the auspicious time. Here, look at my calendar, it is Rahu Kalam from 3.15 to 4.15pm. If you marry during this time, there will be suicides, shootings, divorce and general mayhem.

Daughter: Dad, please, neither Anand nor I believe in the stars. Will you take your BP medicine and have a nice cup of chai.

In Dubai, the Indian and other expatriates usually do not forget their traditions, and every time the Solar Eclipse occurs, the head of the Astronomy Department would be inundated with calls from anxious women.

“I tell them, especially the pregnant women, there is nothing to be worried about, and it is just superstition,” he once told the media.

— Mahmood Saberi is a storyteller and blogger based in Bengaluru, India. Twitter: @mahmood_saberi

COVID-19 Triggering Panic Attacks, Depression And Suicides, Say Experts

Press Trust Of India

As the COVID-19 wave sweeps strongly across the India, mental health experts say the pandemic has triggered panic attacks among those who tested positive for the virus, causing bouts of depression and even driving some to the brink of suicide.

According to experts, nervousness, fear of contamination, panic attacks, constant reassurance seeking behaviour, sleep disturbance, excessive worry, feelings of helplessness and probability of an economic slowdown are the major factors leading to depression and anxiety among the people.

Potential job losses, financial burden, uncertainty about the future and fears of running out of food and necessities add to the worries.

Online platforms too have seen a growing number of people seeking help for mental health issues, ranging from anxiety and loneliness to concerns over productivity and job loss

since the outbreak of COVID-19. Director of Institute of Mental Health here, Dr R Purna Chandrika said towards April end about 3,632 calls were received and psychiatric counselling was provided to 2,603 callers.

"We have dedicated services at our centres in the districts and the calls meant for government medical college hospitals are routed to the respective institutions," she said.

Due to heavy virus case-loads, making this city the major contributor to the state's tally, the Greater Chennai Corporation too started a free helpline to help residents cope up with stress during the pandemic.

"From the psychological perspective, we don't find a single human being who is not feeling some degree of stress or anxiety due to coronavirus. The intensity and impact varies from person to person," said Lt Col N T Rajan, director of Chennai-based Mastermind Foundation.

The organisation is involved in free counselling throughout India ever since the first case of



the deadly virus was reported in the country.

The foundation's recommendation on not to deploy the vulnerable in the police force, espe-

cially those above 50 years and women personnel with children below five years for COVID-19 related duty, was accepted and implemented by the Punjab

government.

Psychiatrists feel that further worsening situations could lead to severe mental health issues, even triggering suicidal tendencies.

"Further worsening depression may lead to severe mental health issues and suicidal tendencies," said Dr S Senthil Kumar, a psychiatrist. However, not all of them require medicines, he added.

"The situation is serious. There should be counselling at three stages--on coping with the virus, how to face it if tested positive and how to face life once treated and discharged from the hospital," Rajan said.

Awareness was of paramount importance, he said and warned the pandemic could cause panic attacks while in hospital or drive them to the brink of suicide.

Tamil Nadu, one of the worst affected states with a virus count in excess of 74,000 as of Friday, has witnessed a few instances of suicides allegedly related to COVID-19.

Hari Singh, owner of popular 'Irruttu Kadai' halwa shop in Tirunelveli, allegedly died by committing suicide on Thursday after being tested positive for COVID-19.

He was 80.

Earlier in May, two COVID-19 patients in their 50s allegedly committed suicide in separate instances, at the government hospitals they were admitted to for treatment.

In the city corporation limits, a three-member team comprising a psychiatrist, counsellor and a social worker work for the respective zones.

"We direct certain sections of people like those with withdrawal symptoms and people requiring pills, to visit the doctor at their corporation zonal at a specific time, for medicines," a health worker of the civic body said.

Health platform, Lybrate reported an increase of 180 per cent in online patient consultations related to mental health on its platform between March 1 and June 20 across the country.

The largest increase came from Mumbai and Delhi, followed by Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Bengaluru.

The biggest jump was witnessed in the age group of 25 and 45 years.

Cough, Fever Most Prevalent Symptoms Of Covid-19, Study Confirms

Press Trust Of India

Persistent cough and fever have been confirmed as the most prevalent symptoms of COVID-19, according to a major review of studies which identified fatigue, loss of smell and difficulty in breathing among other major symptoms.

The study, published in the journal PLoS ONE, ratifies the list of symptoms listed by the World Health Organisation at the start of the pandemic.

The researchers, including those from the University of Leeds in the UK, combined data from 148 separate studies to identify the common symptoms experienced by over 24,000 patients from nine countries, including the UK, China and the US.

The researchers said the study is one of the biggest reviews ever con-



ducted into COVID-19 symptoms.

They acknowledged that there is likely to be a large proportion of people who had the virus but did not display symptoms.

