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## 2 Militants Killed In Shopian Gunfight

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Wednesday claimed to have killed two unidentified militants in a joint operation with state forces in Shopian district of south Kashmir.

The soldiers of army's 34 RR, police and CRPF laid a siege around Chakura on Wednesday afternoon after receiving specific input about the presence of militants in the village, a police spokesperson said. The militants, he said turned down the surrender offer and fired upon the search team.

The state forces, the police spokesperson said returned

the fire triggering off an encounter. In the exchange of fire, he said two militants were killed and their bodies retrieved from the site of encounter.

"The identification and affiliation of the killed militants is being ascertained," the official said.

He added that incriminating materials including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter and the same has been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes.

"The last rites of the killed militants shall be" **»PAGE 02**

## SPO, SSB Jawan 'Escape' From Budgam Camps

**SRINAGAR:** A special police officer (SPO) and a Sasashtra Seema Bal (SSB) personal have reportedly deserted their respective units along with weapons in central Kashmir's Budgam district sending the security agencies in a tizzy, officials said Wednesday.

SPO Altaf Hassan Bhat of Qazipora Budgam decamped with two AK-47 rifles and three magazines last night from the SOG camp in

Chadoora area of the district, they said. Bhat, they said has been serving the department from last four years.

"In this connection a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been set into motion," a police spokesperson said.

In a similar incident, Altaf Hussain, a constable of SSB 14th battalion went missing from Nagam area of the district along with his" **»PAGE 02**

## Jinping Tells Chinese Troops To Be War Ready

**NEW DELHI:** At a time when the seventh round of India and China military talks to resolve the border disputes in Eastern Ladakh have ended in a deadlock, Chinese President Xi Jinping has told his soldiers, "We must put all our minds and energy on

preparing for war."

Xi made these remarks while visiting a Marine Corps base in the Guangdong province, where he made an important speech, Xinhua reported.

In his speech, Xinhua reported, "Xi Jinping pointed out that we must put" **»PAGE 02**

## 11 More Coronavirus Deaths In J&K, Toll 1354

**SRINAGAR:** At least eleven more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, taking the number of Covid-19 fatalities in the Union Territory to 1354.

While Jammu division reported six more Covid-19 deaths on Wednesday, five

others became victims of the deadly infection in the Kashmir Valley.

Four among the victims from the Valley were Srinagar residents while another hailed from Shopian district of south Kashmir, officials said.

They said that a 65-year-old woman who was" **»PAGE 02**

## Hurriyat Flays PSA On Teachers

**SRINAGAR:** All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Wednesday condemned the slapping of controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) on three Shopian school teachers and said that oppressive measures like arbitrary arrests and human rights violations will only" **»PAGE 02**

## Cabinet Okays Rs 520-Cr Package

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved a special package of Rs 520 crore for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

Addressing a press conference, Javadekar" **»PAGE 02**

## Protests After Army Vehicle Crushes Youth

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Wednesday used batons and fired tear smoke shells to break-up an anti-army demonstration after an army vehicle knocked to death a youth in Srinagar, barely hours after a man was hit and injured by another army vehicle in central Kash-

mir's Ganderbal district.

Muhammad Ashraf Sheikh of Zewan Bala was killed on the spot while his pillion rider Abdul Hamid Mir was injured when their two-wheeler (JK01AD-0992) was hit by an army vehicle near the garrisoned locality" **»PAGE 02**

## Banihal Highway To Remain Closed On Fridays

**SRINAGAR:** Traffic authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have suspended movement of vehicles on Jammu-Srinagar Highway on every Friday for next six weeks for maintenance of the arterial road, officials said here on Wednesday.

"In connection with the

maintenance of the NH-44, no vehicular movement will be allowed every Friday starting from 16-10-2020 to 30-11-2020," an advisory by Traffic Department said.

The advisory also requested government forces not to ply against the traffic plan" **»PAGE 02**

# All Party Meet Today, Mehbooba To Join

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference president Farooq Abdullah has convened a meeting at his residence on Thursday for chalking out the future course of action on 'Gupkar Declaration' with regard to the special status of Jammu and Kashmir which was revoked by the Centre last year.

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, who was released from detention after 14 months on Tuesday, will also attend the meeting.

"My father and I called on Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba to enquire about her well-being after her release from detention," NC vice president Omar Abdullah told reporters. **»PAGE 02**



## 'Will Take Back What Delhi Snatched'

Shortly after being released from detention on Tuesday, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti posted a message on Twitter saying the people of Kashmir will never forget the "insult" and "humiliation" they faced when New Delhi "illegally" and in an "undemocratic" manner revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5.

In the audio message, she also called the New Delhi's August 5 move a "black decision" **»P-02**

## Abdullah, Mufti Meet Irks BJP

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina reacted sharply to the meeting between NC president Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday and warned them of "serious consequences" for conspiring to "bleed Kashmir". The three former chief ministers met at Mufti's residence in Srinagar after her release from 14 months in preventive detention on Tuesday and accepted the invitation for a meeting **»P-02**

## Unite & Fight Centre's 'Tyranny', Says PC

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram has welcomed the release of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti and called on all mainstream political parties in the state to come together to fight what he said was the "tyranny" of the Centre. PDP president Mufti was released on Tuesday night as the Union Territory administration revoked the Public Safety Act (PSA) charges against her, more than a year after **»P-02**

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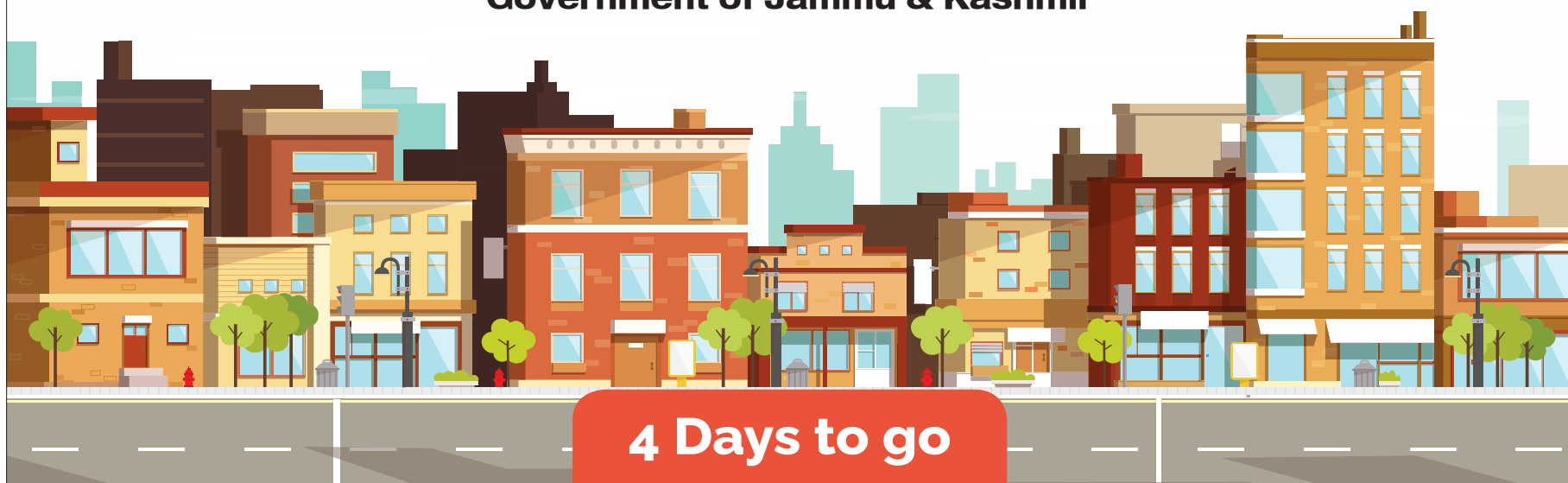
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## 4 Booked For Duping Businessman Of Rs 18 Lakh In Jammu

PTI

**JAMMU-** The Jammu and Kashmir Police Crime Branch on Wednesday booked four people, including two brothers, for duping a businessman of Rs 18 lakh on the pretext of selling over half an acre land here, an official spokesperson said.

The plot of land under contention belongs to the state and the accused conspired and committed forgery and cheated the complainant, following which a formal case was registered against them under relevant sections of

the law, the spokesman of Crime Branch, Jammu, said.

He said a written complaint was lodged by Raj Daluja, a resident of Trikuta Nagar, alleging that Kuldeep Mahajan, his brother Rakesh Kumar Mahajan, Mohd Sharif Sartaj and Ishwar Dass approached him and claimed that a plot of land at Rakh Bahu is owned and in their possession under cultivation and induced him that they are fully competent to sell or transfer the land for development of his business.

Deal for the said piece of land was finalised for consideration

of Rs 68 lakh, and the complaint paid Rs four lakh as advance money and later on, Rs 14 lakh to the accused through cheques, the spokesman said, adding the complainant further alleged that an agreement to sell was executed and duly registered.

On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary verification was initiated, and during the course of inquiry, it has prima facie been established that the piece of land under contention is state land, and the accused persons conspired and committed forgery and duped him of his money, the official said.

## Foiled BAT Action Along LoC: Army

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Army on Wednesday said it has foiled suspected BAT action from Pakistani side along the Line of Control in Tangdhar sector of

Jammu and Kashmir.

"Suspected BAT (Border Action Team) action bid foiled in Tangdhar. Today early morning, suspicious activity was observed of 3-4 intruders by alert troops, which was observed of 3-4 intruders by alert troops, it close to forward post along LoC,"

the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps said in a tweet.

It said timely action by alert troops averted the infiltration bid. "Area search and surveillance (is) under progress," it added.



NC Patron Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar leaving PDP President Mehbooba Mufti's residence after meeting her on Wednesday. Pic, Abid Bhat

## Farooq's Remarks On Art 370 Restoration 'Unacceptable': Karan Singh

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Senior Congress leader Karan Singh said Wednesday National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah's remarks on restoring the special status of Jammu and Kashmir were "totally unacceptable" and could provoke "unrealistic expectations" among the people of Kashmir.

"My old friend Farooq Abdullah has made an astounding statement to the effect that Article 370 will be restored with China's support," Singh said.

"I can understand his rage and frus-

tration at recent events, including the fact that he was under house arrest for a year, an emotion that large sections in the Kashmir Valley share. However, his recent articulation is totally unacceptable. It will tend to, once again, provoke totally unrealistic expectations among the people of Kashmir," he said in a statement.

The National Conference has denied Abdullah said Article 370 would be restored with "China's support". It asserted that Abdullah never justified China's expansionism or its aggression during his interview to a TV channel on Sunday.

## Soldiers In Kashmir Are Being Trained To Kill Drones

Agencies

**PULWAMA:** Threat of militants using hexacopters to lob grenades at state forces at Line of Control (LoC) as well as in the Kashmir hinterland have made armed forces adopt new training course for the troops. Now, soldiers are learning how to kill drones.

The Indian Army has adopted a new training module for their troops deployed in Jammu and Kashmir for anti-militancy operations.

Trainers at 15 Corps Battle School, wherein specialised combat training is imparted through real life situations, are now being educated on how to thwart emerging threats due to drones.

"We are sensitising all the troops who come for training here about threats that drones poses to counter insurgency operations," said one of the trainers, adding that there have been intelligence inputs that militants can use drones to lob grenades at the security establishments and troops involved in counter terror operations in built up area of militant hot-beds in the valley.

Indian Army officers or soldiers who get posted to the valley need to undergo a training course at the battle school where they are trained for their upcoming task in the new terrain.

The battle school runs two training courses: one for those

who are to be posted at Line of Control with Pakistan and another for those who are to be posted in counter insurgency units in different parts of the valley.

The soldiers who are to be deployed at LoC have to undergo 14 days training programme and those who are to be deployed in the valley for counter operations have to undergo 28 days course.

"Both the courses have some common training module, including drones," said another trainer adding that these training programmes will help the troops on the ground.

Last month intelligence agencies had flagged that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)

has procured a sizable number of Hexacopters from a Chinese firm associated with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to flood Jammu and Kashmir with weapons to create unrest.

Indian intelligence agencies stated that ISI has adopted a new modus operandi to infiltrate by weaponing the militants who have been without weapon. Sending weapons separately by drones or other means has also been instituted to reduce the risk of militants getting eliminated at the Line of Control itself.

Sources said that due to the strong anti-infiltration grid established by the Indian security forces, Pakistan has been unable

to infiltrate militants or weapons into the valley to increase insurgency. So they have adopted the new modus operandi.

Pakistan too has been adopting new training measures. Militants are being taught how to operate drones so that when they infiltrate into valley they can use drones to hit at security establishments and forces engaged in counter terror operations.

