

Maximum : 21°C  
Minimum : 04°C  
Humidity : 41%  
SUNSET  
Today 05:36 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:52 AM

## News Digest

Sharma To Be Part Of  
Delimitation Panel

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir's State Election Commissioner, Kewal Kumar Sharma would replace Hirdesh Kumar as member of the delimitation commission constituted by the Central government earlier this year for Assembly and Parliamentary segments of J&K Union Territory, sources said.

They said Sharma would now be part of the three-member delimitation commission headed by former Supreme Court Judge Justice (Retd) RanjanaPrakash Desai. The Election Commissioner Sushil Kumar Chandra is other member of the panel. Constituted in March ● P-02

Govt Orders Transfer  
Of 8 Officers

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir ordered transfer of eight officers even as Dr. Syed AbidRasheed Shah (IAS) was given additional charge of Mission Director, Skill Development Mission.

As per the order issued by the government here, the 2012-batch IAS officer, who is Additional Secretary to the Government, Finance Department, holding additional charge of CEO, Mission Youth, CEO, ERA and Additional Secretary to the Government, Information Department, has been asked to hold charge of the mission director till further orders. Veer JIHanglo, KAS, ● P-02

2 Booked For Running  
Fake Job Racket

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Crime Branch on Monday busted a fake employment racket here and booked two persons for allegedly duping people on the pretext of getting them bank and government jobs, officials said.

The police have booked Mo-hdRafiqWani and Nazir Ahmed of Kashmir for duping people to the tune of Rs 52.60 lakh, they said. Police registered a case in the matter on a complaint from VikramBandyal of Jammu and others. The complainants said that the accused ● P-02

Srinagar-Leh Highway  
Reopens For Traffic

Srinagar: After remaining suspended due to slippery road, Srinagar-Leh road was thrown open for traffic on Monday. The road had been closed for traffic on Sunday following a mild snowfall. An official said that the road at Zojila, Minimarg, Shaitan-Nallah and Drass had become slippery due to fresh snowfall on Sunday afternoon and with the improvement in weather, it was thrown open for traffic today. He said stranded vehicles carrying essential supplies ● P-02

Man Arrested With  
Heroin In Poonch

Jammu: A man was arrested with 2.5 kg of heroin in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Monday, officials said.

On the basis of information, a joint team of the army and the police intercepted a person in Mendhar, they said. During a search, three packets containing heroin and weighing around 2.5 kgs were seized, the officials said. In this regard, a case has been lodged at the Mendhar police Station, they said. The possibility that the ● P-02

Police 'Crack' Militant Attack  
Case On BJP Leader, 3 Held

## Agencies

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have cracked October 6 attack on BJP leader from Nunar Ganderbal in which a militant and a policeman were killed.

"On October 6, (militants) carried out an attack on the District Vice President BJP Gulam Qadir at Nunar Ganderbal in which one (militant) involved in the attack namely Shabir Ahmad Shah of Tral was neutralised on the spot in retaliatory fire," said a police official in a statement.

One constable Mohammad Altaf also killed due to a gunshot wound during the incident.

Accordingly, the police official said, that a case (FIR No 209 of 2020) under section 302 IPC, 13,16,18 UA(P) A and 7/27 IA Act was registered at

police station Ganderbal and investigation set into motion.

"During investigation involvement of one Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh (Hospital Security Guard) of Serch Ganderbal was unraveled. However, he upon questioning tried to dodge the investigation agency. Technical details sought through ESU revealed some startling facts and (his) sustained questioning on October 30 revealed that he was an active member of (Hizb-ul-Mujahideen) and had been instrumental in the attack."

Accordingly he was arrested and on his disclosure one pistol, a Magazine with 3 rounds of ammunition and some Pak flags were recovered, the official said.

"During sustained questioning the (militant) associate disclosed two other associates namely Hilal Ahmad Mir of Bernbugh Kangan, ● PAGE 02

## Govt Clears Air On New Land Laws

Not An Inch Of Kashmir's 90% Agri  
Lands Will Be Given To Outsider

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Amidst an outcry over the newly introduced land laws in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory administration on Monday said that the new land rules will not only afford protection to over 90% of the land from being alienated to outsiders but will also help revamp the agriculture sector foster, rapid industrialization, aid economic growth and create jobs in J&K.

Addressing a news conference here on Monday, Principal Secretary, Information and government spokesman, Rohit Kansal said that government has repealed 11 Land Laws that existed in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir "replacing the old, regressive, intrinsically contradictory and outdated laws with a set of modern, progressive and people friendly provisions."

Kansal made these comments while interacting with the media on a host of issues related to the

UT of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Fifth Order, 2020.

Elaborating, Kansal remarked that the repealed laws were made to serve the old agrarian based economy and were required to be modified for modern economic needs.

"Besides, they were beset with ambiguities, contradictions and redundancies and in many cases, were clearly regressive. For instance, A number of Laws had contradictions leading ● PAGE 02

Reactions Like 'J&K On  
Sale' Uncharitable: Govt

JAMMU: The government on Monday termed reactions against new land laws that allow the buying of the land by outsiders as "uncharitable" even as it called old legislations as "outdated" and "in many cases clearly regressive and anti-people"

"A number of old laws, at least 11 have been repealed and four major laws have been modified," Principal Secretary PDD and Information, Rohit Kansal, who is also Government spokesperson, told reporters during a news confer-

ence here on Monday.

Kansal said this modification, repeal and change has led to varied reactions across the spectrum.

"And many of these reactions have been uncharitable. For example some political parties have said that J&K is now on sale. Some others have said that there is no protection with regard to land on similar lines as has been given to people in other states," he said, adding, "We think there is lot of misapprehension, misinformation and lack of clarity on ● PAGE 02

**THERE WAS A NEED TO STRAIGHTEN**  
up, clean up the system and provide a set of simpler land laws which would prevent unnecessary litigation and prevent discretionary interpretation of laws leaves opportunities for the vested interests."

## New Land Laws Breaking Political Ice In Jammu

## Auqib Javeed

Five days before the announcement of new land laws by New Delhi for Jammu and Kashmir, over 20 political parties and social organisations held a meeting in Jammu to discuss "certain issues" related to the winter capital.

Convened by Jammu-based senior politician and former minister Harsh Dev Singh of National Panthers Party, the meeting was called a few days after People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) came into being in Kashmir, with "an aim for the restoration of the special status".

Apart from Panthers Party, the



File Photo

meeting was attended by Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) chairman Gulchain Singh Charak, Ikkjutt Jammu Chairman Ankur Sharma, Chairman Sainik Samaj Party Col

SS Pathania, retired Director Colleges Prof Jai Kumar Sharma, retired Inspector General (IG) Sudhir Singh, leaders of Shiv Sena, Bajrang Dal, United Democratic

Alliance (UDI), Batwal Community, and others.

The leaders present in the meeting reportedly expressed concerns over the alleged neglect of Jammu division by the Narendra Modi government and pressed for a separate statehood for the province.

It was for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 last year that political parties in Jammu came together to press for their demands.

On the heels of the meeting, former chief minister Omar Abdullah said "resentment is growing in Jammu, where people are silent because they don't want to paint themselves ● PAGE 2

A Journalist Killed Every Four  
Days This Past Decade: UNESCO

## Agencies

DOHA: Fifty-seven journalists and media workers were killed across the world last year, the United Nations says in a new report to mark the International Day to End of Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.

In the first nine months of this year, 39 journalists have been killed, including 3 female journalists, the report released by UNESCO on Monday said, noting that this is the lowest death toll in the last decade.

Unprecedented global attention following high-profile cases and better mechanisms to improve the safety of journalists were potential reasons for the lower death toll recorded this year, the report said.

It added that journalists practising self-censorship in reaction to widespread threats could also be a factor.

In 2018, 99 journalists were killed globally, according to the report.

According to UNESCO's data, the largest number of fatal attacks in 2019 – 23 killings – occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean region, representing 40 percent of the total killings registered worldwide.

With 15 killings, Asia and the Pacific region recorded 26 percent of the fatalities – the second-highest tally globally.

The Arab region was the third-deadliest with 18 percent of the recorded fatalities, amounting to 10 killings.

UNESCO said the lowest deaths were reported from Central and Eastern Europe. ● PAGE 02

## LG Allocates

Portfolios Among  
Advisors

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has allocated charge of various departments among his advisors, Farooq Khan, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Baseer Ahmad Khan.

The advisors shall exercise powers of the Minister under the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019 in respect of Departments allocated to them.

For the purpose of official correspondence, Advisors Farooq Khan, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Baseer Ahmad Khan shall continue to be designated as Advisor (F), Advisor (B) & Advisor (BK) respectively. ● P-02

## 9 More Corona Deaths In J&amp;K, Toll 1493

## Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Nine 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 1493.

According to the officials, Kashmir valley witnesses six more Covid-19 deaths, while three fatalities were reported from Jammu division. Among the six victims from the Valley, two were residents of Srinagar while one each was from Baramulla, Pulwama, Ganderbal and Kulgam districts.

Officials said that the Ganderbal resident was 70-year-old

man from Kangan and died at SKIMS Soura, 11 days after he was admitted to the tertiary care hospital.

The victim from Baramulla, they said, was a woman from Sopore area who died at the hospital, 12 days after she was admitted.

One among other victims from Valley was a 63-year-old man from Shaheed Gunj and died at CD Hospital, one among the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients in the Valley.

Regarding deaths from Jammu, they said, one each victim belonged to the J&K's winter capital, Ramban and Kishtwar.

385 New Cases  
Include Doctor,  
13 Travelers

Jammu and Kashmir reported 385 new Covid-19 cases including a doctor and a minor besides 13 travelers on Monday, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 95710. Among the fresh cases, officials said 251 were reported from Kashmir Valley while the remaining 134 ● P-02

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 1493 in J&K—993 in Valley ● PAGE 02



ALLURING AUTUMN: A tourist couple sauntering in Mughal Garden on Monday in the backdrop of Aatish-e-Chinar.

Panchayat Conference To  
Contest On All 280 DDC Seats

## Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference on Monday announced to field independent candidates on all 280 seats of District Development Councils (DDCs) to keep the "jobless" mainstream politicians at bay.

Addressing a news conference here, J&K Panchayat Conference Chairman Shafiq Mir said that they have decided to field independent candidates on all 280 DDC seats for which the poll preparations are at final stage.

"By making an amendment in J&K Panchayati Raj Act, government has opened a door for the entry of politicians in this institution at third stage. But we will not allow them to enter in our institution," Mir said. He added that the decision has been arrived at, after

weeklong consultations with the Panchayat leaders of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mir said that Panchayat Conference will not allow the politicians to enter in their institution because they always opposed PRI system in Jammu and Kashmir. He said after boycotting first and second tier of Panchayat elections held in 2018 and 2019, the third and final stage door has been opened for them.

"Now, when they felt they have been sidelined and left jobless they are preparing to enter in this institution but we will not allow them to succeed," he said, adding "We have decided to field candidates on all the seats as independent candidates and we will not allow politicians to enter in this institution."

Urging the educated youth to participate in these ● PAGE 02



# First Phase Of Malabar Exercise Begins On Tuesday In Bay Of Bengal

**NEW DELHI:** The first phase of the Malabar exercise among the navies of India, the US, Japan and Australia will kick start off Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday, in a reflection of growing congruence in strategic interests of the four nations.

The exercise is taking place at a time India and China are locked in a nearly six-month-long bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh that has significantly strained their ties. Japan, Australia and the US are also having friction with China in the last few months over a variety of issues.

Last month, India announced that Australia will be part of the Malabar exercise which effectively made it a drill by all four member nations of the Quad or Quadrilateral coalition which is primarily focusing on containing China's military expansionism in the Indo-Pacific region.

The first segment of the exercise will be from Nov 3 to 6 while the second phase of the drill is scheduled to be held from November 17 to 20 in the Arabian sea.

"The exercise, being conducted as a non-contact, at sea only' exercise in view of COVID-19 pandemic, will showcase the high-levels of synergy and coordination between the friendly navies, which is based on their shared values and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order," the Indian Navy said in a statement on Monday.

China has been suspicious about the purpose of the Malabar exercise as it feels that the annual war game is an effort to contain its influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The evolving situation in the Indo-Pacific region in the wake of China's increasing military muscle-flexing has become a major talking point among the leading global powers. The US has been favouring making Quad a security architecture to check China's growing assertiveness.

The invitation by India to the Australian Navy for the exercise came two weeks after foreign ministers of the 'Quad' member nations held extensive talks in Tokyo with a focus on enhancing their cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, a region where China has been expanding its military influence.

The Indian Navy said the first phase of the exercise would witness complex and advanced naval exercises including surface, anti-submarine and anti-air warfare operations, besides cross deck flying, seamanship evolutions and weapon firing drills.

The Malabar exercise started in 1992 as a bilateral drill between



File Pic

the Indian Navy and the US Navy in the Indian Ocean. Japan became a permanent member of the exercise in 2015.

The annual exercise was conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea in 2018 and off the coast of Japan in 2019.

The Indian Navy will deploy a number of key platforms in the exercise which will include destroyer Ranvijay, frigate Shivalik, off-shore patrol vessel Sukanya, fleet support ship Shakti and submarine Sindhuraj. Also, advanced jet trainer Hawk,

long-range maritime patrol aircraft P-8I, Dornier maritime patrol aircraft, and several helicopters will be participating in the exercise, officials said.

US Navy ship USS John S McCain, a guided-missile destroyer, Australian Navy's long-range frigate HMAS Ballarat with integral MH-60 helicopter and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force's JS Onami, a destroyer, will be among key platforms to be part of the first phase of the Malabar exercise, they said.

During the recent Indo-US 2+2 talks, US Defence Secretary Mark

Esper welcomed India's invitation to Australia to join the Malabar exercise.

After the invitation to the drill, Australian Defence Minister Linda Reynolds CSC said the Malabar exercise marked a "milestone opportunity" for the Australian defence force and that it will showcase the "deep trust" between four major Indo-Pacific democracies and their shared will to work together on common security interests.

For the last few years, Australia has been showing keen interest in participating in the exercise.

Defence and security ties between India and Australia have been on an upswing in the last few years.

In June, India and Australia elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership and signed a landmark deal for reciprocal access to military bases for logistics support during an online summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison.

The Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) allows militaries of the two countries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies, besides facilitating scaling up of overall defence cooperation.

## Assam Man Dies In Custody In Mizoram, Tension Escalates Amid Border Standoff

**GUWAHATI:** A man from Assam's Cachardistrict died in custody in Mizoram on Monday, escalating the tension between the two Northeastern states amid a border standoff.

Mizoram's Kolasib district Superintendent of Police Vanlalfaka Ralte told PTI that Intazul Laskar (45), a well-known drug peddler, was apprehended on Sunday evening when he crossed the inter-state border to deliver a consignment and later died at a health facility.

However, an Assam Police official said that he had gone missing from a forest area where he went to collect wood and a case was registered at the Dholai police station.

"This morning, we got confirmation from police of Kolasib district in Mizoram that he is in their custody.

However, by the afternoon, we were told that he expired," the official said.

Ralte claimed that Intazul went to Vairengte to deliver a drug consignment when he was apprehended by volunteers of the Young Mizo Association (YMA) and handed over to officials of the state Excise and Narcotics department who arrested him.

He sustained minor injuries

in his ankle while attempting to run away from the volunteers, the officer said.

He was admitted to the Vairengte Community Health Centre as officials found him physically weak, Ralte said.

He died at 10.20 am on Monday, a Mizoram official said.

The Assam Police official pointed fingers at Mizoram over the incident and alleged that it was a "clear case of custodial death".

"The Mizoram Police has intimated us that they are proceeding as per the NHRC guidelines related to custodial death," he said.

The Mizoram Police officer claimed that no person laid hands upon him at the time of his arrest and the incident has no connection with the present border standoff.

He was booked under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 after the arrest, another official in Mizoram said.

Later, a case of unnatural death was registered at the Vairengte police station, he said.

Cachar SP Bhanwar Lal Meena wrote to Ralte, urging him to investigate the matter.

## Not An Inch Of Kashmir's...

to scope for discretionary interpretation and rent seeking eg. 'Family' was defined differently in different laws, provision of alienation and conversion of land were different in different Laws and the ceiling of 182 kanals fixed in Big Landed Estates Abolition Act was superseded by 100 standard kanals in the Agrarian Reforms act, 1976, yet both provisions continued to coexist creating contradiction and confusion," Kansal, who is also government spokesperson said.

"The Prohibition of Conversion of Land and Alienation of Orchards Act, 1975 not only prohibited alienation of orchard lands; it surprisingly restricted creation of new orchards too. Similarly, the old Agrarian Reforms Act prohibited the selling of land distributed to tillers even after 44 years. The Right of Prior Purchase Act severely constrained an owner's right to dispose off his own property," he added.

According to the government spokesperson, the new Land Laws are modern and progressive even while affording adequate protection against alienation of land to outsiders.

"A number of protections have been built into the new land laws on similar lines as has been enacted in other states such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. To begin with, no agricultural land can be transferred to any person from outside the UT of J&K but can only be sold to an agriculturist from within J&K," Kansal said.

"No land used for agricultural purpose can be used for any non-agricultural purpose. The terms agricultural land and agriculturist have been unambiguously defined to include not just agriculture but horticulture and allied agro-activities as well," he added.

Elaborating further, the government spokesperson said that agriculturist has been defined as "... a person who cultivates land personally in the UT of J&K...".

"The safeguard on agricultural land alone would ensure that more than 90 percent of land in the UT which is an agricultural land remains protected and with the people of J&K," Kansal said.

He further said that the new provisions not only address the infirmities in the old set of laws but also provide for modern and enabling provisions to aid in the agricultural and industrial growth of the UT of J&K.

"While progressive provisions of the repealed laws have been retained by including them in the modified Land Revenue Act, new provisions have been added to modernize existing laws," he said.

"There are now provisions for setting up of a Board of Revenue, Regional planning for regulating use of land, alienation and conversion, land lease, consolidation and Contract Farming. The Board of Revenue comprising senior officers will not only be the Developing Authority for preparing regional plans but can notify a scheme of consolidation of land holdings and also a scheme for restricting and regulating the fragmentation of agricultural land holdings to make agriculture viable," he added.

## Reactions Like 'J&K On Sale'...

these issues. So the three of us thought we will share with you salient features about these Acts and inform you about the changes and what necessitated all this and what are the safeguards that have been built." He said that there was need to understand that entire the gamut of land laws which was existing in J&K was "probably a product of its time and may be appropriate to the time when it was introduced."

"But it was essentially meant to serve an old agrarian rural economy. Quite obviously many of these laws had become outdated, obsolete and as new laws kept added, the system of land laws when looked as a whole suffered from not only obsolescence and redundancies but also ambiguities and contradictions and in many cases the laws that were in existence were clearly regressive and anti-people."

"How was it so? Let me give you some examples. The Big Landed Estates Abolition Act fixed a ceiling of 182 kanals but it was superseded by the Agrarian Reforms Act of 1976 which kept 100 standard kanals, yet both provisions continued to coexist," he said, adding, "The Agrarian Reforms 1976 Act is 44 years old now. We are in 2020 now yet this Act prohibited selling of any land that was available to the tiller and so as a result even after a generation has past and this land could not be sold or transacted. What was the consequence? You had large number of so-called Benami transactions and restriction to other generations for transactions which was otherwise made legitimately available to the tiller."

At the end of all this, he said there was gamut of land laws which was "sometimes inconsistent, sometimes ambiguous, sometimes contradictory or at other times clearly opposed to interest at public at large".

"There was a need to straighten up, clean up the system and provide a set of simpler land laws which would prevent unnecessary litigation and prevent discretionary interpretation of laws leaves opportunities for the vested interests."

On October 27, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, repealed the 11 laws and modified four other major laws of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir .

The announcement has been made by Ministry of Home Affairs as per its order to be called the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020.

The legislations repealed as whole include the Jammu and Kashmir Alienation Of Land Act (V of Samvat 1995), the Jammu and Kashmir Big Landed Estates Abolition Act ( XVII Samvat 2007) , The Jammu and Kashmir Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1956, the Jammu and Kashmir Consolidation Of Holdings Act, 1962, the Jammu and Kashmir Flood Plain Zones (Regulation and Development) Act, the Jammu and Kashmir Land Improvement Schemes Act ( XXiv Of 1972), the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention Of Fragmentation Of Agricultural Holdings Act, the Jammu and Kashmir Prohibition On Conversion Of Land and Alienation Of Orchards Act ; the Jammu and Kashmir Right Of Prior Purchase, Act [ ii of svt. 1993 (1936 A.d.)], the Jammu and Kashmir Ten-

ancy (Stay Of Ejectment Proceedings) Act ( Xxxiii Of 1966), the Jammu and Kashmir Utilization Of Lands Act ( Ix Of Samvat 2010) and the Jammu and Kashmir Underground Public Utilities (Acquisition Of Rights Of User In Land) Act ( Iv Of 2014).

## Applicant Seeks Early Hearing...

the application, as per the report.

The application has also listed the developments which have cultivated post the impugned order and changes made to Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. It also highlights that despite the changes being portrayed to be for the betterment of the populace of the erstwhile State, "the truth remains that it is the very people who are presently suffering in the midst," the applicant says.

"Not only due to repeated internet shutdowns and reduced internet speeds have the students and businesses been suffering in Jammu and Kashmir, the impugned order and the slew of restrictions continually damage the economy as well as the everyday life of the locals, who have been completely kept away from the entire process despite the fact that each change under the laws detrimentally affects the locals at an individualistic level," he adds.

With reference to the batch of pleas that are pending before the Supreme Court, the Application submits that notice was issued on 28.08.2019 and the matter had been referred to a Constitution Bench.

"After a Senior Counsel raised the preliminary issue of reference of the matter to a larger Bench, it was decided that the same would be argued first. The judgement on this limited point was pronounced on 02.03.2020 and it was held that there was no reason to refer the pleas to a larger Bench on the questions considered," the report says.

It further adds that before the Court could hear the petitions, the Court started functioning in a restricted manner due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"However, as the number of matters being heard daily has increased and the appropriate infrastructure has been placed, the Application seeks for the pleas pertaining to the challenge to the changes made to Article 370 to be heard at the earliest," the report adds.

## A Journalist Killed Every Four...

In terms of countries, Mexico reported the highest fatalities with at least 12 journalists and media workers killed in the country last year.

In 2018, war-torn Afghanistan had the highest death toll with 16 such killings recorded.

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay said for too many journalists, "telling the truth comes at a price".

"When journalists are attacked with impunity, there is a breakdown in security and judicial systems for all," she said.

"States have an obligation to protect journalists" and judges and prosecutors must promote "swift and effective criminal proceedings" to ensure that perpetrators of crimes against them are held accountable, Azoulay said.

## New Land Laws Breaking...

as anti-nationals".

"A general perception about the people of Jammu is that they welcomed the abrogation of Article 370," said a Jammu-based politician. "However, like Kashmir, people of Jammu too suffered and have been ditched by the people they voted for."

Notably, the Narendra Modi government's decision to remove the special status of Jammu and Kashmir opened the doors for outsiders to buy land and property, get government jobs and attend institutes of higher education.

Before the abrogation, the Article 370 had empowered the government of the former state to define "permanent residents" of Jammu and Kashmir and reserve certain rights for them.

In its latest order, the home ministry said the new laws will be called the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020. It added that it will come into effect immediately.

However, the new land laws have not gone well with the people of both Jammu Kashmir, and Ladakh, including the political parties except BJP.

**Jammu taken for granted**

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Harsh Dev Singh said the sole purpose of the October 22 meeting was to discuss ways to protect land, job and other rights of the people of Jammu region.

Government, Singh said, is ignoring Jammu and focusing on Kashmir and Ladakh for "political gains".

"They've taken Jammu for granted," the Panthers Party leader said. "This government is not listening to the people. Post-abrogation of Article 370, things have been worse for Jammu. We're being deprived in every sphere. The BJP has cheated the people of Jammu."

Singh said the recent meeting in Jammu wasn't against Gupkar Declaration, as reported by some section of media.

"But yes, we aren't going to support them [Peoples Alliance] since their demand [restoration of Article 370] is in Supreme Court," Singh said.

**New Action Plan Soon**

Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) Chairman, Gulchain Singh Charak, who participated in the meeting, told Kashmir Observer over phone that they welcomed the abrogation of Article 370 last year.

"Magar badlay mai kia mila humko (What've we got in return?)" he asked.

"If you're deleting the so-called "anti-people" model, then you should tell us about better alternatives? We need to discuss it in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh as well."

Sabha said people of Jammu were "unhappy with the demotion of the

state into UT".

"The government should come clean and talk to the people and know what they want," he said.

New land laws, Sabha said, are clear threat to the identity of the people of both Jammu Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"We'll meet in coming days to decide future course of action," he said.

**Nothing Will Happen**

However, Ankur Sharma, chairman IkkJutt Jammu, who participated in the October 22 meeting, told Kashmir Observer that he doesn't endorse the statement of Harsh Dev Singh regarding the new land laws.

"Nothing will happen," Sharma said. "These laws will in-turn be helpful for the development and economy of the Jammu region. Kashmiri politicians are peddling this fake propaganda about new land laws. Our identity will remain the same."

## Winter Woes: KPDCL To Issue...

to unscheduled power cuts in metered areas," said one of the residents of Bemina Srinagar.

He said that the extended power cuts surface soon after the Durbar (seat of governance) shifts to Jammu as a bi-annual practice.

A KPDCL official said that on average 1300 MWs of electricity is provided to the consumers across Kashmir. However, with winters setting in, he said the demand reaches 1800 MWs

Another senior official said that if the consumers make judicious use of electricity, there will be no need for long power cuts in the coming months.

"We have seen that power thefts and use of heaters and boilers by the consumers causes the overloading. People should use electricity judiciously so there will be less curtailment," the official said.

The Centre has been allotting additional 700 MWs of power to Jammu and Kashmir in view of higher demand in winters. But there has been no improvement in Union Territory as authorities have failed to augment the existing infrastructure to receive additional electricity from the central grids.

"Additional allocation of power will overcome power crisis only when required infrastructure is in place. How will we handle additional power when there is no infrastructure available? There will be improvement in power supply only when new girds are commissioned," the official said.

## 9 More Corona Deaths In J&K,...

and 500 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 360 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (259), Baramulla (146), Budgam (94), Pulwama (83), Kupwara (73), Anantnag (74), Rajouri (47), Kulgam (46), Bandipora(47), Doda (46), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (34), Udhampur (32), Kathua (31), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Kishtwar(15), Ramban (14), and Reasi (8). (With GNS inputs)

## 385 New Cases Include Doctor,...

from Jammu division. Giving the details, officials said, Srinagar reported 71 cases, Budgam 16, Baramulla 69, Pulwama 15, Kupwara 32, Anantnag 8, Bandipora 12, Ganderbal 14, Kulgam 2, Shopian 12, Jammu 108, Rajouri 3, Udhampur 2, Doda 2, Kathua 4, Poonch 3, Samba 3, Kishtwar 2, Ramban 7 and Reasi 0.

Moreover, they said, 623 patients recovered including 245 from Jammu region and 378 from the Valley.

## LG Allocates Portfolios Among...

The departments allocated to Advisor (F) include Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Social Welfare, Tribal Affairs, Labour and Employment, Youth Services and Sports, ARl and Trainings, Cooperative, Election, Haj & Auqaf, Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare and Horticulture.

The portfolios of Advisor (B) include Health & Medical Education, Public Works (R&B), Jal Shakti, Transport, Animal/ Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Revenue, School Education and Higher Education, Skill Development

The departments allocated to Advisor (BK) include Power Development, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, Culture, Tourism, Floriculture, Planning, Development and Monitoring Industries & Commerce

'(B) shall advise the Lieutenant Governor on matters relating to Home Department and coordinate activities of the police including the Terror Monitoring Group, Force Deployment, Intelligence Work, Preparedness for Law & Order, Operational Effectiveness, Counter Cross Border propaganda, Jails, FSL, Prosecution, Narcotics Control and POCSO Matters," reads an order. (GNS)

## Panchayat Conference To...

elections, Panchayat Conference Chairman said that their past policy of boycott has brought only irrelevant lot in the institutions.

