



Maximum : 25°C  
Minum : 07°C  
Humidity : 36%

SUNSET  
Today 05:50 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:40 AM



## News Digest

### 3.6 Magnitude Quake Hits Ladakh

Leh: An earthquake with a magnitude of 3.6 struck Ladakh at 4:44 am on Monday, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said. The earthquake hit 110 kilometres north-north-west (NNW) of Kargil at a depth of 10 kilometres, the NCS said. No casualties have been reported. Further details are awaited.

### KPC Flays Locking Of KNS Office

Srinagar: Kashmir Press Club has flayed the locking of quarter housing Kashmir News Service (KNS) office describing it 'unfortunate'. In a statement issued here, the Kashmir Press Club said, "It is unfortunate the manner in which KNS has been asked to vacate the premises. Proper notice should have been served and enough time should have been given to them. Suddenly making a functional newsroom go through such a situation is not right", the statement said.

### Man Held Over Fake Whatsapp DP

Srinagar: Police on Monday arrested an insurance agent from north Kashmir's Kupwara district for presenting himself as a police officer in his WhatsApp Display Picture (DP). Showkat Ahmed Peer, a resident of Dragmulla had uploaded his photograph donning police uniform on WhatsApp, news agency KNT quoted a police official as saying. The accused, he said was using this photograph as DP to 'befool' and 'threat' others and thus was maligning the image of police. Peer, he said was working as an insurance agent in a private company. He said that the accused has been arrested and a case has been registered against him under relevant sections of the law.

### Case Filed Over Khayam Firing Rumour

Srinagar: Police on Monday filed a case against unknown persons for circulating fake news about a firing incident in Khayam area of this capital city on Sunday. In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that taking cognizance about fake news claiming that a firing incident had taken place in Khayam area on Sunday, Police Station Khanyar by taking legal action has registered a formal case FIR No. 77/2020 against persons involved in spreading this fake news on social media platforms and misleading the public. The fake news, the police ● P-02

### 5 Gamblers Held In City: Police

Srinagar: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested five gamblers in a raid in Rainawari area of the city. Acting on an input, a police team carried out a raid in Mughal Mohalla of Rainawari and arrested five gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He said besides playing cards, an amount of Rs 19,000 was recovered from the alleged gamblers. "They have been arrested and shifted to PS Rainawari where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 49/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Rainawari and investigation has been initiated," the ● P-02

## ED Grills Farooq Abdullah For 6 Hours In JKCA Scam

NC Says BJP 'Using Agencies', People's Alliance Cries 'Political Vendetta'



### 'Struggle For Special Status Restoration Will Continue'

After being questioned for several hours by the Enforcement Directorate on Monday in connection with a money laundering probe, NC president Farooq Abdullah said the resolve for restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir will continue. ● P-02

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Directorate on Monday questioned National Conference president Farooq Abdullah for over six hours in connection with a multi-crore scam in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association, prompting accusations of "political vendetta"

by the newly-formed People's Alliance comprising several mainstream parties.

The 82-year-old former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister received the ED summons a day after the formation of the People's Alliance led by him was announced on October 15. He was questioned at the agency's regional office here in the case

connected to the embezzlement of more than Rs 40 crore of JKCA funds during his tenure as president of the association.

The CBI has already filed a chargesheet against him and the ED is probing the money laundering angle in the case.

Emerging from the ED office after the questioning, Abdullah told reporters that courts ● PAGE 02

### Army Nabs Chinese Soldier In Ladakh

NEW DELHI: A Chinese soldier was apprehended by the Indian Army in the Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh on Monday after he had "strayed" across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), an incident that comes amid a massive deployment of troops by the two militaries in the region following the border standoff.

The Indian Army said the soldier, a Corporal in the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), has been identified as Wang Ya Long and he will be returned to the Chinese military at the Chushul-Moldo border point after completion of formalities. Government sources ● P-02

### BOSE To Clear Exam 'Confusion' Within A Week

SRINAGAR: Amid confusion over preponing of 10th and 12th standard examinations, authorities on Monday said Jammu and Board of School Education (BOSE) will clarify the matter within a week's time.

BOSE chairman Veena Pandita said that no official decision or announcement was made as on date. The BOSE official also said that it will clear all confusions pertaining to annual secondary school examinations including the 11th standard as well.

With regard to preponing of 10th and 12th standard ● P-02

## Police Officer Shot Dead In Anantnag

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Monday shot dead a police officer in Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Around 6:30 pm Monday, Inspector Mohammad Ashraf Bhat was returning home after offering prayers at a mosque in Kanelwan area of the district when suspected militants opened fire upon him, a police official said. Bhat, who was critically injured in the attack, he said was removed to sub-district hospital Bijbehara, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Bhat was presently posted at Police Training Centre in Lethpora in Pulwama district.

Soon after the incident, the government forces reached the spot and launched a cordon and search operation to nab the attackers.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started further investigations in this regard.

A police spokesperson said that IGP Kashmir Shri Vijay Kumar led a wreath laying ceremony at the District Police Lines Anantnag to pay honour and respect to the slain police officer.

### Militant Killed In Anantnag Encounter: Police

CRPF Personal Injured In Pulwama Shootout

An unidentified militant has been killed in the ongoing encounter that broke out in Melhora area of south Kashmir's district on Monday, police said. ● P-02

## 10 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K Take Toll To 1391

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least ten more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1391.

While Kashmir valley reported seven more Covid-19 deaths, ● PAGE 02

### 427 More People Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 427 fresh cases of coronavirus, including twenty one travelers, taking the total number of people ● P-02

## BJP Woos Voters With 5000 Jobs; Smart Cities

Leh: Three days ahead of the crucial polls for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) in Ladakh, union minister of State for Home G K Reddy Monday offered a series of sops for the cold desert that includes 7500 MW power projects and 5000 jobs for the youth.

He also slammed Pakistan and China for interfering into the India's internal affairs stating that no foreign country has any locus standi to intervene into the internal affairs of India and that not a an inch will be given away from Ladakh or any part of J&K to anyone.

Addressing a press conference at Leh, Reddy said that Ladakh has a huge potential for power generation and Government of India has identified projects that will generate 7500 MWs of electricity for the Union Territory.

"The power projects will serve the local population and will help farmers, industries," Reddy said, while urging the LAHDC voters to support BJP candidates stating that "We gave UT status to Ladakh to take it to the new heights of development that include, power, telecommunication, road, air connectivity along with education and health connectivity. All these sectors are being upgraded."

The MoS said that Ladakh has great potential to serve as a best tourist destination. "We are exploring Ladakh's tourist potential in a best way to boost its economy," he said.

Reddy announced 5000 jobs for the youth stating that apart ● PAGE 02

## Govt Not Imposing Property Tax In J&K: LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A week after government of India amended two municipal laws of Jammu and Kashmir to empower administration to levy and collect property tax; Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday that his government will not thrust property tax on any person in the Union Territory.

"Speculations are rife that property tax will be imposed on the people of Jammu and

### Cong Protests 'Tax Terrorism'

The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Monday staged a protest against the Centre's decision to impose property tax in the union territory and demanded its ● P-02

Kashmir. I am telling this gathering that UT administration will not thrust property tax on any person, ● PAGE 02

## ACB Files Charges Against Corrupt Engineer

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Monday filed a charge sheet against a junior engineer PHE in a disproportionate asset case registered against him eight years ago.

According to an ACB spokesperson, charge sheet was produced before the Court of Special Judge Anticorruption Srinagar under section 5(1) (e) r/w 5(2) J&K Prevention of Corruption Act Samvat 2006 against Bashir Ahmad Bhat of Noorpora Tral presently residing in Hyderpora Srinagar, the then Junior Engineer, PHE Division Shopian in a case registered against him in 2012 by ● PAGE 02

## 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

## In FOCUS Kashmir Witnessing Growing Trekking Footfall In Fall

Swati Joshi

Saddam Hussain, founder of Mountain and Dreams, a trekking company, has just completed the Tarsar-Marsar Trek with 19 trekkers.

The trekkers, he said, belonged to different parts of India, majorly from metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi.

Despite Kashmir witnessing less number of tourists during the Covid-plagued season, the growing hiker footfall has come as a relief for travel agents, trekking companies and houseboat owners.

These tourism players have been



reeling under the financial burden due to back to back lockdowns in the valley. After the onset of the pandemic, Hussain's Mountain and Dreams re-

cently organized its first trekking event in Kashmir.

"Many precautions were taken during the treks without causing any trouble to the hikers," Hussain said.

People were quite skeptical about traveling but when they came for the treks, their fear was gone, he said.

Hussain is again going for a trek on November 2 for which his batch is almost full.

"The government should've opened tourism a bit early so that we could've benefited more from it," he said.

With just one month left for trekking season in Kashmir, Hussain is getting many calls from people to book beyond the October ● PAGE 02



From Front page...

# Delhi's Air Quality 'Poor'; Likely To Worsen By Wednesday

**NEW DELHI:** Pollution levels in Delhi dipped slightly on Monday but the air quality stayed in the 'poor' category, with government agencies saying the AQI was likely to slip to 'very poor' in the next few days due to a change in wind direction and a reduction in speed.

The city recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 244. It was 254 on Sunday, 287 on Saturday, 239 on Friday and 315 on Thursday, the worst since February 12 (AQI 320).

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301

and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the AQI was likely to slip to 'very poor' category by Wednesday due to a change in wind direction and a reduction in the wind speed.

Expecting further deterioration in air quality in the coming days, the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) on Monday asked the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments to be ready to close thermal power plants that do not meet the standards laid down in 2015.

In two separate letters, EPCA chief BhureLal asked the two states to review preparedness for closing thermal power plants and to inform the authority of this as well as steps that will be taken to ensure compliance with necessary shut-down during the peak winter period.

Delhi Chief Minister ArvindKerjwal requested Union Environment Minister PrakashJavadekar to hold monthly meetings with the tghe CMs of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to curb air pollution, saying there is a lack of political will at the level of the states to address the prob-

lem of stubble burning.

In a virtual press briefing, he said the affected states have been unable to find a solution to stop stubble burning and prevent air pollution.

"I believe pollution due to stubble burning can be controlled in a short span of time. But a lack of political will is visible in doing that."

Delhi Environment Minister GopalRai said the city government will deploy 2,500 environment marshals across the national capital to generate awareness about its recently launched anti-pollution campaign, 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off', to curb vehicular pollution.

He also said a meeting of the environment ministers of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh with the Centre must be held every 15 days to discuss matters pertaining to pollution and stubble burning. Such meetings will help in improving coordination between the states, he said.

According to SAFAR, the share of farm fires in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution stood at 10 per cent on Monday with 1,090 stubble fire around Haryana, Punjab, and neighbouring regions.

It said a change in surface wind direction is expected by early Wednesday which is "likely to

bring calm surface wind conditions, leading to low ventilation and deterioration of AQI".

Very poor AQI is predicted for Wednesday and Thursday, Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor said.

"Though transport-level wind direction is favourable, an increase in the wind speed and local surface winds led to a decrease in stubble contribution in Delhi's PM2.5," SAFAR said.

The share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution was 17 per cent on Sunday, 19 per cent on Saturday, 18 per cent on Friday, around one per cent on Wednesday and around 3 per cent on

Tuesday, Monday and Sunday.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said the ventilation index -- a product of mixing depth and average wind speed -- was 10,000 meter square per second on Monday, favourable for dispersion of pollutants.

Mixing depth is the vertical height at which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed.

A ventilation index lower than 6,000 sqm/second, with average wind speed less than 10 kmph, is unfavourable for dispersal of pollutants.

## ED Grills Farooq Abdullah...

would decide on the merits of the case. "I am not worried. Why are you worried? The only regret I have is that I could not have my lunch as I had not brought it along."

The ED, he said, was doing their job and he was doing his. "Our struggle (for Article 370) will go on whether Farooq Abdullah is alive or Farooq Abdullah is dead. Our resolve has not changed and our resolve will not change even if I were to be hanged," Abdullah said.

ED officials said Abdullah's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The Lok Sabha MP and former JKCA president, who was also questioned in the case in Chandigarh in July last year, is understood to have been questioned about his role and decisions taken when the alleged fraud took place in the association.

The questioning took place four days after Jammu and Kashmir's mainstream political parties, including the NC and the PDP, met at Abdullah's residence and formed the People's Alliance for 'Gupkar Declaration'.

The Declaration resolves to campaign constitutionally for the restoration of Article 370, under which the erstwhile state enjoyed special status. On August 5 last year, the Centre revoked the state's special status and bifurcated the state into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The Alliance strongly condemned Abdullah's questioning and termed it "part of the vindictive politics practised by the central government to kill dissent and disagreement across the country and in present case to silence the genuine demand of reversal of unilateral and unconstitutional" abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A.

The ED case is based on an FIR filed by the CBI, which booked former JKCA office-bearers, including general secretary Mohammed Saleem Khan and former treasurer Ahsan Ahmad Mirza.

The CBI later filed a chargesheet in 2018 against Abdullah, Khan, Mirza as well as Mir Manzoor Gazanfer Ali (former JKCA treasurer) and former accountants Bashir Ahmad Misgar and Gulzar Ahmad Beigh for the "misappropriation of JKCA funds amounting to Rs 43.69 crore" from grants given by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to promote the sport in the state between 2002-11.

