



Maximum: 7°  
Minimum: 3°  
Humidity: 86%

SUNSET  
Today 05:22 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:13 AM



**Children more willing  
to punish if wrongdoer is  
‘taught a lesson’: Study**

**Cupkar Alliance’s Rise and  
Capitulation: A Characteristic of  
Kashmir’s Political History**



**Israeli PM Flew To Saudi  
Arabia, Met Crown  
Prince: Reports**



## NEWS DIGEST

### Car Plunges Into Chenab River, 2 Killed

**JAMMU:** A day after a vehicle rolled down into river Chenab in Ramban district, the police on Tuesday said that two persons onboard it have been killed and efforts are ongoing to retrieve their bodies from the vehicle (Mahindra Bolero).

The vehicle plunged into the fast-flowing water body last night near Mehar area along the Jammu-Srinagar highway and only one of its wheels was visible. Soon a rescue operation was launched, reported news agency GNS.

SSP Ramban Haseeb-Ul-Rahman, who is overseeing the rescue operation, said that efforts are underway to pull out the vehicle and retrieve the bodies. Both of them are said to be locals from the Ramban district.

### Army Commanders Call On LG

**JAMMU:** Two senior army commanders on Tuesday discussed the security situation in the Union Territory with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha. Lieutenant General, Upendra Dwivedi, Corps Commander, 9 Corps, and Major General, Vijay B Nair, GoC 26 Infantry Division on Tuesday called on the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said.

The two army commanders, he said briefed the LG about the security situation in the area of their responsibility and further discussed various important issues relating to the overall security environment in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. “The LG emphasized the need for constant alertness and synergy among various security agencies to effectively deal with any emergent situation in a coordinated manner,” the official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said lauded the role being played by the state forces for ensuring a safe and secure environment for the people.

### Dr Kalbe Sadiq No More

**LUCKNOW:** Vice-president of All India Muslim Personal Law Board and prominent Muslim cleric Maulana Dr Kalbe Sadiq passed away here on Tuesday night after a long spell of illness.

The 83-year-old was admitted to the ICU of a private hospital here last week after suffering from pneumonia.

Dr Sadiq was an Islamic scholar, reformer, educationist and preacher.

## ROSHNI SCAM RETURNS TO HAUNT J&K MANTRIS, BABUS

# Govt Names Farooq, Omar, Drabu As Beneficiaries

**JAMMU:** Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah have been named by the Jammu and Kashmir administration in a list which alleges that their residential house in Jammu is built over illegally-possessed land, a charge denied by the father-son duo.

The administration of the union territory as directed by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to make public land given under the controversial Roshni land scheme, since scrapped by a court, came out with the list of beneficiaries. On Tuesday, it came out with a list of those who had allegedly encroached land other than those given under the scheme.

The list also highlighted the headquarters of their National Conference in both Srinagar and Jammu were legalised under the controversial Roshni Act.

Displaying the lists on its website - one showing encroached land outside Roshni Act, the divisional administration Jammu revealed that the residential house of the Abdullahs, build over an area of nearly an acre at Sunjwan, is

### Dr Farooq Not A Beneficiary: NC

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference on Tuesday said that party’s president and former three-time chief minister of the erstwhile state of J&K was not a beneficiary of Roshni Scheme.

➔ More On P2

### ‘Conscious Loot’ By Powerful People: BJP

**NEW DELHI:** Accusing Congress and National Conference leaders of encroaching large tracts of government and forest land in Jammu and Kashmir, senior BJP leader and Union

➔ More On P2

encroached state land (physically encroached but not shown in revenue record) other than Roshni Act.

Reacting to the fresh list, party vice president Omar Abdullah said, “The news attributing to sources that Dr Farooq Abdullah is a beneficiary of the Roshni Act is completely false and is being spread with a malicious intent. Both his houses at Jammu and Srinagar have nothing to do with the said Act.

“Dr Farooq Abdullah has NOT availed of the Roshni Scheme for either his residence in Srinagar or in Jammu and any one who says otherwise is lying. The fact that they are using sources to plant this story shows that it has no legs to stand on,” Omar said.

The house of senior Abdullah was built in late 1990s for which timber was allocated from the government depots, which is issued only after furnishing all revenue records, officials in the know said.

Earlier, three former ministers, several politicians and a former bureaucrat figured in the list of beneficiaries who have availed land under now scrapped Roshni ➔ More On P2

## Maulana Abbas Ansari Bereaved

**SRINAGAR:** Wife of veteran political and religious leader Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari passed away here on Tuesday. She was unwell for some time and breathed her last at SKIM’s Soura at 8 A.M on Tuesday.

A large number of people joined the funeral prayers of the well known pious lady who had resolutely stood behind her husband during his struggles. She was laid to rest at Gulistan-e-Baba Mazar, Srinagar at noon time. Besides her husband the deceased has left behind three daughters and two sons Nasir Ansari and Maulana Masroor Ansari. She was mother in law of Syed Gazanfar Ali, Abrar Hussain and senior journalist Sajjad Haider.

Family sources said the condolence will be received at their residence Khanqah-e-Sokhta, Nawa Kadal for next three days and 4th day Fateha shall be offered at her resting place at 7.30 AM on Friday.

No congregational Fateha is slated because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

## Weather To Improve From Tomorrow: MeT

**SRINAGAR:** The Meteorological department predicted dry weather conditions in Jammu and Kashmir from Thursday, even as many places in the Union Territory received intermittent snowfall and rains for the second day on Tuesday.

Most of the higher reaches of the valley received moderate to heavy snowfall over the past 36 hours, while many areas in the plains experienced light snowfall and rains, a MET official said.

He said intermittent snowfall and rains continued at many places on Tuesday. The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded seven inches of fresh snowfall during the night, while Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir recorded six inches of snow, the official said.

There are reports of snowfall in other areas in the higher reaches, including the Sonamarg-Zojila axis on the Srinagar-Leh road which connects the valley with Ladakh, he said. The road was closed for traffic on Monday.

The MET Office has said intermittent light to moderate rain/snow, with isolated heavy falls in the higher reaches, will continue till Wednesday afternoon. The weather is likely to improve afterwards and stay dry for a few days from Thursday.

## Banihal Highway Reopens For Traffic

**SRINAGAR:** The traffic was on Tuesday restored on 270-km-long Srinagar-Jammu highway, which connects Kashmir valley with rest of the country, after remaining suspended on Monday due to landslides, shooting stones and slippery road conditions following fresh snowfall and rain.

Meanwhile, historic 86-km-long Mughal road, connecting Shopian in south Kashmir with Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region, remained closed since Monday morning following slippery road conditions due to fresh snowfall.

“Kashmir highway was reopened for one-way traffic on Tuesday after remaining closed on Monday,” said a traffic police official.

He said traffic will ply from Jammu to Srinagar. “About 250 to 300 Kashmir-bound vehicles, which were stranded at various places on the highway on Monday, were also on the way to the valley,” he added. Traffic was suspended ➔ More On P2

## Vote Us For The Sake Of Special Status: Dr Farooq

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to vote for the candidates of the People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) in the District Development Council (DDC) polls beginning on Saturday.

In a video released by the PAGD, Abdullah, who is under self-isolation after a member of his household staff tested positive for COVID-19, urged the people to ensure the victory of the alliance candidates by huge margins so that it succeeds in its aim of restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir which was revoked by the Centre in August last year.

My countrymen, the election bugle has been sounded. I appeal to you to vote only for the alliance candidates. The others, who are

saying they are also alliance candidates, are not of the alliance, but its enemies, Abdullah, who is also the president of the PAGD, said.

If we have to succeed, then you should vote only for the alliance. This alliance was formed to restore our identity, restore statehood and that which was taken away from us the Articles 370 and 35-A. We have come together to keep this state united,” he said. The PAGD has announced a seat-sharing arrangement between the constituent parties which are contesting the polls on their respective symbols.

So, I appeal to you not to vote for anyone else and come out in large numbers to vote for the alliance candidates. I appeal to you to ensure the victory of the alliance candidates by huge margins. I hope you will pay heed to our appeal, Abdullah said. —PTI

### DDC POLLS



## Corona Claims 10 More Lives In J&K

### OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

**SRINAGAR:** At least ten more people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the number of virus related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1651.

In Kashmir Valley, six more people lost their lives to Covid-19, while in Jammu division four more people succumbed to the deadly infection, officials said Monday. ➔ More On P2

### 8 Security Men Among 431 New Cases

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 431 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including eight security men, two minors and sixteen travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 107330. ➔ More On P2

## High Court Dismisses Plea Challenging SMC Mayor’s Poll

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday dismissed an application, seeking a stay on the notification for election of Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

Two persons from National Conference—Nuzrat Ara and Ali Mohammad Tantray, claiming to be contesting for Councilor in the by-elections of the Municipal Corporation, had filed the petition to challenge notification issued by the Secretary Srinagar Municipal Corporation Srinagar for the Mayor’s election scheduled on Wednesday (August 25).

“Looked from any angle, the

### Election Today

**SRINAGAR:** After remaining vacant for more than five months, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is holding election for the post of Mayor on Wednesday. The voting will take place on Wednesday at 11:00 AM onwards. Pertinently, the seat fell vacant after former Mayor

➔ More On P2



➔ More On P2

**District Development  
Council Elections and  
Panchayat By- Elections, 2020**

**GO VOTE**

**Cast your Valuable Vote  
As it Counts**

**Poll Hours: 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**POLL DATES**  
28-11-2020, 01-12-2020, 04-12-2020, 07-12-2020,  
10-12-2020, 13-12-2020, 16-12-2020, 19-12-2020

**Issued in public interest by:  
STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER, J&K**



## FROM FRONT PAGE

## Govt Names ...

Act or encroached state land for residential or commercial purposes.

The lists were made public by the divisional administration, both in Kashmir and Jammu regions, in accordance with the October 9 directive of the high court which declared the Roshni Act “illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable” and ordered a CBI probe into the allotment of the land under this law.

Issuing the first list of 35 beneficiaries who included former finance minister Haseeb Drabu and some top hoteliers and a former bureaucrat, the divisional administration Kashmir showed that National Conference headquarters, several hotels and over a dozen commercial buildings at prime locations in and around Lal Chowk have been regularized under the act.

Majority of the beneficiaries including Drabu and his wife have one Kanal of land under residential use, while Congress leader K K Amla is the owner of Broadway hotel and prominent businessman Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya owns a guest house and a hotel.

On November 1, the Union Territory government cancelled all land transfers that took place under the JK State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 - also known as the Roshni Act - under which 2.5 lakh acres of land was to be transferred to the existing occupants.

The principal secretary and revenue department has been asked to work out a plan to retrieve large tracts of state land vested under the Act. According to the high court order, a total of 6,04,602 kanals (75,575 acres) of state land had been regularised and transferred to the occupants. This included 5,71,210 kanals (71,401 acres) in Jammu and 33,392 kanals (4174 acres) in the Kashmir province.

