

Maximum: 14º Minmum: 2º Humidity: 68%





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...... P6/ Life & Times

CANCER SURVIVORS AT HIGHER RISK OF DYING FROM FLU: STUDY

Survivors from a wide range of cancers are more likely than people in the general population to be hospitalised ...



DUNGEONS OF DOWRY India is one of the most religiously and ethnically diverse nations in the world, with some of the most deeply religious societies

P8/OUTPOST

LANGUAGE JUGGLERY: CSE HITS BACK AS DABUR, PATANJALI CLAIM HONEY PRODUCTS PURE

The CSE was responding to statements by Dabur and Patanjali claiming that the honey sold by...



Contact: -0194-2502327

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &



"We can know only that we know nothing. And that is the highest degree of human

-Leo Tolstoy



Soldier Shoots Self Dead

SRINAGAR: An Army soldier committed suicide by shooting himself dead in south-Kashmir's Shopain district on intervening Thursday night, officials said.

said that the soldier identified as Chandra Patil of 62 Headquarters shot himself with his service rifle, while on duty at Zawoora Manloo, reported news agency GNS.

The cause of him taking this extreme step remains unknown for the time being, they said.

Meanwhile a police official while confirming the incident said that a case has been registered in this regard and further investigations taken up.

+ Hand Grenade **Found In Rajouri**

JAMMU: A live hand grenade was found in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Thursday, officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, Chandan Kohli said that based on a specific tip off, a team headed by Station House Officer (SHO), Rajouri, Sameer Jillani found the grenade kept alongside a road between Gujjar Mandi and Kheora

In view of the District Development Council Polls, security is high in Rajouri and prompt action by the police team averted a possible terror action, the officer said.

Kishtwar: 3 Employees Suspended

JAMMU: Three government employees were on Thursday suspended for dereliction of election duty in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said here.

The employees suspended by Panchayat Election Officer Ashok Kumar Sharma will remain attached in the office of the additional district commissioner of Kishtwar during the suspension period, they said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Parihar has been appointed inquiry officer to conduct a detailed probe into

the matter, the officials said. Till date, five employees have been suspended and 21 attached for dereliction of election duty and violations of the Model Code of Conduct in Kishtwar, they added.

2 Injured In Tractor-**Tripper Collision**

SRINAGAR: A tractor driver and his associate were injured on Thursday in a road accident in Chogal area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Shakir Ahmad Dar and Ishfaq Ahmad Dar, both resident of Waskura were injured after their Tractor (JK09 5902) collided with a Tripper at Watayen area of the district on Thursday evening. The two injured men were shifted to public health centre Chogal for treatment. Their condition is said to be stable.

Meanwhile, a local news agency KNS quoted a police officer as saying that investigations in this regard have been taken up.

305 Candidates in Fray for 3rd Phase Today



DDC POLLS

JAMMU: A total of 7.37 lakh voters will decide the fate of 305 candidates contesting in the third phase of the District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

State Election Commissioner (SEC) K K Sharma on Thursday said adequate security arrangements have been made in all constituencies going to polls.

Urging people to follow all COVID-19 guidelines while ex-

face masks have been arranged at polling stations.

The DDC elections and panchayat bypolls are being held in eight phases from November 28 to December 19. The counting of votes will be done on December 22.

Giving details about the DDC elections, Sharma said there are a total 280 constituencies in the UT, out of which voting will be conducted in 33 constituencies, including 16 from Kashmir division and 17 from Jammu division, from 7 am to 2 pm.

A total 305 candidates, including 166 from Kashmir division and 139 ercising their franchise, he said from Jammu division, are contesting

sanitisers, thermal scanners and for the DDC polls. Out of these 305 candidates, 252 are male, while 53 are female. Sharma said 7,37,648 people are eligible to cast their votes in the third phase of DDC polls.

Each DDC To

Committees

Public Works

development.

Panels Will Deal With

SRINAGAR: Every district

Finance, Development,

development council in Jammu

& Kashmir Union Territory will

have five standing committees

to look after different subjects

ranging from financial matters to

More On P2

Have 5 Standing

Talking about by-elections for sarpanchs, he said out of 126 constituencies, polling will take place in 66 constituencies and a total of 184 candidates are in the fray.

Forty sarpanch constituencies have been filled unopposed. Similarly, in panch by-elections,

there are 1,738 constituencies, and out of them 798 have been elected unopposed, he said, adding that voting will take place in 327 constituencies and 749 candidates are in the fray.

India Committed To Retrieve Pak Kashmir: Singh

Jitendra Singh on Thursday said India stands committed to retrieving Pakistan controlled Kashmir (PcK) and it was the only outstanding issue between the two

countries. "There is no such issue as Kashmir issue and Jammu & Kashmir is as similar and as much a part of India as any other state or Union Territory,"

he said. Referring to a resolution of Parliament passed in 1994 wherein it was unanimously accepted by all parties that Pakistan has to vacate the areas

JAMMU: Union Minister of the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir, the minister said these areas continue to remain under illegal occupation of the neighbouring country even

after so many years. "India stands committed to retrieving Pakistan occupied Jammu &

Kashmir and that is the only issue outstanding between India and Pakistan," he told PTI. Singh, the Minister of State

for Personnel, addressed a series of public meetings during the District Development Council (DDC) election campaign along the International Border (IB) in Khour, Pargwal and other areas in Jammu district. >> More On P2

Keeping An Eye On China's Dam Project: India

DELHI: Amidst reports that China plans to build a major dam on the Brahmaputra, India on Thursday said it "carefully monitors" all developments relating to the river, and that it intends to remain engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard its interests.

The Brahmaputra river, known as the Yarlung Tsangpo in China, originates from Tibet and flows into Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. More On P2

Fresh Snowfall Likely Today

SRINAGAR: The meteorological department on Thursday predicted light snow at isolated places in the Kashmir Valley and the Zojila Pass area on Friday and another spell of rain and snow in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on next

Highway To Remain Closed On Fridays

SRINAGAR: The authorities on Thursday said that for the maintenance and undertaking major repairs on Srinagar-Jammu highway, four days have been kept as traffic dry days when no vehicle would be allowed to ply on the strategic surface link. → More On P2

"As of today, weather is likely to remain mainly dry till tomorrow. Light snow is expected at isolated to scattered places of Kashmir and Zojila area tomorrow evening," Sonam Lotus, director of the MET department said.

"There is more than 70 per cent chance of a spell of light to moderate snow at many places of Kashmir, Drass-Zojila area and the hilly areas of Jammu during December 7-8,"

J&K Reports 10 More Corona Deaths

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: At least ten more people succumbed to coronavirus in ammu and Kashmir on Thursday taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1718.

In Kashmir Valley, five more people, including four from the capital city of Srinagar, lost their battle with the deadly infection on Thursday, while five other died of Covid-19 in Jammu division, officials said.

13 Security Men Among

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 582 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including thirteen security personnel thus taking the total number of people infected by virus in the Union Territory to 111712.

PMO Reviews Projects Implementation In J&K

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Principal Secretary tation of projects under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) in Jammu and

Kashmir Chief Secretary, J&K, B V R Subrahmanyam along with Secretaries of various departments participated in the meeting that was chaired by Mishra, an official spokesperson said.

He said extensive deliberations were held to review the progress of 54 key developmental projects being executed by the to the Prime Minister, Dr. P. K. Central ministries and the UT Mishra on Thursday reviewed Government across various secimplement tors including road, power, renewable energy, healthcare, education, tourism, horticulture, sports, Jal Shakti, irrigation & flood control, housing & urban development, and disaster management, relief, rehabilitation & reconstruction

"It was informed that majority of the projects are now advancing as per >> More On P2

KPDCL Begins

Sonmarg Illegal Constructions

HC Seeks Compliance Report Quarterly, Issues 4 Dates



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed authorities to file compliance reports on quarterly basis in a calendar year regarding its various directions related to safeguarding Sonamarg from illegal constructions and pre-

serving its fragile ecology. "Status reports in terms of our orders shall be filed before this Court on quarterly basis in a calendar year and the first such report shall be positively filed on 15th of January, 2021, 2nd on 15th of May, 2021, 3rd on 15th of September, 2021 and the 04th one on or before 30th of December, 2021," said a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta.

"The Sonamarg area, it is evident, has suffered serious environmental

the part of stakeholders," the court had observed in one of the previous hearing.

Previously, the court said large scale unauthorised constructions are carried out In Sonamarg and is "absolutely imperative" to check this illegal activity.

"We find that in case, after case applications are being made for building permissions. On several occasions, the request is couched as a permission for renovation / repairs. On many occasions, we find the ruse of damage on account of snow or fire is put forth," the court had said in the previous order in last week of October.

"Under the shield of the permission so obtained, large scale unauthorised constructions, expansions degradation because of apathy on and encroachments >> More On P2

Despite BJP Hurdles, PAGD Receiving Support: Omar



SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister and National Conference Party Vice President Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that the Peoples Alliance For Gupkar Alliance (PAGD) spearheading the campaign for special status restoration, was receiving unprecedented support from the people despite hurles, false and intimidating measures by the BJP.