"This analysis confirms that a cough and fever were the most common symptoms in people who tested positive with COVID-19,"

Ryckie Wade, a surgeon and Clinical Research Fellow at the Leeds Institute of Medical Research, said.

"This is important because it ensures that people who are symptomatic can be quarantined, so they are not infecting others, Wade said.

Of the 24,410 cases, the study found 78 per cent had a fever, the

researchers said.

As many as 57 per cent reported a cough, which varied across countries, with 76 per cent of patients reporting a cough in the Netherlands compared to 18 per cent in South Korea, they said.

Nearly 31 per cent said they had suffered fatigue, 25 per cent lost the ability to smell, while 23 per cent reported difficulty breathing, according to the researchers.

They believe the variation in the prevalence of symptoms between countries is due, in part, to the way data was collected.

The researchers found that of those patients who needed hospital treatment, 17 per cent needed non-invasive help with their breathing, and 19 per cent had to be looked after in an intensive care unit.

Nine per cent patients required invasive ventilation and two per cent needed an artificial lung, they said.

Scientists Decode Why People Can't Recall Familiar Names At Times

Agencies

NEW YORK- Most of us know that feeling of trying to retrieve a memory that does not come right away and neuroscientists have now identified different sets of individual neurons which help us retrieve memories when required, a hallmark of the human brain's flexibility.

An essential aspect of cognitive flexibility is our ability to selectively search for information in memory when we need it.

"This is the first time neurons have been described in the human brain that signal memory-based decisions. In addition, our study shows how memories are transferred to the frontal lobe selectively and only when needed," explained senior author Ueli Rutishauser, visiting associate in biology and bio-engineering at California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

The study, published in the journal Science and which has implications for the treatment of memory problems associated with Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, and schizophrenia, was performed in patients who were already undergoing brain surgery for treatment of their seizures.

The volunteers viewed images on a screen and answered different types of questions about the images, while the researchers from Caltech and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles recorded the activity of individual neurons in their brains using implanted electrodes.

For example, a subject might be

shown a picture of somebody they had never seen before and asked, "Have you seen this face before?" or "Is this a face?"

The two questions, respectively, help the researchers distinguish between a memory-based decision and a decision based not on memories but categories, such as faces.

"We make decisions based on retrieved memories all the time," says lead author Juri Minxha, a postdoctoral scholar at Cedars Sinai.

"In this study, we asked simple yes or no questions designed to cause a volunteer to access either



their recent memory or their categorical knowledge."

The encoding and retrieval of memories occurs in the lower-middle portion of the brain in a region called the medial temporal lobe, which includes the hippocampus.

Decision-making processes involve a region at the front of the brain called the medial frontal cortex.

The ability to flexibly engage and utilize our memories to make decisions depends on interactions between the frontal and temporal lobes.

In the study, the researchers monitored single neurons in both the temporal lobe and the frontal lobe of 13 subjects.

Study Explains How Smartphones Empower Women In Less Developed Countries

Agencies

Women who have access to mobile phones in less or least developed countries are more likely to be involved in decision making, hence, bringing a chance of empowerment, according to a recent study.

Putting smartphones in women's hands could be a powerful tool to support sustainable development goals in the developing world, according to researchers from McGill University, University of Oxford, and Bocconi University.

The study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences covers 209 countries between 1993 and 2017 and shows that access to mobile phones is associated with multiple indicators linked to global social development, such as good health, gender equality, and poverty reduction.

In an effort to better understand how mobile phones empower women, the authors also conducted an individual-level analysis on 100,000 women from Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe between 2015 and 2017.

Though these sub-Saharan countries show slow fertility decline and infant and maternal mortality rates remain high, the adoption of mobile phones is fast spreading.

Results indicate that other things being equal, women who own mobile phone have a 1 per cent higher probability of being involved in decision-making pro-



cesses about contraception, 2 per cent higher likelihood of using modern contraceptive methods, and a 3 per cent higher likelihood of knowing where to get tested for HIV with respect to women who do not own a phone.

These effects are sizeable, as they are comparable to, if not bigger than, the effects of living in an urban area compared to living in a rural area. Similar effects are estimated on higher overall decision-making power within the household.

According to the researchers, improved knowledge and enhanced decision-making power are the likely pathways through which the macro-level results emerge. The analysis of individual data also confirms that the effects are stronger in poorer and more isolated areas.

Still, despite the proliferation of mobile networks, the researchers acknowledge that digital divides by gender and socioeconomic strata persist in the developing world.

Women are less likely to own mobile phones on their own, use them less often when they have access, and have poorer information and communications technology skills compared to men, creating second-level (skill-related) digital divides on top of first-level (access-related) ones.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir
Scholarship Name 1: IDFC FIRST Bank MBA Scholarship 2020-22

DESCRIPTION: IDFC FIRST Bank is providing scholarships to students enrolled in 1st year of 2-year full-time MBA programmes across selected colleges in India. The scholarship programme is aimed at helping MBA students who need financial support in managing their tuition fees.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian students who are enrolled in the 1st year of full-time MBA programmes at selected educational institutions may apply for this scholarship. Students must have an annual family income not more than INR 6 Lakh to be eligible to apply for this scholarship.