“Principal Secretary to government, Revenue Department shall also work out the modalities and plan to evict encroachers from such State Land and retrieve the State land within a period of six months. Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue Department shall work out modalities for handling the money received for these lands after annulment,” the JK government had said in a statement.

According to the order, complete identities of influential persons, including ministers, legislators, bureaucrats, government officials, police officers and businessmen, their relatives or persons holding benami for them, who have derived benefit under the Roshni Act will be made public within a period of one month.

Mohammad Shafi Pandit and his wife own two residential houses in the prime location of the city, the document said, adding a total of over eight acres of land was vested to the beneficiaries, who also included several other relatives of Drabu.

In Jammu region, two separate lists were displayed by divisional administration Jammu on its website – one related to Roshni Act and the other showing encroached land outside Roshni Act.

Among the beneficiaries of the encroached state land of about three and a half acres in Bahu Tehsil (Physically Encroached but not shown in Revenue Record), the list included former ministers Sajjad Kitchloo (National Conference) and Abdul Majid Wani (Congress), NC leaders Syed Akhoun, and Aslam Goni and former chairman of JK bank MY Khan.

Another list of 383 people, belonging to majority community, were shown under possession of over 483 acres of encroached land in Maria Mandirani tehsil of Jammu district, while 854 beneficiaries having possession of over 370 acres in Jammu south and 15 others in Jammu west.

Under the Roshni Act, two retired superintendents of police Shiv Kumar Singh and Mani Lal were among 10 beneficiaries in Bahu tehsil. The list included government employees and businessmen and the total land involved is about over five acres.

As many as 419 people, mostly farmers belonging to majority community, have been vested powers of 405 acres of agriculture land under Roshni act in Khour tehsil and 97 others in Nazool tehsil over over four acres of land, the list highlighted.

The Jammu and Kashmir state lands (vesting of ownership to the occupants) act was enacted in the year 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources for financing power projects and conferment of proprietary rights to the occupants of the state land.

The act popularly called as Roshni scheme initially envisaged conferment of proprietary rights of around 20.55 lakh Kanals (102750 hectares) to the occupants of which only 15.85 per cent land was approved for vesting of ownership rights.

The scheme was finally repealed by the then governor Satya Pal Malik on November 28, 2018.

Amid reports about its widespread misuse, the entire legislation was challenged before the JK high court, in a public interest litigation, wherein the court besides staying the proceedings under the said act also directed that neither the occupants having been conferred upon the ownership rights shall sell these lands nor can raise constructions on such lands.

In 2014, however, the Comptroller and Auditor General had estimated that only Rs 76 crore had been raised from the transfer of encroached land between 2007 and 2013. –PTI

## ‘Conscious Loot’ ...

minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Tuesday demanded a thorough probe into the alleged ‘Roshni scam’.

He said that names of several top politicians, including NC leader Farooq Abdullah and former state ministers from the Congress and the NC have come to the fore for allegedly benefiting from the Roshni Act, which has since been struck down by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 is also known as the Roshni Act.

“There was a conscious loot by powerful people of forest land and getting benefits under the Roshni Act, which has been declared unconstitutional by the high court,” Prasad told reporters.

The Union minister said it is the lowest ebb in a democratic polity. “We condemn it outright,” he added.

Demanding a thorough probe, Prasad said the land should be taken back from the beneficiaries as directed by the high court.

He said while declaring the law unconstitutional, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court had said that the names of people who had acquired land under the Act be listed and made public.

“Names of various politicians of the state have appeared in that list,” he said, naming former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, his sister and various Congress and NC leaders including Haseeb Drabu, Majid Wani and Sajjad Kichloo.

It is very unfortunate that key leaders of Jammu and Kashmir including Farooq Abdullah used their influence and power for “land grabbing and appropriated government land,” he said.

However, Abdullah’s son and former chief minister Omar Abdullah, while reacting to the list, denied that his father benefited from the Roshni Act.

## Election Today ...

Junaid Azim Mattu was removed as the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) mayor after he lost a no-confidence motion moved against him on June 16 this year. (KDC)

## Dr Farooq Not A ...

A party spokesperson said that the news attributing to sources that party President and MP Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah is a beneficiary of the Roshni Scheme is completely false and is being spread with a malicious intent.

“Dr Farooq Abdullah has NOT availed of the Roshni Scheme for either his residence in Srinagar or in Jammu and anyone who says otherwise is lying,” the NC spokesperson said.

“The fact that they are using sources to plant this story shows that it has no legs to stand on,” he added.

## Banihal Highway ...

on Monday afternoon on Srinagar-Jammu national highway due to slippery conditions and landslides, triggered by fresh snowfall and rain.

The historic Mughal road, connecting Shopian in south Kashmir with Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region, remained closed for traffic for the second day due to fresh snowfall. Traffic on the road was recently restored after remaining suspended for four days due to snowfall.

“The road, seen as alternative to Srinagar-Jammu highway, remained closed due to slippery conditions because of fresh snowfall on Monday,” he said. The road was being used to transport fresh fruit from Kashmir valley to different mandis, including Jammu after frequent closure of the highway this summer.

Traffic will be resumed only after weather improves and a green signal is received from traffic police civil administration officials posted at different places on the road, which remains closed for about six winter months due to heavy snowfall.

## Corona Claims ...

Among the victims from the Valley, officials said, included a 70-year-old woman from Uri, a 64-year-old from Shopian and a 60-year-old man from Kulgam besides three from Srinagar—a 69-year-old man from Zaina Kadal, a 60-year-old from Shuhama and a 79-year-old from Tengpora here.

The victims from Jammu division include one resident each from the winter capital of the J&K, Udhampur, Doda and Samba, they said. With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1085 and 566 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 408 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (292), Baramulla (160), Budgam (99), Pulwama (86), Kupwara (81), Anantnag (77), Doda (53), Bandipora (50), Kulgam (50), Rajouri (49), Udhampur (43), Ganderbal (37), Shopian (37), Kathua (35), Samba (27), Poonch (22), Ramban (18), Kishtwar (16), and Reasi (9). (With GNS inputs)

## 8 Security Men ...

While 253 new cases were detected from Jammu division, the remaining 178 were confirmed by officials from the Kashmir valley, officials said.

Giving district-wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 84, Baramulla 18, Budgam 16, Pulwama 19, Kupwara 14, Anantnag 2, Bandipora 7, Ganderbal 12, Kulgam 3, Shopian 3, Jammu 122, Rajouri 3, Udhampur 37, Doda 14, Kathua 9, Poonch 11, Samba 17, Kishtwar 16, Ramban 18 and Reasi 6.

Among the new cases included four soldiers from BB Cantt, three from BSF and one from CRPF besides two minors.

Moreover, officials said, 495 more patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals 220 from Jammu Division and 275 from Kashmir Valley.

## High Court ...

They also said that the election for Mayor was uncalled for when the by-elections for the Corporation are to be held in the month of December.

The authorities on the other hand said that there was no clause in the Model Code of Conduct, issued by the Chief Electoral Officer of the Jammu and Kashmir, which bars the Municipal Corporation to hold the election for the post of Mayor during the ongoing process of by-elections of Municipal Bodies.

The counsels appearing on behalf of the officials have referred to certain events and dates preceding the present Notification, under challenge, in order to bring home their contention that the election of Mayor cannot be delayed.

“The Court need not go into those events as the same are not germane for disposal of the present application,” they said, adding, “The Court should not ordinarily come in the way of holding the election of the institutions like Local Bodies.” –Agencies

## NEWS DIGEST

## 5 Drug ‘Smugglers’ Held In Jammu

**Jammu:** Five narcotic smugglers were arrested after 60 kgs of drugs were recovered from their possession in Jammu district, officials said on Tuesday.

A police party intercepted a truck and on the search of the vehicle, 51 kgs of poppy and Rs 30,000 was recovered on Monday, they said.

Police arrested suspected drug smuggler Gurmeet Singh and seized his vehicle. In another case, a police party intercepted a Punjab-bound truck at Jhajjar Kotli on the highway and during search of the vehicle, recovered 9 kgs of poppy at Suketar naka, they said. They apprehended two people identified as Tara Singh and Mewa Singh. A police party also intercepted a two-wheeler at Old Akhnoor bridge and apprehended two people identified as Ankush Verma and Dilawar Singh and recovered 80 gms of cannabis on Monday night, they said. A case has been registered.

## Cardiac Arrest Kills Soldier In Kupwara

**SRINAGAR:** An army man died of cardiac arrest on Tuesday in north Kashmir’s Kupwara district. Sukhmangat Singh of army’s 7RR suffered a massive cardiac arrest on Tuesday morning at his camp in the frontier district, officials said. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. (KDC)

## Employee Suspended For MCC Violation

**DODA:** A government employee on Tuesday was suspended in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir for violating Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in place for the forthcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls.

A Rehbar-e- Janglat employee of forest Division Doda was suspended by Nodal Officer Model Code of Conduct, Surat Singh (ADDC) after finding him involved in MCC violation, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the Programme Officer ICDS Doda has been directed to conduct a detailed inquiry into the matter and submit report within a week’s time. “During the period of suspension he shall remain attached in the office of Tehsildar Doda,” the official spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the District Panchayat Election Officer Doda has warned the Government employees not to indulge in MCC violation and act as responsible government machinery for smooth conduct of DDC Elections and bye Elections of Sarpanchs/ panches and ULBs, he added.

## 3 Houses Gutted In Bandipora Fire

**SRINAGAR:** Three residential houses were damaged in a fire incident in north Kashmir district of Bandipora, official sources said here on Tuesday.

A fire broke out in a residential house in main town in Bandipora late on Monday evening. “Fire tenders were rushed to douse off the leaping flames, clearly visible from a distance,” they said. Before the fire was brought under control, it spread to nearby houses. Three residential houses were damaged in the mishap,” the sources said, adding no one was injured in the incident. Cause of the fire was not immediately known. A case has been registered and an investigation has been taken up to ascertain the cause of the mishap.

## ‘Intruder’s’ Body Returned To Pak

**JAMMU:** Border Security Forces on Tuesday handed over the body of a 77-year-old man to Pakistan army at a flag meeting held along the international border in Samba district.

The septuagenarian identified as Abdul Hamid son Rajdeen of Chaman Khurd Shakargarh Pakistan was killed in BSF firing when he crossed the border on November 23, officials said.

A flag meeting was convened and the body of the elderly person was received by the Pakistan army, the officials added.

SSP Samba Rajesh Sharma confirmed that the body of elderly man was handed to Pak troops during the flag meeting.

Polythene Ban  
HC Seeks Personal Appearance  
Of Top Officials On Dec 1

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court has sought personal appearance via video conferencing of top officials of various departments for failure to submit action taken report regarding prohibition on polythene in ecologically fragile J&K.

