



Maximum : 19°C
Minimum : 07°C
Humidity : 38%

SUNSET
Today 05:30 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:59 AM



News Digest

Man Lodged In Anantnag Jail Dies

Srinagar- A 45-year-old man from Kulgam district of south Kashmir lodged in a jail in Anantnag district has died, official sources said on Monday. They said that quadragenarian identified as Shahzad Ahmed Wani of Shalipora area in Kulgam was lodged in district Jail in Anantnag. He was arrested under provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act last year. Medical Superintendent GMC Anantnag Dr Iqbal Sofi said that Wani was brought dead and later postmortem was done, reported news agency GNS. Block Medical Officer ● P-02

Party Revokes Bhim Singh's Expulsion

Jammu: Days after his expulsion from the post of chief patron after meeting the leaders of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) here, the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) on Monday revoked the exclusion of its founder Bhim Singh terming his visit purely as "personal". The JKNPP on Saturday had removed Singh from the post, saying "there is no place in the party for those who disrespect Jammu region's sentiment". Singh had attended the meeting of the PAG at the ● P-02

Army Major Found Dead In Rajouri

Jammu- An army Major died with bullet injury in his head in Rajouri district of Jammu, officials said on Monday. Police says that the death of the officer identified as Major VineetGullia, company commander of army's 38RR post at DherakiGali (DKG) is mysterious, reported news agency GNS. SDPO Thanamandi/Sajid Khan said that proceedings under 174 CrPC have been launched in connection with the death. SSP RajouriChandanKohli said that a police team has reached the spot and is investigating the matter. A police official said that suicide was a possibility and the police proceedings encompass all angles.

Four More Covid-19 Deaths In Ladakh

Leh: Ladakh has reported four more coronavirus-related fatalities and 19 new cases, taking the number of deaths due to the infection in the Union Territory to 84 and the caseload to 6,809, a bulletin said on Monday. With 66 more patients cured of the contagion, the number of active cases in the region stands at 765 -- 655 in Leh district and 110 in Kargil district, the bulletin released by directorate of health services, UT Ladakh, read. It said three patients ● P-02

Youth Held Over Shrine Theft

Srinagar: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested a youth involved in burglaryat famous Dastageer Sahib Shrinehere in September this year. In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that on September 13, police station Khanyar received an information from Intizamia Committee of the Zeyarat Sharief Dastageer Sahib Khanyar that during intervening night of September 12/13 some unknown thief /thieves have entered the shrine and broke ● P-02

J&K On Sale, Residents Feeling Suffocated: Mehbooba Mufti

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Describing the Centre's move to nullify Article 370 and bifurcate J&K into two Union Territories last year as "desecration of the Constitution", PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday alleged that the BJP had put the erstwhile state on sale to "loot its resources" and deprive the locals of the protection to their land and jobs.

Mehbooba, who is also the former chief minister, said they will continue the fight under the banner of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) here, the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) on Monday revoked the exclusion of its founder Bhim Singh terming his visit purely as "personal".

"The people in Jammu are more upset and I feel the situation here is worse than in Kashmir. They were misled to believe that Article 370 and Article 35A is a benefit to Kashmiri Muslims and its abrogation will pave the



PDP President Mehbooba Mufti addressing media in Jammu on Monday.

BJP Converted J&K Into 'Testing Lab': NC

The National Conference (NC) on Monday accused the BJP of converting Jammu and Kashmir into a testing laboratory of "injurious and ill-considered policies" and plunging the entire region into "chaos and

way for flowing of streams of milk, setting up of industries and jobs for the youth. Today, they are disappointed," she told reporters here at the end of her five-day visit to Jammu -- her first after being released from 14 months detention

Will Hold Tricolour And J&K Flag Together'
Militancy On Rise Under BJP Rule'
BJP to meet same electoral fate as Trump'

Durbar Offices Reopen In Jammu

JAMMU: The Civil Secretariat, the seat of the Jammu and Kashmir administration, reopened in Jammu on Monday as part of the biannual 'Durbar Move' after functioning in Srinagar during the summer season.

The nearly 150-year-old practice was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872 to escape the summer heat of Jammu and the cold winters in Srinagar.

Tight security arrangements have been put in place to ensure smooth functioning of the civil secretariat and other move offices, including the Raj Bhavan and the police headquarters in Jammu, officials said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha arrived at the ● P-02

Coronavirus Claims 9 More Lives In J&K

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least nine people, six among them from this capital city succumbed to coronavirus infection on Monday, taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to 1545.

Kashmir Valley reported eight more Covid-19 related deaths, while a middle-aged man succumbed to the virus in Arnia area of Jammu district, official said Monday.

In Valley, officials said six out of the eight victims were residents of Srinagar city, including a 95-year-old woman from

Jawahar Nagar, a 70-year-old man from Bota Kadal, an 85-year-old woman from Lal Bazaar, a 70-year-old man from Syedpora, a 61-year-old man from Gogji Bagh and a 55-year-old man from Natipora.

The two other victims from the Valley were residents of Baramulla and Kupwara districts of north Kashmir.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 1545 in J&K--1025 in Valley and 520 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 381 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (270), Baramulla (149), Budgam (94), Pulwama (83), Kupwara (75), Anantnag (76), Rajouri (48), Kulgam (48), Bandipora(47), Doda

(48), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (35), Udhampur (32), Kathua (33), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Ramban (18), Kishtwar (15), and Reasi(8). (With GNS inputs)

460 New Cases Take Tally Closer To 1L Mark

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday inched closer to one lakh mark as the Union Territory reported 460 new cases, including 34 travelers, a CRPF man and two minors. Kashmir valley reported 307 fresh cases of coronavirus while the remaining ● P-02

(48), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (35), Udhampur (32), Kathua (33), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Ramban (18), Kishtwar (15), and Reasi(8). (With GNS inputs)

Machil Operation On To Rule Out Presence Of Militants: BSF

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The BSF on Monday said the operation along the LoC in north Kashmir's Machil sector, in which four forces personnel and three militants were killed on Sunday, was on to rule out the presence of other militants in the area.

Three Army personnel, including an officer, a BSF constable and three militants were killed along the Line of Control (LoC) in Machil sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

"The operation is still on. The area comprises a tough terrain and uneven ground. To rule out the presence of any other militant, a sanitisation operation is on in the area. We will satisfy ourselves that no militant is there," Additional Direc-



Soldier carrying coffin of their colleague who was killed in Macchil gunfight on Sunday.

tor General of the Border Security Force (BSF) Surinder Pawar said. He was speaking to reporters on

the sidelines of the wreath-laying ceremony of Constable Sudir Sarkar at the BSF STC, Humhama

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO EXPLAIN YOUR position on the subject since its not in consonance with the Constitution of India whereby Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the country and not a dispute, and also in conflict with The Advocates Act of 1961..."

SPECIAL STATUS REVOCATION

PC Moves Apex Court For Early Hearing Of Petitions



KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: The J&K People's Conference said on Monday that it has filed a plea in the Supreme Court seeking early hearing on batch of petitions challenging Centre's August 5 move, even as People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration has also raised a similar demand.

"J&K People's Conference moves SC, seeks early hearing of

a batch of petitions challenging abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of J&K," the party tweeted on its official handle.

The party said it has made out a very strong prima facie case and the issues raised are under consideration of a Constitution Bench of the apex court.

The party statement further said that notwithstanding the fact that a final hearing on these petitions against abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and abrogation of the state Constitution, and notwithstanding the prevailing coronavirus pandemic conditions, "sweeping changes" ● PAGE 02

MeT Predicts Two-Day Wet Spell In Valley From Saturday

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The weather department on Monday predicted heavy snow and rainfall in higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir for two days from Saturday, causing disruption in air and surface traffic and cut off Valley from rest of the world.

Deputy Director Meteorological department (MeT), Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is possibility of light to moderate snow and rainfall in plains of Jammu and Kashmir from November 14-15.

He added that the higher reaches of J&K would also receive heavy rain or snowfall in between the two days from the intervening night of 13-14 November.

Ahmad also stated that the weather conditions would start improving

from November 15 late evening, but the weather would remain cloudy on November 16 as well.

Meanwhile, the MeT also issued an advisory in which it stated that the weather conditions from November 14 may lead to temporary disruption of air and surface transportation in the Union Territory.

"An active Western Disturbance is most likely to affect the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and adjoining areas from 13 (evening) to 15 (late night) November 2020," it said.

It added that under the influence of this weather system, widespread moderate rain/snow is expected in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions. Light rains and snow would commence at a few places of Kashmir on 13 (night) and thereafter ● PAGE 02

In FOCUS Biden's K-Bidding: Will There Be Change In Himalayan Discourse?

Auqib Javeed

Last time when Donald Trump's predecessor Barack Obama made a vocal entry in White House, the lingering Himalayan dispute looked set for settlement.

But years later, as the strife still hangs like a Damocles' sword over the region, the likes of Riyaz Malik, a noted journalist in Srinagar, have only grown weary of Uncle Sam's political will to put the South Asia's 'nuke trigger' to rest.

"Just like his predecessor, Trump's successor Joe Biden can't make any drastic changes in US's South Asia policy," Malik, who



edits the reputed Urdu daily of Srinagar, Kashmiri Uzma, said.

But yes, the scribe continued, Biden can strike some balance in the troubled relationship between

India and Pakistan—the two-nuke-armoured neighbours currently at loggerheads—by pushing them for talks on Kashmir.

"While I don't see major changes

happening in Kashmir, Biden can restore some confidence in this region by encouraging Indo-Pak dialogue," the editor said.

During Biden's tenure, Malik believes, Kashmiris will be eagerly battling for the 'improved' Indo-Pak relations for ending the ongoing tensions in their homeland.

Even Pakistan seems counting on its "friend"—whom they bestowed with the second-highest civilian honour, 'Hilal-e-Pakistan', in 2008.

While Islamabad enjoys cordial relations with Biden, an old diplomat, the country reportedly faced troubles with Donald Trump due to the corporate honcho's "uncer-

tain style of politics".

Biden's Kashmir Say

In Joe Biden's advent as 46th president of the United States, many not only see a 'sense of normalcy' in the polarized world order, but also shift in the Kashmir discourse.

Only in June this year, Biden had criticized New Delhi's move to revoke special status of Jammu and Kashmir on 5 August 2019.

He compared the plight of Muslims in Kashmir with that of Rohingyas in Bangladesh and Uyghur Muslims in China.

"In Kashmir, the Indian government should take all necessary steps to restore rights for all the people of Kashmir," Biden ● PAGE 02

J&K Govt Unveils Draft Model Building Bylaws

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The administration of Jammu & Kashmir has unveiled the draft Model Building Bylaws and Building Code-2020 for the areas falling under jurisdiction of urban local bodies in the Union Territory.

The draft “Jammu & Kashmir Building Bylaws and Building Code-2020” have been prepared by the Housing & Urban Development Department with assistance from experts/professionals from the relevant fields after taking into account the National Building Code-2016 and

Model Building Byelaws-2016, local news agency KNO reported Monday.

“The draft—Jammu & Kashmir Model Building Bye-laws and Building-2020” are notified for inviting suggestions/ objections from all stakeholders- citizens, developers, builders, govern-

ment departments, housing cooperatives and other agencies- to enable incorporation of useful suggestions to make the new Bye-laws / Building Code comprehensive, progressive and relevant to the state practice,” reads the notice of H&UDD. The suggestions/ objections can be

sent to the department till November 29.

The Building Byelaws of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Jammu Municipal Corporation and other urban local bodies were last time notified in 2011.

An official said that the new building byelaws will simplify

the procedure for building permits and streamline the entire process.

“Since 2011, large scale developments have taken place in the fields of sustainability, energy conservation building code, rain harvesting, green buildings etc. Besides, the byelaws of 2011

of did not provide an elaborate mechanism for the building permit process,” he said.

He said these building bye-laws will apply to the building activity in the Union Territory for all urban local bodies and urban development authorities after they are notified by the government

J&K On Sale, Residents...

under the Pubic Safety Act (PSA).

The PDP leader said a cross-section of people, including industrialists, traders, youth, Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe and Other Backward Classes met her over the past five days and expressed their concern over the future of their coming generations in the aftermath of the revocation of special status and the newly introduced land laws, wherein people from outside can buy land in the Union Territory.

“They (BJP-led government) have not only abrogated Article 370 but desecrated the Constitution. Mehbooba Mufti talks about the flag, whether of the erstwhile state or the tricolor, it has not come from the sky or China but was given to us by our Constitution which they have snatched from us,” she said.

She said the BJP has snatched the Constitution and the rights of the people and have put Jammu and Kashmir on sale.

“They have not even left the minor minerals which were also auctioned to outsiders, snatching the source of income of the poor labourers.”

“How long they will use the power of batton to silence the people... They are threatening to book under PSA anyone in Kashmir who speaks about Article 370 and in Jammu, anyone talking about it is termed as anti-national,” Mehbooba said.

She said the people of entire Jammu and Kashmir are feeling “suffocated”.

“I am not talking about Muslims but Hindus of Jammu as well who have come to meet me and expressed their concerns. Article 370 was the effort of (last Dogra ruler) Maharaja Hari Singh and NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdulah to ensure protection of culture ad identity of the people, especially of Dogra’s.

“When we acceded to India, the accession was conditional and special status was part of it,” Mehbooba said, adding after the nullification of Article 370, the clouds of darkness have engulfed the region including Jammu and local residents are seeing their future bleak.

“The people are in distress and have suffered economically, first due to the lockdown following abrogation of Article 370 and then by the outbreak of COVID pandemic,” the PDP leader said.

Accusing the BJP of peddling “false narrative”, she said J-K was prosperous as no farmer had ever committed suicide over failed crop and every resident was enjoying a roof over his head unlike outside the erstwhile state.