Chairing a meet of central zone functionaries at party headquarters Nawa e Subah, here, the NC leader as per a party → More On P2

Parties Like NC. PDP Exploiting People: Bukhari

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Thursday said that the Ganderbal district portrays a typical example of the victims of VVIP constituency syndrome in Jammu and Kashmir. → More On P2

Trial Of Smart Meters In Sgr SRINAGAR: Amid complaints

of inadequate electricity, the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) in a first has started installing the smart meters on trial basis in Srinagar area, which according to the authorities will help the consumers to get aware of their regular consumption.

Chief Engineer KPDCL, Aijaz Ahmad Dar said that around 200 smart meters have been installed on trial basis in Cooperative Colony in Humhama area of Srinagar outskirts since yesterday. More On P2

Artistic Lament Over DD Kashir At Zero Bridge

ASIF KHAN, ARBEENA SHAH

s a witness to the rise and fall of different artistic dynasties, an old dusky treeat the iconic Zero Bridge in Srinagar sends down its leaves, swirling onto the wet deck of the bridge to carpet its dull lurid floor. The pitiless frosty air born out of the bosom of Jhelum sways everyone clicking selfies and those sitting on the dilapidated benches made of

Among many others, Zameer Ashai,

dressed in discreetly dark and baggy jacket, drab pants running straight into his long suburban black boots, amiably looks at the river Jhelum with his sullen eyes reminiscing his lost legacy

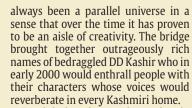


holding a chilled cup of tea. He doesn't empty the cup peculiarly as it remains his lone companion through his stay at the bridge during these days.

"I hardly see any of my colleagues here," says Ashai, a renowned Kashmiri TV artist, in a sober voice. "Currently, they're busy searching work to make

The quintessential Zero Bridge has

Back in 2000s, when the channel was launched, Kashmiri people would keep their eyes glued to their TV sets, especially on the eve of Eid and New Year.



Reminiscing the evenings wherein Zero Bridge would turn into a warm bed of swaying tales and juvenile laughter as his comrades would confabulate and traverse through diverse issues pertaining to their lives

Each DDC To ...

The amendments carried out by the Centre in Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act-1989 in October this year lay bare that every DDC will have five standing committees.

The standing committees for finance, development, public works, health and education and welfare will be constituted in each DDC to deal with different matters.

According to the amendments, all other members, other than chairperson and vice-chairperson, shall be elected as heads of these committees.

"Every standing committee shall consist of such number of members, including its chairperson as decided by the district development council, so that all other elected members except the chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be elected as a member in any of the standing committee and the number of members elected to each standing committee shall, as far as possible, be equal," read the amendments.

The law further states that the number of members of each standing committee as decided by the district development council shall not be changed within the term of that council.

The law, however, states that a member shall not be a member of more than one standing committee at a time except when required due to insufficient number of members of the district development council.

The vice-chairperson of district development shall be an ex-officio member and chairperson of the standing committee for finance and the chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees without the right to vote, the law

The law also defines mandate of these five committees comprising members of DDCs.

The standing committee for finance shall deal with the subjects like finance, accounts, audit, budget, general administration and subjects not allotted to other standing committees.

It empowers the standing committee for development to deal with the subjects like development planning, socio-economic planning, agriculture, soil conservation, animal husbandry, minor irrigation, fisheries, small scale industry, etc.

According to the law, the standing committee for public works shall deal with the subjects like public works, housing, spatial planning and environment.

It also states that the standing committee for Health and Education shall deal with subjects like public health and education.

The law further states that the standing committee for welfare shall deal with subjects like social welfare, development of women and children and development of scheduled castes and sched-

Fresh Snowfall ...

The MET office also said they expected snowfall at the Zojila Pass to block the Srinagar-Leh highway during this period.

The 40-day long period of harsh winter called the 'Chillai Kalan' begins on December 21 and will end in January 31.

Meanwhile, most places in Kashmir registered sub-zero temperatures with Pahalgam being the coldest recorded place in the valley at a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, officials said on Thursday. All weather stations in Kashmir, except Kokernag, registered subzero temperatures last

night, officials said. Shopian district recorded a low of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius while Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.5

degrees Celsius. The mercury in Srinagar, which had recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius last Friday, settled at a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday, officials said.

The mercury settled at the minimum of 0.8 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, minus 1.8 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and 0.4 degrees Celsius

India Committed ...

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it possible to take decisions like abrogation of Article 370 and holding of DDC elections which were earlier considered impossible

"Similarly, this task of retrieving PoJK will also be accomplished by the Modi government," the minister said.

Singh claimed the people of PcK have been for a long time deprived of the benefits of democracy, and it is the government"s commitment to them that it will make them a beneficiary of India"s democratic system with grassroots empowerment.

It is during the Modi government, said Singh, that two years back 4 per cent reservation was provided to the residents of IB on the same lines as to those living along the Line of Control (LoC).

He accused the earlier governments of playing vote bank politics and giving reservation to LoC areas "because they were getting their MLAs and ministers elected from those areas" but denied the same benefit to the children living in the adjacent part of the border because they did not constitute their vote bank.

"The Modi government has corrected this inhuman injustice to the youth of this area," the min-

Singh also claimed that work of construction of bunkers and roads bridges which had been pending for the last seven decades in the border areas has been taken up only in the last 5-6 years.

Highway To

Deputy director PWD department in a communique to ADGP traffic, Jammu has requested him to notify the dates, which has been kept as traffic dry days on NH-44, to the concerned traffic

The decision, according to the communique, was taken in a meeting held under the chairmanship of chief secretary on October 10.

As per the communique, December 4, 11, 18 and 25 have been kept as traffic dry days to undertake major repairs and maintenance of road surface, sliding zone and shooting stone areas on NH-44.

"In continuation to the minutes of the meeting dated 13.10.2020 held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, it has been decided to keep 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th December 2020 as traffic dry day on NH-44 for undertaking major repairs and maintenance of road surface, sliding zone and shooting stone areas by NHAI," reads

the communique. It further states: "Accordingly, I am directed to request you to kindly advise concerned traffic officers/officials to notify the same for public information and facilitate NH works".

Keeping An Eye ... At a media briefing, External Affairs Ministry

... FROM FRONT PAGE

Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the Chinese side has conveyed to India on several occasions that it was only undertaking run-of-the-river hydropower projects, which do not involve diversion of the waters of the Brahmaputra.

He was asked about media reports that China will build a "super dam" on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangbo river in Tibet. "We have taken note of some media reports in this regard. Government carefully monitors all developments on the Brahmaputra river." Srivastava said.

Noting that issues relating to trans-border rivers are discussed with China under the ambit of an institutionalised expert-level mechanism which was established in 200 as well as through diplomatic channels, the MEA spokesperson said, "We intend to remain engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our interests."

The MEA spokesperson also said that "as a lower riparian State with considerable established user rights to the waters of the trans-border rivers, the government has consistently conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities and has urged them to ensure that the interests of downstream States are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas."

In Beijing, the Chinese foreign ministry said there is no need to have "any anxiety" over the project and that China will continue to have "good communication" with lower riparian states - India and Bangladesh.

On China's plans to build the dam over the river near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) near Arunachal Pradesh where the Brahmaputra enters India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing that the "hydropower development in the lower reaches of Yarlung Zangbo river is China's legitimate right. When it comes to use and development of cross border rivers, China always acts responsibly."

"We have a policy featuring development and conservation and all projects will go through science-based planning and assessment giving full consideration to impact downstream and accommodating the interests of upstream and downstream regions," Hua said.

'The development of lower reaches of Yarlung Zangbo is in the early stages of planning and assessment. There is no need to read too much into that," she said, and added that "going forward China, India, Bangladesh and other concerned countries will continue to have good communication. There is no need for any anxiety on this matter." (PTI)

J&K Reports ...

Among the five victims in the Valley included a 52-year-old man from Rambagh, a 75-year-old from Khanyar, a 68-year-old man from Baghat, a 64-year-old man from Buchpora and a 55-yearold woman from Aragam in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Among others the victims from Jammu included a 65-year-old man from Parda Akhnoor, a 75-yearold man from Nanak Nagar and a 50-year-old man from Sarwal.

With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1115 and 603 in the Jammu region. Srinagar district with 423 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (307), Baramulla (163), Budgam (101), Pulwama (86), Kupwara (84), Anantnag (79), Doda (56), Bandipora (52), Kulgam (51), Udhampur (51), Rajouri (50), Ganderbal (39), Shopian (37), Kathua (39), Samba (32), Poonch (22), Ramban (18), Kishtwar(18), and Reasi (9). (With

13 Security Men ...

Official sources said Thursday that Srinagar reported 126 cases, Baramulla 24, Budgam 46, Pulwama 17, Kupwara 10, Anantnag 8, Bandipora 12, Ganderbal 14, Kulgam 6, Shopian 9, Jammu 142, Rajouri 22, Udhampur 50, Doda 22, Kathua 10, Poonch 2, Samba 17, Kishtwar 7, Ramban 15 and Reasi 23.

Moreover, they said, 419 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 242 from Jammu Division and 177 from Kashmir Division.

PMO Reviews

decided timelines and are at various stages of completion. Besides, the lagging projects are also being assiduously pursued by the concerned officers to ensure their smooth implementation," the official spokesperson said.