"The educated youth should realize that they have been always misguided by the politicians with the false promises and they should take part in these local developmental institutions and serve the people," he added.

## Police 'Crack' Militant Attack...

working as ATM Guard at SKIMS, and Asif Ahmad Mir of Serch Ganderbal (Private Security Guard at SMHS) who were also arrested and one more Chinese pistol and ammunition, two detonators ,Pakistan flags and other incriminating material was recovered at their instance."

The official said that all the three had come in contact with militant operatives in South Kashmir and were tasked to prepare a "kill list of local political workers and attack them."

"Further investigation in the case is going on and more arrests are expected."

## Sharma To Be Part Of ...

this year, the panel is mandated to fix boundaries of 90 Assembly segments of J&K and reserve seats for schedule castes and scheduled tribes within them.

It has also been empowered to undertake delimitation of five parliamentary segments of J&K UT.

The Commission has been constituted under J&K Reorganization Act,2019 and Delimitation Commission Act, 2002.

Sharma, who was an advisor to J&K LG, resigned last week after his appointment as first full-fledged SEC.

It is worthwhile to mention here that Sharma, a 1983-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Mizoram Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre, was appointed advisor to the Lieutenant Governor in November last year.

During his service career spanning some 30 years, he has held key positions, including the Chief Secretary of Delhi and Goa.

He also served as secretary in the Human Resource Development Ministry before his retirement. Sharma has served as advisor to the administrator of Chandigarh too. (KNO)

## Govt Orders Transfer Of 8...

Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary, Public Grievances.

Asgar Hussain, KAS, Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu. "Nisar Ahmad Wani, KAS, Director, Tourism, Kashmir, shall hold the additional charge of Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation, till further orders."

Parveez Ahmad Raina, KAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (Central) Kashmir headquartered at Srinagar, relieving GulamajjeelaniZargar, KAS, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Recoveries), Srinagar of the additional charge of the post.

Parveen Kumar, KAS, Joint Director, Information (Hqr) in the Directorate of Information, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Home Department.

Irshad Ahmad, KAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Home Department, has been transferred and posted as Joint Director, Information (Hqr) in the Directorate of Information, J&K.

Mehraj-ud-din Shah, KAS, Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Kupwara.

Aijaz Ahmad Shah, Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, shall hold the additional charge of the post of Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Sheikh ZahoorUlHag, awaiting orders of adjustment in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, has been posted as Deputy Director, Libraries, Kashmir.

Sajad Sombheria, District Information Officer, Udhampur, is transferred and posted as District Social Welfare Officer, Udhampur. He shall also hold the additional charge of District Information Officer, Udhampur, till further orders. (GNS)

## 2 Booked For Running Fake...

approached them in 2017 and told them that they had "links" in the Jammu and Kashmir government's Civil Secretariat and private companies to get them employment, the officials said.

The duo also told the complainants that they had arranged employment for a number of people in banks, private firms and the government, they said.

The complainants alleged that the accused demanded an amount of more than Rs 5 lakh from the each of them, the officials said, adding that the victim's paid the money as they were desperate for jobs.

The officials said that it has been alleged that the duo along with others gave them fake appointment letters.

They said after verification of the complaint, an investigation was launched and evidence was gathered. Subsequently, a formal case was registered in Jammu, the officials said.

## Srinagar-Leh Highway Reopens...

were allowed to ply on the road from Srinagar to Kargil.

Meanwhile, traffic from Jammu to Srinagar was allowed to ply on Banihal Highway.

An official said that only one way traffic was allowed from Jammu towards Srinagar.

"Commuters are advised to follow the SOP issued by the Government to prevent the spread of Covid-19," he said adding that government forces have already been advised not to ply against advisory or traffic plan in view of traffic congestion on Jammu-Srinagar Highway. They may ply from Jammu towards Srinagar. (KNT)

## Man Arrested With Heroin In...

consignment was smuggled from across the border cannot be ruled out, they said.

The matter is being investigated, the officials said.

This is the third major recovery of narcotics in the last few days by the Menderh police.



# Div Com stresses on strict implementation of official rates

## Govt. Fixes Mutton Rate at Rs. 480 Per Kg

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER-02: The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Pandurang K Pole today chaired a meeting of Rate Fixation Committee and fixed rates of mutton at Rs 480 (retail) and Rs 450 as (wholesale) rates in Kashmir.

The meeting, among others was attended by Director FCS&CA, Director Animal Husbandry, ADC Srinagar, JD Extension, Technical Officer Sheep

Husbandry besides members from mutton retailer and wholesaler associations and media persons.

At the outset, the Div Com said that rates have been fixed after taking all factors including, production cost, transportation, processing, cutting and all other charges into consideration.

He said that now onwards mutton rates shall be

revised annually as per government's wholesale pricing index.

Stressing on the strict implementation of official rates, the Div Com said that stringent action including FIRs shall be registered against mutton dealers/butchers if found selling mutton on higher rates or resorting to any kind of violations against the official rates.

The meeting was informed that out of 81 FIRs, 42

have been registered against mutton dealers only while an amount of Rs. 4.63 lac fine has been imposed on offenders in different districts of Kashmir during the month of October.

The Div Com said that despite increase in the local production, we have to import around 70 per cent mutton from other states and urged all stakeholders to co-operate for implementation of official rates.

He appealed to wholesale dealers to buy mutton as per the rate list from outside mandis or dealers from different states to avoid overcharging or black marketing of the mutton.

During the meeting, members from mutton dealer association raised various issues with the Div Com and demanded prompt and proper measures are taken for hassle-free mutton trade.

## Miscreants Behind Circulation of Fake Appointment Orders: Govt

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 02: The office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir division today issued a statement informing the general public that it has not issued any appointment/ engagement orders to any person against any post.

The department has informed that it has come to its notice that some miscreants are issuing fake appointment/engagement orders under the seal and signatures of the authorities which do not exist in the department.

Citing one such example, the statement reads that For instance, the Station House Officer, Police Station Shaheed Gunj in investigation of Case FIR No. 70/ 2020 U/S 170, 420,467, 468 – IPC had seized some fake engagement orders whereby the concerned person(s) was shown engaged as Plantation Watcher and the said order was bearing seal and signature as 'Chief Conservator of Forests UFD Srinagar'.

Accordingly the SHO Shaheed Gunj was informed that the Appointment orders were fake besides, there was no post of Plantation Watcher existing in the department and that there is no authority of the rank of

Chief Conservator of Forests UFD Srinagar existing in the hierarchy of the department.

Further, the matter was also referred to the Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Branch Kashmir for further investigation.



It has been informed that the instructions have already been issued to the subordinate offices that even the appointment orders issued on the basis of selection by the SSB or appointments in terms of SRO- 43 need not to be entertained until authenticity of the order(s) is got ascertained from this Office or from the office of PCCF J&K.

Now the general public and all the concerned are being informed through this news item that, no process of any appointment/ engagement (whether permanent, Daily Wage, Consolidated, Casual, need based etc) is in vogue in this office and any such order coming to fore anywhere, need not to be acted upon.

It is further informed that in case any such appointment/ engagement orders comes to your notice, necessary action as provided under law be initiated against the concerned person producing such order and the action interalia should follow lodging of FIR in the Police Station and above all referring the matter to the Crime Branch for further investigation.

The department has made it clear that the mode of appointment in vogue in the department is based on the selection made by the Services Selection Board and appointment of NOKs of the deceased officials in terms of SRO- 43 of 1994 by the competent authority.

## Barbar Shah Residents Seek Jio Optical Fibre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of Barbar Shah locality of this capital city on Monday urged telecom giant Jio to install optical fibre cables and provide internet services in the area for the convenience of the students and businessmen.

The locals said Monday that the

students and business class were facing a tough time due to non-availability of high speed internet services in Kashmir. With exams round the corner, they said a high speed internet services will bring a much sought relief to the students.

"It will also help the businessmen to carry out their activities smoothly. High speed internet is the need for everyone in the locality, especially students and traders," Irfan Mushtaq, a local said.

Ishan Manzoor, another local urged the authorities at the Jio telecommunications to heed to the request of the locals and install and provide internet facilities to them.

"We hope the concerned administration will look into the matter without any further delay," Manzoor added.

## Pahalgam Club News Fake: DC

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 02: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag has denied viral news on social media about handing over the Pahalgam Club to some private agency.

DC K. K Sidha said that the news is baseless and far away from the truth and added that the Pahalgam JKTDC Club will remain the asset of the corporation and people should not pay any attention to such baseless news.

The DC also informed the local media that SSP Anantnag shall lodge an FIR against the rumour mongers.

## Research Methodology Must for Quality Research: CUK VC

Ganderbal: Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir Monday said the scholars pursuing research in any subject or field should be very well versed with the tools and techniques used in research methodology in order to produce quality research.

Addressing the participants, both offline and online during the inauguration of one-week national e-workshop on "Research Methodology in Literary Studies," organised by the Department of English, at varsity's Green Campus here, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir emphasized on ensuring quality research to be encouraged and produced for the future of humanity.

"The strict adherence to the ethical values of research cannot be undermined," he said. Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir said that research in Indian universities, particularly in the field of humanities is on the weaker side.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Office of the Executive Engineer Landscaping Division PWD (R&B) Engineering Complex Rajbagh Srinagar.**

Cancellation

Subject: Supply of labours for maintenance of different landscape areas of jammu city/court complex for one month.

Reference: NIT No.e-50/2020-21/LSD/Srinagar Dated:-22.10.2020, endorsed vide No. LD 2250-2255.Dated:- 22-10-2020

Since only one bid has been received for the above mentioned work bearing NIT No.e -50/2020-21/ LSD/Srinagar Dated:-22.10.2020, endorsed vide No. LD 2250-2255.Dated:- 22-10-2020, The tenders for the same is hereby cancelled and will be called afresh.

No.LD/ 2376-80

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Landscaping Division PWD (R&B)  
Kashmir

Dated:- 31.10.2020

DIPK-8334/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HORTICULTURE P&M CONST.DIV.SGR.**

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No: -29of 2020-21Dated 31-10-2020

For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor, J&K State, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following work: -

Position of AAA/TS: - Accorded.

Position of Funds: - Assured.

S. No	Name of work	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs	Earnest Money	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender documents	Time of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Supply installation , Mechanical erection , testing and commissioning of 25 KVA Capacity Diesel Genset Kirloskar/ Mahindra Make. at Jablipora Anantnag.	00	2% of tendered cost	A class Electric	Rs.800/-	10days
2	Supply installation , Mechanical erection , testing and commissioning of 25 KVA Capacity Diesel Genset Kirloskar/ Mahindra Make. at Arhama Shopian	00	2% of tendered cost	A class Electric	Rs.800/-	10days

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

2. Critical dates Table.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31-10-2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	31-10-2020
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	31-10-2020
4.	Bid Submission End Date	04-11-2020 up to 4:00 Pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05-11-2020 at 11:00 Am

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury challan to be credited into revenue head 0401(nonrefundable) in favour of Executive Engineer HPM (Tender Inviting Authority)

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Horticulture (P&M)  
Construction Div.Srinagar

DIPK-8299/20  
No. EE/Horti/P&M/2020-21/3484-86  
Dated:- 31-10-2020

**DIAL-EMMA**

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

**AIRPORTS**

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**HIJRI CALENDAR**

16 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1442

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	5: 27
ZUHR	12: 14
ASR	3:59
Magrib	5:40
ISHA	7:01

### This Day In History

- 644 - Umar ibn al-Khattab, second Muslim caliph, is killed by a Persian slave in Medina
- 1493 - Christopher Columbus discovers Island of Dominica
- 1861 - Battle of Port Royal, fought in Port Royal Sound, South Carolina begins, Union victory (US Civil War)
- 1862 - Battle until the 5th November between gunboats at Bayou Teche, a waterway in Louisiana
- 1863 - Battle of Grand Coteau in Southwestern Louisiana in the American Civil War
- 1928 - Turkey switches from Arabic to Roman alphabet
- 1931 - First commercially produced synthetic rubber manufactured
- 1936 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt wins a second term in office, defeating Republican candidate Alf Landon in the most lopsided election in American history in terms of electoral vote
- 1944 - Pro-German government of Hungary flees
- 1946 - Emperor Hirohito proclaims a new Japanese constitution
- 1952 - Egypt protests German retribution payments to Israel
- 1954 - Nobel for physics awarded to Max Born & Walter Bothe
- 1955 - First virus crystallized (announced)
- 1957 - USSR launches Sputnik 2 with a dog (Laika), 1st animal in orbit
- 1958 - USSR performs nuclear test
- 1961 - UN General Assembly unanimously elects U Thant as acting
- 1967 - Vietnam War: The Battle of Dak To begins, becoming one of the bloodiest battles of the war
- 1970 - US President Richard Nixon promises gradual troop removal of Vietnam
- 1970 - Marxist Salvador Allende inaugurated as President of Chile
- 1978 - USSR & Vietnam sign peace & friendship treaty
- 1984 - 3,000 die in 3 day anti-Sikh riot in India
- 1984 - Body of assassinated Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi cremated
- 1986 - Lebanese magazine Ash Shirra reveals secret US arms sales to Iran
- 1988 - Pakistan claims it downed Afghan warplane
- 1988 - President Reagan signs credit-card disclosure bill
- 1988 - Soviet Union agrees to allow teaching of Hebrew
- 1992 - Bill Clinton (D) wins US presidential election over President George H. W. Bush (R)
- 1994 - Dutch & British astronomers find spiral nebula

*From KO Archives*

## DTH TV Okayed

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Union cabinet today gave its nod for al-owing direct-to-home (DTH) television services, which would revolutionize broadcasting in the country. The decision came three days after an eight-member Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Home Minister L K Advani prepared a unanimous, report favouring DTH, official sources said.

The KU-band DTH service offers greater and direct connectivity to the viewer providing over 100 channels through a small dish antenna doing away with intermediaries like cable operators. It has enormous penetration power to cover far flung and remote areas.

Promising enhanced picture quality, it also has the scope for interactive TV services like movie on demand and possibility of introducing value-added services like internet access, e-mail, home-shopping, banking and tele-education.

The GoM was formed nearly two years ago to go into the controversial DTH issue and place its recommendations to the Union Cabinet when Pramod Mahajan was the Information and Broadcasting Minister.