“We had heard that big industrialists will come to set up their units but what about the industries which we have. Are we able to provide them the required electricity,” she said accusing the BJP of trying to auction everything available in Jammu and Kashmir.

“They have already taken away water and electricity which runs factories in the country,” she said and also questioned BJP’s silence over the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

“Kashmiri pandits were provided transit accommodation (in the valley) during the rule of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and then under the Prime Ministership of Manmohan Singh. The Kashmiri pandits were waiting for BJP to come into power as it had promised them return and rehabilitation. Why the BJP is silent about them. How they will be settled?”

She also criticised the BJP of not addressing the problem of casual labourers and daily wagers and said her government had ordered regularisation of 60,000 of them but the process was stalled, forcing them to stage protests on daily basis.

Asked whether the alliance under the banner of PAGD, which also comprises several other mainstream opposition parties including the National Conference and the CPI(M), will jointly fight the Assembly polls whenever held, she said “election is not a big thing compared to the problem of J&K.”

“Elections will come and go and almighty knows the best. Today, we are fighting District Development Council (DDC) elections so that the anti-J&K forces who have divided and destroyed the erstwhile state and those who are supporting them in their divisive agenda are kept at bay,” she said.

In response to another question whether she will seek forgiveness from the communities who were denied citizen rights due to Article 370 over the last 70 years, Mehbooba said there is no question of apology.

“We do not want to usurp anyone’s rights. We want restoration of the rights given under Article 370 to the people of Jammu and Kashmir,” the PDP leader said.

‘BJP to meet same electoral fate as Trump’

Taking a dig at BJP governments’ policies and referring to the Bihar assembly exit poll predictions, Mehbooba asserted that “the party will meet the same fate as the outgoing US president Donald Trump.”

Days after the Bihar assembly exit polls predicted an edge for the Mahagathbandhan led by RJD’s Tejashwi Yadav, the PDP chief said, I want to congratulate Tejashwi who is a young man and has set a narrative with a focus on Roti, Kapda Aur Makan (bread, clothes and house).

Accusing the BJP of misleading people and diverting their attention from real issues by playing the politics of ‘communal hatred’, she said, When oppression increases, it soon vanishes too.

Today is their (BJP’s) time and tomorrow, our time will come. The same thing will happen to them (BJP) what happened to Trump (who lost the US presidential election last week), she said.

Accusing the BJP of being the most corrupt party in the country, she said it would sell all the resources of the country before it goes out of the power.

Mehbooba expressed displeasure over some media houses allegedly propagating the BJP’s agenda instead of the Constitutional provisions and said it was heartening that Trump’s speech was blocked midway despite being the most powerful president in the US.

Some (news) channels, I don’t want to name them, are running BJP’s agenda and not following the Constitution. This country will be run by the Constitution which binds the people together, she said.

‘Will Hold Tricolour And J&K Flag Together’

The PDP Chief said that she will hold the tricolour and the flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir together, saying as an MLA she had reaffirmed her faith in the J-K Constitution and the sovereignty and integrity of India as both are inseparable.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister had last month said that she was not interested in contesting elections or holding the national flag till the constitutional changes enforced on August 5 last year were rolled back, sparking protests in Jammu.

“We are the people, especially in the Kashmir Valley, who upheld the tricolour high over the years at the cost of thousands of our workers who were martyred,” Mufti told reporters here at the end of her five-day visit to Jammu - her first after release from over one-year-long detention under the Pubic Safety Act (PSA).

Launching a scathing attack on the BJP, besides the Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh (RSS) without naming it, she said, “Those moving with half pants and where their leader sits do not hoist the tricolour (at their headquarters) and they are giving us lessons on the national flag.”

She said her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed picked up the national flag when they were being dismissed as ‘insects of filthy drain’ and subjected to social boycott.

“We, including the BJP members, have taken an oath (in the assembly and council) that we will affirm our faith in the Constitution of J-K and will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India. First, it was the J-K Constitution and then the sovereignty and integrity of the country. How is it, they cut one finger and leave the other, it is not right,” she said.

Asked whether she will hold the tricolour, Mufti said, “I had already replied that I have taken an oath of the J-K Constitution when I became the MLA for the first time and I affirm my faith to the Constitution of J-K and uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India - both of which are inter-linked. J-K flag and Indian flag, I will hold both these flags together.”

She accused the BJP of “breaking the relations” of Jammu and Kashmir with the country by its last year’s decision of abrogating the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and bifurcating it into union territories.

“I am saying give us our flag and the Constitution back the merchandise you have looted in the daylight after conspiring under the darkness of the night have to be returned with interest,” the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president said.

She said the people in Nagaland had recently said they do not accept the flag of this country and the Constitution, why these “half pants” did not take out protest marches against them.

“When I said we will raise both the flags, they came out with protests and burnt my effigies but when the people in Nagaland are saying, there is no murmur and discussion on the television,” Mufti said.

‘Militancy On Rise Under BJP Rule’

Mufti asserted that the dialogue with Pakistan and the stakeholders within J&K and opening of cross-border roads to bring the divided parts together can bring peace and everlasting solution to the problem.

Mehbooba Mufti made the assertion while advising the BJP to take a leaf out of former Prime Minister A B Vajpayee’s book.

The former chief minister warned that militancy is on the rise in the Valley with more youths preferring militancy over going to jail after no middle path was left and voices of dissent silenced through the muzzle of power .

Attempts are being made to vitiate the atmosphere by politics of hatred and division. The people like us are facing problems to live in Kashmir due to an increase in militancy under their (BJP) rule.

They were saying militancy has finished but the reality is that at least 10 to 15 youth are joining militancy from each village, Mehbooba told reporters here at the end of her five-day visit to Jammu.

It was her first visit to Jammu after release from 14 months of detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) following the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir last year.

She said the militancy is on the rise because you (BJP) have silenced all the voices and not left the middle path for the people. The youth is thinking of two options -- whether to go to jail or pick up the gun -- and he chooses later to get killed rather than going to the jail.

Mehbooba said the situation on the borders is of concern to the people as local residents are living under the constant threat to their lives due to the continued cross-border shelling.

Asked how it is possible when there is no let-up in Pakistani shelling and mounting civilian casualties, she said, We have to pick up a leaf from former Prime Minister A B Vajpayee’s book.

Despite the Kargil war and Parliament attack, he entered into a friendship with Pakistan as a result of which the militancy had come down and the border firing also had stopped, she said.

We have to take a leaf out of that book and start a dialogue with them (Pakistan) and with the stakeholders in J&K. When we can hold eight rounds of talks with China which martyred our 20 soldiers and we did not even raise our finger, she asserted.

We are talking to them to seek one inch of our land, though they have occupied 100 square km of our land. Why this double standard? They should remember Vajpayee who is also their mentor and act upon his policy book, Mehbooba said.

She said both sides of Jammu and Kashmir are ours. We have to open the roads to bring the two parts of J&K together and look for an everlasting solution to the J&K problem so that peace returns to the region and China, which is showing aggression, stops.

Mehbooba said she wanted J&K to become a bridge of peace and friendship between India and its neighbours.

The border residents are facing problems every day due to cross-border firing and are unable to work in their land.

The PDP leader said her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had a vision of opening cross-border roads between the two parts of J&K like Suchet Garh-Sialkot, Srinagar-Kargil-Skardu, Nowshera-Mirpur and Kotli and the solution to the problem lies in the dialogue.

BJP Converted J&K Into...

confusion”. Addressing a party meeting here, NC provincial president, Kashmir, Nasir Aslam Wani claimed that the BJP has come out in its “true colours debunking its farce claims” on development.

“J-K has become a testing laboratory of injudicious and ill-considered policies of GOI (Government of India) and that on an everyday basis, the administration was coming up with flawed orders and policies,” Wani alleged.

He claimed that the life of a common Kashmiri continues to “remain on the edge due to the unilateral and unconstitutional” measures taken on August 5 last year and the successive clampdown and coronavirus-induced lockdown.

“Far from assuaging the situation by making amends to the wrongs committed by it, the incumbent ruling dispensation at the Centre is rampantly carrying on its mission of disenfranchising Kashmiris, giving a damn to the interests of the people of J-K in particular and the country in general,” he alleged.

The NC leader said that the past half-a-decade would go down as the decade which “precipitated Kashmir’s free fall” in development and governance.

“The incumbent government’s indifference to day-to-day issues of people has aggravated the situation. Far from delivering on its promises, the BJP has pushed the entire region into chaos. The disdain it nurtures for democracy is also not hidden from anybody,” he alleged.

“The statements emanating from BJP members reveal their frustration and jittery on account of their losing public support in the plains of Jammu. The people have lately come to understand that BJP’s so-called development agenda was a phony to shear the people of J&K from their rights. With little understanding of the situation the BJP has plunged the entire region into chaos and confusion,” he claimed.

Meanwhile, a party spokesman said prominent socio-political activists from Pandrethan area here Amjad Hussain Mir and Abdul Gani of Rawalpura have joined the party.

Now Melania To Dump Trump...

critical of him. Lawyer Christina Previte, as quoted by the Daily Mail, said it was likely that Melania had agreed to a similar code of silence.

In 1977, Trump married Ivana Trump, a Czech-American businesswoman, media personality, fashion designer and model. She is the mother of Donald Trump Jr, Ivanka Trump and Eric Trump. The relationship fell apart in 1992 with their divorce.

In 1993, Trump married Marla Mapes, an actress, television personality, film producer and model. They had Tiffany together. The couple separated in May 1997 and finally divorced in June 8, 1999.

J&K Govt Puts Brakes On Bar...

regarding the election process and its motive.

“Therefore, after having considered the issue contained...and in absence of response from the JKHCB on the serious matter (in) relation to sovereignty and integrity of the country....it is hereby ordered that the conduct of election to JKHCB shall not be allowed” till it clarified its position.

The district magistrate also imposed section 144 of the CrPC in the premises of the district court complex in Srinagar.

PC Moves Apex Court For Early...

were brought about by the Centre that impacted the rights of a large number of people, including dilution of the safeguards earlier available to the permanent residents of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

“These changes will have irreparable impact on the rights of Jammu and Kashmir residents, including creation of domicile rights and third-party rights in land ownership,” the statement said.

“The very purpose of the present proceedings will be severely undermined if the present petitions are not heard and disposed of urgently. Suffice it to say that sufferance of the J&K people continues without a full-fledged responsible government. In view of the foregoing, the present petition and the petitions tagged thereto ought to be heard and disposed of urgently as significant changes to the rights of the residents of the erstwhile state have already been brought about by the Centre,” it added.

Meanwhile, National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah on Monday said that People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) seeks early hearing in a batch of petitions challenging the centre decisions of abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A of the constitution of India.

“As decided in the recent meeting of the People’s Alliance we are seeking early hearings in this matter so that the petitions challenging 5th Aug 2019 move forward,” Omar Abdullah said in a tweet.

The PAGD involves seven major mainstream political forces based in Jammu and Kashmir and it took shape last month to fight for the restoration of special status embedded in Article 370 and the resolution of the larger Kashmir issue.

460 New Cases Take Tally...

153 were confirmed by the officials from the Jammu division.

Giving district-wise details, officials said that Srinagar reported 161 cases, Baramulla 33, Budgam 18, Pulwama 5, Kupwara 18, Anantnag 17, Bandipora 13, Ganderbal 31, Kulgam 7, Shopian 4, Jammu 99, Rajouri 3, Udhampur 19, Doda 10, Kathua 7, Poonch 1, Samba 2, Kishtwar 10, Ramban 2 and Reasi 0.

Moreover, they said, 564 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 179 from Jammu Division and 385 from Kashmir Valley

Durbar Offices Reopen In...

Civil Secretariat and inspected the guard of honour in the presence of Director General of Police Dilbag Singh as part of the practice of reopening the Durbar move offices.

The state government spends crores of rupees to shift between the two capital cities twice a year, besides paying a similar amount as allowance to the several thousand employees, who shift bases with the government.

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the Durbar Move from Jammu to Srinagar this summer. The Civil Secretariat and other move offices, which observe a five-day week, closed in Srinagar on October 30, while the offices observing six-day weeks closed the next day.

DDC Polls Will Be Fought On...

to the BJP using the term “Gupkar Gang” for the PAGD leadership, Abdullah, without taking any names, said, “We are not any gang. We are an amalgam of all (opposition) parties and those who are dubbing us as a gang are in fact dacoits and that is why they are seeing us as a gang.”

The NC leader also said he wanted to make it clear that “we (PAGD) are not the enemies of the nation”.

Abdullah said they accept Mahatma Gandhi’s India where all people, irrespective of their faith, are equal and every one whether from Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu or anywhere else are treated equally.

“We are not the enemies of the nation but yes we are the enemies of the BJP. They are working on an agenda to divide Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians,” he said.

Those indulging in propaganda, “I will shut their mouth after the (DDC) elections,” the PAGD chairperson said.

Responding to another question, he said, “When it comes to India and the need to speak for it, who was there in Geneva and the UN. He was Farooq Abdullah who protected the honour of the country.”

“They don’t see this, and even don’t remember the words of (former prime minister) Atal Bihari Vajpayee when we returned from Geneva,” Abdullah said.

He said all the delegations, which met the PAGD leadership in Jammu on Saturday, had serious concern about the new land laws which allow outsiders to buy land in Jammu and Kashmir.

On the US presidential elections, the NC leader expressed hope that the president-elect Joe Biden would set the wrongs done by his predecessor right.

“Donald Trump has done harm to the entire world. We hope his successor will set the things right,” he said.

3 Former PDP Leaders Join Cong

and Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief G A Mir, Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said.

Elections to DDCs will be held in eight phases from December 1 to December 24, according to a notification issued by the State Election Commission.