Last month, security forces recovered EMEI Type 97 NSR rifles manufactured by Norinco company of China, which is a standard issue to PLA soldiers and also gifted to Pakistan Frontier Force as part of CPEC cooperation.

### All Party Meet Today, Mehbooba

He said the PDP leader has accepted the invitation for the meeting of signatories to the Gupkar Declaration on Thursday. "She has kindly accepted Farooq sahib's invitation to join a meeting of the Gupkar Declaration signatories tomorrow afternoon," Omar said. Gupkar Declaration is a resolution issued after an all-party meeting on August 4, 2019 at the Gupkar residence of the NC president. The resolution at the end of the meet on August 4, 2019, a day before the Centre announced its decision of revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and split it into two Union territories, said the parties unanimously resolved that they would be united in their effort to protect and defend the identity, autonomy and special status of Jammu and Kashmir against all attacks and onslaughts. The parties had met again in August this year and vowed to fight for restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

### 'Will Take Back What Delhi...

taken on a black day". "I am released after more than a year. During my time in detention, the black decision of the black day in August 2019 continued to attack my heart," Mufti said in the audio clip posted with a black plaque.

"I feel this must have been the condition of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. None of us can forget the insult of that day. Now we need to take back what Delhi Darbar took away from us illegally and in an undemocratic manner.

"Not only this we will have to continue our struggle for the resolution of Kashmir issue for which thousands of our people have laid down their lives. I know the way ahead is not easy, but our resolve will help us tread the path," Mufti added.

Today, when I am being let off, I demand the release of others who are still in detention illegally," Mufti said in the message. Mufti was released on Tuesday night as the Union Territory administration revoked the Public Safety Act charges against her, more than a year after she was detained following the abrogation of special status of the erstwhile state.

The release of the first ever woman chief minister of J&K comes ahead of the expiry of the deadline set by Supreme Court, which had been approached by her daughter Iltija Mufti with a habeas corpus petition challenging her "illegal" detention.

The top court had on September 29 given the administration of Jammu and Kashmir till October 14 to explain how long they intended to keep Mufti in custody. The Deputy Commissioner ordered that the PSA has been revoked with immediate effect. Her detention period had been extended for a period of three months on July 31 this year. Meanwhile, the scenes at the residence of party president Mehbooba Mufti after her suggest that there is a lot of fight left in her. From a 70-year-old party worker from south Kashmir to whatever remains of the senior party leadership, PDP members on Wednesday made a beeline to Fairview Bungalow -- the official residence of Mehbooba -- hoping to meet the woman who is now being dubbed by her admirers as the 'Iron Lady of Kashmir'.

She is ready for the fight, was the common refrain of those who met her. The PDP is using social media to the hilt to enhance the image of Mehbooba, the first and last woman chief minister of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, by posting videos and photographs of her meetings with her party workers. Noor Mohammad, a party worker from south Kashmir who can barely stand upright due to old age, was among the people who met Mehbooba Mufti less than 24 hours after her release.

"I left home at 6 AM to ensure that I return only after meeting my sister and leader Mehbooba ji. Her father (late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed) was blessed, so is she," the elderly man said. The scenes at Mehbooba's residence were in complete contrast to last year when leader after leader deserted the PDP and later joined hands with Altaf Bukhari -- a former minister and close aide of the PDP president who floated his own political outfit later.

"Mehbooba ji was detained for the longest period which shows how much the BJP government at the Centre is frightened of her popularity among the masses," Bashir Ahmad, a party worker from Anantnag district, said after meeting the PDP president.

Several PDP leaders, including former MLA from Wachi Aijaz Mir, posted laudatory tweets about the party leader. "After a detention period of 1 year and 2 months, our party president @MehboobaMufti sahiba released today. We salute her steadfast determination & exemplary courage!" Mir tweeted.

Mohit Bhan, a spokesman of the PDP, praised Mehbooba for her message.

"That's how a leader talks. No 4G restoration demands. No Statehood restoration demands. One and only demand and resolve to fight for it. Restore our dignity, restore our pride and restore our rights," Bhan said. Firdous Tak, a former MLC, said it was the pressure of the Supreme Court that has worked in getting Mehbooba Mufti released. Besides party workers, senior National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah and People's Conference Chief Sajad Gani Lone visited Mehbooba Mufti at her residence. Senior Congress leader Karan Singh welcomed Mehbooba Mufti's release and expressed the hope that she will strengthen the democratic process by taking her agenda to the people once fresh elections take place. DMK chief M K Stalin also expressed happiness over her release and urged the government to free other political detainees.

"The democratic processes, which have been suspended during this time, must also be reinstated," he tweeted. (With PTI inputs)

### Abdullah, Mufti Meet Irks BJP...

of signatories to the Gupkar Declaration on Thursday. The Gupkar Declaration is a resolution issued after an all-party meeting on August 4, 2019, at the Gupkar residence of the National Conference chief.

The resolution at the end of the meet on August 4, 2019, a day before the Centre announced its decision of revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into union territories, said the parties unanimously resolved that they would be united in their effort to protect and defend the identity, autonomy and special status of Jammu and Kashmir against all attacks and onslaughts. The parties had met again in August this year and vowed to fight for restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Farooq and his son Omar Abdullah met Mufti and discussed how to carry forward the Gupkar Agenda, which is the agenda of anti-national elements and an agenda of Pakistan. The people of J-K had nothing to do with this agenda," the Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief said in a statement here this evening.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have already "thrown this agenda to the dustbin".

"They want to save themselves and hide their sins (under this agenda). They are making conspiracies and those who are behind conspiracies cannot save themselves," he said.

Raina said the people in Jammu and Kashmir want peace and development and upholding of the communal harmony.

"Over the past 70 years, Article 370 have done great injustice with Pakistani refugees, Gujar and Bakerwal communities, Valmiki and Gorkha communities, women and nationalists and also gave birth to terrorism and separatism in J-K," the BJP leader said, adding that the Article has become a history and can never be restored.

He alleged that the Abdullahs and Mufti are conspiring to "bleed Kashmir" once again but nobody will be allowed to cause harm to the law and order situation in the valley. "They will face serious consequences." "They are using the Gupkar Agenda to save their skin and we will not allow them to succeed," he said, adding that the people of Jammu and Kashmir know their past when they were in power and have committed large scale sins.

### Unite & Fight Centre's...

she was detained following abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile state.

"Happy that Ms Mehbooba Mufti has been finally released after 14 months of unjustified detention. Sad that the central government and the J&K administration have not yet realized the enormity of the abuse of law," Chidambaram said.

"All mainstream parties in J&K should come together to fight the tyranny of the central government," the former home minister said in a series of tweets late Tuesday night.

Karan Singh, senior Congress leader and former Sadr-e-Riyasat of J&K, also welcomed Mufti's release.

### 2 Militants Killed In Shopian...

performed after conducting their medico-legal formalities including collection of DNA," the police spokesperson said, adding "In case any family claims the killed militants to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for their identification at PCR Kashmir Srinagar and participation in last rites at Handwara,"

The police spokesperson further said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in this regard and further 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," he added.

### SPO, SSB Jawan 'Escape' From...

INSAS service rifle. "A missing report has been filed at Chadoora police station and investigations have been started," an official said, adding that a massive manhunt has been launched to track the missing SSB jawan.

A local news agency KNO quoted an unnamed police officer as saying that a high alert has been sounded in the district and all exit and entry points are maintaining a tight vigil.

"A massive manhunt has been launched across the district by all security agencies to track down the missing SSB man and the SPO," officer said, adding, it seems the missing men may have been influenced by the militants and may have joined the militancy.

Speaking to journalists at Handwara, Director General of police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh termed the incidents as unfortunate.

"Such incidents are very unfortunate but we have initiated the process to track both SSB man and the SPO. We are sure, we will get them soon," he added.

### Jinping Tells Chinese Troops...

all our minds and energy on preparing for war and maintain a state of high alert."

According to Xinhua, Xi emphasised that it is necessary to uphold the party's absolute leadership over the military, strengthen the party's innovative theoretical arms, and pay close attention to comprehensively and strictly govern the party and the military.

"And ensure that the troops are absolutely loyal, absolutely pure, and absolutely reliable," Xi told the troops.

Xi also called for carrying on the "red gene" and creating a spirit "that is not afraid of hardship and death".

"It is necessary to carry forward the fine traditions, carry on the red gene, build the unique military culture of the Marine Corps, cultivate a fighting spirit that is not afraid of hardship and death, and bring the troops to life," Xi added.

The Marine Corps performs diverse tasks and requires multiple capabilities, Xi said.

Xi's emphasis was on combat training. "It is necessary to persist in leading training by combat, strengthen task traction, strengthen targeted and confrontational training, and beat and exercise the troops hard and severely," the Chinese President said.

He added that it is necessary to promote innovations in combat theory, training models, and task organisation to improve training levels and actual combat capabilities.

Xi said it is necessary to strengthen the integration of subordinate combat forces, combat units, and combat elements, strengthen coordination with other services, straighten out related command and support relationships, and deeply integrate into the joint combat system.

It was not clear if Xi's rallying the troops is aimed at India or the US as China is engaged in a tense standoff with both the countries.

### 11 More Coronavirus Deaths In...

diagnosed with bilateral Community Acquired Pneumonia died six days after being admitted to the hospital.

A 65-year-old man from Safa Kadal Srinagar died 11 days after he was admitted to SKIMS Soura, officials said. Also, they said two men -- a 70-year-old and a 73-year-old from Lal Bazar died at the tertiary care hospital.

Regarding the 70-year-old man, they said, he was admitted on October 10 while the 73-year-old was admitted on October 8.

Regarding the deaths from Jammu, they said, three among the victims belonged to the winter capital of the J&K, two from Udhampur and one from Rajouri.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 911 in Valley and 443 in Jammu.

Srinagar district with 325 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (230), Baramulla (132), Budgam (90), Pulwama (75), Kupwara (71), Anantnag (70), Kulgam (43), Bandipora (42), Rajouri (45), Doda (40), Shopian (33), Ganderbal (30), Kathua (29), Udhampur (25), Samba (24), Poonch (22), Ramban (11), Kishtwar (11) and Reasi (6).

### 701 New Cases Include 33 ...

Meanwhile Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 701 new cases of coronavirus, including 33 travelers, taking the number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory to 85409.

While 437 fresh cases were reported from Kashmir valley, 264 others were confirmed by officials from the Jammu division. Officials said that Srinagar reported 163 cases, Budgam 43, Baramulla 70, Pulwama 26, Kupwara 23, Anantnag 28, Bandipora 32, Ganderbal 35, Kulgam 8 and Shopian.

Jammu reported 28 cases, Rajouri 22, Udhampur 21, Doda 11, Kathua 9, Poonch 18, Samba 13, Kishtwar 28, Ramban 9 and Reasi 5. Moreover, they said, 816 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals -- 401 from Jammu Division and 415 from Kashmir Valley.

### Hurriyat Flays PSA On Teachers...

increase resentment and retaliation.

In a statement issued here to media, an APHC spokesperson expressed concern over the alleged oppression unleashed upon people, especially the arrests of the youth and the violation of basic human rights in Jammu and Kashmir. The separatist conglomerate said such measures aimed at silencing the voice of the people and their basic rights will only increase resentment and retaliation.

The APHC spokesperson also condemned slapping of PSA on three school teachers of an educational institute in Shopian and filing of cases against five other teachers besides the use of brute force and merciless beating of youth in Barzulla, Rambagh and Rawalpura by the Army. "The conglomerate said the reason behind the political uncertainty, intimidation instability and the atmosphere of intimidation and fear in Jammu & Kashmir since 1947 is the lingering Kashmir Issue," the spokesperson said.

"Till this dispute is not peacefully resolved as per the principles of truth and justice, in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, there is no guarantee of improvement in situation in the region," he added.

The spokesperson of the parallel Hurriyat faction also reiterated the demand of releasing chairman Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq and all other political leaders, activists and youth who were arrested before August 5, 2019 and after and are lodged in jails in and outside Jammu & Kashmir.

### Cabinet Okays Rs 520-Cr...

said the package will ensure sufficient funds under the mission to both the Union Territories.

The decision is in line with Centre's aim to universalise all centrally sponsored beneficiary-oriented schemes in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in a time-bound manner, he said.

NRLM aims to enable the rural poor to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

### Protests After Army Vehicle...

of Pandrethan in the city outskirts on Wednesday evening, witnesses told Kashmir Observer. The injured man, they said was removed to the hospital for treatment.

Sheikh's death, eyewitnesses said set off strong anti-army demonstration in the area. Dozens of people, including women hit the streets and staged a protest seeking punishment for the army driver for crushing the youth to death.