PRIZES & REWARDS: Selected scholars will be provided with INR 1 Lakh per annum for 2 years of their full-time MBA/PGDM or equivalent programme.

Last Date to Apply: 31-07-2020
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IFMS2



Scholarship Name 2: IIST Thiruvananthapuram Department of Space Junior/Senior Research Fellowship 2020

DESCRIPTION: Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) invites applications for IIST Thiruvananthapuram Department of Space Junior/Senior Research Fellowship 2020 from postgraduate students. The fellowship is meant for the DST-SERB funded project titled, "Investigation, Design and Implementation of Multifunctional 5G Antenna systems for Cognitive Radio mm-wave applications".

ELIGIBILITY: The fellowship is open for candidates below 35 years of age who hold an ME/ MTech degree in RF and Microwave Engineering or equivalent areas and have 2 years of experience in Antenna Design/Simulation and Measurements (for SRF). The candidates who hold an MSc in Physics/ Astronomy & Astrophysics/ Space Physics or integrated MS/ MSc (Physics) with a valid UGC-CSIR NET-JRF/ UGC-CSIR NET Lectureship/ JEST/ GATE in Physics score can also apply.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 35,000 per month plus HRA

Last Date to Apply: 06-07-2020
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IIOT

Scholarship Name 3: Toppr Asha Program

DESCRIPTION: Toppr invites applications from Class 9 to 12 students (Science and Commerce stream) for its free online learning-cum-reward program - Toppr Asha. This program is supported by Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. Toppr Asha is meant to provide free learning support to the meritorious students belonging to underserved and low-income families.

ELIGIBILITY: The program is open for Class 9 to 12 (Science & Commerce stream) students. They must have a smartphone and must be comfortable giving assessment tests in English language. The annual income of the family should be equal to or less than INR 3 lakh per annum.

Prizes & Rewards: Free annual Toppr Advance Pack subscription and rewards worth up to INR 10,000 based on student's performance in year-end assessment

Last Date to Apply: 15-07-2020
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TOS1
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/EWS1

Russia offered Afghan militants bounties to kill US troops: NY Times

Agencies

Washington: US intelligence has concluded that the Russian military offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants in Afghanistan to kill American troops and other coalition forces, the *New York Times* reported on Friday.

Citing officials briefed on the matter, the Times said the United States determined months ago that a Russian military intelligence unit linked to assassination attempts in Europe had offered rewards for successful attacks last year.

Islamist militants, or armed criminal elements closely associated with them, are believed to have collected some bounty money, the newspaper said.

The White House, the CIA and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence declined requests from Reuters for comment on the Times report.

President Donald Trump has been briefed on the intelligence finding, the Times said. It said the White House has yet to authorise any steps against Russia in response to the bounties.

Of the 20 Americans killed in combat in 2019, the Times said, it was not clear



which deaths were under suspicion.

After nearly 20 years of fighting the Taliban, the United States is looking for a way to extricate itself from Afghanistan and to achieve peace between the US-backed government and the militant group, which controls swathes of the country.

On Feb 29, the United States and the Taliban struck a deal that called for a

phased US troop withdrawal.

US troop strength in Afghanistan is down to nearly 8,600, well ahead of a schedule agreed with the Taliban, in part because of concerns about the spread of the coronavirus, US and NATO officials said in late May.

Russia denounces 'baseless, anonymous accusations'

Russia on Saturday denounced the newspaper report as "baseless" and dangerous.

The "baseless and anonymous accusations," published by the newspaper, had "already led to direct threats to the life of employees of the Russian Embassies in Washington DC and London," the Russian Embassy in Washington wrote on Twitter.

"Stop producing #fakenews that provoke life threats, @nytimes," it added in a later tweet.

Russia has a tortured history in Afghanistan, where the former Soviet Union in its final years was bogged down in a devastating fight against Islamist guerrillas, then backed by Washington.

But Russia has more recently been accused by the United States of quietly providing small arms to the Taliban.

According to the newspaper, the Taliban operation was led by a unit known as the GRU, which has been blamed in numerous international incidents including a 2018 chemical weapons attack in Britain that nearly killed Russian-born double agent Sergei Skripal.

Israeli forces launch massive attack on Gaza

Agencies

BEIRUT, LEBANON (1:00 A.M.) – The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) launched a big assault over the Gaza Strip, hitting several areas, including Khan Younis.

According to Palestinian activists, the Israeli Defense Forces primarily used heavy artillery and airstrikes to hammer the southern part of the Gaza Strip, with the main focus being the Khan Younis region.