Mehbooba, who is also a former chief minister, had that said she was not interested in contesting elections or holding the tricolour till the constitutional changes enforced on August 5 last year were rolled back.

The PDP leader had also said that she would hold the tricolour only when the separate flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was restored.

The Centre on August 5 last year had abrogated the erstwhile state’s special status and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Machil Operation On To Rule...

on the outskirts of the city.

Pawar said it was an infiltration attempt and not a Border Action Team (BAT) attack.

He said the state forces had received inputs about infiltration attempts by militants in the sector a fortnight ago.

“We received inputs about 15 days ago that militants will try to infiltrate. So our ambush-cum-patrolling party patrolled the area during the night. Around 1 am (on Sunday), the patrolling party observed some suspicious movement and challenged the militants. The militants retaliated and Constable Sarkar was badly injured. But he fought bravely and killed a militant, before succumbing to the injuries,” Pawar said.

The ADG, BSF said two other militants fled the spot and the border-guarding force then alerted its other posts and the Army.

“With the first light on Sunday, the Army and the BSF launched a joint operation in which the two militants were killed. In the exchange of fire, Army Captain Ashutosh Kumar and two soldiers were also killed,” he said.

Asked about the status of infiltration this year, Pawar said only 24 to 25

militants have managed to enter the Indian side of the LoC so far this year, compared to the 135 to 140 last year.

About 250 to 300 militants are at launchpads across the LoC, waiting to infiltrate, the BSF officer said, adding, “Our counter-infiltration grid is very strong and making improvements to it is a continuous exercise.”

MeT Predicts Two-Day Wet...

increase in intensity & distribution with its peak during 14 &15 November and gradual decrease thereafter.

“Main activity of this system, moderate to heavy rain and snow at isolated places is most likely during 14 &15 November. The system is likely to cause heavy rain/snow mainly in upper reaches of Kashmir including Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Baramulla, Bandipora (Gurez and Tulail Valley) and Kupwara (Karnah Sector), Shopian, Qazigund-Banihal, Pirpanjal Range of Jammu Division, Drass (Gumri & Minamarg) and Zanskar subdivision of Ladakh UT,” it added.

In it advisory, the Met said that probable impacts would that this may lead to temporary disruption of air and surface transportation mainly on Jammu- Srinagar/Srinagar-Leh National Highway, Mughal road and other major roads, landslides and shooting stones in vulnerable spots of Jammu- Srinagar, Srinagar-Leh National Highway, may disrupt agricultural operations like apple harvesting and orchard management and also dip in day temperature and slight increase in night temperature.

Biden’s K-Bidding: Will There...

said in a statement.

“Restrictions on dissent, such as preventing peaceful protests or shutting or slowing down the Internet, weaken democracy.”

Buzz in Srinagar

In Srinagar, apart from lockdown-battered business community and anxious students, even political pundits believe that Biden’s liberal views and concern of human rights might bring some sense of relief for Kashmiris.

“Biden’s recent statements in favour of Kashmir might reflect his policies, but it will be determined by America’s geo-political interests,” Dr. Sheikh Showkat Hussain, a well-known political analyst, said.

Because of China’s direct involvement in the dispute, the professor argued, Kashmir may be the prime focus of the new administration in White House.

“I must say the ideology of Trump was closer to India-Israel axis as compared to others,” Prof. Hussain said. “We don’t know what will happen but Biden’s liberal thoughts might reflect his foreign policies.”

Change in Himalayan Discourse

Even Prof. Noor Baba, a Srinagar-based prominent political expert, believes that there’ll be a change in Kashmiri discourse with Biden’s entry in ‘the most powerful office of the world’.

“Trump’s interests were narrow as he was not concerned about humanitarian and morality issues,” Prof. Baba said.

“On the other side, democrats like Biden have been always concerned about human rights issues. He’s likely to take this position again. In that respect it’s going to make a difference in Kashmiri discourse as well.”

Man Lodged In Anantnag Jail...

Mattan Dr Salim Beigh said that Wani was brought to PHC Mattan wherefrom he was referred to GMC Anantnag last night.

The official statement regarding the death is awaited

Wani was booked in a case (FIR 82/2019) under section13 UA(P/A at Police station DH Pora.

He was arrested days after five non-local labourers were killed by suspected militants in Katrasoo Anantnag on 29 October 2019 and was later lodged in the jail.

Party Revokes Bhim Singh's...

Bathindi residence of National Conference patron Farooq Abdullah.

The PAGD is an alliance of seven mainstream political parties of J-K, including the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), that are demanding restoration of special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Putting an end to the controversy erupted in the NPP in the wake of Singh meeting some leaders of the Gupkar alliance and the resultant crises, the issue has been sorted out amicably after verifying the factual position, a party release said.

As per the report given by a fact finding committee constituted by the party headed by Balwant Singh Mankotia, Singh’s visit was purely personal and not connected in any way with the Gupkar declaration, it said.

And accordingly it was decided that Singh will continue to hold the position of Chief Patron of the Party, Mankotia said.

Mankotia said the JKNPP had already opposed the Gupkar declaration and this stand of the party had been duly conveyed even by Singh through the local media.

A purely personal meeting was blown out of proportion by a section of media which had created confusion not only amongst the general public but the rank and file of the party as well. Singh had also made statements in the media dispelling all doubts and making it amply clear that no compromise whatsoever could ever be made with the national interest or with the cause of Jammu region which the party considers most sacrosanct, he said.

He said in view of the findings of the committee and the gargantuan contributions made by Singh, it was unanimously decided that the status quo ante shall be restored.

Four More Covid-19 Deaths...

died of COVID-19 in Leh and another in Kargil during the past 24 hours.

With this, the total number of deaths in Ladakh has gone up to 84 -- 45 in Leh and 39 in Kargil.

Of the 19 fresh cases, 17 were reported from Leh and two others from Kargil.

There are total of 6,809 COVID-19 cases in the UT, it said, adding that 5,960 of these patients have recovered from the infection, which is 88 per cent of the total infections.

Youth Held Over Shrine Theft...

down the locker and decamped with money and gold ornaments.

On this information, the police spokesperson said a case FIR No. 66/2020 US 457, 380, 427 IPC was registered and investigation was set into motion.

During the course of investigation, the police spokesman said that crime scene was examined and scientific evidence/CCTV footage was collected.

“Number of suspects were questioned in the case and during investigation one suspect namely Tahir Ahmad Mir @Namta of HardanKuligam Kupwara A/P Palpora Noorbagh Srinagar was found involved in the instant case and the accused was arrested on 06/11/2020.”

The spokesman said that he confessed that he has committed the crime and on his confession and identification stolen property i.e Cash Rs.10,1363/- (one lack one thousand three hundred sixty three) and some Golden ornaments were recovered from the place where he had kept the stolen cash and the ornaments.

“Also some more recoveries were made on his disclosure i.e one Laptop, 02 cycles and 09 mobile phones which have been stolen from different parts of Srinagar city,” he said, adding, “Further investigation of the case is going on. Some more recoveries are expected from the accused.”

PDA retrieves 250 Kanals forest land

Pahalgam: The administration in picturesque Pahalgam health resort has returned 250 Kanals of forest land which was encroached on.

The action is as part of the anti-encroachment drive launched by the Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) from last week.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) PDA Mushtaq Simnani told news agency Kashmir Dot Com that the second phase of anti-encroachment drive was launched in Compartment 29, 30 L at Billage Lidroo in which about 250 Kanals of forest land was retrieved.

He said that the schedule has been framed in coordination with other departments viz Revenue, PDA, police, municipal committee Pahalgam, forest, wildlife, forest protection force. "Such drives will continue till the encroached is retrieved," Simnani said.

Last week the drive was started in which many Kanals of encroached forest land were retrieved. (KDC)

Fruit Growers Stage Protest Against Frequent Closure of Highway

Srinagar: Valley based fruit growers and dealers, accompanied by local and non-local truck drivers staged a protest against halting of fruit laden trucks on Srinagar Jammu highway, which they said is causing them huge losses in the peak season.

Fruit growers and dealers, accompanied by local and non-local truck drivers staged a protest in Fruit Mandi Parimpora, to register their anger against the halting of fruit trucks for days at Srinagar Jammu highway.

Assembled under the banner of Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers cum Dealers Union, the agitated protestors were raising slogans against the authorities for stopping fruit laden trucks for days at Srinagar Jammu Highway.

They said that during peak season of the festival time, our trucks are being stopped for days



at the highway, which results in the rotting of fruits and a great loss to traders.

"It is Diwali and Chat Pooja time and our customers outside the valley are eagerly waiting for the fruit to arrive in markets, but

authorities are stopping our consignments on the highway without a valid reason," they said.

One of the protestors said, "The fruit is rotting in the trucks and if the trucks are not allowed to move without impediments,

we will suffer a huge loss."

"Traffic authorities are unnecessarily holding our produce, for days, without having any concern about the losses they subject us to suffer by doing so," he added.

Some non-local truck drivers, who were part of the protest, alleged that traffic authorities are demanding bribes for allowing them to proceed towards the Valley at Udhampur.

"Any truck carrying vegetables, or chicken from Amritsar or any other place is not allowed to move forward, until he pays a bribe," he said.

The protestors demanded that authorities should look into the matter forthwith, and ensure the smooth movement of fruit trucks from Valley to outside states, so that they do not suffer huge losses.

LG Releases Mata Gold, Silver Coins

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 09: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha released Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gold & Silver coins ahead of Diwali for millions of devotees worldwide.

Lt Governor Sinha said he is fortunate to have got the opportunity to release Maa Vaishno Devi coins. Maa is worshipped lovingly and showers immense light, blessings and ultimate benediction upon the devotees.

Referring to the coins, the Lt Governor said, few seekers are not able to travel to Vaishno Devi's sunlit peak of mountain at Katra due to Co-

rona Pandemic, so the Shrine Board has decided to make the coins available in Jammu and Delhi as well.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said Maa Goddess's prayer from the deepest core of heart brings bliss, peace and prosperity. SHE represents the absolute energy, the ultimate illumination and harmony for mankind and during these testing times, we all seek health and prosperity for the society.

He stressed that it is important for the people to choose the path of peace in the interest of humanity.

CUK's Urdu deptt celebrates Urdu day

Ganderbal, Nov 9: The Department of Urdu, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Monday celebrated Urdu Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of The Poet of the East, Sir Muhammad Iqbal, with Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir in chair.

Director Research and Development, Prof. G M Bhat, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar, Director Arts Campus, Prof. Wali Muhammad Shah, Controller of Examinations, Prof. Parveen Pandit, Finance Officer, Prof. Fayaz A Nikka, Dean School of Languages, Prof. Gayasuddin, faculty members and scholars were present on the occasion.

The programme began with the recitation of Holy Quran by Mr. Muhammad Younis Thokar and Na'at

Sharief by Assistant Professor, Dr. Altaf Hussain Naqshbandi.

Welcoming the guests, Dean School of Languages, Prof. Gayasuddin gave a detailed account about the functioning of the Urdu department. He said the department has been organizing several academic activities and webinars during the Covid-19 pandemic and celebration of Urdu day was one among them.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir hailed the department of Urdu for organizing the event to mark the Urdu day. He said the department has been doing a commendable job in imparting quality education to the students pursuing the post graduate and research programmes and asked them to continuously work with the same zeal and zest.

انتقال پر ملال

یہ خبر نہایت ہی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ عبدالرشید وگے ولد عبدالعزیز وگے ساکنہ لال چوک انت ماگ 07 نومبر 2020 کو اچانک حرکت قلب بند ہونے سے اس دنیائی فانی سے رحلت کر گئے مرحوم انتہائی نیک سیرت اور شریف النفس انسان تھے مرحوم کے انتقال کی خبر پھیلنے ہی لاقے میں غم و اندوہ لہر ڈھونگی جبکہ لوگوں کی کثیر تعداد نے مرحوم کے گھر پہنچ کر لواحقین کی دعاؤں میں حصہ لیا۔

مطابق مرحوم کا رسم چہرام 10 نومبر بروز منگل داران کے آبائی علاقہ واقع لال چوک انت ناگ میں انجام دیا جائے گا۔

M JA

PUBLIC NOTICE

We the following persons purpose to register a no-profitable society under the name and style J&K Tennisball Cricket Association with the Registrar of societies Kashmir under J&K Societies registration Act 1998 (1941 AD)

1. Mr. Naseer Ahmad S/o Mohd Ramzan R/o Chandgam Pulwama Status in the Society General Secretary Email: naseerahmad005@gmail.com Mob no: 7006707901.

2. Mr. Jahangir Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohd Yousuf Bhat R/o Arhama Anantnag Mob no: 9797027435.

3. Mr. Sheikh Basit Saleem S/o Sheikh Mohd Saleem R/o Dailgam Anantnag Treasurer Email: basit49122@gmail.com Mob no: 8899936399.

Any objection in this may sent in writing/ person through authorized representative to the Registrar of societies Kashmir within a period of 21 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Walnut Ads

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Estates Division Srinagar.

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: -70/E-tender/Estates/2020-21 of 11/2020

Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar on behalf of the Lt. Governor Union Territory J&K, invites by E-tendering on item rate basis from approved and eligible Registered Approved Electric Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	Improvement to electric supply and other allied works Wi-Fi System of IT Department (Room No.276) at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.	2.60 lacs	200/-	5200/-	20 days	Approved Electric Contractors
2	Supply Installation, Testing And commissioning of Main Feeding Control Panel at DMQ-4 M.A Road Srinagar.	0.85 lacs	200/-	1700/-	10 days	Approved Electric Contractors

Position of AAASubmitted

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-11-2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 07-11-2020 (05:30 PM) to 13-11-2020 (4.00 PM)
3.	Bid submission Start Date	07-11-2020 (05.30 PM)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	13-10-2020 (4.00 PM)
5.	No Hard copy is required but in case of any ambiguity found, the original documents may be demanded after opening of online tenders	
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	13-11-2020 (04.05 PM) In the Office of the Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of G.R to be remitted in Treasury under Major Head: Q216-Housing and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR/ B.G pledged to Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site 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 Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar. (tender receiving authority)
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bid
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
- a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- d. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- 5.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- 5.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- 5.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- 6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- 6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- 6.6. "Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest money and tender document fee Receipt in terms of soft copies with technical bid However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises".

