



Maximum : 25°C  
Minimum : 09°C  
Humidity : 38%

SUNSET  
Today 05:59 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:34 AM



## News Digest

### Justice Magrey Named LLSA Head

Srinagar: Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey was on Monday nominated as the Executive Chairman of the Union Territory of Ladakh Legal Services Authority (LLSA). Justice Magrey was nominated following consultation between Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh, with the Chief Justice of the Common High Court for the Union Territory of J&K and Union Territory of Ladakh, an official spokesperson said. "He has been appointed to the post in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub section (2) of section 6 of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 (No. 39 of 1987) ● P-02

### SSB Trooper Shoots Self Dead

Srinagar: A paramilitary trooper of SashastraSeemaBal (SSB) ended his life by shooting himself dead with his service rifle at Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district last night, officials said on Monday. A police officer said that the trooper identified as Amit Kumar of 37 Battalion took the extreme step inside a camp at Vilgam Handwara at around 2200 hours, reported news agency GNS. "Investigation has been launched to ascertain reasons as to why the trooper, a resident of UP, committed suicide," officer added.

### India, Pak Troops Trade Fire

Jammu: India and Pakistani troops continued to trade fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Monday. Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward areas in three sectors along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Monday, prompting the Indian army to give a befitting reply, they said. "At about 1445 hours today, Pak army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation ● P-02

### 70 Jammu Jail Inmates Free Of Covid

Jammu: Seventy-two of the 80 prisoners of the district jail here in Amphalla, who had tested COVID-19 positive over a fortnight ago, have recovered, an official said on Monday as authorities started retesting inmates and staff for the coronavirus. With 83 positive cases 80 prisoners and three staff members the jail had the highest number of COVID-19 cases among prisons in the Jammu region of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It was followed by 51 positive cases in Kathua district jail, 50 in Rajouri district jail, 24 in ● P-02

### Ex- Minister Sharief Niaz Passes Away

Jammu- Veteran Congress leader and former minister Mohammad Sharief Niaz passed away on Monday. He was 75. Party sources said that Niaz breathed his last after a brief illness in Jammu and his last rites will be performed at his native village. Born on April 24, 1944 in village Changa of Bhalessa in Doda district, Niaz was first time elected as MLA in 1987. Being a legal luminary, he was entrusted the responsibility of being the Law Minister of the J&K ● P-02

## Lashkar Commander, Aide Killed In Srinagar Gunfight: Police



STATE FORCES leaving Barzulla locality after killing two militants in a gunfight on Monday. Pic AbidBhat

#### Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Saifullah and his associate Irshad Ahmad Dar were killed on Monday in a fierce gunfight with government forces in Barzulla area of this capital city. According to police, the militants were killed a week after they shot dead two CRPF personnel, including an officer and injured

### 180 Militants, 55 Personnel Killed In 75 Ops This Year: DGP

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday claimed to have killed 180 militants of different outfits in 75 anti-militancy operations across the Valley this year. Addressing a news conference at Police Control ● P-02

three others in an audacious attack in Nowgam area here. In the wee hours Monday, contingents of joint forces launched a cordon and search operation in old Barzulla area of the uptown Srinagar after receiving what police ● PAGE 02

#### LADAKH STANDOFF

### Another Round Of Military Talks Fail

NEW DELHI: India and China on Monday held the seventh round of high-level military talks with a sole agenda of finalising a roadmap for disengagement of troops from all the friction points in eastern Ladakh.

As the border standoff entered the sixth month, an early resolution to the row appears dim.

The talks at the Corps commander level began at around 12 noon in Chushul on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, official sources said.

The Indian delegation is led by Lt Gen Harinder Singh, the commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, and includes Naveen Srivastava, Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Close to 100,000 ● P-02

### Pak, China Appear On 'Mission': Rajnath

NEW DELHI: After Pakistan, China is also creating a dispute at the border with India as if it was part of a "mission", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, as Indian and Chinese troops remain locked in a standoff in eastern Ladakh for over five months.

The defence minister, speaking at an online event after inaugurating 44 bridges, said India is not only facing the situations along the frontiers resolutely, but it is also bringing in major development including in border areas. ● P-02

## Coronavirus Claims 11 More Lives, J&K Toll 1335

#### Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least eleven more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of fatalities in the Union Territory since the outbreak of pandemic to 1335.

Kashmir valley reported six more fatalities due to Covid-19, while five more people succumbed to the virus in Jammu division. With six more deaths, the toll in the Valley due to the virus crossed 900 mark.

Among the victims from Valley included a 65-year-old man from CS Pora Anantnag, a 45-year-old from Rainawari Srinagar, a 60-year-old man from Balgarden Srinagar, a 56-year-old man from Illahibagh Srinagar, a 70-year-old man from Gurez Bandipora and an 83-year-old woman from Tahab Pulwama.

While deaths count has reached 901 in Valley, five casualties in Jammu division took the count to 434. Srinagar district with 319

### Doctor, 9 Security Men Among 398 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 398 fresh cases of coronavirus, including nine security personnel besides a doctor and a minor, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 84031. Among the cases, 159 were reported from Jammu ● P-02

deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (225), Baramulla (130), Budgam (89), Pulwama (75), Kupwara (71), Anantnag (70), Kulgam (43), Bandipora (42), Rajouri (43), Doda (40), Shopian (32), Ganderbal (30), Kathua (29), Samba (24), Udhampur (23), Poonch (22), Ramban (11), Kishtwar (11) and Reasi (6), (With GNS inputs)

### Flu Vaccination For Healthcare Professionals Begins

Jammu and Kashmir's health & medical education department on Monday began influenza vaccination for healthcare professionals dealing with patients infected by the coronavirus, officials said. ● P-02

## BJP Terms Farooq's Remarks Seditious, Anti-National

#### Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday accused National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah of making "seditious and anti-national" remarks on the issue of restoring the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and said he had become a "hero in China".

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said that the National Conference MP and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir in an interview to a TV channel stated that "with China's support", Article 370 of the Constitution, which conferred special status to Jammu and Kashmir, will be restored.

Addressing a press conference at the party office, Patra claimed Abdullah has also justified China's recent aggression at

### BJP Twisting Farooq's Remarks: NC

The National Conference (NC) Monday denied that its President Farooq Abdullah had said Article 370 would be restored with the help of China and accused the BJP of "completely twisting" his remarks ● P-02

the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by saying that the abrogation of Article 370 by the Indian parliament has irked and disturbed the communist country.

Underlining that Article 370 was abrogated in a "constitutional manner" by the Indian parliament, the BJP leader ● PAGE 02

## Will Strive For Special Status, Not Statehood: PDP

#### Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday reiterated that mere restoration of statehood to J&K is not going to undo the plunder of rights of its people and that the party would always strive to restore the position of August 4, 2019, as the first step towards the working out the resolution of the J&K issue in a dignified manner.

Addressing the party workers meeting of zone Khanyar-Srinagar

at the party office, PDP General Secretary Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura said that the people of J&K can't be tricked into the bargain of statehood against our special status, rights and identity.

"They want to force us into acceptance and create a sense of failure among us but let me make it clear, we will not relent in the pursuit and struggle for our agenda of resolution of Kashmir issue through dialogue and reconciliation of which the ● PAGE 02

### THEY WANT TO FORCE US INTO

acceptance and create a sense of failure among us but let me make it clear, we will not relent in the pursuit and struggle for our agenda of resolution of Kashmir issue through dialogue and reconciliation of which the restoration of our special status has to be the cornerstone,"

### Budgam Resident Held In Davinder Case

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency Monday arrested one more person in connection with the case related to former DSP Davinder Singh, who has been chargesheeted by the agency for providing support to the banned militant group Hizbul Mujahideen, a spokesperson said.

The former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Superintendent of Police was arrested with top Hizbul commander Naveed Babu early this year.

Tafazul Hussain Parimoo, a resident of Budgam district, has been arrested in connection ● P-02

## 3 Teachers Of Shopian Religious School Booked Under PSA

#### Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Three teachers of a religious school in Shopian district of south Kashmir were arrested Monday under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) for allegedly spreading hatred while teaching, police said.

They said the three were booked under the PSA -- which allows authorities to detain a person for up to two years without a trial -- after it came to the fore that some of the school's students and alumni were involved in militant activities.

Kashmir Inspector General of Police (IGP) Vijay Kumar told a press conference here the school



Image for representation

is affiliated with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) outfit.

The school's name is Siraj-uloom Imam Sahib. It is not that this school has not been under observation. We

have already booked three teachers of the school namely Abdul Ahad Bhat, Rouf Bhat and Mohammad Yusuf Wani under the PSA, Kumar told the reporters. ● PAGE 02

### Excise Commissioner Guilty Of Contempt

JAMMU: A local court here on Monday held Jammu and Kashmir Excise Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan guilty for contempt of Court.

Second Additional District Judge Virender Singh Bhou on Monday held Shavan guilty for disobeying the court order, observing that the defense set up by him is sham and frivolous.

The judge after hearing the advocate observed that defence set up by the contemnor is thus rejected as being frivolous in the ultimate analysis, and the direction therein and as such, he is held guilty of disobedience by non-compliance of the court order and meaning to undermine the very authority of a court of law, in terms of order 39 Rule 2-A CPC. ● P-02

## HC Directs Uploading Of Encroachers' List On Website

#### Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed the administration to upload on the official website a list of all encroachers, including influential persons, on government land.

The court said the revenue secretary and the divisional commissioners would be held liable for contempt of court if the directions were not complied.

In an order on Friday, it had ordered a CBI inquiry into the

transfer of state land to the occupants under the Roshni Act, disposing of a bunch of public interest litigations seeking a probe into alleged discrepancies in the process.

A bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajesh Bindal, after pointing out numerous discrepancies, issued a string of directions to the administrations.

The order said the revenue department commissioner should ensure that the information regarding ● PAGE 02

### Imposes Rs 25K Costs To CEO GDA

Jammu and Kashmir High Court has granted Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority for filing a compliance report but said it shall be done with depositing Rs 25000 costs. "There is no compliance of our order dated 12.06.2020 passed in the instant application. We have noted on that date that ● P-02

## Business Revival In J&K LG Reviews Progress Made On Recommendations



#### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday sought a detailed report on a host of financial and administrative measures recommended for the revival of the business sector and directed disbursement of financial assistance

to the beneficiaries at the earliest.

In a meeting held on Monday at the Civil Secretariat here, Sinha reviewed the progress made on the recommendations of the Committee on Business revival in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said sought a detailed report on a host of financial ● PAGE 02

## In FOCUS / Before Long Winter At LAC, Farooq Abdullah's Status Quo Call To China

#### Mir Khanam

Political pundits are already feeding and fuelling news mills about New Delhi's fresh implementation of around a dozen new central laws in Jammu and Kashmir. Among other things, they argue, these laws only hint at a shore up resolve to undo the region's old order.

These laws came on the heels of the controversial language act and the bolstering campaign for the script change in the Muslim-majority region.

It was in this backdrop that National Conference president Farooq Abdullah—the ardent advocate of

binned autonomy of the Atal-era of NDA-I regime—blew a Beijing bugle, seeking menacing dragon's intervention in restoring pre-August 5, 2019 position in the erstwhile state.

The NC patron's mercurial political temperament apart, his newfangled political pitch, many believe, was stirred by a salvo of stories—suggesting Beijing's bitterness with the unilateral abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A from the conflict zone. Even Abdullah is making no bones about it.

And now, as New Delhi is staring at the long frozen haul at Ladakh frontiers—where US says China has already stationed 60 thousand PLA troops—the NC president is appar-



ently fishing in troubled waters. But between the Beijing's belligerence and Farooq Abdullah's political

bidding, lies the fast-altering landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. Political commentators believe that the ongo-

ing no-holds-barred approach is only making Delhi dauntless to flip the distinctness of the region.

What's equally supporting this assertion is the speedy projects being implemented in J&K since last summer. For instance, to manage the defiant territory, the administration has invoked the Public Safety Act (PSA) against 444 persons, out of which nearly 300 have been released so far.

While 51 of them were set free on the orders of J&K High Court, others were also released after administrative reviews, with the conditions that they will not issue any (political) statements.

Due to 'no carrot and only stick' policy, Union Ministry ● PAGE 02



# From Front page...

## Lashkar Commander, Aide ...

described as 'specific inputs' about the presence of militants in the area. Police said that the militants opened fire upon the search team after turning down the surrender offer. The forces, he said retaliated to the fire triggering off an encounter. In the ensuing firefight the house where the two had taken shelter caught fire and subsequently both militants were killed. Police later retrieved their bodies retrieved from the debris of the house.

The police official identified them as Pakistani national Saifullah, a Lashkar-e-Taiba commander and his associate Irshad Ahmad Dar alias Abu Usama of Trisal, Pulwama. Irshad, he said was active since May 2019. Police claimed that he was involved in several attacks on state forces besides civilian killings The police official further said that Saifullah had infiltrated earlier this year and since two months shifted his base from north to south Kashmir. He was involved in planning & executing several major attacks on government forces, including the killing of a CRPF officer at Chadoora on September 24 and the killing of 2 CRPF personnel at Kandizal area of Pampore on October 5. "He was also part of the group involved in killing of two police personnel at Nowgam Srinagar on August 14. Besides, he was also involved in firing on convoy on September 21in Nowgam area," the police spokesperson said.

He said incriminating materials including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter and the same have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes. "Keeping in view the prevailing pandemic due to COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of people from inherent risk of contracting the infection, the bodies of the killed militants shall be sent to Baramulla for burial after completion of all medico-legal formalities," he said, adding "The nearest family members of the killed local militant shall be allowed to participate in the last rites."

The police spokesperson said that in this connection a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated. "People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," the police spokesperson added.