The ED said its probe found that JKCA received Rs 94.06 crore from BCCI in three different bank accounts during financial years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012 (up to December 2011).

The ED alleged that several other bank accounts were opened in the name of the JKCA into which the funds were transferred. The bank accounts along with the existing bank accounts were later used for laundering JKCA funds.

Abdullah's son and NC leader Omar Abdullah said the ED action was "...nothing less than political vendetta" and came days after the formation of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration.

Other leaders also spoke out on the issue.

The NC's long-term rival, PDP, which has joined the Alliance, also condemned the ED's action. PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, who was released after 14 months last week, deplored the "use of agencies to browbeat mainstream parties in JK".

She said the ED's "sudden summons to Farooq sahab displays the extent of GOIs nervousness about mainstream parties in JK fighting as one unit".

(It) Also reeks of political vendetta and won't in the least blunt our collective resolve to fight for our rights," she said on Twitter.

People's Conference leader Sajjad Lone echoed her.

"What a sorry state of affairs. Dr Farooq sahib summoned by ED. Reeks of vendetta. Contrary to what they want to coercively achieve this will certainly have the opposite impact," he tweeted.

The National Conference said in a statement that the summons is clearly the result of the unity that Dr Sahib has been able to forge among mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is the price one faces when opposed to BJP's ideology and divisive politics. Recent history is a witness to how BJP has been employing coercive and intimidative measures through various departments to target opposition leaders across the country...", it said.

The NC said "the timing of the recent summons is very clear" as his previous summons was just before August 5 last year.

The statement said its president continues to maintain "his innocence and will cooperate with the authorities in what is nothing but a witch hunt".

In February this year, the ED attached assets worth Rs 2.6 crore of Mirza and Gazanfer, a member of the finance committee of the JKCA. The agency alleged that Mirza transferred huge amounts into his personal bank accounts, and the money was further transferred or withdrawn in cash.

"Out of the laundered amounts, Rs 1.31 crore was received by Gazanfer who was a member of the finance committee of JKCA between 2006 to 2009."

The ED claimed the committee was arbitrarily constituted by Abdullah, the then JKCA president.

According to the agency, the then "duly elected treasurer Mukhtar Kanth resigned in 2004. Farooq Abdullah appointed Mirza as JKCA treasurer without holding elections as mandated under the JKCA Rules, 1957".

"In the JKCA elections held in 2006, Gazanfer was elected as Treasurer of JKCA and there was a brief court stay upon his acting as Treasurer of JKCA when Farooq Abdullah continued Mirza as the treasurer of JKCA," the ED said.

The court stay was vacated the same year and Gazanfer was not given charge of treasurer. Instead, Farooq Abdullah constituted a finance committee comprising Mirza and Gazanfer and both were empowered to jointly operate JKCA bank accounts, it said.

The two "opened a personal bank account" in their joint names with Jammu and Kashmir Bank and crores of funds belonging to JKCA were transferred into it, the agency alleged. The funds were either withdrawn in cash or transferred to other bank accounts including the bank account of Mirza's firm, it added.

In 2011, Mirza was elected JKCA general secretary and Farooq Abdullah president.

During the period, JKCA funds were continuously laundered, the ED alleged. d

## 'Struggle For Special Status...

Talking to a media person after remaining inside the ED office for nearly seven hours, 82-year-old Abdullah said, "Remember one thing, we have a long way to go. This is a long fight".

He further said, "Our struggle will go on whether Farooq Abdullah is alive or Farooq Abdullah is dead. Our resolve has not changed and our resolve will not change even if I were to be hanged".

The former chief minister and ex-union minister said the struggle for restoration of the constitutional provision removed last year by the BJP-led government at the Centre was of all the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is not Farooq Abdullah or the National Conference's struggle alone. It is the struggle of all the people," he added.

Several constituents of the newly formed People's Alliance, comprising mainstream political parties from Jammu and Kashmir, described Abdullah being summoned by the ED as a "witch hunt" and political vendetta by the Centre.

He was summoned by the ED on Monday in connection with a case related to alleged irregularities in utilisation of funds given to the JK cricket association by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Asked about the nature of questioning, Abdullah said it's an ongoing process and since the ED had to ask some more things after the previous round of questioning last year, he had made himself available.

"I am not worried, why are you worried? The only regret I have is that I could not have my lunch," a visibly irritated Abdullah told reporters as soon as he came out of the ED office after his questioning.

Abdullah said the ED personnel had to do their job and he had to do his. "They were nice and very very good," the NC president said.

Abdullah refused to comment on the proceedings, saying the matter will be decided in court.

"In the end, it has to be decided in the court when they put the papers in the court," he said.

## Army Nabs Chinese Soldier...

said it may take a couple of days to send the soldier back.

"A PLA soldier identified as Corporal Wang Ya Long was apprehended in the Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh on October 19 after he had strayed across the LAC," the Army said in a statement. A Chinese corporal is equivalent to a Naik in the Indian Army.

"The PLA soldier has been provided medical assistance including oxygen, food and warm clothes to protect him from the vagaries of extreme altitude and harsh climatic conditions," it added.

Both Indian and Chinese armies have deployed over 50,000 troops each along the LAC in eastern Ladakh including in the Demchok sector following escalation of the five-month-long military standoff that began in early May.

"A request has also been received from the PLA about the whereabouts of the missing soldier. As per established protocols, he will be returned back to Chinese officials at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point after completion of formalities," the Army said.

Sources said the PLA soldier has been kept at an Army formation and he was interrogated on how he crossed over to the Indian side.

In Beijing, state-run Global times quoted sources close to the matter as saying China and India are currently communicating on the issue and the two sides are moving towards a solution.

The incident will not cause new conflicts in the border areas, and solving the matter will also signal new progress in the bilateral negotiations, the sources said.

The incident occurred at a time when India and China are preparing to hold another round of Corps Commander-level military talks later this week with a focus on carrying forward their discussions on the disengagement process in Eastern Ladakh. The two sides have so far held seven rounds of high-level military talks on the border faceoff.

The seventh round of talks was held on October 12.

There was no breakthrough on the disengagement of troops from the friction points so far.

India has all along been maintaining that the onus is on China to carry forward the process of disengagement and de-escalation at the friction points in the mountainous region.

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

This round was held with a specific agenda of exploring ways to implement a five-point agreement reached between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at a meeting in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) conclave.

The pact included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC

## BOSE To Clear Exam...

examinations, Pandita said,

"The matter of preponing the exams was only discussed in the previous meeting with the Ex-Commissioner Secretary Asgar Samoon as to whether there was any feasibility for government and BOSE to hold the exams of 10th and 12th standard exams in first week of November

"As of now nothing has been finalized and currently BOSE has not announced or decided anything about examinations, but in weeks' time everything will be cleared," she added.

Pandita also said the issue of all board examinations has been highlighted with the newly appointed administrative Secretary to Government for School Education Department Bishwajit Kumar Singh and in coming days she will discuss the matter in a meeting to take a final call.

As whether there was any indication of mass promotions to 11th standard students, the BOSE Chairman said that too would be decided in coming days—(KNO)

## Militant Killed In Anantnag...

State forces launched a cordon and search operation in Melhora area of Shopian after receiving specific information about the presence of militants in the area, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants opened fire at a search party of the forces, who retaliated.

In the ongoing exchange of fire, one unidentified militant has been killed so far, the official said.

According to the official sources, the search operation has been suspended in the area due to darkness. They said that a strict vigil is being kept and the cordon has been further intensified to prevent any holed-up militants to escape from the dragnet of the state forces.

Meanwhile, a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personal was injured after militants on Monday morning fired upon the Joint team of state forces near Gangoo area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district. A senior police officer said that militants fired upon joint party of state forces in Gangoo leaving a CRPF man injured. He said that the injured paramilitary personal was immediately shifted to nearby hospital for treatment.

Soon after attack, the area was cordoned off to nab the attackers.

**10 More Covid-19 Deaths...**

three others victims hailed from various parts of Jammu division, officials said. Among the seven victims in Valley, two were residents of Kulgam and one each from Srinagar, Pulwama, Anantnag, Bandipora and Shopian districts.

Among others, they said, the victims include a 77-year-old woman from Bandipora, who died thirteen days after being admitted to the SKIMS Soura hospital; and a 70-year-old man from Pampore Pulwama who died at CD hospital, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients, three days after he was admitted there.

Regarding deaths from Jammu, they said, one each was reported from Udhampur, Samba and Ramban.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 931 in Valley and 460 in Jammu.

Srinagar district with 333 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (237), Baramulla (135), Budgam (90), Pulwama (78), Kupwara (71), Anantnag (71), Kulgam (45), Bandipora(43), Rajouri (45), Doda (42), Shopian (34), Ganderbal (30), Kathua (30), Udhampur (26), Samba (25), Poonch (22), Kishtwar(14), Ramban (12), and Reasi (7). (With GNS inputs)

**427 More People Test Positive...**

infected by the virus across the Union Territory to 88369.

While 169 new cases of Covid-19 were reported from Jammu division, the officials said that in Kashmir 258 more people were detected positive for virus.

Giving district wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 112 cases, Budgam 16, Baramulla 38, Pulwama 19, Kupwara 18, Anantnag 26, Bandipora 19, Ganderbal 4, Kulgam 2, Shopian 4, Jammu 116, Rajouri 2, Udhampur 11, Doda 0, Kathua 5, Poonch 9, Samba 12, Kishtwar 7, Ramban 4 and Reasi 3.

Moreover, they said, 781 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 417 from Jammu Division and 364 from Kashmir Valley.

## BJP Woos Voters With 5000...

from this, whatever opportunities are available will be explored under a proper action plan in consultation with Prime Minister and Home Minister.

The announcements were made just three days ahead of the LAHDC polls that are slated to be held on October 22.

Speaking about crucial Zojila tunnel on which the work was started through first virtual blasting by union minister for Roads Nitin Gadkari, Reddy said that the long pending demand of Zojila Tunnel has been fulfilled and it will be Asia's biggest tunnel that will reduce travel time and shall operate throughout the year.

As an in-charge minister of Lakdah UT, Reddy said that two cities in UT will be developed as smart cities and take them to development and air connectivity will be developed so that the tourism sector gets a boost.

Slamming Pakistan and China for intervening into the internal affairs of India, Reddy said that both China and Pakistan have no right to talk about India's internal matters and Ladakh's UT status.

"At the same time, the parties like Congress, PDP and NC are toeing anti-national line by speaking the same language as that of China and Pakistan, which is unfortunate," he said.

Referring to Dr Farooq Abdullah, the union minister said that how can a senior political leader who is Member of Parliament (MP) during the escalating tensions with China in eastern Ladakh talk about China's support to help in restoring Article 370. "This is the language of rebels," he said

## Govt Not Imposing Property...

" Sinha said, while addressing a gathering during "My Town My Pride" programme in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

However, the Urban Local Bodies, he said are competent to decide on such issues in consultation with the public and for the development of the ULB's themselves.

J&K LG also refuted the rumours regarding the reduction or scrapping of the honorarium of the panchayati raj institutions and urban local bodies. He said such rumours were being spread by certain vested interests, deliberately misleading elected representatives on the honorarium issue.

Sinha said that his government has initiated My Town My Pride programme with a prime agenda of empowering the Urban Local Bodies by reaching out to the urban population, with governance at their doorsteps and ensuring on spot redressal of their issues and grievances.

The two-day long programme, an initiative for the Municipal areas is being conducted in Urban Local Bodies on 19th - 20th October, during which camps for public service delivery are being set up.

LG observed that public outreach in towns, strengthening grass-root democracy, and service delivery at doorsteps are the three main objectives of the "My Town My Pride" initiative.

"This is not a programme to announce anything new, but an opportunity to discuss and derive solutions to existing needs, issues and for effective delivery of services at every doorstep," he said.

"During these two days, many issues faced by the cities will come to light, which will thereby help create a definitive roadmap for developing a strong ecosystem for our cities, focussing on the urban-rural partnership, enhancing market and business opportunities, job creation, filling the gaps in education system and ensuring sustainable economic development of our cities," he added.

According to an official spokesperson, LG stressed that the Urban-Rural connect is vital for the wholesome development of Jammu & Kashmir and under "My Town My Pride", every Municipal Council will be given Rs 1 crore to fill gaps in ongoing works.

"Similarly, Municipal Committees will be given Rs 50 lakhs each and Rs 5 cr will be given to Municipal Corporations to fill the gaps. Some part of the amount will be used for installing street lights in the city and some for creating parking spaces," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG asked the officers to own the initiative, identify local issues and needs of the people, and serve people with accountable, responsive, and participatory governance.

"Synchronized efforts must be made for ensuring maximum saturation of social security and beneficiary-oriented schemes; besides ensuring speedy issuance of important documents, certificates; revenue services, and mobilization of funds towards developmental activities as per the needs of the local population," LG, as per official spokesperson said.

He said that the LG also interacted with the public and sought feedback from them on the administration's efforts in providing door-step governance to the public and on-spot redressal of their grievances, besides providing them with various services by the departments.