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Estates Division, Sgr.

DIPK-8664/20

No:-XEN/EDS/20/2378-87/T-1
Dated:- 07-11-2020

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION-IIIRD, SHEREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR.

Notice Inviting Tender.

e-NIT No.:- e-ED-III / 15 of 2020-21

Dated:- 05-11-2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies or relevant class registered contractors enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency of JKPD, for Supply, installation, Testing and Commissioning of 11KV, XLPE, 3 core cable from Receiving Station Wanganpora for charging of dedicated DT at Youth Development and Rehabilitation Centre Wanganpora

Name Of Work:	Estt. Cost	Cost of Tender Document	EMD Rs.11000/=	Completion Period	Position of funds: Available with intending department
Supply, installation, Testing and Commissioning of 11KV, XLPE, 3 core cable from Receiving Station Wanganpora for charging of dedicated DT at Youth Development and Rehabilitation Centre Wanganpora	5.5 Lac	Rs.500		15 days	

- (SBD) / Tender Specifications carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examine, of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 09-11-2020: 10.00 AM
A		
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	09-11-2020: 11.00 AM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	23-11-2020: 1.00 PM
D	Clarification start date	09-11-2020: 11:00AM
E	Clarification End date	14-11-2020: 03:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format).	09-11-2020: 11:00 AM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	23-11-2020: :2:00PM
H	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, EMD instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	24-11-2020: 02:00PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.
L	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender), DD also acceptable, (however Original DD to be submitted on end date of e-Bid submission).	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only).
M	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (Copy of CDR/FDR/DD, duly pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-IIIRD, Shereen Bagh Srinagar, JKPD, should be up-loaded with e-tender)	Rs. 11000/=

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Electric Division-III,
Srinagar.

DIPK-NB-3674/20

No.:- ED-III/TS/ 4463-70 Dated:- 05.11.2020

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
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

23 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1442

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 32
ZUHR	12: 14
ASR	3:54
Magrib	5:34
ISHA	6:56

This Day In History

- 1938 - Nobel for literature awarded to Pearl Buck (Good Earth)
- 1945 - Heavy battle in Surabaya between Indonesian nationalists and returning colonialists after World War II, celebrated as Heroes' Day (Hari Pahlawan).
- 1950 - Nobel for literature awarded to William Faulkner
- 1970 - Luna 17, with unmanned self-propelled Lunokhod 1, is launched
- 1975 - PLO leader Yasser Arafat addresses UN in NYC
- 1975 - UN General Assembly approves resolution equating Zionism with racism
- 1978- Israel & #39;s top negotiators broke away from Middle East peace talks
- 1979 - Train derailment in Mississauga, Ontario; a 106 car train derails causing the evacuation of 200,000 people
- 1980 - Iraq captures southern port of Khorramshahr
- 1982 - IMF lends Mexico \$3.8 billion due to threatened bankruptcy
- 1982 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened
- 1986 - Bangladeshi Constitution restored
- 1989 - Germans begin demolishing the Berlin Wall
- 1993 Slovakian government of Vladimir Meiar forms
- 1995 - In Nigeria, playwright and environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa along with eight others from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Mosop) are hanged by government forces
- 1996 - 46th NASCAR Sprint Cup: Terry Labonte wins
- 2001 - An agreement is reached at talks in Marrakech, Morocco, on rules for implementation of the Kyoto climate change treaty
- 2006 - Sri Lankan Tamil Parliamentarian Nadarajah Raviraj assassinated in Colombo.
- 2012 - 20 Syrian troops are killed by suicide bombings in Daara
- 2012 - 27 people are killed and dozens injured in a prison conflict in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2012 - Israeli counter strike on Palestinian militants in Gaza kills 5 and injure 30
- 2012 - 17 people are killed in a helicopter crash as a result of bad weather in Turkey
- 2012 - The final US presidential election results are declared after Barack Obama wins Florida to defeat Mitt Romney 332-206 in Electoral College votes
- 2014 - "The Hunger Games" Mockingjay - Part 1 & quote; directed by Francis Lawrence and starring Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson premieres in London
- 2015 - Portugal & #39;s minority government is toppled by left-wing opposition 2 weeks after coming to power
- 2015 - Fourth Republican presidential candidates debate, sponsored by "The Wall Street Journal" & quote;, held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 2084 - Next transit of Earth as seen from Mars

From KO Archives

Lone' s predicaments: Will they, won't they?

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) today said it has no occasion to consider All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Abdul Gani Lone's complaint that the centre was refusing to issue a passport to him.

After the full commission meeting here, where A G Lone's com-plaint was considered, NHRC chairman J.S. Verma said it is a hy-pothetical situation. The complaint assumes that people who are supposed to do their job will not do it. The centre is considering his application and has not rejected it, he said.

Lone, whose son Sajjad is getting married to Pakistan-based Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front leader Amanullah Khan's daughter Asm a in Rawalpindi on November 19, moved NHRC sav-ing that the centre was refusing to issue him a passport.

The process of issuing of a passport takes time and it is wrong to assume that the government is doing it because they don't want to issue it to Lone, Verma said. Asked if Lone was finally reissued the passport, will NHRC intervene into the matter, the NHRC chairman said again that is hypothetical situation we are assuming. But we will set on what ground the government might refused him a passport.

(Kashmir Observer, November 10, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
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President Biden

In his victory speech, the US president-elect Joe Biden said it is "time to heal" America and vowed "not to divide but to unify" the country. He said as president he wouldn't see red states and blue states but only United States. Biden won more than 74 million votes, the most ever for a US presidential candidate in a cliff-hanger of an election. In an obvious reference to Trump era, Biden declared the end of "grim era of demonization in America". He said it was "time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again". And without mentioning his rival in the election, Biden urged Americans that "to make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as enemies." This is a bracing message that a majority of people in America and across the rest of the world longed to hear. And this makes such a redeeming contrast with the scurrilous and intemperate insults of Donald Trump.

Taking over of Biden as next US president, thus, is just not an election win. It marks a momentous shift back to a liberal order in the US and hopefully later in the rest of the world. Under Trump, the US had lurched towards far-right. Under Trump, we were witness to a stunning closing of the American mind.

America has always taken pride in its democracy, open-mindedness and its concern for civil liberties and human rights. In 2008, the country spectacularly re-affirmed its commitment to these values by electing Barack Obama, a black leader, as its president and then re-electing him in 2012. This too just seven years after the attack on the twin towers in New York.

Under Biden, America will be hoped to go back to its core democratic values. This will be good for the rest of the world many parts of which are witnessing "the pandemic of authoritarianism", to borrow the phrase of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. And the Trump administration was underpinning this "pandemic". There's hope that a liberal US administration will reverse this trend by keeping a leash on the right-wing governments.

Also under Biden, the US will be expected to once again assume its leadership role in the world. Trump had withdrawn from multilateral agreements like Paris climate accord and the US' own nuclear agreement with Iran. The US had also stopped raising the issues of human rights violations across the world. Biden will hopefully change this.

OTHER OPINION

Mixed signals

Last week, speaking at the virtual Global Investors Roundtable, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that his government will do "whatever it takes to make India the engine of global growth resurgence". Modi urged global investors to invest in India, stating that "if you want returns with reliability, India is the place to be." Coming from the prime minister, these comments are reassuring, especially at the current juncture. Yet, in reality, there exists a deep chasm between the rhetoric and actions of government.

Take the case of onions. Onion was recently excluded from the list of essential items in the amended essential commodities act. Yet the decision to block exports, and impose stock limits, in line with past practices, which many had hoped would fall out of favour after the recent reforms, signals a gap between intent and action. The very purpose of the much touted agriculture reforms was to provide farmers the freedom to sell their produce. But such actions, in addition to creating policy uncertainty, end up having the opposite effect — hardly the way to attract much-needed investments in the sector.

Then there is also the confusion over the government's stated aim of atmanirbharta. The confusion is apparent in the chasm between statements and action — at one level, the government talks about integrating with global supply chains, yet at the other it continues to erect tariff barriers. The stellar export performance of countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam, who are arguably better placed to take advantage of supply chains shifting out of China, should have reaffirmed the criticality of an export-oriented growth strategy. Yet the signals emanating from the government — reversing the decades-long policy of trade liberalisation — indicate that atmanirbharta may be descending into the failed policy of import substitution.

Investors, both foreign and domestic, are unlikely to be swayed by such rhetoric, especially when the government's actions speak otherwise.

The Indian Express

US Elections: Changing Equations Globally

Joe Biden's win will have a definite impact on America's relationship with other countries across the globe

Asad Mirza

Twenty years after the nail biting Bush-Al Gore electoral fight in 2000, the recent Trump-Biden presidential contest was perhaps the most watched and nerve wracking electoral fight till the victor was declared.

It was not only the Americans who had a lot at stake in this year's presidential election. During the last four years, many American values were eroded or were given a completely new shape, with lies and subterfuge taking the centre stage. Countries around the world were keenly watching the race and trying to determine what the outcome may mean for them.

For some, Trump ushered in a new type of politics, which they fully supported, including many in India, besides a large number of Indian-origin voters back in the US. For others, a Joe Biden victory would be warmly welcomed.

Let's have a quick look at what the Biden victory may mean for different countries across the globe

India

Apart from the personal Trump-Modi equation, realistically the U.S.-India relationship is centred around trade and defence. For its part, India is concerned with the U.S. stance towards Pakistan and China, with whom it has border disputes. In recent skirmishes on the India-China border, both the White House and Joe Biden's campaign indicated support for India. For many Indians, Biden may be more popular because of his promises to allow more work visas, compared to Trump who has taken a hard line on non-Americans working in the U.S.

Pakistan

During Trump's four-year tenure, relations between the US and Pakistan were greatly affected, Trump repeatedly lambasted Pakistan through public forums. After Biden's victory, relations with USA's closest ally in Asia are expected to improve. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan in his congratulatory message expressed hope to work with the United States on a range of issues, including illegal tax evasion. In his tweet, Imran said that we would continue to work with the United States for peace in other regions, especially in Afghanistan.

China

While China-U.S. relations hit a low under President Donald Trump, it is not certain that Beijing would automatically support his Democratic rival, Joe Biden. Under Trump, the world's two largest economies have plunged into a costly trade war. The U.S. condemned Beijing's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and criticised the treatment of minority Uyghurs and Hong Kong demonstrators.

Biden, meanwhile, has vowed to stand up to Beijing, called President Xi Jinping a "thug" and has also criticised the country's treatment of the Uyghurs. Chinese political commentators, however, describe Trump's disruptive style as a golden opportunity for

China's rise.

Russia

Even though President Donald Trump's policies have not always aligned with Moscow's interests, most Russians see him as friendly to Russia. In August, Trump told aides he'd like to hold an in-person meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin before the election.

Joe Biden, on the other hand, is viewed as having more hawkish attitudes toward Moscow. With Biden, there is concern he would take a greater interest in Russia's activities on the international stage. He is known as being sympathetic to Ukraine, and Putin himself most likely isn't a fan, some experts say.

United Kingdom

For the British government, the U.S. presidential election presents a dilemma.

Unlike European leaders who have lambasted Trump, the U.K.'s leaders have been keen to please him. Desperate to strike a post-Brexit U.S. trade deal, they have in Trump a Brexit supporter who calls Prime Minister Boris Johnson, "Britain's Trump."



However, Biden may present other challenges. He's pro-EU, anti-Brexit and once called Boris Johnson, a Trump's "physical and emotional clone." Biden has vowed to back his Irish ancestral homeland if Brexit threatens its peace and economy.

Iran

There cannot be many countries watching the election more closely than Iran.

In 2018, President Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal that eased sanctions on the country in return for limits on its nuclear program. Trump then imposed a wave of crippling economic sanctions on the country of 83 million. In contrast, if challenger Joe Biden is elected, "he would seek to build on the nuclear deal to make it longer and stronger if Iran returns to strict compliance," according to Antony Blinken, a Biden foreign policy adviser. This could also mean the removal of U.S. sanctions and an end to Washington's "maximum pressure" campaign.

Israel

If the U.S. election were held in Israel, President Donald Trump would most likely win in a landslide. In Israel, Trump will be remembered as the U.S. president who recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, breaking with decades of American precedent. His administration will also be re-

membered for pulling out of a nuclear deal with Israel's arch enemy, Iran; recognising Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights; brokering agreements to normalise ties with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain and presenting a plan to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Biden has said his commitment to Israel is "unshakable." However, some are concerned about the pressure he may come under from members of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party, some of whom are outspoken critics of Israel and its treatment of Palestinians. Israelis also believe that Biden, if elected, would revive the nuclear deal with Tehran.

Saudi Arabia

Few countries have more at stake in November's election than Saudi Arabia, the U.S.'s closest Arab ally, a major customer of American weapons and a bulwark against Iranian ambitions in the Middle East. Since his tour of Saudi Arabia in 2017 on the first foreign trip of his presidency, Trump has proven to be a boon for Riyadh: He ditched a nuclear deal with the kingdom's main rival, Iran; sent troops to the country after accusing Iran of attacking its oil facilities; and dismissed U.S. intelligence accusing Saudi crown prince and de facto ruler Prince Mohammed bin Salman of ordering the killing of a prominent critic, journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Trump's White House has also helped the oil-rich nation proceed with a disastrous war in Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries where millions of children face hunger and malnutrition.