## 80 Militants, 55 Personnel...

Room Srinagar here on Monday, Director General of Police J&K Dilbagh Singh said that 75 anti-militancy operations were conducted this year in which 180 militants were killed.

"All the operations against militants conducted this year were clean and conducted in a professional manner barring one that of Batamaloo where a woman lost her life," Singh said.

Asked whether Lashkar and other militants are trying to set their foot again in Srinagar city given killing of Lashkar's top commander and his aide in Barzulla gunfight, the DGP said that this year eight encounters took place in the city in which 18 militants including a top Hizbul Mujahideen commander were killed.

"Whenever any militant outfit tries to establish its base in Srinagar, we successfully corner the militant with the help of our intelligence and other sources," the DGP said.

On how many militants are active in Srinagar, the DGP said at present only one militant is active in the city who is involved in a couple of attacks. "We will bring him to justice very soon," Singh said.

About how many security forces personnel were killed this year, he said police lost its 19 men and CRPF 21. "Army lost 15 soldiers and majority of them were killed on the LoC," the DGP said.

Replying to a query as to how many youth were brought back after joining militancy this year, he said with the help of their parents and hardwork of police, 26 youth, who had joined militancy were reunited with their families.

Asked whether police was sending the youth who shun militancy to outside J&K, the DGP said no youth has been sent out of UT.

On whether there was any rehabilitation policy for the youth who quit militancy, he said; "Officially there is no policy as yet. When there would be one, details will be shared."

## Another Round Of Military...

Indian and Chinese troops are deployed in eastern Ladakh as both sides are holding their ground and also showing readiness for a long-haul even as diplomatic and military talks to find an amicable solution continue.

The talks in Chushul are underway, the sources said.

Ahead of the talks, the sources said India will press for an early and complete disengagement of troops by China from all the friction points besides demanding restoration of immediate restoration of status quo ante in all areas of eastern Ladakh prior to April. The standoff began on May 5. The agenda for the talks is to firm up a roadmap for disengagement of troops from all the friction points in eastern Ladakh, the sources said.

The China Study Group (CSG) comprising Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and three service chiefs on Friday finalised India's strategy for the military talks. The CSG is India's key policy making body on China. The sources said India will strongly oppose any demand by China for withdrawal of Indian troops from several strategic heights on the southern bank of the Pangong lake to kick-start the disengagement process. During the sixth round of Corps commander talks on September 21, the Chinese People's Liberation Army(PLA) insisted on withdrawal of troops by the Indian Army from several strategic heights in Mukhpari, Rezang La and Magar hill areas around the southern bank of Pangong lake. Indian troops had occupied the strategic heights after the PLA soldiers attempted to intimidate them in the southern bank of Pangong lake on the intervening night of August 29 and 30.

India has been maintaining that the disengagement process has to start simultaneously at all the friction points.

At the talks, the two sides are expected to further explore steps to maintain stability on the ground and avoid any action that may trigger fresh tension in the region where troops from both sides will be facing difficult conditions in the next four months due to harsh winter, the sources said.

Following the sixth round of military talks, the two sides announced a slew of decisions including not to send more troops to the frontline, re-frain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further complicate matters.

The military talks were held with a specific agenda of exploring ways to implement a five-point agreement reached between Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at a meeting in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) conclave.

The pact included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC. Days after the military talks, the two sides held diplomatic parleys under the framework of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs, but no concrete outcome emerged from the negotiations on September 30. After the diplomatic talks, the MEA said it was agreed that the next round of the meeting of senior commanders should be held at an early date so that both sides can work towards an early and complete disengagement of the troops along the LAC in accordance with the existing bilateral agreement and protocols.

Srivastava, who has been leading the Indian side at the WMCC talks, also attended the military parleys on September 21 for the first time. It is Lt Gen Singh's last round of talks with the PLA in the current stand-off as he is due to take charge as head of the prestigious Indian Military Academy(IMA) this week. His successor at the 14 Corps Lt Gen PGK Menon is also part of the Indian delegation.

At the previous six rounds of military talks, the Indian side insisted on complete disengagement of Chinese troops at the earliest, and immediate restoration of status quo ante in all areas of eastern Ladakh prior to April.

The situation in eastern Ladakh deteriorated following at least three attempts by the Chinese soldiers to "intimidate" Indian troops along the northern and southern bank of Pangong lake area between August 29 and September 8 where even shots were fired in the air for the first time at the LAC in 45 years.

As tensions escalated further, the foreign ministers of India and China held talks in Moscow on September 10 where they reached a five-point agreement to defuse the situation in eastern Ladakh. The agreement was the basis for the sixth round of Corps commander-level talks. In the last three months, the Indian Army rushed tanks, heavy weaponry, ammunition, fuel, food and essential winter supplies to various treacherous and high-altitude areas of the region to maintain combat readiness through the harsh winter of around four months starting around mid-October.

## Pak, China Appear On ‘Mission’...

"You are well aware of the conditions created along our northern and eastern borders. First it was Pakistan, and now also by China, as if a border dispute is being created under a mission. We have a border of about 7,000 km with these countries where the tension continues," Singh said. The defence minister was speaking after inaugurating the bridges built in strategically key areas of Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. A majority of these bridges are expected to significantly improve movement of troops in areas along the border with China in Ladakh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh sectors, officials said.

Both India and China held a series of diplomatic and military talks to resolve the border standoff. However, no breakthrough has been achieved to defuse the situation.

Singh said in the challenging times of COVID-19 and despite the border tensions and disputes caused by Pakistan and China, the country was not only resolutely facing them but also bringing about historical changes in all sectors of development.

The defence minister also laid the foundation stone for Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh. This 450 metre-long tunnel would ensure all-weather connectivity across Nechiphu pass.

The bridges inaugurated by Singh included 10 in Jammu and Kashmir, eight in Ladakh, two in Himachal Pradesh, four each in Punjab and Sikkim and eight each in Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh.

In his address, Singh complimented the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for their achievements in improving infrastructure in border areas and said that dedication of 44 bridges in one go in itself was a record.

He said the annual budget of BRO that varied from Rs 3,300 crore to Rs 4,600 crore in years between 2008 and 2016, saw a substantial rise and is pegged at over Rs 11,000 crore in 2020-21.

"There was no reduction of this budget despite COVID-19," he said Singh said construction of the bridges will benefit both the civilian population as well as the military in the areas.

"Our armed forces personnel are deployed in large numbers in areas where transport is not available throughout the year," he said, noting improvement in border infrastructure will significantly help armed forces.

"These roads are not only for strategic needs, but they also reflect equal participation of all stakeholders in the development of the nation," Singh said. The defence minister praised the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for working tirelessly even during the coronavirus-triggered lockdown period. The defence ministry said despite unprecedented snowfall breaking a 60-year record, all strategic passes and roads were cleared for traffic about one month before their average yearly opening dates.

"I am happy to know that over 2,200 kilometers of roads have been cut by the BRO during the last two years, using the latest technologies, and state-of-the-art equipment. Also, surfacing was carried out on about 4200 kms of roads," he added. Amid the border standoff with China, India is expediting work on several key projects including on a strategic road linking Darcha in Himachal Pradesh with Ladakh that will criss-cross a number of high-altitude snow-bound passes. The nearly 290-km-long road will be crucial for the movement of troops and heavy weaponry into the frontier bases of the Ladakh region and will provide a crucial link to the Kargil region.

## Doctor, 9 Security Men Among...

division and 239 from Kashmir Valley even as two districts— Kishtwar and Reasi reported no new fresh infection. Giving district wise details, official sources said that Srinagar reported 106 cases, Budgam 38, Baramulla 21, Pulwama 12, Kupwara 21, Anantnag 10, Bandipora 10, Ganderbal 13, Kulgam 1, Shopian 7, Jammu 113, Rajouri 7, Udhampur 7, Doda 1, Kathua 7, Poonch 12, Samba 11, Kishtwar 0, Ramban 1 and Reasi 0. The total tally of cases has risen to 84031—50382 in Valley and 33649 in Jammu division.

Moreover, 861 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals in J&K—326 from Valley and 535 from Jammu.

## Flu Vaccination For Healthcare...

Healthcare workers are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 as compared to the general population, with potential threat for their health and for patients safety. "The Health & Medical Education Department has started influenza vaccination for health care professionals dealing with COVID-19 patients from today in J&K", Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department, J&K Atul Dulloo told PTI.

He said the vaccination process started from Government Medical College (GMC) in Srinagar. "The vaccine has been supplied by J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited," Dulloo said.

The sudden rollout of the flu vaccination to doctors and paramedical staff across healthcare institutions in Jammu and Kashmir becomes necessary in the wake of the safety of health professionals, officials of the department said. The need to maintain physically distancing, and at the same time see huge numbers of "at risk" health professionals is going to make it one of the most challenging vaccination programmes Jammu and Kashmir has delivered till now, they added.

The officials said the doctors, paramedics and other staff of the health institutes will have to go through suboptimal vaccination coverage.

"Healthcare professionals and workers are at increased risk of exposure to the pandemic compared to the general population, with potential threat for their health and for patients' safety", a senior officer at GMC said.

Healthcare workers are toiling countless hours since the global outbreak of COVID-19 (also known as the novel coronavirus) that was declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, they said.

Healthcare systems across developed and developing nations are being put to the ultimate test and are under tremendous pressure to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus. A majority of this responsibility is being shouldered by frontline healthcare workers effortlessly putting their lives on the line in order to do so, they added. The dire challenges are currently being faced by frontline health workers to ensure the provision of rapid, well-equipped, and efficient healthcare services.

In comparison to others infected with COVID-19, the risk of death due to infection is 17 times higher in doctors and 15 times more in healthcare workers, according to the Indian Medical Association (IMA). According to IMA's COVID-19 data on September 16, as many as 2,238 doctors were infected with the disease and of them 382 lost their lives, a senior official of the doctors' body said. It has been noted that in every one lakh people in India there are 4,969 cases of infected healthcare workers, 1,428 cases of infected doctors and 285 of others. For every one lakh COVID-19 patients, doctor deaths are 87, healthcare personnel 16 and common people five, the IMA said.

The positivity rate in healthcare workers from January to May as analysed by the IMA is 4.6 per cent. It was 2.8 per cent for healthcare workers who came in contact with COVID-19 patients without adequate protection.

## BJP Terms Farooq’s Remarks...

said, "Abdullah remarks are seditious and anti-national."

Patra said it is painful and worrisome that a former chief minister and sitting MP makes such a statement and "justifies the expansionist attitude of China". Parliamentarians from opposition parties have the right to attack and criticise the government, but "does it suit a sitting MP to speak against the interests of his own country out of frustration against Prime Minister Narendra Modi", he said. Drawing parallels between the remarks of Abdullah and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Patra said they both have a similar mindset and are two sides of the same coin.

"It is not just Farooq Abdullah who makes such statements. Rahul Gandhi also does so. If you look back into history and listen to the recent statements of Rahul Gandhi, you will find that both these leaders are two sides of the same coin," Patra said. He said that by questioning the Balakot airstrike, Rahul Gandhi had become a hero in Pakistan and, similarly, with the recent remarks "Abdullah has become a hero in China.

## BJP Twisting Farooq’s Remarks...

made during a TV interview. The party affirmed that Abdullah never justified China's expansionist mindset or its aggression during his interview on Sunday as claimed by BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra at a presser in New Delhi earlier in the day. "Our President articulated the people's anger over the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A by Parliament on August 5 last year as he has consistently done in recent months. He emphasised that no one in Jammu and Kashmir was willing to accept these changes," an NC spokesman said. He claimed that Abdullah's comments on China in response to a question have been "completely twisted" by Patra, who accused the NC President of justifying China's aggression and expansionist mindset.

"Sambit Patra has a habit of twisting words and using the bully pulpit of the BJP office to lie when it suits the political agenda of his party, the NC spokesman said. Dr Abdullah never said that together with China we will bring back Ar-

ticle 370 as Mr Patra claimed at a media briefing in which he also mis-

quoted some previous statements of Dr Abdullah.", Earlier in the day, Patra accused Abdullah of making "seditious and anti-national" remarks on the issue of restoring the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and said he had become a "hero in China". He said the National Conference MP and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir in his interview had stated that "with China's support", Article 370 of the Constitution, which conferred special status to Jammu and Kashmir, will be restored.

## Will Strive For Special Status...

restoration of our special status has to be the cornerstone," Hanjura said.

Talking about the continuous attempts by the present regime aimed at dis-empowering Kashmiris while creating a façade of development, Hanjura underlined how fakery like Back to Village is done for mere Public Relations and autocratic 'famans' like property tax proposals are being imposed. The meeting was convened by the Party District President Srinagar and former Legislator Muhammad Khurshid Alam who enjoined upon the workers to emulate the uncompromising stance of the Party President Mehbooba Mufti when it comes to serving the cause and rights of fellow people. "The conduct of our leader Mehbooba Ji has shown the way and made it amply clear that PDP has a crucial role to play in the struggle for our rights and identity. The fact that Mehbooba Ji continues to be in detention which by all means is illegal is an acknowledgement to this effect" he said.

## Budgam Resident Held In ...

with the case related to Babu, the NIA spokesperson said Monday. He said Parimoo played a key role in supplying arms and ammunition to another accused named Tariq Mir, a former Sarpanch of Maldera village of Shopian, who further passed them on to Hizbul militants in Shopian.

Singh, Babu and two others were arrested in January when they were on their way to Jammu in the private vehicle of the former policeman. The chargesheet, filed by the NIA in the first week of July, has accused Singh and others of allegedly waging "war against India" with the help of Pakistan-based militants and members of the country's high commission in Delhi.