He said that in-depth discussions were held to review the progress of Ramban-Banihal road, establishment of two AIIMS in the capital cities of J&K, permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure, installation of high-end security infrastructure, creation of medical infrastructure in District/Sub-District Hospitals & Primary Health Centres, phase-II flood management of river Jehlum, rehabilitation of Dal-Nageen Lake, and development of tourism.

"Owing to the importance of these projects, it was decided that they will be exclusively reviewed to resolve hurdles in their timely execution," he said.

While reviewing the status of construction of AIIMS, one each at Samba and Awantipura, Mishra directed the implementing agencies to expedite the construction of these institutions and ensure that these are established not beyond a period of 30 months.

"He further directed that AIIMS Awantipura set up a temporary accommodation to be hired in the vicinity of the proposed site on the pattern of AIIMS Samba so that first batch of medical courses can commence from the next academic session at both the institutions," the official spokesperson

The Chief Secretary, he said apprised the PMO that exponential progress has been achieved in land acquisition and other related processes over the last two years to ensure timely handing over the encumbrance-free land to implementing agencies for various projects, which includes prestigious projects like Shapur Kandi, AIIMS Samba/ Awantipora, and various road projects which were earlier being delayed for years on account of the unavailability of land.

"Chief Secretary further informed that restoration and rehabilitation of Dal-Nageen lakes require massive interventions for which detailed reports are being submitted separately," the official spokesperson said.

During the review of Shahpur Kandi Multipurpose Project, Subrahmanyam raised concerns over delays in execution of construction works on the J&K side, and suggested frequent meetings of the 'Tripartite Committee' for better coordination on project execution.

As per official spokesperson, Principal Secretary to PM also reviewed the progress of iconic projects of Jammu and Kashmir including Hydro-Electric Projects (HEP) of Kiru, Kwar, Ujh, and the Gas Pipeline.

"After detailed review of the projects, Principal Secretary to PM expressed his satisfaction on the progress achieved during the last two years and further laid emphasis on the benefits to be accrued after the completion of prestigious projects under PMDP," he said.

"Dr. P. K. Mishra said that the union ministries and the UT Government must work in tandem and hold regular project-wise reviews to ensure their completion within the prescribed timelines," he

Artistic Lament ...

"We would blow all of our frustrations in laughter sharing each other's sorrows as well as happiness," Zameer adds while catching sight of white cup of tea.

But now, whenever Zameer passes by the same spot, a razor-sharp sense of yearning overtakes him as he seats himself on a fusty wooden bench candidly facing Jhelum cogitating the golden moments that he had spent here with his friends.

"I remember giving autographs to people. But now, we all are left in shambles to fend our own fate," he says with a deep sigh.

Christened as Kashmir's Dilip Kumar, Ashai recalls the time when he would be surrounded by locals who were avid viewers of DD Kashir. His fame may have faded but he still remains to be loved more than Dilip Kumar by his fans.

"Though personally I don't like such analogies because Dilipsahab is a much bigger actor than me,however, you can't stop people from calling you with different names," Ashai says humbly.

The actor didn't disappoint his audience when he reappeared on cinema with Imtiyaz Ali's LailaMajnu, back in 2018 and displayed a gripping performance. He once again created magic with his austere acting.

But now, after two years, the said actor like many others is facing arduous times and suffering to make ends meet as DD Kashir continues playing with the career of budding as well as veteran artists by serving absurd content to the people of Kashmir.

Back in 2000s, when the channel was launched, Kashmiri people would keep their eyes glued to their TV sets, especially on the eve of Eid and New

There would be legendry actors like late Shadi Lal Koul whose comedy would act as a stress buster for Kashmiri populace along with some local singing sensations who would momentarily uplift gloom in Kashmir.

Initially, introduced asprogrammes of interest for the people of I&K and to counter what authorities saw as "Pakistani propaganda", DD Kashir was supposed to promote the talent within Kashmir to bring a sense of togetherness among people and authorities.

"As per the pledge taken while bringing DD Kashir into existence, the locals would be engaged and given livelihood," Ayash Arif, another veteran actor of DD Kashir, says.

"But post 2010, there were some unauthorized programmes which created rift between us and the authorities." The dramatic duo of Avash Arif and late Shad

Lal Koul was known to bring laughter to Kashmiri homes. But the advent of cable TV allied with dull as dishwater attitude from DD Kashir did wonders for its great fall.

It was indeed overwhelming for the people seeing the local talent on their TV sets. But today, when OTT platforms are even swaying away the Cable TV audiences, DD Kashir has been pushed into a state of defunct and its artists in despair as they struggle to make ends meet.

Behind its fall and gradual fading from public memory is its old-school model, says Aijaz Rah, a local singing sensation and a prominent figure of DD Kashir.

"It could've done wonders till now but it has gone in a reverse direction," Rah says."They don't hire new artists and on being asked they throw the entire weight on the absence of suitable budget."

Director DD Kashir, GD Tahir, didn't respond to repeated queries from Kashmir Observeron the stringent and incongruous attitude of the channel culminating fatal results for the artist community who once earned their bread from it. And now, they're left dry pocketed. As alleged

by many they are still awaiting the release of their lyments. "We're in deep distress as many of the families

of our artist community are in starvation," Rah continues to voice the artistic anguish. Though Kashmir has throughout the course of its history been a political theatre, but it is now

taking a toll on the lives of the artists who remain clueless about their future. "Many of our jobless and distressed artists are bedridden today," Bashir Dada, a legendary artist

who had worked with DD Kashir, says. DD Kashir artists have been knocking the doors of the court incessantly to get their problems heard and resolved.

But their unending struggle is only creating multitude of problems for them, laments Kashmir's Dilip Kumar at Zero Bridge.

Parties Like NC...

"Unfortunately, the leaders who were supported and elected by the people of Ganderbal since 19970s treated their electorate as commodities that can be turned into an inheritance," Bukhari said, while addressing the Party's DDC election campaign at Ganderbal.

In a statement issued here, Bukhari said that the blind trust of the people was exploited by parties like National Conference and PDP which considered Ganderbal as their political stronghold until

"From late Sheikh Abdullah who was elected from Ganderbal twice, in 1975 and 1977, his son Farooq Abdullah won from this constituency in 1983, 1987 and 1996. Farooq Saheb's son Omar Abdullah won assembly elections from Ganderbal in 2008. This huge public mandate was breached time and again to the hilt by its 'defacto' rulers which ultimately resulted into Ganderbal's dismal developmental scenario," he remarked.

Bukhari asked why did the elected governments led by the National Conference and PDP fail to allot construction of 93-MW New Ganderbal Hydropower Project despite the Power Development Corporation (PDC) having cleared all the requisite formalities.

"The two former chief ministers Mr. Omar Abdullah and Ms Mehbooba Mufti owe answers for this inordinate delay . This question should be asked by the electorate of Ganderbal who have suffered immensely since the last 30 years at the hands of those leaders who considered them as their inherited property?" Bukhari said.

He said bids were won by the successful bidders for the new Ganderbal power project—announced over two decades ago-in September 2014. "Then why was this project not allotted by the then governments. If the project was okayed by PDC; the reasons for inordinate delay in its allotment can be gauged by anyone," he added.

Apni Party president also stated that after getting elected from this district, the MLAs would regrettably outsource their public mandate and appoint local chieftains to manage their duties. "After becoming Chief Ministers, the Ganderbal MLAs would become totally inaccessible to the people and leave their electorate at the mercy of their franchisees," he added.

Bukhari said that the people of district Ganderbal suffered huge brunt of this inaccessibility of their representatives and the gate-keeping introduced by them in the last three decades.

He said that those local chieftains who would manage the political affairs of Ganderbal MLAs have by now deserted their parties but the NC and PDP still believe that they can hoodwink the people by coining and raising new misleading slogans.

"Today is Thursday. So I want to remind the people of Ganderbal that didn't your MLAs promise you that they would spend every Thursday in district Ganderbal and would construct a small apartment to stay connected with you? Have they ever done so?" Bukhari asked.

Instead, he said that most of the developmental works in Ganderbal were managed through non-local intermediaries. "Some of them even grabbed local jobs and appointed outsiders. There was absence of local stake-holding in those works," he recalled.

Speaking on this occasion, Ghulam Hassan Mir, senior vice president of Apni Party, said that the economic base of Jammu and Kashmir has turned extremely weak because of the continued disturbances and now people need to wake up differentiate between the dreams and realities.

"J&K is almost dependent on central grantin-aid. However, there are huge opportunities in different sectors like hydropower generation, horticulture, transportation, tourism, sericulture, dairy products, food processing and real estate etc. But as a people we need to rise to the occasion and contribute in making the atmosphere conducive for private investment that will open new vistas for our youth," Mir said.

Apni Party Provincial President Kashmir Mohammad Ashraf Mir who also addressed the convention said that there is a dire need for a proper policy response from the government so that the confidence of the private investors is restored in J&K. "If we become successful in inviting private investments in J&K centers like Srinagar and Jammu and many other districts particularly Ganderbal would be turned into a hub for economic activities," Mir added.

The convention was also addressed by party leader Javed Ahmad Mir besides contesting candidates from district Ganderbal

KPDCL Begins ...

He added that the meters would remain there on trial basis for a month till the meters would arrive here for the installation. "Around 57000 smart meters will have to be installed soon, which will arrive here on a trial basis." Dar said.

