



Maximum : 19°C
Minum : 03°C
Humidity : 44%

SUNSET
Today 05:34 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:54 AM



News Digest

Youth Uploads Obscene Content, Booked

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday booked a youth for blackmailing a woman and uploading her obscene pictures on social media in Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Acting on a complaint by a woman alleging that some miscreants have been blackmailing her and had uploaded her obscene pictures on social media, police swiftly acted and arrested an accused identified as Asif Rasool Wani of Drangbal, Pampore, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. Accordingly, he said a case FIR Number 89/2020 under section 354A, 354C, 54D, 509, 500, ● P-02

Two Killed In Nashri Tunnel Accident

Ramban- Two people were killed and another critically injured when their car crashed into an emergency exit gate inside Chennani-Nashri tunnel along the Jammu-Srinagar highway near here, officials said on Wednesday. The vehicle was on its way to Ramban from Udhampur district and the accident took place late on Tuesday night, they said. The officials said the car hit gate number 16 after its driver lost control over the vehicle, resulting in the death of two of its occupants, including the driver, and injuries to another. They identified the deceased as Bittu Sharma (40) ● P-02

KPDCL Employee Hurt By Stray Bullet

Srinagar: A Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) employee on Wednesday was injured after being hit by a stray bullet in Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The soldiers were doing practice at Wanigam Pattan when a bullet accidentally hit the hand of KPDCL employee while he was repairing a transmission line behind the headquarters of Army 10 Sector, news agency KNT reported Wednesday. The injured employee identified as Showkat Ahmed of Checkpora Budgam was shifted to Sub District Hospital Kreeri ● P-02

2 Held For IPL Betting In Jammu

Jammu: Two persons were arrested in Jammu on Wednesday for allegedly betting on Indian Premier League matches, police said. Acting on inputs, a police team raided a place at Nagrota on outskirts of the city and apprehended two persons -- Parshotam Kumar and Vikram Singh -- for betting on IPL matches, official said. Two mobile phones and many electronic materials have been seized. A case has been registered and an investigation is on, the officials said.

Scooty Rider Crushed To Death

Srinagar: A scooty rider was on Wednesday evening crushed to death in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Zahoar Ahmed Bhat was killed on the spot when his scooty (JK05G-6316) was hit by an unknown vehicle near Janbazpora on Wednesday, police officials said. They said that a case under relevant section of law has been registered and further investigation was also taken up -- (KNO)

HC Takes Note Of Illegal Constructions In Sonmarg

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Under the shield of the permission to repair damage on account of snow or fire, large scale unauthorised constructions are carried out in Sonmarg and is "absolutely imperative" to check this illegal activity, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said.

"We find that in case, after case applications are being made for building permissions. On several occasions, the request is couched as a permission for renovation / repairs. On many occasions, we find the use of damage on account of snow or fire is put forth," said a bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta.

"Under the shield of the permission so obtained, large scale unauthorised constructions, expansions and encroachments are being effected. Most of these are being sought and carried out by persons who have no right in the lands at all," the court said, adding, "It is absolutely imperative to check this illegal activity as the unauthorised construction in this eco-fragile area is irreversibly damaging the environment. The damage is such that it cannot be compensated monetarily. Not only the present populace, but the generations to come will have to pay the price for the environmental degradation."

The court directed that, in addition to the requirements made in the applicable law, all ● PAGE 02

J&K Announces DDC Polls From Nov 28

West-Pak Refugees, Valmikies; Gurkhas To Cast Vote For First Time



State Election Commissioner K K Sharma addressing a press conference in Jammu on Wednesday.

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir poll panel on Wednesday announced an eight-phase election to 20 district development councils (DDCs) in the union territory beginning November 28, in the first major electoral exercise since the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year.

The government had in October amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act to

provide for setting up of District Development Councils in each district which will have directly elected members, marking the implementation of the entire 73rd Constitutional Amendment in the union territory.

State Election Commissioner K K Sharma told a press conference here that by-elections to vacant panchayat and municipal seats will be held simultaneously.

The notification for the first-phase polling on November ● PAGE 02

WHILE THE ELECTION TO DDCS AND panchayat bypolls will be through ballot, by-election to municipal seats will be conducted through electronic voting machine (EVM).

J&K Sees 10 More Corona Deaths, Toll 1515

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed ten more lives in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, raising the total number of fatalities across the Union Territory due to virus to 1515.

According to the officials, Kashmir valley witnesses three more Covid-19 deaths on Wednesday, while seven more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Jammu division. The three victims from the Valley, officials said were residents of Srinagar, Baramulla

4 Soldiers, 35 Travelers Among 512 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 512 more cases of novel coronavirus, including thirty-five travelers and four soldiers, taking the total number ● P-02

and Anantnag districts. A 60-year-old man from Boniyar Uri in Baramulla district died a week after he ● PAGE 02

China 'Notes' Pakistan's Move On Gilgit-Baltistan

Says Kashmir Issue Left Over From History, Resolution Under UN Charter

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: China on Wednesday said it has "noted" the recent move by Pakistan to accord 'provisional provincial status' to Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK).

On Sunday, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said that his government has decided to accord a provisional provincial status to the Gilgit-Baltistan region of PcK.

Reacting to Khan's remarks, Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Anurag

India Won't Compromise On Its Territorial Integrity: Shringla

India will not compromise on its territorial integrity, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has said, noting that China's "unusual step" to "unilaterally" alter the status quo has contributed to the deterioration of the bilateral ● P-02

Shrivastava said in New Delhi that India "firmly rejects" the attempt by Pakistan to bring material changes to a part of Indian territory which is under Islamabad's "illegal and forcible occupation" and asked the neighbouring country to

immediately vacate such areas.

Asked for his reaction to Pakistan's decision on Gilgit-Baltistan and India's reaction to it at a media briefing here, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said, "we have noted relevant ● PAGE 02

Rajnath Tells Bihar Voters 'Militancy In J&K On Decline'

MUZAFFARPUR(BIHAR): Militancy is on the decline in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 and the menace will be rooted out in the foreseeable future, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday.

Addressing an election rally in this north Bihar district, Singh, a former BJP president, said the party has taken to their logical conclusion all issues it has been ideologically committed to be it the Ayodhya temple, Article 370 or expeditious grant of citizenship to persecuted religious minorities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

That Article 370 should go has been our ideological position since the time of Shyama Prasad Mookerji. We stuck to the stand when the Jana Sangh came into being and remained steadfast in the new avatar the BJP.

"Once our party formed a government and mustered the numbers in Parliament, we scrapped it in a snap of the finger (chutki bajaakar khatam kar diya), said Singh, evoking applause from the crowds.

He lamented that despite having enjoyed a special status for so long, J&K, which has now been split into two union territories, remained backward because of rampant corruption and terrorism.

But things have begun to look up. A decline in ● P-02

...FIGHT FOR SPECIAL STATUS

People's Alliance To Meet In Jammu On Nov 7



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: After managing to pull support of Kargil parties, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is scheduled to hold a meeting in the winter capital on Saturday

in order to garner support from the Jammu based leadership in its fight for special status restoration.

The meeting will be held on Saturday at the Bhatindi residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah, who is also the chairman of the mainstream ● PAGE 02

America's Political Fate Hangs In Balance

Trump, Biden Both Expect To Win In Tight US Election

Agencies

WASHINGTON: The election duel between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden is coming down to counts of hundreds of thousands of legal votes in a handful of key battlegrounds after a night of dramatically shifting fortunes that left a deeply divided America's political fate on a knife edge, CNN reported.

Biden holds a narrow 224-213 lead in the Electoral College. A candidate must reach the 270 mark to win the presidency. Races in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Maine, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are too close to call. In many cases, the tight races could depend on the counting of absentee and mail-in ballots, which tend to disproportionately favor Democrats.

But both candidates still have a path to victory. Biden will capture the presidency if his narrow leads in Nevada, Arizona, Michigan and Wisconsin hold. Trump is hoping to cling onto the former Democratic 'blue wall states' in the



Twitter Flags Trump Tweets

Twitter labeled two of President Donald Trump's tweets as misleading Wednesday as a battle over the knife-edge US election spilled into social media. ● P-02

Scattered Protests In US Cities

Scattered protests took place from Washington, DC to Washington state in the hours after polls closed, but there were no signs of widespread unrest or violence linked to ● P-02

Midwest and also Pennsylvania that he won four years ago.

While counts are still ongoing, the President is making baseless claims that the election, which had looked more favorable to him late on Tuesday before hauls of early votes

started being tabulated, is being stolen from him and demanding that vote counting should stop. An appearance in the White House East Room in the early hours, in which he falsely claimed victory, represented his most brazen ● PAGE 02

Wildlife Board Set Up In J&K

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has constituted a 25-member wildlife board to advise it in selection and management of areas to be declared as protected areas and in formulation of policy for protection and conservation of wildlife and plants.

LG would be the chairman of the board which included among others nine eminent conservationists, ecologists and environmentalists and three representatives of NGO's dealing with wildlife, according to an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi the commissioner secretary to the administration.

Besides advising the government on selection and management of areas to be ● P-02

8th, 9th Std Exams From Nov-15, 1st-7th From Second Week: DSEK

SRINAGAR: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Wednesday said that the examinations of 8th and 9th standard will commence from November-15.

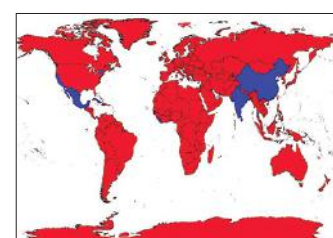
DSEK officials said this in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Director School Education Kashmir wherein Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for conduct of T2 examination for classes 1st to 9th and annual Board examination for Class 10th and 12th session November 2020 were announced. According to the Joint ● P-02

Trump Jr Chops Kashmir From Indian Map, Faces Flak

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK: Donald Trump Jr, son of US President Donald Trump, drew flak and criticism on Wednesday for posting an inaccurate world map drenched in the red colour of the Republican Party and one which showed the whole of India as blue, the colour of the Democratic Party, with the exception of Kashmir and north-east states.

"Okay, finally got around to making my electoral map prediction," Trump Jr said in a Twitter post along with the world map on Tuesday as the US began voting in the 2020 presidential election, implying that the entire world is voting for and supporting his father and the Republican Party.



SOURCE: TWITTER

The map showed all the countries, including water bodies and Antarctica, coloured red, with the exception of the state of California, India, Mexico, Liberia, Cuba and China coloured blue - the hue of the Democratic party.

However, while India was coloured blue, Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East states were coloured red. The Indian ● PAGE 02

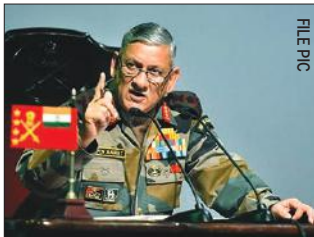
CDS Proposes Pension Cut, Increase In Retirement Age For Armed Forces

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In a major reform initiative, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) has proposed a significant cut in the pension amount of military personnel taking premature retirement and suggested increasing the retirement age of certain categories of officers.

The move by the DMA, headed by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, is part of a series of reforms aimed at ensuring efficient use of resources and manpower, the officials said.

As per the proposal, the retirement age of Colonels and equivalent rank in the Indian Army is sought to be increased to 57 years from the existing 54 years, the officials said.



FILE PIC

Similarly, the retirement age of Brigadiers in the Indian Army is proposed to be increased to 58 years from the existing 56 years, and in the case of Major Generals, it is proposed at 59 years as against 58 years at present.

The same age bracket for retirement is proposed to be applied in equivalent ranks in the Indian Air

Force and the Navy, the officials said.

As per the proposal, the retirement age for personnel in logistics, medical, technical some other branches will be 57 years.

According to the proposed pension disbursement plan, only those personnel completing over 35 years of service will be eligible for a full pension which comes to around 50 percent of the last drawn salary.

Under the proposed slab, an officer with 20 to 25 years of service will get 50 percent of entitled pension while those having 26 to 30 years of service will receive 60 percent of entitled pension.

The DMA has proposed that personnel with 31 to 35 years of service will get 75 percent ● PAGE 02

Govt To Set Up 1,680 Housing Units In Valley For KP Employees

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday accorded sanction for the construction of transit accommodation for Kashmiri migrant employees at six places in the valley at a cost of Rs 201.60 crore under Prime Minister's development package.

A four-member committee headed by Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, has been set up to resolve all matters pertaining to the identification and transfer of land to the Department of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction by November 15, the government said. An order issued by the General Ad-



FILE PIC

ministrative Department (GAD) said administrative approval was accorded to the construction of transit accommodation for Kashmiri migrant employees recruited under the Prime Minister's package at six locations at an estimated cost of Rs 201.60 crore.

The locations include Marhama-Bijbehara in Anantnag district, Wandhama-Lar in Ganderbal district, Fatehpore in Baramulla district, ● PAGE 02

Toxic Haze Suffocates Delhi; Unfavourable Meteorological Conditions To Be Blamed

New Delhi: A layer of pungent haze shrouded the national capital and smudged landmarks from view on Wednesday, as people complained of itchy throat and watery eyes.

Unfavourable meteorological conditions -- calm winds and low temperatures -- caused the air quality to be in the "severe" category.

According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, PM10 levels in Delhi-NCR stood at 448 microgram per cubic meter (g/ m3) at 7 pm, the highest in this season so far. PM10 level below 100 g/m3 are considered safe in India.