In contrast, Joe Biden has said he will take a different approach. A top campaign adviser has also said that, as president, Biden would likely revive a deal with Iran to curb its nuclear development. However, Salman al-Ansari of the Saudi American Public Relation Affairs Committee opines that Saudi leadership is also practical, realistic and ready to adjust to any global changes, including America's political landscape, and thus may change its stand with the new president.

Turkey

Trump and the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have enjoyed a warm personal relationship since they met first at the White House in November 2019. On the other hand, Joe Biden views Ankara with suspicion. Earlier this year in an interview with The New York Times Biden had said he was "very concerned" about Erdogan's approach to the Kurds in Turkey, military cooperation with Russia, and access to US airfields in the country, as a NATO ally.

Afghanistan

When it comes to the U.S. election, the only winner most Afghans care about is who ever can bring peace to the country nearly 20 years after the U.S. invasion. On paper it may appear as if President Donald Trump has accomplished more in this regard than his predecessors. Still, most Afghans see Democrat Joe Biden as a safer choice.

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi.



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Disrespectful Memes on Kashmir's Social Media

President Donald J. Trump the president of the United States of America (USA) has lost to Joe Biden, who was the former vice president and is now the president-elect. This news has led to a storm surge on social media with some Kashmiris making, what they perceive as fun- memes, of Trump as kandur (baker), puj (mutton seller), shikarawala (boatman), waza (chef) etc.

These memes are not entertaining at any level, and on the contrary reveal the hidden mind set of people which is plagued with disrespect, prejudice and stereotypes against certain sections of society. Is it morally pleas-

ing to morph images of people with animals, humans, and body parts with an intention to create what they perceive as entertainment and fun? The meme creators basically have a field day with their inner dark world, which is not just vulgar and obscene but morally degrading as well. And if the target is a woman, then the level of obscenity crosses all the set limits and memes created often display sexist tendencies. We have witnessed this throughout the world, and unfortunately in Jammu and Kashmir as well.

In the case of memes which show Trump's professional failure by representing his downfall through professions like that of

a Kashmiri baker, boatman and chef; what moral high ground are we attempting to achieve?

Trump's defeat has been seen positively because he was disrespectful and harmful towards certain sections of society. When we celebrate this defeat by indulging in an unethical, classist, casteist, prejudiced and disrespectful meme fest, how does it make us any better?

All professions are good because they define us as a family on Earth: our little home that protects us from all of the harmful impacts from the cosmic rays that often try to enter from the cosmos, a world away from our unaided eyes. We are shielded by

a thin gaseous layer that we have called atmosphere. And we don't fly in the wilderness of space because the gravity of the earth keeps us glued to the surface. So, our successful stories will vanish instantly if the atmosphere, or earth stops supporting our life and we will have nothing to stop our own demise. The life that we live must be spent in helping people to make the journey beautiful, peaceful, respectful, and memorable for all. We deserve love, and we must help spreading it as well.

Afroz Shah
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Tracking Mountain Meltdown from Space

Ulfat Majeed

Research conducted at the University of Kashmir and elsewhere clearly indicates that the glaciers in the region are receding at exacerbated rates as compared to other parts of the Himalayan arc,

Jammu and Kashmir is famous for its pristine and abundant water resources that include lakes, rivers, springs, wetlands, snow and ice reserves. These water resources support agriculture, local and adventure tourism and hydropower which form backbone of the economy of the region. Global warming, which has been documented to be more pronounced in the High Mountain Asia, has adversely affected the water resources of the region in the recent years. The abrupt changes in these resources could have serious implications on the water security of the region. It could lead to shifting cropping patterns, decreased streamflow, depleted groundwater, water-related hazards, besides affecting the sustenance of the various communities that directly depend on water for their livelihood.

One of the most important reserves for water is the cryosphere which includes the glaciers, seasonal snow, snow-packs and permafrost. The Himalayan mountain range, also referred to as Third Pole, has the highest concentration of glaciers outside the Polar Regions. The Himalayas host more than 50000 glaciers with over 10,000 glaciers in the Jammu and Kashmir region. Some of the largest glaciers outside the poles that include the Siachen Glacier, the Biafo Glacier, the Baltoro Glacier, the Hipsar Glacier, to name a few, are located in this region. The valley of Kashmir hosts about 90 glaciers, the Kolahoi glacier being the largest. The Zaskar region too has a fair number of glaciers with some large glaciers that include the Drang Drung glacier, the Parkhachik glacier etc. The region has a substantial area under permafrost which, unfortunately, is poorly documented and remains the least researched component of the Himalayan Cryosphere. The seasonal snow supplies water to the rivers in spring and early summer months. From August to October, the streamflow is predominantly glacier melt. Any change in these ice reserves could directly affect the amount and timing of the water supply, hence affecting the downstream population. The depleting snowfall patterns will not only affect the stream flows, but also might impact the snow-tourism in the region.

Remote sensing, to be simply put, monitors these reserves from space. The data for such analysis could be an aerial photograph, a satellite image or even a drone survey! These data provide synoptic views of the resources and are effective in studying the changes that these reserves have undergone with time. The temporal changes could be studied even at daily interval while spatial changes could be tracked at sub-meter resolution. The back in time image of the same area is the easiest and the best way to study the spatio-temporal dynamics of the water resources. The earth observation satellite data besides areal changes can be used for quantifying various other factors that could affect glacier health and include hydrometeorological parameters, aerosol distribution, snow and rock avalanches, etc.



For the sustenance of these important ice reserves, it is imperative to have a robust state policy to monitor these reserves in space and time. Geoinformatics, making use of concepts of information science, integrates data from multiple sources that include but not limited to satellites, ground truth, field surveys and ancillary sources in a Geographic Information System (GIS), is beneficial for policy making for the sustenance of these important reserves. Research conducted at the University of Kashmir and elsewhere clearly indicates that the glaciers in the region are receding at exacerbated rates as compared to other parts of the Himalayan arc, primarily driven by climatic change. The recession of glaciers has also resulted into formation of glacial lakes at the glacier tongues, referred to as proglacial lakes. These proglacial lakes are impounded by loose glacier debris material called moraine. While these unconsolidated moraines have a capacity to hold water, they may burst anytime releasing huge water volumes and translating into what are called as Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF). Some of the smaller GLOFs have been reported from the Ladakh and Karakoram regions but it is highly likely that the frequency of GLOFs may increase in the future owing to the receding pattern of glaciers. Besides monitoring ice reserves, a check on the hazards posed by them is a prerequisite for the mitigation of the risk that a GLOF

event could pose to downstream population. The geoinformatics technology has been used widely world over to document and mitigate these hazards. Many areas in the Himalayas itself that include Nepal, Bhutan etc have developed Early Warning Systems that inform of a possible disaster before it could actually strike, hence helping in save lives and infrastructure downstream.

The J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority can direct the government to use geomatics technology by recruiting trained GIS professionals who can help achieve the set goals. The University of Kashmir and its sister university, the University of Jammu have been successfully running the professional Masters programme in Geoinformatics from past several years. Additionally, there are professionals from outside institutions that are ready to serve the state. The state has the requisite professional base that can efficiently inform policy makers by using geomatics technology to help frame policies aimed at safeguarding pristine water resources of the region.

Ulfat Majeed is a DST-INSPIRE Fellow currently pursuing Ph.D Geoinformatics at the University of Kashmir and can be reached at ulfatmgis@gmail.com

The Chronicles of Vaccines

The road to vaccine roll-out is always bumpy as 20th Century Pandemics show

Samantha Vanderslott

If you have been following the media coverage of the new vaccines in development for COVID-19, it will be clear that the stakes are high. Very few vaccine trials in history have attracted so much attention, perhaps since polio in the mid-20th century.

A now largely forgotten chapter, summer polio outbreaks invoked terror in parents. Today, restrictions on gatherings and movement in the efforts to control COVID-19 have been a huge strain on society, but in the 1950s, parents locked their children in stifling hot buildings during the summer with windows sealed shut because they were terrified polio would somehow seep through the cracks in the wall.

The development of the polio vaccine in the US in 1955 was a moment of global celebration. Reaching that point involved millions of citizens raising funds to develop the vaccine, political goodwill by the bucket-load and a driven public-private scientific collaboration, with scientist Jonas Salk at the helm. Children across the US were enlisted in one of the largest clinical trials in history.

Clearly, setbacks and challenges occurred along the way, even once the vaccine was being rolled out. In a shocking episode called the “Cutter incident”, a failure in making and inspecting the vaccine by a California-based firm called the Cutter Laboratories led to children getting polio from the vaccine, which contained viable poliovirus.

The incident led to a major tightening of federal regulations to ensure production safety. It also resulted in new laws being passed that prevented vaccine manufacturers from being sued. (The fear was that drug manufacturers would not want to develop vaccines without being protected by the law.)

A lack of urgency for vaccine uptake quickly set in. It is taken for granted that children are vaccinated routinely, but this acceptance took time. In the early era of vaccination, it was a tool against epidemics and people expected to be vaccinated during an outbreak. Through health education and communication, funding of immunisation services, and political support across party lines, vaccination was promoted as a central pillar of a public health globally.

Promise of an Aids vaccine

When the next big plague of the 20th century hit – Aids – naturally it was vaccination that



would be looked to. Within a short time of scientists confirming HIV was the cause of Aids in 1984, the US health and human services secretary, Margaret Heckler, announced that a vaccine would be ready in two years. The high expectations and hope instilled in vaccination were not surprising, particularly following the eradication of smallpox from the planet in 1980. However, an Aids vaccine proved to be unattainable.

Unfortunately, many aspects of HIV infection make it very difficult to develop a vaccine. Instead, it has been antiretrovirals – a group of drugs that inhibit various steps in the HIV replication process – that have proved to be the most effective strategy

for treating Aids.

The stigma of Aids was also an inhibitor for controlling the disease. Health officials at the beginning of the Aids crisis coyly referred to the transmission being through “bodily fluids”, instead of specifying blood and semen. This led to misunderstandings about the disease being spread through touch.

New pandemic, same problems

Today, COVID-19 is the latest public health crisis that cannot be separated from politics and society. Fear of this disease, and whether it is taken seriously and seen as important to protect against, will play a major role in the support and up-

The acceptance of vaccines is fragile, so when leaders promote their country's vaccine with clear political motivations, it can knock the public's confidence and draw intense scrutiny. As with the polio vaccine of the past, the world is watching.

take of a vaccine.

Most people want to return to a “normal life”, and a vaccine is the most reliable way to achieve this. However, the public's desire for a vaccine is balanced against concerns about the speed of vaccine development, wariness about new types of vaccines, and mistrust of pharmaceutical companies, governments and the “health establishment”.

Public action in communities has been evident throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, in neighbours supporting the elderly and those unable to leave their homes by delivering groceries and medication, as well as compliance with government health messaging, and willingness to take part in medical trials. But national political stakes for a vaccine remain high with politicians using “vaccine deals” to bolster popular support and win elections.

The acceptance of vaccines is fragile, so when leaders promote their country's vaccine with clear political motivations, it can knock the public's confidence and draw intense scrutiny. As with the polio vaccine of the past, the world is watching.

By arrangements

Study Reveals Abnormal Blood Pressure Levels While Sleeping Increase Risk Of Heart Disease, Stroke

Agencies

People who experience high blood pressure while sleeping are more likely to experience future cardiovascular disease especially heart failure, even when their daytime blood pressure is within normal ranges, according to new research.

The research was published today in the American Heart Association's flagship journal Circulation. Health care professionals typically use in-office and daytime blood pressure measurements to determine a patient's hypertension medication needs and dosages. However, many patients may have undetected nocturnal hypertension -- high blood pressure while sleeping.

"Nighttime blood pressure is increasingly being recognized as a predictor of cardiovascular

risk," said Kazuomi Kario, M.D., Ph.D., lead author of the study and a professor of cardiovascular medicine at Jichi Medical University in Tochigi, Japan. "This study provides much more in-depth information about the cardiovascular risk associated with high nighttime blood pressure and different nighttime blood pressure phenotypes than have been reported previously."

The Japan Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring Prospective (JAMP) study enrolled 6,359 patients from across Japan between 2009 and 2017 and measured daytime and nighttime levels using an at-home, wearable, ambulatory monitor. Blood pressure was measured during daily activities and sleep for at least 24-hours at a time, and device data were periodically downloaded at a health care clinic. Almost half of the

study participants were male, and more than half were over the age of 65 years. The patients all had at least one cardiovascular risk factor, and three-quarters of them were taking blood pressure medications, and none had symptomatic cardiovascular disease when the study began.

The study participants were instructed to rest or sleep during nighttime hours and maintain their usual daytime activities. Their daily activities and sleep and wake times were self-reported in a diary. Almost every participant recorded 20 daytime and seven nighttime automated blood pressure measurements. To determine nighttime measurements, patients self-reported the time they fell asleep and woke up. All other readings were defined as daytime.

Follow-up occurred annually via phone or clinic visit, with total follow up ranging from



two to seven years. Researchers analysed the rates of cardiovascular disease events, including heart attacks, strokes, heart failure and death, among the participants. The occurrence and timing of heart events in relation to blood pressure variations was analyzed to determine whether there were any

time systolic reading--was significantly associated with the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and heart failure.

The participants who had an abnormal circadian pattern, which is when sleep blood pressure exceeds daytime readings, were at particular risk of developing heart failure and had a greater risk of experiencing any cardiovascular disease events.

Excessive reduction of blood pressure during sleep may also be detrimental. Patients with well-controlled hypertension showed a significantly increased risk of stroke when nighttime systolic pressure took extreme dips.