Furthermore, local media said that an Israeli warplane bombed east of the city of Deir al-Balah, without causing any injuries or damage to the place.

Israeli artillery bombarded another site with two rocket-propelled grenades east of Gaza City, where it was found that the shelling targeted a monitoring post of Hamas.



In a related context, the Israeli Iron Dome system monitored Friday evening the launch of two rockets from the Gaza Strip towards Israel.

Israeli Channel 13 reported that "the two rockets landed, one in an uninhabited area on the Israeli side of the border, while the other landed inside the strip."

This latest incident comes at a time of heightened tensions between the Palestinian leadership and Israeli authorities over the possible annexation of the West Bank.

Hakim Family Bereaved

Hakim Nisar Ali S/O Late Hakim Ghulam Muammad of Bagwanpora, Srinagar left for heavenly abode on Thursday evening (25th June, 2020) after a brief spell of illness.

He was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard at Hakim Mohalla Baghwanpora Srinagar. People from all walks of life attended the funeral.

Late Nisar Ali was brother of columnist Hakeem Masood and Hakim Zahoor and brother-in-law of Agha Syed Mehmood (Former MLC).

Due to the current pandemic there will be no congregational Fataha ceremony.

**Bereaved
Hakim Family
Bagwanpora, Srinagar**

US: Minneapolis City Council advances plan to dismantle police department

The Minneapolis City Council on Friday unanimously approved a radical proposal to change the city charter that would allow the police department to be dismantled, following mass public criticism of law enforcement over the killing of George Floyd.

The 12-0 vote is just the first step in a process that faces significant bureaucratic obstacles to make the November ballot, where the city's voters would have the final say. And it came amid a spate of recent shootings in Minnesota's largest city that have heightened

many citizens' concerns about talk of dismantling the department.

The Minneapolis force has come under heavy pressure since Floyd, a black man in handcuffs, died May 25 after a police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes. Activists had long accused the department of being unable to change a racist and brutal culture, and earlier this month, a majority of the council proclaimed support for dismantling the department.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) CONSTRUCTION DIVISION NO.II,ND, SRINAGAR FRESH TENDER NOTICE

Serial NIT No.18/CDII/1842-52 of 2020-2021 Dated:26.06.2020.

For and on behalf of Governor Jammu and Kashmir State, sealed tenders affixed with Rs.5.00 (Revenue stamps) are invited from the approved PWD Contractor's for the below mentioned work/s. The tenders should be addressed to the **Executive Engineer, Construction Division No.II,nd, Srinagar** which should reach to his office on or before **04.07.2020**, till 2.00 P.M. **The Tenders can also be cast in the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Sgr/Budgam.** The tenders will be opened on the same day or later in presence of the contractors who like to be present. **In case the date of receipt of tenders is declared holiday, transport strike etc. the tenders will be received by the competent authority on the next working day.**

S.No.	me of work/s	Approx. cost incl. C/O depttl. Stores.	Ernest money Rs. In Lacs	Class of Contr.	ne of Comp	Cost of T.D
1		3	4	5	6	7
1.	itary and Electric works of Drive t at State Pollution Control Boai jbagh Srinagar.	Rs.0.79 Lakhs	1580/-	"DEE"	10 Days	Rs.200/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Tender document can be purchased from Divisional office against Non-refundable Cash payment from **27.06.2020** during office hours upto **03.07.2020** till 2.00 P.M. Incase of tenderer is unable to purchase the tender documents for the work/works the tenderer can quote their rates as per the advertised quantity schedule in the tender form already issued to him in the form of a tender booklets. In such instance the tenderer shall be required to enclose a crossed postal order in favour of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No.II,nd, Srinagar for an amount to equal to the cost of tender document. This amount of postal order is non-refundable. The tender forms issued by the competent authority during the year 2018-19 can only be utilized for submission of tenders. The tenders received on lapsed tender forms shall be totally rejected.
- The bidder shall be at liberty to send their bids either in person or through registered post but shall subscribe the following in front of the envelopes.
 - Name of work.
 - Cost of work
 - Full name of contractor
 - Ref. to CDR No. & Date.
 - Date of receipt of tenders
 - Ref. to NIT No.
- The bidding documents shall be issued by this office against Non-refundable cash payment as mentioned above to eligible contractors on production of valid Registration Card on any working day.
- Bids from Joint ventures are not being allowed.

No. 1842-52

FOR & ON BEHALF OF GOVERNOR J&K STATE

Sd/-

DIPK-2240/20

Dated:26.06.2020

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B CONSTRUCTION DIVISION NO. II,ND
SRINAGAR.**



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Mechanical Division, Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir, Srinagar

| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org |

GIST of E-NIT

NIT No:	MDS/TS /2020-21/ 18 /e-tendering
Date	26 .06.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from Registered firms/ contractors for the below mentioned work:-

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of completion
1	2	3	4	5
Detailed Topographical Survey (site plan and contour map) using DGPS/ETS and preparation of detailed layout drawings of Mini Sprinkler Irrigation System at various bore well schemes under National Mission on Saffron.	1.88	200/-	3,800/-	10 days

- Downloading of Bids:** The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from **26-06-2020 (06.55 hrs)**
- Submission of Bids:** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from **27-06-2020 (11.00 hrs)** to **13-07-2020 (14.00 hrs)** in two covers.
- Opening of Bids:** The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on **14-07-2020 (16.00 hrs)** in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Srinagar.