Angry protesters, eyewitnesses said also blocked Srinagar-Jammu highway near Pandrethan to denounce what they termed 'murder' of the scooter rider.

A local news agency KDC reported that police fired teargas shells to disperse the protesters and to throw highway open for traffic.

The report quoting an unnamed police official said that cognizance of the incident has been taken.

Earlier in the day, anti-army protests broke out in Kangan area of Ganderbal district after an army vehicle hit a minibus, injuring an elderly man.

55-year-old Muhammad Maqbool Khan of Hariganiwan Kangan was injured after the minibus, he was travelling in was hit by an army vehicle. The injured man was shifted to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Kangan for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment.

The accident, witnesses said set off anti-army protests in the area. Chanting slogans, dozens of people blocked Srinagar-Leh road demanding action against the driver.

Later, a police team reached the spot and pacified the protesters by assuring action.

### Banihal Highway To Remain...

on Fridays in view of road maintenance.

"As far as Mughal Road is concerned, only load carriers carrying essential supplies, subject to fair weather and good road condition, shall be allowed on this road on these days. Moreover, no passenger vehicle or pedestrian shall be allowed on Mughal Road during this period," the advisory added.



# Demise of Former DG Tourism M Ashraf Condoled

## He was an encyclopaedia of Kashmir tourism: Sarmad

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: The Department of Tourism has condoled the demise of former Director General, Tourism, Muhammad Ashraf who passed away last night here.

The deceased had served the Department in various capacities and rose to the position of Director-General.

Soon after hearing of Mr. Ashraf's demise, a condolence meeting was convened at the Directorate of Tourism here this morning in which the speakers recalled the contribution rendered by late Mr. Ashraf in the development of Tourism in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The condolence meeting was chaired by Secretary, Tourism, Culture, Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Sarmad Hafeez said late Mr. Ashraf was an encyclopaedia of Kashmir tourism whose contribution in its growth and development is unparalleled. He said he had the passion of promoting Kashmir tourism to such an extent that he did it even after his retirement through his newspaper columns and books.

"He popularised Adventure tourism in Jammu & Kashmir in a big way and his contribution in getting Ladakh on the

tourist map would always immortalise Ashraf sahib", the Tourism Secretary said in his address in the condolence meeting.

Mr. Hafeez prayed for peace to the departed soul of Mr. Ashraf and conveyed his sympathies with the bereaved family.

Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Nisar Ahmad Wani in his address said with his vast experience in tourism, trekking and adventure sports, Mr. Ashraf made a phenomenal contribution to J&K's tourism which would be remembered by one and all. He also prayed for peace to the departed soul.

The condolence meeting was attended

by all the senior officers and staff of the Tourism Department.

Similar condolence meetings were held at the offices of Tourism Department at New Delhi and Jammu.

Considered as the founder of adventure tourism in Kashmir, Mr. Ashraf played a key role in developing Ladakh as a tourist destination, and bringing it on the tourist map of the world. He would write frequently on the history of the land, tourism and other social issues. He also authored a couple of books on Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

## 3rd Death Anniversary of Atiq Bano Observed

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 14: Adabi Markaz Kamraz J&K in collaboration with several social and cultural organisations today organised a day-long function here at Sopore to observe the 3rd death anniversary of the renowned educationist Atiq Bano. On the occasion, an array of cultural activities meant to pay tribute and highlight her contributions, were carried out.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr G N Itoo was the Chief Guest whereas Secretary Cultural Academy, Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums Muneer-ul-Islam was the Guest of Honour at the event.

On the occasion, a special Mehfil-e-Musharria was organized wherein various poets presented their literary works to pay homage to Atiq Bano.

Deputy Commissioner, in his address highlighted her con-

tribution especially towards the education field and said that such personalities are an asset for the society who always work for the betterment of people.

He appreciated the organisers for conducting the programme and said that such occasions remind us of the exemplary services of famous personalities who worked tirelessly for the welfare of the society.

Moreover, DC said that the administration is committed to preserve and promote our rich art and heritage besides highlighting the significance of our composite culture.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore Parveez Sajad, Former Director General Doordarshan Dr Rafiq Masoodi, President Adabi Markaz Kamraz Farooq Rafiabaadi, prominent academicians and other concerned were present on the occasion.

## Bukhari welcomes release of Mehbooba

Srinagar: Welcoming the release of former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday called for release of all other political detainees who are lodged in and outside J&K jails.

In a statement Bukhari observed that the government's move to release Ms. Mufti, though delayed, is a significant step in the right direction. He, however, demanded immediate release of hundreds of political detainees who are still in jails and some of whom are lodged outside J&K



since August 5, 2019.

"It has been our consistent demand that all the political activists and leaders be released to ease up the sufferings of people. Their release is imperative in view of the fast spreading CO-

VID-19 pandemic that prevents their families, in most of the cases, to visit them in jails outside J&K," Bukhari observed.

He said that on the one side the central government is taking all measures to stem the spread of the COVID-19 and on the other hand it seems the plight of political detainees and their families is being ignored for trivial reasons.

Bukhari said that there are families who are economically downtrodden and cannot meet their loved ones who were detained last year and are still lodged outside J&K jails.

## Miscreants cut down over 2 dozen apple trees in Kangan

Kangan: Miscreants chopped off over two dozen grown up apple trees in Kangan area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

The incident occurred at Kijpora area of Kangan.

According to news agency

KNT the owner of an apple orchard identified as Sooda Mir son of Ghazi Mir, a resident of Haripora Wussan Kangan approached police station Kangan, complaining that miscreants have cut down his 25 apple trees.

Sources added that the owner is not suspecting anybody for being involved in the said act.

Police Station Kangan has taken cognizance of the matter and set investigation into motion.

## Advisor to meet people at Srinagar on October 15

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan will meet people at Lieutenant Governor's Grievance Cell Church Lane here on October 15 (Thursday) from 10 am to 12 noon.

It is further informed that the deputations, delegations, individuals or other people who want to meet the Advisor have to seek a prior appointment from his office on phone number: 9622749350.

All such people who will be visiting the venue are requested to follow all health guidelines and protocols and the deputations should not exceed more than 3 members in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

## New Pediatric Hospital Bemina: Work in Progress

RINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: Financial Commissioner (FC) Health and Medical Education Atal Dulloo today paid a visit to construction site of New Pediatric Hospital Bemina and inspected the ongoing works there.

The Financial Commissioner was accompanied by Principal GMC Srinagar, Samia Rashid; Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir; HOD Pediatrics GMC Srinagar and other senior officers of the department during the visit.

The 500 bedded New Pediatric Hospital is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 116.25 crore and the execution work is being carried out by Public Works Department (R&B) Kashmir division.

During the visit, Atal Dulloo took a detailed round of the hospital complex and inspected all the infrastructural works going on there besides other allied infrastructure.

On the occasion, Chief Engineer R&B presented a detailed outlay of hospital building before the Financial Commissioner. He informed the FC that the hospital is a G+4 structure equipped with all kinds of modern facilities like elevators, ramps and others.

## Rapid antigen tests masking Kashmir's Covid-19 numbers: DAK

Srinagar, Oct 14: With wide-spread use of rapid antigen tests in Kashmir for the detection of Covid-19 cases, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday said these diagnostic tests miss a large number of positive cases obscuring the true picture of the outbreak in the valley.

"One in two persons infected with the novel coronavirus receive false negative results by rapid antigen test," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"At SMHS hospital, more than half of the patients who tested negative for Covid-19 in an antigen test later came positive with real time PCR method," he said.

DAK President said while rapid tests provide results in minutes, they are far less accurate than the gold standard RT-PCR.

"Recent reports from Mumbai revealed that 60 percent of patients who tested negative in antigen tests at Nair hospital, came out positive when retested under RT-PCR," he said.

"In a study, rapid antigen test detected between 11.1 percent and 45.7 percent of RT-PCR positive samples from Covid-19 patients," he added.

Dr Nisar said antigen test has a sensitivity of around 50 percent – that means more than 50 percent of positive cases can be missed by the test.

"Not only do these rapid

tests hinder the diagnosis in individual patients, but they also obscure the true extend of the outbreak," he said.

"We may feel the cases are falling and we have begun to flatten the curve, but the reduction in the positive cases can simply be due to unreliable testing," Dr Nisar said.

"The use of rapid tests could also mean letting many infected people return freely to the community spreading the virus to even more people."

"Accurate diagnosis of Covid-19 infection is crucial to help identify and control infection.

Low accuracy of rapid antigen test could diminish its usefulness as a screening tool," he said.

## 'Impact of Social Media on Children' CUK's Law depts holds speech competition

Ganderbal : Department of Law, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organized an inter-departmental speech competition on "The Impact of Social Media on Children," at varsity's Tulmulla Campus here.

Eighteen students, representing university departments, participated in the event, which was part of a programme series organized under the auspices of Legal-Aid-Clinic-for-Juveniles established in the Law Department, sponsored under a project allotted to it by the Department of Justice, Government of India.

The participants highlighted the positive and negative impacts of social media on the growth and development of children. Speaking about the negative aspects, many speakers highlighted that the increasing use of social media leads to the experiences of FOMO, feeling of anxiety or insecurity over the possibility of missing out on something, by children. They argued that the "obsession of social media has led to the feelings of depression among its nonstop users." Many participants illustrated with examples of how uncensored use of social media by young minds "exposes them to sexual predation

and cyber-bullying." They also spoke about the positive impacts of social media and said that its advent has opened new opportunities and vistas in the modern world. "The Covid-19 pandemic has made us realize the value of social media as the latter provided us with an alternative to online social interactions," they said.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir appreciated the department for holding the competition and emphasized that such events provide a platform for the all round development of the students. He said that education should result in overall growth of a child socially, economically, intellectually and emotionally. "This is possible when a student moves beyond the classroom and participates in academic interactions, conferences and seminars."

Thanking the Vice Chancellor for his presence, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir highlighted the importance of such events and emphasized that the aim of education is not only to attend classes, write examinations and wait for results, but its main objective should be to transform human beings into humane beings.

## Khalida Shah telephones Mehbooba

Srinagar: Awami National Conference patron Khalida Shah Wednesday welcomed the release of PDP President Mehbooba Mufti.

In a statement, the party said that Khalida Shah had a telephonic conversation with Mehbooba Mufti. She termed the incarceration of Mehbooba Mufti as illogical, unwanted and uncalled for after the Modi government's decision of 5th August 2019 that according to her has pushed Jammu & Kashmir into a political crisis.

"The entire country has been put to risk by the unconstitutional, illegal & arbitrary decision taken at the behest of divisive forces spearheaded by the RSS," she said.

Khalida Shah laid stress on the historic requirement for a united fight to secure the special status of J&K 'State' with honour & dignity.

از انبابت نائب تحصیلدار انت نامک با اجلاس شیخ وزیر احمہ

درخواست منجاب :- منظور علی ولد صوفی ولد مرحوم عبدالغفار صوفی ساکن نی پتہ کھنڈ بل تحصیل ضلع

انت نامک بغرض حصول لیگل ہیرسٹیکٹ

اشتمار عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول لیگل ہیرسٹیکٹ پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹواری علاقہ ساکن کا والد کی عبدالغفار صوفی مورخہ 21/01/2020 فوت ہو چکا ہے اور مرنٹی کے اداغان پڑیل درج ہے۔

نام صاحب کینہ معدولیت	نمر	پیشہ	رشتہ ہر اہوتونی
سلیم اختر عبدالغفار صوفی	55 سال	کھر پلو کام	بھڑ مرنٹی
منظر علی ہیر۔۔۔	53 سال	مازمست	پڑ مرنٹی
مقصود احمد ہیر۔۔۔	45 سال	تجارت، برائیت ڈاکٹر	۔۔۔

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی وارث جانچ نہیں ہے لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مزکورہ مرنٹیکٹ اجرا کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دفتر بازو میں پیش کریں بعد گزرنے میں معاذ کو مزور یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

تقریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار انت نامک

MJA

انتقال پڑ ملال

یہ خبر نہایت ہی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ غلام نبی خان (گندر پورہ عید گاہ) حال شاد فیصل کالونی بڑہ پورہ مختصر علالت کے بعد بروز منگلوار ۱۳ اکتوبر ۲۰۲۰ء کو اس دنیا فانی سے رحلت کر گئیں۔ مرحومہ کا چہارم بروز جمع ۱۶ اکتوبر ۲۰۲۰ء کو بعد نماز جمعہ ۳:۳۰ بجے دن کے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ دانہ مزار (مقبرہ فقیر احسان ڈار) پر انجام دیا جائیگا۔