Besides Singh, others named in the chargesheet are Babu, his brother Syed Irfan Ahmad as well as the group's alleged overground worker Irfan Shafi Mir, alleged accomplice Rafi Ahmad Rather and businessman Tanveer Ahmad Wani, a former president of the Line of Control Traders Association. The NIA is likely to file the supplementary chargesheet in the case against the former sarpanch and Parimoo later.

## 3 Teachers Of Shopian...

The institution's alumni include Sajjad Bhat, an accused in the February 2019 suicide attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama that left 40 personnel dead.

The IC Police said about half a dozen other teachers of the school were under surveillance. (Conduct of) five to six teachers of the school are under surveillance (under Section 107 CrPc). Basically, the affiliation of the school is with JeI. It is under surveillance, and right now we are taking action against individuals and if need arises, we will take action against the school, the IGP said.

Section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) deals with any likely breach of peace or public tranquility. The religious school in south Kashmir's Shopian district came under the scanner of investigating agencies after 13 of its students were found to have joined militant groups.

The school mainly has students from Kulgam, Pulwama and Anantnag districts of South Kashmir, considered by intelligence agencies to be the hotbeds of militancy and breeding grounds for local recruits in various militant groups, officials said.

The Public Safety Act (PSA) enables authorities to detain any individual for two years without a trial.

## HC Directs Uploading Of...

district-wise state lands as on January 1, 2001, were compiled and posted on the official website.

The details of government land under illegal occupation and full identity of encroachers and particulars of the land be posted on a website, it said. These details included the applications received under the Roshni Act, the valuation of the land, the court observed.

It said there should be full information about the identities of all influential persons, including legislators, bureaucrats and businessmen, who have derived benefit under the Act to occupy state lands.

The divisional commissioners shall place on record district-wise full details of the encroached state land not covered by the Roshni act, it said. The revenue secretary shall ensure that this information is also posted on the website of the respondents within four weeks.

In case the above directions are not complied with, the court said the revenue secretary and the divisional commissioners would be held liable for contempt of court.

The CBI shall also inquire into the continued encroachments on state lands, illegal change of ownership use, grant of licences, misuse of the land and raising of illegal constructions. The agency should also probe failure of the authorities to take action for these illegalities, it said.

The CBI shall specifically inquire into the matter of publication of the Roshni Rules, 2007, without the assent of the legislature.

The high court has asked the CBI to file a status report every eight weeks. Petitioner Ankur Sharma of Ikljutt Jammu organisation alleged that an estimated loss of Rs 25,000 crore was caused to the exchequer in the scam. The Jammu and Kashmir administration had in 2018 repealed the J&K State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001, commonly known as the Roshni scheme.

## Imposes Rs 25K Costs To CEO...

we were inclined to initiate contempt of Court proceedings against the Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority," a bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta said.

The order pertains to handling and management of municipal solid waste by GDA which according to PCB causes irreparable damage to the ecology of the world famous skiing and tourist resort.

M. A. Chashoo, Additional Advocate General, submitted that there is some communication gap on account of the Covid-19 situation.

"This in our view is no excuse whatsoever. It appears that the respondents have no intention of complying with our orders and simply biding time," the court said, adding "The learned AAC prays for one last opportunity to place the detailed explanation with regard to the Solid and Liquid Waste Management in Gulmarg and the matters raised in the newspaper report."

"We grant one such opportunity subject to payment of costs of Rs.25000 (twenty five thousand) which shall be deposited within seven days from today in the Advocates Welfare Fund," the court said, adding, "Proof of deposit of these costs shall accompany the compliance report of our order dated 12th of June, 2020 which shall be filed before the next date." (GNS)

## Excise Commissioner Guilty...

Five petitioners, namely Suman Rohemetra, Kewal Krishan Gupta, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Anita Sharma , and Rimjhim Sharma who are license holders for sale of liquor in Jammu had filed a civil suit in the court against the commissioner for not obeying a court order over the issuance of show-cause notice to the petitioners. The commissioner had served a show-cause notice to them on 5 June 2020 for illegally transferring their licenses outsold the family or heirs, compelling them to move court

The petitioners had submitted that the commissioner or his deputy has no jurisdiction to serve the show cause notices and sought interim relief from the court. The court put the notices in abeyance and directed the status quo. However, the petitioners submitted that despite the abeyance orders, the excise officials were not granting them Travel Permission for liquor which resulted in the loss of their livelihood. This Court is left with no other option except to subject the contemnor/defiant to suffer civil imprisonment and accordingly, it is, ordered that the contemnor is guilty of acting in disobedience of the court order for which he shall suffer civil imprisonment.

The Court however, directed the contemnor to surrender himself before the Court on October 14, failing which he shall render himself liable to be arrested by warrants of arrest for his attendance and appearance before the Court for follow up order to commit him to civil imprisonment.

## LG Reviews Progress Made...

and administrative measures recommended for the revival of the business sector along with financial implications and accorded timelines, aimed at helping business and entrepreneurs and steps taken thereon. "Business sector is the backbone of every economy and it is important that the government machinery must lay a special focus on its revival and for

the welfare of the people associated with it." LG, as per official spokesperson said. Sinha, he said stressed on effective implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee as per the timelines set up by the government to improve the overall business environment of J&K.

The official spokesperson said that the LG directed the officers to dis-

burse financial assistance to the beneficiaries at the earliest.

"He directed for holding workshops for awareness of NPA and GEM on-boarding to be held in 20 districts for 10 days which shall be jointly organized by the Finance Department and J&K Bank. He also called for extending support to small businesses, weavers, artisans by effecting purchases by Government Departments exclusively," the official spokesperson said. On promoting skill development, the official spokesperson said that the LG directed the concerned officers to work out the Skill Development Department calendar of events for promoting skill development amongst the rural population and trade specific training at grass root level.

"He further laid emphasis on Buyer-Seller meets to be organized by the Industries & Commerce Department around the UT, especially export oriented handicrafts, round the year. Buyer-Seller meets shall be organized for encouraging participation of local industries in handicrafts and other allied sectors and for suppliers to cantonments. This will be a regular feature round the year," he added. He said that Sinha also asked the Industries and Commerce Department to come up with a comprehensive plan to save all potentially viable MSME sick units. The LG, he said, also directed the concerned officers to seek every option and opportunity for increasing the production of Apple, Walnuts, and Almonds through high density plantation.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG took stock of the progress made on various financial measures recommended by the Committee including Interest subvention of 5% in case of all borrowers excluding borrowers under KCC, ACC, Loan against deposits, Loans under personal segments, NBFCs ; 50 % Waiver of the fixed charges of electricity in respect of the Industries and Commercial Establishments for a period of 1 year from January 2020 to December, 2020; 50 % waiver of the water charges in respect of the Industries and Commercial Establishments for a period of 1 year from January 2020 to December, 2020; Bus Drivers/cleaners/ Sumo Drivers and auto drivers who have moved to construction works shall be registered with the Building and other Construction Workers Board and paid monthly remuneration of Rs 1000 each in DBT mode for a period of six months as per norms; Release of Pending interest subvention under 2014 and 2016 rehabilitation schemes for restructured accounts; 80% subsidy amounting for installation of the bio-digesters in the Houseboat; 50% subsidy or Rs 500 lakh whichever is lower shall be provided to the transporters for replacement of old buses; Payment of Rs 1000 per month to Shikara Walas/Workers in the House boats/Tourist Guides/Pithuwalas/ Dandiwalas/Sledge Walas/Pony & Camel walas for further 6 months upto December, 2020 etc.

## Before Long Winter At LAC,...

of Home Affairs recently revealed that the militancy-related activities have reduced by around 36% in the valley after the abrogation of Article 370.

While maintaining what looks like a tight-grip on defiance, Delhi since last year tried to manage the region through a series of controversial decisions. In this regard, already over 18.52 lakh domicile certificates have been issued in the erstwhile state. A significant proportion has been given out to those who lived or served in the state for years.

As part of the "development" agenda, over 10,000 vacancies at all the levels were identified for recruitment in various departments in the first phase, while more than three lakh J&K government employees got benefits under the 7th Central Pay Commission. In the name of big projects, the world's highest railway bridge over river Chenab is expected to connect the valley with the rest of India by train for the first time by 2022. Similarly, the government introduced an array of insurances schemes including the Atal Pension Yojana and launched 85 people-oriented development schemes, like PM-KISAN, PM-KISAN-Pension, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and Stand-Up India in Jammu and Kashmir.

Likewise, in the name of "potential development" of the region, investment in the tourist infrastructure—in the form of film shootings, adventure and religious tourism—is being planned. Such proposals, however, are being conceived when the double-lockdown has already broken the back of Kashmir's tourism industry.

In the same manner, given the massive reliance of Kashmiris on outside institutions, the narrative of privatization of education and health is being peddled as a new feature of "Naya Kashmir". The main argument so far has been whether the abrogation can bring "peaceful change" for the people of Kashmir or it will prove just another gimmick. The main concerns across various sections of the society have been the alleged change in the demographics of the Muslim-majority region.

Many Kashmiris are today worried about their cultural identity and traditional extinction in the coming time. Apart from this, many fear that the power to control J&K will subsequently shift towards the centrally ruling BJP government after various laws have been passed. This has already alarmed the traditional power centres of the region led by National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party. Clearly, as Delhi is relentlessly changing the old order of the region, many new concerns and confusions are rearing their ugly head. In this framework, Farooq Abdullah's Beijing beckon might sound another sensational byte, but the unabated political will on the ground actually makes many believe that the major change has already swept across the valley, even before the long winter is yet to witness the possible elephant-dragon tussle at frozen heights of the erstwhile region of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Justice Magrey Named LLSA...

read with Rule 3 of Union Territory of Ladakh Legal Services Authorities Rules, 2020 notified vide S.O 13, dated 9.04.2020," he added.

## India, Pak Troops Trade Fire...

by firing with small arms along LoC in Kharikarmara sector in district Poonch", defence spokesman said. He said that Indian army retaliated befittingly.

Pakistan troops had violated ceasefire on Sunday too by targeting several sectors in Poonch. On October 1, one army jawan was killed and another injured, when Pakistan army violated ceasefire and resorted to heavy firing and mortar shelling along the LoC in Krishnagati area of Poonch district, officials said. On September 5, an army personnel was killed and two others, including an officer, were injured as Pakistani troops violated ceasefire in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district, officials said.

While on September 2, a JCO was killed in ceasefire violation by Pakistan army along LoC in Keri sector of Rajouri.

## 70 Jammu Jail Inmates Free...

Bhaderwah jail in Doda district and four in the Central Jail in KotBhalwal in Jammu. "Out of the 80 prisoners, who tested positive for COVID-19 over a fortnight back, 72 have been cured after successful treatment," Jammu District Jail SuperintendentMirza Saleem Ahmad Beig told PTI. Re-testing exercise in the jail started this morning, he said and added that the three staff members, who were found positive for the coronavirus earlier, have tested negative this time. However, Beig said that in the fresh re-testing drive 10 prisoners, including two new inmates, have been found positive. They are asymptomatic and are being provided necessary treatment, the superintendent said. He said that precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Meanwhile, a police official said that a 75-year-old prisoner from the Bhaderwah jail in Doda district died of COVID-19 at a hospital here, which is also, incidentally, the first death among prisoners lodged in different jails in the Jammu region.

The elderly prisoner, who was facing murder charge, had tested positive for COVID-19 last month and was shifted to the Government Medical College and Hospital here. He breathed his last on Sunday, the official said. He said the deceased was suffering from various ailments including diabetes and hypertension.

## Ex- Minister Sharief Niaz Passes...

State (now UT) in 1989. He joined the Congress party in 1976, worked as a trade union leader. He was nominated District President of the Congress Committee, Doda, in 1979. He unsuccessfully contested the 1983 Assembly elections on a Congress ticket from Inderval constituency, but was finally elected in 1987. From 1992 to 1996, he remained a member of USERS consultative committee in the Northern Railway, and was elected to the assembly in 2002. He was inducted as Minister for Power in Mufti-led Congress-PDP coalition. In 2007, Niaz was elected as a Member of Legislative Council (MLC) for Doda. Congress leaders, Gulam-Nabi Azad, G M Saroori, Ravinder Sharma, VikarRasoolWani, Abdul Majid-Wani, Ashok Kumar, Sham LalBhagat, Naresh Kumar Gupta, AslamGoni, Raj Kumar Badyal and others have condoled the demise of veteran leader.



# 10 New Bridges Will Enhance Army's Operational Efficiency In J&K: Official

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for the 10 new bridges in the Union Territory, saying that it will open new paths of development, peace and prosperity in the region.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh earlier today inaugurated 44 bridges made by the BRO across seven states and UTs in an event through video conferencing.

"The newly-inaugurated bridges will play a crucial role in strengthening the connectivity to far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir and enhancing the operational efficiency of our forces. I strongly believe that bridges are not only critical component of country's infrastructure but they also connect



people and have power to change the destiny of a society and economy of the region," Mr Sinha said during the meeting held via video conferencing.

The Lt Governor expressed hope that there will be greater socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir in the year ahead and development would

reach its every nook and corner. Mr Singh said that the construction of these bridges will facilitate military and civil transport in the western, northern and

northeast areas of the country. "Our armed forces personnel are deployed in large numbers in areas where transport is not available throughout the year," he said.

## Class 11th students block road in North Kashmir

Magam: Scores of students from Class 11 blocked the road in North Kashmir demanding mass promotion.

Eyewitnesses said that students of 11th class from Girls Higher Secondary School, Magam blocked Tangmarg-Narbal road at Magam near Old Hospital for traffic and demanded mass promotion.