Besides Advani, others in the group are HnatKf Minister Vashwant Sinha, Defence Minister George Fernandes, Information and Broadcasting Minister Sushma Swaraj, Information Technology Minister Mahajan, Communications Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, minister Vasundra Raje and Law Minister Arun Jaitley.

(Kashmir Observer, November 03, 2000)

### Activists torch TV sets in Pak

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD- The little-known Islami Jirga on Monday publicly burnt 11 television sets by describing them as a source of obscenity in the Pakistani city of Mardan. Over 2,000 curious onlookers had gathered in the Bagh sports ground following public announcements about the burning of television sets. It was a mixed group of people and not all of them supported what was put on display for them.

The television sets were brought in a pick-up covered with yellow curtains. The / Islami Jirga activists piled up the sets, each inscribed with an Urdu slogan, before showing them the torch amid chants of Allahu-Akbar.

Some of the slogans said the television was a devil's box, source of obscenity, a threat to faith, a danger for pious women. One of the slogans written on a television set vowed to foil the Jewish conspiracy against Islam.

Before burning the sets, an Islami Jirga activist, Mohammad Salim, described television as a source of obscenity and felt it was misleading the youth, particularly girls. He lashed out at the cable television and termed it as a threat to the culture, traditions and morals of the Muslims.

(Kashmir Observer, November 03, 2000)



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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## Provincial status to GB

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that his government will grant provisional status to Gilgit Baltistan, removing any ambiguity that prevailed over the issue in recent months. The decision has drawn condemnation from India. On Sunday, Khan addressed a rally in the city of Gilgit, capital of the Gilgit-Baltistan that forms a part of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, ahead of the elections there later this month. India, however, has rejected the move reiterating "that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the area of so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan', are an integral part of India by virtue of the legal, complete and irrevocable accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Union of India in 1947".

In response, Pakistan has also rejected Indian objection. According to Pakistan foreign office, the move is the result of the demand from the people of Gilgit Baltistan. "The administrative, political and economic reforms are a long-standing demand of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan," said a statement released by Pakistan late on Sunday.

Interestingly, New Delhi and separatists in Kashmir are on the same page in opposing a provincial status to Gilgit Baltistan, albeit for entirely different reasons. The separatists had even urged Islamabad not to do so as the move according to them, would alter the status of "a disputed territory". In a recent statement, Sayyid Abdullah Gillani, the special representative of the top Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, had said that such a step is "laden with disastrous consequences" with Pakistan risking not only "weakening its position and losing moral high ground but also demoralizing Kashmiri people and debilitating their ongoing struggle for the right to self-determination".

Islamabad's urgency to recast the region's constitutional relationship with the country is traced to \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project and China's alleged insistence for a legal cover to its investment through a disputed region.

More so, when Gilgit-Baltistan has to serve as the gateway for the multi-billion dollar project. China is building industrial parks, hydropower projects, railway lines and roads in the region. Besides, the project also involves the expansion of the Karakoram Highway connecting China's restive Xinjiang region with Gilgit-Baltistan.

But the scene is complicated since Gilgit Baltistan is part of the undivided J&K and hence an inextricable part of the region's contested legacy. There is also a debate how this would impact the status of Kashmir issue. With both countries integrating the parts of Kashmir under their possession – more so, Pakistan that has so far tried to maintain a position that the parts of Kashmir it controls aren't its parts - this is believed to undermine the legal nature of the region as "a disputed area". However, it remains to be seen how Pakistan and India handle the issue and what will be the implications of the provincial status to Gilgit Baltistan on the larger Kashmir issue.

### OTHER OPINION

## Real estate: On changes to J&K land laws

One of the arguments against the now nullified special status of J&K was that the restrictions on land transfers hampered investments. The government has said the changes will encourage investment and advance peace and progress in J&K. The argument that these changes would help the people of the region might have been stronger if these were done in consultation with them. The irony is that in all three regions — Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh — there is strong opposition to opening the land market to non-residents. Political parties in J&K too have opposed the changes.

Free movement of people, and an integrated national market can advance development but India's governance structure accommodates fears and concerns of local populations in this context in a measured manner. There are several States which have provisions to regulate ownership and transfer of land under Article 371 of the Constitution. The Centre is expected to announce new land laws for the UT of Ladakh before October 30, and it has promised to "safeguard interests of the people" regarding "all issues related to language, demography, ethnicity, land and jobs". The Centre's approach towards J&K has been marked by a lack of trust, which has accentuated the alienation of large sections of the population. Fears of deliberate demographic engineering have dominated politics in the Valley for long. After the reorganisation of the State and the loss of its special status in 2019, the people of Jammu and Ladakh also turned nervous on this question. Desirable as it may be, there is no point forcing a particular path of development upon people.

The situation is precarious also because of the heavy hand of the state on political and civil society activities in J&K. The unilateralism that has come to define New Delhi's dealings with J&K is achieving little. There is no wisdom in pushing through measures aimed to promote investment when the end result is political volatility. The Centre's policy towards J&K must be buttressed by a robust political process that enables people's participation and ensures stability with growth and development.

The Hindu

Asad Mirza

What the French need to do is to pay back the debts they owe to all those whom they robbed and killed around the world since then. Only that will end France's crisis with "Islam" and with itself.

# France and Islam



The French attacks on Islam and its Prophet are nothing new, we only have to peep a little bit into the past, to find the roots of this hatred

The recent storm over the inflammatory statements against the Holy prophet and Islam itself, by the French President Macron has set the Muslim world on fire. Leaders of all hues and denominations have condemned the so-called attacks on Islam. The outcry, as expected, follows a similar pattern after any anti-Islam incident takes place in the Western world. We need to take a long breath, pause and wonder on the similarity of attacks and the Islamic response to it globally.

Muslims move on with times. Alongside, the western world also continues with its activities related to interfaith relations and peaceful coexistence. However, in real terms one wonders whether these activities are indeed carried out with good intentions or are just an eyewash; while beneath the surface anti-Islam hatred continues unabated as they are in real terms afraid of Islam and its teachings.

What has happened in France is nothing new. The French radical extremism, legitimises itself under the French term laïcité meaning secular, and under this garb it continues its attacks on French and non-French Muslims.

A French NGO, The Collective Against Islamophobia in France (CCIF) listed 1,043 Islamophobic incidents that occurred in 2019 (a 77 percent increase since 2017). Not so far back, in October 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron and his then Interior Minister Christophe Castaner connected terrorism in France to any signs of French Muslims' faith and culture, including having a beard, praying five times a day, eating halal food, etc.

### 'Liberating' Islam

Last week, Macron declared "Islam is a religion that is in crisis all over the world today, we are not just seeing this in our country". He added that he is seeking to "liberate" Islam in France from foreign influences by improving oversight of mosque financing.

One wonders, in what capacity will Macron 'liberate Islam' and who gives him the right to do so? Historically, Macron is not the first French ruler who wanted to "liberate" Islam. This is an old French "secular" tradition from the times of Napoleon Bonaparte. When Napoleon invaded Egypt and Palestine in 1798, he lied to the Egyptians by announcing that he and his army were "faithful Muslims" and that they have come to liberate Muslims and Islam from

the tyranny of the Turk Mamluks.

However, the deception did not work and both the Egyptians and Palestinians rose against him. Napoleon was defeated, though his army committed untold atrocities in Egypt and Palestine. At that time, Napoleon and France wanted to avenge the defeat faced by French forces in the Palestinian city of Acre, two centuries ago.

### French Invasion of Algeria

The French invasion of Algeria was launched in mid-June 1830 and Algiers fell on 5 July. The French army robbed Algiers' treasury clean, stealing upwards of 43 million Francs in gold and silver. The French King Charles X told the French National Assembly that the immediate goals of the invasion were to avenge the French for the Algerian insult, besides "ending piracy and reclaim Algeria for Christianity".

In line with its Christian commitments, the conquering French army took over mosques and converted them into churches and cathedrals at gunpoint, including the largest Ottoman Ketchaoua mosque in Algiers, built in 1612, which was converted into the Cathedral of St Philippe in December 1832. That same year the French wiped out the entire tribe of the Ouffias, sparing no woman or child, and seizing all their possessions.

### French barbarism

We should not forget the French barbarism, which has been recorded for posterity by history. Authors like Martin Evans, John Phillips, Haley C. Brown have documented in-depth the French atrocities in Algeria in their books. It would also be pertinent to note here that the French played a crucial role in persuading the Algerian ulemas and clerics to close the doors of Ijtihad, which ultimately made a crucial and long lasting affect on the growth of Islamic sciences and social sciences.

In 1871, Algerian Muslims revolted again against French rule, with 150,000 people joining the forces of a local tribal leader, Al-Muqrani. The French genocidal machine responded by killing hundreds of thousands of Algerians, which, combined with the French-caused famine deaths in the late 1860s, resulted in the death of one million Algerians. The French razed dozens of towns and villages to the ground while eliminating the entire elite of Algerian society. But even that did not resolve France's "crisis" with Islam.

During the 19th century, France colonised many Muslim nations, and thus their concern about their "crisis" with Islam increased further. To answer this

quest, a journalist of ill repute and with known anti-Turk views was appointed to seek answers. Edmond Fazy (1870-1910) presented his analysis in the form of Questions diplomatiques et coloniales, which contained submissions by known anti-Muslim and anti-Turk academics, journalists or so-called experts on Islam and African nations. Edward Said has discussed the real role of these so-called Orientalists in-depth in his book Orientalism (1977).

### Future of Islam

Chauvinism and hate has always dominated the French culture, whether it is with the British or Islamists. Many of the contributors to Fazy's journal saw fit to manipulate Islamic theology and transform Muslim ulemas to produce not only a modern Islam that European modernity would tolerate, but also one that, they hoped, would weaken the Ottoman Empire.

The project of transforming Islam into something compatible with European Christianity and which French laïcité can tolerate continues afoot in 2020, but with unsatisfactory results as far as Macron is concerned.

Both the French Muslims and immigrant Muslims continue to face an institutionalised discrimination in France. The country continues to be submerged in a dominant discourse of chauvinism and hate today that is not dissimilar to the one that always dominated French culture even before the French Revolution.

The current French crisis is based on its white supremacist Christian agenda and a country holding on to its past glories or misdeeds, while in reality they should strive to undo or repent their misdeeds committed by them in the former colonies held by them.

What the French need to do is to pay back the debts they owe to all those whom they robbed and killed around the world since then. Only that will end France's crisis with "Islam" and with itself.

At the same time, Muslims across the globe need to connect or reconcile their national, ethnic and sectarian identities within the context of Islam's inner unity and integrity based on moral and human grounds, on the one hand, and maintain its global and cosmopolitan outlook on the other. This will be the best antidote against such vitriolic agenda.

The views expressed in this article are author's own and do not represent Kashmir Observer's views

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi.



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## Child Marriages in Covid-19: An Urgent Issue

Child marriage was criminalized with effect from July 1st, 1930 under Child marriage Restraint Act, (1929). According to the 2016 National Family Health Survey 27% of women aged 20-24 years were married before they turned 18.

The data over the years hasn't shown much promise. In fact, from April to June alone, Childline India received 5584 calls reporting child marriage. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are the top 5 states to have reported child marriages during these first three months. Karnataka alone accounts for nearly 29 percent of inter-

ventions for child marriage.

As is obvious with data, it doesn't always represent the true number. With societal restraints and cultural hurdles, many such cases are likely going unreported. In fact, according to a UN report published in April, the covid-19 pandemic could lead to an extra 13 million child marriages. Other findings suggest that four million girls are at risk of child marriage in the next two years.

The surge in the number of marriages may have a close relationship with the fallout of the pandemic. The economic implications of the lockdowns may have led to conditions

which would have forced many to marry off their daughters at a young age to avoid further desperation. Many may have also opted for early marriages as the pandemic has sanctioned simple and cost efficient marriages without the family having to be answerable or being chided for simplicity.

Developing countries are also vulnerable to crimes against women and child marriages may be a reflection of these trends. Hence, it is the need of the hour to immediately address this issue. Working at the grassroots is important as is ensuring the safety of children married off at a young age. This evil is so grave that it requires

immediate and urgent intervention to prevent violence against children especially the girl child.

Desperate times call for desperate measures has a flip side here. The pandemic has only made matters worse especially for women. Special attention must be paid to these issues which are often hidden or rationalized in the name of tradition and culture and might go unreported and unaddressed.

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# Being a Woman Geologist in Kashmir

Asyia Qadir

“Most of the people believe that geology is the subject of men. “I think you cannot climb up a glacier with the men, work on something else,” said a teacher to me when I wished to study climate change vis a vis glaciers. The words whirled round and round my head for a couple of days. Because of my gender, I was barred to research on my favourite portion of Earth Sciences.

“Change your decision of doing masters in geology, go for any other subject or prepare for civil service examination,” one of my geology teachers told me when I was selected in Applied Geology for the Masters programme at Kashmir University. Was it my gender or the increasing trend of Civil service exams or the lack of jobs in Applied Geology in Kashmir which made him say so? The question lingers.

I didn’t change my decision because my love for geology was unfathomable. The first thing which I came to know in the university from a teacher was that Geology is the subject of economically underprivileged students. Only the students from poverty stricken families opt for geology and the students from well off families engage in Computer Sciences or in other technical courses. May be the attire of the students had pushed him to conclude so.

Field work and outdoor activities are the requisite in geology. Data collection from the field is an important component of the geology. While on field work, geologists are exposed to a threat of wild animals and other dangers of remote locations. Despite setbacks the geologists toil in the field until the job is done.

In the strife torn parts of the world, the data acquisition from the field is tough row to hoe for female geologists. For instance, in Kashmir, female geologists with gung-ho attitude find it difficult to reach the field as anything can happen from encounters to protests at any time. In such volatile atmosphere, reaching home late is another difficulty which the female geologists face. They are also subject to conservative outlooks of the society. “Yh che kour, emis kya baalan khasun” (She is a girl, she should not climb up the mountains) is the remark which I heard from a group of women when I was doing field work. Such things are rife in Kashmir, if you are a female and you venture out to do something which usually girls do not do like the field work, lots of eyeballs stare at you and many casual remarks are made.