سوگوار اس

9682681512 , 9797530340

INF

**DIAL-EMMA**

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

**AIRPORTS**

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

☆

**HIJRI CALENDAR**

27 Safar 1442

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	5:10
ZUHR	12:18
ASR	4:23
Magrib	6:06
ISHA	7:25

## This Day In History

- 533 - Byzantine General Belisarius makes his formal entry into Carthage, having conquered it from the Vandals
- 1522 - Emperor Karel I names Hernán Cortés governor of Mexico
- 1552 - Khanate of Kazan is conquered by troops of Ivan Grozny.
- 1756 - Saxon army surrenders to Prussia
- 1815 - Napoleon Bonaparte arrives on island of St Helena to begin his exile
- 1842 - Karl Marx becomes editor-in-chief of Rheinische Zeitung
- 1888 - German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche decides to write his autobiography "Ecce Homo" on his 44th birthday
- 1904 - The Russians are driven back by the Japanese in the Battle of Shaho; both sides suffer high casualties: Japanese (16,000) and Russians
- 1914 - Battle of Warsaw, begins (ends Oct 21)
- 1924 - US President Calvin Coolidge declares Statue of Liberty a national monument
- 1932 - Tata Airlines (later to become Air India) makes its first flight.
- 1940 - Heavy German air raid on London, 400 killed
- 1941 - Hideki Tojo appointed Prime Minister of Imperial Japan
- 1946 St Louis Cards beat Boston Red Sox, 4 games to 3 in 43rd World Series
- 1948 - China's Red army occupies Chinchow
- 1949 - Administration of territory of Manipur taken over by Indian government
- 1949 - Tripura accedes to Indian union
- 1951 - First synthesis of an oral contraceptive (noretindrone) made by Luis E. Miramontes under direction of Carl Djerassi and George Rosenkrantz at Mexican drug company Syntex
- 1958 - Tunisia drops diplomatic relations with Egypt
- 1963 - Ludwig Erhard succeeds Konrad Adenauer as Chancellor of West Germany
- 1967 - The Motherland Calls, a monumental statue commemorating the battle of Stalingrad completed in Volgograd, Russia, then the World's tallest statue designed by Yevgeny Vuchetich
- 1969 - Vietnam Moratorium Day; millions nationwide protest the war
- 1970 - Russian passenger flight hijacked to Turkey
- 1970 - Anwar Sadat elected 3rd President of Egypt, succeeding Gamal Abdel Nasser
- 1973 - Tanks attack Thailand demonstrating students, 300 killed
- 1980 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Lawrence R Klein.
- 1985 - Nobel prize for economics awarded to Franco Modigliani
- 1985 - Shuttle Columbia carries Spacelab into orbit
- 1987 - The Great Storm of 1987 hits France and England.
- 1993 - Nelson Mandela and South African President F. W. de Klerk awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- 1997 - US launches nuclear powered Cassini to Saturn
- 1997 - Nobel Prize for Chemistry awarded to Jens Christain Skou, Paul D. Boyer and John E. Walker for their work on enzymes in the body
- 2001 - NASA's Galileo spacecraft passes within 112 miles of Jupiter's moon Io.
- 2003 - China launches Shenzhou 5, its first manned space mission.
- 2005 - Iraqi constitution ratification vote
- 2011 - Global protests break out in 951 cities in 82 countries
- 2017 - 500 wildfires occur in Portugal and Northern Spain fanned by winds from Hurricane Ophelia, killing at least 35

From KO Archives

## 75-yr old villager killed as militant

Kupwara- State forces tortured a 75-year old villager to death after giving him the appearance of a foreign militant. In the process his wife also died of shock on watching her aged husband being killed.

According to reports, an encounter between the state forces and militants at Gund Machar in Lolab area of this district left a foreign militant injured two days ago. He had taken refuge in a local mosque. Troops shot him dead right in the mosque. Later, the state forces claimed to have killed two foreign militants in the encounter.

However, villagers alleged that only one unidentified militant was killed in the incident. The second deceased was none other than a local 75-year old villager, Muhammad Jamal s/o Fateh Muhammad. After torturing him to death, the state forces dragged his body to the Redbugh camp where his grey hair was dyed black and declared a foreign militant. However, the family later identified him as Muhammad Jamal.

(Kashmir Observer, October 15, 2000)



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

China Itch

National Conference leader Dr Farooq Abdullah’s statement to a national television channel that Article 370 will be restored with China’s help has expectedly run into controversy. The BJP has termed the statement as “anti-national”. Its spokesperson Sambit Patra accused Abdullah of questioning the sovereignty of the country. However, this is not the first time that Abdullah has brought up China since his release from detention in March. Earlier, in an interview to Karan Thapar, Abdullah had said that Kashmiris would rather want China to come in than be ruled by India. In saying so, while Abdullah has struck a chord in Kashmir, he has invited criticism from the BJP.

In recent months, China has loomed large over Kashmir. The incursions at several points along Line of Actual Control by the People’s Liberation Army have made China an inseparable part of the discourse about J&K. There has been a huge debate about whether Chinese incursions in Ladakh had stemmed from New Delhi’s erasure of autonomous status of J&K and its bifurcation into two union territories, J&K and Ladakh. There is a reason to take this observation seriously considering that China had vehemently objected to India’s move.

Hua Chunying, spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry, in a written statement, called J&K an issue with the “legacy of history between India and Pakistan”. He added that “the parties concerned should exercise restraint and act with caution, especially to avoid actions that unilaterally change the status quo and exacerbate the tension... We call on the two sides to peacefully resolve relevant disputes through dialogue and consultation and safeguard regional peace and stability”.

China was also upset about the conversion of Ladakh into a union territory. China has since given enough signals of its unhappiness with the altered status of J&K. In the latest statement on Tuesday, China has said it doesn’t recognize “the illegally established union territory in Ladakh”.

In June, deputy director of a Chinese ministry of state security-affiliated think tank, Institute of South Asian Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Wang Shida too made it clear that the repeal of J&K’s status had “posed a challenge to the sovereignty of Pakistan and China” and “stimulated China and Pakistan to take counter-actions on the Kashmir issue”.

However, China hasn’t officially or publicly raised the issue of the withdrawal of J&K autonomy in the course of the ongoing stand-off with India. Be that as it may, China’s incursions in Ladakh seems to have given it a more prominent role in J&K. Also, on its urging the United Nations Security Council has thrice discussed Kashmir over the last year, albeit in a closed door informal session. So, it is not just Abdullah who is raking up China. China has become a reality in J&K in its own right and New Delhi has to deal with it.

O T H E R O P I N O N

The new culture wars

Thirty-four of Bollywood’s top production companies, many helmed by the biggest stars, and four industry bodies, on Monday, filed a lawsuit in the Delhi High Court against “media trials”.

The case is significant for two distinct reasons. One, it will throw open the question of free speech and its limits. While it is tempting to frame the issue only in terms of free expression — and media platforms must be allowed to publish and broadcast all forms of investigative stories and diverse views — the fact is that this right to free speech comes with a degree of responsibility as constitutionally stipulated. To accuse people of murder, without any evidence, cannot be constructed as free speech. Some media outlets have also, often, provided a platform for hate speech. While the State cannot be trusted to regulate the media — for it will become a way to exercise control — self-regulation has failed too. The case must trigger a conversation on the need for a statutory-but-independent regulatory mechanism for television news.

India is also in the midst of a larger culture war. The political Right, which believes it is through culture that society and eventually politics is shaped, appears to view Bollywood as representative of the ancient regime, with its focus on pluralism and the presence of liberals as well as Muslim figures. The fact that the industry has a range of underlying issues — from a history of shady financing to nepotism — allows the Right to stoke public distrust. The effort appears to be to delegitimise existing Bollywood power structures and create a parallel, more pliant, “nationalist” industry which will shape ideological and cultural consciousness as desired by dominant political actors.

Hindustan Times

Literary Ecriture

# The Language of Deception

HUZAIFA PANDIT

Suffice to say that neither integrity nor professional competence or professional behaviour entails targeting innocent civilians. The assertion of ethicality after a blatantly unethical act is aimed at erasing the violence of the act, and transforming it into an opportunity to lend it a positive spin.

Extra judicial killings or ‘encounters’ as they are called in popular parlance are no strangers to Kashmir, having a chequered and infamous history. In a report dating back to 1994, Human Rights Watch described it as a hallmark of counter-insurgency operations by Indian security forces in Kashmir. The report further noted that such extrajudicial killings were often carried out within hours of arrest, and were carried out, not as aberrations but as a “matter of policy”. In a 1995 report, Amnesty International stated that hundreds of civilians had been victims of such killings, which were often claimed by officers as occurring during “encounters” or “cross-fire”. In this context, one can recall the infamous Pathribal case of 2000 where the CBI itself described the killings as cold blooded murder or the Machil case of 2010.

The latest installment in this series of ‘encounters’ is the Shopian killings where three innocent men Imtiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohammed Ibrar who hailed from Rajouri were killed in a fake encounter at Amshipura, Shopian. Taking cognizance of the same, the army released a terse statement. “Committed to ethical conduct during anti-militancy operations, the Army initiated an inquiry after social media reports indicated the three men were from Rajouri district in Jammu and had gone missing at Amshipura”, said Colonel Rajesh Kalia, the defence spokesperson in Srinagar. In a brief statement, the Army said that the Shopian operation contravened the dos and don’ts of the Chief of Army Staff approved by the Supreme Court and that, “The inquiry has brought out certain prima facie evidence indicating that during the operation, powers vested under the AFSPA 1990 were exceeded.”

The statement presents a classical paradigm of the vacuous language of power and the violence of erasure perpetuated by such language. The statement, therefore, merits a deeper analysis of the contradictions and evasions manifest in it that underscore the very intent of the ‘inquiry’ and predict the future course that such an ‘inquiry’ is likely to take.

One might well shrug off the statement, and object to a detailed analysis on the grounds that ‘enquiries’ in general are a farce, and more likely than not to exonerate the ‘accused’. However, this obliterates the fact that the ‘admission’ is being used as a liberal propaganda to praise the army and preach its transparency; essentially giving a lie to the testimonies of army excesses at ground level. In the war of narratives, it is imperative that the statement be underscored and examined to point out how narratives of power are constructed, so that they can be contested effectively.

To begin with, the statement suggests that the army is, “committed to ethical conduct”. The verb committed suggests an absolute adherence to an ethical conduct, which in turn involves an adherence to integrity, objectivity, professional competence, confidentiality and professional behaviour. Suffice to say that neither integrity nor professional competence or professional behaviour entails targeting innocent civilians. The assertion of ethicality after a blatantly unethical act is aimed at erasing the violence of the act, and transform it into an opportunity to lend it a positive spin.

Next, the statement suggests that at the behest of “social media reports, the army initiated an inquiry”. Note that the sentence is in active voice, and the full thrust of



the act of inquiry, therefore, is on the army rather than social media testimonies recorded by subjects on the ground. Inquiry itself implies that the investigation has the full sanction of the authority that initiated it, thereby asserting the gravitas of the phenomenon. In other words, the impression conveyed is that the act of inquiry is being conducted with full seriousness and sincerity.

Also interesting to note is the use of the word ‘anti-militancy’, rather than the more commonly used ‘anti-terrorism’. Unlike a terrorist, a militant doesn’t have a pejorative association rather evokes the meaning of a person who favours confrontational or violent methods in support of a political or social cause. In contrast, the terrorist functions by instilling terror, and displays a wanton disregard to sanctity of human life. The use of militant – a more popular and local term is a validation of the local sentiments, and humanizes the adversary. By humanizing the adversary, the army is reaffirming itself as an institution that recognizes and accepts valor in support of a political ideal even as it runs counter to its accepted principles.

It demonstrates a concern, thereof, with local sensibilities and deftly employs nuance to highlight the pro-people agenda of the army, erasing the ruthless violence perpetuated on the ground in the name of anti-terrorism. The use of ‘social media reports’ is also interesting since it entails that the army accords credibility to public opinion as opposed to the executive that argues that social media is employed for ‘rumour mongering’ and fanning of ‘anti-national’ sentiments.

In effect then, by lending credence to social media testimonies, the army is distancing itself from the executive, and reaffirming the belief of people that social media narratives are authentic testimonies of lived experiences. Moreover, by this reaffirmation the army appears to be siding with the people; a key tenet of the Operation Sadbhavna which aims to control and manufacture narratives of army being pro-people, and a key tenant in the army psychological warfare book.

The statement then proceeds to assert that the Shopian ‘operation’ exceeded the tenets of AFSPA. Notice the use of ‘operation’, which contradicts the available testimonies, since operation implies a reciprocity of some scale – a gunfight between armed rebels and the government forces. In using the word operation, some culpability is immediately attached to the victims, as they are not entirely absolved of suspicion but coloured with calumny even after the fact of being unarmed civilians is clear as day.