“In terms of orders dated 23rd of October, 2020 and 10th of November, 2020, we have passed certain directions to the respondents-authorities to file the action taken reports in the matter. As per the report of the Registry, no such report has been filed by any respondents,” a bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta said in an order.

“In view of the above, the Secretaries to Government, the Secretaries to Government, Jammu & Kashmir Housing & Urban Development Department; Tourism Department; Environment and Forest Department; Floriculture Department; Chief Executive Officers Pahalgam Development Authority, Gulmarg Development Authority, Sonamarg Development Authority and Patnitop Development Authority shall remain present through Video Conferencing,” the court said and posted the matter, a public interest litigation, for further consideration on December 1.

On October 23 and November 10, the High Court had asked the authorities to notify the public regarding the prohibitions and fines for carrying such material in ecologically fragile J&K and Ladakh.

“A direction is issued to the Home Department, J&K State Pollution Control Board, Tourism Department, Floriculture Department, Environment and Forest Department and Housing and Urban Development Department to prepare proper

publicity material which shall be posted in the electronic / print media as well as displayed on signages at all prominent places in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh ..notifying the public regarding the prohibitions and disclosing the liabilities which shall flow to the vehicle/owners for carrying such prohibited material including the financial liabilities/fines,” the court had said.

The court had passed the order while hearing an application seeks release of a vehicle (Truck) carrying prohibited material including polythene.

“Inasmuch as Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh is an ecologically fragile area especially the tourism spots and the prohibition on polythene required to be strictly enforced, it is essential that the respondents give due publicity of the prohibition and apprise all vehicle owners and the public at large about the legal position,” the court had said.

Meanwhile, the court directed Senior Superintendent of Police Kathua to remain personally present through Video Conferencing regarding the related matter.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name in School Records has been wrongly entered as Umer Ahmad Shah while my correct name is Mohammad Umer Shah S/O Mohammad Jabar Shah R/O Mehmoodabad Doru. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /Her objection in the Office of the Principal Sir Syed Memorial Edu.Inst.Doru within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- Mohammad Umer Shah  
MAJ S/O Mohammad Jabar Shah R/O Mehmoodabad Doru

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL  
TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/4187/MVD/ANG

Date:-24/11/2020

## NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Waseem Ahmad Bhat S/O Mohd Rajab Bhat R/O Naibasti Anantnag (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Truck Bearing Regd. No.JK03D-



7914(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.3146/GC/ANG. and Mr.Tariq Ahmad Nanda S/O Ab Hameed Nanda R/O Nandapora Khanabal Anantnag (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with N/A. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within ( 7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional  
Transport Officer Anantnag

MAJ

Jammu And Kashmir  
Public Service Commission

RESHAM GHAR Colony BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

webiste: http://jkpsc.nic.in

Email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530

Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (F) 2312631

**Subject:-** Deficiency of documents of the candidates who have applied for the post of Assistant Professor (Lecturer), Ophthalmology in the Government Medical Colleges, Rajouri and Doda-Submission of deficient documents thereof.

**Notice  
Dated:-23-11-2020**

Whereas, the J&K Public Service Commission vide Notification No.10-PSC(DR-P) of 2019 dated 08.07.2019 (1st Special Drive), among other posts, invited online applications for 02 post of Assistant Professor (Lecturer) Ophthalmology, under open category, one each in Government Medical Colleges Rajouri and Doda, on the prescribed format, from the permanent residents of Jammu & Kashmir, possessing the prescribed qualification and; Whereas, in response to the ibid Notification, the Commission received 09 application forms in the said discipline and; Whereas, after scrutiny of the application forms, it has been found that the following candidates have not submitted the requisite documents and are still deficient in respect of documents as indicated against each:-

S NO.	Barcode/Reg no	Name	GMC Rajouri
			Deficiency
1	19012210300001	Shazia Qayum	1. Hard copy of online application form 2. DOB certificate 3. Permanent Resident Certificate 4. Marks Sheet of MBBS. 5. MBBS Degree 6. Internship completion Certificate 7. MD/MS Degree/DNB 8. Registration of J&K Medical council of (MBBS,MD/DNB) 9. Result Notification of PG 10. 02 Years Experience as Tutor/Registrar/Demonstrator
2	19012210300002	Sajad Mohi Ud Din	Result notification of PG
3	19012210300004	Anhishek Padha	Result notification of PG
			GMC DODA/Rajouri
1	19012217000003	Abhishek Padha	Result notification of PG

Now, therefore, the above candidates, in whose case the deficiency of documents have been found, are hereby advised to submit their deficient documents in the Office of Jammu & Kashmir, Public Service Commission Solina, Srinagar/ Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu within 10 (ten) days, from the date of issuance of this Notice failing W/hich their candidature shall be rejected without any further notice.

(Rajasjh Sharma )KAS  
Secretary J&K Public Service Commission

No. PSC/DR/AP/Ophthalmology/H&ME/2019  
Dated:23-11 -2020

DIPK-9495/20

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir	
<b>OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT (IRRIGATION &amp; F C), DIVISION SRINAGAR</b>	
Fax/Phone: 0194-2470119email: exenifcdsrinagar@ifckashmir.com	
<b>CORRIGENDUM</b>	
<b>Subject: -</b>	<b>Cancellation of Tender ID 2020_IFC_109303_1 of e-NIT No 24 of 2020-21.</b>
<b>Reference: -</b>	<b>This office e-NIT No. 24 of 2020-21 Dated: - 16/11/2020 issued under endstt. No. I&amp;FCD/Sgr/CS/5510-18 Dated: - 16/11/2020.</b>
<b>In view of error in BOQ for Tender ID 2020_IFC_109303_1 of above referred e-NIT, the work is hereby cancelled and shall be put to fresh tenders shortly. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the original e-NIT referred to above.</b>	
(Er. Ajaz Ahmad Keen) Executive Engineer, Irrigation & F C Division Srinagar.	
<b>No: -I&amp;FCD/Sgr/CS/5821-28 Dated: - 24 /11/2020</b>	
DIPK-9534/20	



## LG Presented Book On Indus Waters

Jammu, November 24: Authors - Ashok Motwani and Sant Kumar Sharma met the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at the Raj Bhavan and presented their book titled "INDUS WATERS STORY" - Issues, Concerns & Perspectives.

Giving his views on the book, the Lt Governor observed that it is a vastly researched effort on the part of the authors providing a precise, balanced and comprehensive outlook on Indus Waters Treaty. This book stimulates the mind of the reader to understand the very important facets of the Indus Waters Treaty.

He complimented the authors Ashok Motwani and Sant Kumar Sharma for coming out with this publication and making some of the important unknown historical facts known to the people.

## DC reviews Dastgir Sahab Urs arrangements

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Tuesday morning visited the shrine of Dastgeer Sahib at Sarai Bala to take stock of the arrangements made for the Urs of the revered saint Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA).

During the visit the DC sought details of arrangements different departments have made for the annual Urs observation. He also interacted with the shrine management and local representatives of the area where the shrine is located.

Senior officers of line departments accompanied him on the occasion. The officers briefed the DC about the arrangements their respective departments have made to ensure smooth observance of the Urs.

# Demise of Mrs Maulana Abbas Ansari Widely Condoled

Srinagar: A large number of people joined funeral prayers of Mrs Maulana Abbas Ansari here on Tuesday. She had passed away at SKIMS Soura after a brief illness.

Meanwhile Hurriyat Conference expressed deep grief and sorrow over her demise of the wife of its former Chairman and patron of Ittihadul Muslimeen. In a statement, APHC expressed condolence and solidarity with the octogenarian leader and his sons Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari, Nasir Abbas Ansari and other family members. The conglomerate paid tributes to the deceased and prayed for Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul and for forbearance to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

APHC termed it unfortunate that its Chairman Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq could not participate in the Namaaz-e-Janaazah of the deceased as he continues to be under house arrest since August 5, 2019. However, a delegation of Hurriyat Conference participated in the last rites of the deceased and expressed condolence to Maulana Abbas Ansari on behalf of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

Apni Party president Syed Moham-



mad Altaf Bukhari and senior vice president Ghulam Hassan Mir also expressed deep shock and grief over the demise of the spouse of renowned politico-religious leader and scholar Maulana Mohammad Abbas Ansari.

In a joint condolence message issued here, the Apni Party leaders have prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

They also extended solidarity with the bereaved family, friends, relatives and associates of Maulana and prayed for endurance to all of them to face this difficult time.

-Sharie Shiayan and J&K Shia Association also condoled the demise. Association President and Peoples Conference leader Imran Raza Ansari joined the funeral prayers.

## Kalbe Jawad calls on Bukhari



SRINAGAR, November 24: A delegation of scholars and activists led by prominent Shia cleric and scholar from Lucknow Moulana Syed Kalbe Jawad Naqvi on Tuesday called on Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari at his residence in Shiekhbagh Srinagar.

During the meeting that lasted for over an hour, Moulana highlighted very significant issues pertaining to the members of Shia Community in Jammu and Kashmir and solicited the intervention of Apni Party president for their resolution.

Moulana Jawad, who is also general secretary of Majlis-e-Ulama-e-Hind, comes from a family of scholars known as 'Khandaan-e-Ijtihad', and he enjoys considerable influence over the Shia Community across the country.

Raising various problems faced by the Shia Community in J&K, Moulana observed that

there is a dire need for establishment of a Shia Waqf Board in Jammu and Kashmir consisting of the upright people who are known for their commitment and integrity.

He also expressed serious concern over the rising unemployment among Shia Community, lack of avenues for the families who depend on handicrafts, entrepreneurship facilities for its skilled youth and other issues of basic amenities in Shia localities across J&K.

Moulana also raised the issue of imposing a blanket ban on all Muharram rituals and urged the Apni Party president to include the holistic socio-economic development of the Shia Community in its manifesto.

Promising all possible help from his Party, Bukhari assured the delegation that

Apni Party would always raise and work to resolve the grievances and sufferings of the Shia Community living in different parts of J&K.

## اَنَا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

”آدمی را از مرگ چاره نیست لیکن موت اختتام راستہ نہیں ہے بلکہ حیات اور زندگی کے

طریقے کی تبدیلی کا نام موت ہے جسکا انتخاب انسان کے ہاتھ میں نہیں ہے۔“

یہ اطلاع نہایت دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ منگوار کی صبح رہبر اتحاد اسلامی سرپرست اعلیٰ جموں و کشمیر

اتحاد المسلمین مولانا محمد عباس انصاری کے شریک حیات داعی اجل کو لبیک کہہ گئی۔ اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ

مرحومہ کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے۔ آمین!

تقریت پرسی مسلسل جمعہ تک خانقاہ سوختہ نوا کدل میں جاری رہے گی البتہ روز جمعہ کو رسم قلم گلستان بابا

مزار جدی بل سرینگر میں صبح ساڑھے سات بجے انجام دیا جائے گا اور COVID-19 کے پیش نظر

کوئی بھی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی نہیں ہوگی۔

از جانب: سوگواران

## Jammu And Kashmir Public Service Commission

RESHAM GHAR Colony BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

webiste: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>  
Email: [jkpscsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:jkpscsecretary@gmail.com)

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530  
Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (F) 2312631

Subject:- Deficiency of documents of the candidates who have applied for the post of Assistant Professor (Lecturer) Psychiatry in the Government Medical College, Rajouri Submission of deficient documents thereof.