The student both boys and girls, hit the road and disrupted the vehicular movement for some time. Commuters faced a lot of problems due to road blocks. The students raised slogans against the Board of School Education.

The protesting students said that in view of the prevailing Covid-19 situation, they suffered a lot and their academic session was adversely affected as they failed to concentrate on studies.

They said mass promotion is the only solution to their sufferings. "We are suffering from mental agony and want the Board of School Education to declare mass promotion for Class 11th," the protesting students said.

Witnesses said that a police team rushed to spot and pacified the protesting students with the assurance that matter will be raised with the concerned agency. (KNT)

## Hangul captured in Awantipora, shifted to Dachigam National Park



Awantipora: Wildlife Dept team Monday captured a 'Hangul' in Awantipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district and shifted it to Dachigam National Park. Hangul or Kashmir Stag is one of the rarest deer in the world found only in Kashmir Valley. Last year, a 'Hangul' was captured from the

Tral area while a herd of around 6 to 8 deer were seen in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district recently.

The official said that the captured 'Hangul' was shifted to Dachigam National Park Srinagar.

### Public Notice

I Have lost the Pony Walla Registration Certificate issued by Department Of Tourism Govt of J&K bearing Regd No: 2581/TS/58. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Dy Director Tourism within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.



Shabir Ahmed Tinda  
Shikara Name Shbir Palace  
Address; Ghat / Tetty No : 19A

### OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL BALIHARAN, PATTAN.

#### RESOLUTION

In pursuance to the meeting of the Managing Body dated on 10-09-2020 elections were held for the Managing Body through secret ballot 05-10-2020. The following have been elected for the Managing Body of Madina Public High School Baliharan, Pattan.

01 Mr. Syed Mukhtar Hussain  
03. Mr. Gh. Hassan Rather  
05. Mr. Reyaz Ahmad Khawaja  
07. Mtr. Roohijan  
09. Mtr. Rizwana Akhter

02. Mr. Gh. Nabi Mir  
04. Mr. Ali Mohammad Joo  
06. Mr. Muzaffar Hussain Dar  
08. Mr. Gh. Hassan Sofi

S.NO.	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
01	Mr. Syed Mukhtar Hussain	Syed Sadiq Razvi	Baliharan	B.A	Business.	Chairman
02	Mr. Gh. Nabi Mir	Ali Mohammad Mir	Hanjiweera	B.A. B.Ed.	Rtd. Employee	Secretary
03	Mr. Ali Mohammad Joo	Gh. Mohammad Joo	Dever (Parhaspora)	M.A. B.Ed.	Principal of School	Member
04	Mr. Gh. Hassan Rather	Ali Mohammad Dar	Mattipora	12th.	Pvt. Service	Member
05	Mr. Reyaz Ahmad Khawaja	Ali Mohammad Khawaja	Baliharan	10+02	Business	Parent Member
06	Mr. Muzaffar Hussain Dar	Gh. Mohammad Dar	Arampora	M.A B. Ed	Pvt. Service	Member
07	Mtr. Roohijan	Gh. Mustafa Malik	Mirgund	B.A. B.Ed.	Pvt. Service	Member
08	Mr. Gh. Hassan Sofi	Mohammad Zaman Sofi	Baliharan	10+02	Pvt. Service	Member
09	Mtr. Rizwana Akhter	Fida Hussain Malik	Malik	B.A. B.Ed.	Staff-representative	Member

The Managing Body resolved to approach the worthy Director School Education Kashmir for the approval of above cited Body.

Chairman  
Madina Public High Schol Baliharan Pattan

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION KUPWARA NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. 38-Kupwara/4939-46 of 2020-21 e-tendering DATED: -10-10-2020

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	E/M (In rupees)	Time o In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01	Raising of cement concrete R/Wall in Km 1 <sup>st</sup> RD 950'-0" of Shundi Kalarooch road	1.00	200/-	2000/-	10 days	19-10-2020	"DEE"	3054 M&R
01	Construction of 3 No was rooms & 3 No Toilets incl. Septic Tank at PWD quarters near TRC Kupwara	6.90	300/-	13800/-	15 days	19-10-2020	"C&D"	District Sector ( Security)

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

S.No	Date of issue of Tender Notice	10-10-2020
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-10-2020 to 17-10-2020 (4.00PM)
03.	Bid submission start date	10-10-2020 from (10.00A.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	17-10-2020 upto (04.00PM)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	19-10-2020 at (11.00A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Kupwara

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury receipt (Under Account Head - 0059) ( Treasury receipt must be purchased after tender date and Boldly written Name of Work, Name of Contractor with contact No, NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara (tender inviting authority ) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara (Tender receiving authority )

4. Valid Registration CARD /Renewal, PAN Card , GST Certificate and latest GST Clearance ending previous Month.

5. The steel/Key construction material shall be allowed only of approved brand by the government.

6. The contractors are directed to upload the additional performance security deposit in advance, during downloading bid process as admissible under rules.

7. Submission of additional performance security for unbalanced bids.

S.No	%age of unbalanced Bid viz a viz advertised cost on account of Law Rate	Additional performance security to be deposited
1	Up to and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% below	5%
3	Greater than 20% upto and including 25% below	10%
4	Greater than 25% upto and including 30% below	15%
5	Greater than 30% below	20%

8. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara. (Tender receiving authority )

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

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

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

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

d. In case the L-1 fails deposit the requisite document, the action against the L-1 as per PWD rules leading to blacklisting of contractor.

No:- 4939-46  
DT:- 10-10-2020

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Kupwara

#### DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

#### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

#### RAILWAYS

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

#### HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
25 Safar  
1442

#### PRAYERS

FAJR 5:11  
ZUHR 12:17  
ASR 4:22  
Magrib 6:04  
ISHA 7:23

## This Day In History

- 1213 - Battle at Steppes-Bishop Pierrepont & Louis II beat Henry I of Brabant
- 1501 - Maximilian of Austria & Louis XII sign Treaty of Trente
- 1760 - Russian and Austrian army evacuates Berlin
- 1943 - Italy declares war on former Axis partner Germany
- 1944 - US 1st army begins battle of Aachen, first German city captured during WWII
- 1960 - Opponents of Fidel Castro executed in Cuba
- 1964 - Voskhod 1 crew returns
- 1966 - 173 US aircraft bomb North Vietnam
- 1969 - 1st time 7 people in space
- 1972 - Aeroflot Il-62 crashes in large pond outside Moscow, 176 die
- 1973 - Jordan enters Yom Kippur war
- 1976 - A Bolivian Boeing 707 cargo jet crashes in Santa Cruz, Bolivia killing 100 (97, mostly children, killed on the ground).
- 1976 -First electron micrograph of an Ebola viral particle obtained by Dr. F.A. Murphy, working at the C.D.C.
- 1981 - Vice President Hosni Mubarak elected President of Egypt
- 1983 - Ameritech Mobile Communications (now Cingular) launched the first US cellular network in Chicago, Illinois.
- 1984 - STS 41-G mission; lands at Kennedy Space Center
- 1993 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Kary Mullis & Michael Smith
- 1993 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Russel Hulse & Joseph Taylor
- 2010 - The 2010 Copiapó mining accident in Copiapó, Chile comes to an end as all 33 miners arrive at the surface after surviving a record 69 days underground.
- 2012 - 15 people are killed by a market suicide bombing in Darra Adam Khel, Pakistan
- 2013 - 109 people are killed in a stampede on a bridge in Datia district, Madhya Pradesh, India

## From KO Archives

## RSS Launches JK Trifurcation Campaign

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has formally launched its campaign for the trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir coming out in the open, for the first time, in support of the division of the only Muslim majority state. Advocating Reorganisation of the state by what it perceives as isolation of the Muslim majority valley from rest of the state, the organisation (visualizes the move as a step towards early solution of the Kashmir problem).

According to a report earned by The Times of India today, the RSS has planned "mass action programme" and has floated an umbrella organisation - the Jammu and Kashmir Nationalist Front (JKNF) - and was 'subtly' promoting groups to organisat mass agitations to get the state divided into Hindu Jammu, Muslim valley and Buddhist Ladakh The Front held its first dharna in Jammu interestingly on Gandhi Jayanti.

In fact, according to the report, the RSS plan would not stop at the mere 'trifurcation' of the state It favours further division of the Muslim dominated valley by carving out a separate homeland for the migrant Kashmiri Pandits. The movement envisages mobilisation of public opinion in the Muslims majority districts of Poonch, Rajouri and Doda, besides the Gujjar community against what it describes as 'Kashmiri hegemony'.

Quoting M G Vaidya, an RSS spokesman in New Delhi, the report said, 'Trifurcation doesn't mean surrender to the Two-Nation theory. The reorganisation is basically an administrative measure.' The Sangh Parivar believes that Kashmiri extremism can be dealt with only by separating the valley from rest of the state and focussing on the insurgency operations in the Muslim majority valley, the report said.

While the RBS-backed JKNF was gaining ground, the report said, the BJP had, curiously, kept itself away so far. The recent dharna in Jammu was joined by even the mainstream parties like the Janata Dal (U) and Bhin Singh's Panther's party. Explaining the reasons, the co-convenor of the JKNF, Yesh Bhasin, a former RSS Parcharak and state BJP leader, told the newspaper, "The BJP is not openly supporting us since they are bound by the NDA's policies."

(Kashmir Observer, October 13, 2000)



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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## US support for India

As India-China stand-off drags on in Ladakh, the US has thrown its lot with India. In recent days several top Trump administration officials have issued statements in favour of India. They include US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien and US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo. O'Brien has talked about China's "territorial aggression" at the Indian border and Pompeo has said that China has amassed 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control. The two have also talked about supporting India in its fight. O'Brien has also argued that the "time has come to accept that mere dialogue and agreements will not persuade Beijing to change," and Pompeo has rued that the "West allowed the Chinese Communist Party to walk all over us".

Incidentally, these statements have come ahead of the visit of the US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun's visit to India from Monday. Biegun's visit will pave the way for the Indo-US 2+2 meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and their US counterparts Pompeo and US Defence Secretary Mark T Esper later this month. Both the top US administration officials are also expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These will be last such high level meetings between the US and India before the November presidential elections.

The ongoing India-China stand-off is likely to be top of the agenda. Though the meetings between the two sides will make little difference as the US will be electing a new government in November, the growing closeness between the two democracies will not be lost on China. In case of Trump retaining his presidency, the October meetings and their outcome will be taken forward. Joe Biden's takeover could be expected to usher in a minor shift and possibly certain nuancing of the US approach towards New Delhi.

So, as far as China, India will have to go it alone for some more time. At the same time, a closer cooperation with the US on Beijing may end up complicating the matters further than resolving them. For one, a closer alignment with the US will undermine India's long treasured strategic autonomy. It will also mean closing doors on improvement in ties with China, not in the long term interest of India. A perpetual hostile relationship with the communist giant has the potential to keep India off-balance.

Under the circumstances, a sustained engagement with China is the only good option. External affairs minister S Jaishankar recently termed the situation in Ladakh "very very serious" that called for "deep conversations at political level" to be addressed. Though a series of dialogues between security and diplomatic personnel going right up to defence minister and foreign minister have not yielded desired result, there is no reason to give up yet. There is hope that things can still turn around. But this requires the two countries to stay the course.

### OTHER OPINION

## On 2020 Peace Nobel

Alfred Nobel's willed legacy to reward exceptional work that furthers fraternity among nations, eliminates or reduces armies and promotes congresses of peace has brought the Nobel Peace Prize to a variety of causes — from abolition of landmines, nuclear and chemical weapons to addressing climate change, besides conflict resolution. This year's prize has been awarded to the World Food Programme (WFP), of the UN system, for its contribution to combating hunger in conflict and disaster-struck sites. The Norwegian Nobel Committee took note of the WFP's life-saving role in the year of the pandemic, staving off catastrophes of hunger in Yemen, Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan and Burkina Faso. The Prize is a fitting tribute to the aid workers who brave hazardous conditions to reach starving people in theatres of war, civil strife and natural disasters, moving food on aircraft, trucks and even all-terrain amphibious vehicles. The decision to honour the WFP echoes the advice of another peace laureate from 1949, Lord John Boyd Orr, the first head of the FAO, that peace cannot be built on empty stomachs. That counsel must resonate even more with all countries and foster greater cooperation to close the WFP's funding gap of \$4.1 billion, as the world's hunger map presents a depressing picture with more than a quarter of the population facing undernourishment in many countries; in strife-ridden Syria, an estimated 4.6 million people survive on food aid. Clearly, without stronger commitment from the big powers, the challenge to feed the millions who suffer acute hunger due to conflict and failed agriculture can never be met.

The recognition that the WFP has received can help the humanitarian organisation prepare for a decade of ambition and help meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Of central importance is SDG 2 — achieving zero hunger by 2030 — a target that requires determination to resolve festering armed conflict, and more fundamentally, to mitigate carbon emissions early and avert effects on agriculture from disastrous climate events. As the Norwegian committee has pointed out, the need for international solidarity and multilateral cooperation is more conspicuous than ever. Democracy also needs strengthening to help achieve equitable food distribution and end hunger, a salutary outcome experienced by free societies that also have unfettered media. Several poor countries have suffered a severe setback to their developmental aspirations due to the pandemic, and lack strong institutional governance to manage the crisis. This is a time for the world's big powers to strengthen the UN system, espousing fraternity, shunning militarism, greening economies and resolving conflicts in the true spirit of the Peace Prize.

The Hindu



Ahymon Ayoub

For Kashmir, with repeated toppling of India from World Press Freedom Index and the consequent strangulation on local media, the organisation's shut down means a further deepening of the void created by information blockade.