"Results indicate that nighttime systolic blood pressure was a significant, independent risk factor for cardiovascular events," said Kario. "The study highlights the importance of including

nighttime blood pressure monitoring in patient management strategies and will hopefully encourage physicians to ensure that antihypertensive therapy is effectively lowering blood pressure throughout the 24-hour dosing period."

The authors noted that the study was not without limitations. Ambulatory data were obtained once at the start of the study, however, no information was available regarding the contributions of subsequent changes in ambulatory blood pressure levels up until the time of diagnosis of a cardiac event. The study focused on systolic, rather than diastolic, measurements due to the older age of the participants. Additionally, study evaluations did not include echocardiograms, thus preventing some degree of differentiation for types of heart failure.

Conflicts In Kindergarten Can Reduce Children's Interest In Reading And Maths

Agencies

Teacher-perceived conflict predicts lower interest and pre-academic skills in maths and literacy among kindergarteners, a new study from Finland shows.

Kindergarten represents a crucial context in which children develop school-related skills and patterns of engagement that form the basis for the development of later competencies important for academic success. Kindergarten achievement has been found to be highly predictive of later academic skills.

Given the long-lasting effects that kindergarten experiences have on later schooling, it is important to understand the factors associated with children's learning and motivation during this time.

The quality of teacher-student interaction has been found to be important in terms of many different academic and socio-emotional outcomes. However, much of the previous work in the field has focused on children in later grades in elementary school and has been conducted in the United States. Fewer studies have been conducted in other educational contexts and in kindergarten specifically.

Researchers from the University of Jyväskylä, the University of Eastern Finland, and New York University of



Abu Dhabi investigated bidirectional links between the quality of teacher-child relationships and children's interest and pre-academic skills in literacy and math in Finland.

Participants were 461 Finnish kindergarteners (6-year-olds) and their teachers (48). The study is part of the Teacher Stress Study, led by Professor Marja-Kristiina Lerkkanen and Associate Professor Eija Pakarinen at the University of Jyväskylä.

The results indicated that teacher-perceived conflict predicted lower interest and pre-academic skills in both literacy and maths. It is possible that when children experience conflict with teachers, the negative emotions attached to these conflicts are harmful for children's engagement in learning and diminish their interest in academic tasks.

It is also possible that children experiencing conflicts are missing out on time on learning literacy and maths, either

because they are disengaged from instructional activities or because teachers have to spend more instructional time on behavioural management.

The findings highlight the importance of kindergarten teachers being aware of how their relationships with children can influence children's later schooling. It would be important to develop pre-service and in-service programmes and interventions to assist teachers in building supportive, low conflict relationships with children.

Teacher education programmes may also benefit from educating teachers not only about academic content and pedagogical practices but also in strategies that build supportive relationships with children.

"Compared to daycare, kindergarten introduces children to a more structured learning environment. The experiences children gain in this environment may have long-term consequences on the development of their academic motivation and competencies," Professor Jaana Viljaranta from the University of Eastern Finland said.

"Therefore, it is essential that our teachers are aware of the power their interaction with children may have, and that they are supported in finding optimal ways to interact with each child, while taking individual strengths and needs into consideration," Viljaranta added.

Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre Srinagar Tender Notice Inviting Tenders Single Cover System

e-NIT No. 05of 2020-21 Dated: 07.11.2020

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K U.T, e-tender (In single cover system) is invited from the Registered/ Authorized Dealers/Suppliers/A Class Electrical Contractors for below mentioned job.

S. No	Name of work	Cost of T/ Doc.	Earnest money	Time of completion	Class of contractor
1.	2	4	5	6	7
1.	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for smooth functioning of EPABX (Siemens Hipath 3000 Model 3550) System at SKICC for the year 2020-21.	500/-	2000/-	12 months	Registered/Authorized Dealers/Suppliers/ A Class Electrical Contractors.

Position of funds: - Demanded
The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of issue of tender notice	07.11.2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	07.11.2020
3.	Bid submission start date (on line)	07.11.2020
4.	Bid submission End date (on line)	16.11.2020 UPTO 5 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	17.11.20 at 11.30 A.M in the office of Ex. Engineer, SKICC

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in shape of demand draft (non-refundable) in favour of Executive Engineer SKICCC (tender inviting authority) and earnest money/bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer SKICC (tender receiving authority).
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidder automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of Executive Engineer SKICC Srinagar (tender receiving authority)
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- All other terms and conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

Executive Engineer
SKICC

NO: SKICC/EE/20/159-62
Dated: 07.11.20

DIPK-NB-3690/20

Study Reveals Musculoskeletal Disorders Increasing Globally



Agencies

SYDNEY: In a major global study, researchers have found that the cases of musculoskeletal disorders – which affect muscles, tendons, ligaments, bones, and joints, are rising rapidly across the globe.

Musculoskeletal disorders can severely affect individuals' physical and mental health, and they're especially prevalent among ageing adults, the findings, published in the journal Arthritis & Rheumatology, reported.

Although many researchers are studying these conditions and their rates in different regions of the world, no study to date has provided an overview of the burden of all musculoskeletal disorders.

"Our study describes the enormous global burden of disability from musculoskeletal conditions in a single paper," said senior author Rachelle Buchbinder from the Monash University in Australia.

For the analysis, researchers examined data from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017, which assessed the extent of diseases and injuries across 21 regions and 195 countries and territories from 1990 to 2017.

Musculoskeletal disorders included rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, low back pain, neck pain, gout, and related conditions.

The team found that there were ap-

proximately 1.3 billion prevalent cases and 121,300 deaths due to musculoskeletal disorders in 2017, as well as 138.7 million disability-adjusted life years, or the number of years lost due to ill-health, disability, or early death.

The burden of these diseases generally increased with age for both sexes. However, it was more prevalent among females, and was higher in developed countries.

"These conditions are under-recognised despite their enormous costs to individuals, the economy, and the health system," said Buchbinder.

"Also, there has been a lack of any significant decline in the burden from these conditions over time, which means that there is still an insufficient emphasis on addressing the problem," Buchbinder added.

The researcher noted that policymakers must be made aware of the size of this growing problem, especially in light of rapidly ageing populations around the world.

"A global response is needed, and this should be integrated with other strategies that can address some of the modifiable and important risk factors of musculoskeletal disorders, including obesity, poor nutrition, smoking, and sedentary lifestyles," she said.

The authors also stressed the need for standardised methods for collecting data on the prevalence and impact of musculoskeletal disorders across the world.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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ADMISSION (SELECTION) NOTIFICATION NO. 05 OF 2020

The candidates bearing following Form Numbers have been provisionally selected for admission to various programmes for the Academic Session 2020-21 on the basis of merit in the competitive test (CMAT)/ qualifying examination.

Master of Business Administration (MBA): OM: 202111, 202835, 200630, 202618, 201122, 204765, 201677, 203762, 200246, 200028, 201047, 204447, 200235, 204726, 201666, 201102, 201393, 204508, 204691, 200392, 201402, 204617, 204606, 204466, 201482, 202827, 200420, 203269, 201683, **SC/ST/GJB:** 201387, 204385, 203180 **RBA:** 200605, 202643, 200334, 200070, 204653 **CDPP:** 203688 **WUPSC:** 204744

MBA-International Business (IB): OM: 204769, 200320, 204708, 201529, 200342, 204482, 200790, 202931, 203765, 200948, 202053, 200278, 204695, 204759, 201832, 200961, 201699, 201912, 204746 **RBA:** 204489, 200496, 200822 **CDPP:** 202288 **PH:** 201518

General Waiting list MBA/MBA-IB: OM: 204538, 203174, 201947, 201010, 204721, 201129, 204468, 204745, 204546, 204392, 203054, 201631, 204753, 200580, 201519, 201378, 200719, 200091, 204694, 201560, 204411, 204733, 204767, 200148, 204773, 202795, 201672, 203849, 201641, 203415, 203871, 200498, 200631, 200585, 201255, 204717 **RBA:** 204449, 204658, 204601, 204353, 203456, 200020, 202258, 204146, 202891, 202191 **WUPSC:** 203445, 204731, 200911

MA Economics: OM: 203273, 200246, 201376, 203816, 203629, 201471, 202511, 202908, 200320, 204642, 204683, 204487, 200654, 203377, 203008, 202257, 203655, 204771 **SC/ST/GJB:** 202923, 204549 **RBA:** 204275, 204437, 203535 **PH:** 201518 **WAITING: OM:** 201744, 204415, 204501, 204440, 204516, 204494, 200824, 203984, 200370, 200981, 204409, 201558, 200359, 201374, 201652, 204234 **RBA:** 204548, 201610, 201260, 203191, 200509

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The selection of the candidates is strictly provisional and subject to the fulfillment of eligibility criteria as determined and fixed by the university and production/verification of the original documents/valid category certificate(s) wherever applicable. In case of any discrepancy found at any point of time, the University reserves the right to cancel/modify such selection/admission without assigning any reason thereof.
- Provisionally selected candidates are hereby informed to report to the **Office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora** on any working day by or before **17-11-2020 (except on Saturday & Sunday)** alongwith application form/ original documents/ copies thereof and requisite fee as mentioned in the University Prospectus 2020 for completion of admission formalities. In case any candidate fails to report within the stipulated time, the seat shall be allotted to the next candidate in order of merit and preference (wherever applicable).
- The candidates in the Waiting List (s) are advised to register their interest online for admission in case of any available vacancy (ies) by or before **17-11-2020 (4:00 pm)** by clicking on the tab **(Submit Waiting Form)** in admission portal available on University website www.islamicuniversity.edu.in. Once the form is submitted, take a print out of the waiting confirmation letter for records. Candidates need not to deposit any fee for waiting form. In case any candidate amongst the waiting list fails to register his/her interest online, his/her candidature for selection shall not be considered and the seat shall be allotted to the next candidate as per the merit and preference.
- The Selection List of candidates under Sports Category will be notified after the receipt of verification report from J&K Sports Council.
- The Provisional Merit List (s) of all programmes as mentioned above are available on the University website www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.
- In case of any available vacancy (ies) after **17-11-2020**, further upgradation of branch shall be done in the subsequent selection notifications on the basis of merit & preference (wherever applicable) amongst the ALREADY ADMITTED CANDIDATES ONLY.

Admission under Self Financing Category / NRI Sponsored Quota:

For Self-Financing Category: The eligible candidate(s) whose name is shown in the Merit List and are desirous to apply under **Self Financing Category** may apply online by or before **17-11-2020**. The students can apply by clicking on the tab **(Apply For Payment Seat)** in admission portal available on University website and deposit fee of **Rs 500/-** (non-refundable) either online or offline at any branch of J&K Bank Ltd against a print out of the auto-generated pay-in-slip. They need not to submit the hard copies of their Self Financing Application Form and Fee Receipt to the University at this point of Time, however, the original Fee receipt may be required later for admission purposes if the candidate is selected.

For NRI Sponsored Quota: The eligible candidate(s) desirous to apply under **NRI Sponsored Quota** are advised to submit application in the **Office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora** on any working day by or before **17-11-2020 (except on Saturday & Sunday)** alongwith application fee of Rs. 500/- and copy (ies) of required NRI Sponsored documents as mentioned in the University Prospectus 2020. The candidates who have not applied earlier can also apply under this quota.

No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/20/652
Dated: 09-11-2020

(Errors & Omissions Excepted)

Sd/-
Deputy Registrar, Academics

Covid Vaccine 90% Effective In Phase 3 Trial, Says Pfizer

Agencies

Washington: A vaccine jointly developed by Pfizer and BioNTech was 90 percent effective in preventing Covid-19 infections in ongoing Phase 3 trials, the companies announced Monday.

The statement was released as coronavirus cases are soaring across the world, and European stock markets and oil prices jumped on the news.

According to preliminary findings, protection in patients was achieved seven days after the second of two doses, and 28 days after the first.

"The first set of results from our Phase 3 Covid-19 vaccine trial provides the initial evidence of our vaccine's ability to prevent Covid-19," Pfizer chairman and CEO Albert Bourla said in a statement.

"We are a significant step closer to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health crisis," he said.

"We are reaching this critical milestone in our vaccine development program at a time when the world needs it most."

Across much of the globe,

Covid-19 infections rates are hitting record highs, with hospital intensive care units filling up and death tolls mounting.

Based on supply projections, the companies said they expect to supply up to 50 million vaccine doses globally in 2020, and up to 1.3 billion doses in 2021.

US biotech firm Moderna, several state-run Chinese labs, and a European project led by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca are thought to be closing in on potentially viable vaccines.

Two Russian Covid-19 vaccines have been registered for us even before clinical trials were completed, but have not been widely accepted outside of Russia.

The Phase 3 clinical trial -- the final stage -- of the new vaccine, BNT162b2, began in late July and has enrolled 43,538 participants to date, 90 percent of whom have received a second dose of the vaccine candidate as of November 8.

Pfizer said it is gathering two months of safety data following the final dose -- a requirement of the US Food and Drug Administration -- to qualify for Emergency Use Authorization, which it expects by the third week in November.

Virgin Hyperloop hosts first human ride on new transport system

Agencies

Washington: The company has previously run over 400 tests without human passengers at the Nevada site

Richard Branson's Virgin Hyperloop has completed the world's first passenger ride on a super high-speed levitating pod system, the company said on Sunday, a key safety test for technology it hopes will transform human and cargo transportation.



Virgin Hyperloop executives Josh Giegel, its Chief Technology Officer, and Sara Luchian, Director of Passenger Experience, reached speeds of up to 107 miles per hour (172 km per hour) at the company's DevLoop test site in Las Vegas, Nevada, the company said.

"I had the true pleasure of seeing history made before my very eyes," said Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Chairman of Virgin Hyperloop and Group Chairman and Chief Executive of DP World.