## Cong Protests 'Tax Terrorism'...

immediate rollback and dismantling of toll plazas to end "tax terrorism".

The Union home ministry had recently empowered the union territory administration to impose the property tax following an amendment to the J&K Municipal Act, 2000 and J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 through the J&K Reorganization (Adaption of state laws) order, 2020.

The property tax will be levied on all lands and buildings or vacant

lands or both that fall within the jurisdiction of civic body areas unless exempted under this act or any other law.

"The BJP is anti-people and has unleashed tax terrorism in J&K through amendments in various laws after revoking the special status and bifurcating the erstwhile J&K into two union territories on August 5 last year," chief spokesperson of Pradesh Congress Committee Ravinder Sharma said.

A large number of Congress activists led by senior vice president Raman Bhalla staged the protest demonstration outside the party headquarters at Shaheedi Chowk in the heart of Jammu. However, their attempt to take out a rally was scuttled by police who were deployed in strength and had barricaded the main road.

"Congress will not remain a mute spectator to the anti-people policies of the BJP-led government. The BJP is anti-farmers, anti-youth and has unleashed the tax terrorism by setting up more toll plazas in Jammu region and cleared the way for imposition of the property tax," Sharma said.

He said his party demands rollback of the "anti-people" decisions and immediate restoration of the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and holding of assembly elections.

## ACB Files Charges Against...

vigilance organisation Kashmir, now known as Anti-Corruption Bureau

The cases, ACB spokesperson said was registered in Police Station Vigilance Organization Kashmir (now ACB) on the outcome of a secret enquiry against the accused JE for indulging in corrupt and illegal practices and amassing wealth disproportionate to his known source of income.

"The enquiry revealed that the accused had constructed a palatial house at Post Office Lane Hyderpora, House at Sidhra Jammu, & few houses at Noorpora Tral at approximately cost of Rs. 1.50 Crores. The suspect has also purchased Horticulture/Agriculture land and is in possession of movable assets including one i10 Hyundai car & one Maruti 800," The Bureau spokesperson said.

He said that the assets found in possession during secret enquiry were apparently found disproportionate to the known sources of the income of Bhat.

"The facts thus disclosed during secret enquiry constitute offences punishable U/S 5(1)(e) r/w 5(2) J&K P.C. Act,Svt. 2006 and accordingly a case FIR No.31/2012 under aforementioned sections of law was registered in P/S VOK (now ACB-Srinagar) and investigation was accordingly taken up," the ACB spokesperson said.

He said that the investigation of the case was concluded as proved against the above mentioned accused and charge sheet against him was produced before the Court of Special Judge Anticorruption Srinagar for judicial determination. The next date of hearing is fixed on 25-11-2020, the spokesperson added.

## Kashmir Witnessing Growing...

25 deadline. Like Hussain, many trekking companies have stated taking batches for treks. Srinagar-based tourism players are yet to maintain a count on what they called the "growing trekker foothall" in the valley.

Notably, as a "trekker's delight", Kashmir Valley provides unadulterated beauty of colourful meadows, gushing streams, and perennial rivers with the mighty Himalayas in the background to the hikers. Kashmir has a mixture of short and long treks—currently witnessing hiking fever.

**Kashmir Great Lakes**

One of the most popular treks, the trail of the Kashmir Great Lakes separates trekkers from the civilization and put them into the wild meadows and the most ravishing lakes of the region.

Located at an altitude of 11,500 feet, the pine forests, fields of wild-flower, and the Himalayas add more beauty to the pristine lakes.

Vishansar, Kishansar, Gadsar, the cascading lakes of Satsar, and the twin lakes of Gangabal and Nunkol are seen on the trek.

It takes around seven-eight days to complete this trek and is suitable for beginners who are always on the look for easier treks to start with.

**Tarsar Marsar Trek**

Imagine camping beside the snow-fed twin lakes with green meadows and white-carpeted mountains!

Trasar Marsar is one such trek that makes it possible.

It's the perfect place for nature lovers and photographers to escape from the bustling cities. The sparking lakes reflect the clear blue skies on a sunny day.

The trek has three alpine rivers- Tarsar, Marsar, and Sundarsar along with splendid meadows, Chinar tree forest and the Liddler river.

Being an easy trail, the trek is suitable for beginners and it takes around seven days to complete this trek.

### Kolahoi Glacier Trek

As the highest glacier of the valley, Kolahoi glacier trek is a delight to the eyes.

The trail crosses different rivers originating from the glacier and comes across river banks encompassed with pine forest and gushing mountain water.

The transition from river banks to valleys of the Himalayas is welcomed by the lush green forest of the valley.

Located at an altitude of 4700 meters, Kolahoi glacier trek is an arduous one and should be done by experienced trekkers.

### Aharbal Kounsarnag Trek

A major trek in the Pir Panjal mountain range, Aharbal Kounsarnag trek starts from Aharbal waterfall, also known as "Niagra Falls of Kashmir".

Kounsarnag lake is located in the Kulgam district and is about 3 km in length and a large portion of a mile at the widest.

The lake is at an altitude of 3760 meters and it takes around seven-eight days to complete the trek.

**Sonmarg-Vishansar-Bandipora Trek**

Vishansar is an oligotrophic alpine lake formed at an altitude of 3700 meters. It's the home to rare migratory birds coming in summer from Siberia.

The trekking to Vishansar starts from Sonmarg and provides a mesmerizing trekking experience. Trekkers can observe over 50 small and large alpine lakes during their Sonamarg-Vishansar-Bandipora trek.

The highest point of the trek is Nichnai Pass (4000 meters) which is crossed to reach the destination at the twin alpine lakes of Vishansar and Krishnasar.

Trekkers come across wildflowers, streams, trout fish and views of Zagibal mountain during their journey.

## Case Filed Over Khayam...

spokesperson said had created panic in the area, even as police had immediately reacted to the news as baseless after confirmation.

## 5 Gamblers Held In City: Police

police spokesperson said. He identified the accused as Gowhar Rasool, Hilal Ahmed, Mehraj Din Sultan, Gulzar Bhat and Asif Bhat.



# 'My Town My Pride' Lt Governor Visits Baramulla

## Dedicates Fish Market Bridge to People

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 19: In connection with "My Town My Pride programme, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today visited Baramulla District.

During his visit, the Lt Governor inaugurated and laid the foundation of public assets worth Rs 16.64 cr. He also inaugurated Fish Market Bridge worth Rs 4.99 cr and laid the foundation of development and upgradation of Cariappa Park costing Rs 1.31 cr.

To mark the occasion, the Lt Governor handed over Wheelchairs, Hearing Aids, Motorized vending Cart, and Irrigation Pump set, KCC sanction letters,

school bags, books and school uniforms, Old-Age & Widow Pension Orders, sanction orders, and financial assistance to the beneficiaries under various welfare and departmental schemes including PMAY Urban, IHHL Urban, NULM and different schemes of Agriculture, Horticulture, FCS&CA, and other departments. Meanwhile, a fleet of Garbage collection vans of Municipal Council, Baramulla was flagged off by the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor observed that the developmental works created as assets would benefit the local population in meeting their needs and demands.

The Lt Governor dedicated the Fish Market Bridge to the public and said that the bridge will cater to the needs of thousands of pedestrians and the long pending demands of the locals have been redressed with the construction of this bridge.

It was informed that the bridge is a vital link between Old Town Iqbal Market and Fish Market which is a business hub of Baramulla town. It reduces the commuting distance of 1.50 km to 110 meters.

The assets inaugurated by the Lt Governor today include - Bagh-i-Islam community centre worth Rs 2.62 cr; 8 No.s of CT/PT under SBM worth Rs 1.2 cr; Ma-

chinery/transport facility for Municipal Council, Baramulla costing Rs 1.44 cr and distribution of door to door dustbins at a cost of Rs 39.80 lakhs.

The assets for those foundations were laid were - 3 MLD Sewage / 60 KLD STP costing Rs 9.65 cr; Car parking at Noor-ul-Huda Market at a cost of Rs 84 lakhs and beautification of the market by way of illumination costing Rs 50 lakhs.

The Lt Governor also planted a sapling on the occasion. Artists spread awareness on the COVID-19 pandemic and other social issues through their cultural performances.

## 5-day training prog for CUK's supporting staff begins

Ganderbal, Oct 19: Centre for Capacity Development of Administrative Staff (CCDAS), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Monday started a five-day training programme for supporting staff (Outsource employees) at the varsity's Green Campus here.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, Controller of Examinations, Prof. Parveen Pandit were present during the inaugural session.

Addressing the participants (both offline and online), Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir asked the outsource staff to learn from each other's experience and be student and people friendly. He said that such workshops are being organised from time to time to upgrade the knowledge and hone the skills of the staff members.

"The university has adopted best practices and holding such type of regular training programmes for the outsource staff members is one among them," he added. He told the participants to take full advantage from the expertise of resource persons and ask questions to clarify the doubts, if any.

Speaking on the occasion, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar stressed on cordial and harmonious relationships among university employees. He said the employees should be proactively involved during the training programme. Ms. Sakina Akhter, Officer In charge CCDAS conducted the inaugural session and spelt out the aims and objectives of organizing the training programme.

## Kansal in Kulgam on inaugural day of My Town My Pride

KULGAM, OCTOBER 19- As part of ambitious My Town My Pride (MTMP) programme, which started today, Principal Secretary PDD and Information departments, Rohit Kansal today visited Kulgam and took stock of issues and concerns of the masses for effective redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary said that the main objective of Programme is to reach out to the people at their door steps besides connecting them with the administration for efficient and smooth public service delivery.

He added that active participation of public is instrumental for taking development to next level and empowerment of grass root institutions is main objective of programmes like Back to Village and My Town My Pride.

A large number of people from all wards of municipal council participated in the programme and apprised the principal secretary about various issues and put forth their demands.

Scores of delegations like traders association Kulgam, Simnaniya Trust, Awkaaf Committee and other delegation also put forth their demands before the Principal Secretary.

During a distribution programme table

tennis sports equipments, wheel chairs Agro machinery, Pajoo auto, KCC and other sanction letters besides domicile, income and other certificates were distributed among the beneficiaries.

Principal secretary also inspected stalls which were installed by agriculture, horticulture, sheep and animal husbandry, fisheries, Sericulture, Social welfare, banks and other departments to register and aware the beneficiaries about various schemes.

On the first day of programme Kansal, inspected and inaugurated several works projects and stressed for their timely completion .

He laid foundation stone of EVM warehouse which will come up at an estimated cost of Rs.74.81 lacs. He also inspected works project of finance complex which is under execution by JKPCO coming up at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.62 crore. Site inspection of 60 bedded hospitals block B at district hospital was also conducted and other work projects were also inspected which included conference hall/meeting hall being executed by R&B at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.92 crore.

## NC condemns BJP Govt coercive actions

JAMMU OCTOBER 19:- National Conference strongly condemns the coercive actions initiated by the BJP Government to muzzle the voice of dissent by using the power of Government agencies. Taking strong exception to the timing of the questioning of the party president Dr Farooq Abdullah by the Enforcement Directorate, the party leaders from Jammu province today said that no amount of coercion will deter the will of the party and its cadre to raise the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a joint statement issued here today the party leaders stated that for a democracy to thrive it is important that all opinions are respected. The country is known for its democratic values and the idea of India is the idea of different opinions, ideologies and diverse views and any attempt to throttle the essence of democratic freedom will be opposed, they said.

## Statehood can guarantee self-governance in J&K: Bukhari

SRINAGAR, October 19: Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Monday said that people of Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford any further delay in restoration of Statehood. He said that an early restoration of Statehood alone can guarantee the residents of J&K their right to self-governance.

Welcoming the Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks that the centre will not take long to restore Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Bukhari observed that this decision is no longer about a political party or any leader but about the democratic rights and political aspirations of the people of J&K.

"While I welcome the union home min-

ister's statement, I would like to remind the union government not to keep this critical issue in political limbo for a long time in view of the sufferings of residents of J&K and the undeniable governance chaos," Bukhari remarked.

He said the sooner the union government fulfils its commitment on re-establishing the Statehood in J&K, the better it would be for the country to ensure peace and development in this troubled region. "The solution to multifarious problems faced by the people of J&K on a day-to-day basis and to promote its integrated and all-round development lies in restoration of Statehood with comprehensive domicile laws protecting the rights of its residents on

their land and jobs," Bukhari opined.

Bukhari also censured the J&K government for sidelining the local officers of repute in the J&K bureaucracy terming it unacceptable. "Cornering the local officers in J&K administration is a highly deplorable move which smacks of some nefarious designs of some vested interest groups within the J&K government," he observed.

The Apni Party president solicited the intervention of the union home minister towards this grave issue which has created a lot of disenchantment among the local officers who are well versed with the problems of the people and have until now contributed immensely in all the sectors of governance.