DIPK-2229/20

No. MDS/ TS/487-91

Dated: 26 -06-2020

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



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

EXTENSION NOTICE

As requested by the Contractor Union, the critical dates for the NleT NO: 27 e-Tendering/2019-20 Dated:-17/03/2020, issued under endorsement NO:SMC/EELRWD/2435-2445, Dated:-17/03/20 and retendered vide NO:SMC/EELRWD/15-19, Dated:-11/04/2020 are further rescheduled as under;

1	Documents download date	19/03/2020 10:00 am to 29/06/2020 04:00 pm
2	Date & Time for Submission of Bids online	19/03/2020 10:00 am to 29/06/2020 04:00 pm
3	Bid Opening date	30/06/2020 02:00 pm
4	Date & Time for Submission of Hard Copy for successful bidder	01/07/2020 upto 04:00 pm

Rest No Change

Sd/-

DIPK-NB-1009/20

NO:SMC/EELRWD/584-590

Dated:24/06/2020

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**



Fax/Ph. 01954230787
e-mail: comsumbal@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE SUMBAL

Subject: - Auction of contract for entry fee /Terminal tax for the period of (12 Months) w.e.f 16-07-2020 to 15-07-2021 of Municipal Committee Sumbal.

FRESH AUCTION NOTICE

For and on behalf of Government of J&K Union territory sealed bid offers affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 5/= are invited from the interested persons/ parties for auction of entry fee contract for the year 2020-21 which should reach to the office of the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Habitat Centre Bemina Srinagar (Chairman Auction Committee) on or before 06-07-2020 up to 2:00 pm and shall be opened on the same or subsequent day convenient to the opening authority in presence of the auction committee and persons/parties who wish to be present, on the following terms and conditions.

- The bidder/ bidders must be the hereditary state subject of J&K Union territory.
- The contract of collection of entry fee/ terminal tax w.e.f 16-07-2020 to 15-07-2021 for the period of (12 Months) and no claim for any kind of extension/relief shall be entertained by the department at any stage.
- The auction forms will be issued from the office of the undersigned up-to 04-07-2020 upto 4:00 pm during the working hours against non refundable cost of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees two thousandonly) on production of identity proof i.e. State subject, Adhaar Card, Pan Card or Election Card.
- The minimum bid amount is fixed Rs.-81,00,000/-lacs (Rupees: Eighty One lacs only). The bid/ offers need to be in a sealed or registered cover should be accompanied with earnest money in the shape of CDR of Rs: 1,62,000/- lacs (Rupees: One lac, Sixty Two thousand only) from any nationalized bank pledged to Executive Officer Municipal Committee Sumbal.
- The call deposit receipt (CDR) of the successful bidder shall be got verified from the concerned bank by the Executive Officer before finalization of the contract.
- No such bidder shall be allowed to participate in the process, who had been a defaulter from any of the Municipal institutions.
- The auction proceeding of the contract shall be conducted / opened in the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir in presence of the constituted Committee.
- At the finalization of the auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall have to deposit 5% of the total bid amount as token amount on spot and 95% of the balance amount shall have to be deposited by the successful bidder in two installments (a) 55% before taking over the possession (b) 40% within three months by or before 16th October 2020. However, the contractor have to deposit postdated check from his own bank account before taking over possession with bank grantee form nationalized bank which will be conformed from the bank before its acceptance.
- In case the successful bidder fails to deposit the token amount of 5%, of the bid amount, the CDR of the bidder shall be forfeited.
- The successful bidder shall be bound to execute an agreement of terms and conditions duly registered in the competent court with the concerned Executive Officer of Municipal Committee within Ten (10) days from the date of allotment.
- The receipt books to be used at the entry posts shall be got authenticated by the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Sumbal
- The Successful bidder shall have to bear/ arrange manpower, furniture sanitary, tool posts/tool bars, water charges, electric fee at his own level on his own expenses without claiming any compensation thereof however three number of existing toll posts shall be available to the contractor for collection of entry fee.
- No allottee shall deviate the rate schedule of the concerned Council/Committee and in case of any such report, the contract shall be canceled at the risk and cost of the contractor.
- The contractor while offering the bid shall be responsible to visualize all conditions/ circumstances like hartals, un favorable circumstances, un rest etc well in advance. Latteron , no claim for relaxation/ relief in the ceiling of contract or extension of contract period, on this context shall be entertained.
- The Chairman auction committee shall have the right to accept or reject any or all bid offers without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder has to collect the entry fee as per the following rate schedule of Municipal Committee Sumbal.