### OTHER OPINION

## Human Rights Shutdown?

Against the backdrop of recent news of the closure of Amnesty International's operations in India, the larger criminalization of dissent, and record-long censorship of voices in Kashmir — one is taken back to the period of Samizdat writings in the erstwhile Soviet Union. Samizdat, which emerged as a literary revolt against heavy censorship of press involved writing, publishing and circulating secretive and dissident literature critical of the state apparatus' repressive measures.

Despite having suffered immensely and losing the steam for a little while, the movement nevertheless survived the punitive pressures and continued to flourish in Communist Russia. Yet, even in the present times India and Russia seem to have a lot in common when it comes to populist culture and intolerance to dissent. While Russia is furthering and strengthening its tradition of reprisals, India is upping its game along the same line too. No wonder, India has become the second country after Russia and the first ever democratic country where Amnesty International was forced to close down its operations.

Closer home, for Kashmir, where the space for furnishing truths and portraying the miseries has already shrunk, the news of Amnesty International's elimination has only added up to the unprecedented list of traumas.

Looking at its general service and reach-out, the organisation is functional in over seventy countries but has run into conflicts with only a few like Israel and China, which have a dismal record of Human Rights abuses.

Although it has been facing the administration's wrath since 2018, which has been raiding its office on one pretext or the other; its activism on the unfortunate series of events that shook the political landscape of India has dunked it into trouble. From its continual warnings of the impending humanitarian crises post CAA and NCR; its statement on the complicity of police in the recent Delhi riots; and its statistics regarding the highest number of health-workers' deaths during the Pandemic — the organisation has lately unravelled too much of truth to be manipulated/digested

by the current regime.

For Kashmir, with repeated toppling of India from World Press Freedom Index and the consequent strangulation on local media, the organisation's shut down means a further deepening of the void created by information blockade. From raising the cry for the disappeared to repeatedly campaigning against the draconian laws and the unbridled impunity of the Armed Forces under AFSPA, Amnesty has been reporting Human Rights violations in a space where enforced silence on the local media rules the roost. On the other end, with its reportage on Human Rights abuses, it has been performing the service of countering, to some extent, the

Particularly with respect to Kashmir, the organisation has always been treading a bumpy road. With its reports on Human Rights abuses in the valley getting discredited, the organisation has been hounded for long now. In fact, last year, it was banned from releasing its report on Kashmir which engaged with the use and abuse of PSA (Public Safety Act) against Kashmiris.

Although its subversion does resound a death knell for already impoverished Indian institutions and civil society, it translates into further infantilization and complete loss of voice for the minorities who are at crossroads in India.

Inauspicious, as the move is

Even in the present times India and Russia seem to have a lot in common when it comes to populist culture and intolerance to dissent. No wonder, India has become the second country after Russia and the first ever democratic country where Amnesty International was forced to close down its operations

linguistic narrative peddled religiously by national media with respect to Kashmir in particular, and India in general.

Although the organisation's ouster serves as a clear marker of the present regime's extreme intolerance towards hard truths, earlier regimes have been far from fair in their approach of engaging with Human Rights issues reported by this organisation or any other in case of Kashmir. Most of the earlier reports and data on the subject were used to caricature Kashmir issue into a mere Human Rights problem devoid of any political context. In other words, a phase where Human Rights violations were nevertheless recognised as a problem, albeit problematically, is replaced by another where the mechanism for cataloguing the casualties stands annihilated itself.

for Kashmir in specific, or India at large, the vacuum left by its forced elimination raises a volley of grave concerns and questions in the face of its normal functioning in the countries touted as failures and graveyards of democracy in the larger political imagination. The fact that the organisation continues to amplify the voices and Human Rights abuses from the tumultuous landscapes of Afghanistan to the Occupied Territories of Palestine puts the entire discourse of multiculturalism, secularism and democracy which India prides itself on to a naught.

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## Choose authenticity over TRPs

Television Rating Point (TRP) is an instrument and method provided to judge which programs or channels are watched the most by people in different geographical and demographic sectors. TRP (Television Rating Point) gives us an index of the choice of the people and is consequently used to decide the popularity of a particular program or channel. This also helps advertisers decide when and where to advertise.

For calculation purposes, a device called Peoples meter is attached to the TV set for a few thousand viewers. It records the time and the programme that a viewer watches on a particular day or at a particular time. Then, the average is taken for a 30-day period which gives the viewership status for

a particular television channel. This method is resembles the method used in exit polls during elections.

This whole process, however, is managed by Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India. This body updates the position and list of channels in every section, weekly.

The fundamental question which comes to everybody's mind is: whether this process gives the exact stance of viewers or can TRP process be doctored?

The answer being that this process can be distorted easily as people's meter are attached to TV sets of a few thousand viewers and the choice of those negligible viewers cannot be taken as the opinion of people at large.

TRP's are pregnable and can be easily manipulated; the only requi-

site being money. There are different ways to maneuver opinions and inflate TRPs. For instance, getting information about the locations of peoples meters in an area or by influencing or giving incentives to TV owners for making their TV habits favor a few channels. The method is also distorted by paying money to cable operators to keep their channel as base channel and once the TV is put on by the cable viewers their particular channel unwillingly will be shown for 20 to 30 seconds. Another tactic used by various channels is to broadcast these channel at multiple frequencies.

Manipulating tactics for inflating TRPs is not new. However, due to the recent F.I.R launched by Mumbai police against certain channels for

maligning TRPs, the issue became the talk of the town.

To save oneself from the TRP games, one must simply choose authenticity over TRPs (Television Rating Point). As we know now, the TRP method is an outdated and easily manipulated process. In fact, big corporates should take the initiative to realign their marketing strategies wherein TRPs are not taken to be the fundamental forces for advertising. New sources which reveal the exact viewership should be considered. This includes, website visits, distribution, shares, online engagement, app downloads and the likes of it.

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# Ode to Daddy

Faheem Gundroo

I must have heard from somewhere that our elders go before us. I carried that fear to this day – the indispensable reality of our mortal life. The day dressed in mourning did fall upon me, quivering a veil of fear rustle in my arteries.

I must have been six years old. Daddy had a ritual every morning; after fajr prayers, especially in summers of Kashmir, when first puny rays of sun glittered the roads of our old city, some pigeon flight fluttering in the crisp skies, occasionally men walking with prayers beads in hands and white skull cap with patterns of pulpit on it. Daddy would offer obeisance at Pir Dastgir sahib shrine, stone's throw away from our house in Khanyar. Folded hands and soothing Arabic prayers which he whispered, I would try hard to make sense of them, but largely failed.

On the way back, Daddy would stop at the traffic circle, which went straight towards Khoje Bazar, the rotunda in couple of years was occupied by the Indian forces, erecting a sand bunker and concertina wires around it. From here, Daddy would bow towards Sultan Sheikh Makhdhoom sahib's shrine. We would turn left from here, a few meters away was where we lived. From our main gate, some steps ahead and the shrine of Amir Kabir would be visible. The pattern would continue. Daddy bowing in respect and the tranquil sound of prayers suspending in the air around us.

May be forever was a word meant for memories, not people. Daddy left us early this week. I dreaded this day since childhood. It's remarkable how a child processes the world around him. I must have heard from somewhere that our elders go before us. I carried that fear to this day – the indispensable reality of our mortal life. The day dressed in mourning did fall upon me, quivering a veil of fear rustle in my arteries. I didn't know how to react. I still don't know.

If I've to look back at Daddy's life, he was so many things in one person. But what really stood out for me was his generosity and kindness. He shouldered responsibilities from a very early age. He married his sisters, including my mother. He supported his elder sister who lost her husband at an early age. Taking care of her children, like a patriarch of the family. That bedrock which holds the moors together, Daddy was a sight of soothness to so many people in our immediate family. There was not a single selfish bone in him. He lived for others. He was stubborn to a fault too. He carried that true 'Khan' rigidity all his life, and we would often chide him about it. Tough outside, softest inside.

Last summer I asked him to narrate our family tree. I wanted to chronicle it. He knew all of it by heart. He told me stories of Lala Hatim Khan who was our forefather, and who migrated from Kabul in early 19th century, during the Afghan rule in Kashmir. He told me how the dynasty spread its wings from a part of old city called Kaw Dour. Khwaja Haji Ahmed-ul-lah Khan, the most famous of them. Legend had it that he performed pilgrimage of Haj seven times in his lifetime. He had Pashmina business and for trade would often travel to Alexandria. There was



always a tinge of sadness in Daddy's kind blue eyes, when he spoke of his forefathers. He rued the fact that we had lost communication with a part of our family in Egypt.

Including many one of my earliest memories of Daddy were his engineering drawings and thick HB pencils. Daddy was an ex-Executive Engineer in irrigation department. I and my sisters followed him to his various postings around the valley – from Bibebara to Kulgam. He had so much affection for us, ready to fill any unreasoned demand of mine. Often on the way back from Kulgam to Srinagar, I would sit in his lap and hold the steering of his beige colored Fiat, almost every time stopping at Letpora joint to buy cricket bats. Life was a big mirthful joy; Kashmir was yet to fall in the throes of an ugly war. And every laughter of my childhood was linked to Daddy.

On annual urs days at Dastgir sahib shrine, I would hold Daddy's hands and jostle forward towards the Hujre-khaas. There was immense respect from all priests towards Daddy. The gown of the head priest would every year be stitched by Daddy. After the urs days were over, the priests would be invited for din-

ner. To my innocence it looked like a presidential dinner. Utmost regard for small details, our house swathed in incense sticks. A traditionalist, Daddy made sure the protocols were followed. There was no excuse to it.

Looking back, it's a mountain of memories which I can try to assimilate, but fail in every way. There are so many recollections related to him.

As a poet would lament, the color of ashes dropped from the sky few days back, the doves under it must learn how to deal with it. For someone like me, who was very closely associated, Manzoor Ahmed Khan left behind his values, like high cordilleras. The values of looking after your own people. Being there for your family. Helping the needy. In his own way, Daddy tried to make this world a better place. As a tribute it must carry on.

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It's never been more fashionable to write about walking in cities. Books on psychogeography have become a cottage industry, their authors held up as philosophers of modernity. The roots of what they do lie in a 19th-century phenomenon – the flâneur, a figure of privilege and leisure, with the time and money to amble around the city at will. He is both stimulated and agitated by the buzz and hum of the city, the crowd; he is both part of and separate from the urban spectacle, both actor and observer.

He is also, always, a man. It's strange: for as long as there have been cities, there have been women living in them, yet if we want to know what it's like to walk thoughtfully in the city, there is only a long tradition of writing by men that tells us, stretching from Thomas De Quincey to André Breton to Will Self. But if we want to know how women experience the city? The flâneuse, if she can be said to exist, must be a streetwalker or a homeless woman, or some other unfortunate whose circumstances have forced her onto the street. Today, when most women you meet in the city have a tale or two of street harassment to tell, the notion of wandering the streets alone seems a fraught proposition.

This, perhaps, explains why there is so little attention paid to writing by women about walking in cities: most people assume it doesn't exist, or is the exception that proves the rule. Our most ready-to-hand sources for what the streetscape looked like in the 19th century are male, and they see the city in a particular way. Baudelaire's mysterious and alluring passante, immortalised in his poem "To a [Female] Passerby", from Les Fleurs du Mal, is thought to have been a woman of the night: "The deafening street roared around me/Tall, slender, in heavy mourning, majestic in her grandeur/A woman walked past me (...) Swift and graceful, with legs like a statue's/Twitching like a madman, I drank in/Her eyes, a pallid sky where storms are born/the sweetness that charms and the pleasure that kills." Baudelaire can barely gauge her: she is too fast (though somehow, at the same time, statuesque). He is disinclined to consider who she might actually be. For him, she is the keeper of mystery, with the power to charm and to poison.

Women have overlooked the possibilities for flâneuserie as well. In 1888 the British poet, essayist and novelist Amy Levy wrote, "The female club-lounger, the flâneuse of St James Street, latch-key in pocket and eye-glasses on the nose, remains a creature of the imagination." But there have always been women writing about cities, chronicling their lives, telling stories, taking pictures, making films, engaging with the city any way they can – including Levy herself. To suggest that there could be no flâneuse because she wasn't literally a female flâneur is to limit the ways women have interacted with the city to the ways men have interacted with the city. Perhaps the answer is not to attempt to make a woman fit a masculine concept, but to redefine the concept itself. It's time to recognise a counter-tradition of the flâneuse, looking back to George Sand, to Jean Rhys, or in our own day to Sophie Calle, or Laura Oldfield Ford. If we tunnel back, we find there always was a flâneuse passing Baudelaire in the street.

For a woman to be a flâneuse, first and foremost, she's got to be a walker – someone who gets to know the city by wandering its streets, investigating its dark corners, peering behind façades,

## Female Flâneur

Lauren Elkin



penetrating into secret courtyards. Virginia Woolf called it "street haunting" in an essay by that name: sailing out into a winter evening, surrounded by the "champagne brightness of the air and the sociability of the streets", we leave the things that define us at home, and become "part of that vast republican army of anonymous tramps". Out ostensibly to buy a pencil, Woolf is transformed by the quality of the light, of the air, of the road. As we progress through the cityscape there comes a point when we are no longer just reacting: we are interacting, created anew by this interaction.

The 19th-century Russian painter Marie Bashkirtseff saw an explicit link between walking in the city and the work that artists could create. "I long for the freedom to go out alone: to go, to come, to sit on a bench in the Jardin des Tuileries, and especially to go to the Luxembourg, to look at the decorated store windows, to enter churches and museums, and to stroll in the old streets in the evenings. This is what I envy. Without this freedom one cannot become a great artist."