NOTICE  
Dated:-23-11-2020

Whereas, The J&K Public Service Commission vide Notification No.IO-PSC(DR-P) of 2019 dated 08.07.2019 (1st Special Drive), among other posts, invited online applications, from 01 post of Assistant Professor (Lecturer) Psychiatry, under open category, in Government Medical Colleges Rajouri, on the prescribed format from the permanent residents of Jammu & Kashmir possessing the prescribed qualification and;

Whereas, in response to the ibid Notification, the Commission received 05 application forms in the said discipline and;

Whereas, After scrutiny of the application forms, it has been found that the following candidates have not submitted the requisite documents and are still deficient in respect of documents as indicated against each:-

GMC RAJOURI			
SNO.	Barcoda/Reg no	Name	Deficiency
1	19012210200001	Rehana Amin	Result notification of PG
2	19012210200003	Nikhil Gupta	Result notification of PG

Now, therefore, the above candidates, in whose case the deficiency of documents have been found, are hereby advised to submit their deficient documents in the Office of Jammu & Kashmir, Public Service Commission Solina, Srinagar/ Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu within 10 (ten) days, from the date of issuance of this Notice failing which their candidature shall be rejected without any further notice.

No. PSC/DR/AP/Psychiatry/H&ME/2019  
Dated 23-11-2020

(Rajast Sharma )KAS  
Secretary J&K Public Service Commission

DIPK-9492/20

### 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
- BUIHERA: 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**  
09 Rabi-us-Sani  
1442

## PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 44
ZUHR	12: 17
ASR	3:47
Magrib	5:27
ISHA	6:51

## This Day In History

- 1973 - 3 Palestinians hijack KLM B747 above Iraq, to Dubai.
- 1979 - Israel returns Alma oilfields in Gulf of Suez to Egypt.
- 1983 - Soyuz T-9 returns to Earth, 149 days after take-off.
- 1983 - Syria & Saudi Arabia announce cease-fire in PLO civil war in Tripoli.
- 1983 - World's greatest robbery 26 million pounds worth of gold, diamonds & cash stolen from the Brink's-Mat warehouse at Heathrow Airport, England.
- 1986 - Iran-Contra affair erupts, President Reagan reveals secret arms deal.
- 1987 - Super typhoon Nina pummels the Philippines with category 5 winds of 165 mph and a surge that swallows entire villages. At least 1,036 deaths attributed to the storm.
- 2005 - Polish Minister of National Defence Radek Sikorski opens Warsaw Pact archives to historians. Maps of possible nuclear strikes against Western Europe, including nuclear annihilation of 43 Polish cities by Soviet-controlled forces revealed.
- 2007 - The first European Parliament election and a referendum on changing the voting system (called by the President and declared invalid because of insufficient turnout) were held in Romania.
- 2009 - Flooding in Jeddah, Saudia Arabia; powerful storm brings 3 years' worth of rain in 4 hours, killing over 150 people and sweeping thousands of cars away during Hajj.
- 2011 - Sudden violent storms strike southern Sri Lanka, killing 27 people and drowning many fishermen caught by surprise. Thousands of homes lose their roofs and several more sustain damage. Landslides along with flooding was reported on the mainland.
- 2012 - 16 people are killed and 44 injured after a wedding party bus plunges 300 ft down a gorge in India.
- 2013 - 17 people are killed and 37 are wounded in a cafe bombing in Baghdad, Iraq.
- 2014 - US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel resigns, ending nearly two years in the Pentagon's top job.

## From KO Archives

## Ansari Motors attached for 'ST default'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The sales tax department today attacked M/s Ansari Motors, Sonawar, for alleged default' in the payment of sales tax. The concern is owned by the former minister, Maulvi Iftikhar Husaain Ansari, his brother, Abid Hussain Ansari, and another family member.

Quoting the deputy commissioner, sales tax (recovery), Kashmir division, an official handout said the attachment was carried out for default in the payment of sales tax of Rs 1.11 crore ending March 1994. In respect of the assess-ment for 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97. It said, action was being taken separately in light of the directions of the Supreme Court. According to the handout, the sales tax department asked other defaulters to clear their outstanding. Immediately and save themselves from embarrass-ment. The department appreciated the support extended by general public in its drive against the defaulters adding it would be taken to its logical end.

Meanwhile, according to a CNS report, the owners of the company later broke open the locks put by the sales tax department officials and resumed their normal work. The department had sealed the office, showroom and workshop of 'Highland Motors' this morning and locked all the doors. Sources in the department alleged the former company, M/s Ansari Motors, owed a sales tax of Rs 1,11,56,000 to the government. Reacting to the action, a partner of the company, Abid An-sari, told Observer News Service, the government had com-mitted contempt of court by attach-ing the properties of 'Highland Automobiles' allegedly in violation of the supreme court directives. He said the apex court had quashed all the ex-parte assessments and or-dered reassessment pending which the company had been asked to pay Rs 50 lakh. Ansari said he had paid over Rs 33 lakh in about six quarter-ly installments of Rs 5,60,594 each on self-assessment under the amnesty scheme announced by the government. His persistent request to the authorities to implement the Supreme Court orders for fresh assess-ment also did not bear fruit, he said, adding they attached our properties with the help of two companies of CRPF and without any prior notice. Ansari said he would launch contempt proceedings against the authorities.

When contacted, the deputy commissioner, sales tax (recovery), Mushtaq Ahmad, told Observer News Service late this evening Ansari Motors had run into arrears of sales tax for the period from 1988-89 to 1993-94 to the extent of Rs 1.41 crore on the basis of assessment in which the company had cooperated. After tallying the adjust-ment of Rs 29 Lakh, the arrears were reduced to Ra 1,11,56,000. The deputy commissioner said the first notice (dastak) was served to the company on October 16 this year, followed by reminders Oc-tober 31 and November 6. As they did not show any positive response, the department attached the properties during an operation carried out between noon and 2 pm today. He said Abid Ansari, who was present in the premises, identified the portions belonging to Ansari Motors on the basis of the documents with which he was confronted. He denied this period of sales tax assessment was the subject of any court proceedings. Mushtaq said the department had assessed an-other Rs 13 crore as sales tax arrears for the period 1994-95 to 1996-97. However, the amount was based on an ex-parte assessment against which the company had approached the Supreme Court. In March this year, he said, the apex court had directed de-novo (afresh) assessment and restoration of its CST/GST registration. It also asked the firm to deposit Rs 50 lakh in two installments.

Expressing his ignorance about the reported breaking open of loop by the firm to resume its normal work, Mush-taq said, he would ascertain the facts tomorrow. However, he asserted no contempt was made out in the matter.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 25 NOVEMBER, 2000)

### Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

#### NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Umer Farooq S/o: Farooq Ahmad Mir R/o: Ichigam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 8096 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Mirgund Budgam.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .  
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1914  
Dated 24-11-2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

### Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

#### NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Bilal Ahmad Sofi S/o: Abdul Gani Sofi R/o: Chilyach Panzan Chdoora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C 3871 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Hyderpora.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .  
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1913  
Dated 24-11-2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

MCB



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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### K O V I E W

## Lingering stand-off

**M**ilitary-level talks between India and China to resolve their current stand-off along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh have been deadlocked, for now. There are no fresh dates for the talks even though the two sides are busy preparing for a fresh round of talks. The last round of talks, the eighth since June 6, was held on November 7. Following this round there were reports of three-step disengagement plan proposed by China; this would oblige the two sides to withdraw tanks and artillery to depth areas followed by withdrawal of troops of both sides. Subsequently they are supposed to hold talks for Indian troops to withdraw from the Kailash Range and heights around Chushul that were occupied in August.

But there has been no progress on the plan since. There has also been criticism of the plan in India as its implementation is thought to require India to move back from what it claims as its own territory. The plan has thus found no favourable response from New Delhi.

Meanwhile, there are reports that China is reinforcing its positions in Ladakh. It is building border infrastructure, and laying fibre cables. It is also bringing additional troops to man the friction points. Reports also say that Beijing is establishing additional military infrastructure all along the LAC opposite Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Other reports have said China is upgrading and installing radars along the entire stretch of the LAC from Ladakh to Sikkim region. If anything, it shows that China has no intention of withdrawing unless on its terms. It also doesn't want to give up the over 1000 square kilometres of land it has occupied.

India wants China to go back to status quo ante as it existed in April but Beijing is in no mood to do so. On the contrary, the People's Liberation Army has enhanced its military profile on the border by deploying thousands of its soldiers and equipment. In recent years China has reportedly more than doubled its total number of air bases, air defence positions and heliports near the Indian border. This has now become a high stakes war of nerves between the two countries.

A pragmatic way out to resolve the lingering stand-off is through negotiations, even if it takes time. With winter already having set in it will be in the interest of both the countries to reach an understanding that also holds on the ground. But this can only happen if Beijing approaches the dialogue seriously.

### OTHER OPINION

## Get ready for Oxford Vaccine

**I**n a world ravaged by the virus, hope, unsurprisingly, comes in the shape of a vial. The news that India is likely to receive the first contingent of Covid-19 vaccine developed by Oxford-AstraZeneca in the first few months of the new year is certainly encouraging. This development has come among other welcome bulletins: the drugs developed by two other pharmaceutical firms, Pfizer and Moderna, have demonstrated an acceptable degree of efficacy against the coronavirus; the phase three trials of Covaxin, an indigenous drug, is also expected to begin soon.

But optimism cannot lead to complacency. The challenges that confront a country like India — burdened with a high, impoverished population and a rickety healthcare network — remain steep with respect to the Covid-19 vaccination programme. There are several areas of concern that the Centre must focus on with immediate effect. The first would be the choice of the vaccine, given the possibility that not every medication is expected to provide the same kind of immunity. The selection of the vaccine must adhere to standards of effectiveness that have been substantiated by scientific trials. It makes sense for India to opt for multiple sources while taking care to weed out spurious medication. The second — interconnected — challenge concerns the pricing of the vaccines. India's wobbly economy — it has been dealt debilitating blows by the pandemic as well as by its ruling dispensation — dents New Delhi's purchasing powers considerably, and it is likely that India would have to depend on collaborations with its international partners to make vaccines accessible and affordable for its large population. The G20's recent pledge to make Covid-19 medication and testing universal and uniform must be followed up with firm, affirmative action. The other, equally formidable, obstacle relates to the scale of immunization in India. The Centre may stagger the distribution of the available vaccines with priority sectors — frontline workers and vulnerable citizens — receiving the early doses. But the cleavages in India's social fabric and the limited reach of healthcare are likely to lead to substantial exclusions. The government must be mindful of ensuring that the vaccines eventually reach the most marginalized segments of society. These must include socially disadvantaged groups as well as minorities. India's experiences of indigenous vaccination programmes for polio and tuberculosis could be beneficial in addressing possible gaps in this context. Finally, India must undertake the modernization of its drug storage and supply chain. Covid-19 is unlikely to be the last of the pandemics India and the world would see.