Dar further added that he is not sure about the accurate date of the delivery of meters, but stated that these meters would arrive soon here.

About smart meters, the KPDCL Chief Engineer said that the consumer would not have to wait for billing now after the installation of smart meters and it would help the consumers to get aware about his everyday consumption.

Besides helping the consumers, the installation of smart meters would also help the department in identifying the consumers who are not using the electricity judiciously. "The department will be able to identify the people who are not cooperating with it," he said.

Pertinently, the government had stated that it will begin installing smart meters in twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar from November 15.

Sanctioned under Prime Minister Development Programme (PMDP) the government had announced that 20,000 meters would be installed in the twin cities in the first phase and the process would continue in a phased manner until all two lakh meters are installed. (KNO)

Despite BJP spokesperson said that plaint lot which has surfaced to strengthen BJP, RSS is apparently being facilitated by the administration in the ongoing DDC elections by circumventing all norms. He said in spite of that, people coming in large numbers to ensure that anti-Kashmir forces don't get a chance to play any mischief with the mandate in wake of any thin voting and "ubiquitous favouritism of administration towards BIP, its ilk".

"We are doing politics in extraordinary times,

never in history post 1996, has the government of India been so disinclined towards contesting candidates. Such an outlook is unheard of in an emancipated world and in the post independent India, where anyone who is participating in a democratic exercise is being intimidated and vilified," Omar, as per NC spokesperson said.

"On the other hand there are people who are working against the interests of Jammu and Kashmir. Considering the imminent threat people of J&k have made it a point to give a befitting reply to such forces which are working in the direction which are not in the interest of the nation in general and J&K in particular," he added.

The former CM further said that his party has given primacy to the interests of the people of J&K over its own interests only to ensure that realization that has dawned upon the political parties in J&K is able to endure the antagonism from BJP, its Team-B.

"Ditching all the allegations that it was the power that the party hankered for, our party president took a lead and cobbled an alliance for the restoration of restoration of J&K's identity," he said.

Party president knew that the movement we get splintered, our political adversaries in the shape of BJP, and its team of pliant stooges will get a free run to trade off all vital interests of people of J&K for petty political gains. It was in that perspective that the party sought to give primacy to PAGD and willing to give any sacrifice for the same in the future also, because we are not fighting for power," he added.

Omar further said that participating in DDC elections was part of the struggle for the restoration of "our rights which were spitefully annexed by the ruling BJP"

"We are fighting to see our state flag hoisted next to the national flag. Moreover, we aren't seeking anything outside the ambit of the country's constitution, we are fighting for the rights which are there in the constitution itself," he said.

He accused the "edgy" BJP of increasing its tirade against the PAGD leadership orchestrating false allegations against them and by employing various intimidating measures to dissuade the People's Alliance. He said having failed on its previous planks, BJP was now resorting to propping up the names of PAGD leadership in Roshni Act.

"A false perception is being sold about ROSHNI Scheme but how could it possibly be illegal when it was passed by the state legislature and also accorded concurrence by the then governor. In the spree of mounting tirade on PAGD, BJP fails to remember that it was the same governor's post which was callously, unconstitutionally and undemocratically used to dismember and disenfranchise the state. If we go by BJPs analogy, then all the measures which were carried out by the governor are principally illegal because it didn't even receive the assent of the state legislature," he said.

"Why is it that only PAGD is targeted? What about BJP's own members whose names in fact have propped up in the land grab? The names of one of its members, former speaker and the former deputy chief minister, as a point of fact have surfaced in illicit land grab in Jammu," he added.

The meeting, as per NC spokesperson was also attended by General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, Additional General Secretary Dr Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani, Senior leaders Mian Altaf Ahmed, Mubarak Gul, Agha Syed Mahmood, Irfan Shah, central Zone President Ali Muhammad Dar, Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar, Dr. Muhammad Shafi, political advisor to vice president Tanvir Sadiq, provincial secretary Showkat Ahmed Mir, vice provincial president Syed Tauqeer Ahmed, Spokesperson ImranNabi Dar, YNC PP Salman Ali Sagar, provincial president women's wing Er. Sabiya Qadri, Ahsan Pardesi, + Mudassar Shahmiri, Younis Gul, Ghulam Nabi Tailbali, Advocate Shabir Ahmed, Asiya Jameel and

HC Seeks ...

are being effected. Most of these are being sought and carried out by persons who have no right in the lands at all," the court had said, adding, "It is absolutely imperative to check this illegal activity as the unauthorized construction in this eco-fragile area is irreversibly damaging the environment. The damage is such that it cannot be compensated monetarily. Not only the present populace, but the generations to come will have to

pay the price for the environmental degradation." The court had directed that, in addition to the requirements made in the applicable law, all applications for sanction of building, construction, renovation or repairs in any building shall be accompanied by the an affidavit by the applicant that he / she is not in illegal occupation or possession of any public land/ forest land in the entire Jammu & Kashmir as well as Ladakh.

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

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

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

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

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

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

To Whom It May Concern

I, Mohamad Huzaifa Pandit, have lost my certifictes and am applying for the same.

If anyone has any objections please convey them to Police Post Chanapora on 01942439828 within seven days of this notice, following which no objection will be entertained.



Roshni Probe Will Net Big Fish: BJP

Where did Central funds go in past 70 years, J&K politicians have to answer: Zafar-ul-Islam

Srinagar: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesman and Rajya Sabha member Syed Zafar-ul- Islam Thursday said that the high level probe into the Roshni Scam will catch all big fish who grabbed government land illegally.

Addressing a press conference here, after visiting Shopian district of South Kashmir and Nagrota area of Jammu, Islam said that development has always been a dream for J&K people as all the previous regimes plundered the resources of this beautiful place just to fill their

"This is a beautiful place in India and Prime Minister Narendera Modi is committed towards the development of the people of J&K by all means. Development has been ignored by the previous regimes and the regional parties preferred to build their own assets rather than serving the common people," Islam said.

He said that he met Gujjar, Bakerval and other low strata income groups in Shopian, and Jammu, and all told him that previous governments' did nothing for their upliftment. "Since this area was disturbed, regional parties misused the funds that were pumped in by the Centre for the developed and spent the same for their personal interests,' the BJP MP said.

He said that the Central government is working on a model to regularize hundreds of daily wagers engaged by the previous governments' from time to time.

To a query about Roshini scheme, he said that politicians used this scheme for their own benefit and grabbed government land across J&K. "High level investigations are on and all big fish

will be caught soon. We are committed to zero tolerance for corruption. One has to be answerable as to where did the huge amount of funds meant for development, go," Islam said. "Fact is that Central funds meant for J&K's development were used by the politicians for building their own assets while common people were left to suffer and development remained a dream.

He said that PAGD alliance leaders are feeling unnerved as BJP fulfilled its commitment of completing the Panchayat Raj System in the J&K after over 70 years.

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

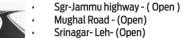
RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259



ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243

PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



CALENDAR

18 Rabi-us-Sani

1442

PRAYERS FAJR 5:50 **ZUHR** 12:17 **ASR** 3:45 Magrib 5:26 **ISHA** 6:49

This Day In History

1834 - First US dental society organized (NY). 1835 - First US mutual fire insurance company issues first

policy (Rhode Island). 1847 - Frederick Douglass publishes first issue of his news-

paper "North Star". 1854 - Eureka Stockade: In what is claimed by many to be

the birth of Australian democracy, more than 20 goldminers at Ballarat, Victoria, are killed by state troopers in an uprising over mining licences. 1863 - Confederate General James Longstreet abandons

his siege at Knoxville, TN. 1878 - Settlers arrive at Petach Tikvah, Israel

1910 - Neon lights first publicly displayed (Paris Auto

1912 - Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, Greece & Bulgaria sign weapons pact 1912 - First Balkan War: The Naval Battle of Elli takes

1917 - The Supreme Allied War Council, meeting at Ver-

sailles to define war aim, fails to reach an agreement. 1920 - Turkey & Armenia agree to peace treaty. 1922 - First successful technicolor movie (Tall of the Sea),

shown in NYC. 1934 - Italian colonial Tripoli & Cyrenaica annexed to Libya.

1943 - Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy begins. 1946 - US government asks UN to order dictator Franco

out of Spain.

1948 - Chinese refugee ship "Kiangya" explodes in E China

Sea killing 1,100. 1952 - Marcos Perez Jiménez elected president of Venezuela.

1956 - Bitain and France pull troops out of Egypt.

1965 - USSR launches Luna 8; it crashes on the Moon

1967 - 1st human heart transplant performed by Dr Christian Barnard in South Africa.

1967 - Former Indonesian president Sukarno placed under house arrest.

1971 - Indo-Pakistani War of 1971: India invades West Pakistan and a full scale war begins claiming hundreds of lives. 1973 - Pioneer 10 passes Jupiter (1st fly-by of an outer planet) [Dec 4-GMT].

1985 - 23rd Shuttle Mission (61-B)-Atlantis 2-lands at Edwards AFB.

1989 - Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George H. W. Bush, declare the Cold War over. 1991 - Hulk Hogan defeats Undertaker to become 4th time

WWF champion.