### 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**  
**02 Rabi-ul-Awwal**  
**1442**

### PRAYERS

FAJR 5:18  
ZUHR 12:16  
ASR 4:14  
Magrib 6:56  
ISHA 7:15

## This Day In History

- 1786 - Harvard University organizes 1st astronomical expedition in US.
- 1899 - Battle at Talana Hill, Natal: British army vs Boers
- 1902 - The Chamber of Deputies appoints a committee to consider questions on the separation of Church and State in France
- 190 - 3 US wins disputed boundary between District of Alaska & Canada
- 1904 - Bolivia and Chile sign a treaty ending the War of the Pacific; recognizing Chile's possession of the coast, providing for construction of a railway linking La Paz, Bolivia, to Arica on the coast
- 1905 - Great General Strike in Russia begins; lasts 11 days
- 1905 - Russian Tsar allows Polish people to speak Polish
- 1910 - The hull of the RMS Olympic, sister-ship to the ill-fated RMS Titanic, is launched from the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Ireland.
- 1921 - Germany and Allies comes to an agreements over reparation payments in a meeting at Wiensbaden
- 1921 - The French and Mustafa Kemal nationalists sign a treaty at Ankara fixing the Turkey-Syrian border
- 1935 - Communist forces end their Long March at Yan'an, in Shaanxi, China, bringing Mao Zedong to prominence
- 1936 - Spanish government moves to Barcelona
- 1941 - Nazi occupiers murder 500 inhabitants of Kragujevac Serbia.
- 1944 - Revolution by workers & students in Guatemala
- 1944 - Soviet and Yugoslav troops free Belgrade
- 1944 - US 1st army wins battle of Aachen
- 1944 - US forces under General Douglas MacArthur return to the Philippines with the landing of the US 6th army on Leyte
- 1950 - Chemists Archer John Porter Martin and James Lovelock give the first demonstration of gas chromatography at a meeting of the Biochemical Society. The technique is rapidly adopted by the petrochemical industry.
- 1952 - Emergency crisis proclaimed in Kenya
- 1965 - Mass arrests of communists in Indonesia
- 1971 - Senator in the US Congress Edward Kennedy calls for a withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and all-party negotiations to establish a United Ireland.
- 1973 - US president Nixon fires Watergate accuser Archibald Cox

## From KO Archives

## Kashmiri student murdered in Delhi

SRINAGAR- A Kashmiri student was stabbed to death by unknown assailants in Delhi last week. According to reports Naseer Ahmad Sofi, son of Ghulam Rasool Sofi, hailing from Baramulla, was doing an X-ray technicians' course in Mahipalpora. He was stabbed to death on Friday last week. The killers have not been identified so far. The victim's kin left for Delhi today to bring back the body. The incident has left parents of students studying outside the state deeply perturbed.

(Kashmir Observer, October 20, 2000)

## خاندان سادات رضویہ کو صدمہ



یہ نہایت دکھ اور غم کو ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ خاندان سادات رضوی کے چشم و چراغ سید حسن رضوی ولد آقا سید عباس رضوی ساکنہ اسلام آباد پاکستان متحفظہ حالات کے بعد سوموار 18 11 تو برصغیر کو اس مرد و بلند شان اس دار فانی سے انتقال کر گئے۔

انا لله و انا اليه راجعون

اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا ہے کہ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے۔ اس سلسلے میں انفرادی تعزیت پرستی آقا سید عبدالباقی رضوی کے گھرواں واقع تابادی پورہ چڈی میں بدعوار تک ہوگی اور کوئی بھی ایسی تعزیتیں نہیں کی جائے گی۔

سورگواران

9906544485 | 7006905522

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### Office Of The Executive Engineer Department Of Floriculture Kashmir Srinagar

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
**E-NIT No: 44 of 2020-21 Dated: .10.2020.**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory, J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors/Valid SSI Unit Holders Registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	MH of Account
1.	Providing and fixing of Retro Reflective Signage Boards at various Gardens/Parks of Floriculture Department Kashmir (South and Central Kashmir).	9.35	400/-	9350/-	15 days	SSI Unit Holders	4406-Co

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

1.	Date of publication of Tender Notice	17.10.2020	02.00 PM
2.	Document downloading Start Date	17.10.2020	From 02.30 P.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	17.10.2020	From 2.30 PM
4.	Document downloading end date	23.10.2020	Upto 12.00 Noon
5.	Bid Submission End Date	23.10.2020	upto 01.00 PM
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23.10.2020	02.00 PM

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan/copy of receipt from treasury favouring of Executive Engineer, Floriculture Department Srinagar (tender inviting authority) indicating name of work by crediting the requisite charges to the MH: 0406-02-112-Public Gardens (Floriculture Department Kashmir) in favour of Executive Engineer (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money/Bid security in shape of fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Department of Floriculture Kashmir Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

2. The date and time of opening of technical Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Department of Floriculture Kashmir Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

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

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

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Deptt: of Floriculture,  
Kashmir.

DIPK-7629/20

No: EE/FDK/1560-65  
Dated: 17.10.2020.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

### Directorate of Skill Development, J&K

Srinagar: Bypass Road, Bemina Srinagar 190018 (May to Oct) Phone: 0194-2491613 Fax 0194-2491668  
Jammu: Polytechnic Premises, Vikram Chowk, Jammu 180004 (Nov to April) Phone: 0191-2435190 Fax 2451345

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, E-tenders are invited from the Registered Firms / Manufacturers & their Authorized Dealers for Establishment of Language labs in Govt. Polytechnics of J&K on Turnkey basis for the financial year 2019-20. The complete Tender document for Establishment of Language labs shall be made available to the interested Registered Firms / reputed Manufacturers/ authorized Dealers / suppliers/OEMs on the Web site [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in) and official Website of the Department of Skill Development [www.jkdte.org](http://www.jkdte.org). Interested bidder/Tenderers may view / download the e-bid document and submit their e-bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bid document contains Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications of the tendered items, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of the Contract and other details.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16- 10-2020
2	Document Download/Sale Start Date	17- 10-2020 10: 00 A M
3	Start Date and Time for Uploading of Bids	17- 10-2020 10: 00 AM
4	Last Date and Time for Uploading of Bids	27-10-2020 12: 00 AM
5	Last Date & Time for submission for EMD & Cost of Tender Document	27-10-2020 04: 00 PM
6	Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bids	28-10-2020 11: 00 AM
7	Date and Time of Opening of Financial Bids	To be notified later on after the Technical Evaluation.
8	Number of Covers/Packets	2 (Technical and Financial)
9	Bid Validity days	60 days from date of award of contract
10	Location (Work/Services/Items)	As per Tender document
11	Cost of E-Bid Document	Rs. 2500/- (Rupees two Thousand & Five Hundred only).
		2 of 2
12	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR	Rs.3,50,000/- (Rupees Three Lacs Fifty Thousand only)
13	Address for Communication	Director, Skill Development, J&K, Srinagar
14	Payment Mode (Online/Offline)	Online

(Sajad Hussain Ganie) KAS,  
Director, Skill development, J&K,  
(Chairman SLPC)

DIPK-7609/20

No:- DSD/PUR/2020-21/  
Dated: - 10 -2020.



KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvserver.net

K O V I E W

Getting TRPs right

Earlier this month, Mumbai police claimed to have busted a Television Ratings Point (TRP) scam. In a press conference, Mumbai top cop Param Bir Singh alleged that three television channels including the Arnab Goswami owned Republic Television manipulated viewership ratings by paying people to watch their channels. The scam has shaken the television industry. According to Television ratings, Republic TV is the most watched news channel in the country, so the scam has exposed it to be largely manipulated. As per Mumbai police, the families were being paid Rs 400-500 to keep the three channels switched on to fudge the ratings. Cops have arrested four people so far, two of them owners of the two Marathi channels accused of being involved in the manipulation. Mumbai police has also recorded statements of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Republic TV.

However, what has been revealed so far is more or less along expected lines. It was suspected all along that there is something amiss with the TRPs and some channels like the NDTV with lower ratings had even been complaining about it. News channels these days resort to all sorts of tricks and toxicity to get the higher ratings. The anchors peddle hate, outrage and communalism explicitly to boost ratings. And Kashmir has been at the receiving end of such reportage. One can't help experiencing a helpless sense of outrage at the way the facts are thrown to winds when it comes to analyzing the issues facing the region and the way an entire community is demonized. Most of the leading anchors and the talking heads, except those from the Valley dabble profusely in communal innuendo and outright threats against the region to hammer their arguments home. Also apart from working up hate for Kashmiris, the channels have also simplified the fiendishly complex issue of Kashmir. The result is abetment to revenge in Kashmir than a search for a solution to the deepening crisis in the region.

Similarly, on Pakistan we are generally witness to an angry, high-decibal television, screaming headlines and a load of dramatic opinion in print with more or less one objective: more readership, more viewership and more TRPs. As is often the case, this persuades the political class also to play to the gallery. What follows is a series of competing statements, threats that further stir the crucible of hate. Here is hoping that the TRP scam also throws light on this no-holds-barred competition to reach the audience that involves playing to the basest instincts of the audience. One of the first steps to address the toxic media scene in the country to make the TRPs an authentic barometer of the viewership of these channels. This might show that hate after all doesn't pay as much as is believed.

OTHER OPINON

The LAC is the new LoC

India and China are inching their way towards a new equilibrium on the border. The new border equation is likely to make the Line of Actual Control (LAC), marked by large buffer zones and winter withdrawals, similar to the Line of Control (LoC), marked by permanent deployments, firing range distances, and constant friction. Managing this transition, while restoring, to use the euphemism adopted by both governments, "peace and tranquility" along the border, is now the primary challenge. During this, India must show no signs of weakness or impatience as these will be exploited by a China which respects only power in its rawest, hardest sense. The two governments have been talking at multiple levels. Despite this, they have barely budged from their original positions and tens of thousands of soldiers are digging in for a stand-off that will, in all likelihood, run through the winter. Or they could well be further rounds of fighting designed to strengthen negotiating positions.

There has been a sharp change in the options with New Delhi since Indian troops moved to the heights of Chushul Ridge in late August. If China is baulking at rolling back its intrusion along Pangong Tso, India will not pull its soldiers back from the heights. There is now insufficient trust between the militaries for such a move. On paper, this will seem as if India has conceded a chunk of land behind its version of LAC. And all effort must be geared even now to get China to vacate. But in reality, neither side had "actual control" of either bits of territory. They had been part of a no-man's land and their forward deployments have now shrunk that buffer to nothing. This is a reality which Indian border policy is adjusting to.

Restoring status quo ante would also imply returning Sino-Indian economic relations to what they were before. That is also out of the question. New Delhi had once seen trade and investment as a confidence-building exercise with Beijing. Today, New Delhi must draft a five-year plan to reduce China's economic footprint in India as much as possible. And it should be working out how to do so in conjunction with other countries. Peace along the border is the obvious short-term goal, but struggle everywhere else should be India's new long march.

Hindustan Times

Walking the Talk of  
Pluralism - An impossibility?



AHYMON AYOUB

Cultural  
dispossession of  
the subaltern i.e.  
Muslims in this case can  
be gauged from the  
absence of any  
retaliatory lexicon to  
counter problematic  
semantics like “Love  
Jihad”. This stems from  
the fact that production  
and reproduction of a  
semantic is a  
prerogative and  
privilege of the  
powerful, the  
consequences of which  
are to be borne by the  
opposite.

Indian Film industry and Cinema at large, are known for their tremendous potential and worldwide consumption after Hollywood. Both the media have played a pivotal role in forging a multicultural and pluralist image of India on a global screen. Advertising Industry of India is another stronghold which is regarded as a second highest growing market in Asia, with outstanding prospects for future growth.

However, with whopping consumption and popularity worldwide, Indian Cinema has hardly been able to steer away from controversies and criticism. This partly stems from its overarching magnitude and outreach and also sometimes its reception across different contexts and collective mental landscapes. While Bollywood has been criticised time and again for promoting sexism, normalising rouge behaviour, colourism and its problematic portrayal of Muslims; Advertising Industry hasn't remained free of fallibilities either. Notwithstanding, the shadow of controversies has recently eclipsed Advertising Industry recently again with an ad-release by Tanishq, a popular jewellery brand that sought to foster interfaith tolerance and harmony among Hindus and Muslims with the advertisement.

Unfortunately though, as public opinion would have it, the multicultural road taken by Tanishq, a strand of Titan from the house of Tata, didn't go well with people who immediately took to Twitter to set the hashtag #boycottanishq trending.

The forty-five second advertisement clip released by Tanishq on 9th of October featured its new jewellery line Ekatvam, which colloquially means unity and symbolically sent across the message of Hindu-Muslim tolerance and harmony. Featuring a Muslim family celebrating and enamouring the baby-shower ceremony of their Hindu daughter-in-law, a ritual which otherwise is not practised among Muslims, the advertisement sought to symbolise interfaith love and forbearance. As well-intentioned and well-meant it appeared from the description given underneath the video-clip, the advertisement spiralled out into a huge controversy unclenching the deep-seated bigotry and intolerance that has now become a feature of Indian culture.

Misread as the message of intercultural solidarity and tol-

erance was as Love Jihad, the advertisement faced tremendous criticism from various quarters with some calling the brand out for promoting fake secularism. The hashtag #boycottTanishq went trending on Twitter with almost everybody from commoners to reputed figures peddling the narrative of hatred. Such vitriolic was the backlash that the brand as well-grounded as Tanishq buckled under the pressure and removed the advertisement from its YouTube channel soon after.