Telegraph India



# Gupkar Alliance's Rise and Capitulation

A Characteristic of Kashmir's Political History

SHEHLAT MAKNOON

**O**n October 13, 2020, Mehbooba Mufti, the last chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, was released from detention after 14 months. A few days later, mainstream Kashmiri politicians came together to form the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD). This declaration was signed a day before the abrogation of Article 370 last August. It stated that "any modification, abrogation of Articles 370, un-constitutional delimitation or trifurcation of the State would be an aggression against the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh." In its first press conference, PAGD accused BJP of breaking the federal structure of India by abrogating the limited autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir and subsequently downgrading it to a union territory.

On October 17, barely a week after Gupkar Alliance was established by the mainstream politicians of Kashmir, the Indian government amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989. It has paved the way for establishing District Development Councils (DDC). With no signs of assembly polls being conducted any time soon, New Delhi introduced this new governance unit in the region. The members of DDC are supposed to be elected by the voters of the new union territory. Many had speculated that the alliance leaders would boycott these elections like the Panchayat polls which were held earlier this year. DDCs were established a year after the abrogation of Article 370, under the new bureaucratic power structure. Participating in these elections would mean accepting the constitutional changes made on August 5 last year. Therefore, many people were shocked when the alliance declared that they would be contesting the DDC elections. They claimed that they were fighting these elections to bar the "free run" of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Recently, Home Minister Amit Shah sent a series of tweets against the alliance. He accused the "Gupkar Gang" of colluding with the foreign forces and insulting the tricolor. It was said that Gupkar Alliance had check matted the BJP by deciding to participate in the elections. However, in the larger perspective, this interpretation seems faulty keeping in mind the political history of Kashmir post 1947.

Kashmir's politics is often described as complex and unpredictable. This description is used by every other politician to justify their actions and it often contradicts their own stand. In all fairness, a conflict zone like Kashmir offers little room for people to oppose the narrative of those in power. However, as the stakeholders of this dispute, we can objectively understand these political happenings through the prism of history. It may never repeat itself in totality but the post-partition history does offer some insights into what has been happening in Kashmir since the last couple of years.

A few days into the "security" lockdown imposed on August 5 last year, a video from inside a passenger flight went viral. In the video, a Kashmiri woman was seen narrating the ordeal of Kashmiris to Rahul Gandhi. Later in the video, Gandhi held her hand while she described the misery of Kashmiris under a strict lockdown and communication blockade. Many were impressed by what they saw as the compassionate side of Rahul Gandhi.

However, in October 2019, former Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh had said that Congress was not against the abrogation but only criticized its implementation. In fact, the dilution of Kashmir's autonomy started long ago under the Congress rule. The dismissal of Sheikh Abdullah, followed by his arrest in October 1953, was not just because of mistrust between him and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Sheikh Abdullah's government was dismissed without allowing him to prove his majority. The then Sadr-i-Riyasat (Constitutional Head of State) Dr Karan Singh cited that Abdullah had lost the confidence of his cabinet.

**It was said that Gupkar Alliance had check matted the BJP by deciding to participate in the elections. However, in the larger perspective, this interpretation seems faulty keeping in mind the political history of Kashmir post 1947**

However, back then, no fax machine was blamed.

Similarly, in November 2018, J&K governor dissolved the state assembly after Mehbooba Mufti announced that she would seek to form the government with her traditional rivals, the National Conference (NC) and Congress. No floor test was allowed this time as well.

In 1954, a presidential order extended several provisions of the Indian constitution to the J&K's constitution, furthering the policy of "integration". After Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi subverted what was left of the state's autonomy. In 1965, the Congress government amended the constitution of J&K and replaced the posts of Sadr-i-Riyasat and Prime Minister with the governor and chief minister respectively. Although by then, these posts were disempowered to a large extent and only had a symbolic meaning for the people. The Indira-

Sheikh Accord of 1975 officially ended the movement for self-determination and plebiscite. Sheikh Abdullah's political career was based on promises of self-determination, which he effectively dropped after signing this accord. Sumantra Bose, in her book Kashmir: Roots of Conflict, Paths of Peace, notes that the first clause of the accord, which declared that J&K as the constituent unit of the Union of India will be governed under Article 370, was hypocritical. Twenty-three constitutional orders had already been made by the mid-1970s, and 262 union laws had already been implemented in the state. Sheikh Abdullah became the chief minister after signing this accord and continued as such until his death in 1982.

A recurrent theme in the political history of Jammu & Kashmir is the disempowerment of the state by coercing the local politicians. However, the so-called mainstream politicians of Kashmir have always obliged, settling for the leftovers. PAGD's sudden enthusiasm to keep BJP away from Kashmir through DDC polls is ludicrous. By willfully or ignorantly participating in these elections, they are only helping the "normalcy" narrative in Kashmir.

Projecting "normalcy" in Kashmir through elections is the oldest trick in the book. For all the logical reasons, PAGD's move will not disrupt the plans of BJP. Home minister Amit Shah's tirade against the alliance is more of a pre-election attack and a control mechanism deployed against the local politicians. The brinkmanship will only push the Kashmiri politicians to prove their legitimacy through these elections.

People's Alliance fighting the elections suits the optics of the Indian government. Even if they win all the seats in Kashmir, they'll have nominal power. BJP will still be calling the shots through the Lieutenant Governor and the subordinate bureaucracy. They will also declare that the democratic process has "restarted" in Jammu & Kashmir. Speaking at a press conference in Srinagar recently, BJP spokesperson Shah Nawaz Hussain claimed that "Gupkar Gang" had accepted the decisions taken on August 5 because they are taking part in DDC elections. This jubilation among the BJP cadre is quite obvious given that Kashmiri politicians are aiding their attempts at normalizing the August 5 changes.

There is a little element of newness when it comes to the current government's Kashmir policy. What has changed, however, is that the policy of disempowerment has reached its climax, and speaking for Kashmiris or their rights will cut your vote share in India. Congress distancing itself from Gupkar Alliance immediately after Amit Shah's tweets indicates just that. One must not see BJP's political maneuvering in Kashmir in isolation but a culmination of Indian government's policy towards the former princely state.

The author is can be reached at shehlatmaknoon@gmail.com



OBSERVER  
MAIL

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

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## International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

**E**very year 25th of November is celebrated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The celebration of this day is based on 25th of November 1960, when Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo ordered for the assassination of the three Mirbal sisters who were struggling against his dictatorship. From 1981, people struggling for the rights of women started celebrating this day as Elimination of Violence against Women. On December

17, 1999, the date received its official United Nations resolution.

The main aim of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about the physical, mental and other forms of violence against women; providing every kind of security to them against this abuse and struggling for their rights. Celebrations start for sixteen days known as "16 Days of Activism" which end on 10th of December marking the World Day for Human Rights.

It is ironical that despite this world wide movement women in different

parts of the globe, as per the reports of United Nations, 33% women in world are subjected to physical and mental violence. One among every three women in world has to face physical or mental violence at least once in her

life. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820, declares sexual violence of women as a

serious crime against humanity however there are many countries in the world where people

committing this crime escape from punishment in one way or the other.

Every year the occasion is marked with the organization of strained conferences in the majestic five star hotels, publication of colored appendices in daily newspapers, otiose discussions in symposia and conferences and passing of new resolutions. When we check the ground realities, we find that all these things have become just result less narrations and mere customs and the violence against women is increasing with every passing day.

Abid Hussain Rather  
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# Remarkable Vaccines and Raising Debts

Shamel Azmeh

**Over the past few months, world governments have drastically increased their borrowing to cover the costs of the pandemic. It might appear logical that the cost of credit will go up during uncertain economic times. The reality, however, is that capital often goes to safer sovereign debt during economic downturns, particularly as the equity markets become unstable and volatile.**

Covid continues to ravage societies around the world, and a key issue is how governments can afford to fight it. As economies are disrupted, governments are stepping in to increase their spending to bail out companies, pay the cost of health measures, and subsidize workers' wages.

Before Covid, when people argued that the state should be able to offer free health care and free education, among other services, and welfare measures, a standard political response was that state resources were limited. Asked by a nurse in 2017 why her wages hadn't increased from 2009 levels, then British prime minister, Theresa May, said: "There is no magic money tree that we can shake that suddenly provides for everything that people want."

Except, a few years later, the government has not only been able to pay the wages of millions, it has also created rescue packages for thousands of firms and offered people vouchers to eat out in restaurants. A number of European countries have also taken the unprecedented step of underwriting the wages of millions of workers in response to the pandemic.

How is the British state and others capable of this radical increase in spending at a time when revenues from taxes are collapsing?

'Magic money tree'

The answer to this lies in the debt market. Over the past few months, world governments have drastically increased their borrowing to cover the costs of the pandemic. It might appear logical that the cost of credit will go up during uncertain economic times. The reality, however, is that capital often goes to safer sovereign debt during economic downturns, particularly as the equity markets become unstable and volatile.

Over recent months, rather than struggling to find lenders or having to pay more for debt, the governments of the major economies have been awash with credit at historically low rates. In October, the EU, until now a small player in the debt market (as borrowing mostly is by national governments of member states), began a major borrowing campaign as part of the efforts to fight Covid through the SURE programme (Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency) which was created in May.

The first sale of bonds worth 17 billion was met with what some described as "outrageous demand", with investors bidding a total of 233 billion to buy them. This intense competition was for bonds that offered a return of -0.26% over ten years, meaning that an investor who holds the bond to maturity will receive less than they paid today.

The EU is not the only borrower that is effectively being paid to borrow money. Many of the advanced economies have been in recent years and months selling debt at negative rates. For some countries, the shift has been dramatic. Even countries such as Spain, Italy and Greece that were previously seen as relatively risky borrowers, with Greece going through a major debt crisis, are now enjoying borrowing money at very low rates.

The reason for this phenomenon is that while these bonds are initially bought by "traditional" market actors, central banks are



buying huge quantities of these bonds once they are circulated in the market.

Poorer countries

Not everybody, however, enjoys a similar position in the debt market. While the rich economies are being chased by investors to take their money, the situation is radically different for poorer countries. Many poor countries have limited access to the credit market and rely instead on public lenders, such as the World Bank.

In recent years, this pattern began to change with a growing number of developing countries increasing their foreign borrowing from private lenders. Developing countries, however, are in a structurally weaker position than richer peers. The smaller scale of their capital markets means that they are more reliant on external financing. This reliance means that developing countries rely on raising money in foreign currency, which increases the risk to their economies.