For Woolf, who had the idea for To the Lighthouse one afternoon while walking in Tavistock Square, there was a clear connection between walking and creativity. In a letter to Ethel Smyth in 1930, she wrote: "I cannot get my sense of unity and coherency and all that makes me wish to write the Lighthouse etc. unless I am perpetually stimulated." This comes from engaging with the world, from "plung[ing] into London, between tea and dinner, and walk[ing] and walk[ing], reviving my fires, in the city, in some wretched slum, where I peep in at the doors of public houses."

The very first words spoken by Virginia Woolf's Mrs Dalloway say it all: "I love walking in London," said Mrs Dalloway. 'Really, it's better than walk-

ing in the country.'" Mrs Dalloway is the flâneuse incarnate, as indicated by her surname: "a woman who likes to dally along the way," as Rachel Bowlby pointed out. Woolf used the streets as research. What she saw there prompted her to wonder about people and their lives. The trick of capturing what they feel pushed her forward in her literary project – how to represent "life itself" on the page.

Rather than wandering aimlessly, like her male counterpart, the female flâneuse has an element of transgression: she goes where she's not supposed to. Take the French artist Sophie Calle, whose celebrated career began the day that, out of boredom, she began secretly following people in the street whom she had chosen arbitrarily. One evening, at a gallery opening, she encountered a man she had been trailing earlier that afternoon. The coincidence seemed like a sign. When he mentioned he was travelling to Venice the next day, she decided to follow him there covertly, too, and she pursued him all over town until he recognised her under her blonde wig. Compiling her notes and photographs, she turned them into an installation and a book, called Suite Vénitienne. Sophie Calle, as flâneuse, claimed her right to walk in the city – not merely following her man, but stalking her prey.

The flâneuse walks the streets defiantly, as a 1929 photograph taken by Marianne Breslauer suggests. In the foreground, a woman stands on the street in Paris, about to light up a cigarette. Behind her, on the wall, the familiar injunction: Défense d'Afficher (No Advertisements), a late 19th-century ban intended to prevent the city from becoming a wasteland of billboards. Above the sign, some letters are stencilled – defiantly? Or were they there first? – announcing that charcuterie could once have been obtained there, or nearby. Below that, someone has

drawn the crude outline of a face.

A woman smoking in public had become a less unusual sight by the time Breslauer took her photo. But it still retains an element of sin: a woman, visible against the wall behind her, in a field of proscriptions and defiances, about to light up a cigarette. Breslauer's photograph sets out the key problem at the heart of the urban experience: are we individuals, or are we part of the crowd? Do we want to stand out, or blend in? Is that even possible? How do we – no matter what our gender – want to be seen in public? Do we want to attract or escape the gaze? Remarkable or unremarked-upon? Défense d'afficher. Do not advertise. And yet there she is. Elle s'affiche. She shows herself. She shows up against the city.

We can even expand the definition of the flâneuse to include the reporter. Flânerie, the great war reporter Martha Gellhorn told Victoria Glendinning, "is as necessary as solitude: that is how the compost keeps growing in the mind". Over a lifetime of work as a war correspondent, travelling from Spain to China, to Finland to Vietnam, Gellhorn put herself among the blood, and the filth and despair.

In Madrid, to report on the Spanish civil war, Gellhorn felt she didn't have the journalistic chops to cover the big stories, and turned, instead, to reporting on daily life in the besieged city. In a series of reports for Collier's, an American magazine, she described her daily walks around the city, detailing the everyday impact of war on the people who lived there. She wrote about how strange it was to find a war just down the road, and described the people as simply waiting, for the next shelling, or for something else to happen. People were "standing in doorways and around the square, just standing there patiently, and then suddenly a shell landed, and there was a fountain of granite cobblestones flying up in the air, and the silver lyddite smoke floated off softly". One man can't bear waiting in a doorway, in a group, and says he thinks it's over, but in any case he must go: "I have work to do. I am a serious man. I cannot spend my time waiting for shells. Salud," he said, and walked out calmly into the street, and calmly crossed it." This is a kind of micro-reporting, telling the world not what happened at a meeting between generals, but how much a loaf of bread mattered to an architect and his children.

In some ways, Gellhorn directly contradicts the image we have of the flâneur – that of the solitary, dissociated urban observer. The flâneuse faced with war and suffering cannot simply stand by: "It is too hard to sit on the outside and watch what you can neither help nor change; it is far easier to close your eyes and your mind and jump into the general misery, where you have almost no choices left, but a lot of solitary company." In her dedication to exposing misery, Gellhorn turned flânerie into testimony.

How did she do it? Where did she find the energy to push back, to flout expectations, to travel so far from home? How did she negotiate the self-doubt, the anxiety, the shame of feeling out of step, excessive, inappropriate? Even today, it takes a daunting amount of conviction to convert natural curiosity into willpower. To up and go is the boldest statement of self-preservation. Laying claim to flânerie has always enabled women to reroute the paths they were expected to take, and disrupt the lives they were expected to live.

The Guardian



# Study Suggests Playmate Perceive Bad Temper On Child’s Make-Believe Aggressive Behavior

Agencies

A recent study suggested playmates perceive bad-temper if children incorporate aggressive themes into their pretend play.

Academics believe that the tendency for children to introduce aggressive themes in these situations - which seems to happen whether or not they are personally easy to anger - maybe because they are 'rehearsing' strategies to cope with hot-headed friends. The research is published in the British Journal of Developmental Psychology.

The finding comes from an observational study of more than 100 children at a school in China, who were asked to play with toys in pairs. Children whose play partners were considered bad-tempered by their peers were 45 per cent more likely to introduce aggressive themes into their pretend play than those whose partners were reckoned to be better at controlling their temper.

Importantly, however, a child's own temperament did not predict the level of make-believe aggression. Instead, children often appeared to introduce these themes specifically in response to having an irritable playmate.

This may mean that in certain cases aggressive make-believe play actually helps children's social and emotional development. The paper's authors stress, however, that further research will be needed before they can provide definitive guidance for parents or practitioners.

Dr Zhen Rao, from the Centre for Research on Play in Education, Development and Learning (PEDAL), at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, said: "If children have a friend who is easily angered, and particularly if they haven't coped well with that behaviour, it's possible that they will look for ways to explore it through pretend play. This gives them a safe context in which to try out different ways of handling difficult situations next time they crop up in real life."

Aggressive pretend play has been the subject of considerable wider research, much of which aims to understand whether it predicts similarly aggressive real-life behaviours. Most of these studies, however, tend to focus on whether these associations are linked to the child's own temperament, rather than that of the children they are playing with.

The Cambridge study aimed to understand how far aggressive pretend play is associated with a play partner's anger expression. It also distinguished between aggressive pretend play and its 'non-aggressive, negative' variant: for example, pretend play that involves imagining someone who is sick or unhappy.

The research was carried out with 104 children, aged seven to 10, at a school in Guangzhou in China, as part of a wider project that the team were undertaking in that region.

Participants were asked to organise themselves into pairs -- many of them, therefore, picking friends -- and were then filmed playing for 20 minutes. The toys they were given were deliberately neutral in character (for example, there were no toy weapons), and the children could play however they wanted.

The researchers then coded 10-minute samples of each pair in 120 five-second segments, earmarking instances of pretend play, aggressive themes, and non-aggressive negative themes.

Separately, they also asked peers to rate the children's tendency to become angry. Each of the 104 children in the study was rated by, on average, 10 others, who were asked to decide whether they were good at keeping their temper, easily angered, or 'somewhere in-between'.

The researchers then analysed the data using a statistical model called an Actor-Partner Interdependence Model, which is a means of measuring and testing the influence that two individuals have on one another. This allowed them to work out how far children were playing a certain way of their own volition, and how far they were being influenced by their partner.

On average, the children spent only about a fifth of their recorded session participating in pretend play, of which around 10 per cent involved aggressive themes, and 8 per cent involved non-aggressive negative themes. Pretend play was observed in all children. More than half (53.5 per cent) showed at least one instance of aggressive pretend play, and 43 per cent of the children showed at least one instance of negative pretend to play.

The children's own ability to control their temper, as reported by their peers, did not significantly predict how much they pretend to play involved aggressive themes. If they had a play partner who was considered quick to anger, however, they were 45 per cent more likely to create pretend situations that involved some sort of aggressive element. This percentage is to some extent shaped by how the data was segmented, but nonetheless indicates a greater likelihood that children will do this if they are playing with someone peers regard as easy to anger.

There was no evidence to suggest that either child's temperament influenced the frequency of non-aggressive, negative pretend play. The researchers also found that boys were 6.11 times likelier to engage in aggressive pretend play than girls.

The theory that children may introduce these themes to rehearse ways of handling bad-tempered peers is only one possible explanation. For example, it may also represent an attempt to stop playmates becoming angry by giving them a pretend situation in which to 'let off steam', or simply to keep them playing by appealing to their nature.

"Our study highlights the importance of taking into account a social partner's emotional expression when understanding aggressive pretend play," Rao added. "Further research is clearly needed to help us better understand this in different social contexts. The possibility that children might be working out how to handle tricky situations through pretend play suggests that for some children, this could actually be a way of developing their social and emotional skills."



## MacDougal Studios To Expand From Face Masks Into Apparel, Plans International Expansion



**NEW DELHI-** Newly launched India-based face mask brand MacDougal Studios plans to expand into men's and women's apparel and the international market, expecting 200% growth in the coming year.

MacDougal has achieved its growth target of 60% each month, and plans to expand both its distribution network and product categories, the brand announced in a press release. Designer and entrepreneur, Namisha Raj, launched the brand in May this year, with an online store featuring 62 SKUs.

"Our aim is to establish an artistic apparel label that is global and modern in its spirit and Louvre in its appeal, such that a commune of mutual understanding through art and fashion is achieved," said Raj in a press release.

"We believe in sustainability and caring for our environment.

Disposable masks have put the planet at a huge risk of non-bio-degradable waste that is piling up. We need to focus on better avenues of masks and reusable fabric mask is a brilliant choice."

Raj plans to continue to expand MacDougal's online presence in India, before expanding into the U.S. and Western Europe. The brand also has 18 upcoming apparel-related products it will launch for a 'Limited-Edition Collection'. The garments are made by a female workforce using sustainable production methods, according to the brand's press release.

At present, online revenue contributes 40% towards the brand's revenue total. As well as on its dedicated e-commerce store, MacDougal also retails through Amazon, Flipkart, and local retailers in Delhi, Srinagar, Leh, and Mumbai.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Industrial Training Institute (Charari Sharief)**  
Skill Development Department

email : itichars@gmail.com  
website : www.iticharisharief.org  
Correspondence Address : Statelite Colony, Near Fire Station and Sub Divisional Police Office, Charari sharief, Budgam, Kashmir, J&K, India. Pin code : 191112

tele-fax :01951 253596  
mis code : GR01000039

**Skill Development Department Industrial training institute Chararisharief.**

No. ITI/Ch-Sh/Estt/ 180  
Selection List Round-1  
Dated:12-10-2020

The first round of provisional selection list of the candidates who have applied Online for admission in different trades available at ITI Chararisharief and on our website (www.iticharisharief.org for the session 2020-21-22 for free/Self finance seats is issued by Director Skill Development Department Srinagar. The list is also available on the Directorate website www.jkdsd.org all provisionally selected trainees are hereby informed to submit the following original documents. The last date for round 1st is 23-10-2020.The selection of candidates provisional and subject to submission of all necessary original documents with prescribed fee 10th/8th based selections.

01.10th /8th marks card original.  
02. DOB original.  
03. Domicile original.  
04. Provisional certificate original.  
05. Photograph with name one No.  
06. One file cover.

Yours Faithfully  
DIPK-7271/20

Sd'  
Superintendent ITI Chararisharief

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**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GUND KHAWAJA QASIM, PATTAN.**  
RESOLUTION

In pursuance to the meeting of the Managing Body dated on 15-09-2020 elections were held for the Managing Body through secret ballot 01-10-2020.  
The following have been elected for the Managing Body of Madina Public High School Gund Khawaja Qasim, Pattan.

01 Mr. Gh. Mohammad Rather	02. Mr. Mohd Abass Dar
03 Mr. Firdous Ahmad Dar.	Mr. Mohd Afzal Joo
05 Mr. Syed Zahoor	Mr. Syed Ashraf
07. Mtr. Roohi Qasim	Mr. Fancy Qasim

S.No.	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
01	Mr. Gh. Mohammad Rather	Gh. Hussain Rather	Mattipora	M.A B.Ed..	Retired Employee	Chairman
02	Mr. Mohd Abass Dar	Mohd Akbar Dar	Tantrayporr.	Graduate	Administrator of School	Member
03	Mr. Firdous Ahmad Dar	Gh. Mohammad Dar	Peth Kani-hama	B.Sc. B. Ed	Principal of School	Member
04	Mr. Mohd Afzal Joo	Gh. Hassan Joo	Gund Khawaja Qasim	10+02	Pvt. Service	Parent Member
05	Mtr. Roohi Qasim	Mohammad Qasim Mir	Gund Khawaja Qasim	M.A..	Pvt. Service	Member
06	Mr. Syed Ashraf	Syed Bakir Shah	Haggerpora	10+02	Pvt. Service	Parent Member
07	Mtr. Fancy Ishak	Mohammad Ishak	Gund Khawaja Qasim	B.A. B.Ed.	Pvt. Service	Member
08	Mr. Syed Zahoor	Syed Abass	Haggerpora	10+2	Staff representative	Member
09	Mr. Mohammad Akbar Waza	Ali Mohammad waza	Kripalpora Bala	B.A	Business	Member

The Managing Body resolved to approach the worthy Director School Education Kashmir for the approval of above cited Body.