Los Angeles-based Hyperloop envisions a future where floating pods packed with passengers and cargo hurtle through vacuum tubes at 600

miles an hour (966 kph) or faster.

In a hyperloop system, which uses magnetic levitation to allow near-silent travel, a trip between New York and Washington would take just 30 minutes. That would be twice as fast as a commercial jet flight and four times faster than a high-speed train.

The company has previously run over 400 tests without human passengers at the Nevada site.

The test comes a month after Reuters first reported that Virgin Hyperloop picked the US state of West Virginia to host a \$500 million certification center and test track that will serve as a proving ground for its technology.

The company is working toward safety certification by 2025 and commercial operations by 2030, it has said.

Canada's Transpod and Spain's Zeleros also aim to up-end traditional passenger and freight networks with similar technology they say will slash travel times, congestion and environmental harm linked with petroleum-fueled machines.



Biden begins transition as Trump refuses to concede

Agencies

US President-elect Joe Biden took the first steps on Sunday towards moving into the White House in 73 days, as Donald Trump again refused to admit defeat and tried to sow doubt about the election results.

With congratulations pouring in from world leaders and supporters nursing hangovers after a night of celebrations, Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris announced they would receive a joint briefing on Monday in Wilmington, Delaware from their transition Covid-19 advisory team.

Biden would then deliver remarks on coronavirus and economic recovery. They also launched a transition website, BuildBackBetter.com, and a Twitter feed, @Transition46.

Meanwhile, Trump played golf at his course near Washington, the same place where he was on Saturday when news broke that Biden had secured enough Electoral College votes for victory.

"Since when does the lamestream media call who our next president will be?" Trump complained in a tweet on Sunday.

Trump, who has no public events scheduled for Monday,

plans to file a string of lawsuits in the coming week, according to his lawyer Rudy Giuliani, who said he had "a lot of evidence" of fraud.

But former president George W. Bush said the "outcome is clear" and added that he had called "president-elect" Biden and Harris to extend his congratulations.

Bush said in a statement that "the American people can have confidence that this election was fundamentally fair [...] We must come together for the sake of our families and neighbors, and for our nation and its future."

Biden's transition website lists four priorities: Covid-19, economic recovery, racial equity and climate change.

"The team being assembled will meet these challenges on Day One," it said in a reference to January 20, 2021, when Biden will be sworn in as the 46th president of the United States.

Biden, who turns 78 on November 20, is the oldest person ever elected to the White House. Harris, 56, a senator from California, is the first woman, first Black person and first South Asian person to be elected vice president.

Biden plans to name a task force on Monday to tackle the

coronavirus pandemic, which has left more than 237,000 people dead in the United States and is surging across the country.

He has also announced plans to rejoin the Paris climate accord and will reportedly issue an executive order on his first day in office reversing Trump's travel ban on mostly Muslim countries.

Biden has vowed to name a cabinet that reflects the diversity of the country, although he may have trouble gaining approval for more progressive appointees if Republicans retain control of the Senate -- an outcome that will depend on two runoff races in Georgia in January.

'Accept the inevitable'

Biden, who after John F. Kennedy is just the second Catholic to be elected US president, attended church on Sunday morning in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware.

He also visited the graves of his son, Beau Biden, who died of brain cancer in 2015, and his first wife and daughter, who died in a 1972 car accident.

The Trump campaign has mounted legal challenges to the results in several states, but no evidence has emerged of any widespread irregularities that would affect the results.

Faced With Defeat, Armed Protesters In Arizona Insist Election Stolen

Agencies

Phoenix/Washington: Hundreds of supporters of President Donald Trump rallied in downtown Phoenix on Saturday to contest Joe Biden's election as US president, charging the media with conspiring to steal the election and calling the results a "coup."

The Trump campaign lent support to protests questioning the current vote tally, filing a lawsuit in Arizona Saturday over rejected ballots that Arizona's Secretary of State said was "grasping at straws."

Trump's campaign alleged the Southwestern state's most populous county incorrectly rejected

votes cast on Election Day by some voters in the US presidential race. The lawsuit, filed in state Superior Court in Maricopa County, said poll workers told some voters to press a button after a machine had detected an "overvote."

Pro-Trump protesters have been assembling outside the Maricopa County Elections Department and at the Arizona State Capitol for days, espousing unsubstantiated claims that Democratic operatives had interfered with the election to illegitimately deliver Arizona to Biden. They have chanted "Count the legal votes! We are watching you!" outside the building where election work-

ers continue to count votes.

Tensions escalated on Saturday, with protesters at one point threatening to take down the fence cordoning off the elections department and some media members from the group.

At the state capitol building Saturday afternoon, speakers exhorted the crowd not to accept the results of the election, calling on paralegals and law students to come the president's defense.

"We all know President Trump won this election!" one shouted. Another told the crowd to look in the mirror and ask themselves what they were willing to do. Chants of "liberty or death!" rang out.

Election result a setback for Netanyahu, hope for Palestinians

Agencies

JERUSALEM: Joe Biden's US election win marks a setback for Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu, a staunch ally of President Donald Trump -- but it could spur renewed engagement between Washington and the Palestinians, experts said.

Netanyahu said Trump was Israel's strongest-ever ally in the White House, and the Republican advanced policies that delighted the Israeli prime minister's right-wing base.

Netanyahu congratulated Biden and vice president-elect Kamala Harris on Twitter Sunday, before thanking Trump for a raft of moves that, according to Netanyahu, advanced

loathed by Netanyahu -- and recognised Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided capital", moving the US embassy to the city, breaking international consensus.

He also endorsed Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights -- which was seized from Syria -- and avoided criticising Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

According to a pre-vote poll by the Israel Democracy Institute think-tank, 63 percent of Israelis wanted Trump to win a second term.

After the US result was announced, 28-year-old Israeli truck driver Shmuel Nemirovski told AFP that even though "Trump would



Israel's interests.

Trump unilaterally pulled out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal -- an agreement between Tehran and world powers

have been better", he was comfortable with Biden because the president-elect does not appear "to have anything against Israel".

Next US Admn Should Submit to Iranian Will: Rouhani

Agencies

Painkiller aspirin will be evaluated as a possible treatment for COVID-19 in one of Britain's biggest trials, which will assess whether it might reduce the risk of blood clots in people with the disease.

The scientists behind the RECOVERY trial, which is looking into a range of potential treatments for COVID-19, said it would include the drug, which is commonly used as a blood thinner.

"There is a clear rationale for believing that it (aspirin) might be beneficial, and it is safe, inexpensive and widely available," said Peter Horby, co-chief investigator of the trial.

Patients infected with the coronavirus are at a higher risk of blood clots because of hyper-reactive platelets, the cell fragments that help stop bleeding. Aspirin is an antiplatelet agent and can reduce the risk of clots, the RECOVERY trial's website said on Friday.

At least 2,000 patients are expected to randomly get 150 mg of aspirin daily along with the usual regimen. Data from those patients will be compared with at least 2,000 other patients who receive the standard COVID-19 treatment on its own, the website showed.

Small daily doses of aspirin has been found to reduce

the risk of certain cancers. As a blood thinner, it increases the risk of internal bleeding, and taking too much over a long period of time has been associated with kidney damage.

Other treatments being tested in the RECOVERY trial include common antibiotic azithromycin and Regeneron's antibody cocktail that was used to treat U.S. President Donald Trump's COVID-19 symptoms.



Unlike Gilead's remdesivir, which has been approved as a COVID-19 treatment in the United States but has shown poor results in a large World Health Organization trial, aspirin is a generic drug, making it much cheaper. The RECOVERY trial was the first to show that dexamethasone, a steroid which is also cheap and widely available, could save lives of people severely ill with COVID-19.

It also showed that the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine, once touted by Trump, was of no benefit in treating COVID-19 patients.

Harris' Husband Douglas Emhoff Will Be America's First 'Second Gentleman'

New York: With the historic electoral win by Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, her husband Douglas Emhoff also scripted history as he will be the first 'Second Gentleman' - the first male spouse of a vice president in the US when she takes the oath of office in January.

The wife of a US President is addressed as First Lady while that of Vice President as Second Lady. America has never in its history before had a female President and Vice President, so it remains to be seen what formal title - 'Second Gentleman, Second Husband' - will be given to the first male spouse of an elected leader.

So, while Harris' election as America's next Vice President is groundbreaking as she brings to the office a litany of firsts - she will be the first woman, the first Black wom-



an, the first woman of Indian descent and the first daughter of immigrants to be sworn in as Vice President, her husband will also be making history in his own way.

Harris is married to Emhoff, 56, a successful enter-

tainment lawyer, who has been a strong and supportive presence for Harris during the election campaign.

"So proud of you," Emhoff tweeted on Saturday, with a picture of him and Harris hugging as TV networks called

the presidential race for Biden and Harris. A report in CNN said Emhoff has been away from the spotlight, often seen backstage or at the edge of the crowd at Harris' events, sporting a "Kamala" T-shirt.

Emhoff garnered attention last year when he rushed onstage to protect Harris after a protester came close enough to the senator to grab her microphone, CNN said.

He has also staunchly defended Harris when Donald Trump Jr., the President's son, retweeted a racist lie that Harris is not a Black American because her parents immigrated from Jamaica and India.

Harris often talks about how she and Emhoff met after they were set up on a blind date in 2013 by Harris' best friend when she was California's attorney general. Emhoff has two children Cole and Ella from a previous marriage.

Carrier pigeon's century-old message found in French field

A man shows on November 8, 2020, in Munster, eastern France, a message probably lost by a carrier pigeon in 1910, sent by a German officer and miraculously resurfaced in 2020 in Alsace where it was found by chance AFP

A couple found the tiny capsule with its well-preserved contents in September this year in a field in Ingersheim, said Jarly, who raved about the "super rare" discovery

A couple out for a walk in eastern France have discovered a tiny capsule containing a message despatched by a Prussian soldier over a century ago using an ill-fated carrier pigeon.

The message from an infantry soldier based at Ingersheim, written in German in a barely legible hand, detailed military manoeuvres and was addressed to a superior officer, said Dominique Jarly, curator



of the Linge Museum at Orbey in eastern France.

It appears to be dated 1910, or possibly 1916.

At the time, Ingersheim -- now in France's Grand Est department -- was part of Germany.

A couple found the tiny capsule with its well-preserved contents in September this year in a field in Ingersheim, said Jarly, who raved about

the "super rare" discovery.

They brought it to the nearest museum, the one at Orbey dedicated to one of the bloodiest battles of World War I, from 1914 to 1918.

Jarly had enlisted the help of a German friend to decrypt the message, he said.

The tiny piece of paper and capsule will become part of the museum's permanent display.

Paytm Aims To Disburse Rs 1,000 Cr Worth Loans To Merchants By March



Digital financial services firm Paytm on Monday said it aims to disburse loans worth Rs 1,000 crore to merchants by March. The company said it will continue to offer collateral-free loans under the 'Merchant Lending Program' to Paytm for Business app users. "We will be enabling loans of Rs 1,000 crore to businesses based on the data we have on our 17 million merchants. These loans would help them digitise their business and diversify their operations, to improve their efficiency and support them to join the Digital India mission," Paytm said in a statement. The company said it aims to disburse targeted loans by March. Paytm works out the credit worthiness of each merchant

based on daily transaction patterns and then offers them a collateral-free loan in partnership with non-banking finance companies and banks. "The company has today reaffirmed its commitment towards the growth of MSMEs by expanding collateral-free loans of up to Rs 5 lakh at a low-interest rate and unique daily EMI product customized for micro-merchants," the statement said. Loan repayment is primarily collected from the merchant's daily settlement with Paytm and there are no prepayment charges on these loans. Paytm claims that it processed loans worth Rs 550 crore to over a lakh merchant partners in the last financial year. With our collateral-free instant loans, we are trying to help kirana stores & other small business owners who have been left behind by the traditional banking sector and do not have easy access to loans and credit," Paytm Lending CEO Bhavesh Gupta said.

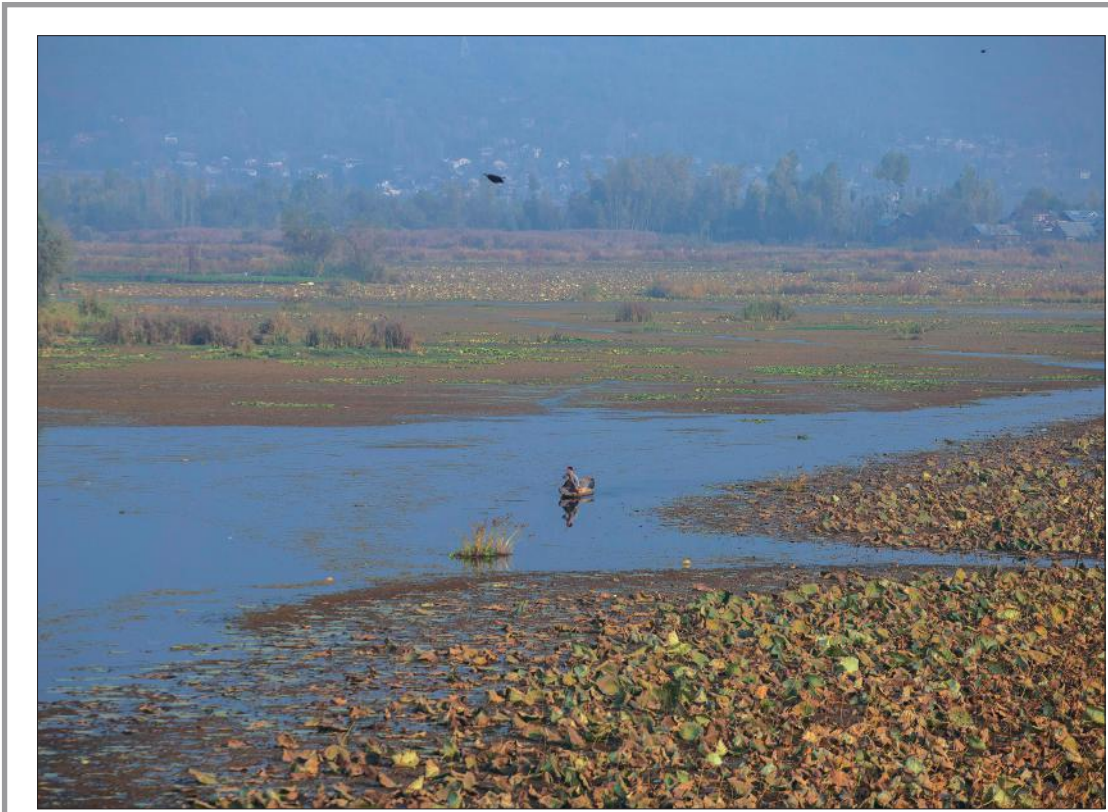
Delhi's Air Quality Severe, Relief Unlikely Soon

NEW DELHI: The national capital's air quality remained "severe" for the fifth consecutive day on Monday, with calm wind speed exacerbating the effect of stubble burning. V K Soni, the head of the India Meteorological Department's environment research centre, said a major improvement in Delhi-NCR's air quality was highly unlikely in the coming days. "The air quality is likely to be recorded in the upper end of the "very poor" category on Diwali if we discount firecrackers emissions. If people burst crackers, pollution levels can increase to "severe" to "severe plus" category (emergency)," he said.