By calumny, the army deftly deflects some blame, and exaggerates the act to keep open the possibility of exoneration. The verb used – ‘exceeded’ rather than violated is suggestive again of a minor transgression, of a limit exceeded rather than a right violated. The suggestion seems to be that unrestrained use of force is

acceptable unless it results in the killing of individuals, and so the act becomes an aberration rather than routine. Notably, while ‘exceed’ is a neutral term on the value scale or at best slightly pejorative, violation evokes the principal of sanctity (of human life). The use of exceed rather than violation erases the gravity of the act, and again establishes it merely as an exceptional transgression of accepted boundaries rather than an unacceptable act.

Notice in continuation of the same statement the Army spokesperson says, “The Army has been maintaining high standards of transparency and punishing officials whenever rules are violated” (italics for emphasis mine). Here ‘violated’ is preceded by high standards of transparency, a positive statement that reaffirms the army’s commitment to transparency, and therefore ‘violated’ presents a strong case for laying down and conformity of boundaries, since there is no scope of ambiguity once a line has been drawn for correct and ethical action.

Note also the use of certain prima-facie evidence. Prima-facie itself indicates evidence sufficient only to establish a fact to raise a presumption unless disproved or rebutted. It implies the evidence itself is not irrefutable, rather the possibility of its rebuttal is inherent in the word. In other words, the statement contradicts the earlier validation of local narratives, keeping alive the possibility of an alternate explanation as to the motive and conduct of the ‘contravening’ forces. The modifier ‘certain’ which indicates ‘not explicitly defined or stated implies that the evidence needs not be in public domain, and clearly provides no clue or marker as to its seriousness, or its reliability.

Such obfuscation in tandem with prima-facie clearly leaves the door ajar for the Trojan horse of ‘innocence’, even as it establishes culpability satisfying the present requirement, but containing within its own self its own rebuttal. The use of passive is also important to notice here. Whereas earlier active was used, the passive here indicates not an innocent summary of events but a clearly designed structure to erase and obfuscate the agents of the action i.e. the culpable forces from the narrative. Along with ‘certain prima-facie’, it indicates a desire to perpetuate a one-way flow of knowledge by deciding when to reveal and when to hide agents of action, maintaining, therefore, the context of inequality. This naturally contradicts the earlier premise of equality and sincerity posited at the beginning of the statement, and provides a clue as to the trajectory the case is likely to take.

Huzaifa Pandit is the author of the recently published *Green is the Colour of Memory*, which won the first edition of *Rhythm Divine Poets Chapbook Contest 2017*. He holds a PhD on poetry of resistance from University of Kashmir.

OBSERVER  
MAIL

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

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Covid19 has widened Learning Gaps

The Lockdown in India to confront the spread of Coronavirus has created lasting problems. It has also caused an enormous impact at the level of educational. As India began reporting its initial cases of Coronavirus, the administration immediately ordered the closure of educational institutions in order to stop the spread of infection. Even now, the country is far from fully opening up educational institutions. This has led to increased educational inequalities & learning gaps.

Even as one can’t deny the role of teachers especially in J&K Kashmir, who have tried to take the best out of the situation for the students; these individual efforts are not enough to equate the absence of school’s leveling influence.

It is pertinent to mention that children from low-income families were already disadvantaged in educational terms, and the lockdown has worsened the situation for them. Learning gaps are compounding, which can be troublesome for students, especially from

the economically and socially underprivileged groups.

If we will talk of elementary education, which is crucial and foundational in a children’s overall growth; it is increasingly apparent that performance gaps occur in the earliest years of children’s lives and fail to narrow in the years that follow. That is, children who start behind, stay behind—they are rarely able to make up the lost ground. These learning gaps not only ruin the future of students but also shatter the dreams of many parents.

According to Bharath Sai in an article published by Mint, “This problem can be effectively addressed by incorporating a remedial education dimension into the syllabus & pedagogy”. Moreover, policymakers need to design a plan or rather strategize to address this grave issue. If left unaddressed, when these students return to schools, they will bring along this additional disadvantage with them.

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# Balancing Social Duty and Fundamental Liberty

MALIHA FAYAZ KHAN

When the government takes big decisions for the people of the country, the opinion of the experts and the common citizen should be taken to evaluate its pros and cons without just forcing them upon the people.

The relationship between speech and action is one of the most complex in the law of communications. Speech plays a pivotal role in the communication of ideas, beliefs, doctrines, and schemes of action. Verbal and symbolic messages are instrumental in the transmission of social mores and dogmas. Those tenets then influence persons to act on the expressed views. Free speech is quintessential for maintaining democracy because it facilitates the exchange of diverse opinions. In a representative democracy, dialogue facilitates the testing of competing claims and obtaining of diverse input into political decision making. Free speech is also essential to the enjoyment of personal autonomy.

Embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the evocative proposition that, “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression”. But beneath that level of abstraction there is anything but universal agreement. Modern democratic societies disagree on the text, content, theory, and practice of this liberty. Hate speech that has now become a fashion and a short cut to get publicity, poses vexing and complex problems for contemporary constitutional rights to freedom of expression.

When the government takes big decisions for the people of the country, the opinion of the experts and the common citizen should be taken to evaluate its pros and cons without just forcing them upon the people. A country which is democratic in nature should exercise freedom of the people in truest sense otherwise it will turn into a fascist country.

## NOTION OF HATE SPEECH

Hate speech is speech perceived to disparage a person or group of people based on their social or ethnic group such as race, gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, language ability, ideology, social class, occupation, appearance (height, weight, skin colour, etc.), mental capacity, and any other distinction that might be considered by some as a liability. The term covers written as well as oral communication and some forms of behaviour in a public setting. The regulation of hate speech is largely a post-World War II phenomenon. Prompted by the obvious links between racist propaganda and the Holocaust, various international covenants as well as individual countries such as Germany and even, in the decade immediately following the War, the United States excluded hate speech from the scope of constitutionally protected expression.

Tsisis equates “hate speech” with three other phrases: “hate propaganda”, “destructive messages”, and “biased speech”. He defines



“hate speech” as “antisocial oratory that is intended to incite persecution against people because of their race, color, religion, ethnic group, or nationality, and has a substantial likelihood of causing such harm”. He then goes on to say that “this definition does not include verbal attacks against individuals who incidentally happen to be members of an out-group”.

Hate speech commonly relies on stereotypes about insular groups in order to influence hostile behavior towards them. Supremacist and outright menacing statements deny that targeted groups have a legitimate right to equal civil treatment and advocate against their equal participation in a democracy. Destructive messages are particularly dangerous when they rely on historically established symbolism, such as burning crosses or swastikas, in order to kindle widely shared prejudices.

Messages that are meant to hurt individuals because of their race, ethnicity, national origin, or sexual orientation have a greater social impact than those that attempt to draw out individuals into pugilistic conflicts. Establishing a broad consensus for large-scale harmful actions, such as those carried out by supremacist movements, relies on a form of self-expression that

seeks the diminished deliberative participation of groups of the population. Speech extols injustices, devalues human worth, glamorizes crimes, and seeks out recruits for anti-democratic organizations.

Thus, what amounts to hate speech has been constrained to an extent that the citizen is not free to make any statement for the welfare of the state. Any individual who makes a public speech against the government is booked under the sedition laws and the freedom of speech being a fundamental right is limited. The right to express is not accepted though it is a basic feature of a democratic country. Every citizen of a country is at liberty to criticize the political parties and the government if they are at fault. The policies and the laws made is subjected to public scrutiny and their opinion should be taken into considerations and not held as a hate speech. The representatives of different political parties often are involved in communal speech which instigates the mind of the people so there should be a check on them as they should be neutral to every sections of the society.

The author is a student at IUST

# Social Algorithms and Digital Decisions

LEWIS MITCHELL | JAMES BAGROW

Have you ever watched a video or movie because YouTube or Netflix recommended it to you? Or added a friend on Facebook from the list of “people you may know”?

And how does Twitter decide which tweets to show you at the top of your feed?

These platforms are driven by algorithms, which rank and recommend content for us based on our data.

As Woodrow Hartzog, a professor of law and computer science at Northeastern University, Boston, explains:

If you want to know when social media companies are trying to manipulate you into disclosing information or engaging more, the answer is always.

So if we are making decisions based on what’s shown to us by these algorithms, what does that mean for our ability to make decisions freely?

## What we see is tailored for us

An algorithm is a digital recipe: a list of rules for achieving an outcome, using a set of ingredients. Usually, for tech companies, that outcome is to make money by convincing us to buy something or keeping us scrolling in order to show us more advertisements.

The ingredients used are the data we provide through our actions online – knowingly or otherwise. Every time you like a post, watch a video, or buy something, you provide data that can be used to make predictions about your next move.

These algorithms can influence us, even if we’re not aware of it. As the New York Times’ Rabbit Hole podcast explores, YouTube’s recommendation algorithms can drive viewers to increasingly extreme content, potentially leading to online radicalisation.

Facebook’s News Feed algorithm ranks content to keep us engaged on the platform. It can produce a phenomenon called “emotional contagion”, in which seeing positive posts leads us to write positive posts ourselves, and seeing negative posts means we’re more likely to craft negative posts — though this study was controversial partially because the effect sizes were small.

Also, so-called “dark patterns” are designed to trick us into sharing more, or spending more on websites like Amazon. These are tricks of website design such as hiding the unsubscribe button, or showing how many people are buying the product you’re looking at right now. They subconsciously



While it may seem like algorithms are eroding our ability to think for ourselves, it’s not necessarily the case. The evidence on the effectiveness of psychological profiling to influence voters is thin. Most importantly, when it comes to the role of people versus algorithms in things like spreading (mis)information, people are just as important.

nudge you towards actions the site would like you to take.

## You are being profiled

Cambridge Analytica, the company involved in the largest known Facebook data leak to date, claimed to be able to profile your psychology based on your “likes”. These profiles could then be used to target you with political advertising.

“Cookies” are small pieces of data which track us across websites. They are records of actions you’ve taken online (such as links clicked and pages visited) that are stored in the browser. When they are combined with data from multiple sources including from large-scale hacks, this is known as “data enrichment”. It can link our personal data like email addresses to other information such as our education level.

These data are regularly used by tech companies like Amazon, Facebook, and others to build profiles

of us and predict our future behaviour.

## You are being predicted

So, how much of your behaviour can be predicted by algorithms based on your data?

Our research, published in Nature Human Behaviour last year, explored this question by looking at how much information about you is contained in the posts your friends make on social media.

Using data from Twitter, we estimated how predictable peoples’ tweets were, using only the data from their friends. We found data from eight or nine friends was enough to be able to predict someone’s tweets just as well as if we had downloaded them directly (well over 50% accuracy, see graph below). Indeed, 95% of the potential predictive accuracy that a machine learning algorithm might achieve is obtainable just from friends’ data.

Average predictability from your circle of closest friends (blue line). A value of 50% means get-

ting the next word right half of the time — no mean feat as most people have a vocabulary of around 5,000 words. The curve shows how much an AI algorithm can predict about you from your friends’ data. Roughly 8-9 friends are enough to predict your future posts as accurately as if the algorithm had access to your own data (dashed line). Bagrow, Liu, & Mitchell (2019)

Our results mean that even if you #DeleteFacebook (which trended after the Cambridge Analytica scandal in 2018), you may still be able to be profiled, due to the social ties that remain. And that’s before we consider the things about Facebook that make it so difficult to delete anyway.

We also found it’s possible to build profiles of non-users — so-called “shadow profiles” — based on their contacts who are on the platform. Even if you have never used Facebook, if your friends do, there is the possibility a shadow profile could be built of you.

On social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter, privacy is no longer tied to the individual, but to the network as a whole.

## No more free will? Not quite

But all hope is not lost. If you do delete your account, the information contained in your social ties with friends grows stale over time. We found predictability gradually declines to a low level, so your privacy and anonymity will eventually return.

While it may seem like algorithms are eroding our ability to think for ourselves, it’s not necessarily the case. The evidence on the effectiveness of psychological profiling to influence voters is thin.

Most importantly, when it comes to the role of people versus algorithms in things like spreading (mis)information, people are just as important. On Facebook, the extent of your exposure to diverse points of view is more closely related to your social groupings than to the way News Feed presents you with content. And on Twitter, while “fake news” may spread faster than facts, it is primarily people who spread it, rather than bots.

Of course, content creators exploit social media platforms’ algorithms to promote content, on YouTube, Reddit and other platforms, not just the other way round.