Not much later, Kangna Ranaut joined the online tirade against the advertisement which in her analysis promoted Love Jihad. She also went on to report sexism that the advertisement perpetuated according to her understanding. She opined that, the fact that the Hindu daughter-in-law finds acceptance within the Muslim family merely as a favour for carrying the family's heir was sexist.

This venomous hate campaign against the idea and ethos that the advertisement sought to promote, begs several profound questions and explanations. First analysing Ranaut's criticism, it appears to have emanated from selective reading of the clip. As inadequate her analysis of the advertisement appears, she seems to have skipped the expressional arc of the clip altogether. Festivity and celebrations sail in the air as the expressions of fulfilment, togetherness and happiness are portrayed on both sides with no hint of hesitation or unease on either side as the notion of LoveJihad presumes. Also, her commentary on alleged sexism promoted by the AV also holds little water as it presupposes rejection and ill-treatment of the daughter-in-law until the news of the baby's conception breaks.

Secondly, the reaction that surfaced post the release of the advertisement clip cannot be counted as mere dismissal. It rather comes to qualify as outright rejection of an idea which is seen as subversive. Even if the idea was taken as unacceptable, protest could nevertheless be registered in a much dignified way. It allowed to at least generate an informed debate and inter-cultural discourse.

Moreover, rather than seeing the daughter-in-law in the advertisement as an agential adult capable of making informed choices for herself, the problematic public gaze imagines her as a helpless woman in desperate need of saving.

Lastly, the knee-jerk reaction

serves as a pointer to gauge the status of deep-seated Islamophobia and Muslimphobia in the current multicultural landscape of the country. As one goes through the comments related to the now-removed video, one finds most of them validating the response. Most of the comments tout the reaction as a balanced one in comparison to the presumed havoc that Muslims would create were the roles in the advertisement to be reversed. This uncovers the problematic social and cultural imagination of Muslims that is limited to that of threat and liability.

Also, cultural dispossession of the subaltern i.e. Muslims in this case can be gauged from the absence of any retaliatory lexicon to counter problematic semantics like “Love Jihad”. This stems from the fact that production and reproduction of a semantic is a prerogative and privilege of the powerful, the consequences of which are to be borne by the opposite.

Since this incident doesn't exist in a vacuum, it unlayers how political polarization plays out on social and cultural planes further fortifying the stereotypes that need to be demolished and wiped out.

Paradoxically, even for a woman belonging to the notionally dominant group where most of the social and cultural capital is concentrated, the struggle for the exercise of agency doesn't get any concessions, unfortunately.

Understandably, the struggle gets more telling if a one's location on the matrix of religion, region gender and economic background is unfavourable just as happened few days with a Kashmiri girl in Lajpat Nagar of Delhi. True the details of the case are still conflicted, yet there is no dearth of similar cases to testify how the identity of Kashmiri youth is criminalized with negative portrayal in public narratives. As they always run the risk of such populist aggression, Muslims, subaltern and other sane voices' efforts get reduced to filling a bottomless pit of intolerance.

As Tanishq must currently be working the logistics out to reduce the damage caused to its brand image, the episode has already spelled out the verdict against inter-cultural dialogue both at the level of cinema and Indian society at large.

Ahymon Ayoub is a Master in Sociology from University of Kashmir and is a freelance researcher interested in issues related to Islam and Gender.



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, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Eradicate Poverty in All Forms by All Means

In India, nearly 6.7% of India's population live below poverty line. As reported by UNICEF, 22000 children die each day due to penury. UN has aimed to eradicate poverty in all forms by 2030. Due to poverty, the economically underprivileged face many issues related to health and mental as well as physical illnesses.

High poverty and fatality rates are predominant features of underdeveloped countries and nations. Poverty can be categorised in six forms.

Situational poverty is sudden loss or crisis due to natural calamity or other health related problems. Generational poverty, where the families of two generations born into poverty and struggle to survive. They have limited scope to come out of the challenging situation. Absolute poverty is the lack of things for survival like shelter, water and food. In the Relative poverty, family have meagre income to meet the average standard of living. Urban poverty, where people failed to get proper and adequate city services and

they often face the problem of noise, violence, overcrowding etc. In a Rural poverty, a single bread earner is the sole supporter of big families with little education, inadequate health care and limited job scopes. With these limitations they are more vulnerable to disruption, uncertainty and deprivation.

COVID-19 crisis poses great threat to the developing and underdeveloped nations shattering their economies and leading to millions of deaths. Nearly 195 millions people lost their

jobs during the pandemic. No work, no pay, no livelihood and less sources of income led to an overall economic collapse around the world. During lockdowns migrant labourers or workers are severely affected as they have nothing to eat, drink or have limited access to medical help.

Our goal should be enriching poor people by education, training and allowing varying scopes of success and achievements for them.

Muneer Shamee  
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# Time To Breathe Life Into Kashmiri Carpet Industry

MUZAFFAR BHAT

**A huge roadblock is the rampant and flagrant exploitation of the labourers and small-time business owners by the huge conglomerates and exporters. The main reason for decline in the industry is that weavers are deprived of fair pay, and manufacturers are unable to sell at fair price due to cheating by exporters and retailers**

Kashmir is bestowed abundantly with natural beauty and resources galore. Besides this, it is globally renowned for its handicraft sector. Its handicraft sector comprises exquisitely designed products such as Kashmiri carpets, papier mache, pashmina shawls, wood carving etc. The origin of carpet weaving in Kashmir valley dates back to the 15th century A.D. when the great ruler of Kashmir, Sultan Zainul Aabideen popularly known as Budshah brought some prominent Persian craftsmen to the valley to impart vocational skills and training to the locals. Local artisans excelled and took the art sky high with their industriousness and proficiency. During the period of Budshah's regime, the art of carpet weaving flourished. He was a great supporter and true lover of arts and crafts.

Kashmiri carpets have gained international fame and carved a niche for themselves because of their beauty, strength and durability. They are uniquely woven by hand, unmatched and hand knotted, unlike the commonly available tufted carpets. Handmade and hand knotted carpets have an impressive longevity because its durability comes from delicate and intricate knots by hand. Thus, these find patrons in national and international markets because of the indelible impression they leave on the beholder. The craft coupled with tourism, and adventure tourism are one of the greatest sources of revenue generation for the valley. It provides livelihood to thousands of individuals associated with it. It also acts as a source of auxiliary livelihood and income for farmers in the bleak winters which renders agriculture unsustainable.

The craft has been through many ups and downs, but it has always been insulated due to the patronage of its aficionados. None have shown a greater appreciation for the art than Emperor Jahangir himself who promoted the carpets of Kashmir valley. People associated with this industry were held in high regard. The position of the artisans in the societal hierarchy was such that they were able to command great proposals for marriage and even turn down Government jobs because the craft was far more lucrative. Such was the esteem accorded to them. During the mid 18th century, Kashmiri carpets of the Mughal era were on display at the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London. The Europeans loved the intricacy of the design, and were awed by the iridescence of the many hues of these carpets. These luxurious products were, and continue to be widely popular even in the Indian markets among discerning buyers of class. Hand woven Kashmiri carpets are among one of the most luxurious offerings from India to the world. These carpets are a wonder of artistry and skill. The art produced by the nimble fingers of designers and weavers leaves customers and onlookers alike mesmerized.

Some decades ago, the city of Srinagar was the hub of the carpet weaving industry. One could see a carpet loom in every second home in the city. This craft has reached from the city to far off villages, hilly areas all over Kashmir. The carpet weaving industry witnessed a huge expansion in Northern Kashmir. There was a rapid proliferation in the rural belt of Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara. In the 80s and 90s, most of the households in rural areas showcased a festive look. Big and small carpet looms could be found in these houses. The weavers would keep a tape recorder on the window sill of their work room, from which old Hindi or Kashmiri music boomed. The instructor read the Talim sheets written in a secret coded language by the designer called naqash.

That was an era of prosperity for designers, weavers, traders, exporters and all parties associated with the craft. However, the centuries old carpet industry of our valley is slowly dwindling. One can hardly see a carpet loom in the entire Srinagar city, which was



once the flourishing epicenter of the carpet weaving industry. We are losing this art swiftly as we are unable to lure the younger generation. They find the wages inadequate in order to even meet daily expenses. The weavers are unwilling to work as they think it is a brazen exploitation when they are being paid meagre wages for their talent, skill and hard work. This once refined and revered industry is sadly on the trajectory to massive decline.

According to the Economic Survey of Jammu and Kashmir, carpet exports amounted to 86 million dollars in 2011-12 as opposed to the dismal dipping from 2016 onwards. The export value tumbled to 56 million dollars during 2016-17. Meanwhile, Iran has recorded carpet export value of 275 million dollars in the same period. One of the reasons, according to prominent exporters is that our designs are struggling to hold their own amidst Iranian and Turkish counterparts globally. Another reason for the decline could be usage of sub optimal supplies and raw material. Manufacturers are preferring low quality silk in order to cut back on production costs. This has proven to be a stumbling block in the progress of the art.

Motivating the weavers to continue working hard and produce quality goods would go a long way in doing so. In order to motivate the disenchant weavers, special incentives must be introduced in acknowledgement of their perseverance and skills. Beauty and luxury should not come at the cost of the health and welfare of human beings. Adequate compensation should be provided along with fair pay for workers' health care in order to encourage them and the future generations to continue the family profession. The best performing weavers should be appreciated and rewarded at the local, and national levels. Market exhibitions should be undertaken to facilitate direct contact between the buyer and the seller to revive this industry.

A huge roadblock is the rampant and flagrant exploitation of the labourers and small-time business owners by the huge conglomerates and exporters. The main reason for decline in the industry is that weavers are deprived of fair pay, and manufacturers are unable to sell at fair price due to cheating by ex-

porters and retailers. The exporters and retailers sell these carpets in domestic and international markets at exorbitant prices. They fail to pay the suppliers on time, affecting the payment of wages to the artisans who get demotivated and left in the lurch. Most of the exporters buy from suppliers at relatively low prices with the promise of timely repayment. However, the supplier's attempts to get his dues are always thwarted by the high handedness of the exporters. "Saab busy hain/Saab meeting main hain" is a common refrain heard by the suppliers.

Another reason is the flooding of markets with machine made carpets that are misusing the goodwill and brand name of Kashmiri carpets. People inadvertently pay very high rates for inferior quality products. And when the product does not last for a long time or is defective, this damages the reputation of the earnest Kashmiri handmade, hand knotted carpet industry. Thus, the industry is taking a hit.

Furthermore there are several legacy conglomerates who have now turned their backs on the Kashmiri carpet industry and the poor but hardworking artisans. It was their utmost responsibility to save the industry but they have abandoned the industry and artisans in favour of their personal greed and wealth gathering prerogatives. One way for these conglomerates to step up and do their duty would be to collaborate with statutory bodies and create a corpus fund for the welfare of the artisans who work day and night, who have formed the backbone of their wealth and legacy.

The Government needs to act swiftly and seriously in order to take proactive rejuvenation measures and enact strong regulatory mechanisms to curb the exploitation of artisans and small businesses. We need to work together, the exporters, manufacturers, small and big business owners and all associated players alongside the Government in order to save our dying carpet industry before it is confined to only coffee table books, and museums.

*The author runs a business of handmade and hand knotted Kashmiri carpets*

Why the coronavirus affects children much less severely than adults has become an enduring mystery of the pandemic. The vast majority of children do not get sick; when they do, they usually recover.

The first study to compare the immune response in children with that in adults suggests a reason for children's relative good fortune. In children, a branch of the immune system that evolved to protect against unfamiliar pathogens rapidly destroys the coronavirus before it wreaks damage on their bodies, according to the research, published this week in Science Translational Medicine.

"The bottom line is, yes, children do respond differently immunologically to this virus, and it seems to be protecting the kids," said Dr Betsy Herold, a pediatric infectious disease expert at Albert Einstein College of Medicine who led the study.

#### Child V adult immune responses

In adults, the immune response is much more muted, Dr Herold and her colleagues found. When the body encounters an unfamiliar pathogen, it responds within hours with a flurry of immune activity, called an innate immune response. The body's defenders are quickly recruited to the fight and begin releasing signals calling for backup.

Children more often encounter pathogens that are new to their immune systems. Their innate defense is fast and overwhelming.

Over time, as the immune system encounters pathogen after pathogen, it builds up a repertoire of known villains. By the time the body reaches adulthood, it relies on a more sophisticated and specialized system adapted to remembering and fighting specific threats.

If the innate immune system resembles emergency responders first on the scene, the adaptive system represents the skilled specialists at the hospital.

The adaptive system makes sense biologically because adults rarely encounter a virus for the first time, said Dr. Michael Mina, a pediatric immunologist at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Epidemiology in Boston.

But the coronavirus is new to everyone, and the

innate system fades as adults grow older, leaving them more vulnerable. In the time it takes for an adult body to get the specialized adaptive system up and running, the virus has had time to do harm, Herold's research suggests.

#### The importance of immune molecules

She and her colleagues compared immune responses in 60 adults and 65 children and young adults under the age of 24, all of whom were hospitalized at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York City from March 13 to May 17.