From KO Archives

35 Cops killed in highway mishap

Observer News Service

ammu: Thirty five policemen were feared dead when the bus they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell800 feet deep into the Chenab river at Battery Chashma near Ramban about 150 kilometres from here, this evening, a police spokesman said.

The bus was carrying 35 policemen, he said adding $27\,$ bodies had been recovered. The search for remaining bodies or survivors was on, he said.

The cause of the accident was being ascertained, he said adding the bus was on its way from Srinagar to Jammu. Army troops were called out to join the rescue operations, the spokes man added.

ONS adds from Srinagar: The bus bearing registrationno JK 02J 0667 and belonging to district police lines (DPL) here left about 3 p.m. along with regular 35 policemen led by sub-inspector Noor Muhammad on its way to Jammu where from they had to escort eight detenues from various jails like Kot Balwal to Srinagar, to present them in courts.

A DPL official told Observer News Service that this late evening the accident took place at 7.15 p.m. He said four policemen were required to escort each detenue. The ill fated bus had not been located yet, the officials.

Immediately after the report about the nasty accident reached here, senior police officials, including the inspector general of police, Dr Ashok Bhan, rushed to the police control room and met with the DPL staff. A pall of gloom descended on the complex with entire police heirarchy

Shocked. Talking to Observer News Service Dr Bhan expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of life in the accident. He said a party led by deputy superintendent of police had left here this evening to bring back bodies of the deceased.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 04 DECEMBER, 2000)

DIPR organizes cultural event on in Srinagar areas 'World Disability Day'

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 03: The Cultural Unit of Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) today organized a cultural programme cum Art competition on 'World Disability Day' in collaboration with White Globe (Behavioural Educational Assessment and Training

Centre) here. SSP Security, Nighat Aman, Deputy Mayor Parvez Qadri, Cultural Officer Kashmir, Riyaz Fazili and Parents Co-Association President Ghulam Mohammad war were among others present at the

During the program, theme based cultural events were presented by the

renowned artists. The artists through their dramas and plays urged everyone to encourage and respect the struggles of those with disabilities and emphasized upon them the importance of providing specially-abled with

equal opportunities. On the occasion, several children with special needs and other speakers also spoke and called attention to their struggles and commitment to meaningful life and the need for provision of equal opportunities to them.

Experts and the Rehabilitation Officers of the White Globe also addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of the day.

SDA carries out demolition drive

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Wing of Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) today carried out a demolition drive at Nowgam, Shalteng, Northern Bus Stand Parimpora and Batamaloo areas to retrieve illegally occupied SDA land.

The drive was conducted to retrieve encroachments by some unscrupulous elements that had carried out construction in 'no construction zone' at Nowgam, grabbed the SDA land illegally by way of fencing at Shalteng and dumping of Scrap at Batamaloo besides encroachment of SDA land by street vendors, cart vendors who were operating their business illegally along and inside Northern Bus Stand Parimpora.

The demolition drive was successfully executed and the original position was restored. Meanwhile, the SDA authorities have warned people residing within SDA jurisdiction to desist from undertaking illegal constructions or encroachments

DC Anantnag convenes **Covid-19 Task Force meeting**

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, K. K. Siddha, who is also Chairman Covid-19 District Task Force, today convened the first Task Force meeting to sensitize officers of all the line departments to work in mission mode for the possible vaccination of target groups.

The DC directed the concerned officers to plan and execute a comprehensive immunisation strategy on scientific lines along with proper monitoring and follow up in the event of possible introduction of Covid-19 vaccine in near future.

Siddha informed the members that in the first phase high risk groups will be vaccinated that include people above 60 years, all Health workers, police and other emergency services staff, people with Co-morbidities like Diabetes, CHD, cancer etc. He said for this a com-

prehensive data base of these groups will be established with active participation of Health, Police, ICDS, Social Welfare and other depart-The DC laid out a three

pronged strategy viz. proper planning, proper execution and proper monitoring to ensure effective and successful implementation of the immunisation programme.

He directed the health officials to submit detailed information of the existing logistics, cold chain facilities, vaccinators (both from Govt. and pvt. sector), vaccination points etc. along with the deficiencies where augmentation of the facilities is required.

Executive Engineer

STD Ganderbal.

Office Of The Assistant Regional **Transport Officer Budgam**

NOTICE

Where a application has been recieved from one. Shri :Younis Mohammad S/O: Gh. Mohammad Mir

R/o: Chana Mohalla Budgam

ance of duplicate driving license. D.L. No JK0420190004373 Dated: 24-07-2019 Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if

any to the issue of duplicate driving license in respect of D.L No JK0420190004373 Shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this news. No submission /request shall be entertained after the expiry of sipulated

> Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/BUDGAM.1944 Dated 03/12/2020

period of time.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION GANDERBAL

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

TEL: - 0194-2416178

EMAIL: EXENGINEER12@GMAIL.COM

EXTENSION NOTICE-6

Subject: - Extension of dates for e-NIT No.: - STD/GBL/22 of 2020-21 Dated: 03-10-2020, Replacement of Wooden/Undersized Poles with Steel Tubular poles of Various 33 KV Lines of District Ganderbal under Barbed Wire Scheme in respect of STD Ganderbal Due to the poor response to above quoted NIT the dates are hereby extended as per details given below:

Technical Bid Opening date 09-12-2020 Bid Submission End date Financial Bid Opening date Will be communicated to qualified bidders 04.00PM

Tender ID No: - 2020_PDD_106056_1 No: -STD/GBL/Ts/2232-35

Dated: -02-12-2020

DIPK-NB-4287/20

GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of Research Officer - PW (R&B) Department Road Research & Material Testing Laboratory (RRL&MTL):

Designs, Inspections & Quality Control (DIQC) - Srinagar, (J&K). Gogji Bagh-KGP Premises, Srinagar

ABBREVIATED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(e- NIT No: DIQCD/RR&MTL-SGR/01 OF 2020-21, Dated:- 01.12.2020)

For and on behalf of the LG UT of J&K, fresh e-tenders on Item Rate Basis are invited from the Principal Manufacturers/Licensed and Authorized Suppliers/Channel partners/Reputed Agencies/Registered firms, for the supply of Laboratory equipment /apparatus, as per the details/specifications in the relevant online BOQ/Bill of items document, associated with this e-notice, available at http://jktenders.gov.in. Complete process of tendering/bidding will be strictly online. The tender/bidding documents can be downloaded from the UT of J&K eprocurement portal/website http://jktenders.gov.in from 02.12.2020 starting at 10:00 A.M.

Any technical clarification with regards to supply of Laboratory equipment/apparatus shall be discussed/addressed to all potential bidders in pre-bid meeting in the Office of Research Officer, RR&MTL, DIQC, Gogji Bagh KGP Premises, Srinagar, J&K, on 07.12.2020, starting 12:00 a.m., as may be convenient to attend for potential bidders, from within or outside the UT of J&K.

The bids shall be deposited strictly in prescribed electronic format as available under above e-NIT reference at the website http://jktenders.gov.in, from 07.12.2020 to 30.12.2020, ending 4:00 P.M. All original/hard document copies of assorted nature, which have been specifically asked for submission under prequalification criterion, including EMD in the form of DD/ FDR/CDR, should strictly reach to the Office of Chief Engineer, Design Inspection and Quality Control Department, (J&K), Canal Road, Jammu-180001, on or before 30.12.2020 upto 4:00

The technical bids (only) of all potential bidders shall be opened online at J&K-NIC Office, Civil Secretariat, Jammu, or in the office of The Chief Engineer, Design Inspection and Quality Control Department, Canal Road, Bhagwati Nagar-Jammu (J&K), on or after 31.12-2020. This process shall be conveyed to the potential bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their respective e-mail ID's. After due online opening/evaluation of prequalification documents (Technical Bids) of all potential bidders, the information about successful bidders with respect to technical qualification shall be subsequently published/uploaded on the website http://jktenders.gov.in. The Financial bids, of all technically qualified potential bidders, shall be subsequently opened online at J&K-NIC Office- Jammu or in the office of the Chief Engineer: Design Inspection and Quality Control Department, Canal Road Bhagwati Nagar: Jammu (J&K)-180001.

> (Er Shazia Mushtag] Research Officer (I/C) Road Research & Material Testing Laboratory Designs, Inspection & Quality Control (DIQC)- Srinagar

No. RR&MTL/DIQCD/SGR/NIT/934-943 DIPK-9873/20

Dated:- 01-12-2020

Jammu & Kashmir **Road Transport Corporation**

E-TENDER NOTICE NO- 27 of 2020-21 dated:01-12-2020

E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of Managing Director JKRTC from Government of India Oil companies having their stock yards in J&K for supply of following specified lubricants to JKRTC on Rate Contract basis for a period up to 31-03-2021.