S.No.	Name of vehicle	Rate
01	Passenger Bus, Matador, Sumo, Vans, Tractor, Auto, 407 Tata Mobile (Un-Loaded)	10/= (per day)
02	407, Tata Mobile, Tractor (Loaded)	25/= (per trip)
03	Tipper, Truck, Tanker (Loaded)	40/= (per trip)
04	Tipper, Truck, Tanker (Un-Loaded)	10/= (per day)
05	Trailer, Tourist Buses, Xylo, Inova, Scorpio, Tempo& Sumo	50/= (per day)
06	VIP Vehicles/ Govt. Vehicles are exempted	

Any violation or complaint with regards to misbehavior or charging excess rates shall invite legal action against the successful bidder.
No: MC/Sbl/TP/20-21/ 494-504
Dated:-25/06/2020

:DIPK-NB-1015/20

Sd/-
Executive Officer,
Municipal Committee
Sumbal

‘Keep Doors, Windows Closed’, Delhi Issues Locust Advisory

After swarms of crop-destroying desert locusts reached the outskirts of Delhi on Saturday, the city government directed the district magistrates to make all possible arrangements to distract them.

People have been directed to keep their doors and windows closed and cover outdoor plants with plastic sheets. The District Magistrates have also been asked to be on high alert.

"District Magistrates are advised to deploy the adequate staff to make all possible arrangements for guiding the residents to distract the locusts," the advisory by agriculture joint director A.P. Saini stated.

The government said that they can be distracted by way of making high decibel sound through beating of drum utensils, playing high volume music on music



systems, firing crackers and burning of neem leaves.

Over the past few months, locust swarms have attacked and destroyed crops in various states, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.

Three kilometre-long swarm of desert locusts reached the outskirts of Delhi after entering Gurugram on Saturday morning.

Earlier, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai called an emergency meeting to discuss the situation pursuant to the locust attack in neighbouring Gurugram.

Eight States Contributed 85% Covid-19 Caseload, 87% Deaths: Health Ministry

Eight states, including Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamil Nadu, contributed 85.5 per cent of the active COVID-19 caseload and 87 per cent of the total deaths in India, according to the Union health ministry.

The ministry said it briefed the group of ministers on COVID-19 on the coronavirus situation in the country and the efforts to boost healthcare infrastructure, on Saturday.

"It was mentioned that presently eight states—Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Telangana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal—contribute 85.5 per cent of active caseload and 87 per cent of total deaths in India," it said in a statement.

India has reported five lakh COVID-19 cases with the worst single-day jump of 18,552 cases on Saturday. The death toll has climbed to 15,685.

The health ministry said it also briefed the GoM during its 17th meeting about the recovery and mortality rates, doubling rate and ramped up testing in various states. It told the GoM that 15 central teams consisting of public health experts, epidemiologists and a senior joint secretary-level officer have been deployed to provide support to the states.

Another central team is currently visiting Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana



to strengthen ongoing efforts for management of COVID-19, it said.

The GoM was also briefed about the utility of ITIHAS and Aarogya Setu in contact-tracing and prediction of potential hotspot areas. The group of ministers was told that the key focus areas continually communicated to states and UTs are strict containment measures and surveillance, utilizing full testing capacity and focus on monitoring of co-morbid and elderly population and predicting emerging hotspots leveraging digital tools such as Aarogya Setu.

They have also been asked to ensure seamless patient admission processes, fatality mitigation by effective clinical management; focus on infrastructure preparedness (critical care beds, oxygen, ventilators and logistics) and ensuring that non-COVID healthcare services are not impacted.

Balram Bhargava, the ICMR director general, gave a detailed presentation on the testing strategy. He explained about the serological survey and the increasing capacity for enhanced per-day testing through various tests.



AN ENGINEER-TURNED TEACHER giving open-air classes to students at Srinagar's Eidgah on Saturday-KO photo Abid Bhat

India Turns Down Pak Offer To Reopen Kartarpur Corridor

KARTARPUR SAHIB CORRIDOR: The government on Saturday, rubbished Pakistan's "readiness" to reopen the Kartarpur Corridor for Indian Sikhs, by calling it an attempt to create "a mirage of goodwill".

Taking to Twitter, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday, announced: "As places of worship open up across the world, Pakistan prepares to reopen the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for all Sikh pilgrims, conveying to the Indian side our readiness to reopen the corridor on 29 June 2020, the occasion of the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh."

The corridor was temporarily closed on March 16 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that originated in China's Wuhan city.

Official sources in New Delhi said that Pakistan is trying to "create a mirage of goodwill" by proposing to reopen Kartarpur Corridor on June 29, at the short notice of two days, while bilateral agreement provides for information to be shared by India with Pakistan side at least seven days before the date of travel.