Most of the people believe that geology is the subject of men. “I think you cannot climb up a glacier with the men, work on something else,” said a teacher to me when I wished to study climate change vis a vis glaciers. The words whirled round and round my head for a couple of days. Because of my gender, I was barred to research on my favourite portion of Earth Sciences. According to UNESCO data, women represent less than 30% in research. Women in Science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) are published less,



paid less for their research and do not advance as far as men in their careers.

Since time immemorial, women geologists have faced hardships travelling to their locations or working in the field. In the beginning of the 19th century, women from the upper class were prevented by their families to join the Earth Science field as it required outdoor activities. Women from lower classes used to engage in this field like, Marry Anning from Lyme Regis, United Kingdom. She discovered a number of fossils but was often not credited for her work. Because of her gender, she was barred from Geological Society of London. Etheldred Benett, a spinster from England was the first female geologist who has extensively worked on Paleontology. She was an avid fossil collector who devoted her life to Earth Sciences. Despite belonging to a wealthy family she engaged in the Geo Science research. Like many other women geologists

she also faced discrimination both overt and covert.

Recently the two women scientists, Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jeniffer Doudna were awarded the Nobel Prize 2020 in Chemistry for developing the tools to edit DNA. This reflects that women are doing well in the research. Their research may inspire many young girls to follow the scientific path. The only female faculty member at Applied Geology department in Kashmir University, Dr. Sarah Qazi, has won the young scientist award in hydrogeology research in the year 2018. She has an experience of ten years in hydrogeology (sub surface water study) as a researcher and has authored a number of papers. She followed her dream of research, evened all the odds and stepped into the male dominated field, Earth Sciences.

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## The Name is Bond

Sean Connery passed away on the 31st of October at the age of 90. He was the first Bond, and for many people, the best

Coverage of the passing of Sir Sean Connery has inevitably been dominated by his legacy as the screen’s first – and best – James Bond. Connery’s “Bond, James Bond” moment near the beginning of Dr. No (1962) is one of the iconic moments of cinema history and has spawned countless imitations and parodies.

Perhaps the most persistent myth about Connery, who was 90, is that he was an “unknown” actor who was plucked from obscurity by Bond producers Albert “Cubby” Broccoli and Harry Saltzman, who reportedly cast him against the wishes of author Ian Fleming and distributor United Artists. But this is to ignore the fact that Connery had already established himself as a television actor, drawing critical plaudits for lead roles in a 1957 BBC production of Requiem for a Heavyweight and in the 1961 TV production of Anna Karenina, but also appearing in a number of meaty co-starring roles in Hollywood films, including opposite Lana Turner in Another Time, Another Place (1958).

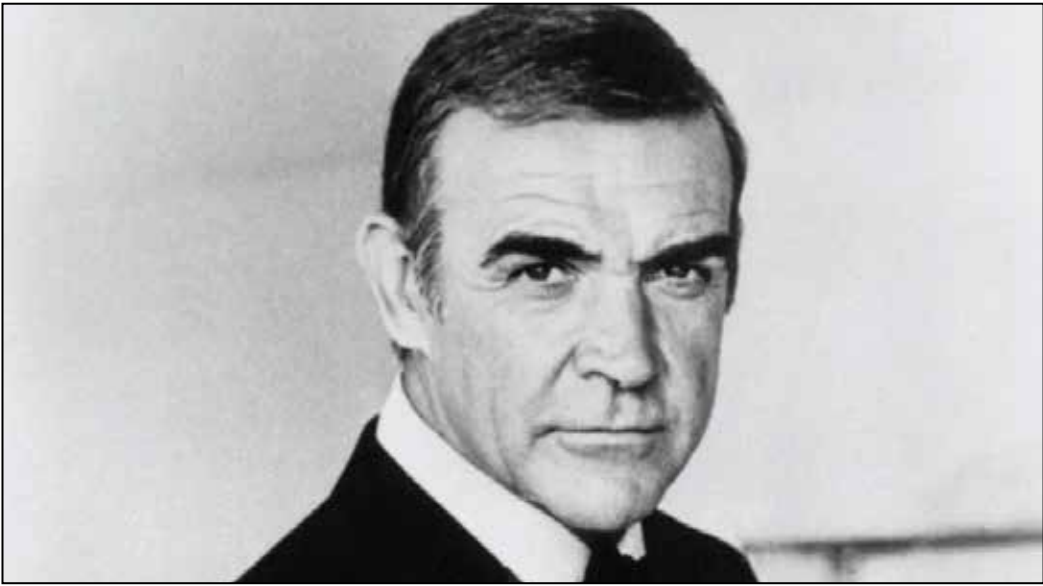
It was reportedly his appearance in Disney’s fantasy Darby O’Gill and the Little People (1959) that drew Connery to the notice of Broccoli’s wife, Dana, while the British crime drama The Frightened City (1961), in which Connery as an underworld enforcer steals the picture from its nominal star John Gregson, was also evidence of a star in the making.

Nevertheless Connery was inspired casting as James Bond. Connery made the role his own to such an extent that it is now impossible to imagine any of the other actors said to have been considered – including Cary Grant, David Niven, Patrick McGeehan and even Roger Moore – stepping into the shoes of “the gentleman agent with the licence to kill” in 1962.

In this context an important point to remember about Bond is that Fleming’s character was not an Old Etonian establishment figure: he is even described in Moonraker as being “alien and unEnglish”. Connery’s working-class Scottish roots – he was born and grew up in Edinburgh, where his early jobs had included milkman, bricklayer and coffin-polisher – imbued his Bond with that sense of “otherness”.

To this extent Connery’s Bond has as much in common with the outsider protagonists of the British new wave – Laurence Harvey, Albert Finney, Richard Harris – as the tradition of British screen heroism incarnated by stars of the 1950s such as Richard Todd and Kenneth More.

Connery’s performance in Dr No is edgy and brusque: he really settled into the part in From Russia With Love (1963) and Goldfinger (1964) where he commands the screen with that indefinable qual-



“To this extent Connery’s Bond has as much in common with the outsider protagonists of the British new wave – Laurence Harvey, Albert Finney, Richard Harris – as the tradition of British screen heroism incarnated by stars of the 1950s such as Richard Todd and Kenneth More.

ity of star “presence” that means all he has to do to dominate a scene is to be in it.

### Beyond Bond

Bond brought Connery fame and fortune. He was paid a mere £6,000 for Dr No, four times that amount for From Russia With Love and a then-record US\$1.25 million for his first Bond “comeback” in 1971’s Diamonds Are Forever (George Lazenby had taken the role for On Her Majesty’s Secret Service in 1969).

The lucrative remuneration meant that Connery was able to pick and choose his roles outside the Bond pictures. Indeed his non-Bond roles demonstrate just how versatile an actor Connery was. Alfred Hitchcock cast him against type as Tippi Hedren’s conflicted husband in Marnie (1964), and he excelled in two films for Sidney Lumet, as the rebel-with-a-cause in the hard-hitting military prison drama The Hill (1965) and as a vengeful policeman in the much underrated The Offence (1973).

Connery was particularly good at playing characters older than himself, including the potentate

standing up to Teddy Roosevelt in The Wind and the Lion (1975) and an ageing Robin Hood reflecting on his own myth in the beautifully elegiac Robin and Marian (1976). He paired with Michael Caine as soldiers of fortune in 19th-century Afghanistan in The Man Who Would Be King (1975) and was one of the all-star cast of suspects in Sidney Lumet’s lavish adaptation of Murder on the Orient Express (1974).

There was, inevitably, the occasional left-field choice, but even the science-fiction oddity Zardoz (1973) now has something of a cult status. Connery famously said that he would “never” play Bond again after Diamonds Are Forever: hence the ironic title of his second Bond “comeback” Never Say Never Again (1983), a rival production outside the Eon Production series mounted by independent producer Kevin McClory.

Connery won his only Academy Award, a popular choice as Best Supporting Actor for his “Irish” street-cop in The Untouchables (1987), after which his career enjoyed a second wind as the world’s most bankable sexagenarian film star in a sequence

of superior adventure and caper movies including The Hunt for Red October (1990), The Rock (1996) and Entrapment (1999).

By this time Connery’s refusal to disguise his accent had become something of a trademark, whatever the part. When Steven Spielberg cast him as Harrison Ford’s father in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989), it captured the idea that Connery’s Bond was the symbolic “father” of a later generation screen hero.

### Feet of clay

Most stars turn out to have feet of clay: Connery was no exception. He attracted controversy for a remark made in an interview with Playboy in 1965 that legitimised hitting a woman (“An open-handed slap is justified if all other alternatives fail”). His Bond did this on screen in From Russia With Love and Diamonds Are Forever.

He also had a public falling-out with Broccoli, suing the producer and MGM for alleged non-payment of profit shares in the Bond films. Against this should be set Connery’s charitable work: he used his fee for Diamonds Are Forever to found the Scottish International Education Trust to provide financial assistance for Scots from disadvantaged backgrounds to attend university and college.

### Proud ‘Scottish peasant’

Connery, who since the 1970s lived in Spain and the Bahamas as a tax exile, was proud of his Scottish roots. Ian Fleming warmed to Connery to the extent that he introduced a Scottish heritage for Bond into the later stories. Bond’s “I am a Scottish peasant and I will always feel at home being a Scottish peasant” – from The Man With the Golden Gun – might have been written with Connery in mind, although Bond was actually played by his successor, Roger Moore, in that film.

Unlike Bond, Connery did accept a knighthood, for services to film drama, in 2000. It is widely believed that his public support for the Scottish National Party had delayed his knighthood.

Connery’s last screen appearance was as Alan Quatermain in The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (2003), in which he leads a Victorian superhero team to save the British Empire. He confirmed his retirement when he was presented with the American Film Institute’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

He died in his sleep at his home in Nassau, and is survived by his second wife Micheline and son (by first wife Diane Cilento) Jason Connery.

The conversation



Tech To Tell Mood Of Colleague, Improve Taste Of Food By 2030: Report

Press Trust Of India

A large number of employees expect that technology will enable people to sense the mood of their colleagues, improve the taste of canteen food and other senses by 2030, according to a report released by Ericsson on Thursday. The Ericsson IndustryLab report, based on a survey that covered around 13.3 crore employees across 16 countries including India, found that nearly 6 in 10 foresee a permanent increase in on-line meetings.

"During this Covid-19 isolation, people everywhere are rediscovering the importance of smells and flavours and the sheer physicality of the locations they normally do business at.

"The pandemic has created a tipping point for what white-collar workers expect of the future digital office," Ericsson Consumer and IndustryLab Head (Research Agenda) Michael Bjorn said in the report.

The report said respondents are also realising that while connectivity is now more important than ever before, digital meetings need to evolve before they become as effective as the



real thing. There is simply a need for tools that better support remote interaction.

The survey around 'Internet of Senses' collected opinions of people on how sensory connectivity through artificial intelligence (AI), augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), 5G and automation can change the work situation for white-collar employees. "Seventy-three per cent

of senior managers believe that food in the company canteen can be digitally enhanced to taste like anything by 2030.

"Sixty-six per cent think that by 2030, technology will enable them to sense when a colleague is upset, that also means their employer will know when they themselves are upset," the report said.

The report said people

expect that there will be wearable devices that will use online weather forecasts and make users feel the oncoming weather, such as the amount of wind or rain that a person will be exposed to during commute or on a customer visit.

"The Internet of Senses will most likely be used for marketing and sales, with 59 per cent saying that spatial video and 50 per

cent saying digital temperature will be used to have more immersive engagements with customers by 2030," the study said.

More than six out of 10 respondents believe that flavours will be digitally tasted by 2030, it added.

"Digital touch tech evolves tactile experiences that eight in 10 believe will be available by 2030 via smartphone screens," the report said.

UN Body To Suggest Global Covid-19 Test Guidelines For Screening Airline Passengers

Agencies

A global aviation manual now under review by a UN body suggests global guidelines calling for the use of highly reliable tests when screening passengers to detect the novel coronavirus ahead of flights, three sources familiar with the matter said.

Carriers and airports are pushing for uniform global testing guidelines to waive strict quarantine requirements that are decimating travel, with airline trade group IATA forecasting a 66% decline in 2020 air traffic because of the pandemic.

Travel restrictions and the use of testing now vary globally. Certain airlines require passengers to obtain a negative test, even as some countries allow visitors in without quarantine, while others bar all non-essential foreigners.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Manual on Testing and Cross Border Risk Management Measures, expected in November, would offer voluntary technical guidance but not oblige countries to remove quarantines.

The manual is not expected to suggest specific tests, such as antigen or polymerase chain reaction



(PCR), the sources said. Instead, it would recommend passengers be screened using a test with a sensitivity and specificity of 95% so there would be few false positives and negatives, the sources added.

Some rapid tests are less sensitive and therefore more likely to miss positive cases than PCR alternatives, although the accuracy gap has narrowed.

One of the sources said a range of tests, with reliability as low as around 80% to close to 100%, had initially been considered.

Another proposal is that passengers be tested up to 48 hours ahead of travel but not necessarily at the airport, the sources said. The sources declined to be identified as the discussions are

confidential.

U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Deputy Administrator Dan Elwell told Reuters on Wednesday that the manual would not be "heavy handed" or provide a prescription for testing. He did not confirm specific details about the manual.

"It's like 'look, if you are going to do pre-departure testing or arrival testing or quarantine, here's how we think you should do it,'" said Elwell, who heads an ICAO working group on issues like testing and quarantines.

ICAO said in an emailed statement the manual provides countries with a risk management framework for evaluating testing options and factors to consider, should a country elect to implement testing.

Cut Chores, Kill Chill Time: New Advice To Boost Children's Academic Outcomes

Agencies

Exploring associations between 24-hour daily activities (sleep, sedentary time, light physical activity and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity) and academic achievement, a world-first study found that the fewer time children spent in light physical activity, the better their academic outcomes.

Specifically, researchers found that lower light physical activity is related to better numeracy and literacy and that higher sedentary time is related to better literacy.

NHMRC Early Career Research



Fellow, UniSA's Dr Dot Dumuid says the findings highlight how light physical activity can drain time from other movement behaviours at the detriment of academic achievement.

"When we talk about what makes up a child's best day for academic achievement, we have to consider all the different elements of that day -- sleep, exercise, activity, rest and play -- but of course,

within the boundaries of 24 hours," Dr Dumuid says.