PM10 is a particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers and can get into the lungs. These particles include dust, pollen and mold spores.

The levels of PM2.5 -- finer particles which can even enter the bloodstream -- were 242 g/ m3. PM2.5 levels up to 60 g/m3 are considered safe.

"It is not even Diwali yet and

the city has already become a gas chamber. This happens every year. For how long will this continue?" asked Shiv Shrivastava, a resident of south Delhi.

As the skies hung heavy and acrid over the national capital, the visibility reduced to merely 600 metres at the Safdarjung Observatory. It was 800 metres at the Palam weather station.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the maximum wind speed was 5 kilometres per hour and the minimum temperature 10.6 degrees Celsius. Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

Health experts said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, air pollution has become a serious health concern for about the two crore residents of the national capital.

"I can feel the pollutants in my throat despite wearing a mask. My eyes are burning. It is going

to make the pandemic worse. I am scared," said PiyushVohra, a resident of Jangpura.

According to a doctor at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, intake of every 22 micrograms per cubic metre of polluted air is equivalent to smoking a cigarette. Ajit Jain, the nodal officer for COVID-19 at Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital, said air pollution was turning the pandemic catastrophic.

IMD officials said the situation is likely to worsen as similar weather conditions are expected over the next two days.

"The wind speed slowed down suddenly after 10 am in the Delhi-NCR region due to an anticyclone. The temperatures have dipped alarmingly over the last few days. Unfavourable meteorological conditions trapped pollutants, resulting in a haze," V K Soni, a senior IMD scientist, said.

Delhi recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 279 at 10 am. It worsened to 386 by 7:30 pm. Several monitoring stations, in-

cluding the ones at Narela (461), Wazirpur (445), Bawana (452), Jahangirpuri (454) and Rohini (444), recorded the air quality in the 'severe' category.

The neighbouring cities of Ghaziabad and Greater Noida also recorded 'severe' levels of air pollution.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

However, the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor SAFAR said the share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution was just five per cent on Wednesday. It was 10 per cent on Tuesday.

Stubble burning accounted for 16 per cent of Delhi's pollution on Monday and 40 per cent on Sunday, the maximum so far this season.

Last year, the farm fire contribution to Delhi's pollution had peaked to 44 per cent on November 1, according to SAFAR data.

Non-Bailablewarrant Against Cafe Coffee Day Directors In Cheque Bounce Case

BENGALURU: A non-bailable warrant hasbeen issued against the directors of the Coffee Day Global Limited which manages the famed Cafe Coffee Day in a cheque bounce case.

One of the directors is former Chief Minister S M Krishna's daughter MalavikaHegde, who is the wife of late V G Siddhartha who died due to drowning in Nethravathiriver in 2019 in Dakshina Kannada district.

The Civil Judge and the JMFC of Mudigere in Chikkamagaluru summoned them to appear before the court following a complaint by a coffee planter K Nandish.

Nandish has stated that the CDGL had purchased green coffee seeds from him and in return, the CDGL issued him 10 post datedchequestotallingRs 45,38,554 of Canara Bank in Chikkamagaluru branch.

When he deposited in the Axis Bank where he has the account, the cheques were dishonoured as there were insufficient funds,according to the complaint.

"The first date of appearance was October 6.Since they failed to appear before the magistrate on the said date in spite of serving of the summons, the court has issued a non-bailable warrant," Nandish's lawyer, Halekote A Thejawi told PTI.

He added that the matter has been posted to November 11 and they have to appear before the court and get the warrant recalled.

Talking to reporters on Wednesday, Nandish said he had been supplying coffee seeds to Siddhartha's company ABC for many years.

When Siddhartha was alive, he used to issue deferred cheques with an interest of 10 to 12 per cent, Nandish said.

"Due to death, all our payments were held up but later the people in the organisation assured us that they will honour their cheques and our money will not go anywhere," he said.

They said they would completely clear the dues by November, he alleged.

In this regard, a Coffee Day spokesperson said "We had outstanding payments to 1,020 Coffee planters of Chikkamagaluru and Hassan one year back. We have fully paid back 700 plus planters in the last 11 months."

"We have also made part payments to the remaining planters.The group's fund raising plans were hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic and hence the delay in completing the payments.

But we remain committed to meeting all our obligations," he added.

J&K Announces DDC Polls...

28 will be issued on Thursday, he said.

The last phase of polling will take place on December 19 and the counting of votes will take place on December 22, said Sharma, flanked by Chief Electoral Officer Hardesh Kumar.

After taking into consideration all relevant factors and inputs from various stakeholders, it was decided to hold the election to 20 DDCs -- 10 each in Jammu and Kashmir -- in eight phases, Sharma said. There will be 14 constituencies in each DDC, he added.

While the election to DDCs and panchayat bypolls will be through ballot, by-election to municipal seats will be conducted through electronic voting machine (EVM).

This will be for the first time that West Pakistani refugees, Valmikiys and Gurkhas will be exercising their franchise in these elections.

Mainstream parties in Kashmir have not yet announced whether they will take part in the electoral exercise.

While DDC polls will be held on party basis, panchayat bypolls will be on non-party basis, Kumar said.

By-elections will be held in 12,153 panchayat seats and 234 urban local wards.

The Centre has fully applied the 73rd Constitutional Amendment to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which was pending for 28 years. With this, all three tiers of panchayati raj institutions will be formed in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time.

'Militancy In J&K On Decline'...

militant activities has been noticed in Jammu and Kashmir ever since the so-called special status was done away with. In my capacity as the defence minister, I wish to assure all that the menace will be rooted out in near future, Singh added.

Speaking about the CAA, which had triggered country- wide protests late last year and continued till the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic, Singh said "We were never in favour of Partition. But there were some powers and also our British colonizers, who made it possible. India retained its magnanimity in treating its minorities well. Not so in the new countries that came into being."

Our Sikh, Buddhist and Parsee brethren suffered untold hardships in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. They have been forced to live in penury and constant fear of their womenfolk losing their honour. We had promised to bring in a legislation which would provide them with some succour and we did that, he said.

About Ayodhya, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said we had pledged that upon coming to power, we will intervene in a manner that will bring to an end the dispute over Ram Janmabhoomi and remove hurdles in the way of construction of a Ram temple. I need not say we have been successful on this count too.

America's Political Fate Hangs...

threat yet against the democratic principles that underpin the US political system.

"As far as I'm concerned, we already have won it," Trump said, painting a picture at odds with the true state of the race. Earlier, Biden had warned each side needed to wait for the votes to be counted, saying "we're going to have to be patient until we -- the hard work of tallying the votes is finished."

Twitter Flags Trump Tweets...

The latest action came when a tweet from the president claimed ballot irregularities during the vote-counting process. Twitter's action made the comments less visible, and users seeking to read the post were required to click through a warning that "some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and might be misleading."

Scattered Protests In Us Cities

the US election. Overnight demonstrations in cities including Seattle, Washington and New York remained largely peaceful. Hundreds of people marched in anti-Trump demonstrations in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, with several arrested.

J&K Sees 10 More Corona...

was admitted to SKIMS Soura, officials said. Besides him, a 55-year-old woman from Dirhama Anantnag died at CD hospital, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients in Kashmir Valley. She was admitted on November 2.

The deaths from Jammu region include four residents of the winter capital besides one each from Doda, Kathua and Ramban.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 1515 in J&K--1004 in Valley and 511 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 367 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (264), Baramulla (147), Budgam (94), Pulwama (83), Kupwara (73), Anantnag (76), Rajouri (48), Kulgam (48), Bandipora (47), Doda (48), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (34), Udhampur (32), Kathua (32), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Kishtwar (15), Ramban (16), and Reasi (8). (With GNS inputs)

4 Soldiers, 35 Travelers...

of people infected by the virus in Union Territory to 96700.

While 326 new cases were detected from Kashmir valley, the remaining 186 were confirmed by officials from the Jammu division.

Giving district wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 135, Budgam 35, Baramulla 67, Pulwama 10, Kupwara 32, Anantnag 2, Bandipora 18, Ganderbal 16, Kulgam 4, Shopian 7, Jammu 98, Rajouri 9, Udhampur 11, Doda 10, Kathua 11, Poonch 3, Samba 6, Kishtwar 18, Ramban 16 and Reasi 4.

Moreover, they said, 536 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals 185 from Jammu Division and 351 from Kashmir Valley.

People's Alliance To Meet...

amalgam spearheading the campaign for special status restoration, sources said Wednesday. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, CPI (M) state secretary M Y Tariqami and other PAGD signatories are likely to attend the meet in which the leaders will deliberate on the ongoing movement for restoration of special status.

According to sources, the PAGD leaders will also hold consultations on the announcement of eight-phase polls to 20 district development councils (DDCs) in the Jammu and Kashmir starting from November 28. "The PAGD will also take Jammu based leadership on board. Deliberations will be held on the fallout of special status revocation and a strategy will be formulated to strengthen the ongoing movement launched by PAGD," sources said.

Pertinently, this will be the third meet of mainstream conglomerate since its formation last month. After Jammu meet, PAGD is scheduled to hold a convention in Srinagar on November 17.

On October 24, six mainstream parties of J&K gave a formal shape to Gupkar Declaration of August 4, 2019 by announcing formation of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) to fight for the restoration of erstwhile state's semi-autonomous position. (With agency inputs)

Meanwhile, MP Farooq...

Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary briefed Farooq about developmental works completed during the last financial year and also the works in progress during the current financial year.

"The meeting was informed that under the Education sector 25 primary and middle schools were developed as smart schools by providing smart computer-aided boards, modern furniture for class rooms, water purifiers, upgrading of libraries and science labs and refurbished toilets. It was further informed that 20 smart libraries were also established in various colleges of the district," the official spokesperson said.

Under the Health sector, he said it was informed that 5 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) were developed as smart health institutions by equipping them with digital X-Ray plants, Color Dopplers, ECG and medicine vending machines.

"It was informed that in addition to it 5 high-capacity diesel gen-sets were installed and commissioned at SMHS, CD Hospital, Bone & Joint Hospital, LD Hospital and GB Pant Children's Hospital," the official spokesperson said.

"The meeting was informed that in an important achievement 12 Community Centres located in various highly congested localities of Srinagar city were completed and inaugurated at a total cost of Rs 30 crore," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, DDC Srinagar while briefing the MP said that during the year removal of critical bottlenecks received a major thrust from the administration the aim being speedy completion of various developmental projects including the important road widening project of Parimpora-Narbal road and development of Qamarwari-Noorbagh bridge.

The MP, he said was informed that under the Power sector 47 new sub-stations were created or augmented during 2019-20 fiscal at a total cost of Rs 2.66 crore in the district. It was informed that 3 workshops were also upgraded at a cost of Rs 1.84 crores by providing latest machinery and equipment.

"The meeting also reviewed status of developmental works approved under the first of the Back to Village programme. It was informed that 81 approved works spread across rural Srinagar were completed at a total cost of Rs 5.00 crores. Besides, it was informed, 163 works at a cost of Rs 4.41 crore were taken up under 14th FC," the official spokesperson said.

"The meeting also discussed and reviewed the developmental targets of the current financial year in the district. The Member Parliament was informed that 12 locations have been identified in Srinagar city to be developed as smart parking spaces. The meeting also reviewed COVID-19 management efforts in Srinagar," he added.

China 'Notes' Pakistan's Move...

reports". "China's position on the Kashmir issue is consistent and clear. It is an issue left over from history between India and Pakistan. It should be resolved peacefully and properly according to the UN charter, relevant security council resolutions and bilateral agreements," he said.

To a follow-up question referring to China's protest to India's decision to abrogate Article 370 last year and whether Beijing's silence on Pakistan's move on Gilgit-Baltistan ran counter to China's claim on adopting a neutral approach on Kashmir issue, Wang said it was not a valid statement.

"I don't think that's a valid statement. As I said just now, China's position on the Kashmir issue is consistent and clear," he said.

He also reiterated that interested countries can join USD 60 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Asked to name the countries who had shown interest to join the project, Wang said, "as we have repeatedly said that the CPEC and other projects under the BRI are open and we welcome interested countries to join such cooperation to jointly contribute to regional and global stability and prosperity."

India has protested to China over the CPEC project as it is being laid through Pck.

India Won't Compromise On...

ties. Shringla, who is on a seven-day trip to Europe to review bilateral relations and discuss matters of mutual interest with key European nations, was responding to a question on the recent border tensions with China in eastern Ladakh during an interview to a German news channel.

"It has contributed to deterioration in terms of the ties between our two countries because of the unusual step of China to seek to unilaterally alter the status quo," Shringla told DW News.

"You have to keep in mind that there is no common perception on the border but yet if you seek to change where the current line where

troops are then of course it does impact on the larger relationship. We are concerned that China has taken this step, he added.

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

"We are very, very clear that we will stand firm and resolute in our resolve not to allow our territorial integrity or sovereignty to be compromised," Shringla said.

"We have not allowed any of this to take place. Our troops have stood resolute, he said. We will not compromise on our territorial integrity.

Responding to a question on the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad - comprising Japan, India, Australia and the US, Shringla said that it is a grouping of countries which have the same vision of a free, open and transparent Indo-Pacific region and international rules-based order, international freedom navigation in global commerce and also issues such as open connectivity, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

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 leading global powers.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in the South and East China Seas. Beijing has also made substantial progress in militarising its man-made islands in the past few years.