The patients included 20 children with multisystem inflammatory syndrome, the severe and sometimes

**Over time, as the immune system encounters pathogen after pathogen, it builds up a repertoire of known villains. By the time the body reaches adulthood, it relies on a more sophisticated and specialized system adapted to remembering and fighting specific threats.**

deadly immune overreaction linked to the coronavirus.

Overall, the children were only mildly affected by the virus, compared with adults, mostly reporting gastrointestinal symptoms like diarrhea and a loss of taste or smell. Only five children needed mechanical ventilation, compared with 22 of the adults; two children died, compared with 17 adults.

Children had much higher blood levels of two particular immune molecules, interleukin 17A and interferon gamma, the researchers found. The molecules were most abundant in the youngest patients and decreased progressively with age.

"We think that is protecting these younger chil-

dren, particularly from severe respiratory disease, because that's really the major difference between the adults and the kids," Herold said.

In some adult COVID-19 patients, she added, the lack of a strong early response also may be setting off an intense and unregulated adaptive reaction that may lead to acute respiratory distress syndrome and death.

"All viruses have tricks to evade the innate immune system"

All viruses have tricks to evade the innate immune system, and the coronavirus is particularly adept. Produced early in the course of infection, interleukin 17A may help children thwart the virus'

attempts to evade the innate response and to ward off the later adaptive response.

"We think that also protects them from sort of making the more vigorous adaptive immune response that's associated with that hyper-inflammation," Herold said.

Other experts said the study was well done but suffered - as most studies of the coronavirus do - from enrolling patients too late in the infection.

The innate immune response is set off hours after exposure to a pathogen, but people generally don't come to the hospital until about a week after infection with the coronavirus, when symptoms are severe, said

Akiko Iwasaki, an immunologist at Yale University.

That's too late to study how the innate immune system responds to the virus, she said, adding, "By the time people are sick, it's way past that time point."

#### Debunking other theories - with a nagging worry

Still, the new data negate a couple of popular theories about why children are protected from the virus, she said.

Some scientists have suspected that children may fare better because they tend to have had more recent exposure to coronaviruses that cause common colds, which might offer them some protection.

But the new study found no significant differences in the immune responses to those viruses between the groups, Iwasaki noted.

Another theory held that children generate a stronger antibody response that clears the virus more efficiently than in adults. But the new study found that the sickest older people actually produced the most powerful antibodies.

That result may confirm a nagging worry among researchers: that the presence of those potent antibodies contributes to the illness in adults, instead of helping them fight the virus - a phenomenon called antibody-dependent enhancement. Vaccine manufacturers are carefully monitoring trial subjects for signs of this problem.

"That's a theme that everybody's been dancing around," said Dr Jane C. Burns, a pediatric infectious disease expert at University of California, San Diego. "Is it possible that high titers of some antibodies actually are bad for you, as opposed to good for you?"

Researchers also must learn what happens in children after the initial immune surge, Burns said. Children produce a strong immune response, but their bodies must turn it off quickly after the danger has passed. If this virus becomes endemic, like the coronaviruses causing common colds, children eventually will develop adaptive defenses so strong that they will not experience the problems that adults are having now, Mina said.

"We will eventually age out of this virus."

Gulf News



# Study Suggests Right Kind Of Boss May Help Reduce Stress, Increase Engagement In Work

Agencies

A research study suggested that the right kind of boss can help reduce stress and increase engagement and pro-social behavior in their workers who were anxious about COVID-19.

It further stated that coronavirus pandemic may lead people to ponder their own mortality. These people were the ones who showed the highest levels of stress and the least engagement at work.

The researchers conducted three studies in China and the United States, which was published online recently in the Journal of Applied Psychology.

"A global pandemic can lead some people to think about their own mortality, which will understandably make them more stressed and less engaged at work," said Jia (Jasmine) Hu, lead author of the study and associate professor of management and human resources at The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business.

"But business leaders who are

attentive to employees' emotional needs and unite them behind a common purpose made a positive difference and helped workers stay engaged at work and contribute to their communities."

One study involved 163 workers at an information technology company in eastern China who filled out surveys twice a day over three weeks while cases of COVID-19 were surging in the country.

The results projected that the employees felt more anxious on the thought about COVID-19 related deaths and the less engaged they were in their jobs.

But the employees' anxiety and engagement were influenced by the type of boss they had. Employees did better if their boss exhibited what is called 'servant leadership.' As the name implies, servant leaders prioritize fulfillment of others' needs, attend to employees' emotional suffering, work to empower employees, and emphasize serving the community.

Employees in the study rated on a scale of 1 to 7 of how much 'My supervisor makes my career develop-



ment a priority' and other statements that measured servant leadership.

Those who rated their supervisors higher on servant leadership showed less anxiety and were more engaged with their jobs than other employees, Hu said.

"Servant leaders care about their employees' well-being and

prioritize their personal growth and happiness at their jobs," she said. "These types of leaders made it easier for their employees to deal with the anxiety associated with the pandemic."

But servant leaders did more than that, they helped their employees channel their stress into

positive behaviors.

The findings showed that employees who rated their bosses as higher on servant leadership were more likely to report that they engaged in pro-social behavior, such as volunteering for a charitable group in their community.

"Servant leaders encouraged

their employees to find meaning in the pandemic by channeling their anxiety into helping less fortunate people in their communities," Hu said.

These results were confirmed in two US studies in which participants were told to imagine they were consultants advising a retail company on how to increase sales. The researchers recruited Americans online who said they had full-time jobs.

In both studies, the researchers had participants first read about COVID-19. Half read the information that was designed to make them think about how dangerous and deadly the disease is. The other half read less stressful information about COVID-19, such as how to prevent transmission.

Half of the participants read a scenario in which their boss exhibited servant leadership and other half read a scenario in which their boss was less supportive.

In one of the two studies, the researchers asked specifically about how much participants were worried about their own deaths.

Results were similar to the study in the Chinese company.

Those who read the more alarming news about COVID-19 reported more anxiety - general anxiety in study two and anxiety related to their own death in study three - than those who read the neutral news.

But once again, in both American studies, those who had servant leaders in their scenarios showed less anxiety, even after reading about how deadly the disease was. Similarly, in Chinese employees, the type of leadership had an impact on pro-social behavior.

Overall, the three studies showed that companies play an important role in helping their employees cope with the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hu said, which benefits both the firms and their communities.

"We found that the servant leaders who keep their employees' well-being as a top concern can help their anxious workers stay engaged at work and encourage them to contribute to the broader community," she said.

## Stay In Touch With Your Emotions To Reduce Pandemic-Induced Stress, Suggests Study

Agencies

Amid the coronavirus pandemic everybody seems to be stressed out to some degree whether it may be anguish over the sickness or death of a friend or family member. It may be anxiety over a job that has been altered or eliminated. These are natural emotions during stressful times, says Emily Kroska, a clinical psychologist at the University of Iowa. The good news, she adds, comes from a new study she led that shows how people might reduce their distress.

The study, "Psychological flexibility in the context of COVID-19 adversity: Associations with distress," was published in the Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science.

In that study, Kroska's research team surveyed Americans' responses to various situations wrought by the coronavirus pandemic. The team found that those who took stock of their emotions--be they sadness, anxiety, fear, loneliness, and the like--and then addressed those emotions with mindful action--such as calling a friend or family member!--reported lower stress levels than those who steered away from identifying with their emotions or did not gauge the potential effects of their behaviour.

"The goal is to try and help people become more resilient by remaining in touch with their emotions and finding creative ways to maintain or build upon relationships with people or activities that are important to



them," says Kroska, assistant clinical professor in the UI Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. "People who do that will generally not be as distressed, or anxious, as those who don't."

The researchers in May surveyed 485 adults across the nation, asking them to describe their experiences with various situations arising from the coronavirus pandemic. The respondents identified physical sensations such as sweating, accelerated heart rate, and fear for their own safety, as well as "objective hardship measures," including making rent or mortgage payments, loss of personal income, living apart from family members, or difficulty getting grocery items or household supplies.

"Basically, we wanted to learn about the full sort of adversities that people encountered due to COVID-19," Kroska says. "We found everyone encountered some degree of adversity, which is quite sad but expected."

Government of Jammu & Kashmir,

### Office of the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Pulwama

Sub:- Extension Of Date Upto 25Th Of October 2020 For Inviting Of Applications For Selection Of Progressive Dairy Farmers Under Cattle Feed Subsidy Scheme Capex 2020-21

Notification No:- 02 of 2020

Dated: 17-10-2020

In view of continuous feedback from the field officers for extension of applications for feed subsidy scheme in district Pulwama, the date for receipt of Applications dully attested by the concerned Veterinary Assistant Surgeon of the area is hereby extended upto 25-10-2020 by or before 4 .00 PM for implementation of Cattle feed subsidy scheme under Capex 2020-21 as per the following terms and conditions:-

- Any progressive dairy farmer of District Pulwama having a dairy cow with average milk yield of 08 or more than 08 liters per day with dairy animal tagged with 12 digit UID and registered on INAPH web portal is eligible for the benefit.
- Only one dairy animal per beneficiary is eligible for the benefit to ensure maximum coverage.
- 50% subsidy shall be provided on BIS type I or Type II, urea free quality cattle feed for 90 days of winter months (from 1st December to ending February 2021) @ 3Kg cattle feed per day per animal ( 270Kgs of feed for 90 days) with a maximum subsidy ceiling of Rs 1200 per Quintal of feed (i.e. Rs 3240 for 270 Kgs of feed).
- Only 463 progressive dairy farmers fulfilling the criteria are to be selected through draw of lots by the District Level Implementation Committee comprising of 05 members with Deputy Commissioner Pulwama as its chairman and Chief Animal Husbandry officer Pulwama as its member Secretary. The date for draw of lots shall be notified separately.
- 20% SC/ST/BPL and 10% women farmers shall be covered under the scheme.
- The selected beneficiaries shall procure BIS Type I or Type II urea free quality feed from any authorized cattle feed retailer, dealer or distributor and submit the proforma bill in original along with an application to Chief animal Husbandry officer Pulwama for release of Subsidy.
- The Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Pulwama shall get the purchased feed physically verified by the concerned Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and release the subsidy amount through DBT mode only.

No:- CAHO/Tech-48/pUL/1827-29

Dated: 17/10/2020

DIPK NO: 7653/20

Sd/- Chief Animal  
Husbandry Officer, Pulwama



## ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

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Website: [www.islamicuniversity.edu.in](http://www.islamicuniversity.edu.in).

### ADMISSION (SELECTION) NOTIFICATION NO. 01 OF 2020

The candidates bearing following Form Numbers have been provisionally selected for admission to various programmes for the Academic Session 2020-21 on the basis of the selection procedure notified in Admission Notification No. 01 of 2020 dated: 21-08-2020.

**B.Tech. Civil Engineering:** OM: 200901, 203876, 203284, 200179, 203274, 203577, 203463, 202616, 201635, 201056, 200675, 203546, 200633, 203256, 203039, 202763, 201144, 202420, 202998, 203770, 203080, 201028, 202221, 202711, 200799, 202672, 203169, 202719 **SC/ST/GJB:** 200103, 202441, 203725, 202294, 202029, 203663 **RBA:** 202844, 203733, 202649, 203729, 203399, 204142 **PH:** 202632 **WUPSC:** 204189 **CDPP:** 202873 **Employee Quota:** 201460

**B.Tech. Electrical Engineering:** OM: 200947, 202437, 202894, 203068, 204129, 203539, 202821, 203249, 202952, 200724, 202588, 202887, 202358, 204187, 202427, 203305, 202501, 202542, 201091, 202051, 201826, 203631, 202161, 200499, 202688, 203901, 200891, 204009, 200116, 202803, 203776, 203713, 203581, 204156, 202651 **RBA:** 203254, 203942, 203287, 202474, 203690, 202674 **WUPSC:** 203957 **CDPP:** 203173 **Employee Quota:** 200365

**B.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering:** OM: 202520, 202859, 200022, 202528, 200480, 202726, 202659, 203488, 203318, 203277, 200328, 203398, 202567, 202512, 203288, 202948, 202996, 203626, 202156, 203931, 202621, 201448, 200142, 200574, 200011, 201281, 202483, 202459 **SC/ST/GJB:** 202708, 203944, 203750, 203016, 202623, 203225 **RBA:** 203369, 202989, 203312, 203441, 202426, 203263 **PH:** 202995 **WUPSC:** 203083 **CDPP:** 200265 **Employee Quota:** 203810

**B.Tech. Electronics & Communication Engineering:** OM: 203004, 202742, 202837, 203964, 200017, 203219, 201668, 200815, 203711, 203988, 201857, 203413, 203246, 200906, 202715, 200802, 200024, 203035, 200048, 203843, 203082, 201059, 202469, 202366, 202976, 203782, 203237, 203902, 201701, 200154, 203727, 202808, 201049, 202444, 202782, 202502 **RBA:** 202521, 203360, 200007, 204108, 202573, 203457 **WUPSC:** 202972 **CDPP:** 202379