As many developing countries have less diversified exports with a higher percentage of commodities, the price decline in commodities in recent months has increased those risks. As a result, developing countries face a significantly higher cost of borrowing compared to the richer economies.

A few large developing countries, such as Indonesia, Colombia, India, and the Philippines have begun to follow the policy adopted by the advanced economies of buying government bonds to fund an expanding deficit. The risks of doing this, however, are higher than the richer economies, including a decline in capital inflows. A report by the rating agency S&P Global Ratings illustrated the differences between those two economies:

"Advanced countries typically have deep domestic capital markets, strong public institutions (including independent central banks), low and stable inflation, and transparency and predictability in economic policies. These attributes allow their central banks to maintain large government bond holdings without losing investor confidence, creating fear of higher inflation, or triggering capital outflow.

"Conversely, sovereigns with less cred-

ible public institutions and less monetary, exchange rate and fiscal flexibility have less capacity to monetize fiscal deficits without running the risk of higher inflation. This may trigger large capital outflows, devaluing the currency and prompting domestic interest rates to rise, as seen in Argentina over parts of the past decade."

While the reaction of the market to this approach by developing countries has been muted so far, the report argued, this situation might change. Developing countries who do this could "weaken monetary flexibility and economic stability, which could increase the likelihood of sovereign rating downgrades."

Ratings downgrades

Over recent months, downgrading by rating agencies have been a major risk facing developing countries with many economies facing higher costs of borrowing as a result of such downgrades. These downgrades were often linked to decline in prices and exports of commodities, as was the case for diamonds for Botswana and oil for Nigeria.

In July, following the participation of Ethiopia, Pakistan, Cameroon, Senegal, and the Ivory Coast in a World Bank-endorsed G20 debt suspension initiative, the rating agency Moody's took action against those countries, arguing that participation in this scheme increased the risk for investors in bonds issued by these countries, leading to some developing economies avoiding the initiative in order not to send a "negative signal to the market." Zambia is on the verge of being the first "Covid default" and other developing countries could face a similar situation in coming months.

Access to credit has become a defining factor in the ability of governments to respond to the pandemic. As a result of access to cheap credit, developed economies are so far able to take such health measures while limiting the social and economic impact of the pandemic. Many developing countries do not have this luxury. Not everyone gets to shake the branches of the magical money tree.

*Dhaka Tribune*

## Oxford Astrazeneca, The Game Changer

Michael Head

In the long dark tunnel that has been 2020, November stands out as the month that light appeared. Some might see it as a bright light, others as a faint light – but it is unmistakably a light.

On November 9, Pfizer announced the interim results of its candidate vaccine, showing it to be "more than 90% effective" in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in late-stage human trials. The news was greeted with joy.

A couple of days later, the Russian Direct Investment Fund announced that the candidate vaccine they are funding – dubbed Sputnik V – showed 92% efficacy in late-stage trials. Not to be outdone, Moderna then announced that its candidate vaccine showed 94.5% efficacy.

The latest COVID-19 vaccine announcement comes from Oxford University. And, as with all of the above announcements, it came via press release. Its vaccine candidate, developed in partnership with AstraZeneca, showed an overall effectiveness of 70.4%.

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In case that sounds disappointing, bear in mind that these are interim results and the figures might change. Also, the Oxford vaccine was given to one group of volunteers as two standard doses, which showed 62% effectiveness, and another group of



**The Oxford vaccine is so far reported to have a good safety record with no serious side-effects. Another crucial factor is storage. The Oxford vaccine can be stored in a domestic fridge. The need for sustained freezing across the whole vaccine journey from factory to clinic at ultra-low temperatures – as seen with the Pfizer vaccine – may be a problem for many countries, but especially poorer countries.**

volunteers as a smaller dose followed by a standard second dose. This raised effectiveness to 90%.

It's not immediately clear why this is the case. Professor Andrew Pollard, one of the lead researchers on the project, described the results as "intriguing". He also highlighted that the use of lower doses means that there would be more vaccine doses available.

There were no cases of severe COVID-19 in those who received the vaccine. And it seems to generate a protective immune response in older people. Although we'll have to wait for the final breakdown of results to get clarification on that.

**Not the only measure**

Despite the Oxford vaccine having

lower overall effectiveness than the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines – at least at this interim stage – there are other success factors to consider. Safety is one, and the Oxford vaccine is so far reported to have a good safety record with no serious side-effects.

Another crucial factor is storage. The Oxford vaccine can be stored in a domestic fridge. The need for sustained freezing across the whole vaccine journey from factory to clinic at ultra-low temperatures – as seen with the Pfizer vaccine – may be a problem for many countries, but especially poorer countries.

The Oxford vaccine, based on a viral vector, is also cheaper (around US\$4) than Pfizer and Moderna's mRNA vaccines – around US\$20 and \$33, respectively. AstraZeneca has made a "no profit pledge".

**Equitable distribution**

As I have previously discussed, equitable distribution of new vaccines is vital, especially for low- and middle-income countries which don't have the profile or purchasing power of wealthier countries. GAVI – a global health partnership that aims to increase access to immunisation in poor countries – has worked for years to address this very point. It set up the COVAX initiative in 2020, which has access to 700 million doses of COVID vaccine if clinical trials are successful.

Oxford and AstraZeneca have previously made their own commitments to provide a billion doses of their vaccine for

low- and middle-income countries, with a commitment to provide 400 million doses before the end of 2020. Certainly, AstraZeneca has committed to provide more doses to countries outside of Europe and the US than any of its nearest competitors.

**An excellent start**

These commitments will clearly not be enough for immediate global coverage, but it is an excellent start. Around 9% of the world's population live in extreme poverty, and the health systems around them are fragile. With promises for equitable vaccine distribution, there is hope that the poorer populations around the world will not be forgotten. The global health community must keep its focus on this area.

What does this announcement mean for the world? Potentially a huge amount. But remember that the trials are not yet complete and, at the time of writing, the regulators have yet to approve any of the new vaccine candidates. Even when those hurdles are cleared, we still need to vaccinate the world, which requires successfully navigating the complex obstacles of distance, terrain, politics, cold-chain logistics and human behaviour.

The global pandemic is not over and won't be for a long time yet – but the light is getting brighter.

*By arrangements with the conversation*





# Children more willing to punish if wrongdoer is ‘taught a lesson’: Study

Many children are willing to make personal sacrifices to punish wrongdoers -- and even more so if they believe punishment will teach the transgressor a lesson, a new Yale study published in the journal Nature Human Behaviour shows.

Philosophers and psychologists have long argued whether the main reason people punish others for bad behaviour is to enact retribution or to impart a moral lesson. In adults, most studies show the answer is that people have both motives. But what about children, who are less steeped in societal values?

“Children are less exposed to social ideas about how to behave in certain ways,” said first author Julia Marshall, who conducted the research in the lab of Molly Crockett, assistant professor of psychology at Yale and senior author of the paper.

“We wanted to know if children are interested in punishing others because they want wrongdoers to pay, because they want to teach bad actors a lesson, or a combination of both,” added Crockett.

For the study, Marshall, Crockett, and Yale postdoctoral fellow Daniel Yudkin monitored the responses of 251 children between the ages of 4 and 7 who watched

a video of a child tearing up another youngster’s art work.

The children first had to decide whether to punish the art destroyer by taking away their iPad. However, if the children decided to punish the transgressor, they would have to make a personal sacrifice -- their own iPad would be locked away.

The researchers divided the children into two groups. The first group was told that if they chose “retributive” punishment, the wrongdoer would lose use of their iPad but would not be told why. The second group was told if they punished the wrongdoer he or she would be told it was for ripping up the drawing, what researchers called the “communicative” condition.

About one-quarter of children (26 percent) in the first group decided to punish the transgressor even after being told they would lose use of their own iPad. “Retribution is a driving force in young

children’s moral judgment,” said Marshall. However, children in the second group, who knew that the wrongdoer would be told why he or she was being disciplined, were 24 percent more likely to punish than the first group.

“The opportunity to teach a wrongdoer a lesson motivates children to punish over and above the desire to see them suffer for their actions,” Crockett said.

“Children seem equipped at an early age with both a desire for punishers to receive their just deserts, and a desire to have them improve their behavior for next time,” said Marshall, who is now a post-doctoral researcher at Boston College.

Crockett added: “Despite having a taste for retribution, young children also value the social benefits that punishment can bring. How social learning impacts the balance of retributive and forward-looking motives for punishment is an important avenue for future study.” —Agencies

## Heterogeneous thinkers may possess quick decision-making: Study

A recent mathematical indagation has come up with a new perspective claiming that a group of people with different information may possess better decision-making process than a group of people with homogeneous thoughts. Communication, also known as a process of exchanging information is very crucial for living, Florida State University has come up with recent research on the same.

Bhargav Karamched, assistant professor of mathematics, and a team of researchers published a new study explaining the decision-making process of groups and the dynamics that make for fast and accurate decision making. He found that networks consisting of both impulsive and deliberate individuals made, on average, quicker and better decisions than a group with homogenous thinkers.”

In groups with impulsive and deliberate individuals, the first decision is made quickly by an impulsive individual who needs little evidence to make a choice,” Karamched said. “But, even when wrong, this fast decision can reveal the correct options to everyone else. This is not the case in homogenous groups.”

According to a research paper of Physical Review Letters, researchers noted that the exchange of information is



crucial in a variety of biological and social functions. But Karamched contradicted the same and explained, “Although, information sharing in networks has been studied quite a bit, very little work has been done on how individuals in a network should integrate information from their peers with their own private evidence accumulation.

Most of the studies, both theoretical and experimental, have focused on how isolated individuals optimally gather evidence to make a choice.”

“This work was motivated by that,” Karamched said. “How should individuals optimally accumulate evidence they

see for themselves with evidence they obtain from their peers to make the best possible decisions?”

Kresimir Josi, Moores Professor of Mathematics, Biology and Biochemistry at the University of Houston and senior author of the study, noted that the process works best when individuals in a group make the most of their varied backgrounds to collect the necessary materials and knowledge to make a final decision.”

Collective social decision making is valuable if all individuals have access to different types of information,” Josi said. According to Karamched, a mathematical model was not enough to reach his conclusion and plenty of room is required for follow-up research.

Karamched said that his model assumes that evidence accrued by one individual is independent of evidence collected by another member of the group. If a group of individuals is trying to make a decision based on information that is available to everyone, additional modelling would need to account for how correlations in the information affect collective decision-making.”

For example, to choose between voting Republican or Democrat in an election, the information available to everyone is common and not specifically made for one individual.” —Agencies

## Study Says More Than Half Of 20-Year-Olds In India’s Metros Likely To Develop Diabetes In Lifetime

More than half of men, and nearly two thirds of women currently aged 20 years in India could develop diabetes in their life time, with most of those cases likely to be type 2 diabetes, according to a new study.

The research, published in the journal Diabetologia, estimated the probability of a metropolitan Indian of any age or body mass index (BMI) developing diabetes in their lifetime.