Beijing claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea. But Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims. In the East China Sea, China has territorial disputes with Japan.

The Quad works to bolster the capacities and the abilities of the countries in the Indo Pacific within a manner that's both constructive and cooperative, Shringla added.

Asked about Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent comments on India, Shringla said that it was an "attempt to distract international and domestic attention from its own problems."

"I can only say that is ripe coming from the prime minister of a country that does not recognise the state of Israel, that until now does not acknowledge that the Holocaust took place, that has provided a safe sanctuary for Osama bin Laden and Mullah Omar of the Taliban years after 9/11, he said.

Considering his situation and Pakistan's own approach towards radicalism, terrorism and issues that are important to the international community, he (Khan) really shouldn't be making such irresponsible statements, he added.

On a question about the recent developments in Hong Kong, Shringla said, "We don't comment on what becomes the internal affairs of states. We have said that there is a large community of Indian origin, there is a large Indian community in Hong Kong, so we are watching the situation with some level of attention and concern and we will continue to do so. Shringla travelled to Germany from France early this week on the second leg of his three-nation European tour that also includes the UK.

Trump Jr Chops Kashmir...

borders were also inaccurate in the map.

Trump Jr drew flak on social media for the tweet and for showing Kashmir and the North-east states in a colour different from the rest of India. "So much for the friendship with Trump Senior. Junior has placed India firmly with @JoeBiden & @KamalaHarris though interestingly Jr. believes J&K & the NorthEast go against the rest of India & will vote Trump. Someone needs to take his colouring pencils away," former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah tweeted.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor tweeted, "The price of Namu's bromance: Kashmir & the NorthEast cut off from the rest of India, & the whole "filthy" place relegated by Don Jr to the realm of hostiles, along with China & Mexico. So much for the crores spent on obsequious ser- enading stadium events!"

Senior Fellow and Director of the Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security Ilan Goldenberg tweeted, "I'm pretty sure Don Jr. confused Iran and India on a world map. That's my theory and I'm sticking to it."

Democratic nominee from New York Jamaal Bowman tweeted, "Fully fund Social Studies. This is a mess."

Wildlife Board Set Up In J&K...

declared as protected areas and in the formulation of the policy for protection and conservation of wildlife and specified plants, the terms of reference or mandate of the board also include suggestions in any matter relating to the amendment of any schedule.

The board would also advise the government in relation to measures to be taken for harmonising needs of the tribals and other dwellers of the forest with the protection and conservation of wildlife and in any other matter connected with the protection of wildlife which may be referred to it by the government, the order stated.

The chief secretary was named as vice chairman of the board and chief wildlife warden as member secretary, while other prominent members include a police officer not below the rank of Inspector General to be nominated by Director General of Police and representative of General Officer Commanding (north) not below the rank of Brigadier to be nominated by the central government.

Managing director of Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation, representatives of wildlife institute of India, Dehradun, Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India have also been included in the board.

8th, 9th Std Exams From...

Director (JD) of DSEK, Aabid Hussain the examination process for Class 8th and 9th shall start from 15th of November and conclude by November-21and timing shall be 11.00 Am to 1.00 PM

Hussain said DSEK has also decided to start the examination process of Classes 1st to 7th from the second week of November.

He said, "Private Schools who have already conducted the examination

for Class 9th need not to conduct the examination afresh."

In the meeting, all the Chief Education Officers (CEOs) were instructed that the term second examination for Class 1st to 9th shall be conducted at school level for the current academic session by adhering to the guidelines issued in this regard.

"School based assessment shall be conducted from 2nd week of November-2020 to assess the learners of Class 1st to 7th on the following parameters by following all necessary precautions and SOP's," the officials said.

The concerned schools were asked to set the test papers as per the assessment scheme in vogue with a 40 per cent concession or relaxation. "The ERSA wing of SCERT shall provide model papers through the concerned DIET's to the schools and the students are required to attempt only 60 percent marks (24 marks out of 40 marks) which shall be proportionately raised to 100 percent (40 marks)," officials said.

Officials in a meeting further said that the final result compilation shall be done at DIET level in respect of Class 8th only in order to keep the proper record of the students.

They said that for class 9th, as there is no detention policy in vogue, the concerned school shall identify the learning gaps and bridge the gaps if any, during the ensuing academic year, adding "The examination for the class shall be conducted as per assessment process adopted for class 1st to 7th."

Govt To Set Up 1,680 Housing...

Allowpora-Keegam in Shopian district, Odina-Sumbal in Bandipora district and Khullangam Bagh in Kupwara district.

A total of 1,680 units would be constructed to accommodate the migrant employees with the highest number of 480 units coming up in Bandipora, followed by 336 in Baramulla, 288 in Kupwara and 192 each in rest of the three districts.

About 4,500 Kashmiri pandits were provided government jobs in the valley under the special package announced by the Centre in 2008 but many of them are sharing accommodation.

CDS Proposes Pension Cut,...

of the entitled pension.

A note issued by the DMA last month asked the forces to process the draft GSL (Government Sanction Letter) for the perusal of the Secretary of the DMA by November 10. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Rawat is also secretary of the DMA.

The consistent rise in budget outlay for pensions of armed forces personnel has been an issue for the defence planners. A study was instituted earlier this year to analyse the feasibility of extending the retirement age of military personnel.

The size of defence budget for 2020-21 was Rs 4.71 lakh crore out of which Rs 1.33 lakh crore was set aside for payment of pensions.

HC Takes Note Of Illegal...

applications for sanction of building, construction, renovation or repairs in any building shall be accompanied by the an affidavit by the applicant that he / she is not in illegal occupation or possession of any public land/ forest land in the entire Jammu & Kashmir as well as Ladakh.

"If the property is leased/ licensed, then details of payment(s) of the charges with copies of the receipts."

Also self authenticated copies of all documents establishing legal right of ownership, title, occupancy over the land on which construction, repairs and renovation is proposed be accompanied.

The court also directed that documents such certificate from the Deputy Commissioner and DFO concerned that the land is not public land and/or forest land be accompanied besides copy of original sanctioned plan with all documents of original sanction, previous permissions for additions, repairs and renovation.

The applications shall be also accompanied with "videography and photographs of the land; existing building (full exterior and interior) as well as in relation to neighbouring properties/ buildings; Complete details (including exact location) of what is proposed to be undertaken which shall also be plotted on a site plan."

"If such a request is favourably considered, then on completion of the work, completed site plan with colour marking of work undertaken; videography and photos of the completed work."

The concerned authorities shall at all times have full access to the property to undertake its inspection(s) while the work is underway and after it is completed, the court said. "In no case will permission(s) be granted to persons having no right, title or interest to occupy the land in question." (GNS)

Youth Uploads Obscene...

406 IPC 66A, 66E,67A IT Act were registered against the accused and further investigations started.

The police spokesperson requested community members to share any such information to concern Police Stations. He said strict action under law shall be taken against the persons involved in such criminal activities.

Two Killed In Nashri Tunnel...

of KriyaMaitra and SudeshPandit (28) of Sana-Batote, and said their bodies were handed over to their families.

The injured, Ganesh Gotam (20) of KriyaMaitra, was shifted to a hospital in a serious condition, the officials said.

KPDCL Employee Hurt By...

for treatment.

"He is stable and discharged from the hospital," a doctor said.

When contacted, a police official said that they are ascertaining the facts while an army officer confirmed that the incident occurred in Wanigam area of Pattan.

SMC Acting Mayor Locks Offices Of Joint Commissioner Planning

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation Deputy Mayor, who is also the acting Mayor, on Wednesday, sealed the office of Joint Commissioner Planning.

Deputy Mayor Parvaiz Qadri alleged that the JCP is not working properly due to which people of the city are suffering.

"JCP is unnecessarily harassing people of the city. He is not granting building permissions due to which they are indulging in illegal constructions in the city," Qadri alleged.

He said that he was compelled to take the action after complaints by the people against the JCP.

"I have locked the entire section of the

Planning and Joint Commissioner Planning office because they are not doing any work there," he claimed.

I have already communicated to the government about what he described as 'incompetence' of the JCP and have asked for a suitable replacement.

Justifying the locking down JCP's office Qadri said that there were complaints that the JCP was asking building permission seekers several unnecessary NOCs which would delay the process of issuance of permission.

Worthwhile to mention is that the JCP in question was working in Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) before being

deputed to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) as its Joint Commissioner Planning.

Reacting to the development, a senior SMC official rejected the accusations leveled against Joint Commissioner Planning, SMC, Ghulam Hassan Mir. He said Mir is an expert on urban planning who has studied city planning in the USA with background in architecture, disaster management and environmental sustainable development.

"He is a pro-environment and sustainability conscious officer. He believes in the rights of the city and its citizens rather than serving vested interests. Despite

lack and deficiency of technical staff and other infrastructure, he has been serving the city with zeal and mission and issued permissions on a fast track basis," the senior official said.

Defending JCP, he said Mir considers each case on its merits following codal formalities related to the subject.

"He has been resisting pressure tactics and is being forced to issue building permissions blindly which he has not conceded to so far.

Several employees said SMC is in mess because of brokers and the present Joint Commissioner Planning has shut the doors for brokers. (KDC)

Div Com takes extensive tour of Dal, Nigeen Lake

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 04: The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir along with Vice Chairman Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) today took an extensive tour of Dal and Nigeen Lake.

On the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner took stock of manual and mechanical dewatering, Lily extraction in various sections.

He was informed that about 54600 labours have been engaged for manual dewatering till date and 152425 cum of weed besides 92444 cum of Lily has been extracted during the current year.

The Div Com also inspected various types of Lake cleaning machines viz, operation of water master, weed harvesters and the dredger.

During the interaction and discussion with the Engineering team he was apprised about settling the basin at Telbal nallah and its purpose of arresting silt.

The Div Com also observed Lily extraction mechanically being



ing done by newly procured high capacity dewatering machines obtained from DMRC, New Delhi.

He also inspected ongoing works of Dolemb and it was in-

formed that about 28000 sq.meters of area has been cleared in a short span of two months and about 70 to 90 dumper loads of extracted lily have been removed on a daily basis.

Upswing in GST collections points to revival of business in JK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 4: After months of slump in businesses world over due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the business in J&K has started showing improvement from the previous month.

This has been made possible by the slew of measures taken by the Government along with the economic relief package announced in the month of September, 2020.

These steps helped in

boosting the business and the other ailing sectors that had suffered due to adverse impact of COVID-19 and had a positive impact on the growth of businesses in the Union Territory.

The growth in the business activities can be judged from the revenue growth in the month of September and October in collections of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Motor Spirit and Diesel Oil Tax (MST).

NOTICE

It is here informed General public that I Syed Waseem Geelani son of S/o Syed Gh. Jeelani resident of Ahoor Paison, Anantnag has lost my driving licence bearing Registration No JK-0320090025892 somewhere. Now I have applied for its duplicate copy and in this regard if anyone has any objection he or she may approach to Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Walnut Ads

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one Mr.Showkat Ahmad Shah S/O Gh Hassan Shah R/O Movsah Phalgam Owner of Vehicle No.JK03C -5744 for Hire Purchase Endorsement with Satwari Investments J and K Pvt.Ltd.Jammu. Now it is therefore notified for General information that objection if any to the proposed Endorsement of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the Office of ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice in Daily Kashmir Observer News Paper.

No:-101/4001/MVD/ANG

Dated:- 03/11/2020

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one Mr.Arif Masood Parray S/O Masood Ahmad Parray R/O Shampora Qazigund Anantnag Owner of Vehicle No.JK03D-8867 for Hire Purchase Cancellation with JK Bank Qazigund Anantnag. Now it is therefore notified for General information that objection if any to the proposed cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the Office of ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice in Daily Kashmir Observer News Paper.

No:-101/4000/MVD/ANG

Dated:- 03/11/2020

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

MJA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Assistant Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Field Subdivision Pulwama

Tele-fax: 01933240089; email:aeemedpul@gmail.com

GIST OF NOTICE TENDER

NO: MFSD/Pul/ 16 of 2020-21

Dated: 04-11-2020

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, Sealed tenders affixed with 5/- revenue stamps are invited from registered firms / contractors for " Providing & fitting of electrical items and accessories for various snow clearance machines (LPT 713 ,LPT 715 , Ashoka Leyland , Snow Blower Rolba 1500 & Snow Tractors) of Mechanical Field Sub Division Pulwama."

The tender documents can be sold to those Registered firms / Contractors who produce:-

- GST Registration certificate.
- PAN card

The detailed tender document can be had from the office of the undersigned against cash payment of 200/= on or before 08-11-2020 up to 4.00 P.M. The tenders accompanied with requisite earnest money deposit of 800/= in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Anantnag and complete in all respects shall reach the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Anantnag on 10-11-2020 up to 1400 hrs. The tenders shall be opened on the same day or any other working day convenient to the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Anantnag.