**B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering:** OM: 202374, 200171, 203403, 203523, 202563, 204015, 204183, 202614, 201988, 202749, 201262, 202130, 202933, 202665, 202508, 200406, 202411, 202490, 202833, 200503, 203139, 203133, 202350, 203591, 203183, 203392, 202660, 202574, 202167, 204271, 203709, 204274, 201347, 202152, 202480 **SC/ST/GJB:** 203683 **RBA:** 202630, 203948, 202364, 203938, 204366, 203507 **WUPSC:** 203217 **CDPP:** 202482

**General Waiting List for B.Tech. Engineering:** OM: 203594, 203474, 203715, 203823, 203524, 203131, 202791, 201045, 201987, 203724, 202581, 201589, 202786, 203576, 203583, 203686, 202453, 201248, 200486, 202642, 201568, 202628, 202030, 201382, 202195, 203148, 203216, 203613, 202691, 203601, 203043, 202738, 201450, 203181, 203212, 201174, 203864, 202850, 202376, 200177, 203143, 203602, 203475, 202179, 203653, 202769, 202664, 201016, 202909, 203458, 202540, 202406, 202862, 203949, 202304, 202371, 202941, 202851, 203804, 203167, 203877, 202141, 202676, 203002, 201507, 203195, 202885, 200858, 203075, 203062, 202860, 201292, 202494, 202162, 202977, 202399, 203786, 202547, 203344, 204200, 203476, 203410, 203554, 203425, 201523, 203175, 202695, 200549, 200424, 202606, 203666, 203620, 200387, 202650, 202851, 202993, 200634, 200159, 200997, 200866, 204264, 200280, 204298, 200341, 202355, 202732 **RBA:** 202403, 203178, 204350, 202736, 201057, 204055, 201594, 202462, 203229, 203112, 203161, 203260, 204174, 203245, 204115, 204354, 202434, 203308, 203852, 203486 **WUPSC:** 201117, 203290, 202739, 203635, 204010 **CDPP:** 202915, 202279, 200432, 201284, 202267

**B.A (Hons) in English:** OM: 200188, 200128, 200147, 202818, 202600, 200068, 203803, 204132, 203881, 202839, 200315, 200507, 203921, 200781, 202515, 200714, 202699, 200809, 203175, 200933, 202842, 202074, 200010, 200210, 200197 **SC/ST/GJB:** 201774 **RBA:** 200307, 202811, 202813, 204155 **WUPSC:** 200458 **CDPP:** 202267 **WAITING:** OM: 203060, 202490, 202331, 204170, 201410, 201052, 202119, 200366, 200690, 200664, 200684, 203925, 204163, 201404, 200092, 203986, 200199, 201223, 202962, 204137 **RBA:** 204315, 200102, 202566, 201687, 202986 **WUPSC:** 204254, 202886 **CDPP:** 200793, 200099

**B.Sc. Actuarial & Financial Mathematics:** OM: 203324, 202407, 202947, 203921, 200933, 202829, 200799, 200127, 200199, 200467, 202373, 203782, 202312, 203202, 202267, 200676, 201280, 202952 **SC/ST/GJB:** 200550, 204080 **RBA:** 203361, 203137, 202566 **CDPP:** 200706 **WAITING:** OM: 201314, 202087, 202295, 202554, 202379, 202500, 203075, 202046, 202027, 201992, 204352, 201528, 200939, 203397, 201777, 202420, 202583, 204168, 201680, 203382 **RBA:** 203267

**B.Tech. Food Technology:** OM: 204189, 203747, 200554, 200198, 202408, 201028, 202600, 200312, 200170, 204227, 203803, 200986, 203196, 203313, 202176, 202866, 202243, 201611, 200886, 200202, 202526, 201338, 201432, 203175, 202024, 200933, 200408, 204111, 204204, 203060, 204096 **SC/ST/GJB:** 202029, 203327, 204176, 200104, 204181 **RBA:** 202831, 201633, 202290, 202361, 202766, 201267 **WUPSC:** 204187 **CDPP:** 202267 **WAITING:** OM: 201092, 203613, 204154, 202234, 202119, 200690, 201303, 203181, 203502, 203705, 203063, 200199, 202004, 200609, 204230, 204059, 204307, 202186, 203402, 204035, 201674, 203608, 202745, 203917, 202373, 200744, 200614, 203626, 203183, 204210 **RBA:** 201121, 204223, 203260, 203137, 200181, 201474 **WUPSC:** 203159, 202002 **CDPP:** 200885

**MBA (5-Year Integrated):** OM: 203785, 202317, 202818, 204107, 203803, 200896, 201965, 202455, 203880, 202017, 200578, 203078, 200308, 203622, 201809, 202676, 202497, 200491, 200008, 200799, 201300, 200325, 202285, 202297, 201052, 202495, 200690, 203502, 200914, 203670, 200936 **SC/ST/GJB:** 204080 **RBA:** 200307, 202361, 200583, 200697, 200164 **WUPSC:** 200005 **CDPP:** 202267 **WAITING:** OM: 204109, 200199, 200892, 202307, 203775, 200083, 201525, 204059, 201037, 200110, 201355, 202743, 203433, 200602, 202308, 203802, 203151, 200502, 200214, 203379, 201702, 200242, 203740, 202967, 201280, 201264, 200355, 200218, 200874, 202087 **RBA:** 204155, 200102, 202566, 201953, 203390, 202646 **WUPSC:** 202446, 202238 **CDPP:** 200793, 202550

**B. Voc. (Medical Lab & Molecular Diagnostic Technology):** OM: 204189, 203747, 203715, 204227, 201536, 202176, 200619, 202296, 203175, 203287, 202024, 203300, 203580, 202345, 202830 **SC/ST/GJB:** 200104, 204181 **RBA:** 201329, 203303 **CDPP:** 200792 **WAITING:** OM: 204092, 204204, 203482, 204134, 200405, 201307, 202702, 203502, 202945, 200119, 202004, 203986, 202774, 201160, 200595 **RBA:** 201633, 204122, 202361 **CDPP:** 202267, 200049

#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The selection of the candidates is strictly provisional and subject to the fulfillment of eligibility criteria as determined and fixed by the university and production/verification of the original documents/valid category certificate(s) wherever applicable. In case of any discrepancy found at any point of time, the University reserves the right to cancel/modify such selection/admission without assigning any reason thereof.
- Provisionally selected candidates are hereby informed to report to the office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora on any working day by or before 27-10-2020 (except on Saturday & Sunday) alongwith application form/ original documents/ copies thereof and requisite fee as mentioned in the University Prospectus 2020 for completion of admission formalities. In case any candidate fails to report within the stipulated time, the seat shall be allotted to the next candidate in order of merit and preference.
- The candidates in the Waiting List (s) are advised to register their interest online for admission in case of any available vacancy (ies) by or before 27-10-2020 (4:00 pm) by clicking on the tab (Submit Waiting Form) in admission portal available on University website [www.islamicuniversity.edu.in](http://www.islamicuniversity.edu.in). Once the form is submitted, take a print out of the waiting confirmation letter for records. Candidates need not to deposit any fee for waiting form. In case any candidate amongst the waiting list fails to register his/her interest online, his/her candidature for selection shall not be considered and the seat shall be allotted to the next candidate as per the merit and preference.
- The Selection List of candidates under Sports Category will be notified after the receipt of verification report from J&K Sports Council.
- The Revised Merit List for B.Tech Engineering and the Provisional Merit List (s) of other programmes as mentioned above are available on the University website [www.islamicuniversity.edu.in](http://www.islamicuniversity.edu.in).
- In case of any available vacancy (ies) after 27-10-2020, further upgradation of branch shall be done in the subsequent selection notifications on the basis of merit & preference amongst the ALREADY ADMITTED CANDIDATES ONLY.

#### Admission under Self Financing Category / NRI Sponsored Quota:

**For Self-Financing Category:** The eligible candidate(s) whose name is shown in the Merit List and are desirous to apply under Self Financing Category may apply online by or before 26-10-2020 .The students can apply by clicking on the tab (Apply For Payment Seat) in admission portal available on University website and deposit fee of Rs 500/- (non-refundable) either online or offline at any branch of J&K Bank Ltd against a print out of the auto-generated pay-in-slip. They need not to submit the hard copies of their Self Financing Application Form and Fee Receipt to the University at this point of Time, however, the original Fee receipt may be required later for admission purposes if the candidate is selected.

**For NRI Sponsored Quota:** The eligible candidate(s) desirous to apply under NRI Sponsored Quota are advised to submit application in the Office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora on any working day by or before 26-10-2020 (except on Saturday & Sunday) alongwith application fee of Rs. 500/- and copy (ies) of required NRI Sponsored documents as mentioned in the University Prospectus 2020. The candidates who have not applied earlier can also apply under this quota.

No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/20/609

Dated: 19-10-2020

(Errors & Omissions Excepted)-

Sd/-  
Deputy Registrar, Academics



## First Flight From UAE Lands In Israel Month After The Two Normalise Ties

### Agencies

Jerusalem: The first ever passenger flight from the United Arab Emirates to Israel landed near Tel Aviv on Monday, a month after the countries signed an agreement normalising ties.

Etiha Airways flight EY 9607 from Abu Dhabi landed at Ben Gurion airport early in the morning with only crew on board, a spokeswoman for the Israel Airports Authority told AFP.

— Etiha Airways (@eti-had) October 19, 2020

Etiha planes had landed in Ben Gurion with medical supplies in May and June to help the Palestinians cope with the coronavirus pandemic.

The Palestinians, who object the agreement Israel forged with the UAE, refused to receive the aid.

In August, Israel and the UAE announced that they had reached a US-brokered deal to normalise ties, following



The plane picked up Israeli tourism professionals, who would be flying to the UAE for a two-day trip visit organised by Israeli company Maman Group, the spokeswoman said.

The UAE carrier said it had made "history".

"Etiha has become the first Gulf airline to operate a passenger flight to Israel. And this is only the beginning," the airline said on Twitter.

Today, we make history. Etiha has become the first Gulf airline to operate a passenger flight to Israel. And this is only the beginning...

Salam and Shalom! pic. twitter.com/KT66QFfmg

years of discreet economic and security cooperation.

Israel's parliament, the Knesset, ratified the UAE deal last week.

The UAE and Israel were due on Tuesday to sign an agreement to have 28 weekly commercial flights between the countries, a transportation ministry official said.

In Manama on Sunday, Israel and Bahrain signed a deal to establish relations, making the UAE and Bahrain only the third and fourth Arab states to normalise ties with Israel, following Israel's 1979 peace deal with Egypt and a 1994 pact with Jordan.

## Pandemic Cuts America's Lead Over China as Most Powerful Nation in Asia

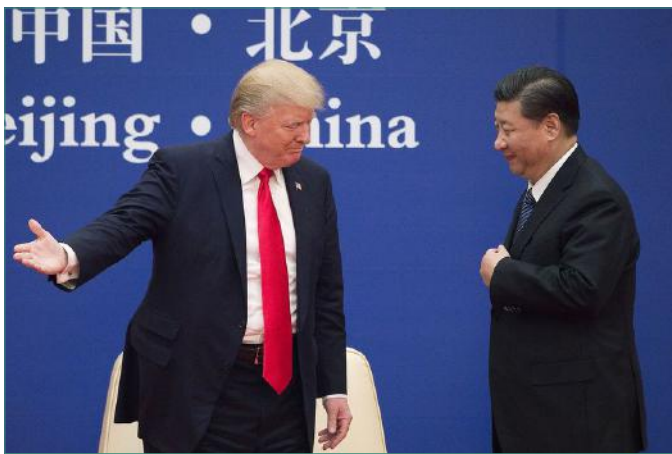
### Agencies

**Beijing: China is closing in on the U.S. as the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific, as America's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic tarnishes its reputation, a study showed.**

While America retained its place as the region's top superpower, its 10-point lead on China two years ago has been halved, according to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index for 2020, which ranks 26 nations and territories.

The U.S. "lost prestige" due to its poor response to the pandemic, multiple trade disputes and President Donald Trump's moves to withdraw from multilateral deals and agencies, according to Herve Lemahieu, the study's research chief and director of Lowy's Asian Power and Diplomacy Program.

"The pandemic was a game changer," he said in a phone interview. "It contributed to a double whammy of problems for the U.S. because on the one hand, its poor handling of the Covid-19 crisis has resulted in a diminished reputation. And on the other hand, obviously it will take many more years to recover from the economic



fallout of the pandemic."

The U.S. economy could take until 2024 to recover to pre-pandemic levels, the institute said. In contrast, China's economy has rebounded from the virus and is the only large economy forecast to recover in 2020. This could give it an advantage against neighbors over the next decade.

China stayed firmly in second place for the third year running, despite seeing a "notable fall" in diplomatic clout after facing accusations of withholding information about the severity of the Wuhan outbreak. Lemahieu also cited wolf warrior diplomacy — more aggressive rhetoric and actions from Beijing's envoys — contributing to that drop.

A Trump re-election in November would bring "more of the same" trends, he said. However, China would find it hard to replace the U.S. and become the region's uncontested dominant power.

"I think it's more likely that China will eventually level with the United States and may, toward the end of this decade, even surpass the United States. But not meaningfully enough to pull ahead by substantial margins," said Lemahieu.

"Asia will learn to cope without the United States if Trump wins a second term," he added. "With [Joe] Biden, I think Asia will be far more willing to do business with the United States."