According to the scientists, including those from the Centre for Chronic Disease Control (CCDC) in New Delhi, the country already has a significant health burden caused by diabetes with more than 77 million adults currently afflicted by the condition, and the number expected to almost double to 134 million by 2045.

As urban centres continue to grow rapidly across India, they said decreasing diet quality, and decreased levels of physical activity are all contributing to this hidden epidemic.

In the study, the researchers assessed age-, sex- and BMI-specific incidence rates of diabetes in urban India based on data from the Centre for Cardiometabolic Risk Reduction in South Asia (2010-2018).

They also analysed the age-, sex- and urban-specific rates of mortality from period lifetables reported by the Government of India (2014), and the prevalence of diabetes reported by the Indian Council for Medical Research India DIABetes study (2008-2015).

Based on the analysis, the scientists said the lifetime risk of developing diabetes in 20-year-old men and women free of diabetes today is 56 and 65 per cent, respectively. Women generally had a higher lifetime risk across the lifespan, the study noted.

According to the researchers, for those currently aged 60 years and currently free of diabetes, around 38 per cent of women and 28 per cent of men would go on to develop diabetes.

They cautioned that obesity had a substantial impact on these projections, with the lifetime risk highest among



obese metropolitan Indians -- 86 per cent among 20-year-old women, and 87 per cent among men.

People with lower BMI had considerably higher diabetes-free life expectancy and obese 20-year-olds were estimated to have around half of their remaining life years free from diabetes.

However, those with normal or underweight BMI were projected to live out most of their remaining years diabetes-free, the scientists said.

“The remarkably high lifetime risk of developing diabetes and the low diabetes-free life expectancy in India’s metropolitan cities, especially for individuals with high BMI, implies that interventions targeting the incidence of diabetes may be of paramount importance moving forward,” the researchers noted in the study.

They noted that metropolitan Indians at every age and BMI have an alarmingly high probability of developing diabetes compared with results from high income countries, and that proactive efforts to prevent diabetes in cities are urgently needed.

According to the scientists, this is particularly needed given the rapid increase in “urban obesogenic environments”

across the country. In addition to these risk factors, the scientists said Indians already have a relatively high predisposition to developing the condition at both lower ages and lower BMIs when compared with white European populations.

“Such high probabilities of developing diabetes will have severely negative implications for India’s already strained health system and also out-of-pocket expenditure on diabetes treatment by patients, unless diabetes is immediately acknowledged for what it is,” said study co-author Shammil Luhar from the University of Cambridge in the UK.

“Despite these very high predicted lifetime risks of diabetes, it is possible to prevent or postpone diabetes by effective lifestyle modification, such as following a healthy diet, by increasing physical activity and reducing body weight in those who are obese or overweight,” added Viswanathan Mohan, another co-author of the research from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation in Chennai.

The scientists believe the need of the hour is policy and investment with clearly spelt out targets and commitments to meet by 2030.

“Perhaps an aspirational target of ‘90-90-90’ (90 per cent of people with diabetes detected, 90 per cent of those detected treated, and 90 per cent of those treated controlled), is imminently needed,” said study co-author Nikhil Tandon from the Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi.

“Such a target could operate in the same way as the 90-90-90 targets introduced some years ago for HIV, which has since been replaced by even more ambitious 95-95-95 targets,” Tandon added. —PTI

## ‘Maintaining healthy sleep pattern helps lower risk of heart failure’



While maintaining a good sleeping pattern helps in concentration in tasks, a recent study has pointed out on the additional benefit of a good sleep pattern. It suggests that the adults with the healthiest sleep patterns had a 42 per cent lower risk of heart failure regardless of other risk factors compared to adults with unhealthy sleep patterns.

The research was published today in the American Heart Association’s flagship journal Circulation. Healthy sleep patterns are rising in the morning, sleeping 7-8 hours a day and having no frequent insomnia, snoring or excessive daytime sleepiness.

Heart failure affects more than 26 million people, and emerging evidence indicates sleep problems may play a role in the development of heart failure.

This observational study examined the relationship between healthy sleep patterns and heart failure and included data on 408,802 UK Biobank participants, ages 37 to 73 at the time of recruitment (2006-2010). The incidence of heart failure was collected

until April 1, 2019. Researchers recorded 5,221 cases of heart failure during a median follow-up of 10 years.

Researchers analyzed sleep quality as well as overall sleep patterns. The measures of sleep quality included sleep duration, insomnia and snoring and other sleep-related features, such as whether the participant was an early bird or night owl and if they had any daytime sleepiness (likely to unintentionally doze off or fall asleep during the daytime).

“The healthy sleep score we created was based on the scoring of these five sleep behaviours,” said Lu Qi, M.D., PhD, corresponding author and professor of epidemiology and director of the Obesity Research Center at Tulane University in New Orleans. “Our findings highlight the importance of improving overall sleep patterns to help prevent heart failure.”

Sleep behaviours were collected through touchscreen questionnaires. Sleep duration was defined into three groups: short, or less than 7 hours a day; recommended, or 7 to

8 hours a day; and prolonged, or 9 hours or more a day.

After adjusting for diabetes, hypertension, medication use, genetic variations and other covariates, participants with the healthiest sleep pattern had a 42% reduction in the risk of heart failure compared to people with an unhealthy sleep pattern.

They also found the risk of heart failure was independently associated and:

-8% lower in early risers;-12% lower in those who slept 7 to 8 hours daily;-17% lower in those who did not have frequent insomnia; and -34% lower in those reporting no daytime sleepiness.

Participant sleep behaviours were self-reported, and the information on changes in sleep behaviours during follow-up was not available. The researchers noted other unmeasured or unknown adjustments may have also influenced the findings.

Qi also noted that the study’s strengths include its novelty, prospective study design and large sample size. —Agencies

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

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

#### CORRIGENDUM

Subject: 1. Providing /fixing of chain link fencing at Satellite Park at Chhri Sharief.  
Reference: NIT NO.e-58/2020-21/LSD/Srinagar of S.No.3, Dated: 19.11.2020 issued under endorsement No.LD/ 2639-44 Dated: 19.11.2020

Please read Class of Contract as “BEE” & “CEE” instead of “DEE”, “BEE” & “CEE”. Also the Bid Submission End Date has been extended upto 27-11-2020.  
All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No.LD/2699-2707  
Dated:- 24.11.2020

DIPK-9533/20

Executive Engineer  
Landscaping Division PWD (R&B)  
Kashmir

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No.WCN/20/

ONLY FEW SEATS LEFT

Dated: ----

Extension in Online Admission to UGC-NSQF Skill based Programmes under Community College Scheme Approved by UGC New Delhi for the Session 2020-21

Online Applications are invited for admission to the following skill-based programmes under UGC-NSQF (National Skill Qualification Framework) to be conducted by the institution for the Academic Year 2020-21 on regular full-time mode. Candidates (males/females) can apply online for the programmes through the college website. Online application facility is extended up to 28-11-2020. No application will be accepted after last date. Admission allotment will be on pure merit basis in 12<sup>th</sup> or equivalent standard. There shall be no age bar for admission in these skill based programmes. Classes are scheduled to start tentatively from January 2021 or as per Covid-19 guidelines of the Union Territory of J&K. For more details about the courses, please visit the college website www.gcnk.ac.in.

#### Key Highlights:

- The Courses are approved by University Grants Commission, New Delhi, GoI.
- The courses comprise of 30% Personality Development/General Component and 70% Skill Component (approved by respective Sector Skill Councils).
- Industry Visits/Field Visits for Corporate exposure.
- Guest Faculty from Industry/Experts in the trades.
- Skill Course completion certificate shall be issued by University/SSC/NSDC.
- The courses will help in development of Small Business Units after completion.

S. No.	Programmes/Course	NSQF Level	No. of Seats available	Eligibility	Duration	Programme Fee (Rs.)
1	Diploma in Dress Making	Level 5	07	10 +2 or equivalent from any recognized Board	One year	5000 per semester
2	Diploma in Fitness Management	Level 5	12	10 +2 or equivalent from any recognized Board	One year	5000 per semester
3	Certificate Course in Hospitality and Catering	Level 4	10	10 +2 or equivalent from any recognized Board	Six Months	5000
4	Certificate Course in Web Designing	Level 4	07	10 +2 or equivalent from any recognized Board	Six Months	5000
5	Certificate Course in Beautician	Level 4	12	10 +2 or equivalent from any recognized Board	Six Months	5000

\*100% fee concession to SC/ST students and 50% to specially-abled students, excluding examination fees.

\*National/State/UT reservation rules are applicable.

[Scholarship to all: Students selected for the above courses and having good attendance during the programme will receive monthly scholarships of Rs 1000 per month at the end of each semester and after the successful completion of course]

DIPK-9502/20

Prof. Tabasum Rafiq  
Principal  
Govt. College for Women  
Nawakadal, Srinagar



## UAE relaxes limits on foreign ownership

Agencies

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates has relaxed and removed a range of limits on foreign ownership of companies, state-run media reported on Monday, in the country's latest bid to boost its global status and attract foreign investors.

The overhaul signals yet another startling change for the federation of seven desert sheikhdoms as it grapples with the economic fallout of the pandemic.

Earlier this month, the UAE announced a series of reforms to its Islamic legal code, allowing unmarried couples to cohabitate, improving protections for women and loosening restrictions on alcohol consumption.

for the World Expo, which was pushed to 2021 due to the pandemic.

The emirates are also expecting Israelis will join the legions of foreigners who have opened businesses and bought apartments in the coastal cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi following a breakthrough US-brokered normalisation deal between the countries.

The presidential decree changing the corporate law helps the UAE strengthen its leading position regionally and globally as an attractive destination for projects and companies, state-run WAM news agency reported.

State-linked newspaper The National reported the decree in further detail, saying the foreign ownership amendments



The dramatic changes come as the UAE has spent billions of dollars preparing to host some 25 million visitors

would take effect within six months. Companies could take an entire year to start complying with the changes, it added.

## Pak police foil suicide attack on police station near Wagah: Official



Press Trust Of India

Lahore: Pakistan's law enforcement agencies on Tuesday claimed to have thwarted a possible suicide attack on the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) police station close to the Wagah border and killed the suicide bomber.

According to the CTD spokesperson, the suspect tried to enter

**It is now clear that he was a suicide bomber who would have blown himself in the Burki police station if not stopped immediately. His identity is being ascertained**

the police station at Burki Road here early in the morning.

"When he reached a check post leading to the police station, the security official deployed in the check post tower asked him to tell his name. The terrorist immediately opened fire at the CTD security official with a pis-

tol, but the bullets missed the official. The CTD security official retaliated and the attacker died on the spot. When his body was searched, a suicide jacket was found," the spokesperson said.

Two hand grenades and a pistol with live bullets have been found.

The Bomb Disposal Squad was called on the spot and the area cordoned off. A search operation was launched to find his handler, he said.