The tenderers who wish to participate in the bidding process shall remain present at the time of opening of tenders. The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Anantnag reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPK-8486/20

Assistant Executive Engineer
Mechanical Field Sub division
Pulwama

NO: MSD/Pul/745-46

Date:-04-11-2020

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE
ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. Fresh-184/EEP/RNB/2020-21/7206-16

Dated: 02/11/2020

For and on behalf of the President of India e-tenders (single Cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with U/T of J&K Government, CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time In days	T&D of Opening of Bid	Class	MH of Account
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Construction of Lane/Drain from H/o of Habib-ullah Bhat to H/o Farooq Ahmad Bhat including lane of Bashir Ahmad Baba at W.No-4 at MC-Tal.	1.40	200/-	2,800/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	IMDT
2.	Construction of Lane from H/o of Mohd Maqbool Bhat to Bashir Ahmad Bhat at Khachar Mohalla Ward No.5, at MC-Tal.	1.40	200/-	2,800/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	IMDT
3.	Upgradation of Hari Kaigam road Batpora link road IR-Charsoo, Peer Mohallah Sail and Buchoo-Schro link road by way of P/L of WBM Grade-II.	4.38	200/-	8,800/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	D/S
4.	Improvement /repirements of drain from touching point of Karewa link road near H/O Gulla Bhat Herpora at MC Awantipora.	1.70	200/-	3,400/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	IMDT
5.	Construction of path from irrigation Gate to spring at Nagpora Bahu at MC Awantipora.	1.80	200/-	3,600/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	IMDT
6.	Construction of lane and drain from Main road to H/O of Mohammad Abdullah Shah S/o Ab. Aziz Shah at Nagpora Bahu at MC Awantipora.	1.10	200/-	2,200/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	IMDT
7.	Construction of path by way of cement concrete from H/O of Mohd.Subhan (Khaliq Bhat) to H/o Ab.Khaliq Hajam at Bahu at MC Awantipora.	1.01	200/-	2,100/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	IMDT
8.	Construction of deep drain/steps from transformer to House of Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat at Herpora at MC Awantipora.	1.50	200/-	3,000/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	IMDT
9.	Up gradation of road from Main road to Masjid Furqan At Amirabad by way of Construction of of CC Drain (Bal.Work)	1.40	200/-	2,800/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	S/S
10.	Development/Beautification of Spring BWO designing fencing & earth filling at Herpora Nag near Masjid Abraham at Awantipora (Balance Work)	4.64	200/-	9,300/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	KLC
11.	Construction /Repairs of lane from main road Pampore Shopian road to House of Abdul Rehman Ganie at Washbugh opposite PDD Station.	1.50	200/-	3,000/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	IMDT
12.	Construction of Drain/Bund from Jamia Masjid to House of Manzoor Ahmad Bhat at Sirmoo MC Pulwama.	1.50	200/-	3,000/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	IMDT
13.	Improvement of Kralwan road from main road to Barpokha by way of construction of E/	3.00	200/-	6000/-	10 days	10/11/2020	DEE	B2V

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

1.	Date of Issue of tender Notice	02/11/2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02/11/2020 4:00 PM to 09/11/2020 04:00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start date	02/11/2020 10:00 AM
4.	Bid submission End date	09/11/2020 04:00 PM
5.	Date and time of opening of Bids (online)	10/11/2020 11:00 AM

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Valid Treasury Receipt/e-Challan under Major Head 0059 Revenue in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (tender receiving authority)

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (tender receiving authority).

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Head Draftsman

Technical Officer

DIPK-8456/20

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Pulwama

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
18 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 30
ZUHR	12: 15
ASR	3: 58
Magrib	5: 38
ISHA	7: 01

This Day In History

- 1556 - Akbar (14) succeeds his father Humajun as Sultan of Delhi
- 1556 - Battle at Panipat: Mogollegers beat hindu leader Hemu
- 1605 - Gunpowder Plot: Catholic conspirator Guy Fawkes attempts to blow up King James I and the British Parliament. Plot discovered, Guy Fawkes caught, tortured and later executed along with seven others.
- 1678 - Brandenburgse troops occupy Greifswald in Sweden
- 1725 - Spain & Austria sign secret treaty
- 1757 - Battle at Rossbach (7 year war/French & Indian War)
- 1838 - Honduras declares independence of Central American Federation
- 1862 - Battle at Barbee's Crossroads, Virginia: 51 casualties
- 1873 - Due to the fallout from the Pacific Scandal, John A. Macdonald resigns as Prime Minister of Canada
- 1881 - French government-Ferry resigns
- 188 - 11,600 police and volunteers attack M ori settlement at Parhaka in western Taranaki which had become the symbol of protest against the confiscation of M ori land, New Zealand
- 1900 - Under US military control since the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898, Cuba now calls its own constitutional convention
- 1911 - Italy attacks Turkish North-Africa (Libya), takes Tripoli & Cyrenaica
- 1912 - Democrat candidate Woodrow Wilson is elected President of the United States, defeating Republican incumbent William Howard Taft and Progressive candidate Theodore Roosevelt
- 1913 - Ludwig III crowned king of Bavaria
- 1914 - Britain declares war on Turkey and annexes Cyprus, occupied since 1878; the immediate reason is to keep it from being taken by Turkey
- 1916 - Emperors Wilhelm II (Germany) and Franz Josef I (Austria-Hungary) establish the Kingdom of Poland
- 1916 - Second Chamber accept initial impetus to general males/female suffrage
- 1916 - The Everett Massacre takes place in Everett, Washington as political differences lead to a shoot-out between IWW organizers and local police.
- 1917 - Gen Pershing & US troops see action on Western Front for 1st time
- 1921 - Soviet Russia signs a treaty with Mongolia, temporarily supporting the new government against China and Japanese incursions
- 1925 - Mussolini disbands Italian socialist parties
- 1930 - Nobel for literature awarded to Sinclair Lewis for "Babbitt"
- 1933 - Spanish Basques vote for autonomy
- 1937 - Adolf Hitler informs his military leaders in a secret meeting of his intentions of going to war
- 1940 - Franklin D. Roosevelt is re-elected President of the United States for an unprecedented third term, defeating Republican candidate Wendell Willkie
- 1941 - Japanese naval staff officers Suzuki and Maejima leave Pearl Harbor.
- 1943 - Vatican in Rome bombed by unknown source
- 1944 - Allied troops reach Zoutelande, Walcheren
- 1944 - Canadian & British troops liberate Dinteloord
- 1953 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Frederik Zernicke
- 1956 - Britain and France land airborne forces at Port Said in Egypt, escalating the Suez Crisis
- 1964 - US launches Mariner 3 toward Mars; no data returned
- 1967 - ATS-3 launched by US to take first pictures of full Earth disc
- 1967 - US troops conquer Loc Ninh South Vietnam
- 1967 - Yemen president Salal flees
- 1975 - British government sends troops to Belize
- 1978 - Iranian PM Jaafar Sharif-Emami resigns to Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi
- 1979 - Iran government of Bazargan resigns
- 1979 - Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini declares US "The Great Satan"
- 1983 - Orbiter Discovery (OV-103) moves overland to Dryden
- 1988 - France performs nuclear test
- 1994 - Space probe Ulyssus completes 1st passage behind the Sun
- 1995 - STS 73 (Columbia 18), lands
- 2006 - Saddam Hussein, former president of Iraq, and his co-defendants Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti and Awad Hamed al-Bandar are sentenced to death in the al-Dujail trial for the role in the massacre of the 148 Shi'as in 1982.
- 2007 - China's first lunar satellite, Chang'e 1 goes into orbit around the Moon.
- 2009 - US Army Major Nidal Malik Hasan (US Army Medical Corps) killed 13 and wounded 43 at Fort Hood, Texas in the largest mass shooting ever at a US military installation.
- 2012 - 50 Syrian military personnel are killed by a suicide car bomb in Hama.
- 2014 - New Zealand Prime Minister John Key rules out sending troops to fight against Islamic State, but claims there are 40 New Zealanders on 'terror watchlist'

From KO Archives

Zindabad, Murdabad

Observer News Service

Srinagar- That the killing of Agha Syed Mahdi had touched a raw nerve was more than manifest in the slogans raised by thousands of mourners who flocked to Budgam today to attend his funeral, presenting in a microcosm the bewilderment Kashmiris are going through. The zindabads were reserved for Islam and Hussainiyat .The other slogans heard were Pakistan hai hai, Hurriet Conference murdabaad, National, Conference murdabaad, STF murdabaad, etc, etc.

(Kashmir Observer, November 05, 2000)

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K O V I E W

Growing Unease

New land laws have become a cause of deep unease in J&K. Kashmir observed a shutdown over the issue in response to Hurriyat call and People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration has also taken a serious exception to the laws. Incidentally the land laws have evoked opposition in Jammu too. This despite the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha assuring the people that "not an inch" of the ninety percent agricultural land will be sold to outsiders. He expressed hope that the amended land laws would attract an investment of an estimated Rs 30,000 crore within the next three years. He also said the arrival of Industries in Kashmir would solve the issue of unemployment in the region that, according to him, was double the national average. The government, he said, wanted to build an industrial city, an IT city, a medicity that will be facilitated by the new land laws.

But this has hardly convinced the opponents of the land laws in J&K. The PAGD has termed the government defence as "a bundle of lies". The real objective to repeal the basic land laws, the PAGD said, is to push in and implement the agenda of effecting demographic change and disempowering the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Alliance has also rightly said that it was because of the land reforms "that there are no starvation deaths in J&K and no farmer suicides" in Kashmir.

On the other hand, the new land laws have generated disaffection in Jammu also. A few days ago, over 20 political parties and social organisations held a meeting in Jammu to discuss 'certain issues' related to the winter capital. Apart from Panthers Party, the meeting was attended by Dogra Sadar Sabha, Ikkjut Jammu among others and leaders of Shiv Sena, Bajrang Dal, United Democratic Alliance, among others.

The leaders have reportedly pressed for a separate statehood for Jammu. The opinion that is building in Jammu is that while they voted for the BJP and also supported the abrogation of Article 370, they also stand to lose like their counterparts in Jammu. Other than the BJP, almost all other Jammu based parties including Congress are not happy with the new land laws including the earlier domicile rules, fearing their fallout will be largely detrimental to Jammu.

However, it is still too early to estimate how politics in Jammu will evolve in near to medium future. Or for that matter, how the politics will shape up in Kashmir in response to what is perceived as an assault on the region. What is needed under the circumstances is for the centre to engage with the political opinion in both the regions and seek to address the fears and insecurities among the people.

OTHER OPINON

Kabul University slaughter

WHILE hopes remain that violence in Afghanistan will one day come to an end, specifically if the government, the Afghan Taliban and other major stakeholders reach a peace agreement, civilians in that unfortunate country continue to pay a high price due to the lawlessness.

On Monday, a massacre occurred at Kabul University, in which at least 22 people lost their lives. The militant Islamic State group has claimed responsibility.

While these attacks rightfully attract revulsion, they are par for the course where IS's deadly strategy and tactics are concerned. Moreover, the attacks illustrate the frailty of the Kabul government; the two recent assaults did not take place in some faraway, barely governed province. They took place in the Afghan capital, which is supposed to have a heavy security presence. This shows that unless a solid Afghan peace agreement is hammered out and put into practice, as soon as foreign forces leave the country IS and its ideological comrades may carry out even greater acts of violence.

A two-fold response is needed to control IS terrorism within Afghanistan. First and foremost is the need, as stated above, for all Afghan factions that believe in the political process to single-mindedly work for a peace plan agreeable to all. Secondly, some Afghan officials have blamed the Afghan Taliban and Pakistan for Monday's attack. This is strange as IS has unambiguously claimed it was behind the assault. Instead of hurling unsubstantiated allegations, the Afghan government must work with regional states and the international community to eliminate the IS threat. Pointing fingers at others will not make the threat go away.

Dawn



Literary Ecriture

The Poetics of Memory

HUZAIFA PANDIT

Compounding the peculiarity of this relationship is that change is mired in resentment, where two contradictory pulls exist in the narrative space simultaneously. One is the narrative of the collective trauma engendered by years of strife, and the pervading sense of betrayal post abrogation that is wedded to the iteration of remembrance of things past in order to stay relevant in the world of narratives.

History is being repeated and rewritten every other day with the latest land laws and conversion of the erstwhile state into a union territory, and the process has been accelerated of late, even as the project predates the current era

What do we remember? Why do we remember? Does our history determine what we remember, or does what we remember determine how we view and recall our history? How do we understand what is our collective 'truth' and what doesn't classify as our 'truth'? These are questions that demand answers but have no easy answers and raise more queries than they provide solutions. But you might well pause and ask what is the relevance of these questions to you or to our condition in general.

My answer to your query would be that these are very important questions because we are at the cross roads of history both at the global level and at the level of Kashmir where winds of violent upheaval are blowing. History is being repeated and rewritten every other day with the latest land laws and conversion of the erstwhile state into a union territory, and the process has been accelerated of late, even as the project predates the current era. While the old order is gradually and irrevocably fading from collective memory, it is worthwhile to recall what will be the relation of this old world order to the new era? Compounding the peculiarity of this relationship is that change is mired in resentment, where two contradictory pulls exist in the narrative space simultaneously.

One is the narrative of the collective trauma engendered by years of strife, and the pervading sense of betrayal post abrogation that is wedded to the iteration of remembrance of things past in order to stay relevant in the world of narratives. The other contradictory pull is the pull of the state's ideological machine that is bent upon creating a parallel narrative erasing all traces of the collective past, and thus giving a lie to the collective trauma wrought by militarization and subsequent dismemberment of land and subjectivities. These two contradictory narratives exist at the same time in the narrative space, each wrestling with the other and demanding of us what to recall and how to recall. It is precisely this duality that informs my earlier question of what do we recall, and how do we recall. I propose to answer this question by explaining the role of poetry in this clash of

narratives, and its utility in safeguarding the old world order in the narrative space even as it vanishes from the ground.