This would need India to open up



the registration process well in advance, the sources said.

Besides, Pakistan has not built the bridge on their side across the flood plains of the Ravi river despite having committed to it in the bilateral agreement.

With the advent of monsoon, the sources said, it would need to be evaluated whether pilgrim movement is possible through the corridor in a safe and secure manner.

Official sources said cross border travel has been temporarily suspended as part of measures to prevent and contain the spread of coronavirus.

"Further view would be taken in consultation with health authorities and other stakeholders concerned," an official said.

The 4.2 km corridor links Dera Baba Nanak town in Gurdaspur district with Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Shakargarh tehsil in Narowal district of Pakistan.

India and Pakistan in October 2019 signed an agreement to operationalise the Kartarpur Corridor to allow Indian pilgrims a visa-free visit to the holy gurdwara, believed to have been built on the site where Guru Nanak died in the 16th century, and located some 4 km inside Pakistan.

China Grabbed 45,000 Sq Kms Of Indian Land Post-1962 War: NCP Chief Sharad Pawar

Amidst a war of words between the Congress and the BJP over the face-off with China, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday said matters of national security shouldn't be politicised and added that one cannot forget China had captured about 45,000 sq kms of Indian land after the 1962 war.

Pawar's comments came in response to a query about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's charge that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had surrendered Indian territory to the Chinese aggression.

Pawar also said the Galwan Valley incident in Ladakh cannot immediately be labelled as a failure of the Defence Minister, as Indian soldiers were alert during patrolling.

Speaking to reporters here, the former Union minister said the entire episode is "sensitive" in nature. It was China which played the provocateur in the Galwan Valley, he said.

Twenty Indian soldiers were killed in a violent clash with their Chinese counterpart in eastern Ladakh on the night of June 15.

The former Defence Minister further said India had been constructing a road in Galwan Valley within its limits,



land, after the 1962 war between the two countries.

"That land is still with China. I don't know if they (China) have encroached on some area now again. But when I make an allegation, I should also see what had happened when I was there (in power). If such big land was encroached upon then, it cannot be ignored. It is a matter of national security and it should not be politicised is what I feel," he said.

Pawar further hit out at the Centre over the rising prices of fuel, saying he had never seen the rates going up daily.

He noted the people are already in trouble and the economy is in crisis due to the extended lockdown.

The Centre should take decisions that will bring the economy back on track, he said.

"The rise in fuel prices does have an impact on the economy. I think the Centre is taking this decision as there already is lockdown.

"People are not speaking up during this period. Due to some other reason, there already is a feeling among the people to tolerate what is going on (and) they (the Centre) are taking disadvantage of this situation (to raise prices)," he said.

Prasar Bharti Calls Press Trust Of India Anti-National, Threatens To End 'Relationship'

NEW DELHI: In what can be seen as the government putting its foot down, Prasar Bharti, India's public broadcaster, is sending a letter threatening to end its "relationship" over the alleged "anti-national" reportage by news agency Press Trust of India or PTI.

This comes soon after the PTI carried an interview with Chinese ambassador Sun Weidong, where he blamed India for the India-China violent standoff that saw 20 Indian jawans getting martyred.

Sources say a "strong letter" is being sent to PTI just ahead of its Board meeting on Saturday where the public broadcaster expressed "deep displeasure on anti-national reporting by PTI".

The public broadcaster has communicated that the PTI's editorial stance makes it untenable to "continue relationship".

Government sources claim that the broadcaster had been "supporting PTI with huge financial fees" which often ran into several crores. This arrangement has been going on for decades, claimed the source. However, it insisted that PTI has been "rigid" on review of the same since 2016-17.

Meanwhile, government sources indicated that it was not a one off incident that sparked the outrage but the "totality of PTI's conduct". Prasar Bharti is not only reviewing its relationship with

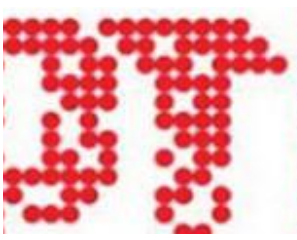
the PTI but will also communicate a "final decision" at the earliest, IANS has learnt.

In the controversial interview which was published on June 25, the Chinese diplomat had put the onus to resolve the crisis on India. "The incident was completely instigated by the Indian side and the responsibility does not lie with the Chinese side," PTI had quoted him.

After the interview, Sun tweeted: "Gave an interview to PTI on #GalwanValley Incident. Onus is not on #China. We are willing & able to properly manage differences. Mutual respect & support is sure way. Suspicion & friction is wrong path. Will jointly uphold peace & stability in border areas, ensure sound & steady relations."

The PTI had its share of run-ins with the present government. A few years ago, Union Minister Smriti Irani had pointed out that the PTI used a wrong image of a flooded airport, which was being passed off as Ahmedabad airport in flood-ravaged Gujarat. It then apologized for its mistake.