The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Monday imposed a total ban on the sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in the National Capital Region (NCR) from November 9 midnight to November 30 midnight, saying "celebration by crackers is for happiness and not to celebrate deaths and diseases". The city's air quality index (AQI) stood at 474 at 11 am, according to Central Pollution Control Board data. Its 24-hour average AQI was 416 on Sunday, 427 on Saturday, 406 on Friday and 450 on Thursday, the highest since November 15 last year, when it was 458. The neighbouring cities of Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, and Gurugram also recorded "severe" air quality. 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". PM10 levels in Delhi-NCR stood at 591 microgram per cubic meter (µg/m3) at 10 am, the highest since November 15 last year, when it was 637 µg/m3, according to CPCB data. PM10 levels below 100 µg/m3 are

considered safe in India. PM10 levels are considered in the "severe plus" category if their concentration is more than 500 microgram per cubic meter, according to the Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi-NCR notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2017. PM10 is particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers and is inhalable into the lungs. These particles include dust, pollen and mold spores. The levels of PM2.5 - finer particles that can even enter the bloodstream - were 381 µg/m3 at 11 am. PM2.5 levels up to 60 µg/m3 are considered safe. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the wind speed was 3 to 4 kilometres per hour in the morning and the minimum temperature of 10 degrees Celsius. Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion. There was shallow to moderate fog in the morning which led to smog. It reduced visibility to 600 meters at the Safdarjung Observatory, Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said. He said the situation is likely to continue till November 15 as the wind speed is not expected to pick up significantly. The central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi also said a "significant improvement in air quality is not likely" owing to slow wind speed, particularly during night time, and contribution from farm fires. "The farm fire count over Punjab remains very high which is likely to impact the air quality of Delhi-NCR and other parts of northwest India," it said.



SOLITARY SWIM: Amid hues of autumn in the valley, a duck paddling his way through the iconic Dal Lake on Monday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

A Day Before Counting, Bihar's Politicians Seek Divine Blessings

Voting is over for all three phases for the 243-seat Bihar assembly and everybody is eagerly waiting the results to be declared on November 10. Meanwhile, many candidates are bowing before the Almighty to seek divine blessings before the results. Congress candidate Lalan Yadav from Sultanganj assembly constituency for instance sought divine blessings by visiting temples and a dargah on Monday. He first reached the historic Ajgaivnath Temple in the morning. Thereafter, he visited the Kali temple and prayed for victory. From here, he arrived at the



mazaar in Kasimpur and sought prayers for victory by offering a chadar. While greeting Tejashwi Yadav on his birthday, Lalan Yadav appeared to be confident of his victory. He said, "The

people of Bihar have resolved to vote in the Grand Alliance this time. The exit poll results are also showing this." BJP candidate from Arwal Deepak Sharma also sought blessings for his victory in the polls as well as for Bihar's development at the iconic Baba Madheshwarnath Madhushrawa Sun Temple. Sharma, too, says he is sure he will emerge victorious. Congress candidate Murari Gautam from Chenari area of Rohtas District also took visited a number of temples in the area. Whether their prayers are answered will be clear in the next 24 hours. - IANS

BJP CANDIDATE FROM ARWAL DEEPAK SHARMA ALSO SOUGHT blessings for his victory in the polls as well as for Bihar's development at the iconic Baba Madheshwarnath Madhushrawa Sun Temple. Sharma, too, says he is sure he will emerge victorious.

Tata Group Launches 90-Minute Test Kits To Detect COVID-19

NEW DELHI: Tata Group launched a COVID-19 test kit on Monday that it says will process results more easily and faster than the RT-PCR method considered the gold standard for detection, at a time when cases are still rising in the country. The nasal swab test, developed jointly by Tata and the government, is also more accurate than the rapid antigen test currently favoured in India, the ministry of science and technology said in September. Tata Medical and Diagnostics, the healthcare arm of the cars-to-clothes conglomerate, will begin manufacturing 1 million kits a month at its plant in Chennai and can then scale up rapidly, CEO Girish Krishnamurthy told Reuters in an interview. TataMD CHECK, as the product is called, can return results in 90 minutes and will be sold through hospitals and laboratories from next month with the initial focus being on the home market, Krishnamurthy said. "You don't need big, expensive equipment to do the test, so it becomes more accessible and available, and more labs can start testing," he said.



A process based on artificial intelligence and automation will be used to test swabs, Mr Krishnamurthy said. India's COVID-19 cases have risen by 45,903 to 8.55 million in the past 24 hours, government data showed, with the country's infections lagging only the United States'. Deaths increased by 490 to 126,611. India does more than 1 million COVID-19 tests a day, nearly 60% of them using the rapid antigen method that is faster but less accurate. It wants to increase testing to more than 1.5 million a day, though health experts have warned its heavy reliance on the rapid antigen tests that typically detect the virus around 80% to 90% of the time could under-report infections. Antigen devices return results in about 15 minutes compared with several hours for the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) method. "Our aspiration is that this can become a new standard in testing," Mr Krishnamurthy said.

YOU DON'T NEED BIG, EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT TO DO THE TEST, SO IT becomes more accessible and available, and more labs can start testing,"

Found Using Mobile Phone In Custody, Arnab Goswami Shifted To Taloja Jail

MUMBAI: Republic TV's Arnab Goswami, arrested in connection with the alleged suicide of an interior designer, was on Sunday shifted from Alibaug to Taloja jail in Maharashtra's Raigad district, police said. Arnab Goswami was moved to Taloja jail after allegedly being found using a mobile phone while in judicial custody at a school designated as COVID-19 centre for Alibaug prison, a police official said.



The Raigad crime branch found Arnab Goswami was active on social media using somebody's mobile phone, despite his personal mobile phone having been seized by police when he was taken into custody on November 4, the official said. While being escorted to Taloja jail, Arnab Goswami shouted from the police van, alleging that he was assaulted by Alibaug jailer on Saturday evening, his life was in danger and he was not allowed to speak to his lawyer. Meanwhile, in a statement, Samyabrata Ray Goswami, a senior executive editor of Republic TV and Arnab Goswami's wife, said he has been framed on fake charges. "This morning, my husband, who has spent four nights in judicial custody, was being dragged and dragged by the Maharashtra Police in a blacked-out police van to Taloja jail. He was repeatedly saying my life is under threat but to no avail. "He repeatedly said that the jailer assaulted him after he asked for access to his lawyers, which was shockingly denied. He detailed the assault being inflicted on him during this custody and pleaded, hands folded, to the Supreme Court for intervention and bail," she said in the statement.

"An innocent man and journalist of decades of repute, who is doing his duty for the nation, has been assaulted, harassed and framed on fake charges. He has been thrown into jail with no reprieve," she said. Former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya said he met Taloja prison jailer, who assured him that Arnab Goswami will not be harassed and also be provided required medical treatment. Arnab Goswami and two others - Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sarda - were arrested by Alibaug police on November 4 in connection with the suicide of architect-interior designer Anvay Naik and his mother in 2018 over alleged non-payment of dues by companies of the accused. After his arrest from his Lower Parel residence in Mumbai, Arnab Goswami was taken to Alibaug, where the Chief Judicial Magistrate remanded him and the two others in judicial custody till November 18. Arnab Goswami was then kept at a local school that has been designated as a COVID-19 centre for the Alibaug prison. The Bombay High Court will on Monday pronounce its order on the interim bail application filed by Arnab Goswami and the two others in connection with the abetment of the suicide case. A notice issued late Saturday night on the high court's website said the bench would assemble at 3 pm on November 9 for the pronouncement of the order.

India Likely To See Behavioural Change In Urban Mobility Post-Covid: Puri

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday that India is likely to experience a behavioural change in urban mobility in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Addressing the 13th Urban Mobility India Conference on the theme 'Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility', he said the future of mobility is about striving towards environment-friendly, integrated, automated and personalised travel on demand. New advancements, like intelligent transportation systems and traffic management applications, are in the pipeline for enhanced mobility in major cities, the minister said. "In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, India is likely to experience a behavioural change in urban mobility. This crisis also presents an opportunity to guide the recovery of urban transport towards long-term development goals," Puri said. Investment in infrastructure to address more effective circulation and interchange of people and goods will have an economic multiplier effect, both in job-creation in the present and boosting growth and productivity in the future, he said. In a statement, the ministry said it has issued a detailed advisory as to how the nation needs to move ahead in these testing times. It rests on three key pillars -- promotion of public transport system, leveraging technological advancements and penetration of NMT systems in the urban transport paradigm. "Various studies show that about 16-57 per cent of urban commuters are pedestrian and about 30-40 per cent use bicycles depending on the size of the city. "Considering this as an opportunity, elevating the priority of these modes gives travellers another private vehicle alternative, which is clean, safe, secured particularly if it is integrated with other modes and affordable for all," the ministry said.

NEWS MAKER

"Americans Corrected Mistake, Said 'Bye-Bye'": Sena's "Namaste Trump" Dig

MUMBAI: It would be good if India learns something from US President Donald Trump's defeat, said Shiv Sena on Monday while comparing the US Presidential election scenario with Bihar Assembly polls. Shiv Sena, through party mouthpiece Saamana, said, "President Trump never deserved the position of head of the state. The American public rectified the mistake made about the same Trump in just four years. He could not fulfill even a single promise. If we can learn anything from Trump's defeat, it would be good." The unemployment epidemic in America is more than that of COVID-19. However, instead of finding a solution, Trump kept giving importance to the mockery of absurdities, vagrants and political chant-



ing, the party stated. "The power has already changed in America. The incumbency in Bihar is at the bottom. In the Bihar assembly elections, the National Democratic Alliance led by Nitish Kumar is clearly losing. There is no alternative in the country and the state except us -- people have to do the work of removing the leaders from this illusion," Shiv Sena added. It further stated that Trump has not accepted the defeat. He has made "ridiculous" allegations of a scam in voting. "It should not be forgotten

how warmly Trump was welcomed in our country. It is not our culture to stand with the wrong man but it is still being done. Biden will become the head of the US," said Shiv Sena. "Kamala Harris of Indian origin has been elected to the post of Vice President of America. Trump condemned her achievement, he did not respect a woman and our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP were the people who supported such a person," Shiv Sena added. No matter how India organised "Namaste Trump", the sensible people of America have corrected their mistake by saying "Bye-Bye" to Trump and rectified their mistake, Shiv Sena stated. "Similarly, leaders including Prime Minister Modi, Nitish Kumar etc. could not stand in front of the young Tejashwi Yadav," it added.

Bigbasket Data Breach? Details Of 2 Crore Users Reportedly Put On Sale On Dark Web

Grocery e-commerce platform Bigbasket has faced a potential data breach which could have leaked details of its around 2 crore users, according to cyber intelligence firm Cyble. The company has filed a police complaint in this regard with Cyber Crime Cell in Bengaluru and is verifying claims made by cyber experts. Cyble said that a hacker has put data allegedly belonging to Bigbasket on sale for around Rs 30 lakh. "In the course of our routine dark web monitoring, the research team at Cyble found the database of Big Basket for sale in a cybercrime market, being sold for over \$40,000. The leak contains a database portion; with the table name 'member_member'. The size of the SQL file is about 15 GB, containing close to 20 million user data," Cyble said in its blog.



It added the data put on sale includes names, email IDs, password hashes, contact numbers (mobile and phone), addresses, date of birth, location, and IP addresses of login among many others. While Cyble has mentioned "passwords", the company uses a one-time password sent through SMS. "A few days ago, we learnt about a potential data breach at Bigbasket and are evaluating the extent of the breach and authenticity of the claim in consultation with cybersecurity experts and finding immediate ways to contain it. We have also

lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime Cell in Bengaluru and intend to pursue this vigorously to bring the culprits to book," Bigbasket said in a statement. The company said that the privacy and confidentiality of customers is a priority and it does not store any financial data including credit card numbers etc and is confident that this financial data is secure. "The only customer data that we maintain are email IDs, phone numbers, order details, and addresses so these are the details that could potentially have been accessed. We have a robust information security framework that employs best-in-class resources and technologies to manage our information. We will continue to proactively engage with best-in-class information security experts to strengthen this further," Bigbasket said.

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