It merits reiteration here that a majority of poetry and literature produced from Kashmir, especially the one categorized under 'Resistance Literature' and 'Resistance' poetry draws from the memory of the collective trauma wrought by strife and militarization. This has interesting implications for the question of 'truth' and recollection of 'truth'. Traumatic experience is belated and excessive. By this I mean that trauma is realized post the event in the form of recurrent flashbacks which represent the attempts of the mind to comprehend the full magnitude of the event and ascertain the actual 'truth of the event' that belies the rational mind. Trauma, and more so collective trauma or received trauma (in which the individual may not directly have suffered the traumatic experience but is nonetheless implicated in it due to being part of the collective that also counts the individual(s) who suffered trauma among itself, and thus shared by the collective as a whole) is excessive in nature, since it resists any attempt to completely know it, and belated since it is realized post the moment rather than immediately like a physical injury would be. As such, this complicated grief and mourning for an absence cannot be fully integrated into experience and language.

Since this integration is always, therefore, incomplete, it has noteworthy consequences and effects on the act of writing history, and supplying testimony, both of which (as I have already explained in an earlier column) are functions performed by resistance poetry. I do not mean to say that resistance poets are historians, rather I mean they document lived experience and thus provide a more authentic account of lived histories. Since narration of a traumatic event is always retrospective, and is necessarily incomplete it implies that testimony is not an 'authentic' record of the event, in the sense we commonly understand authenticity, but as an account contaminated by interpretation. Cathy Caruth, a theorist of trauma, therefore suggests, "The historical power of the trauma is not just that the experience is repeated after its forgetting, but that it is only in and through its inherent forgetting that it is first experienced at all. For history to be a history of trauma means that it is referential precisely to the extent that it is not fully perceived as it occurs; or to put it somewhat differently, that a history can be grasped

only in the very inaccessibility of its occurrence." Since the poem or literature in general is an imaginative rendering and the audience is implicated in the fictionality of the narrated event, the poem is an acknowledgement of the inability to produce a 'true' and 'authentic' account of the 'real' magnitude of the turmoil in the valley.

The acknowledgement of the collapse of understanding is itself a subversion of the singular narrative of the state, which postulates it as a simple matter of defense of the nation's sovereignty while at the same time nullifying any singular counter-nationalist narrative like a theocratic one or even a secular one. Rather, the implicit acknowledgement of the 'fictionality' of poetry and literature exposes the simplistic nature of 'singular' narratives of nationalism, and as such does justice to the lived experiences and the richness of the counter-strategies of resistance.

Poetry outlines therefore a key marker of resistance – the oral narrative, which ensures that the memory of oppression and repression remains a legacy that is bestowed and transmitted from one generation to other. Since, the poems are recited, and quoted in public they expand the vocabulary through which collective trauma is expressed. Poetry contributes to the debate of memory and truth by drawing a culturally constructed landscape of memory that is determined by not only the social and personal importance and peculiarity of specific memories, but also draws from meta or implicit models of memory that greatly determine the recollection of 'truth'. Poetic narratives that draw from trauma can be this understood as cultural constructions of historical and political memories. These culturally constructed landscapes visibilize and questions strategies of political mobilisation against the state, as well as the repressive response from the state to such mobilization. The mourning expressed in poetry transcends the individual self of the poet, rather coalesces into a community mourning – a building up of a heritage of trauma and defiance that must be continued and perpetuated such that the search and desire for justice is not abandoned.

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



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Freedom of Speech or Ribaldry?

Artist can't be morally careless. Their carelessness is inexcusable. They should be careful about the implications of their creativity. The primary and foremost objective of any such creativity should ethically be favourable to coexistence of different sections in society. Any of the creativity which actually doesn't serve the humanity with regard to mutually established values and doesn't serve the cognitive behaviour of humanity, cannot be the expression of any guided and well-wishing individual.

Their work should revolve around the fair understanding of issues prevailing around. Difference of opinion about any issue should always be backed with logic and reason. Mutual respect, regard and reverence as such should always be the priority. The eradication of social but actually ideological menaces such as discrimination on the basis of colour, creed and race should be the obvious objective.

A well-established value, Right to freedom of speech and expression

can't be used as a tool to infuse venom into the society and spread hate as has happened in France.

French president Macron has the intention to provoke outrage as he is facing tough competition on the political front from far right leaders. The attack on a school teacher who had showed Charlie Hebdo's sketch of Prophet (pbuh) to his students, has also given him an opportunity to push new legislation strengthening the 1905 act on that separates religion and the state in the country — and sees freedom of expression as absolute) allow-

ing for closer scrutiny of schools and associations exclusively serving religious communities.

President Emmanuel Macron's statement, "Islam is a religion in crisis all over the world today, we don't see it only in our country," is very disproportionate reaction. For many among France's large Muslim community, "laïcité"/"Secularism has meant a lack of respect towards their beliefs.

Mir Hilal Ahmad
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Khushal Sar: An Unplanned Urbanized Mess

SHEIKH ANEAUS

The irresponsible unplanned urban growth within and around the wetland has not only caused deterioration of the chemical quality of the water of the wetland but also lead the peripheries of the wetland be used as the dumping ground for solid waste. While the built-up is the predominant land use type covering 65% region of Khushal Sar, there is no sewage treatment plant for cleaning the home-grown sewage that empties legitimately into the wetland.

Khushal Sar, an urban wetland, situated in the heart of Srinagar City has been a casualty of enormous anthropogenic interference which has degraded the socially significant ecosystem

Wetlands are among the most vulnerable and threatened ecosystems. They provide us with a number of economic and ecological services including nutrient removal from water as well as carbon sink ground water recharge. Wetlands regulate climate by apprehending and retaining carbon. They play an important role in the ecosystem as a rich storehouse of biodiversity. In view of the continuous human interference these sensitive ecosystems are looming under grave threat. In spite of tremendous benefits, human beings are continuously altering these delicate ecosystems due to unprecedented population growth and unchecked urbanization and under-treated wastes that are directly dumped into them. Consequently, these land system changes have altered the trophic status of the wetlands.

The lakes and wetlands across Kashmir are giving alarming indications of disintegration. Other than acting as flood sinks, they undertake a crucial role in supporting the livelihood of nearby populace. Over the last two decades earth observation data along with remote sensing technology has been widely used to access the land use and land cover changes in these ecosystems and their adjacent areas. This is being done to observe the change on these sensitive ecosystems due to continuous shifting land cover dynamics. Studies have suggested that in the last five decades there have been significant changes across Kashmir valley, which are evident in the areas around the wetlands.

In case of extension and improvement of the Srinagar city, area of wetlands has declined quickly. Over the century, Srinagar City has lost over half of the remaining wetlands principally taken over by developed areas, mainly due to the lack of any land use guidelines for the region. Land Use Plan 2021 for Srinagar Metropolitan Area (accessible at <http://www.sdasinagar.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/land-use-map.jpg>) has failed to delineate ecologically sensitive zones in the vicinity of wetlands of the Srinagar city and does not place any prohibition on construction of houses in the vicinity of wetlands.

Khushal Sar, an urban wetland, situated in the heart of Srinagar City has been a casualty of enormous anthropogenic interference which has degraded the socially significant ecosystem. The main cause of degradation of this wetland is due to the mammoth increment in home-grown sewage that channels into the wetland without treatment. The Department of Geoinformatics, University of Kashmir had conducted a vital study on Khushal Sar. The study is an effort to assess land system changes in and around Khushal Sar wetland over 53 years, from 1965 to 2018. The study has been done using high-resolution aerial photographs, satellite data, ground observations and fragmentation model to look at how the natural landscapes have been eradicated due to land system changes in general and urban sprawl in particular. This study assumes importance in observation of the fact that the natural landscapes in the Srinagar City have been taken over by impervious surfaces that have blocked the



natural drainage.

The study is an effort to extensively review the changes of about 52 years from the year 1962 to 2018. The analysis of the land use land cover showed exponentiation, a 1600% expansion from 1980 to 2018 in built-up inside the wetland. It is appropriate to specify that there was no development inside the wetland in the 1965 satellite information. Our investigation additionally demonstrated 600% expansion in the road network inside the wetland zone. The aquatic vegetation likewise demonstrated an expansion of 150% from 1965 and 2018. This examination additionally flagged that agricultural areas within the wetland have vanished. The outcome indicates that water spread, plantation and marshy areas have also decreased by 74%, 62%, and 33% respectively.

The study additionally demonstrated that Khushal Sar wetland lost ~ 17 ha from 1980 to 2018 to unlawful built-up that surfaced inside the wetland. The impromptu urbanization and filling of Mar Canal have stifled the wetland. The filling of Mar Canal and urbanization seriously affected the wetland wellbeing by not just diminishing the water holding limit of this wetland yet additionally influencing the hydrological network with other neighbouring water bodies, which was clear during the September 2014 floods when wetlands where severely inundated.

The irresponsible unplanned urban growth within and around the wetland has not only caused deterioration of the chemical quality of the water of the wetland but also lead the peripheries of the wetland be used as the dumping ground for solid waste. While the built-up is the predominant land use type covering 65% region of Khushal Sar, there is no sew-

age treatment plant for cleaning the home-grown sewage that empties legitimately into the wetland. Study also indicate that the production of lotus stem (cash crop) from the Khushal Sar wetland declined due to shrinkage in open water and propagation of exotic weeds.

Other than the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) set up in 1997 for lake and wetland protection, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) are duty bound to ensure the sustainable urban development of the city environs. These three organizations, answerable for checking any impedance and offering flexibility to infrastructure ventures, have neglected their mandate to check the danger of encroachment of wetland zones. The unplanned urbanization has come up inside and around the wetland. Our investigation also showed decrease in water spread and increment in aquatic vegetation which is characteristic of nutrient enrichment due to home-grown sewage from the close by built-up area. The lack of sewage treatment facility, reckless unplanned urbanization within and in the vicinity of the wetland, is responsible for the degradation of the Khushal Sar wetland.

The author is a PhD scholar with the Department of Geoinformatics at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Kashmir and can be reached at sheikh.aneaus19@gmail.com. The study was conducted by the author under the supervision of Dr. Irfan Rashid and is published in Journal of Environmental Monitoring and Assessment on 12 September, 2020.

Face masks are part of our daily lives during the pandemic. Many are made from plastics and designed to be used just once, which means thousands of tonnes of extra waste going to landfill.

Masks may help stop the spread of the coronavirus. But according to one estimate, if everyone in the United Kingdom used a single-use mask each day for a year, it would create 66,000 tonnes of contaminated waste and 57,000 tonnes of plastic packaging.

Evidence also suggests masks may be a source of harmful microplastic fibres on land and in waterways and litter.

So let's look at how face masks might be designed to cause minimal harm to the environment, while still doing their job – and which type is best for you.

Circular thinking

China is the world's biggest face mask manufacturer. Its daily output of face masks reportedly reached 116 million units in February this year. That creates a big waste management problem around the world.

One way to address this is to adopt "circular design" principles. This thinking seeks to reduce waste and pollution through product design, keep products and materials in use, and regenerate natural systems.

When it comes to face masks, the three common types are cloth, surgical and N-95. N-95 masks offer the highest level of protection, blocking about 95% of airborne particles. Cloth masks are designed to be used more than once, while surgical and N-95 masks are usually intended for single use.

Face masks may consist of one or more layers, each with different functions:

- an outermost layer, designed to repel liquids such as water
 - the innermost layer, which absorbs moisture and allows comfort and breathability
 - a non-absorbent middle layer, to filter particles.
- Each type of mask is made of different materials and used in varying settings:
- N-95 masks: These are designed to protect the wearer from 95% of airborne particles and are largely worn by health workers. N-95 masks are designed to fit closely to the face and are usually worn only once. N-95 masks comprise:

- a strap (polyisoprene)
- staples (steel)
- nose foam (polyurethane)
- nose clip (aluminum)

Millions of Masks

MAYURI WIJAYASUNDARA



- filter (polypropylene)
- valve diaphragm (polyisoprene).

- **Surgical masks:** These are designed to protect sterile environments from the wearer, acting as barrier to droplets or aerosols. Generally intended as single-use items, they comprise mostly polypropylene between two layers of non-woven fabric.

- **Cloth masks:** These types of masks are worn by the general public. Some are homemade from fabric scraps or old clothing. They may be wholly reusable, or partially reusable with replaceable filters that must be disposed of.

These masks typically comprise an outer layer of polyester or polypropylene (or in some cases, cotton), and an inner layer designed for breathability and comfort – usually cotton or a cotton-polyester blend.

Research suggests cloth masks are less effective at filtering particles than medical masks, but may give some protection if well-fitted and properly designed. Health advice is available to help guide their use.

Designing for a healthier environment

It's important to note that any attempt to redesign face masks must ensure they offer adequate protection to the wearer. Where masks are used in a medical setting, design changes must also meet official standards such as barrier efficiency, breathing capacity and fire resistance.

With this in mind, reducing the environmental harm caused by masks could be done in several ways:

- Design with more reusable parts

Evidence suggests reusable cloth masks perform almost as well as single-use masks, but without the associated waste. One life cycle assessment conducted in the UK found masks that could be washed and reused were the best option for the environment. Reusable masks with replaceable filters were the second-best option.