Chairman  
Public High School  
Gund Khawaja Qasim, Pattan.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Sgr**  
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
NIT No: 52/e-tendering of 2020-21/R&B DATED: - 09.10.2020

For and on behalf of the LT Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Rs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	E/M (In Rs)	Time	T&d of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Rewiring of Guttet Top Floor Including Controlling Equipment's Of Chief Engineer PWD (R and B) Office Building at Engineering Complex Raj Bagh Srinagar.	20.00 lacs	800	40000.00	30 days	17.10.2020	"A" Electrical	4059 - NFB

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-10-2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10/10/2020 10.00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	10/10/2020 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	16/10/2020 up to 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17/10/2020 at 6.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Srinagar

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jk-tenders.gov.in](http://www.jk-tenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of E-Challan in favor of Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Srinagar. (Tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Srinagar. (Tender receiving authority).
- Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.

Position of AAA= Accorded  
Position of funds: - available

DIPK-7279/20

No. 52/e-tendering/ERB/

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
(R&B) Electric Division  
Srinagar

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**  
CIRCULAR

In order to maintain continuity in the status of BoSE affiliations, all the Private Educational Institutions affiliated with JKBoSE, are under an obligation to submit their case files before the competent authority for the grant of Extension in their period of affiliation one year ahead of expiration of their affiliation. As such, sequel to the Resolution passed by the Affiliation Committee at its meeting held on 15-06-2020, the following schedule/calendar for submission of case files is circulated for information and necessary action of all the Private affiliated Academic Institutions of Kashmir Division:-

S. No	Particulars
1	Without late fee from 1 <sup>st</sup> December upto 31 <sup>st</sup> March
2	With late fee of Rs. 5, 000/-, from 1 <sup>st</sup> April upto 30 <sup>th</sup> April
3	With late fee of Rs. 8, 000/-, from 1 <sup>st</sup> May upto 31 <sup>st</sup> May
4	With late fee of Rs. 10, 000/-, from 1 <sup>st</sup> June upto 31 <sup>st</sup> July
5	Submission of files, if any, beyond 31 <sup>st</sup> July shall be decided by the Competent Authority on case to case basis.

Further, all the academic institutions are put under strict instructions to submit their case files in accordance to the guidelines already available on the official website of JKBoSE, else the defaulter institution(s) shall be liable for dis-affiliation.

No:-F(Gen-B)KD/20  
DIPK-NB-2926/20

Dated:-10-10-2020

Joint Secretary  
Bose Campus Bemina,  
General KD

Jammu & Kashmir  
**Haj Committee**  
Under Department of Haj & Auqaf, Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir  
(Ph.No.0194-2495365, 0194-2495367, [www.jkshc.org](http://www.jkshc.org), mail at:jkstatehaj@gmail.com)

**NOTIFICATION**

Pursuant to the circular Dated:23-06-2020 issued by the Haj Committee of India, the amount paid by the selected pilgrims towards Haj-2020 has been refunded to them through Direct Transfer Mechanism and deposited in their Cover Head's Bank Account Number mentioned in the Haj Application Form.

However, in case any pilgrim has not received his Haj amount till date, he shall report to this office alongwith his Bank Account details viz-a-viz Bank Passbook (indicating all digits of his account number alongwith IFSC code)/Cancelled Cheque/ Bank Statement so that his case for refund is processed accordingly.

Sd/-  
Executive Officer,  
J&K Haj Committee.

NO:Haj/2020/120-274  
Dated:10-10-2020

DIPK-7233/20



## China backs Iran N-deal, calls for new ME forum

Agencies

**BEIJING:** China's foreign minister Wang Yi has called for a new forum to defuse



tensions in the Middle East after a meeting with his Iranian counterpart where he reiterated Beijing's support for Tehran.

Wang and Javid Zarif also reaffirmed their commitment to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal

with world powers, according to the Chinese foreign ministry, an implicit rebuke of the United States for abandoning the accord during their Saturday meeting in China's southwestern Tengchong city.

Iran has been locked in an acrimonious relationship with Saudi Arabia, the other major Middle Eastern power, over the war in Yemen, Iranian influence in Iraq and Saudi support for Washington's sanctions on Tehran.

"China proposes to build a regional multi-lateral dialogue platform with equal participation of all stakeholders," said the Chinese foreign ministry statement.

The forum would "enhance mutual understanding through dialogue and explore political and diplomatic solutions to security issues in the Middle East", the statement added.

## China To Test Entire City In "Five Days" After Six Coronavirus Cases

Agencies

Beijing, China: China aims to test more than nine million residents of the port city of Qingdao within five days following a minor outbreak of the coronavirus, health officials said Monday, the first mass testing in months.

and personnel" have already been tested in Qingdao since the cases were confirmed.

In June large areas of Beijing were subject to mass tests after the city of more than 20 million detected virus cases linked to a food market.

China has backed back since the virus emerged late last



The country where the virus first emerged has largely controlled the pandemic, cutting a stark contrast to many parts of the world still afflicted by rolling lockdowns and high case numbers.

On Sunday six cases of Covid-19 were confirmed in Qingdao -- a northeastern city of 9.4 million -- originating in a hospital, Qingdao municipal health commission said in a statement on Monday.

Five districts will be tested "within three days" and the whole city "within five days", the statement said.

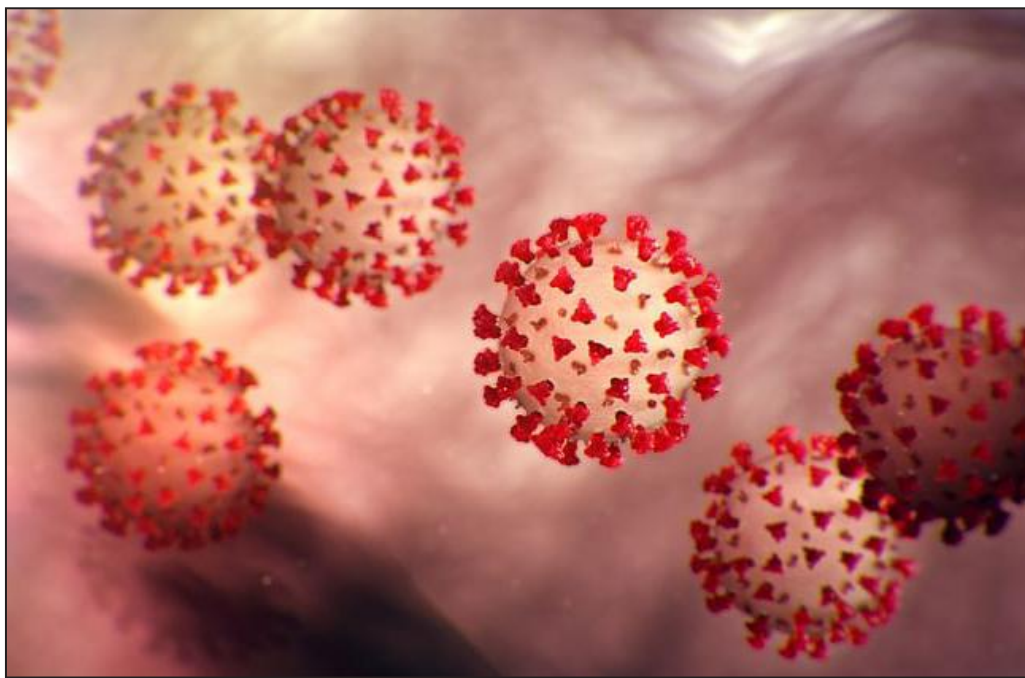
China has extensive, quick test capabilities and the health commission said over 140,000 employees of "medical institutions, newly admitted patients

year, closing the country down and hammering the world's second largest economy.

Hundreds of millions travelled across the country for the 'Golden Week' holiday last week as the country edges back to growth, while rapid tests and swift lockdowns have tamped down secondary waves of the virus.

Beijing is also desperate to be first to conjure up a coronavirus vaccine, with several companies in final stage trials.

Although unproven, vaccines have already been administered to hundreds of thousands of key workers and soldiers as China seizes the pandemic narrative to show off the country's resilience and the Communist government's ability to handle the crisis.



## Novel Coronavirus may survive on smartphones, banknotes for 28 days: Study

Press Trust Of India

Washington: The novel coronavirus responsible for COVID-19 may survive for up to 28 days on common surfaces including banknotes, glass -- such as that found on smart phone screens -- and stainless steel, according to a laboratory study by Australia's national science agency.

The finding, published in the Virology Journal, shows that SARS-CoV-2 can remain infectious on surfaces for long periods of time, reinforcing the need for good practices such as regular hand washing and cleaning surfaces.

The research, undertaken at the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP), found that SARS-CoV-2 survived longer at lower temperatures and on non-porous or smooth surfaces such as glass, stainless steel and vinyl, compared to porous complex surfaces such as cotton.

The researchers at CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, also found that the novel

coronavirus survived longer on paper banknotes than plastic banknotes.

"Establishing how long the virus really remains viable on surfaces enables us to more accurately predict and mitigate its spread, and do a better job of protecting our people," said CSIRO Chief Executive Larry Marshall.

"At 20 degrees Celsius, which is about room temperature, we found that the virus was extremely robust, surviving for 28 days on smooth surfaces such as glass found on mobile phone screens and plastic banknotes," Debbie Eagles, Deputy Director of ACDP added.

For context, similar experiments for Influenza A have found that it survived on surfaces for 17 days, which highlights just how resilient SARS-CoV-2 is, the researchers said.

The study involved drying the virus in an artificial mucus on different surfaces, at concentrations similar to those reported in samples from infected patients and then re-isolating the virus

over a month.

Further experiments were carried out at 30 and 40 degrees Celsius, with survival times decreasing as the temperature increased.

The study was also carried out in the dark, to remove the effect of UV light as research has demonstrated direct sunlight can rapidly inactivate the virus.

"While the precise role of surface transmission, the degree of surface contact and the amount of virus required for infection is yet to be determined, establishing how long this virus remains viable on surfaces is critical for developing risk mitigation strategies in high contact areas," Eagles said.

According to Professor Trevor Drew, Director of ACDP, many viruses remained viable on surfaces outside their host.

"How long they can survive and remain infectious depends on the type of virus, quantity, the surface, environmental conditions and how it's deposited -- for example touch vs droplets emitted by coughing," Drew said.

## Iran-backed Iraqi militias halt anti-US attacks with conditions

Agencies

**BAGHDAD** - An array of Iran-backed Iraqi militia groups have suspended rocket attacks on US forces on condition that Iraq's government present a timetable for the withdrawal of American troops, one of the groups said on Sunday.

A spokesman for Kataib Hezbollah, one of the most powerful Iran-backed militia groups in Iraq, said the groups were presenting no set deadline, but that if US troops "insisted on staying" they would unleash much more violent attacks.

Washington, which is slowly reducing its 5,000 troops in Iraq, threatened last month to shut its embassy unless the Iraqi government reins in Iran-aligned militias that have attacked US interests with rockets and roadside bombs.

The US warning caused alarm

in Iraq, where it was seen as a step towards air strikes, potentially turning Iraq into a battleground in a proxy war between the United States and Iran. A broad array of politicians called on the militia to stop provoking the Americans.

"The factions have presented a conditional ceasefire," Kataib Hezbollah spokesman Mohammed Mohi told Reuters. "It includes all factions of the (anti-US) resistance, including those who have been targeting US forces."

On Saturday, militia groups calling themselves the "Iraqi Resistance Coordination Commission" published a statement suggesting they would suspend attacks in return for a clear plan for US troops to leave. Mohi did not specify which groups had drafted the statement.

He said the Iraqi government must implement a parliamentary

resolution in January calling for foreign troops to withdraw.

**Roadside blast**

Iraq is one of the few countries with close ties to both the United States and Iran, both of which provided military support to help defeat Islamic State fighters, who were beaten back in a three-year war after seizing a third of Iraq in 2014.

Iraqis have long feared their country could become a proxy battleground, especially since Washington killed Tehran's military mastermind Qassem Soleimani in a drone strike at Baghdad airport in January.

Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, an Iraqi leader of pro-Iran militias, was also killed. Factions that Soleimani and Muhandis commanded, including Kataib Hezbollah, swore to avenge them.

## Terror Funding Watchdog FATF Keeps Pakistan On "Enhanced Follow-Up List": Report

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: Noting that Pakistan's measures against money laundering and terror financing "is not yet sufficient to justify a re-rating", a regional affiliate of the Financial Action Task Force on Monday retained the country on its "Enhanced Follow-up" list, according to a media report.

The development came only a few weeks ahead of the meeting of the FATF -- the Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog -- to decide on Pakistan's grey list status.

The first Follow-Up Report on Mutual Evaluation of Pakistan released by the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) underlined that the country's progress on the 40 FATF recommendations on the effectiveness of anti-money laundering and combating financing terror (AML/CFT) system largely remained unchanged -- non-compliant on four counts, partially compliant on 25 counts and largely compliant on nine recommendations, the Dawn News reported.

Pakistan has improved its full compliance on only two of the 40 FATF recommendations, the APG report noted.

"Pakistan will remain in enhanced (expedited) follow-up, and will continue to report back to the APG on progress to strengthen its implementation of AML/CFT measures," the APG concluded in its 12-page report.

The APG Mutual Evaluations is a peer-review system to determine whether countries meet the compliance standards for money laundering and terror financing.

After a country submits a Mutual Evaluation report, APG members can decide to place a member either through regular or enhanced follow-up. While a regular follow-up means just biennial reports, a country put under enhanced follow-up has to send four reports of compliance the following year.

The APG report noted that though the country has taken measures on recommendations pertaining to money laundering and terror financing, the progress "is not yet sufficient to justify a re-rating".

Pakistan had requested for re-ratings on three areas declared partially compliant by the APG in October last year. The request was accepted on one count and rejected on two due to "insufficient" progress to the satisfaction of interna-



tional experts.