At the end of the day, underneath all the algorithms are people. And we influence the algorithms just as much as they may influence us.

By arrangements with the Conversation



# SLEEP HEALTH DICTATES SUCCESS OF PRACTICING MINDFULNESS

**Agencies**

Sleeping an extra 29 minutes each night can be the key to improving mindfulness, a critical resource that has benefits for daily well-being and work performance.

Mindfulness is achieved by purposefully bringing an individual's awareness and attention to experiences occurring in the present moment without forming an opinion. Unlike previous studies, new research published in Sleep Health looked at how multiple dimensions of nightly sleep impact daily mindfulness, rather than just focusing on sleep quality or duration.

The study led by the University of South Florida found better sleep improves next-day mindfulness, which in turn, reduces sleepiness during the day. The research focused on nurses, the largest group of healthcare professionals whose need for optimal sleep and mindful attention are particularly high.

Sleep problems are common in this population due to long shifts, lack of situational control and close proximity to life-threatening health conditions. Their optimal sleep health and mindful attention are particularly important as they work the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"One can be awake and alert, but not necessarily mindful. Similarly, one can be tired or in low arousal but still can be mindful," said lead author Soomi Lee, assistant professor of ageing studies at USF.



"Mindful attention is beyond being just being awake. It indicates attentional control and self-regulation that facilitates sensitivity and adaptive adjustment to environmental and internal cues, which are essential when providing mindful care to patients and effectively dealing with stressful situations," added Lee.

Lee and her colleagues from USF and Moffitt Cancer Center followed 61 nurses for two weeks and examined multiple characteristics of sleep health. They found that nurses' mindful attention was greater than their usual after nights with greater sleep sufficiency, better sleep quality, lower efficiency and longer sleep duration (an extra half-hour longer).

Daily mindful attention contributed to less same-day sleepiness. Those with greater mindful attention were also 66% less likely to experience symptoms of insomnia during the two-week study period.

Researchers come to these conclusions by using a variety of tools to measure how much participants were mindful each daily moment and how their mental states were impacted by sleep. Participants were prompted to answer daily mindfulness and sleepiness questions three times a day for two weeks using the smartphone application, Reallife Exp.

Daily mindfulness was measured by the Mindful Attention Awareness Scale, which asked questions such as, "I was doing something automatically, without being aware of what I was doing," and "I was finding it difficult to stay focused on what was happening." Participants also wore an Actiwatch Spectrum device for the same two weeks that measured wrist movement activity to quantify sleep and wake patterns.

Findings from this study provide insight into developing a behavioural health intervention strategy for a broader array of healthcare workers who need better sleep and mindful attention. Given the association between mindful attention and better patient care, improving sleep in this population may provide important benefits to patient health outcomes as well.

## HCMCT Manipal Hospitals, Delhi To Organise Specialty OPD For Consultation And Awareness On Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement

- To provide best-in-class treatment for Joint and Bone related ailments, Manipal Hospitals to organise OPD in association with Medicare Nursing Home, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu on October 17
- Dr Rajeev Verma, Head of Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement would spearhead Specialty OPD to create awareness on bone health and effectiveness of advanced treatments

**Jammu:** To create awareness on bone health and effectiveness of advanced treatment such as joint replacement surgeries, New Delhi based HCMCT Manipal Hospitals will be organising a Specialty OPD Saturday (October 17, from 11 am - 2 pm) in association with Medicare Nursing Home, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Apart from providing consultation to the patient, Dr Rajeev Verma, Head of Orthopaedics & Joint Replacement would create awareness on bone health and effectiveness of advanced treatments for the benefit of residents.

Announcing the resumption of Regular monthly specialty OPD in the city, Dr Verma said, "Due

to COVID-19 and lockdown our regular OPD was discontinued for a time being. Now we have resumed our OPD facility for those who need specialised medical care. The OPD service would help patients of this region to seek experts' opinion and they can plan further diagnosis and treatment. The service also aims to create awareness of bone health and the availability of high-end procedures and treatments."

HCMCT Manipal Hospitals offers best-in-class treatment and care to combat critical diseases. OPDs aim to bring comprehensive and high-quality medical facility to patients of Jammu and its neighbouring areas.

The Hospital's Orthopaedics,

Joint Replacement Departments and Spine Department are the Centres of Excellence with objective of high quality, state-of-the-art & affordable patient care and provides cutting-edge treatment for those who are suffering from critical bone related problems and need an advanced procedure/treatments.

At present, Jammu does not have adequate cutting-edge facilities dedicated to treating Spine and Joint problems with advanced and effective procedures. Jammu and nearby areas need special attention and advanced facilities for treatment and care. HCMCT Manipal Hospitals strives to fill the gap by providing best-in-class facilities.

## Cloth Masks May Protect From Viruses Only If Washed Daily: Study

**Press Trust Of India**

Cloth masks may reduce the transmission of viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, only if they are washed daily at high temperatures, according to a study.

"Both cloth masks and surgical masks should be considered 'contaminated' after use," said Professor Raina MacIntyre, from the University of New South Wales in Australia.

"Unlike surgical masks, which are disposed of after use, cloth masks are re-used. While it can be tempting to use the same mask for multiple days in a row, or to give it a quick hand-wash or wipe-over, our research suggests that this increases the risk of contamination," said MacIntyre.

The researchers analysed data from a randomised controlled trial (RCT) they published in 2015. The latest study, published in the journal BMJ Open, is still the only RCT ever conducted on the efficacy of cloth masks in preventing viral infections, they said.



The researchers did a deep dive into the 2011 data on whether the health workers in their study washed their masks daily, and if so, how they washed their masks.

The team found that if cloth masks were washed in the hospital laundry, they were as effective as a surgical mask.

Given the study was conducted over five years ago, the researchers did not test for SARS-CoV-2.

Instead, they included common respiratory pathogens such as influenza, rhinoviruses and seasonal coronaviruses in their analysis.

It is based on self-reported washing data and was conducted by health workers in high risk wards in a healthcare setting.

"While someone from the general public wearing a cloth mask is unlikely to come into contact with the same amount

of pathogens as healthcare worker in a high risk ward, we would still recommend daily washing of cloth masks in the community," said MacIntyre.

According to the analysis, handwashing the masks did not provide adequate protection.

Healthcare workers who self-washed their masks by hand had doubled the risk of infection compared to those who used the hospital laundry, said the researchers.

The majority of people in the RCT handwashed their masks, and this may be why the cloth masks performed poorly in the original trial, they said.

"The WHO recommends machine washing masks with hot water at 60 degrees Celsius and laundry detergent, and the results of our analysis support this recommendation," said MacIntyre.

"The clear message from this research is that cloth masks do work – but once a cloth mask has been worn, it needs to be washed properly each time before being worn again, otherwise it stops being effective," said MacIntyre.

## Maternal Blood Test May Predict Birth Complications: Study

**Agencies**

A blood test commonly used to detect foetal genetic abnormalities may help predict complications associated with pregnancy before symptoms develop, say researchers, including one of Indian-origin.

The study, published in the journal Epigenetics, links certain cell-free DNA signatures to adverse outcomes in pregnancy, including ischemic placental disease and gestational diabetes.

The findings are the first to show that genetic material shed from the placenta into the mother's blood (circulating cell-free nucleic acids) during the first trimester of pregnancy could potentially be used to predict these potentially serious complications.

Although the analysis of genetic material in the mother's blood has been used to screen for genetic abnormalities in a pregnancy, this is the first time these specific methods have been used as a way of a more accurate prediction.

"Our research points to a promising approach that could improve outcomes for mothers and their babies using existing



technologies," said study lead author Sherin Devaskar from the University of California, Los Angeles in the US.

"If confirmed in larger studies, cell-free DNA blood tests may help identify issues in the placenta as an indicator of a healthy mother and foetus," Devaskar added.

For the study, the researchers followed a diverse group of pregnant women between February 2017 and January 2019, testing their blood periodically throughout gestation.

By the end of the study, 160 participants had given birth, with 102 maternal and 25 cord plasma samples were taken along the way.

They found that during the first-

to-early second trimester, placenta-specific DNA increased among those women who went on to develop gestational diabetes.

They also identified several differentially expressed genes and were able to create a model with a predictive value for adverse pregnancy outcomes.

"The novelty of this research is being able to break down a mother's DNA and be able to hone in on the health of the placenta - something that researchers have never been able to do before," said Devaskar.

"This research warrants application of automated methodologies in multi-centre trials to improve future testing and screening for all women," she noted.

## Nerve Cell Activity Shows How Confident Individuals Are

**Agencies**

A recent study conducted by researchers at the University of Bonn suggests that the activity of individual nerve cells in the brain tells us how confident we are in our decisions.

The result is unexpected - the researchers were actually on the trail of a completely different evaluation mechanism. The results are published in the journal Current Biology.

Every day humans have to make decisions. Researchers at the University Hospital Bonn have now identified nerve cells in the brain whose activity indicates the confidence in decisions. A total of twelve men and women took part in their experiment.

"We showed them photos of two different snacks, for exam-

ple a chocolate bar and a bag of chips. They were then asked to use a slider to indicate which of these alternatives they would rather eat," said Prof. Dr. Dr. Florian Mormann from the Department of Epileptology.

The more they moved the slider from its center position towards the left or right photo, the more confident they were in their decision.

Participants had to judge a total of 190 different snack pairs in this way. At the same time, the scientists recorded the activity of 830 nerve cells each in the so-called temporal lobe.

"We discovered that the frequency of the electrical pulses in some neurons, in other words their 'firing rate', changed with increasing decision confidence," said Mormann's colleague Alexander Unruh-Pinheiro.

"For instance, some fired more



frequently, the more confident the respective test person was in their decision," added Pinheiro.

It is the first time that such a correlation between activity and decision confidence has been identified. The affected neurons are located in a brain region that plays a role in memory processes.

"It is possible that we not only store what decision we made,

but also how confident we were in it. Perhaps such a learning process saves us from future wrong decisions," said Mormann.

Ethical reasons usually prohibit the study of the state of individual neurons in living humans. However, the participants in the study suffered from a severe form of epilepsy.

In this form of the disease, the characteristic seizures always start in the same area of the brain. One possible treatment is therefore to remove this epileptic focus surgically.

To pinpoint the exact location of the defective site, the doctors at the Clinic for Epileptology implant several electrodes in the patient. These are distributed over the entire potentially affected area. At the same time, they also allow an insight into the functioning of individual nerve cells in the brain.



Germany agrees USD 662 million to aid Holocaust survivors

**Agencies**

Berlin: Germany has agreed to provide more than a half billion euros to aid Holocaust survivors struggling under the burdens of the coronavirus pandemic, the organisation that negotiates compensation with the German government said Wednesday.

The payments will be going to approximately 240,000 survivors around the world, primarily in Israel, North America, the former Soviet Union and Western Europe, over the next two years, according to the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, also referred to as the Claims

persecution under the Nazis.

“There’s this kind of standard response for survivors, that ‘we’ve been through worse, I’ve been through worse and if I survived the Holocaust, through the deprivation of food and what we had to go through, I’ll get through this,’” said Greg Schneider, executive vice president of the Claims Conference, in a telephone interview from New York with The Associated Press.

“But if you probe deeper you understand the depths of trauma that still resides within people.” Many are also on the poverty line, and the additional costs of masks and other protective gear, delivery groceries and other pandemic-related



Conference.

With the end of World War II now 75 years in the past, Holocaust survivors are all elderly, and because many were deprived of proper nutrition when they were young today they suffer from numerous medical issues.

In addition, many live isolated lives having lost their entire families and also have psychological issues because of their

expenses has been crushing for many, Schneider said.

“You’re teetering between making it every month,” he said.

“Having to decide between food, medicine and rent.” The new funds are targeted to Jews who aren’t receiving pensions already from Germany, primarily people who fled the Nazis and ended up in Russia and elsewhere to hide during the war.

UN rejects Saudi bid for joining human rights council over abuses

**Agencies**

United Nations: Saudi Arabia has failed to join the United Nations Human Rights Council after an international non-governmental organization called on the United Nations (UN) to refuse Riyadh’s bid.

Saudi Arabia on Tuesday won only 90 votes out of 193 ballots possible to be able to join the 47-nation council.

Riyadh’s failed attempt at joining the council came after Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Thursday urged world leaders to vote against the move.

The HRW accused Saudi Arabia of “massive rights violations,” and targeting human rights campaigners and political dissidents. The New York-based organization also called Riyadh a “serial rights abuser” which has threatened to withdraw funding for the UN to force it into removing Riyadh from its annual list of child-killers.

Official figures show over 7,200 children have been either killed or wounded in the Saudi-led onslaught on Yemen since 2015.