The study also found having a higher number of masks in rotation to allow for machine washing was better for the environment than manual washing.

- Make masks easier to dispose of or recycle

In high-risk settings such as hospitals and clinics, the reuse of masks may not be possible or desirable, meaning they must be disposed of. In medical settings, there are systems in place for disposal of such protective gear, which usually involves segregation and incineration.

But the general public must dispose of masks themselves. Because masks usually comprise different materials, this can be complicated. For example, recovering the components of a N-95 mask for recycling would involve putting the straps, nose foam, filter and valve in one bin and the metal staples and nose clip in another. And some recyclers may see mask recycling as a health risk. These difficulties mean masks often end up in landfill.

Masks would be easier to recycle if they were made of fewer materials and were easy to disassemble.

- Use biodegradable materials

For single-use items, placing synthetics with biodegradable materials would be a first step in circular design thinking.

The abaca plant, a relative of the banana tree, offers one potential option. Its leaf fibre reportedly repels water better than traditional face masks, is as strong as polymer and decomposes within two months. Most abaca is currently produced in the Philippines.

Which mask should you choose?

From a purely environmental perspective, research suggests owning multiple reusable face masks, and machine-washing them together, is the best option. Using filters with reusable face masks is a second-best option.

But when choosing a mask, consider where you will wear it. Unless cloth masks are shown to be as effective as other masks, health-care workers should not use them. But they may be suitable in low-risk everyday settings.

In the longer term, governments and manufacturers must make every effort to design masks that will not harm the planet – and consumers should demand this. Face masks will probably be ubiquitous on our streets for months to come. But once the pandemic is over, the environmental legacy may last for decades, if not centuries.

*By arrangements with
The Conversation*

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
(Election Authority)****(Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989)****Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir****Nirvachan Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu****Phone No: 0191-2477519 Fax No - 0191-2477389****Notification No: EA/Pyt/2020/03****Dated: 03.11.2020**

Whereas, in terms of Section 45 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989 (as amended by S.O. 3654(E) dated 16-10-2020 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India), read along with Rule 108-B of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996 (as amended by S.O. 316 dated 17-10-2020 and S.O. 330 dated 24-10-2020 of Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Jammu and Kashmir), the Election Authority, Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989 has notified the final Delimitation of District Development Council constituencies, vide Notification No. EA/Pyt/2020/02 dated 26th October, 2020;

Whereas, Section 45-A of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989 envisages reservation of seats to be filled by direct elections for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women in a District Development Council and Rule 108-A (3, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D and 3E) of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules 1996 lays down the procedure for reservation of District Development Council Constituencies in a district;

Whereas, in terms of Rule 108-A(4) and based on the procedure laid down in Rule 108-A (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D and 3E), the draft Delimitation proposals in respect of all the 20 districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir were published by the respective Deputy Commissioners on 27th October 2020 and kept in public domain for inspection and inviting public objections thereon till 31st October 2020;

Whereas, in terms of Rule 108-A(5) of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules 1996, the Election Authority constituted Divisional Level Committees of the following Officers, vide Order No. EA/Pyt/2020/453 dated 28th October, 2020, in each division for examining the objections received in respect of the proposed reservation of District Development Council constituencies published by the respective Deputy Commissioners:-

Kashmir Division:

1. Sh. Qazi Sarwar, Director Rural Development, Kashmir
2. Ms. Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Joint Director (Admin) Directorate of Rural Development, Kashmir
3. Sh. Gulzar Ahmad Khan, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Kashmir
4. Sh. Mohammad. Aslam, Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir

Jammu Division:

1. Sh. Sudershan Kumar, Director Rural Development, Jammu
2. Ms. Gurneet Kour, Deputy Director Planning, Directorate of Rural Development, Jammu
3. Sh. Paramjeet Singh, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu
4. Sh. Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhary, Assistant Commissioner Development, Udhampur
5. Sh. Chanderkant, District Panchayat Officer, Rajouri

Whereas, various objections and suggestions received within the prescribed period through the respective Deputy Commissioners were examined by the two Committees and recommendations made accordingly have been received by the Election Authority;

Whereas, a number of objections/recommendations were found to be devoid of any merit and thus not accepted. However, some objections/recommendations have been found reasoned and in consonance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989 and Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules 1996 and it has been found necessary to modify the proposed Reservation of the District Development Councils to incorporate the same;

Now, therefore, after incorporating all the changes in respect of the objections/recommendations which have been accepted, the State Election Commissioner (Election Authority), hereby notifies the Reservation of District Development Councils, in terms of Rule 108-B, as **Annexure - I** to this notification.

Sd/-

K. K. Sharma, IAS(Retd.)
State Election Commissioner
(Election Authority)
Dated:- 03/11/2020

DIPK-NB-3539/20

No. 01/SEC/PYT/2020/01-20

ANNEXURE-I to Notification No. EA/Pyt/2020/03 dated 03-11-2020

Name of District	District Development Council Constituency No	District Development Council Constituency Name	Reservation
Kupwara	1	Drugmulla	Women(Open)
	2	Hyhama	Open
	3	Kalaroos	ST
	4	Kralpora	Women(Open)
	5	Mawer (Qalamabad)	Open
	6	Natnussa	Open
	7	Qadlirabad	Women(Open)
	8	Qaziabad	Open
	9	Rajwar	Open
	10	Ramhal	Women(Open)
	11	Reddi Chowkibal	Open
	12	Sogam	Open
	13	Tangdar	Women(Open)
	14	Wavoora	Open
Baramulla	1	Baramulla	Women(Open)
	2	Boniyar	Open
	3	Kunzer	Open
	4	Narvaw	Women(Open)
	5	Paranpillyan	ST
	6	Pattan	Open
	7	Rafiabad	Women(Open)
	8	Rohama	Open
	9	Sangrama	Open
	10	Singhpura	Women(Open)
	11	Tangmarg	Open
	12	Tujar Sharief	Open
	13	Wagoora	Women(Open)
	14	Zaingeer	Open
Bandipora	01	Aloosa	Women(Open)
	02	Arin	Open
	03	Bandipora-A	Open
	04	Bandipora-B	Women(Open)
	05	Bonakoot	Open
	06	Ganstan	Open
	07	Gurez	Women(ST)
	08	Hajin-A	Women(Open)
	09	Hajin-B	ST
	10	Hajin-C	Open
	11	Naidkhai	Open
	12	Nowgam	Women(Open)
	13	Sumbal	Open
	14	Tulail	ST

Name of District	District Development Council Constituency No	District Development Council Constituency Name	Reservation
Ganderbal	1	Ganderbal-A	Women(Open)
	2	Ganderbal-B	Open
	3	Ganderbal-C	Open
	4	Gund-A	Women (ST)
	5	Gund-B	ST
	6	Kangan-A	Women(Open)
	7	Kangan-B	ST
	8	Kangan-C	Open
	9	Lar-A	Open
	10	Lar-B	Women(Open)
	11	Safapora	Open
	12	Sherpathri	Open
	13	Wakura-A	Women(Open)
	14	Wakura-B	Open
Srinagar	1	Harwan-I	Women (ST)
	2	Harwan-II	Open
	3	Harwan-III	Open
	4	Harwan-IV	Women(Open)
	5	Harwan-V	Open
	6	Harwan-VI	Open
	7	Khanmoh-I	Women(Open)
	8	Khanmoh-II	Open
	9	Khanmoh-III	Open
	10	Qamarwari-I	Women(Open)
	11	Qamarwari-II	Open
	12	Srinagar-I	Open
	13	Srinagar-II	Women(Open)
	14	Srinagar-III	Open
Budgam	1	B.K Pora	Women(Open)
	2	Beerwah	Open
	3	Budgam	Open
	4	Chadoora	Women(Open)
	5	Khag	Open
	6	Khansahib	Open
	7	Nagam	Women(Open)
	8	Narbal	Open
	9	Pakherpora	Open
	10	Parnewa	Women(Open)
	11	Rathsun	Open
	12	Soibugh	Open
	13	Sukhnag	Women(Open)
	14	Suresyar	Open
	1	Achgooze	Women (ST)
	2	Aripal	Open

Name of District	District Development Council Constituency No	District Development Council Constituency Name	Reservation
Pulwama	3	Awantipora I	Open
	4	Awantipora II	Women(Open)
	5	Dadsara	Open
	6	Kakapora I	Open
	7	Kakapora II	Women(Open)
	8	Litter	Open
	9	Newa	Open
	10	Pampore	Women(Open)
	11	Pulwama I	Open
	12	Pulwama II	Open
	13	Shadimarg	Women(Open)
	14	Trail	Open
Shopian	1	Chitragam	Women(Open)
	2	Hermain-I	Open
	3	Hermain-II	Open
	4	Imamsahib- I	Women(Open)
	5	Imamsahib - II	Open
	6	Kanjilullar	Open
	7	Kaprin	Women(Open)
	8	Keller-I	ST
	9	Keller-II	Open
	10	Ramnagri	Women(Open)
	11	Shopian-I	Open
	12	Shopian-II	Open
	13	Zainapora-I	Women(Open)
	14	Zainapora-II	Open
Kulgam	1	Behibagh	Women(Open)
	2	Devsar A	Open
	3	Devsar B	Open
	4	D H Pora	Women(Open)
	5	D K Marg	Open
	6	Frisal	Open
	7	Kulgam A	Women(Open)
	8	Kulgam B	Open
	9	Kund	Open
	10	Manzgam	Women (ST)
	11	Pahloo	Open
	12	Pombay	Open
	13	Qaimoh A	Women(Open)
	14	Qaimoh B	Open
	1	Achabal	Women(Open)
	2	Anantnag	Open
	3	Bijbehara	Open
	4	Breng	Women(Open)

Name of District	District Development Council Constituency No	District Development Council Constituency Name	Reservation
Anantnag	5	Dachnipora	Open
	6	Hiller	Open
	7	Khovripora	Women(Open)
	8	Larnoo	Women (ST)
	9	Pahalqam	ST
	10	Sagam	Open
	11	Shahabad	Open
	12	Shangus	Women(Open)
	13	Verinag	Open
	14	Vessu	Open
Doda	1	Assar	Women(Open)
	2	Bhaderwah - East	Open
	3	Bhaderwah - West	Open
	4	Bhaqwah	Women(Open)
	5	Bhalla	Women (SC)
	6	Bhallessa	ST
	7	Changa	Open
	8	Chiralla	SC
	9	Doda (Ghat)	Women(Open)
	10	Gundana	Open
	11	Kahara	Open
	12	Kastigarh	Women(Open)
	13	Marmat	Open
	14	Thathri	Open
Kishtwar	1	BOUNJWAH	Women (ST)
	2	DACHHAN	Women(Open)
	3	DRABSHALLA-A	Open
	4	DRABSHALLA-B	Open
	5	INDERWAL	Women(Open)
	6	KISHTWAR	Open
	7	MARWAH	Open
	8	MUGALMAIDAN	Women(Open)
	9	NAGSENI	ST
	10	PADDER	Open
	11	PALMAR	Open
	12	THAKRAIE	Women(Open)
	13	TRIGAM	SC
	14	WARWAN	Open
	1	Banihal A	Women(Open)
	2	Banihal-B	Open
	3	Batote	SC
	4	Gandhri	Women (ST)
	5	Gool	ST
	6	Khari	Women(Open)

Name of District	District Development Council Constituency No	District Development Council Constituency Name	Reservation
Ramban	7	Rajgarh	Open
	8	Ramban A	Open
	9	Ramban B	Women(Open)
	10	Ramsoo-A	Open
	11	Ramsoo-B	Open
	12	Sangaldan	Women(Open)
	13	Ukhral A	Open
	14	Ukhral B	Open
Reasi	1	Arnass	Women(Open)
	2	Bhomag	Open
	3	Chassana	Women(ST)
	4	Chassana-A	Open
	5	Gulabgarh	Women(Open)
	6	Jij Bagli	ST
	7	Katra	Women(SC)
	8	Mahore	Open
	9	Mahore-A	ST
	10	Panthal	Open
	11	Pouni	Women(Open)
	12	Pouni-A	Open
	13	Reasi SC	Open
	14	Thuroo	ST
UDHAMPUR	1	Chenani	Women(Open)
	2	Dudu-Basantgarh	Women (SC)
	3	Ghordi	Open
	4	Jaganoo	Open
	5	Khoon	Women(Open)
	6	Latti-Marothi	Women (ST)
	7	Majalta	Open
	8	Narsoo	ST
	9	Panchari	Open
	10	Ramnagar I	SC
	11	Ramnagar II	SC
	12	Tikri	Women(Open)
	13	Udhampur-I	Open
	14	Udhampur-II	SC
Kathua	1	Bani	Women(Open)
	2	Barnoti	Women (SC)
	3	Basohli	Open
	4	Billawar	Open
	5	Dinga Amb	Women(Open)
	6	Hiranagar	Open
	7	Kathua	Open
	8	Keerian Gandyal	Women(Open)