S.NO	Description	Specification	Tentative Qty. required up to 31- 03-2021
1	Engine Oil	API CI 4 PLUS-15W40 (HPNO:IDBMB228.3	8000 litters
2	Transmission Oil	ÀI GL4/EP 90	3000 litters
3	Transmission Oil	AI GL4/EP 140	2000 litters
		AI GLS/SAE 80W90	1000 litters
4 5		AI GLS/SAE 85W140	2000 litters
6	Power Steering Oil	ATF A	1000 litters
6 7		Lithium Base NLGI 1	3000 Kg's
8	Radiator Coolant	JISK 2234-94	2000 Litters
8 9	Grease	RR3	1000 Kg's
10	Grease	MP NLGI 3	500 Kg's
11	Grease	MP NLGI 2	500 Kg's
12	Brake Fluid	DOT 3	200 litters
13		DOT 4	100 litters

The participating firms are required to submit the hard copy in separate sealed envelops

in the following manner. Technical bid --- Envelop i

> Price bid Envelop ii

The Technical bid shall contain Registration Certificate, GST number, tender fee in the form of demand draft and security deposit in the form of EMD. The tender documents, eligibility criteria, set of terms and Conditions and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website www. iktenders.gov.infrom 02-12-2020 to 21-12-2020 up to 4.00 PM. The tenders should be accompanied with demand draft of Rs.1000/- as tender fee (Non refundable) and EMD of Rs.1,00,000.00 @ 2% of the total estimated cost in the shape of CDR/FDR from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank, pledged to FA&CAO, JKRTC without which the tendershall be rejected out rightly.

No:-JKSRTC/GM/P&S/RC-79(A)/11719 Dated:-01/12/2020.

DIPK-NB-4301/20

Sd/-General Manager (P&S) **JKRTC**

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Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

Reviving tourism

very year as the winter sets in and snow falls, Kashmir looks forward to tourists. But for the past two winters such hopes have been belied. Right from February 2019 when Pulwama bombing that killed 40 CRPF security personnel triggered Indo-Pak skirmishes, tourism in the Valley has been in a freefall. The revocation of Article 370 in August last year did further damage. It evacuated Kashmir of all tourists. On August 3, two days before scrapping of Article 370, the tourists fled Kashmir. The flight followed a government order calling upon tourists and the pilgrims to the annual Amarnath pilgrimage to cut down their visit and leave the Valley within 24 hours. The Government buses were pressed into service to ferry tourists and pilgrims from across the Valley and rush them to Srinagar airport and bus terminals to facilitate their exit. Within following two days, Kashmir was empty of all the outsiders, something that inflicted a crippling blow on the state's tourism industry during its peak season. Hotels which until then had enjoyed 80 percent occupancy turned into ghost houses, among them premium hotels in famous scenic resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam whose rooms go for as much as Rs 25000 a night in the peak season.

This winter again, the local administration is looking forward to revive the stalled tourism activity in the region. And to this end, the tour and travel operators from Maharashtra were recently brought to initiate an 'Unlock Kashmir Tourism Campaign'. Around 70 travel operators along with some writers and journalists from Mumbai visited Kashmir and travelled to many scenic spots. According to tourism department the delegation will spread the good word about Kashmir.

But would this time round tourists come? Depends how the situation evolves. Covid-19 pandemic remains a dampener though. With the country bracing for a third wave of infection, the situation could go back to square one. But there's one good possibility though. International travel will take a long way to return to normal. This, in a sense, offers tourist places like Kashmir some hope. Indian tourists who can't visit abroad, can visit the Kashmir within the country.

Tourism sector forms 6.8 percent of Kashmir's GDP and employs 2 million people. But the seven month siege following erasure of the region's autonomy followed by Covid-19 pandemic, the sector is in bad shape. A significant number of people associated with it have either been laid off or are in the process of losing their jobs. Here's hoping that this winter the tourism picks up. This will go a long way to shore up the Valley's battered economy.

OTHER OPINON

BTech in mother tongues

he present Indian government is constituted of experts in all fields. Else it would be difficult to account for the education ministry's announcement that the Indian Institutes of Technology and National Institutes of Technology will offer BTech courses in the mother tongue besides English from 2021. This is, ostensibly, to make the course accessible to those without an English medium education. It does not matter that academics associated with advanced technical education insist that selecting meritorious students from non-English medium backgrounds is not difficult, and that they subsequently follow their lessons perfectly well. Instead, the government is busy imposing enormous odds on the institutes. Text books and technical terminology in regional languages are rare, and students will also need reference works. How can so much be translated — if possible at all — in so short a time? Where are teachers trained in teaching engineering in the regional languages to come from? The government has defined 'mother tongue' as the chief language of the state in which an IIT or NIT is situated. Surely one language for all is less discriminatory than that? The institutes would have to add 50 seats for regional language-medium students, although the increase in capacity is being ordered with no hint of fund sources.

Practical aspects apart, the announcement indicates the government's indifference to the notion of academic freedom. The opinion of teachers or of the institutes' policymaking bodies was not sought. It may be a coincidence that regional language teaching in the highest technological spheres has long been a goal of the Rashtriva Swavamsevak Sangh. In spite of some directors agreeing that this is possible, even if in the long run, most professors have expressed alarm at not just the loss of brand value of their institutions, but also the limiting of the

Telegraph India



Pandemic Profiteers

ALAN MACLEOD

he world is abuzz today after a team of medical researchers from Oxford University in the United Kingdom announced that coronavirus vaccine is a roaring success, with the vaccine possibly being rolled out before Christmas. Testing was done on 24,000 volunteers in the U.K, Brazil, and South Africa, with an average effectiveness of over 70%. However, when the vaccine was administered as a half dose, then patients were later given a full one, effectiveness increased to 90%. Encouragingly, there were no serious side effects registered among any of the volunteers, none of whom had to go to the hospital as a result of being immunized. The U.K. government has already ordered 100 million doses

Professor Andrew Pollard, Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group and chief investigator of the experiment, was delighted, stating that,

These findings show that we have an effective vaccine that will save many lives. Excitingly, we've found that one of our dosing regimens may be around 90 percent effective, and if this dosing regimen is used, more people could be vaccinated with planned vaccine supply. Today's announcement is only possible thanks to the many volunteers in our trial, and the hard working and talented team of researchers based around the world."

Even better news is that the Oxford team developed the breakthrough vaccine with the explicit intention of supplying it around the world on a not-for-profit basis, meaning that the poorest nations on the planet will not have to worry about being shut out of a cure due to lack of funds. This was certainly not the case with other solutions developed by the likes of Moderna or Pfizer, Indeed, the world's richest countries had already bought up the majority of their COVID-19 vaccines, whose secrets were being closely guarded, rather than shared widely to help the rest of humanity.

Large scale manufacturing of the vaccine has already begun in ten countries, according to a press release from the University of Oxford. "Today marks an important milestone in our fight against the pandemic. This vaccine's efficacy and safety confirm that it will be highly effective against CO-VID-19 and will have an immediate impact on this public health emergency," said

Pascal Soriot of AstraZeneca, a bioresearch company that partnered with the 924-year-old educational institution on development and testing. "Furthermore, the vaccine's simple supply chain and our no-profit pledge and commitment to broad, equitable and timely access means it will be affordable and globally available supplying hundreds of millions of doses on approval."

Good for people, bad for profits

Today's good news will doubtless challenge corporate pharma's profit margins (Moderna's share price has more than quintupled since the beginning of the year), but it also challenges corporate pharma's logic and justification for high drug prices in the first place.

The pharmaceutical industry argues that

pharmaceutical

industry argues that research and development are extremely expensive, that market competition and profit breed innovation, and is the only way to ensure new drugs are developed. Yet examples like the Oxford and the four separate Cuban vaccines in development suggest that this logic is faulty, at best

research and development are extremely expensive, that market competition and profit breed innovation, and is the only way to ensure new drugs are developed. Yet examples like the Oxford and the four separate Cuban vaccines in development suggest that this logic is faulty, at best.

"This should really encourage some rethinking of biomedical research, as should the Moderna vaccine," Dean Baker, senior economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research told Mint-Press today.

could only get good drug development with the lure of a patent monopoly. The Moderna case is noteworthy because, basically the government paid the full cost of developing the drug upfront. We did also give them patent monopolies, but since the government already paid for the research, this was a handout to the company.'

In reality, a huge amount of medical research is actually paid for by the taxpayer, as Baker has already shown, only becoming the intellectual property of private corporations once it is profitable.

More advantages

Apart from their willingness to share it with the world freely, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine has other benefits over its competitors. Firstly, they aim to make and sell it for \$3-4 per shot, rather than the \$20 Pfizer charges, or the \$25 for Moderna's offering. Oxford and AstraZeneca have committed to selling the vaccine to developing countries at cost price. And unlike the costlier Pfizer vaccine, it does not have to be stored at -94 degrees Fahrenheit but can be kept in an ordinary refrigerator, making its storage and distribution straightforward everywhere. Further trials of the vaccine involving 60,000 people in the United States, Kenya, Japan, and India are ongoing.

The vaccine is based on a weakened version of a common cold virus and that has been genetically engineered so that it cannot grow in humans. "What we've always tried to do with a vaccine is fool the immune system into thinking that there's a dangerous infection there that it needs to respond to — but doing it in a very safe way,'

explained Professor Pollard. "So we get the immune response and we get the immune memory ... waiting and ready if the pathogen itself is then encountered.'

An inglorious history

Many will be relieved that an alternative offering to the ones on offer from Pfizer and Moderna has been green-lighted, although suspicion of vaccines remains high, with only 58% of Americans stating that they would be willing to receive a free, FDA-approved shot when the time comes. This, despite the fact that well over 12.5 million Americans have already tested positive for COV-ID-19, and over 262,000 deaths have been recorded.