“Rights abusers should not be rewarded with seats on the Human Rights Council,” said Louis Charbonneau, UN director at HRW. “It’s not good for human rights or for the rights council when the worst rights violators get elected.”

Among other accusations, the HRW also invoked a lack of accountability following Saudi Arabia’s murder and dismemberment of renowned journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the kingdom’s embassy in Istanbul in October 2018.

Since March 2015, when Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched a devastating Western-backed war on Yemen, Amnesty’s researchers have investigated dozens of airstrikes and repeatedly found and identified remnants of US-manufactured munitions.

According to a report by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict research organization, the Saudi-led war has so far claimed the lives of around 56,000 Yemenis.



From China To Europe: New Lockdowns as Vaccine Trials Stumble

**Usaid Siddiqui | Al Jazeera**

Beijing: As Europe imposed new restrictions to try to stall a surging second wave of the novel coronavirus, hopes for vaccines to rapidly provide relief suffered a blow with the suspension of two clinical trials in the United States.

China rushed to test an entire city of nine million within days after a minor coronavirus outbreak in the sprawling country and Europe struggled to tackle a new surge of infections.

The virus is still spreading rapidly worldwide, with over one million deaths and 37 million infections.

Many nations that suppressed their first outbreaks now face a second wave.

Hopes for a rapid vaccine rollout suffered a setback as US pharmaceutical firm Eli Lilly said on Tuesday it had suspended the Phase 3 trial of its antibody treatment over an unspecified incident, the second in less than 24 hours after Johnson & Johnson ran into a similar problem.

In Europe, the Netherlands imposed a “partial lockdown” to curb one of the region’s worst coronavirus surges, with all bars, cafes and restaurants to close and non-medical face coverings mandatory in all indoor spaces for people aged over 13.

In the United Kingdom, Labour opposition leader Keir Starmer called for a two-to-three-week “circuit break” lockdown to slow the rates, saying the government had “lost control” of the outbreak having ignored stringent measures suggested by scientific experts on September 21.

French President Emmanuel Macron is expected to announce tighter restrictions and faster testing in a prime-time TV interview later on Wednesday, with some media speculating Paris and other cities could face evening curfews.

China launched a drive to test all residents of Qingdao after a handful of cases were detected on Sunday. More than four million samples had been collected and 1.9 million results returned as of Tuesday afternoon, Qingdao authorities said, adding that no new cases had been found beyond already confirmed infections.

Chinese officials intend to test the entire city – about 9.4 million people – by Thursday.

Russia also reported its highest-ever number of daily virus deaths at 244 and a record number of new cases at almost 14,000.

Bulgaria reported 785 new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, setting a daily record for a fourth time in a week as infections keep rising.

Italy imposed new, tougher rules to control a resurgence, including an end to parties, amateur football matches and snacking at bars at night.

Romania’s centrist minority government introduced new progressive restrictions to stem a rise in new coronavirus infections and will extend a state of alert until mid-November.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki became the latest high-profile figure to go into quarantine after coming into contact with an infected person.

Pakistan re-elected to UN rights body

**Press Trust Of India**

Islamabad: Pakistan has been re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council despite opposition from activist groups over its abysmal human rights records.

Among the five candidates from the Asia-Pacific region vying for four seats in the UN’s premier human rights body, Pakistan secured the highest number of votes, the Foreign Office said.

In secret-ballot voting in the 193-member UN General Assembly on that race, Pakistan secured 169 votes, Uzbekistan received 164, Nepal 150, China 139 and Saudi Arabia lost the race with just 90 votes.

Under the Human Rights Council’s rules, seats are allocated to regions to ensure geographical representation. Except for the Asia-Pacific contest, the election of 15 members to the 47-member Human Rights Council was all but decided in advance because all the other regional groups had uncontested slates.

Last week, a coalition of human rights groups from Europe, the US and Canada called on UN member states to oppose the election of China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Pakistan and Uzbekistan, saying their human rights records make them unqualified.

Russia and Cuba, running unopposed, also won the seats.

Pakistan is currently serving on the HRC since January 1, 2018. With its re-election, Pakistan will continue as a member for another three-year term commencing on January 1, 2021.

Since the HRC’s establishment in 2006, this is the fifth time that Pakistan has been elected to the United Nations’ premier body on human rights.

The Foreign Office said that “international community once again reposed confidence in Pakistan, recognising its contribution to the national and global human rights agenda and strong credentials as a consensus builder in the council.” “Pakistan remains firmly committed to upholding, promoting and safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and will sustain its efforts towards ensuring that the HRC’s work is guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, dialogue and cooperation,” it said.

“In line with Pakistan’s commitment, we will prioritise the advancement of tolerance, respect and constructive engagement in the HRC,” the Foreign Office said.

8 Nations Sign US-Led Artemis Pact For Moon’s Surface

**Agencies**

Washington, United States: Eight countries have signed an international pact for moon exploration called the Artemis Accords, NASA announced on Tuesday as the US space agency tries to shape standards for building long-term settlements on the lunar surface.

The accords, named after NASA’s Artemis moon program, seek to build on existing international space law by establishing “safety zones” that would surround future moon bases to prevent conflict between states operating there, and by allowing private companies to own the lunar resources they mine.

The United States, Australia, Canada, Japan, Luxembourg, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates signed the bilateral agreements during an annual space conference on Tuesday following months of talks in a U.S. bid to cultivate allies under its plan to return astronauts to the moon by 2024.

“What we’re trying to do is establish norms of behavior that every nation can agree to,” NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine told reporters. He said the accords are consistent with a 1967 treaty holding that the moon and other celestial bodies are exempt from national claims of ownership.

“We are operationalizing the Outer Space Treaty for the purposes of creating the broadest, most inclusive, largest coalition of human spaceflight in the history of humankind,” Bridenstine said.

The Trump administration and governments of other spacefaring countries see the moon as a strategic asset. The moon also has value for long-term scientific research that could enable future missions to Mars - activities that fall under a regime of international space law widely viewed as outdated.

In 2019, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence directed NASA to return humans to the moon by 2024 - cutting the agency’s previous timeline in half - and build a long-term human presence on the lunar surface.

The NASA program, expected to cost tens of billions of dollars, will send robotic rovers to the surface of the moon before an eventual human landing. NASA also plans to build a Lunar Gateway, a space station orbiting the moon. Plans call for it to be constructed by a mix of NASA contractors and international partners.



Palestinian premier: God help us if Trump wins re-election

**Press Trust Of India**

Jerusalem: The Palestinian prime minister has said it will be disastrous for his people and the world at large if President Donald Trump wins re-election next month. Speaking remotely to European lawmakers, Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said the last four years of the Trump administration have greatly harmed the Palestinians.

“If we are going to live another four years with President Trump,” he said, “God help us and the whole world”. The comments were posted on his Facebook page.

The Palestinians have traditionally refrained from taking an explicit public position in American presidential elections.

Shtayyeh’s comments reflected the sense of desperation on the Palestinian side after a series of US moves that have left them weakened and isolated.

The Palestinians severed ties with Trump after he recognised contested Jerusalem as Israel’s capital in late 2017 and subsequently moved the American Embassy to the holy city.

Trump has also cut off hundreds of millions of dollars of American aid to the Palestinians, shut the Palestinian diplomatic offices in Washington and issued a Mideast plan this year that largely favoured Israel. The Palestinians have rejected the plan out of hand.

The Trump administration also has persuaded two Arab countries, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel and promised that other Arab nations will follow suit.

These deals have undercut the traditional Arab consensus that recognition of Israel only come in return for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal, a rare source of leverage for the Palestinians.

Shtayyeh expressed hope that a victory by the Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden would raise prospects for a peace deal.

If things are going to change in the United States I think this will reflect itself directly on the Palestinian-Israeli relationship, he said. And it will reflect itself also on the bilateral Palestinian-American relationship.

NEWS MAKERS

“3 Hours And 3 Minutes”: Astronauts Reach International Space Station In Record Time

Almaty, Kazakhstan: A three-person crew reached the International Space Station on Wednesday, the Russian space agency said, after a journey of just over three hours that was the fastest ever for a manned craft to the orbital lab.

Roscosmos confirmed the successful docking of the Soyuz spacecraft in a tweet. The journey “took a record short three hours and three minutes,” Russian news wire RIA Novosti added.

“Three hours and three minutes,” tweeted Roscosmos chief Dmitry Rogozin in celebration of the journey that concluded with docking four minutes ahead of schedule.

Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchkov of Roscosmos and NASA’s Kathleen Rubins launched from the Russian-operated Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 0545 GMT on Wednesday.

Journeys to the ISS usually take around six hours -- a time that was a vast improvement on the two-day flights that prevailed prior to 2013.

Wednesday was the first time a manned journey was completed in such a short time, even beating the fastest time of missions carrying supplies to the station.



from the Russian-operated Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 0545 GMT on Wednesday.

Journeys to the ISS usually take around six hours -- a time that was a vast improvement on the two-day

Jacinda Ardern Set To Win In NZ’s “Covid Election”

Wellington, New Zealand: There were no masks on display as about 1,000 university students gave Jacinda Ardern a rock-star reception during her final Wellington campaign rally this week - and the New Zealand prime minister was fine with that.

Ardern, also without a face covering, happily posed for selfies alongside dozens of youthful supporters, rubbing shoulders with a disregard for social distancing that would spark outrage almost anywhere else in the world.

Success containing Covid-19 means masks and distancing are no longer mandatory in New Zealand, an achievement upon which Ardern has staked her political future in Saturday’s general election.

“When people ask, is this a Covid election, my answer is yes, it is,” the charismatic centre-left leader said when launching her bid for another three-year term.

Indications so far are that the strategy is working, with Ardern’s Labour Party enjoying a strong lead in opinion polls after a campaign light on policy detail but full of references to quashing the coronavirus.

“Who’s better placed to keep New Zealand safe and who’s better placed to get us on track to recovery?” the 40-year-old asked during a debate with Judith Collins, leader of the main opposition National Party.

New Zealand has recorded just 25 Covid-19 deaths in a population of five million and its response has been singled out for praise by the World Health Organization.

Aside from closed borders and a pandemic-induced recession, everyday life on the South Pacific nation is near-normal, as unrestricted crowds flock to sporting events and bars without fear of infection.

**‘All about the Covid’**

The pandemic upended the election, which was initially poised as a cliffhanger, with some criticising Ardern’s policy shortcomings while others praised her leadership after last year’s Christchurch mosques terrorist attack in which 51 people died.

The students cheering in Wellington on Tuesday said the coronavirus crisis had reinforced their support for Ardern.

For history major David Coyle, it was enough to overcome disappointment with her failure to meet promises on issues such as housing affordability and reducing child poverty.





# 'We Apologise': Tanishq Store Puts Up Apology Note; Gujarat Manager Rubbishes 'Showroom Attack' Reports



**GANDHIDHAM:** A Tanishq Jewellery showroom in Gandhidham town of Gujarat's Kutch district has put up a note on its door, apologising to Hindus in the district over the brand's controversial TV ad which has been withdrawn. The handwritten note in Gujarati also condemned the TV commercial. "We apologise to Hindu community of Kutch on the shameful advertisement for Tanishq," the note read. It was posted on the show-

room's door on October 12, and has since been removed, police said. Photos of the apology note have gone viral on social media. The showroom manager and local police rubbished media reports that the showroom was attacked by some people angry with the Tanishq advertisement. "No such attack has taken place," said Superintendent of Police, Kutch-East, Mayur Patil. The TV commercial featured a Muslim family preparing for an upcoming baby shower for their Hindu daughter-in-law. Tanishq Jewellery brand is a division of Tata company, promoted by the Tata Group in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation. PTI

# Apple Enters 5G Race With New Iphone 12 Range

**O**ctober 13 Apple Inc on Tuesday launched its next-generation iPhone 12, with faster 5G connectivity that the California company hopes will spur consumers to trade in their old phones and keep its sales booming through the end of the year.

The core of the line-up, the iPhone 12 with a 6.1-inch display, will sell for \$799, while a 'Mini' version with a 5.4-inch screen will be slightly cheaper at \$699. A 'Pro' version with three cameras and a new 3-D 'lidar' sensor starts at \$999, with the largest 'Pro Max' starting at \$1,099 and going up to \$1,399.

The new products will test whether Apple can ride a wave of consumer excitement around 5G wireless data networks, whose speediest variants outstrip their predecessors' data rates multiple times over.

But whether iPhone buyers see a dramatic speed boost will depend heavily on where they are and which carrier they use - what Bob O'Donnell, head of TECHnalysis Research, called "lots of little niggly details that get in the way of delivering on the promise of 5G." He said Apple may be setting some customers up for disappointment when phones ship but offer only modest speed increases until carriers build out networks.