Name of District	District Development Council Constituency No	District Development Council Constituency Name	Reservation
	9	Lohai Malhar	ST
	10	Mahampur	Open
	11	Mandli	Women(Open)
	12	Marheen	SC
	13	Nagri	SC
	14	Nagrota Gujroo	Open
Samba	1	Bari Brahmana-A	Women (SC)
	2	Bari Brahmana-B	Women (ST)
	3	Ghagwal	Open
	4	Nud	SC
	5	Purmandal	Open
	6	Rajpura	Women(Open)
	7	Ramgarh-A	Open
	8	Ramgarh-B	Open
	9	Ramgarh-C	Women(Open)
	10	Samba-A	SC
	11	Samba-B	SC
	12	Sumb	Open
	13	Vilaypur-A	Open
	14	Vilaypur-B	Women(Open)
Jammu	1	Akhnoor	Women(Open)
	2	Arnia	Women (SC)
	3	Bhalwal	Open
	4	Bhalwal Brahmana	Open
	5	Bishnah	SC
	6	Dansal	Women(ST)
	7	Khour	Open
	8	Maira Mandrian	Open
	9	Mandal Phallian	Women(Open)
	10	Marh	SC
	11	Miran Sahib	Women (SC)
	12	Nagrota	Open
	13	RS Pura	SC
	14	Suchetgarh	Open
Rajouri	1	Budhal New	Women(Open)
	2	Budhal Old-A	Women (ST)
	3	Budhal Old-B	ST
	4	Darnal	Open
	5	Dhangri	Open
	6	Doongl	ST
	7	Kalakote	Women(Open)
	8	Manjakote	Open
	9	Moughla	Women (ST)
	10	Nowshera	SC

Name of District	District Development Council Constituency No	District Development Council Constituency Name	Reservation
	11	Rajouri	ST
	12	Seri	Women(Open)
	13	Sunderbani	Open
	14	Thannamandi	Open
	1	Balakote	Women(Open)
	2	Buffliaz	Open
	3	Lassana	Women (ST)
	4	Loran	Open
	5	Mandi	Women(Open)
	6	Mankote	ST
	7	Mendhar A	Open
	8	Mendhar B	Open
	9	Mendhar C	ST
	10	Nangali Sahib Sain Baba	Women(Open)
	11	Poonch	Open
	12	Sathra	Women (ST)
	13	Surankote A	ST
	14	Surankote B	Open

**PUNJABI UNIVERSITY
PATIALA, PUNJAB**

(Established Under Punjab Act No.35 of 1961)

(NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE 'A')

**RESULT NOTIFICATION
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Firdous Ahmad Reshi S/O Ab. Ahad Reshi R/O Soibugh, Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir bearing University Regd. No. PU(P)2016-2985 who pursued his Ph.D programme on whole time basis in the Guru Gobind Singh Department of Religious Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala and submitted his thesis entitled "Human Rights in Islam: The Study of Children Rights in Iran" under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Mohd. Habib, Head, GGS Department of Religious Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala is declared qualified for the award of Ph.D degree in Religious Studies on 0

Israeli army destroys Palestinian village in Jordan Valley

Agencies

Jerusalem: Palestinian prime minister Mohammed Shtayyeh accused Israeli troops of having 'completely demolished the village of Homsa al-Baqia, leaving around 80 people homeless' Israel's army has demolished the homes of nearly 80 Palestinian Bedouins in the occupied West Bank, officials and witnesses said on Wednesday, in a rare operation targeting an entire community at once. Late Tuesday, Israeli bulldozers razed the village -- including tents, sheds, portable toilets and solar panels -- near Tubas in the Jordan Valley, according to an AFP photographer at the scene, who found dozens of people left homeless.



A Palestinian bedouin tries to stop the spillage of grains after Israeli soldiers demolished tents and structures in an area east of the village of Tubas, in the occupied West Bank, on November 3, 2020 AFP

Palestinian prime minister Mohammed Shtayyeh accused Israeli troops of having 'completely demolished the village of Homsa al-Baqia, leaving around 80 people homeless'. The branch of Israel's army responsible for civilian affairs in the West Bank, COGAT, said it had destroyed structures

"built illegally in a firing zone (military training area) in the Jordan Valley." The Jordan Valley falls in the West Bank's Area C that is fully controlled by Israel's army, which has occupied the West Bank since 1967. Under Israeli rules, Palestinians cannot build structures in the area without permits, which are typically refused, and demolitions are common. According to Abdelghani Awada, left homeless by the operation, the Israelis who arrived in vehicles and with bulldozers gave people "10 minutes to evacuate our homes." "Then they started bulldozing," he told AFP. He stressed that his family had lived in the area for genera-



Portland Protesters Burn Flags On Tense US Election Night

Agencies

Portland, United States: Demonstrators burned US flags and marched through Portland armed with protest songs and assault rifles as a confusing election night unfolded to high tension but without violence in the northwestern city. The liberal enclave in the state of Oregon had braced for possible armed clashes after months of divisive rallies involving left-wing activists, right-wing militias and federal officers deployed by the Trump administration. As President Donald Trump claimed he won the US election early Wednesday, despite key states still counting ballots, activists gathered outside the Portland federal courthouse -- the epicenter of the summer's fraught anti-racism protests. "We don't like either candidate -- I shamefully voted for Biden -- but if Trump gets another four years people will be mad," said one 20-year-old

protester, who asked to be called "L," as two American flags were ignited in front of the building. Many at the courthouse shouted slogans against Trump as well as Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, a bogeyman for anti-police protesters who won re-election Tuesday, while others danced and twerked to loud hip-hop music. The FBI has warned of the potential for armed clashes in Portland linked to the polls, but there were no signs of election night activity from right-wing groups such as the Proud Boys. And by the early hours of Wednesday police had not engaged with the protesters, some of whom earlier participated in a peaceful 400-strong Black Lives Matter march around east Portland. "It's gonna be crazy" The three-hour march was led by a convoy including at least half a dozen protesters armed with assault rifles, knives and a

shotgun. Rumors and reports of shifts in the national and state races still being counted spread among marchers. "I heard Trump has the momentum now," said 20-year-old protest leader Ty Ford. "It's gonna be a riot. Whenever it comes out, it's gonna be crazy." "It is like picking between two evils but honestly, we'll settle with Biden," said fellow leader "D.D.," aged 22. Demands ranged from abolishing ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to justice for Black victims of police violence including George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, before the march ended with a rendition of "Hallelujah." There were also moments of levity as protest leaders cajoled those watching the march from their apartment windows to join the rally. "Hey, stick your head out the window, tell us how the election is going -- and then maybe slip on your shoes and come help us start a revolution," shouted one activist.

Explainer: What might happen if US election result is disputed?

Agencies

Washington: Despite incomplete results from several battleground states that could determine the outcome of the United States presidential race, President Donald Trump proclaimed victory over Democratic challenger Joe Biden on Wednesday. The premature move confirmed worries Democrats had voiced for weeks that Trump would seek to dispute the election results. That could set off any number of legal and political dramas in which the presidency could be determined by some combination of the courts, state politicians and Congress. Here are the various ways the election can be contested:

Lawsuits Early voting data shows Democrats are voting by mail in far greater numbers than Republicans. In states such as Pennsylvania and Wisconsin that do not count mail-in ballots until Election Day, initial results appeared to favour Trump because they were slower to count mailed ballots. Democrats had expressed concern that Trump would, as he did on Wednesday, declare victory before those ballots could be fully tallied. A close election could result in litigation over voting and ballot-counting procedures in battleground states. Cases filed in individual states could eventually reach the US Supreme Court, as Florida's election did in 2000, when Republican George W Bush prevailed over

Democrat Al Gore by just 537 votes in Florida after the high court halted a recount. Trump appointed Amy Coney Barrett as Supreme Court justice just days before the election, creating a 6-3 conservative majority that could favour the president if the courts weigh in on a contested election. 'We want all voting to stop': Trump wants Supreme Court involved in election "We want the law to be used in a proper manner. So we'll be going to the US Supreme Court. We want all voting to stop," Trump said on Wednesday, even though election laws in US states require all votes to be counted, and many states routinely take days to finish counting legal ballots.

German Minister Warns Of "Very Explosive Situation" In US

Agencies

Berlin, Germany: German Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer on Wednesday warned the United States was facing a "very explosive situation" and a possible systemic crisis after President Donald Trump prematurely declared election victory. Following Trump's remarks that he will go to the Supreme Court to stop ballots from being tallied, Kramp-Karrenbauer told public broadcaster ZDF "this election has not been decided... votes are still being



counted". She said Trump could create "a constitutional crisis in the USA".

Tehran wants US to return to intl. treaties, respect Iranian nation no matter who comes to power: Rouhani

Agencies

Tehran: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says Tehran wants Washington to return to international pacts and respect the Iranian nation no matter which individual or political party comes to power in the White House. "What is happening in America and who will be elected do not concern us," Rouhani told a cabinet meeting on Wednesday. "Individuals and party [affiliations] do not matter to us, but it is rather the approach that the [next US] government adopts [that counts]." The remarks came as vote counting is underway in the US to determine the winner of the tight 2020 presidential race between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden. During his four-year presi-

threats aside, begins respecting Iran and fulfills its obligations under the JCPOA instead of renegeing on commitments and breaking the law, Rouhani said. "It is the principles, methods and policies that are important to us," he said. The Iranian chief executive also stressed that the Islamic Republic has, however, made plans based on the assumption that Washington's manner will not return to the right path. "If the Americans understand and learn the lesson that they have to change course, so much the better, otherwise we have already made our decisions based on how to run the country under difficult circumstances," he said. Insult to Prophet, terror in name of Islam both condemned



dency, Trump withdrew the US from a number of multilateral accords, among them the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Following its withdrawal from the JCPOA in May 2018, the US unleashed the so-called maximum pressure campaign against Iran and targeted the nation with the "toughest ever" economic sanctions. "We want the US to return to the rule of law, all international and multilateral treaties, and respect the Iranian nation. We demand respect instead of sanctions," Rouhani said. The situation will change if the United States lifts the oppressive sanctions, sets

Elsewhere in his comments, Rouhani noted that those who are unfamiliar with Prophet Muhammad and make "incorrect statements" about Islam's prophet and those who commit extremist acts come from the same roots. "If someone seeks to take the life of a person and murder an individual at a temple or a university, this runs counter to his (Prophet Muhammad's) teachings," he said. Attacking places of worship, schools and universities are against claims of supporting Prophet Muhammad, the president said. "They are all lying. They are not followers of Prophet Muhammad. That is not the Prophet's way."

NEWS MAKERS

Republican candidate who died of Covid-19 wins election

Andahl has taken nearly 36% of the vote in his constitution

A Republican candidate in North Dakota has won a seat in the state legislature -- nearly a month after he died of complications from Covid-19. David Andahl was 55 when he died on October 5, after winning a heated primary with an incumbent committee chairman, reports Politico. "We need more Trump Republicans in the State Legislature," Sen Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), who had endorsed the Bismarck rancher, said at the time. Democrats nationwide had gone into Election Day believing that the White House's haphazard handling of the coronavirus pandemic would hurt Republican chances at the ballot boxes, only to be stunned when the projected



David Andahl was 55 when he died on October 5, after winning a heated primary with an incumbent committee chairman

"blue wave" never materialized, the report said. A dramatic surge in Covid-19 cases over the last month was seen in North Dakota. It now leads the country in the number of new cases per 100,000 people, according to

the Covid Tracking Project. Andahl and another Republican won the two seats for state representatives from North Dakota's eighth district, with Andahl taking nearly 36% of the vote, the report concluded.

Iran destroys mock enemy targets using Kamikaze drones during extensive drills



mock hostile warplanes. Both the MIGs and F-4s carried out their respective missions under actual electronic warfare conditions. Kamikaze drone missions, carpet bombings Meanwhile, unmanned aerial vehicles dubbed Arash that are outfitted with explosive warheads were smashed into mock enemy fortifications

lying across a range of 100 kilometers (62 miles), successfully blowing them up. Phantom warplanes also carried out surprise carpet bombing operations against designated targets at low altitude. Goudarzi announced that indigenous Karrar (Striker) bomber drones also conducted their maiden operations fea-

turing deployment of 500-lbs (226 kilogram) bombs against land-based targets. The official said previously, the ammunition of such weight could only be carried using F-4 and F-5 warplanes, adding that the drones were also recruited in electronic warfare missions to neutralize perceived enemy's anti-missile operations. Expert modern warfare teams separately engaged in confronting staged chemical attacks with indigenous decontamination devices. The main stage began on Monday with a preparatory reconnaissance mission across the assault course and was followed through with domestically-manufactured or overhauled fighter planes destroying mock hostile targets. The indigenous fighters flown included Kaman (Bow)-14 drones and Saeqeh (Lightning) fighters.

BJP Workers To Wear Black Badges/Clothes Till Arnab Goswami's Release

BJP workers in Maharashtra will wear black badges or black clothes until television journalist Arnab Goswami is released by the police, senior leader Chandrakant Patil said on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, the state BJP president termed the arrest of the Republic TV's editor-in-chief in an abetment to suicide case as the "Emergency-like situation". "BJP workers will wear black badges or black clothes to mark

our protest against the state government till Goswami is released by the police," he said. The BJP leader said the case against Goswami was reopened to settle a political score. Goswami was arrested in Mumbai by Raigad police for allegedly abetting suicide of a 53-year-old interior designer in 2018. The architect and his mother had committed suicide over alleged non-payment of dues by Republic TV, police said.

BJP WORKERS WILL WEAR BLACK badges or black clothes to mark our protest against the state government till Goswami is released by the police," he said.