"If a child is spending more time in light physical activity -- doing chores, playing computer, or just putting around -- then they have less time for sleep, study and moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, all of which are good for academic achievement.

"In some ways it's like Newton's law -- for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction -- yet in this instance, every increase in one behaviour has a corresponding and equal decrease in one or more of the remaining behaviours.

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Principal Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Arreh Kulgam

NO/BHSS/ARREH\_ DATED  
Auction Notice

It is for the information of the general public that auction of scrape/unserviceable items is going to take place in BHSS Arreh on 7th of November 2020 at 12:30 pm. The items to be auctioned include wooden, plastic, iron and computer Hardware materials. In this regard the desirous persons are informed through this notice to participate in the said auction on fixed date & time.

DIPK-8285/20 PRINCIPAL

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir  
Office of the Deputy Director Gamma Unit  
K-01 Forest Protection Force Srinagar.

Corrigendum

Name of work: - Construction of Double Storey Guard Barrack with lavatory blocks at Gamma Unit K-01 Srinagar.

NIT No:- e- NIT NO: - 01 OF 2020-21 DATED: - 28-10-2020

Kindly read funds available Approved/Budgeted instead of funds "partly available" for aforementioned work issued vide above e-NIT no under endorsement No:- DD/FPF/K-01/

NIT/675-80 Dated:- 28 /10/2020  
No:- DD/FPF/K-01/NIT/Corr/691-96  
Dated:- 31 /10/2020

Deputy Director,  
Gamma Unit K-01,  
Forest Protection Force,  
Srinagar.

DIPK-8282/20



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Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

ADMISSION (SELECTION) NOTIFICATION NO. 02 OF 2020

Consequent upon the available vacancies, the candidates bearing following Form Numbers have been provisionally selected/ upgraded in various categories including self-financing category for admission to various programmes for the Academic Session 2020-21.

**B.Tech. Civil Engineering:** OM: 203068\*, 200171\*, 200373\*\*, 200017\*, 202563\*, 202649\*\*, 204015\*, 200724\*, 202887\*, 202358\*, 203305\*, 200802\*, 202614\*, 203399\*\*, 201091\*, 202161\*, **SC/ST/GJB:** 203683\* **RBA:** 202630\*, 202521\*, 200007\*, 202674\*, 204366\*, 203507\* **WUPSC:** 202972\* **SELF-FINANCE:** 203139#, 203133#, 202738, 200177, 203877, 202141, 200549, 200387, 200634, 201290, 203960, 201785, 202680

**B.Tech. Electrical Engineering:** OM: 203139\*, 203133\*, 202167\*, 204274\*, 202152\*, 203715, 201987, 202581, 203583, 203686, 202453, 201248, 203148, 203613, 202691, 203601, 201450, 202850, 203475, 202179, 203653, 202769, 202664, 202909, 203458, 202540, 202406, 203949, 202941, 203164, 203167, 203877 **RBA:** 204350, 201057, 202462, 203229, 203112, 204115 **WUPSC:** 201117 **CDPP:** 203739\* **SELF-FINANCE:** 200280, 203032, 201127, 200535, 202673, 200816, 201354, 203105, 200875, 202458, 203141, 200366, 202710

**B.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering:** OM: 203964\*, 202821\*, 202952\*, 200815\*, 203711\*, 203988\*, 200906\*, 203843\*, 203631\*, 201059\*, 202366\*, 203901\*, 203727\*, 202808\*, 200116\*, 202989\*\*, 201262\*, 202782\*, 202502\*, 203312\*\*, 202508\*, 202350\*, 203594, 203474 **RBA:** 202474\*, 203161, 202434, 202183, 203034 **WUPSC:** 202739 **CDPP:** 203173\* **SELF-FINANCE:** 203195, 200424, 200997, 200133, 200766, 203316, 200346, 200201, 202365, 202712, 202969, 202828, 202322 **NRI SPONSORED QUOTA:** 200030

**B.Tech. Electronics & Communication Engineering:** OM: 202660\*, 203823, 203524, 203131, 202791, 201045, 201589, 202786, 203576, 202628, 201382, 202195, 203043, 202738, 202376, 200177, 203602, 202304, 202371, 202141, 203002, 201507, 203195, 202885, 200858, 203075, 202860, 202162, 202399, 203786, 203344, 203410 **RBA:** 202403, 203178, 204174, 204354, 203308, 202856 **WUPSC:** 204010 **CDPP:** 202915 **SELF-FINANCE:** 200935, 201361, 200788, 202386, 202233, 202454, 200989, 200268, 202718, 200954, 200696, 200485, 203190

**B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering:** OM: 200486, 202030, 203216, 203181, 203212, 201174, 201016, 201292, 202977, 202547, 203554, 203425, 203175, 202695, 200549, 200424, 202606, 203666, 203620, 200387, 202650, 202993, 200634, 200997, 200866, 204264, 200280, 204298, 202355, 202732, 201746, 203373, 202036, 203497 **RBA:** 201594, 202596, 202341, 202984, 202579 **WUPSC:** 203635 **CDPP:** 200432 **SELF-FINANCE:** 200174, 200769, 200914, 202384, 202357, 202602, 202397, 200229, 203295, 200072, 200353, 203076, 200821

**General Waiting List for B.Tech. Engineering:** OM: 202869, 202414, 203689, 202897, 200133, 202916, 204134, 202615, 203349, 202425, 200196, 202840, 202382, 202536, 202682, 200766, 202487, 202765, 203155, 202792, 202570, 203110, 203026, 202645, 204264, 200374, 201756, 201290, 202734, 203579, 204035, 203266, 202741, 200963, 200933, 204302, 202754, 202858, 203203, 203960, 202912, 201623, 201785, 202409, 202320, 203685, 204266, 202654, 202878, 204245, 203109, 202592, 204120, 202565, 202656, 204110, 203182, 203442, 203310, 203861, 202657, 203406, 202875, 202510, 203718, 203037, 202529, 200768, 202500, 202990, 203814, 202486, 201231, 202243, 202724 **RBA:** 200727, 203723, 202752, 203992, 202865, 203875, 203097, 203048, 202084, 203137 **WUPSC:** 204357, 200004, 202082, 203190, 201739 **SELF-FINANCE:** 203785, 202324, 204077, 200606, 200805, 202412, 203752, 204106, 202335, 202309, 200551, 200041, 202826, 201420, 200344, 200030, 200571, 200709, 202879, 202498, 201363, 202263, 203596, 203918, 201261, 201543, 203878, 201337, 200259, 200430

**B.A. (Hons.) in English:** OM: 204170, 201410, 201052, 202119, 200366, 200664, 200092, 200199, 201223, 204158, 204307, 202186 **RBA:** 204315, 204295, 201612 **CDPP:** 200099 **SELF-FINANCE:** 203431, 200803, 200019, 200660, 203061, 200982, 201302 **NRI SPONSORED QUOTA:** 200982 **WAITING:** OM: 203641, 201407, 201490, 201694, 203802, 204165, 203414, 200381, 203431, 203202, 200151, 201702 **RBA:** 200600, 201673 **SELF-FINANCE:** 200398, 200468, 201214, 201081, 203928, 202537, 203834, 203911

**B.Sc. Actuarial & Financial Mathematics:** OM: 201314, 202087, 202500, 203075, 202046, 201992, 204352, 200939, 203397, 201777, 204168, 201680, 203450, 202775, 203052, 201627, 200340, 202033, 201505, 202776, 203255, 203267, 203135, 203545

**B.Tech. Food Technology:** OM: 201092, 202234, 202119, 200690, 203181, 203063, 200199, 204059, 202186, 203402, 204035, 201674, 203608, 203917, 200614, 202002, 204210, 200934, 202227, 203202, 203538, 202290\*\*, 200242, 204222, 204033, 203955, 200676, 201280, 202952, 201676, 203065, 202087, 203311, 202938 **RBA:** 204223, 200181, 201675, 202986, 202856 **WUPSC:** 201653 **SELF-FINANCE:** 202544, 200731, 200570, 200468, 201081, 200186, 203717, 203834, 203781 **NRI SPONSORED QUOTA:** 204761 **WAITING:** OM: 204022, 202544, 200466, 202411, 202515, 203726, 200321, 200655, 201135, 200731, 202992, 202940, 200016, 201205, 203811, 201821, 203077, 201095, 203926, 202500, 203741, 203806, 203075, 203334, 202224, 200166, 202402, 203566, 200597, 201533 **WUPSC:** 202496, 200237

**MBA (5-Year Integrated):** OM: 204109, 200199, 202307, 203775, 204059, 201037, 200110, 201355, 200502, 200214, 203379, 200242, 203740, 200355, 200218, 200874, 202087, 200427, 200865, 200173, 204177, 200466, 200071, 200389, 202560, 200655, 203726, 204058 **RBA:** 201953 **WUPSC:** 202446 **CDPP:** 200793 **SELF-FINANCE:** 200956, 200493, 201526, 201406, 201503, 203160, 200134, 200429, 200698, 200468, 201081 **NRI SPONSORED QUOTA:** 204762, 202217 **WAITING:** OM: 200956, 202166, 202777, 200569, 204193, 201526, 201406, 201503, 203160, 201192, 203926, 200134, 203075, 203657, 200379, 203566, 200597, 201302, 202008, 200429, 202027, 203896, 202150 **SELF-FINANCE:** 203887, 202217, 203834, 203319, 203781, 201389, 203531, 202075

**B. Voc. (Medical Lab & Molecular Diagnostic Technology):** OM: 204092, 203482, 200405, 202702, 202945, 200119, 202774, 201160, 200595, 204187, 204137, 201348, 203402, 202697, 202197, 203358 **RBA:** 204122 **WAITING:** OM: 202204, 201132, 203917, 201145, 202594, 201853, 200419, 200927, 201197, 204101, 203802, 203431, 202227, 202417, 204161, 200242, 200646, 203955, 204033, 201175

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 **09-11-2020 (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 **09-11-2020** 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 candidates having **SINGLE ASTERISK MARK (\*)** superscribed on their Form Numbers are already admitted candidates and have been upgraded from one branch to another in view of their merit and preference. Such candidates are informed to note about the allotment of their upgraded branches for future references.
- The candidates having **DOUBLE ASTERISK MARK (\*\*)** superscribed on their Form Numbers may note that they have been upgraded reserved category to OM in the already allotted branch in view of their merit and preference. Such candidates are informed to note about the allotment of their updated category for future references.
- The candidates having **HASH MARK (#)** superscribed on their Form Numbers are advised to report at above mentioned address by or before **09-11-2020** for the final allocation of their branches, failing which the candidate shall be retained in the already registered branch.
- The Selection List of candidates under Sports Category will be notified after the receipt of verification report from J&K Sports Council.
- In case of any available vacancy (ies) after **09-11-2020**, 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 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 **09-11-2020 (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.

No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/20/643

Dated: 02-11-2020

(Errors & Omissions Excepted)-

Sd/-  
Deputy Registrar, Academics



## Veteran British journalist Robert Fisk dies at 74

### Agencies

Washington: Veteran British journalist Robert Fisk has died at the age of 74, The Guardian reported late on Sunday.

Fisk was admitted to St Vincent's hospital in Dublin on Friday after suffering a suspected stroke and died shortly afterwards, according to a re-



port on the BBC.

Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar expressed sadness on the journalist's death. "A fearless journalist who understood the Middle East better than almost any other Western journalist and wrote the truth with clarity and without fear," he said.

Renowned historian William Dalrymple said the late journalist was "fearless" and his book Pity the Nation was "extraordinary".

Fisk started his career at the Sunday Express before moving to The Times, working as their correspondent in Belfast during the Northern

Ireland conflict.

In 1976, Fisk became the Middle East correspondent for the paper, covering the Lebanese civil war, the Iranian revolution, the Iran-Iraq war and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

He switched to The Independent in 1989 where he continued to work until his death. The paper said "Fisk was renowned for his courage in questioning official narratives from governments and publishing what he uncovered in frequently brilliant prose."

The paper's managing director said: "Fearless, uncompromising, determined and utterly committed to uncovering the truth and reality at all costs, Robert Fisk was the greatest journalist of his generation. The fire he lit at The Independent will burn on."

Fisk spoke Arabic fluently and interviewed Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden twice, according to the publication.

He was also the author of several books on Northern Ireland and the Middle East, including Pity the Nation: Lebanon at War and The Great War for Civilisation.

Fisk won various awards, including the Orwell Prize for Journalism, Amnesty Award and multiple wins at the British Press Awards in the categories of international reporter of the year and foreign reporter of the year.

## Our Position Is Clear, Will Focus On "Actions" Of New US Administration: Iran

### Agencies

Tehran: Iran's foreign ministry said Monday it will focus on the "actions" of the new US administration rather than who wins the White House, a day before Americans vote.

"Our position is clear: we do not look at (what happens) tomorrow, we will be watching the ap-



proach of the new US administration, whichever party it's from," ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters.

"More than the result of the election, we will pay attention to the actions" of whoever is president, he added.

Since unilaterally withdrawing from a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran and world powers in 2018, the Republican administration of President Donald Trump has re-imposed - and extended - crippling sanctions on Iran.

Trump's Democratic chal-

lenger, Joe Biden, has said he wants to use the 2015 nuclear accord - a pact hammered out when he was vice president under Barack Obama - as a "starting-point for follow-on negotiations" with Tehran.

Iranian officials have repeatedly said they favour no specific candidate in the race, while also calling for a return to the nuclear accord, the lifting of sanctions and compensation for damages caused.

"What is clear is that both parties have realised the extent of the failure of their policies" regarding Iran, Khatibzadeh added, referring to the Republican and Democratic parties, and emphasising that the "framework for talks" is the nuclear deal.

US intelligence last month accused both Iran and Russia of trying to interfere in the 2020 election, charges which Tehran has strongly denied.

Tehran "has repeatedly stated that it neither has any interest in interfering in the US election nor does it think interference would be to anyone's benefit," Khatibzadeh said, calling US allegations "baseless."

"The US election has turned into a show, and as in a show, they try to create more attractions," he added.



## Kaba To Open For Umrah by Foreign Pilgrims

### Agencies

MAKKAH: After a seven-month hiatus, some 10,000 pilgrims were scheduled to arrive in Saudi Arabia from abroad to perform Umrah and visit Masjid-i-Nabawi in Madina on Sunday, the first day of the third stage of the resumption of Umrah.