"I don't feel like Apple clarified that as much as they could have," O'Donnell said. Apple said all iPhone 12 models in the United States will support millimetre-wave 5G, the fastest variant of the technology, as well as lower-frequency bands.

Outside of the United States, however, iPhones will lack millimetre wave compatibility, even in countries like Australia and South Korea where carriers are



planning to roll out versions of the millimetre-wave technology. Like some cheaper Android devices, iPhone 12 models in those countries will only support lower-frequency versions of 5G. Apple said it had tested 5G on more than 800 carriers in 30 regions globally. Verizon Communications Inc CEO Hans Vestberg appeared on Apple's live stream presentation to announce that the phones would work with the U.S. carrier's 'ultra-wideband' 5G network, designed to alleviate bottlenecks in major cities like New York and Los Angeles, as well as in crowded areas like NFL stadiums. The devices will arrive about a month later than is usual for Apple's annual launches. Pre-orders for the iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 Pro in the United States, Britain, China and some other countries begin Oct. 16 and deliveries start Oct. 23. The iPhone Mini and Pro Max will be available for pre-order Nov. 6 and in stores Nov. 13. Apple may face a lukewarm holiday season due to the coronavirus pandemic, said Jake Dollarhide, chief executive officer of Longbow Asset Management in Tulsa, Oklahoma. "As the convergence of flu season with COVID and colder weather forces everyone indoors, I think it's going to be harder to sell iPhones this Christmas. As much as Apple is a technology company, it's not known for its online sales, it's known for its in-store experience," Dollarhide said.



**WINTER IS COMING:** A Kashmiri woman applying a fresh mud-coat on the outer walls of her house on Wednesday in Srinagar outskirts. KO Photo Abid Bhat

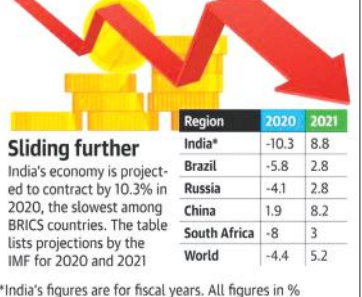
# India Set To Fall Behind Bangladesh In 2020 Per Capita GDP: IMF

**NEW DELHI:** India is set to drop below Bangladesh in terms of per capita gross domestic product (GDP) this year, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to the IMF-World Economic Outlook (WEO), Bangladesh's per capita GDP in dollar terms is expected to grow 4% in 2020 to \$1,888. On the other hand, India's per capita GDP is expected to decline 10.5% to \$1,897 - the lowest in the last four years. The GDP figure for both countries is at current prices.

The IMF's forecast for India, a huge downward revision from its previous prediction in June, will see the biggest contraction among major emerging markets amid the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the IMF's "World Economic Outlook" report released on Tuesday, India's per capita GDP is set to



plunge to \$1,877 this fiscal year ending on March 31, 2021. The IMF's previous prediction in June said output would shrink 4.5 percent. Bangladesh per capita GDP in dollar terms is expected to grow to \$1,888, according to the IMF report.

However, India, Asia's third-largest economy, is likely to bounce back as per capita GDP in dollar terms is expected to

grow 8.2% at \$2,030 in 2021, compared with an expected 5.4% growth for Bangladesh at \$1,990.

Nepal and Bhutan are expected to grow their economies this year, while the IMF has not divulged Pakistan's data for 2020 and beyond.

Global growth would contract by 4.4% this year and bounce back to 5.2% in 2021, the report said.

India's projected slump is the largest of any major economy except for Italy and Spain, and the biggest among the main emerging markets.

Top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who has been critical of the centre over the state of the economy, hit out at the government after the IMF projections. "Solid achievement of 6 years of BJP's hate-filled cultural nationalism. Bangladesh set to overtake India," he tweeted today.

# Loan Moratorium: Implement Interest Waiver As Soon As Possible, Says SC

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court Wednesday said the Centre should implement "as soon as possible" interest waiver on loans of up to Rs 2 crore under the RBI moratorium scheme in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, saying the common man's Diwali is in the government's hands.

The apex court sought know from the Centre as to whether the benefit of loan interest waiver for borrowers of up to Rs 2 crore during the moratorium period has "percolated" to the common man.

The court, which observed that it is concerned about how benefit of interest waiver would be given to borrowers, said the Centre has taken a "welcome decision" by taking note of plight of common man but authorities have not issued any order in this regard. "Something concrete has to be done," a bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said, adding, "Benefits of waivers to bor-

rowers up to Rs 2 crore must be implemented as soon as possible."

The top court, which posted the matter for hearing on November 2, told the advocates appearing for the Centre and banks that "Diwali is in your hand".

The Centre recently told the apex court that going any further than the fiscal policy decisions already taken, such as waiver of compound interest charged on loans of up to Rs 2 crore for six months moratorium period, may be "detrimental" to the overall economic scenario, the national economy and banks may not take "inevitable financial constraints".

The top court is hearing a batch of petitions which have raised issues concerning the six-month loan moratorium period announced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bench, also comprising Justices R S Reddy and M R Shah, said when authori-

ties have decided something then it has to be implemented. "The government has taken a welcome decision taking note of the plight of common man. But you have not issued any order to anybody. You have simply given us the affidavit," the bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

"We are now concerned about how waiver benefit will be given," the bench said, adding, "We are only asking whether the loan interest waiver has percolated or not."

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, Mehta told the bench that the Centre has taken an "informed decision" and has taken a "huge burden".

"When Central Government says on an affidavit that it will be implemented then there should not be any apprehensions," Mehta said. "There is diversity in lending and different modalities are required to be followed."

# Israel Aligned With PM Modi's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', 'Make In India' Vision: Israeli Envoy

**NEW DELHI:** Hailing the selection by the Indian government of an Israeli firm for electronics manufacturing in India, Israeli Ambassador Ron Malka has said the development signifies his country's alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' vision.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information and Technology (MeitY) has approved 16 eligible applicants under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI).

The PLI for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing extends an incentive of 4 per cent to 6 per cent on incremental sales (over the base year) of goods under target segments that are manufactured in India to eligible companies, for a period of five years subsequent to the base year (FY2019-20).

Welcoming the development, Malka tweeted, "Delighted that Neolync, an Israeli company is a part of UTIL-Neolync that was selected by the Indian government for electronics manufacturing in India, an important addition to the list of Israeli companies already actively participating in @PMOIndia's Make In India, export and Atmanirbhar Bharat vision."

Speaking to PTI about the selection of the firm, which has 49 per cent Israeli stake, said this shows how much his country is aligned with the Indian



vision not only on the government to government basis but also business to business.

It also aligns with the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' because this will make India and Israel self-reliant in these areas of communication and advanced communication, he said. "Israel and India don't compete with each other, they complete each other," he said.

Under the mobile phone (domestic companies) segment, Indian companies including Lava, Bhagwati (Micromax), Padget Electronics, UTIL Neolyncs and Optimus Electronics are approved by MeitY.

These companies are expected to expand their manufacturing operations in a significant manner and grow into national champion companies in mobile phone production, a ministry statement had said.

Six companies are approved under the Specified Electronic Components Segment, and they are AT&S, Ascent Circuits, Visicon, Walsin, Sahasra, and Neolync, it said.

# Sabotage Suspected In Mumbai Power Outage: Maharashtra Energy Minister



**MUMBAI:** Maharashtra Energy Minister Nitin Raut today said a possibility of sabotage cannot be ruled out in the massive power outage in Mumbai and neighbouring areas two days ago.

Talking to reporters, Mr Raut said the power breakdown in the metropolis and neighbouring Thane and Navi Mumbai on Monday was "not a small issue".

"Our team was working on the 400 KV Kalva-Padga line and the load was shifted from circuit 1 to 2. But, there was a technical problem and the Kharghar unit stopped. There was islanding in Mumbai which shouldn't have happened," he said. "This is the reason that possibility of sabotage is suspected," Mr Raut said.

A technical team from the Centre is here to discuss the power failure issue, he said, adding that "our inquiry committee will also be set up."

The central technical team will submit its report in a week, he said.

The minister said they will also discuss the study report submitted by a probe committee which went into such incidents in 2011, and whether an ATR (action taken report) was prepared.

He also said that a system audit is being prepared.

A grid failure had resulted in massive power outage in Mumbai and neighbouring areas on Monday, stopping trains on tracks, hampering those working from home and hitting the stuttering economic activity hard.

It took two hours for the power supply to resume for essential services on Monday, following which other pockets started getting power in a phase-wise manner.

## NEWS MAKER

# MASSIVE BODY BLOW To Portugal As Ronaldo Tests Positive For Virus



**LISBON:** Portugal and Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo

has tested positive for coronavirus, the Portuguese football federation announced on Tuesday.

Ronaldo "is asymptomatic" and "will not play against Sweden" in Wednesday's Nations League match, the federation said on its website.

Ronaldo, 35, who has won the Ballon d'Or five times, played in Portugal's goalless Nations League draw against France in Paris on Sunday.

The federation added that the rest of the Portugal squad were "all negative" after tests on Tuesday morning, as was the France squad, according to the French Football Federation.

Ronaldo has scored 101 goals for Portugal and will be a huge absence for his team

against Sweden as they aim to hold on to top spot in their group.

His contracting the disease is also a big blow for Juventus, as the health protocol in force for Serie A says that Ronaldo must self-isolate for 10 days and then record a negative test before he can resume playing.

That means Ronaldo will miss Juve's Serie A match at Crotone on Saturday and the Italian champions' opening Champions League group stage game at Dynamo Kiev in a week's time.

He is also a doubt for Juventus' following Champions League clash with Barcelona on Oct 28, which was set to pit Ronaldo against his old rival Lionel Messi.

The test result re-opens the controversy over his departure from Turin for the Portugal training camp, which was, according to local health authorities in Italy's Piedmont region, a violation of the virus protocol.

Ronaldo and other Juventus stars left to join up with their national teams despite the team being in isolation after two staff members tested positive for the virus.

Roberto Testi, a director of the regional health authority, said that local prosecutors had been informed of the players' unauthorised departure.

Ronaldo, who has also starred for Manchester United and Real Madrid, is the highest-profile footballer to test positive for Covid-19, which has killed over a million people since the start of

the pandemic earlier this year.

Brazil forward Neymar, his Paris Saint-Germain teammate Kylian Mbappe and AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic have also tested positive for the virus in recent weeks. Premier League champions Liverpool placed Senegalese forward Sadio Mane and Spanish midfielder Thiago Alcantara in isolation after they tested positive last week.

Last week two of Ronaldo's Portugal teammates - goalkeeper Anthony Lopes and defender Jose Fonte - also returned positive tests, forcing them out of the Nations League fixtures.

The international break has been marked by a host of players contracting the virus as it continues its spread worldwide. The Republic of Ireland had five players ruled out just before their Nations League draw with Wales after one squad member tested positive for the virus.

Meanwhile Ukraine had to draft in 45-year-old assistant coach Oleksandr Shovkovsky for last week's friendly with France as the virus swept through the squad.

Ukraine also lost to Germany on Saturday in the Nations League with 14 players missing either through injury or positive for the virus.

Coronavirus has killed over one million people and infected 37 million people. Many nations that suppressed their first outbreaks are now battling a second wave.

# CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR



کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

Ref. No. CSK/ELECTION-40/2020/5939  
Dated: 13-10-2020

## Notice

All the founder & life members of the Cancer Society of Kashmir are informed that the election for the following honorary Office-Bearers of the Cancer Society of Kashmir are scheduled to be held on 02-NOV-2020 at the office of the society 4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar:-

- |    |                   |      |
|----|-------------------|------|
| 1. | Chairman          | One. |
| 2. | Vice-Chairmen     | Two. |
| 3. | General Secretary | One. |
| 4. | Joint-Secretary   | One. |
| 5. | Treasurer         | One. |

### The Dates For Process Of Elections Have Been Fixed As Under: -

- |    |   |                             |
|----|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Filling of Nominations Papers                       | :- 14-10-2020 To 20-10-2020 |
| 2. | Scrutiny of Nominations Papers                      | :- 22-10-2020.              |
| 3. | Last date for withdrawal of nominations             | :- 27-10-2020.              |
| 4. | Issue of Notification for final list of contestants | :- 28-10-2020.              |
| 5. | Date of Voting (From 9.30 AM to 4.30 PM)            | :- 02-11-2020.              |
| 6. | Counting of votes and declaration of results        | :- 02-11-2020.              |

--SD--

Justice (Retd.) M.Y. Kawoosa.  
Election Authority

4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora  
Srinagar 190 015 Tele Fax 0194-2441899/2430899