The 41-member APG in August last year had downgraded Pakistan's status to "Enhanced Follow-up" category from "Regular Follow-up" over technical deficiencies to meet normal international financial standards by October 2018.

"Enhanced follow-up" is an intensive process of correction that deals with members with significant deficiencies (for technical compliance or effectiveness) in their AML/CFT systems.

## The underground 'Parthenon' protecting Tokyo from floods

Agencies

Kasukabe: It has been called Japan's underground "Parthenon", a cavernous complex charged with protecting Tokyo and surrounding areas from catastrophic flooding -- a risk experts warn is growing as climate change advances.

Above ground, there is little to give away the cathedral-like feat of engineering that forms the main reservoir of the Kasukabe flood tank, the largest facility of its kind in the world.

The immense structure -- deep enough in some parts to hold the Statue of Liberty -- funnels away and redirects excess water from storms and typhoons, protecting one of the globe's most populous capitals.

Soaring pillars weighing 500 tonnes each support the main reservoir, a bare concrete tank the length of two football fields.

Staff at the facility in Saitama, north of Tokyo, are on constant alert, especially during Japan's rainy and typhoon seasons from June to late October.

"In this area, torrential rain, typhoons and even daily rainfall can cause damage by submerging houses and roads," the site's chief, Nobuyuki Akiyama, told AFP.

The reservoir has helped reduce the number of homes affected by water damage in nearby areas by around 90 percent, he said.

In Tokyo alone -- a city cut through by more than 100 rivers -- there are 10 other underground reservoirs and three flood tunnels, and more flood-protection structures are being built.

And in western Japan's Osaka, a flood facility similar to the Kasukabe reservoir is being built at a cost of 366 billion yen (\$3.5 billion). Construction is scheduled to finish in 2044, experts warn more may be needed, as global warming makes what were previously once-a-century storms increasingly common, and catastrophic.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Black man who police led by rope sues Texas city for USD 1 million

Galveston: A Black man who was led by a rope by two white officers on horseback has sued a southeast Texas city and its police department for USD 1 million, saying he suffered humiliation and fear during his arrest.

A lawsuit filed last week in Galveston County district court on behalf of Donald Neely, 44, alleged the officers' conduct was "extreme and outrageous", both physically injuring Neely and causing him emotional distress, news outlets reported, citing the court documents.

Photos of the August 2019 encounter showed Neely being led by the officers on a rope linked to handcuffs -- reminiscent of pictures showing slaves in chains.

Neely, who was homeless at the time, was sleeping on a sidewalk when he was arrested for criminal trespass and led around the block to a mounted patrol staging area. In body-camera video, one officer could be heard twice saying that lead-



ing Neely by rope down city streets would look "bad".

The lawsuit accused the city and the department of negligence, and stated that the officers should have known Neely would consider it offensive to be led on the rope "as though he was a slave." "Neely felt as though he was put on display as slaves once were," the lawsuit stated.

In a statement at the time, Police Chief Vernon Hale called the tactic a "trained

technique and best practice in some scenarios". However, he said he believed his officers "showed poor judgment," adding that the department since changed its policy to prevent use of the technique.

A Texas Rangers investigation determined the officers didn't break the law. Neely's criminal trespass charge was dismissed in court. His lawsuit also alleges malicious prosecution connected to the charge.

## Polish Divers To Defuse World War II "Earthquake Bomb"

Warsaw, Poland: Polish military divers are due to begin a delicate operation on Monday to defuse a massive World War II bomb at the bottom of a channel near the Baltic Sea.

The five-tonne device -- nicknamed "Tallboy" and also known as an "earthquake bomb" -- was dropped by the Royal Air Force in an attack on a Nazi warship in 1945.

It was discovered last year during dredging close to the port city of Swinoujscie -- formerly Swinemunde, a part of Germany -- in the far northwest of Poland.

"It's a world first. Nobody has ever defused a Tallboy that is so well preserved and underwater," Grzegorz Lewandowski, spokesman for the Polish Navy's 8th Coastal Defence Flotilla based in Swinoujscie, told AFP.

750 local residents are being evacuated from an area of 2.5 kilometres (1.6 miles) around the bomb and the operation is expected to last up to five days.

But some residents told AFP they would be staying put.

Halina Paszkowska said the "main danger" for her was the risk of catching Covid-19 in a sports hall where residents are

being given shelter during the operation.

Paszkowska said she also had to look after her 88-year-old mother, adding: "I've lived here 50 years and there have been other bombs, but this is the first time there's an evacuation! Before, we just had to stay indoors."

"A very delicate job"

Maritime traffic on the navigation channel and surrounding waterways will be suspended in an area of 16 kilometres around the bomb disposal operation.

"The first two or three days will be preparations. Our bomb disposal divers will scrape around the bomb, which is embedded in the bottom of the channel at a depth of 12 metres. Only its nose is sticking out," Lewandowski said.

"It's a very delicate job... The tiniest vibration could detonate the bomb," he said, pointing out that the option of a controlled explosion has been ruled out for fear of destroying a bridge some 500 metres away.

The navy divers will instead use a technique known as deflagration to burn the explosive charge without causing a detonation, using a remotely controlled device to pierce through the shell to begin combustion.

## Fake Kuwaiti sheikh jailed

Dubai: A tough court ruling was issued against a man who impersonated prominent sheikhs from the Kuwaiti ruling family and businessmen, and was able to embezzle millions of Kuwaiti dinars from famous people, sports players and artists, while he was inside the Central Prison, Al Qabas Newspaper reported.

In its ruling, the Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Abdullah Al Othman, sentenced the inmate to 4 years in prison with hard labor, and obliged him to return the money, which amounts to more than KD 4 million (Dhs 48 million), that he managed to swindle through the operations he carried out from inside his cell in the Central Prison.

The court also sentenced seven other defendants with varying jail terms, considering two of them as his accomplices, and were charged with money laundering, as they were aware of his scheme. And were responsible of delivering expensive gifts to his victims and convincing them that he is indeed the son of the royal family.



# Humour Mills Keep Ticking Amid "Darkness At Noon" In Mumbai

**MUMBAI:** As Mumbai remained paralysed for hours on Monday due to a massive power outage, netizens kept the "humour mill" on social media ticking.

"Do you have ice-cream in your freezer, Mumbaikar? Eat it now," tweeted a resident from the metropolis.

Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra tweeted a video of "dancing" pylons, saying, "Mumbai power line trips. Humour lines on the Internet are intact & moving at the speed of light..."

Another Twitter user posted a photo of over two dozen mobile phones being charged in a room having power supply through inverter.

Actor-comedian Vir Das tweeted, "It's hard to get things

done in Mumbai without power. Also...the electricity is gone."

Broadcaster Star Sports tweeted a photo showing rows of empty chairs in a cricket stadium, saying "We know it can be strange without fans. Hang in there Mumbai."

Actor Abhishek Bachchan tweeted a message, which read, "Why is everyone surprised? It is 2020. Someone had to switch the power off."

"Mumbai folks, don't feel alone in this hour of crisis. Patparganj stands in solidarity," another user tweeted.

Rubbing salt in the wound was @SmokingSkills, who tweeted, "#powercut in Mumbai is trending, its the only way Shivsena can stop people from watching Republic TV." PTI

# 33 Cr Cow Dung "Diyas" To Hit Mkt This Diwali To Counter Chinese Lights: RKA

**NEW DELHI:** The Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog is targeting production of 33 crore eco-friendly earthen lamps (diyas) made from cow dung during Diwali next month, in order to counter Chinese products, its Chairman Vallabhbhai Kathiria said on Monday.

The Aayog, set up in 2019 for the protection, promotion and conservation of indigenous cattle in the country, has started a nation-wide campaign to encourage use of cow dung-based products during the forthcoming festival.

"Rejecting China-made diyas, the campaign will boost 'Make in India' concept of the Prime Minister and swadeshi movement," Kathiria said in a press conference here.

More than 15 states have agreed to be part of the campaign. About 3 lakh diyas will be lit in the holy city of Ayodhya, while 1 lakh diyas in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, he said.

"The manufacturing has start-

ed. We are targeting 33 crore diyas before Diwali," he said.

About 192 crore kilo of cow dung per day is produced in India at present. There is huge untapped potential in cow dung-based products, he said.

The Aayog said though it is not directly involved in production of cow dung-based products, it is facilitating and offering training to self help groups and entrepreneurs seeking to set up business.

Besides diyas, the Aayog is promoting production of other products made from dung, urine and milk such as anti-radiation chip, paper weights, Ganesha and Lakshmi idols, incense sticks, candles among others.

Kathiria said this initiative will help cow shelters (Gaushalas), which are currently in financial trouble due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to become self-reliant besides creating job opportunities in rural India.



**SMOKED SHELTER:** Encounter site in Srinagar's Barzulla area rising up in flames on Monday as state forces killed two Lashkar militants in an early morning gunfight. KO Photo Abid Bhat

# Grid Failure Plunges Mumbai Into Power Outage

**I**ndia's financial capital Mumbai started its Monday morning with panic as the entire city faced a complete electricity outage because of a central grid failure. Power cuts were also reported from various satellite towns of Mumbai such as Thane, Navi Mumbai, Kalyan, and Palghar, among others.

The power cut was reported at around 10 A.M. and electricity was restored in phases over the next five hours. The electric supply, however, remained erratic.

The outage had a cascading effect on internet connection and water supply in many areas.

Maharashtra's Energy minister Nitin Raut in a social media statement said the electric supply to Mumbai and its suburbs was affected after a sudden circuit failure. "As circuit 1 was under repair, the entire load was on circuit 2, which faced sudden failure resulting in the power cuts," said Raut.

"The lines and transformers that supply electricity to Mumbai and its suburbs faced multiple tripping," he added. "Work to restore electricity has been un-



dertaken on a war footing."

"At 10.10 A.M., there were simultaneous substation tripping in Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company's (MSETCL) unit at Kalwa, Kharghar, causing a huge dip in frequency in the Mumbai transmission system. This led to tripping of Mumbai's power supply," said an update from Tata Power, one of the operators in the city.

Another power operator, Adani Electricity, said they faced a grid disturbance because of a fault.

The sudden electricity outage brought the local trains to a halt. The trains have

been operating only for essential workers such as medical staff and police officials.

On the Central Railway line, which runs through the city's eastern suburbs, at least 35 trains came to a halt, some mid-way on the tracks, and some on the stations. "We immediately got in touch with the grid experts to know about the status and mobilized our security personnel so the commuters don't panic," said Shivaji Sutar, chief public relations officer of the Central Railway.

"The power tripped at around 10.05 A.M.," he added. "Our engineers, too, began checking for any failures from our side. More than 350 passengers, who wanted to get off the trains, were helped by our security personnel, who accompanied them on the railway tracks."

"We were able to restore the trains services on the harbor side by 10.55 A.M. and all the services on the central line were restored by 12.26 P.M.," said Sutar.

On the Western Railway line, which connects the south side of the city to the western suburbs also came to a halt. Their services were restored by 12.20 P.M.

# Shutting Schools Over Covid May Cost India Over \$ 400 Billion: World Bank

**NEW DELHI:** The prolonged closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic in India may cause a loss of over USD 400 billion in the country's future earnings, besides substantial learning losses, according to a World Bank report.

South Asia region stands to lose USD 622 billion from the school closures in the present scenario or up to USD 880 billion in a more pessimistic scenario, it said, adding while the regional loss is largely driven by India, all countries will lose substantial shares of their GDP.

The report titled "Beaten or Broken? Informality and COVID-19 in South Asia" claims that South Asia is set to plunge into its worst-ever recession in 2020 as the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on the region's economies linger.

"Temporary school closures in all South Asian countries have had major implications for students. They have kept 391 million students out of school in primary and secondary education, further complicating efforts to resolve the learning crisis," said the report.

"While most governments have made enormous efforts to mitigate the impact of school closures, it has been difficult to engage children through remote learning initiatives," it said. The report also noted that the pandemic may cause up to 5.5 million students to drop out from the education system and cause substantial learning losses, which will have a lifetime impact on the productivity of a generation of students.

"Most school systems closed in March, and -- though there are important exceptions -- countries are starting to reopen or have already opened their schools. Children have been out of school for approximately 5 months. Being out of school for that long means that children not only stop learning new things, they also forget some of what they have learned."

The projected learning loss for the region is 0.5 years of learning-adjusted years of



schooling (LAYS), falling from 6.5 LAYS to 6.0 LAYS, an enormous setback from recent advances in schooling," it said.

The 'Learning Adjusted Year of Schooling' (LAYS) concept, introduced by the World Bank, seeks to combine access and learning outcomes into a single measure.

It combines quantity (years of schooling) and quality (how much kids know at a given grade level) into a single summary measure of human capital in a society.

The report has projected that based on country data on household labor incomes, the average child in South Asia may lose USD 4,400 in lifetime earnings once having entered the labour market, equivalent to 5 percent of total earnings.

"These projections are based on what we currently know about returns to schooling, using the reduced level of learning caused by the crisis. Summing these numbers for all children in South Asia, the region stands to lose USD 622 billion from the school closures in the present scenario, or up to USD 880 billion in a more pessimistic scenario."

"While the regional loss is largely driven by India, all countries will lose substantial shares of their GDP. For reference, note that South Asian governments spend only USD 400 billion per year in total on primary and secondary education. The total loss in economic output from the current closures is hence substantially higher than what countries currently spend on education," it said.

The novel corona virus has infected over 3.7 crore people across the globe claiming over 10.5 lakh lives.

India's COVID-19 caseload stands at 71.2 lakhs while the number deaths is 1.09 lakh as on Monday.

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