"It is now clear that he was a suicide bomber who would have blown himself in the Burki police station if not stopped immediately. His identity is being ascertained," the spokesperson said.

this month, the CTD smashed an Al-Qaeda Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) network in the country's Punjab province and arrested five terrorists.

A joint operation of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and CTD was conducted in Rajanpur, some 400 km from Lahore, and arrested five top members of AQIS network. The network was shifting from Balochistan to Rajanpur.

They were also planning to launch terrorist attacks on vital installations in south Punjab.



## Israeli PM Flew To Saudi Arabia, Met Crown Prince: Reports

Agencies

Washington: The General Services Administration acknowledged Joe Biden as the apparent winner of the presidential election on Monday, following weeks of inaction, and President Donald Trump called on his agencies to cooperate.

"I am recommending that Emily and her team do what needs to be done with regard to initial protocols, and have told my team to do the same," Trump said of Emily Murphy, the General Services Administration chief. Still, he said he would continue to contest the outcome of the election.

The designation triggers a formal transition process, giving Biden and his team access to current agency officials, briefing books and other government resources, including some \$6 million in funding.

The letter was sent after nine Republican senators had called for the transition process to begin, and hours after Michigan's Board of State Canvassers had voted to certify the election's results, practically ensuring Biden's victory in the key battleground state.

"Because of recent developments involving legal challenges and certifications of election results, I have determined that you may access the post-election resources and

services described in Section 3 of the Act upon request," Murphy said in a letter to Biden, citing the Presidential Transition Act of 1963.

The announcement is a "needed step" to "getting the pandemic under control and our economy back on track," Yohannes Abraham, the executive director of the Biden-Harris transition, said in an emailed statement. "In the days ahead, transition officials will begin meeting with federal officials to discuss the pandemic response, have a full accounting of our national security interests, and gain complete understanding of the Trump administration's efforts to hollow out government agencies."

For weeks, the Biden transition team has worked informally to establish a new administration, including assembling a coronavirus task force and consulting with public health officials outside of the federal government, mimicking the approach former Vice President Dick Cheney took during the disputed 2000 election.

Blocked from interacting with federal agencies, Biden's staff instead sought out other experts from academia, state governments and Capitol Hill.

The biggest change now is that the transition team will be

able to flood federal agencies with officials focused on preparing the way for his administration. They will have access to agency staff and briefing books assembled earlier this year, as well as details on what administrative issues must be addressed right away.

Transition aides also will get details about which positions are most critical, as the incoming administration seeks to fill more than 7,000 jobs across the federal government.

"Fortunately, federal career civil servants have done an outstanding job preparing for this year's transition by producing fact-based information on critical agency issues and by designating acting officials who will lead agency operations until new political appointees are confirmed," said David Marchick, director of the Center for Presidential Transition. "They now need space to do their jobs."

Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris may also swiftly begin receiving classified intelligence briefings. Lawmakers and national security experts had warned that without the information, the incoming administration was being kept in the dark about threats to the U.S. -- a lapse that could make the country more vulnerable.

## Biden Picks Secretary Of State, People For Top Cabinet, White House Posts

Agencies

Washington: US President-elect Joe Biden announced on Monday key figures for his cabinet, picking longtime foreign policy advisor Antony Blinken to be his secretary of state and former US chief diplomat John Kerry as his special climate envoy.

Biden also nominated the first Latino ever, Cuba-born lawyer Alejandro Mayorkas, to lead the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees immigration.

He picked Avril Haines, the former deputy CIA director, as his director of national intelligence, the first woman to ever hold that position.

Biden also said that longtime diplomat Linda Thomas-Greenfield will be nominated to serve as his ambassador to

the United Nations, with status as a cabinet member.

Today, I'm announcing the first members of my national security and foreign policy team. They will rally the world to take on our challenges like no other—challenges that no one nation can face alone.

And Jake Sullivan, who was a security aide to Biden when he was vice president, was appointed White House national security advisor.

All are veterans of the former 2009-2017 Obama-Biden administration, and deeply experienced in their fields.

Kerry, who was secretary of state from 2013 to 2017 and signed the Paris climate accord in 2015 on behalf of the United States -- only to see President Donald Trump withdraw from it -- will be made a member of the national security council,

the first time the council has had a specialist on climate change, Biden's office said.

Mayorkas, a former federal prosecutor, was director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services and then DHS deputy secretary under president Barack Obama.

Sullivan was director of the Policy Planning Staff at the State department and deputy chief of staff to secretary of state Hillary Clinton, and was a lead negotiator in the early talks for the Iran nuclear deal that Trump withdrew from.

"We have no time to lose when it comes to our national security and foreign policy," Biden said in a statement.

"These individuals are equally as experienced and crisis-tested as they are innovative and imaginative," he said.

## Israel drops Saudi Arabia from virus quarantine list, day after Netanyahu's reported visit

Agencies

Jerusalem: A day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reported trip to Saudi Arabia, Israel's health ministry added the kingdom to its list of coronavirus "green" countries, exempting returning travellers from quarantine.

The health ministry on Tuesday confirmed that Saudi Arabia had been added to the safe list a day earlier, but dismissed any link to Netanyahu's reported visit to the futuristic Red Sea city of Neom on Sunday.

"The process is very simple and it happens once every two weeks," health ministry director general Hezi Levi told public broadcaster Kan on Tuesday morning.

"On the previous list, Saudi Arabia was red," he said. "The morbidity rates decreased. It's now green. "It has nothing to do with anyone's visit to any country."

Israeli media reported that Netanyahu travelled to Neom for landmark talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia, which has no of-

ficial diplomatic ties with the Jewish state.

There has been unconfirmed speculation that Saudi Arabia might be seeking to become the latest Arab state to normalise ties with Israel.

An Israeli government source contacted by AFP confirmed the talks, which Riyadh firmly denied on Monday, and the kingdom has publicly said it will not establish diplomatic relations with Israel until the Palestinian conflict is resolved.

Had Saudi Arabia not been on Israel's coronavirus green list, Netanyahu and his staff would technically been compelled to quarantine for 14 days upon return.

Another country turned "green" in the ministry's latest listing was Bahrain, which along with its Gulf ally the United Arab Emirates have established ties with Israel, only the third and fourth Arab nations to do so.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu announced he had spoken with Bahraini Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and accepted an invitation to conduct "an official visit to Bahrain soon".

## Are dining tents a safe way to eat out during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Agencies

Washington: Are dining tents a safe way to eat out during the pandemic?

Health experts say outdoor dining tents are generally safer than dining inside, but caution that they're not all equal.

Minnesota School of Public Health.

"If it's keeping you from being in a common airspace with other people, then that's a good thing," he says.

Between parties, tents should be cleaned and left open for at least 20 minutes, says



Many restaurants are erecting individual tents, igloos and other outdoor structures that let people who are dining together avoid being indoors, where the coronavirus spreads more easily.

Experts say the structures should be well-ventilated. A tent with four walls and a roof, for example, might not have better ventilation than an indoor dining room.

"The more airflow through the structure, the better it is," says Dr. Isaac Weisfuse, a public health expert at Cornell University.

Igloos and individual tents are a creative solution but shouldn't be shared with people who aren't in your household, says Craig Hedberg, a professor at the University of

Aubree Gordon, an associate professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She also suggests servers should be able to leave food on a tray outside to minimize contact with diners.

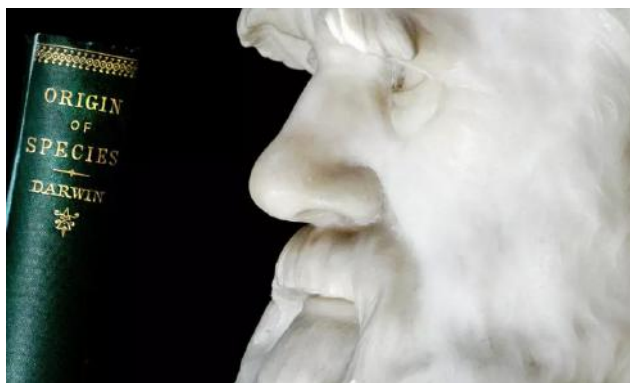
Tents are helping many restaurants get through lean times.

But they may cost extra. In Detroit, Lumen restaurant charges \$30 per person to reserve a heated structure with windows for two hours. Lumen's igloos and greenhouses can each seat six people, and the party must spend at least \$300.

Once a party leaves, the structure is cleaned, sprayed with sanitizing fog and aired out for 30 minutes, says Gabby Milton, the restaurant's managing partner. — AP

## NEWS MAKERS

### Charles Darwin notebooks 'stolen' from Cambridge University



Two of Charles Darwin's notebooks containing his pioneering ideas on evolution and his famous "Tree of Life" sketch are missing, believed stolen, the Cambridge University Library said on Tuesday.

The British scientist filled the leather notebooks in 1837 after returning from his voyage on the HMS Beagle. The library said they were worth millions of pounds.

In one book, he drew a diagram showing several possibilities for the evolution of a species and later published a more developed illustration in his 1859 book "On the Origin of Species".

The University of Cambridge's vast library first listed the notebooks as missing in 2001 after they were moved out of the Special Collections Strong Rooms for photogra-

phy to be carried out there.

They were long believed to have been incorrectly filed within the building, which contains around 10 million books, maps and manu-

scripts and has one of the world's most significant Darwin archives.

However, a major search this year — the largest in the library's history — failed to

turn up the notebooks.

"Curators have concluded the notebooks [...] have likely been stolen," the library said in a statement.

It said it had informed local police and the books had been listed on Interpol's database of stolen artworks, called Psyche.

The University Librarian, Jessica Gardner, released a video statement appealing to the public to help.

"It is deeply regretful to me that these notebooks remain missing despite numerous wide-scale searches over the last 20 years," she said, adding that the library has since massively improved its security systems.

The librarian suggested that former or current library staff, those working in the book trade or researchers could have information.

### Musk now 2nd richest in world, surpasses Gates

Tesla chief Elon Musk has surpassed Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates to become the second-richest person in the world.

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index on Monday put the Tesla chief executive -- with a \$127.9 billion fortune -- above Gates -- at \$127.7 billion -- for the first time.

The 49-year-old entrepreneur has added more than \$100 billion to his net worth since January 2020, making him one of the fastest-growing among the world's 500 richest people.

The jump in Musk's fortune came as the shares of the electric car-maker Tesla soared and its market cap neared \$500 billion on Monday.

The wealth gap between Musk and Gate is not huge, and it is possible they could



switch places again.

Bill Gates' current net worth is \$127.7 billion, and he would have ranked on the top had he not donated so prodigiously to charities over the years. Gates has donated more than \$27 billion to his namesake foundation, Bill & Melinda

Gates Foundation, since 2006.

was the richest man for four years running till 2017 when Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos overtook him. Bezos continues to be the richest man in the world with an estimated net worth of \$182 billion.



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