Part of the problem is doubtless due to companies like Pfizer's inglorious history. In 2011, for example, the company finally agreed to pay compensation to families of 11 Nigerian children who were killed in a meningitis trial where the pharmaceutical giant did not gain their parents' consent to use experimental drugs on them. Two years later, Pfizer was forced to pay half a billion dollars in fines over a false and misleading marketing campaign and \$55 million to victims who claimed it did not warn them about the risks involved in taking its acid reflux drug Protonix. And last year, 44 states came together to file a civil lawsuit in a federal court against the giant, accusing it of "one of the most egregious and damaging price-fixing conspiracies in the history of the United States.

AstraZeneca, the British/Swedish multinational partnering with Oxford University, is far from blameless itself, however. Over the v it has been convicted of falsely advertising its products, releasing, overcharging Medicare and private insurance companies, and of carrying out shockingly sexist employment practices.

While investors have forgiven the company for these transgressions, it appears that they are more shocked by the news of a not-for-profit COVID vaccine. Today, the company's share price slid by two percent following the announcement of the vaccine's effectiveness.

Baker suggested that the story of the Oxford vaccine should serve as an example of how a more efficiently and sanely organized healthcare system could look like, telling MintPress that,

The Oxford vaccine is even more striking, since the point was to pay researchers, but not to rely on patent monopolies to generate large profits. We ended up with a cheaper, better vaccine, in the sense that it is much easier to store and distribute. It would be great if we could take away some lessons from the experience of vaccine development in this crisis and get away from the antiquated patent monopoly mechanism for financing research.

Yet with both major parties vigorously opposing Medicare-for-All, even through a worldwide pandemic, it is unlikely that this will cause a major rethink in elite circles, at least. Nevertheless, in a year that has given the world so little to smile about, this new breakthrough is undoubtedly good news.

Mint Press



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Review Power Cut Schedule

have already kicked in and mercury has seen a drastic dip from past one month. This season in Jammu and Kashmir is challenging and harsh. Electricity plays a major role in heating homes and work places in such a situation. One would expect the electricity supply to be increased by the administration but on the contrary the power cuts have increased by hours at the onset of the winter.

With temperature plunging to sub-zero degrees in major parts, the situation becomes more challenging and severe due to the Covid-19 outbreak. People having respiratory health issues already face health related problems during the winter and Covid-19 cases are also peaking.

The oxygen concentrators used by people who've opted to get treated at home, require a constant supply

of electricity. These days we have a situation where oxygen saturation is dropping in patients posing a risk of life to them; the power cuts in such an urgency becomes criminal and unjustified. Everyone cannot afford inverters and generators. This makes the situation worse for people from economically underprivileged families.

Jammu and Kashmir has a potential of producing 16575 MW of electricity according to CEA (Central Electrical Authority). It's already harnessing a total of 3263.46MW of electricity from rivers like Jhelum, Chenab and Indus. The electricity produced on our resources is sold to other states while keeping us in the dark. The administration needs to review the power cut schedule and customise it to the conditions more convenient for winters so that people don't suffer.

Saddam Sehr imu3133@gmail.com

Dungeons of Dowry

Asiya Wani

Many people consider giving dowry as a symbol of social status and recognition for themselves. Under this arrangement, a woman is treated as a product. This custom reduces women to commodities and has skewed standards to put a price on women.

'ndia is one of the most religiously and ethnically diverse nations in the world, with some of the most deeply religious societies and cultures. There are many beliefs and rituals that people are following from a very long period of time and these rituals have changed into social evils, which include caste system, poverty, dowry system, gender discrimination, domestic violence, illiteracy etc. These social evils have made the progress of India go down. Nowadays, people are not judged on the basis of their good qualities but on the basis of caste, gender, education and status. The dominating mentality of some men still exists in society and they always try to dominate women. The social superstitions, blind beliefs and other backward customs not only create barriers but also destroy the hopes of women.

Dowry or Dahej is one of the deep rooted social evils, which has become a barrier to lead a normal life for women. Dowry system has become a social norm and it is a great problem for society and for women as well. It is the oldest social malady or disease in Indian sub continent.

Many people consider giving dowry as a symbol of social status and recognition for themselves. Under this arrangement, a woman is treated as a product. This custom reduces women to commodities and has skewed standards to put a price on women.

Dowry system has destroyed morality, humanity and conscience of people. If the family of the bride does not pay the fixed amount of money to the groom's family in time, the family of the groom starts torturing physically the helpless bride. Sometimes, the dowry greedy family tries to burn alive the ill-fated bride by pouring fuel like petroleum and sometimes they also throw acid on the bride. Due to the cruel dowry system, many women have lost their lives. Poverty plays an important role in dowry system. The daughters of poor families suffer more than those of rich families. Poor parents are unable to meet the demands of the family of the groom.

Under section 3 of the dowry prohibition act, taking or giving dowry is a serious crime and illegal. Due to dowry system in Indian societies many other social evils have taken birth. Girl children are neglected, sex – selective abortion is also the main result of dowry system. Many parents don't spend money to teach their girl child as they think they have to pay this money in the future when their daughter will get married. Though many people have opposed this system but yet it has spread its roots deep down in the society.

Some Reported Cases

A young 27 year old PhD scholar from Delhi



committed suicide because her in – laws were not okay with her continuing studies. A flight attendant Anissa Batra from Delhi who jumped off her terrace, her parents say, was tortured emotionally for dowry. India has an alarming trend that sees 20 women die every day as a result of harassment over dowry, either murdered or compelled to commit suicide.

Not more than 16 days of the year 2020 had passed, Bengaluru, the Silicon Valley of India, reported 17 cases of abuse and death of women for dowry. In one of the cases reported in Bangalore in January 2020, a few weeks after marriage, a husband demanded cash despite receiving 1 kg gold in dowry as per his demands. When the extra demand was denied, he burnt his wife.

In some cases, to escape the punishment by law, the husband and his family do not kill the woman directly but harass her mentally and physically forcing her to commit suicide. A similar case was reported in Kerala last year when a 27 year old woman was starved to death by her in -laws because their demand of two lakhs in dowry was not met. National crime bureau of India recently during 2017 recorded nearly 700 dowry linked deaths.

The number of cases filed under the Dowry prohibition Act witnessed a rise from 690 in 2018 to 739 in 2019. The number had stood at 727 in 2017. The number of dowry deaths saw a jump from 48 in 2018 to 52 in 2019, though 2017 2018 and 2019 saw an average of more than two cases a day.

Dowry is complete injustice with women and does not give women equal status in society. To eradicate this dowry system we have to educate our daughters, encourage them to have their own career, teach them to be independent, treat them equally without any discrimination and don't encourage the practice of giving or taking dowry. Strict actions should be taken against people who demand dowry from their brides. Parents should guide their male children right from childhood not to demand dowry from their wives. Government should frame strict laws against dowry and the people who violate the laws should be punished. The educational institutes should organise conferences and seminars to aware the students about the menace of dowry system.

The author can be reached at asiyawani3041987@gmail.com

Lack Of Women In Cybersecurity

Nir Kshetri

omen are highly underrepresented in the field of cybersecurity. In 2017, women's share in the U.S. cybersecurity field was 14%, compared to 48% in the general workforce.

The problem is more acute outside the U.S. In 2018, women accounted for 10% of the cybersecurity workforce in the Asia-Pacific region, 9% in Africa, 8% in Latin America, 7% in Europe and 5% in the Middle East.

Women are even less well represented in the upper echelons of security leadership. Only 1% of female internet security workers are in senior management positions.

I study online crime and security issues facing consumers, organizations and nations. In my research, I have found that internet security requires strategies beyond technical solutions. Women's representation is important because women tend to offer viewpoints and perspectives that are different from men's, and these underrepresented perspectives are critical in addressing cyber risks.

Perception, awareness and bias

The low representation of women in internet security is linked to the broader problem of their low representation in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. Only 30% of scientists and engineers in the U.S. are women.

The societal view is that internet security is a job that men do, though there is nothing inherent in gender that predisposes men to be more interested in or more adept at cybersecurity. In addition, the industry mistakenly gives potential employees the impression that only technical skills matter in cybersecurity, which can give women the impression that the field is overly technical or even boring.

Women are also generally not presented with opportunities in information technology fields. In a survey of women pursuing careers outside of IT fields, 69% indicated that the main reason they didn't pursue opportunities in IT was because they were unaware of them.

Organizations often fail to try to recruit women to work in cybersecurity. According to a survey conducted by IT security company Tessian, only about half of the respondents said that their organizations were doing enough to recruit women into cybersecurity roles

Gender bias in job ads further discourages women from applying. Online cybersecurity job ads often lack gender-neutral language.

Good security and good business

Boosting women's involvement in information security makes both security and business sense. Female leaders in this area tend to prioritize important areas that males often overlook. This is partly due to their backgrounds. Forty-four percent of women in



Attracting more women to the cybersecurity field requires a range of efforts. Cybersecurity job ads should be written so that female professionals feel welcome to apply. Recruitment efforts should focus on academic institutions with high female enrollment.

information security fields have degrees in business and social sciences, compared to 30% of men.

Female internet security professionals put a higher priority on internal training and education in security and risk management. Women are also stronger advocates for online training, which is a flexible, low-cost way of increasing employees' awareness of security issues.