Later, the news agency showed a picture of the BJP and JDU cadres wearing Modi and Nitish Kumar masks to mark "Friendship Day". In August, 2017, Irani had tweeted: "@PTI_News is this how elected heads will be projected? Is this your official stand?" Then again, the news agency had issued an apology.



'Sheer Profiteering' By Centre, Says Yashwant Sinha On Fuel Price Hike



PATNA: Former Union finance minister Yashwant Sinha on Saturday alleged that the Centre is resorting to "profiteering" by increasing fuel prices on a daily basis.

On one hand, the Centre announced a Rs 20-lakh crore package to uplift the economy, while on the other, it "robbed" people who travel by motorbikes, scooters and other vehicles, he said.

While diesel rates were hiked for the 21st straight day on Saturday, petrol prices have been increased on 20 occasions in three weeks.

"There are occasions when the price hike in petrol and diesel (prices) becomes imperative. But I can tell you on the basis of my experience that it is nothing but

sheer profiteering in today's circumstances," Sinha said at a press conference here.

"It is unfortunate and saddening to know that the government is resorting to profiteering," he said.

Sinha said it is well known that "crude oil price is soft in the international market".

On Saturday, the price of petrol was hiked by 25 paise per litre and diesel by 21 paise per litre, taking the cumulative increase in rates in three weeks to Rs 9.12 and Rs 11.01, respectively.

On June 7, oil companies had restarted revising prices in line with costs after ending an 82-day hiatus during which they adjusted steep excise duty hikes by the government against the fall in benchmark international oil rates.

NEWS MAKERS

Sushant Singh death probe: Cops quizzing YRF's casting director

Police are questioning a casting director with Yash Raj Films (YRF) at Bandra police station here in connection with the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, an official said on Saturday.

Police are probing whether professional rivalry, if any, was responsible for the actor's depression who was found hanging at his apartment in Bandra on June 14.

The casting director, Shanoo Sharma, reached the police station in the afternoon after she was summoned by the police. "Shanoo Sharma, a casting director with the Yash Raj Films, is being questioned at Bandra police station," said Abhishek



Trimukhe, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 9).

Representatives of some more production houses are likely to be called by the po-

lice for questioning in the next few days, another official said. Sharma is one of the popular casting directors in Bollywood who had reportedly spotted talents like Ranveer Singh, Arjun Kapoor, Vani Kapoor to name a few for Yash Raj Films, sources said.

She had worked with the deceased Rajput in YRF's "Shuddh Desi Romance" and "Detective Byomkesh Bakshi!". Days after Rajput was found hanging, YRF handed over copies of the contract signed between him and the production house.

Police have so far recorded statements of 24 persons in the case, the official said.

BJP Must Safeguard Land And Job Of J-K Permanent Residents: NC Leader Rana

National Conference leader Devender Singh Rana appealed to the BJP and the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday to come up with a road map for safeguarding land, job and seats in professional colleges for the permanent residents of the Union Territory. Rana said some of the recent moves, especially the new domicile rules, have caused concern and apprehensions in the minds of the people but added that his party would remain at the forefront to ensure that their lands and jobs are protected.

"Repeated assurances and rhetorical statements by Jammu BJP leaders that lands and jobs of the permanent residents will be pre-



served exclusively for them (permanent residents) have turned out hollow and bereft of facts on the ground," the Jammu provincial president of the NC said. He said the BJP leaders should clean up these issues and stick to their commitments made to the peo-

ple with regard to the preservation of their rights vis-a-vis land and job in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Government must come up with a pragmatic mechanism to address these important matters in tandem with the sentiments and aspirations of the people of J&K, who are genuinely feeling a sense of denial, deprivation and politico-economic disempowerment," he said. Rana described job eligibility and ownership of land as the most "emotive and sensitive" issue and said ambiguity on the part of the government in the backdrop of promises made by the BJP top leadership from time to time, has added to the concern of the people.

France Arrests Six Over Stolen Banksy Artwork - Source

Six people have been arrested in France over the theft of an artwork by the British street artist Banksy that was stolen from the Bataclan concert hall in Paris, a judicial source said on Saturday.

The mural, which shows a veiled female figure staring mournfully downwards, was found at a farmhouse in central Italy earlier this month, nearly a one-and-a-half years after it was removed.

Two of those arrested are under formal investigation on suspicion of theft. The other four are suspected of concealing theft, the source said. It is thought the thieves used portable grinders to remove the fire-exit door on which the mural was painted before carrying it off in a van, Italian media reported when the artwork was discovered.

The Bataclan, one of Paris' best-known rock venues, was stormed by militants during a concert in November 2015, as part of coordinated attacks around the city that killed 130 people. (Writing by Richard Lough; Editing by Alex Richardson)