The 10,000 international pilgrims will first have to obtain a permit and upon their arrival in Saudi Arabia they will be kept in isolation for three days before being transported to Miqat sites, principal boundaries at which pilgrims

intending to perform Umrah must change into Ihram.

The kingdom's deputy minister of Haj and Umrah, Dr Amr Al-Maddah, said that the 10,000 pilgrims can stay in the country for up to 10 days, three of which are for isolation. As per protocol, 500 groups of international pilgrims are dispersed throughout the day, each with 20 pilgrims. The maximum age limit for international pilgrims is 50.

According to Arab News, the deputy minister said that countries are subject to continuous evaluation as part of

the government's approved standards and protocols. Visas for pilgrims arriving from countries that are seeing a noticeable increase in numbers will be placed on hold.

With the start of the third stage, the holy mosques will be working at 100 per cent capacity, a pivotal stage for companies in the sector.

According to the deputy minister, if at any stage there is a cause for concern or danger to pilgrims, the ministry will evaluate the situation and return to previous stages and decrease capacity.

## Joe Biden in lead, Trump catching up in swing states: Poll survey

### Agencies

New York: With two days to go, Democrat Joe Biden holds a commanding national lead over President Donald Trump amid deep voter concerns about the Covid pandemic, but Trump is keeping his hopes alive by staying competitive in the swing states that could decide the White House race.

Biden's national lead over the Republican president has stayed relatively steady in recent months as the public health crisis has persisted. He is ahead 51% to 43% in the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll taken October 27-29. But Trump is close to Biden in enough state battlegrounds to give him the 270 state Electoral College votes needed to win a second term.

The survey shows that the race remains a toss up in Florida, North Carolina and Arizona. Trump also trails by five points in Pennsylvania and nine points in Michigan and Wisconsin, three other battleground states that helped give him an Electoral College win in 2016 over Hillary Clinton.

Meanwhile, Indian-American supporters of both parties have intensified their

campaign. Two recent surveys show Indian-Americans support Biden. — Agencies



### Prez's frenzied campaigning

Washington: Donald Trump on Sunday launches his final, two-day sprint of campaigning across the battleground states of the 2020 election in a dramatic bid to defy the polls and win a come-from-behind victory over Democrat Joe Biden. He will hold five rallies in five states on Sunday alone. He'll hold seven more on Monday to close out the final full day of the campaign. Agencies

### Helped none, but himself: Obama

Pittsburg: Trump is focused on feeding his ego and has not shown any interest in helping anyone except himself, whereas his Democratic rival Joe Biden cares about the Covid pandemic and keeping

"your family safe," said Barack Obama. He blasted Trump during Michigan rallies. PTI

### Trump rallies led to 30,000 Covid cases: Stanford study

New York: About 18 election rallies of Donald Trump are estimated to have led to more than 30,000 Covid cases and likely claimed over 700 lives, a new study by Stanford University researchers said, stressing that the communities where the US President's rallies took place "paid a high price in terms of disease and death." The study is titled The Effects of Large Group Meetings on the Spread of COVID-19: The Case of Trump Rallies.

### 'Republicans need 4 more years'

Canfield: Donald Trump is a warrior and needs four more years in the White House, his daughter Ivanka Trump has said, asserting that he delivered more than his commitment to his countrymen. Addressing a large crowd on Saturday in Ohio, which is a battleground State for the November 3 presidential election, Ivanka said Trump had taken the US in the right direction in four years.

## Gunmen kill at least 19 people in attack on Kabul university

### Agencies

Kabul: Gunmen attacked Kabul University's campus on Monday, killing at least 19 people including students and trading fire with security forces, an Afghan government official and witnesses said.

At least 22 others were injured, according to the spokesperson for the Afghan interior ministry. The attackers were targeting students and fired on them as they fled in the Afghan capital, one witness said.

"They were shooting at every student they saw," Fathullah Moradi told Reuters, saying he had managed to escape through one of the university's gates with a group of friends. The attack took place as the

lowed an explosion in the area.

The attack ended after several hours with security forces killing three of the attackers, the interior ministry spokesperson said.

While Afghan officials declined to discuss the bookfair, Iran's semiofficial ISNA news agency reported on Sunday that Iranian Ambassador Bahador Aminian and cultural attaché Mojtaba Noroozi were scheduled to inaugurate the fair, which would host some 40 Iranian publishers. Iranian state television reported the attack occurred, but did not offer information on its officials. Iranian diplomats have been targeted previously by attacks in the country and nearly sparked a war between the two countries. In 1998, Iran held



varsity was hosting a book fair attended by the Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan.

The Taliban said their fighters were not involved in the assault. No other group immediately claimed responsibility. Witnesses said the attack fol-

the Taliban responsible for the deaths of nine Iranian diplomats who were working in its consulate in northern Afghanistan and sent reinforcements to the 950-kilometre-long border that Iran and Afghanistan share.

## China Wants To Build A Tibet With More Wealth And Less Buddhism

### Agencies

Beijing: Sitting in a home built by Chinese authorities near Tibet's capital of Lhasa, one of the highest cities in the world, Sunnamdanba tells foreign journalists on a government-sponsored tour how much the Communist Party has improved life - and how irrelevant religion has become for him.

"I could have never dreamed my life would be so good," the 41-year-old father of two, who by tradition uses only one name, said in comments translated by a local official. Foreign journalists can only report from the region on trips organized by the government.

Asked about the Dalai Lama, Tibet's 85-year-old spiritual leader now living in exile and condemned by China as a separatist, Sunnamdanba said: "I never met him and I don't understand him."

And Buddhism, the religion that has for more than a millennium been the foundation of Tibetan culture? "I spend most of my time and energy now on work and making a living," he said. "There's less time to spend on religion."

Why hang a portrait of President Xi Jinping in your living room? "None of this could have happened without the party."

### Legitimacy to Rule

For China, showcasing Tibetans singing the Communist

Party's praises helps affirm its legitimacy to rule the region, something that's weighed on Beijing's ties with the West since a failed uprising in 1959 forced the Dalai Lama to flee and set up a government-in-exile in northern India. It's become more important recently as politicians in the U.S., Europe and India accuse China of using forced labor, detentions and re-education campaigns to assimilate ethnic minorities in its borderlands.

The Trump administration's newly appointed special envoy for Tibetan issues met with the head of the exiled Tibetan administration this month, generating outrage from China. India, which only recognized Beijing's sovereignty over the area in 2003, also recently venerated a Tibetan soldier who died fighting against China this year in the worst clashes along the border since a 1962 war.

Tensions have risen in other areas as well. Earlier this year, a Chinese government effort to make Mandarin Chinese the language of instruction at schools in a region inhabited by ethnic Mongolians sparked street protests. And in Xinjiang, a province directly north of Tibet, outrage over China's move to detain more than a million minority Uighur Muslims in re-education camps has led some U.S. lawmakers to push for the actions to be declared "genocide."

### NEWS MAKERS

## Jacinda Ardern names 'incredibly diverse' New Zealand cabinet

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern unveiled what she called an "incredibly diverse" cabinet on Monday, as she promised to prioritise economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Former Finance Minister Grant Robertson was named deputy prime minister, the first openly gay person to hold the position. He also retains the finance portfolio.

Women and the Maori community were also strongly represented in the 20-member cabinet, including new Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta, who has a "moko kauae" - a traditional Maori tattoo on her chin.

New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (right) and Nanaia Mahuta who has just been made foreign minister [File: Bianca de Marchi/Pool via AFP]

Ardern has revamped her ministerial lineup in the wake of a landslide election victory, allowing her to form the first sin-

gle-party government since New Zealand moved to a German-style system of proportional representation in 1996.



"The next three years will be very challenging for New Zealand," she told reporters in Wellington. "With the global outlook worsening we won't be immune to the ongoing effect COVID is having around the world."

While expressing pride at her cabinet's diversity, Ardern also said appointments were made on merit.

"It is both a cabinet with huge merit and talent, which also happens to be incredibly diverse," the 40-year-old said.

"I think it's an important

point to make - these are individuals who have been promoted for what they bring to the cabinet, they also reflect the New Zealand that elected them.

"I think as a country we should be proud of this."

Ardern won the October 17 election campaigning on New Zealand's success containing the coronavirus and her cabinet includes a new role of minister for COVID-19 response, filled by former Health Minister Chris Hipkins.

She said the change would allow Hipkins to focus on issues such as border control and managed isolation, without distraction from the wider health portfolio.

She also appointed two legislators from the Green Party to ministries outside the cabinet.

One Greens co-leader, James Shaw, will become climate change minister and the other, Marama Davidson, will have a portfolio focusing on preventing family and sexual violence.

## 3-Year-Old Rescued 65 Hours After Deadly Turkey Earthquake

Bayrakli: Rescuers pulled two children from the rubble in a town in western Turkey on Monday, nearly three days after a powerful earthquake hit the Aegean, killing 85 people.

Three-year-old Elif Perincek was rescued 65 hours after the 7.0-magnitude quake struck Turkey and Greece on Friday, the Turkish emergency authority AFAD said.

Local media showed a video of a little girl wrapped up in a foil blanket quickly taken to safety in the coastal town of Bayrakli - the hardest hit by the disaster - as rescue workers broke into applause.

"I'm so happy, God bless you. I'm reunited with Elif," her grandmother said, quoted by state broadcaster TRT. "My prayers were answered."

Elif was the 106th person pulled out alive from collapsed buildings in Bayrakli, which included her mother and three siblings the day before.

But her rescued brother later died, TRT reported.

AFAD also reported the rescue of 14-year-old Idil Sirin in Bayrakli, 58 hours after the quake hit, levelling buildings in both Turkey and Greece.

But the family's joy was brief as the lifeless body of Idil's sister, Ipek, was found, the Hurriyet newspaper reported. "I can't hear any sounds from my



sister, she's dead," Idil told rescuers as she was being pulled out, Hurriyet said.

Turkey's count from the quake is continuing to rise, with Environment Minister Murat Kurum reporting 83 dead.

Nearly 1,000 people were injured, with over 200 still in hospital.

Two teenagers were also killed on their way home from school on the Greek island of Samos, near the epicentre of the quake.

Racing against time, search and rescue workers are still on a desperate search to try to find people alive in the rubble in Bayrakli, an AFP correspondent at the scene said.

## Prince William Had COVID-19 In April, Kept It Secret: Reports

London: Prince William, second-in-line to the British throne, contracted coronavirus in April but kept his diagnosis secret, media reported on Monday.

The Sun newspaper said the Duke of Cambridge, 38, was diagnosed shortly after his father, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, announced he had caught the virus in late March.

But he did not make the diagnosis public "because he didn't want to alarm the nation", the tabloid said. The BBC also reported the story, quoting a palace source.

William's Kensington Palace office would not confirm the reports when contacted by AFP but also did not deny they were true.

"There were important things going on and I didn't want to worry anyone", the prince was reported to have told a guest at an engagement, adding he was "determined it should be business as usual"



# India, World's Largest Consumer Of Sugar, Wants People To Eat More



In a world where sugar has attracted increasing scrutiny for its impact on health and obesity, there are moves afoot in the biggest consuming country to persuade people to eat more of the sweetener.

Mills in India are eyeing increased consumption as a way to cut the nation's chronic oversupply, which stems partly from the favorable incentives provided to growers in politically powerful rural areas. High production costs mean the country finds it hard to sell sugar on the global market without subsidies.

To push forward their initiative, the mills have begun an online campaign to boost domestic demand, involving workshops and webinars, where everyone from nutritionists and endocrinologists, to public health experts and medical practitioners will share their expertise and knowledge.

"Sugar is the most preferred source of the body's fuel for brain power, muscle energy and every natural process that goes into proper functioning of our body cells," the Indian Sugar

Mills Association said, adding that the calories in sugar are the same as calories from any other food, and it's only when calories are not burnt adequately or too many are consumed, that body weight increases.

**Social Media**

Consumption in India has stagnated at 19 kilograms per capita per year compared with a global average of 23 kilograms as social media campaigns saying the cane-based sweetener is unhealthy discourage people from eating it, according to the association. Per capita consumption growth between 2000 and 2016 was among the lowest in the world, it said.

If per capita consumption rises to the global average, domestic demand will climb by 5.2 million tons a year, according to Sudhanshu Pandey, the top bureaucrat at the food ministry. That would slash the surplus, cut overseas sales and save the government money by reducing export subsidies.

India, also the world's second-biggest producer, exported a record 5.65 million tons in 2019-20, with the help of these subsidies, which are opposed by Australia, Brazil and Guatemala. Mills are aiming to ship 6 million tons in 2020-21 with production expected to rise 13% after good rains boosted planting.

# Four Booked For Offering Namaz At Mathura Temple



**MATHURA:** Police have booked four people after a video clip showing members of their group offering namaz on the premises of a temple here surfaced on social media, official said.

According to the FIR, the accused reportedly belonged to a Delhi-based organisation, Khudai Khidmatgar, and came to Mathura's Nand Baba temple on Thursday, where they first offered prayers.

They have been identified as Faizal Khan, Chand Mohammad, Alok Ratan and Neellesh Gupta.

Kanha Goswami, a temple priest, said he was impressed as Faizal Khan chanted a few lines of the Ramcharitmanas and showed him their photographs with noted seers.

The priest said the group told him that they are on a "parikarma" (circumambulation) of the "Brij Chaurasi kos" on bicycles.

Later, Faizal and Chand Mohammad held a namaz at a secluded place on the temple premises without permission, he said, adding that he had no objection to their entry to the temple but they attempted to erode the sanctity of the shrine.

It is also suspected in the FIR that the accused might have made the video of the incident, which has gone viral on social media.

An apprehension about funding by a foreign organisation

has also been expressed in the FIR, registered under Sections 153-A, 295 and 505 of the IPC on Sunday.

Reacting to the incident, another priest said they have decided to purify the temple as per the Hindu tradition.

"The sanctity of the temple will be revived by cleaning it with the water from the holy Ganga and Yamuna," temple priest Sushil Goshwami said.

It will be followed by a "yajna" amidst chanting of vedic hymns, he said.

Meanwhile, an organisation representing priests sought stern action against the accused for attempting to jeopardise the communal harmony in Mathura.