Arnab Goswami Arrest: Congress Shreds BJP Over "Selective Outrage"



MUMBAI: Hitting out at the BJP over its criticism of Arnab Goswami's arrest in Mumbai, the Congress today said its "selective outrage" on press freedom is "shameful" and the law will take its own course in the case against the Republic TV editor-in-chief. Arnab Goswami was arrested from his residence in Mumbai today for allegedly abetting the suicide of a 53-year-old interior designer. Several Union ministers and senior BJP leaders have criticised the Congress over Arnab Goswami's arrest and called it an "attack on freedom of press". The Congress is part of the Shiv Sena-led coalition government in Maharashtra. Asked about Arnab Goswami's arrest and the BJP's criticism of it, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said she was actually very shocked with the "selective outrage" of the BJP of the sections of the government. Why are they silent when Prashant Kanojia is jailed for a number of months just because he exposed a scam where children were being served salt and chapati in Mirzapur?" the spokesperson asked, referring to the journalist who was arrested by the UP Police. Addressing a media briefing, she raised several other questions. Why, she asked, is the BJP "selectively silent" when sedition charges are slapped against journalists and when a case has been filed against (Scroll) journalist Supriya Sharma because she exposed the pathetic state of affairs in a village in Varanasi. And when a reporter who exposed the PPE kit scam in Uttar Pradesh is jailed and faces serious sedition charges instead of action been taken against those responsible for

the scam, she added. "So this selective outrage is extremely unwarranted, is shameful and they (the BJP) should be ashamed of saying anything," she told reporters. Supriya Shrinete also hit out at Arnab Goswami, saying she herself had been a journalist for almost two decades and alleged that he had brought complete "disgrace and shame" to journalism. "What he does in the garb of journalism is not journalism, what he does in the garb of journalism is the work of a BJP frontal," Ms Shrinete alleged. "To accuse people, to hurl abuses, to make any sort of allegations, to use the language that he does. Is he judge or jury? What sort of journalism is he doing in the garb of running a TV channel," she claimed. Ms Shrinete alleged the BJP should be the last one to be talking about freedom of the press. She also accused the BJP of "controlling the media" through advertisements and through "intimidation and fear". "I am reasonably certain that wherever Congress is in government or we are in alliance, people will not be punished if they are absolutely innocent. I also believe that law will take its own course even in this case," she said. The Congress believes in the independence of institutions and has never compromised their independence or autonomy, Ms Shrinete said. Arnab Goswami, who was seen being pushed into a police van, claimed he was assaulted by police at his home. BJP president JP Nadda and various senior Union ministers, including Amit Shah, slammed Arnab Goswami's arrest, describing it as a "blatant misuse of state power" and reminiscent of the Emergency.



BUSINESS USUAL: A farmer shouldering sack full of collard from his sprawling vegetable garden perched in Srinagar outskirts on Wednesday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

KPDCL To Slap Hefty Fine, File Firs To Curb Power Theft

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As the harsh winter is about to set in, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on Wednesday announced to launch a major crackdown to curb electricity theft and initiate legal proceedings against the accused. "All those who resort to power pilferage will be heavily fined and FIRs will also be lodged where power theft grossly takes place, KPDCL Chief Engineer, Ajaz Ahmad said Wednesday. He said that the corporation has taken several measures to stop the misuse of electricity in the Valley. One such step, he said, was the formation of teams to conduct

surprise inspections to stop electricity theft. Ahmad further said that the cases of power theft increase during the winter months, which leads to severe overloading of the distribution system at places, resulting in power cuts. The KPDCL Chief Engineer said that over the next few weeks raids will be carried in posh colonies in the city and other parts of the valley. "We have seen in the past that power thefts were unearthed even in the posh colonies of Srinagar," he said, adding "If people use electricity judiciously and pay as per the consumption, then there won't be power cuts at all," The announcement of a crackdown by the power corporation comes at a time when the locals in the Valley are

fuming over the unscheduled power cuts. Even complaints of power cuts are pouring in from metered area of the city and elsewhere. "We witness frequent power cuts from the last one week. We are bound to get 24 hour electricity supply as per the rules but the power department often resorts to unscheduled power cuts," Mohammad Ayoub, a resident of Bemina said. Many consumers alleged that when meters were installed in their areas, the corporation had promised round-the-clock supply. They said instead of improving the power supply, the authorities are blaming the people for the abrupt power cuts saying they were not using the electricity judiciously.

Airlines Allowed Up To 60% Pre-Covid Domestic Flights Till February 24 Next Year: Centre

NEW DELHI: Indian airlines can operate maximum 60 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic passenger flights till February 24 next year due to the prevailing coronavirus situation, the Civil Aviation Ministry has said. The ministry had informed the airlines about the 60 per cent limit through an official order on September 2 but it had not told them the period for which the cap would remain in place. On October 29, the ministry issued a new order clarifying that the September 2 order "shall remain in force until 2359 hrs on February 24, 2021 or until further orders" due to the "prevailing situation of COVID-19".



On June 26, the ministry had allowed the airlines to operate a maximum of 45 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic flights. The ministry had resumed domestic passenger services from May 25, after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus-triggered lockdown. However, the airlines were allowed to operate not

more than 33 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic flights. Modifying its previous order of June 26 where it had put the 45 per cent limit on the number of domestic flights, the ministry issued an order on September 2 stating that, "45 per cent capacity may be read as 60 per cent capacity." Scheduled international passenger flights continue to remain suspended in the country since March 23 due to the pandemic. However, special international flights have been operating under the Vande Bharat Mission since May and under bilateral air bubble pacts signed with various countries since July.

"India's Most Wanted Part 2": Maharashtra Minister On Arnab Goswami Arrest

MUMBAI: In the wake of Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami's arrest in a suicide abetment case, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi or MVA government has never acted vindictively against anyone since it came to power last year. He also claimed that the state government or any political party had nothing to do with the arrest. Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik termed Arnab Goswami's arrest as "Part 2 of India's Most Wanted". Arnab Goswami was arrested in

Mumbai by Raigad police on Wednesday morning for allegedly abetting suicide of a 53-year-old interior designer in 2018. "Proper procedure of law is followed in Maharashtra. Police can take action against anyone if they have evidence. The state government hasn't acted out of revenge," Mr Raut told reporters when asked about Arnab Goswami's arrest. "There is no anarchy in Maharashtra and law of the land is followed," Mr Raut said, adding that Mumbai police is a professional force. "It is not a black day for media. Jour-

nalists also should follow ethics. Media is not an investigating agency or court. This observation is of the highest court. We are all journalists. Whoever does anything wrong will be punished by the police," he said. "The state government or any political party has nothing to do with the arrest," the Sena MP said. Nawab Malik termed Arnab Goswami's arrest as "Part 2 of India's Most Wanted" and recalled the action against a TV crime show anchor who was charged with killing his wife.

CUK Holds Workshop On Juvenile Justice System

GANDERBAL: School of Legal Studies (SLS), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organized a day long workshop on "Juvenile Justice System in Action: Policy, Police and Practices." The workshop was part of a programme series that have been organized under the auspices of Legal-Aid-Clinic-for-Juveniles established under a project sanctioned by the Department of Justice, Government of India. Dean, School of Legal Studies, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, welcomed both online and offline guests including Justice Madan B. Lokur, former judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice Ali Mohammad Magray, Judge, J&K High Court and Chairman, Juvenile Justice Committee, Prof. Francis Shen McKnight Presidential, Fellow Harvard University and Executive Director, Education & Outreach for MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience, USA and Ms Soledad Herrero, Chief, Child Protection UNICEF-India. Prof. Francis Shen who was the first keynote speaker talked about the emerging field of Law and Neuroscience and discussed how the neuro-scientific evidences are helping in the adjudication of the criminal cases in US and Europe. In the light of a few cases, he discussed nuances and niceties of the field and highlighted how these cases have the potential to change the landscape of the criminal justice system in general and juvenile justice system in particular. Ms Soledad Herrero Chief, Child Protection UNICEF-India delivered the second keynote address and gave a bird's eye view of the juvenile justice act in India, highlighting how the protection and welfare of juveniles intersects with the other related issues like child labour, child marriage etc. She discussed the importance of placing the child at the centre stage of the juvenile justice system and advocated how the legal systems should ultimately work for the protection of the best interests of the children. Guest of Honor, Justice Ali Mohammad Magray, emphasized that there is no duty more important than protection of the child rights as children constitute the soul of the nation. He deliberated upon the processes and procedures of the juvenile justice system in India and highlighted some of the practical problems that show up during the negotiation of juvenile cases. He laid stress on the working of a harmonious relationship between the police and the youth

Haryana To Give Exemption In Electricity Duty For 20 Years To Industries



CHANDIGARH: Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala has said that the state government has decided to give exemption in electricity-duty for 20 years under "Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy -2020" (HEEP) to attract more industries in the state. According to an official release, earlier this exemption was applicable only for 10 years, he added. Apart from this, those industries which will employ local youth will get a subsidy of 48,000 per employee per year for seven years, he added. "Special measures are being taken in the direction of providing benefits to investors by giving them 100 percent investment subsidy in lieu of State Goods and Services Tax. The State Government has also planned to give special exemption in this policy to the industries for the management of residues of paddy straw and

other crops so that along with being self-reliant in terms of electricity the country and state itself will be pollution-free. The draft of HEEP has been finalized and will soon be implemented in the state," Mr Chautala was quoted as saying. Mr Chautala, who also holds the portfolio of Industries and Commerce and Labour and Employment Departments said this while presiding over a meeting regarding "Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy -2020" with the concerned officers. "In the "Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy -2020" prepared by the Industries and Commerce Department, where on one hand suggestions have been taken from 151 industrial associations of the country, on the other, industrial policies of other states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, and Rajasthan were also studied to formulate the most apt policy for Haryana. The draft policy was uploaded into the public domain for about a month so that the stakeholders could study it and give their suggestions," Mr Chautala said.

Faraaz Khan Dies At 46



Bollywood actor Faraaz Khan, passed away in Bengaluru on Wednesday, November 4. He was 46. Pooja Bhatt broke the news on social media. "With a heavy heart I break the news that #FaraazKhan has

left us for what I believe, is a better place. Gratitude to all for your help & good wishes when he needed it most. "Please keep his family in your thoughts & prayers. The void he has left behind will be impossible to fill," Bhatt's post read. Bhatt had earlier urged people to support Khan's treatment. Responding to her call, Bollywood powerhouse Salman Khan cleared his medical bills. Son of late Bollywood actor Yusuf Khan, the Mehendi star was admitted to Vikram Hospital in Bengaluru last month. He had been suffering from a chest infection.

NEWS MAKER

Top Court Upholds Disqualification Of Graduate Peon At Bank For Being Overqualified

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to accept the contention that overqualification cannot be a ground for disqualification as it upheld an order of the Punjab National Bank terminating the service of a peon who had suppressed the fact that he was a graduate. The top court set aside two orders of the Orissa High Court by which it had asked the bank to allow the peon to discharge his service, saying "a candidate having suppressed the material information and/or giving false information cannot claim the right to continuance in service". A bench of justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah allowed the appeal filed by the bank, noting that it had stated in its job advertisement that the applicant should not be a graduate. The court also observed that instead of challenging the qualification criteria, Amit Kumar Das had applied for the job and hidden his qualification. On the ground that Mr Das "de-

liberately, wilfully and intentionally suppressed the fact that he was a graduate, the High Court has erred in directing the appellant Bank to allow the respondent - original writ petitioner - to discharge his duties as a peon", the court said. Referring to an earlier verdict of the top court, the bench said that the suppression of material information and making a false statement have a clear bearing on the character and antecedents of the employee in relation to his continuance in service. It said, "An employee is expected to give correct information as to his qualification. The original writ petitioner failed to do so. He was, in fact, overqualified and therefore ineligible to apply for the job". The top court said that another righteous candidate has suffered due to this mischievous act by Mr Das. Mr Das relied on the top court's verdict of 2000 and said that a higher qualification cannot be a ground for his disqualification from the job as



rightly held by the Orissa High Court. The bench noted that the Bank has invited the applications for the post of peon by giving a newspaper advertisement in which it was specifically mentioned that a candidate should have passed 12th class or its equivalent with basic reading/writing knowledge of English and should not be a graduate as on January 1, 2016. It said that as per the eligibility cri-

teria mentioned in the advertisement, a candidate with a graduate degree was not eligible even to apply. The bench said that Das applied for the post of peon but in his application/bio-data did not disclose that he was a graduate degree holder since 2014 and only mentioned his qualification as 12th pass. It said looking at the nature of the post of peon, a conscious decision was

taken by the bank providing eligibility criteria/educational qualification that a graduate candidate shall not be eligible for the post of peon/subordinate staff. The top court said that Das never challenged the eligibility criteria/educational qualification mentioned in the advertisement and instead participated in the recruitment process. "Therefore, once having participated in the recruitment process as per the advertisement, thereafter it is not open for him to contend that acquisition of higher qualification cannot be a disqualification and that too when he never challenged the eligibility criteria/educational qualification mentioned in the advertisement," it said. The top court stated that it is for the employer to determine and decide the relevancy and suitability of the qualifications for any post and it is not for the courts to consider and assess. "Greater latitude is permitted by the courts for the employer to prescribe qualifications for any post. There is a rationale behind it.

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