## Biden is not good for India, he could be soft on China: Donald Trump Jr

### Agencies

Washington: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is not good for India as he could be soft on China, US President Donald Trump's son said at an event to celebrate the 'success' of his book that talks about graft allegations against the Bidens.

Forty-two-year-old Donald Trump Jr is leading the re-election campaign of his 74-year-old father. The presidential elections in the US are slated to be held on November 3.

"We have to understand the threat of China and no one knows that probably better than Indian-Americans," Trump Jr, told a select group of supporters from the community at the event in Long Island, New York.

In his book "Liberal Privilege", he has documented allegations of corruption against 77-year-old Joe Biden's family, particularly against his son Hunter Biden.

"When you look at our opponents in this race you think the Chinese gave Hunter Biden \$1.5 billion because he was a great businessman, or because they knew the Bidens could be bought, and therefore soft on China," he said.

Trump Jr was referring to the latest allegations of corruption against the Biden family as revealed by The New York Post.

"Therefore, [Joe Biden] is bad for India," he said in his address at the meet and greet event along with Kimberly Guilfoyle, who is leading the fund-raising efforts of Trump's re-election campaign.

The book, signed copies of which were handed out to participants of the event, reflects, according to Trmu Jr, on the "corrupt practices" of the Biden family.

Joe Biden has refuted the allegations of corruption against him.

However, Trump Jr said neither Biden's family nor his campaign has issued any statement against the latest allegations and e-mails that have been posted by The New York Post.

"It is not just China, as they said China Inc with the Bidens, it as the Ukrainian, it was Russia and it was overwhelming because they know that he can be bought," Trump Jr alleged.

## Covid Patients Show Symptoms Months After Contracting Virus: Oxford Study

### Agencies

London: Britain's Oxford University said on Monday initial findings from a study on the long term impact of COVID-19 has found that a large number of patients discharged from hospitals still experience symptoms of breathlessness, fatigue, anxiety and depression two to three months after contracting the virus.

The scientists also detected abnormalities in multiple organs and believe



persistent inflammation may be a factor for COVID-19 survivors, the university said in a statement.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-IV

PAMPORE, KASHMIR – 192121  
Phone:01933222600 Email: xentlmd4@gmail.com

NIT No: TLMD-IV/e-NIT/33of 2020-21  
FRESH TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-BIDS

The Executive Engineer, TLMD IV Pampore Kashmir,JKPTCL J&K, for and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir invites e-tenders from civil contractor with qualification/ past experience & registered with Government of J&K.

S No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of contract
01.	Raising of Existing Boundary Wall of Grid Station Zainakote Srinagar	Rs.20.30	Rs. 2000.00 The cost of tender documents may be deposited in treasury against the MH 0801 power & same should be uploaded along with tender documents	(Rs.40600)	20Days	Registered Contractor (Class B/C)

Position of AAA/TS: under process  
The bidding documents consisting of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	17-10-2020
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17-10-2020 from 2PM to 23-10-2020 to 01PM
03.	Bid submission start date	17-10-2020 from 03PM
04.	Bid submission end date	23-10-2020 up to 01PM
05.	Deadline for receiving the hard copy, & CDR/ EMD)	After opening the financial bid only, the lowest bidder (L1) is required to submit/furnish the hard copies of bid along with original copy of CDR/EMD & tender documents.
06.	Date & time of opening of Bids (online)	23-10-2020 at 03PM

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in favour of "Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-IV Pampore" (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-IV Pampore for the works mentioned in the E-NIT (tender receiving authority).

The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-IV Pampore for the works mentioned in the E-NIT (tender receiving authority)

DIPK-NB-3111/20

--SD--  
Executive Engineer  
TLMD-IV Pampore

No: TLMD-IV/1413-15  
Dated:17-10-2020

## KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION BUDGAM  
E-mail:edbudgam@gmail.com TelNo:01951-255218

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NITNo:EDB / 24 of 2020-21  
Dated:17/10/2020

For and on behalf of the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, are hereby invited from govt. approved Electrical Contractors for the Supply of tools for upgrading of Transformer repair workshop at Budgam in ED Budgam KPDCL.

1.	Name of work(s)	Supply of tools for upgrading of Transformer repair workshop at Budgam in ED Budgam KPDCL.
2.	Estimated Cost	INR 1.24Lacs
3.	Period for completion of work.	Within 10 days from the issue of Letter of Award

The tender document is available on website <https://jktenders.gov.in> Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	e-Bid document Publishing date & time	The e-Bid document to be published on website <a href="https://jktenders.gov.in">https://jktenders.gov.in</a> on 19/10/2020: 03:00 PM
B	e-Bid document download start date & time	19/10/2020: 03:00 PM
C	Clarifications start date	19/10/2020: 03:00 PM
D	Clarifications end date	21/10/2020: 03:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	22/10/2020: 03:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	31/10/2020: 03:00 PM
G	Online Technical e-bid opening date & time	03/11/2020: 03:00 PM
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of Executive Engineer, ED Budgam
J	Cost of e-Bid document	INR 500.00
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	INR 2480.00

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

2. The bidder/tenderer needs to submit the cost of e-Bid document in the government treasury and upload the challan/receipt as proof of cost of tender document. Any tender uploaded without the scanned copy of the challan/receipt is liable to be rejected.

3. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR from any Schedule Commercial bank only pledged to the Executive Engineer, ED Budgam. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD is required to be submitted by the successful bidder to the office of Executive Engineer, ED Budgam prior to the issuance of Letter of award only.

5. The technical e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder/tenderer's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. Only those tenders shall be considered for evaluation who have deposited the earnest money and tender cost.

6. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids of the technically responsive bids shall be notified on Web Site <https://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the technically qualified bidder/tenderers automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

7. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/deviation is found. The decision of department will be final and binding.

8. Corrigendum, if any would be published on the website.

9. In no case shall the hard copy of the BOQ submitted with the Techno-Commercial bidder which shall lead to rejection of the bid. Price Bid shall be uploaded only in the BOQ format provided online.

DIPK-NB-3105/20

No: EDB/3028-31  
Dated: 17/10/2020

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Electric Division Budgam



### 50% Indians Likely To Have Had Covid By Next February: Government Panel



At least half of the country's 1.3 billion people are likely to have been infected with the new coronavirus by next February, helping slow the spread of the disease, a member of a central government committee tasked with providing projections said on Monday.

India has so far reported 7.55 million cases of the coronavirus and is second only to the United States in terms of total infections.

But COVID-19 infections are decreasing after a peak in mid-September, with 61,390 new cases reported on average each day, according to a Reuters tally.

"Our mathematical model estimates that around 30% of the population is currently infected and it could go up to 50% by February," Manindra Agrawal, a professor at the Indian Institute for Technology in Kanpur and a committee member, told Reuters.

The committee's estimate for the current spread of the virus is much higher than the central government's serological surveys, which showed that only around 14 per cent of the population had been infected, as of September.

But Mr Agrawal said serological surveys might not be able to get sampling absolutely correct because of the sheer size of the population that they were surveying.

Instead, the committee of virologists, scientists and other experts, whose report was made public on Sunday, has relied on a mathematical model.

"We have evolved a new model which explicitly takes into account unreported cases, so we can divide infected people into two categories - reported cases and infections that do not get reported," Mr Agrawal said. The committee warned that their projections were not hold up if precautions were not followed, and cases could spike by up to 2.6 million infections in a single month if measures such as social distancing and wearing masks were ignored.

### Ratings Body Accuses Republic TV Of Misrepresenting Private Communication

MUMBAI: TV viewership rating agency BARC India has accused Republic TV of misrepresenting its private and confidential communication, saying it has not commented on the ongoing investigation into the alleged manipulation of ratings.

In a statement, Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) said it was cooperating with the law enforcement agencies in their ongoing investigation in the Television Rating Points (TRP) manipulation case.

Responding to claims by Republic TV that an email from BARC gives proof of the channel not being involved in any alleged malpractices, the agency said it was "highly disappointed" with the broadcaster's actions.

"BARC India is highly disappointed with the actions of the Republic Network by disclosing private and confidential communications and misrepresenting the same.

"BARC India reiterates that it has not commented on the ongoing investigation and without prejudice to BARC India's rights, it expresses its dismay at the actions of the Republic Network," it said.



COLOURING CITY: LG Manoj Sinha on Thursday announced the 'My Town My Pride' programme, starting from October 19. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Makkah's Grand Mosque Opens For Prayers After Seven Months

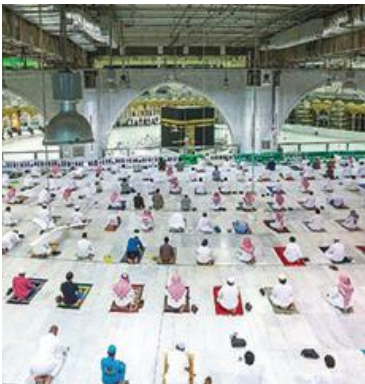
MAKKAH: Saudi Arabia opened on Sunday Islam's holiest site for prayers for the first time in seven months, and expanded the umrah pilgrimage to accommodate 15,000 worshippers as it relaxed coronavirus curbs.

Mask-clad Saudi citizens and residents of the kingdom were allowed to pray inside the Grand Mosque in Makkah, amid what authorities called extensive health precautions.

"Citizens and residents have performed Salat Al-Fajr (dawn prayers) at the Grand Mosque today as (authorities) start implementing the second phase of the gradual resumption of umrah," the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia allowed up to 6,000 citizens and residents per day to perform the umrah after it was suspended in March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the second stage that began on Sunday, the number of umrah pilgrims was increased to 15,000 per day.



A maximum of 40,000 people - including umrah pilgrims - will now be allowed to perform daily prayers at the mosque.

Under a third stage, set for November 1, visitors from abroad will be permitted. The limit on umrah pilgrims will then be raised to 20,000, with a total of 60,000 worshippers allowed.

A raft of precautions have been adopted, according to state media.

The revered Black Stone - which is customary but not mandatory to touch during the pilgrimage - will be out of reach.

The Grand Mosque is to be sterilised before and after each group of worshippers. Thermal sensors have been installed to measure the body temperature of pilgrims, authorities said.

The umrah usually attracts millions of Muslims from across the globe each year. Authorities said the umrah will be allowed to return to full capacity once the threat of the pandemic has abated.

Saudi Arabia hosted the Haj in late July, on the smallest scale in modern history.

Only up to 10,000 residents of the country were allowed to take part, a far cry from the 2.5 million who participated last year.

Saudi Arabia has recorded more than 342,000 cases of Covid-19 and 5,185 deaths since the pandemic began.

### "Not Worried, Only Regret Missed Lunch": Farooq Abdullah On Questioning

SRINAGAR: Senior politician Farooq Abdullah, 82, questioned today for nearly seven hours by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with alleged irregularities in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association, issued a spirited statement to the press in the evening, declaring: "I am not worried, why are you worried? The only regret I have is that I could not have my lunch".

Mr Abdullah also reiterated his party's stand on the Article 370 issue - his National Conference and other J&K parties called the summons "political vendetta" and pointed out that it came after the Gupkar Declaration - saying the "struggle will go on whether Farooq Abdullah is alive or dead".

"You (the press) have asked whatever you had to. You only want stories... not bothered by anything else. They (the investigating agency) have their job to do. I have my job to do. There's nothing else to say," Mr Abdullah told reporters outside the agency's office in Srinagar.

The National Conference said in a statement issued earlier that Mr Abdullah maintains his innocence in the matter and will co-operate in what is "nothing but a witch-hunt". According to news agency PTI, Mr Abdullah said the ED only had follow-up questions after a session last year.

"I am not worried, why are you worried? The only regret I have is that I could not have my lunch," he said when asked if he was concerned about the inquiry.

Mr Abdullah also played down "political vendetta" comments - also made by his son Omar Abdullah. "Not for me to decide. The court will decide," he said.

However, Mr Abdullah - one of hundreds of political leaders detained by the centre hours before it moved to end special status under Article 370 last August - said his questioning would change nothing.

"Our struggle will go on whether Farooq Abdullah is alive or dead. Our resolve has not changed and will not change even if I were to be hanged. It is not Farooq Abdullah or the National Conference's struggle alone. It is the struggle of all the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Meanwhile, Omar Abdullah tweeted a long statement this evening, in which the People's Alliance - the outcome of the Gupkar Declaration - hit out at the centre over "vindictive politics... to kill dissent and disagreement across the country".

"... the central government, unnerved by the unity amongst the people... to pursue the goals of the Gupkar Declaration... is resorting to a game of witch-hunt and suppression," the statement said.

The original Gupkar Declaration (the second was signed on Thursday) was signed August 4 last year after an all-party meeting at Farooq Abdullah's Gupkar Road home in Srinagar.

Regional parties and the Congress resolved to protect J&K's special constitutional status and fight against any move to dilute it. A day later the centre enforced its massive Article 370 decision.

Mr Abdullah and three others are named in a 2018 charge sheet filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation that claims misappropriation of 43.69 crore from the J&K cricket body between 2002 and 2011. He was summoned today - not by the CBI but the ED, which investigates large-scale financial crimes and is probing allegations of money laundering in the same case.



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