Mahesh Pathak, national president of the Akhil Bhartiya Tirath Purohit Mahasabha, said their conduct is unpardonable as they tried to "spoil" the atmosphere of Mathura where people from both communities live like brothers.

He said they appeared to belong to a paid outfit, sent to destroy the communal harmony between both communities.

Stressing that Mathura had always propagated the message of love and peace in the world, Pathak requested police to take stern action against them.

He also urged people stay vigilant as such incidents may hit the tourism sector and result in economic losses. — PTI



**TWO WOMEN** help each other carry dry grass, while a man looks after the produce at their vegetable garden in Srinagar outskirts on Monday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

# Mutation In Novel Coronavirus May Have Made It More Contagious: Study

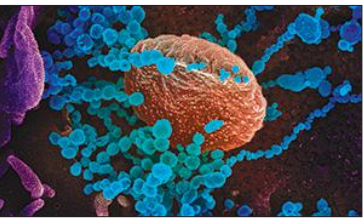
The novel coronavirus is accumulating genetic mutations, one of which may have made it more contagious, according to a study involving more than 5,000 COVID-19 patients in the US.

The research, published in the journal mBio, however, did not find that these mutations have made the virus deadlier or changed clinical outcomes.

The researchers noted that the mutation, called D614G, is located in the spike protein that pries open our cells for viral entry.

"The virus is mutating due to a combination of neutral drift -- which just means random genetic changes that don't help or hurt the virus -- and pressure from our immune systems," said Ilya Finkelstein, associate professor at The University of Texas at Austin, US.

The researchers noted that during the initial wave of the pandemic, 71 per cent of the novel coronaviruses identified in patients in Houston had this mutation.



When the second wave of the outbreak hit Houston during the summer, this variant had leaped to 99.9 per cent prevalence, they said.

This mirrors a trend observed around the world, according to the researchers. The reason why strains containing this mutation outcompete those that didn't have it may be that natural selection would favour strains of the virus that transmit more easily, the researchers said.

However, some scientists have suggested another explanation, called "founder's effects."

In that scenario, the D614G muta-

tion might have been more common in the first viruses to arrive in Europe and North America, essentially giving them a head start on other strains, according to the researchers.

The spike protein is also continuing to accumulate additional mutations of unknown significance, they said.

The team also showed in lab experiments that at least one such mutation allows spike to evade a neutralising antibody that humans naturally produce to fight SARS-CoV-2 infections.

The researchers said this may allow that variant of the virus to more easily slip past our immune systems.

Although it is not clear yet whether that translates into it also being more easily transmitted between individuals, they said.

The scientists noted a total of 285 mutations across thousands of infections, although most don't appear to have a significant effect on how severe the disease is.

# Bihar Elections: Manjhi Demands Judicial Probe Into Paswan's Death, Chirag Smells "Plot" By Nitish

NDA ally HAM created a flutter on Monday with its leader Jitan Ram Manjhi demanding a judicial inquiry into the death of union minister Ram Vilas Paswan while pointing an accusing finger at Chirag Paswan, prompting the IJP chief to claim it was a "plot" by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to discredit him when the election was underway.

Chirag Paswan, in an angry retort to Manjhi, said the former chief minister should ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the issue. Paswan Jr. said Modi used to call him up every day to inquire after his late father when he was sick and hospitalised, sometimes to even inform him about the IJP founder's condition after talking to doctors attending to him.

"I request the prime minister to order a judicial probe into the death of Ram Vilas Paswan to unravel the dubious role of Chirag Paswan in the matter," Manjhi said.

HAM spokesman Danish Rizwan also wrote a letter to Modi backing the demand while citing a video of Chirag rehearsing before issuing a video message a day after the death of his father where he was purportedly seen joking with the people present and even talking about the texture of his hair.

Chirag Paswan accused Nitish Kumar of "scripting a plot to settle political scores with him" and instigating the HAM to rake up an emotional issue to blunt the IJP's campaign to prevent him from becoming the chief minister once again.

Manjhi wanted to know who ordered



the hospital to not issue regular health bulletins of Paswan, who was "such a big leader". Manjhi also claimed people were prevented from meeting the Dalit leader when he was hospitalised.

Chirag Paswan had informed people about the death of his father through a tweet on October 8.

Manjhi claimed it was being speculated that the IJP leader had died 2-3 days ago.

"When he had telephoned me when my father was in hospital, I told him everything. He neither called me again nor visited Papa in the hospital," Chirag Paswan told a press conference.

Ever since his return to the NDA, facilitated by Kumar, Manjhi and his party have been routinely targeting the IJP, which has walked out of the ruling alliance in Bihar and is going solo at the hustings. Chirag has also frequently launched vicious attacks on the chief minister.

Both the HAM and the IJP draw strength from Dalit voters, and Manjhi was not on good terms with Ram Vilas Paswan when the two were partners in the NDA in the 2015 assembly election.

"Kumar, who is now showing concern

about my father's death, never telephoned me to know about his health leave alone visiting him in the hospital," the IJP president said.

"On the other hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was kind enough and used to telephone me almost twice a day to inquire about Papa's health and sometimes even tell me what the doctors are saying about his medical condition."

He recalled Modi had told his first rally of the election in Sasaram that Paswan stood with him till his last breath.

"Indeed he (Modi) was the only person who was sincerely bothered about him till he breathed his last," the 38-year-old IJP chief, who recently declared himself Modi's Hanuman, said.

Flanked by BJP and JD(U) rebels like Rajendra Singh and Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha, he claimed while there were smiles on the faces of IJP candidates after the first phase of polls, Kumar was glum.

"Nitish Kumar will be sent packing after November 10," he asserted.

Electorate in 94 assembly seats will vote on Tuesday.

Reaffirming that a BJP-IJP government will be formed after the election, Paswan said IJP workers were silently helping BJP candidates in many constituencies and activists of the saffron party were reciprocating the gesture.

The IJP has fielded a total of 52 candidates for the second phase of poll on November 3, including 43 seats where JD(U) nominees are in the fray.

# 31% Candidates In Bihar Phase 3 Polls Face Criminal Charges: Report

**NEW DELHI:** Out of 1,195 candidates contesting in phase-3 of the Bihar assembly elections later this week, 31 per cent have declared criminal cases against themselves, according to a report by poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

About 282 or 24 per cent have declared serious criminal cases against themselves. Serious criminal cases are non-bailable offences attracting over five years of imprisonment, the report said.

As many as 361 or 30 per cent of these candidates have stated their financial assets to be worth crores of rupees, the report said.

Out of 1,195 candidates analyzed, 371 or 31 per cent have declared criminal cases against themselves, it said.



According to the report, 32 (73 per cent) out of 44 candidates analysed from the RJD have declared criminal cases against themselves and 22 (50 per cent) of them have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

About 26 (76 per cent) out of 34 candidates analysed from the BJP have declared criminal cases against themselves and 22 (65 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits, the report said.

It said about 19 (76 per cent) out of 25 candidates analysed from the Congress have declared criminal cases against themselves and 14 (56 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

About 18 (43 per cent) out of 42 candidates analysed from the IJP, 21 (57 per cent) out of 37 candidates analysed from the JD(U) and 5 (26 per cent) out of 19 candidates analysed from the BSP have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

Eleven (26 per cent) out of 42 candidates analysed from IJP, 11 (30 per cent) out of 37 candidates analysed from JD(U) and 4 (21 per cent) out of 19 candidates analysed from the BSP have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

As many as 37 candidates have declared cases related to crimes against women and five of them have declared cases related to rape, the report said.

The report said 20 candidates have declared cases related to murder (IPC Section-302) against themselves and 73 candidates have declared cases related to attempt to murder (IPC Section-307) against themselves.

As many as 72 (92 per cent) out of 78 constituencies are red alert constituencies, i.e. those where three or more contesting can-

didates have declared criminal cases against themselves, it said.

The findings of the report were unveiled at a press briefing by the ADR.

Jagdeep Chhokar, founder member and trustee of ADR and National Election Watch, said the directions of the Supreme Court have had "no effect" on the political parties in selection of candidates as they have again followed their old practice of giving tickets to candidates with criminal cases.

"All major parties contesting in Bihar Phase III elections have given tickets to 26 per cent to 76 per cent candidates who have declared criminal cases against themselves," he said.

The Supreme Court in its directions in February had asked political parties to give reasons for selecting candidates with criminal backgrounds and why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.

"This data clearly shows that political parties have no interest in reforming the electoral system and our democracy will continue to suffer at the hands of lawbreakers who become lawmakers," Chhokar said.

The details of the financial background of the candidates was also given in the report.

"Out of the 1,195 candidates, 361 (30 per cent) are crorepatis. Among the major parties 31 (91 per cent) out of 34 candidates analysed from BJP, 17 (68 per cent) out of 25 candidates analysed from Congress, 35 (80 per cent) out of 44 candidates analysed from RJD, 30 (81 per cent) out of 37 candidates analysed from JD(U), 31 (74 per cent) out of 42 candidates analysed from IJP and 10 (53 per cent) out of 19 candidates from BSP have declared assets worth more than 1 crore," the report said.

The average of assets per candidate contesting in the Bihar Assembly Elections 2020 Phase III is 1.47 crore, the report said.

"Among major parties, the average assets per candidate for 25 INC candidates analysed is 2.57 crores, 37 JD(U) candidates analysed is 3.31 crores, 44 RJD candidates have average assets of 4.79 crores, 42 IJP candidates have average assets of 3.14 crores, 34 BJP candidates have average assets of 3.86 crores and 19 BSP candidates have average assets worth 3.36 crore," it said.

# Poet Munawwar Rana Booked For Remarks On France

A case has been registered against renowned poet Munawwar Rana at the Hazratganj police station for his remarks on the France issue.

The case has been filed on the complaint of Inspector Deepak Pandey and the poet has been accused of disrupting social harmony and communal peace.

Rana had come out in support of the attacker in France by justifying the killings.

Munawwar Rana had said that the caricatures are made to defame Prophet Muhammad and Islam. Such acts force people to take extreme steps as



in the case of France. He further said that he too would have done the same had he been in his place.

Meanwhile, talking to the media on Monday, Munawwar Rana said that he would fight the case to its logical end.

"If this government has its way, it would have blamed me for the Bkru carnage as well," he said.

## NEWS MAKER

# These Are The Airlines On The Brink Of Ruin In Coronavirus Crisis

Having a home government with deep -- and open -- pockets is emerging as key in terms of whether an airline will make it through the coronavirus pandemic.

Carriers in jurisdictions where there is scant support from up high are most likely to go bust, according to an analysis by Bloomberg News. Using the Z-score method developed by Edward Altman in the 1960s to predict bankruptcies, Bloomberg sifted through available data on listed commercial airlines to identify the ones most prone to financial strife.

Versus the same analysis done in March, when the virus was just starting to spread beyond China into parts of Asia and Europe, rapidly cutting off international travel, the results show a clear swing to the West. At least four of the 10 airlines named back then have restructured in some fashion, and all but one were in Asia.

The list now is populated more by carriers in Africa and Latin America,



where some have already folded or entered administration. Representatives from Medview Airlines Plc, Precision Air Services Ltd., Grupo Aeromexico SAB and Gol Linhas Aereas Inteligentes SA didn't immediately respond to requests seeking comment.

AirAsia Group Bhd. and Azul SA declined to comment. Thai Airways International Plc said a reorganization plan will be proposed to the Central Bank-

ruptcy Court by the end of the year, and noted the company plans to fulfill its commitments to all creditors.

A spokesman for Pakistan International Airlines Corp. said while data may show the airline's liabilities exceed assets by around four times, "in reality it's different because those liabilities are extended on sovereign guarantees and servicing is done through the government budget. In that sense,

the situation isn't as it shows. We're comparatively doing okay."

That's not to say Asia is out of the woods. AirAsia X Bhd., AirAsia's long-haul budget arm, is restructuring more than \$15 billion of debt and the future of state-run Malaysia Airlines Bhd. remains uncertain. The director of aviation development at the Malaysian Aviation Commission, Germal Singh, said recently the government is unlikely to intervene to help out.

**Cash Burn**

In Latin America, Grupo Aeromexico SAB last month received a \$1 billion bankruptcy loan, while Colombia's largest airline, Avianca Holdings SA, is awaiting court approval for a \$2 billion financing plan as it reorganizes under Chapter 11. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has ruled out bailouts for large companies, while a Colombian court in September temporarily blocked a \$370 million government loan to Avianca after a citizen expressed concern about a lack of guarantees.

# Proxy Writer In Assam JEE-Mains Scam Arrested At Guwahati Airport

**GUWAHATI:** The proxy writer in the Joint Entrance Examination (Mains) scam was arrested on Sunday evening from Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International airport in Guwahati, police said.

The Assam Police Headquarters said in a release that Bhargav Deka, the owner of a city-based coaching institute Global Edu Light, has been arrested.

Police had launched a hunt to arrest the two accused - Deka and a Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) employee - in connection with the examination scam in which a candidate used a proxy and topped in the state.

So far, seven persons have been arrested with five, including the candidate, his father, two TCS employees, and an investigator arrested on Wednesday and remanded to five days

police custody.

The arrested have been identified as candidate Neel Nakshatra Das, his father Dr Jyotirmoy Das and three alleged accomplices Hemendra Nath Sarma, Pranjal Kalita and Hirukamal Pathak.

One woman was held on Saturday, Police Commissioner Munna Prasad Gupta said.

Meanwhile, police has approached the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the exam across the country, and sought data to aid the investigation.

The NTA had outsourced the infrastructural and human resources support to TCS for conducting the examinations.

Guwahati Additional Deputy Commissioner (West) Supportive Lal Baruah is heading a spe-

cial investigating team set up to probe the scam, which came to light following a recorded phone call conversation that went viral, where the candidate had admitted to his friend that a proxy was used for appearing in the exam held on September 5.

Subsequently, an FIR (First Information Report) was filed by a person named Mitradev Sharma on October 23, alleging that the candidate who scored 99.8 per cent in the JEE (Mains) did not take the test, but used a proxy to do so on his behalf.

The complainant had also alleged that the parents of the candidate, both of whom are practicing doctors, had paid a sum of 15-20 lakh to a private coaching institute in Guwahati to help their son in the examination.