Female internet security professionals are also adept at selecting partner organizations to develop secure software. Women tend to pay more attention to partner organizations' qualifications and personnel, and they assess partners' ability to meet contractual obligations. They also prefer partners that are willing to perform independent security tests.

Increasing women's participation in cybersecurity is a business issue as well as a gender issue. According to an Ernst & Young report, by 2028 women will control 75% of discretionary consumer spending worldwide. Security considerations like encryption, fraud detection and biometrics are becoming important in consumers' buying decisions. Product designs require a trade-off between cybersecurity and usability. Female cybersecurity professionals can make better-informed decisions about such trade-offs for products that are targeted at female customers.

Attracting women to cybersecurity

Attracting more women to cybersecurity

Attracting more women to cybersecurity re-

quires governments, nonprofit organizations, professional and trade associations and the private sector to work together. Public-private partnership projects could help solve the problem in the long run.

One example is Israel's Shift community, previously known as the CyberGirlz program, which is jointly financed by the country's Defense Ministry, the Rashi Foundation and Start-Up Nation Central. It identifies high school girls with aptitude, desire and natural curiosity to learn IT and and helps them develop those skills.

The girls participate in hackathons and training programs, and get advice, guidance and support from female mentors. Some of the mentors are from elite technology units of the country's military. The participants learn hacking skills, network analysis and the Python programming language. They also practice simulating cyber-attacks to find potential vulnerabilities. By 2018, about 2,000 girls participated in the CyberGirlz Club and the CyberGirlz Community.

In 2017, cybersecurity firm Palo Alto Networks teamed up with the Girl Scouts of the USA to develop cybersecurity badges. The goal is to foster cybersecurity knowledge and develop interest in the profession. The curriculum includes the basics of computer networks, cyberattacks and online safety.

Professional associations can also foster interest

in cybersecurity and help women develop relevant knowledge. For example, Women in Cybersecurity of Spain has started a mentoring program that supports female cybersecurity professionals early in their careers.

Some industry groups have collaborated with big companies. In 2018, Microsoft India and the Data Security Council of India launched the CyberShikshaa program in order to create a pool of skilled female cybersecurity professionals.

Some technology companies have launched programs to foster women's interest in and confidence to pursue internet security careers. One example is IBM Security's Women in Security Excelling program, formed in 2015.

Attracting more women to the cybersecurity field requires a range of efforts. Cybersecurity job ads should be written so that female professionals feel welcome to apply. Recruitment efforts should focus on academic institutions with high female enrollment. Corporations should ensure that female employees see cybersecurity as a good option for internal career changes. And governments should work with the private sector and academic institutions to get young girls interested in cybersecurity.

Increasing women's participation in cybersecurity is good for women, good for business and good for society.

By arrangements with the conversaion





"These findings have an immediate relevance as we enter the winter period: we have a flu vaccine available, and the likelihood of a Covid-19 vaccine in the near future'

urvivors from a wide range of cancers are more likely than people in the general population to be hospitalised or die from seasonal influenza even several years after their cancer diagnosis, warn researchers, including one of Indian-origin.

The study, published in the journal EClinicalMedicine, suggests that cancer survivors are also likely to be at higher risk of severe Covid-19 outcomes.

The research team from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), analysed medical records from 1990 to 2014 of more than 630,000 people in the UK, including over 100,000 survivors of a range of cancers.

Comparing the rates of influenza hospitalisation and death between

cancer survivors and the cancer-free population, they found that the risk of these outcomes was more than nine times higher in survivors from lymphomas, leukaemia, and multiple myeloma, compared to those with no prior cancer.

Crucially, this raised risk persisted for at least 10 years after cancer diagnosis.

Despite the risks being raised compared to the general population, the absolute risks of developing severe flu were still relatively low, with about 1 in 1000 survivors of these types of cancer

hospitalised with flu each year. Survivors from other types of cancer also had more than double the risk of severe influenza outcomes for up to five years from diagnosis.

These findings persisted even after accounting for other suspected risk

factors such as old age, smoking, socioeconomic status, body mass index and other illnesses.

The researchers also found that cancer survivors were more likely to have other diseases that are associated with increased risk of severe Covid-19 outcomes, such as heart disease, diabetes, respiratory disease and kidney disease.

"These findings have an immediate relevance as we enter the winter period: we have a flu vaccine available, and the likelihood of a Covid-19 vaccine in the near future," said study author Krishnan Bhaskaran from LSHTM.

"Understanding how vaccination should be prioritised to protect the most vulnerable will be crucial over the next few months," Bhaskaran noted.

Study suggests parents shouldn't worry about their baby's inconsistent sleep patterns



ew parents often expect their baby to start sleeping through the night around the time they reach six months of age. But according to a new study led by McGill Professor Marie-Helene Pennestri, parents should view sleep consolidation as a process, instead of a milestone to be achieved at a specific age. Tracking 44 infants over a period of two weeks, she found that sleeping patterns vary greatly - not only for different babies but also from night to night for the same baby.

In the study published in Sleep Medicine, researchers asked mothers to keep a sleep diary about their six-monthold infant for two weeks. On average, mothers reported that their infant slept 6 hours consecutively for about 5 nights out of a two-week period, and 8 consecutive hours for about 3 nights out of the same period. Half of the infants, however, never slept 8 hours consecutively.

"Although previous research has shown that infants start sleeping through the night at different stages of development, little is known about individual sleep patterns night after night," says Marie-Ĥelene Pennestri, who is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology at McGill University and researcher at the Hospital en sante mentale Riviere-des-Prairies (CIUSSS-NIM).

Effects of breastfeeding and co-sleeping

The researchers also found that some parental practices were related to variability in sleep patterns. For example, breastfeeding and co-sleeping were associated with more variability in sleep patterns from night to night. While this finding is consistent with many studies, the researchers note that other factors could explain this occurrence. For instance, mothers who are breastfeeding and co-sleeping are more likely to observe their infant's night awakenings, even though these awakenings are not necessarily problematic or disturbing.

"Parents are often exposed to a lot of contradictory information about infant sleep. They shouldn't worry if their baby doesn't sleep through the night at a specific age because sleep patterns differ a lot in infancy," says Pennestri. She also notes that parents and clinicians should both be aware that occasional sleeping through the night does not necessarily indicate a consolidation of this behaviour.

"One important piece of the puzzle is expectations of infant sleep. In future research, we hope to explore what 'sleeping through the night' really means to them," says Pennestri. –Agencies

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.H.E. MECHANICAL DIVISION (NORTH) SOPORE

E-TENDER

NIT No: PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-25 of 2020-21

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed e-tenders in two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/genuine manufacturer/authorized distributors/dealers/workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

	Cost of tender document (Rate in Rs)	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)		Validity of offer	Time of completion	Position of funds
Various mechanical and electrical works to be carried out at WSS Sulkoot Kupwara	Rs 500.00	Rs 08.946	Rs 17,900.00	120 Days		Approved under Water Quality
Various electrical and mechanical works to be carried for WSS Kanthpora	Rs 600.00	Rs 10.676	Rs 21,400.00	do		Approved under NABARD
Various electrical and mechanical works to be carried for pumping of water from Dug well to clear water sump of WSS Augmentation Badibera		Rs 14.975	Rs 30,000.00	do		Approved under NRDWP
		Rs 7.989	Rs 16,000.00	do		Available under Languishing Proiects
Various electrical and mechanical works to be carried out at WSS Rakhi Gundimachar	Rs 300.00	Rs 5.428	Rs 10,900.00	do	do	do

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website https://jktenders.gov.in from 02-12-2020 (10:00 am).

submitted in electronic format on the website https://jktenders.gov.in 02-12-2020 (10:00 am) to 17-12-2020 (6:55 pm). The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the time and date, in the office of the Executive Engineer, P.H.E. Mechanical Division (North) Sopore in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue.

The complete bidding shall be online. Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, P.H.E. Mechanical Division (North) Sopore on 18-12-2020 at 3:00 pm after which the Financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened on the same day. The pre-bid meeting regarding clarification shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer P.H.E. Mechanical Division (North) Sopore on 10-12-2020 (11:00 am). The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

No. PHE/MDNS/DB/2401-08 Dated: 01-12-2020

INVITATION:-

DIPK-9868/20

Executive Engineer P.H.E Mechanical Division (North)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Fresh NIT No-188 of RnB-Sopore of 2020-2021 e-tendering DATED- 03 .12. 2020.

For and on behalf of theLt. Governor, J&K e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.	Name of Work	Est.	Cost of	Earnest	Time of	Time &	Class of	Major Head	Position
No.		Cost	T/ DOC	Money	Comple-	Date			of AAA
		(Rs. In Lacs)	(In Ru- pees)	(In Rupees)	tion In days	of Opening of Bid	tor		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
01	Upgradation of Botangoo Muqam	4.80 lacs	200/-	9600/	15 days		DEE		Accorded
	Shaheed Mir road and Watlab Ghat road incl. inner links of Botan- goo (Padshahi Mohalla link road					10.12 2020		Languishing	
) by way of providing and laying Nallah muck								

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

	-	_		
C	01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice		03.12.2020
		Period of downloading of bidding documents	From	03.12.2020(10.00A.M) to 09-12-2020 (4.00P.M)
		Bid submission start date		03.12.2020from (10.00A.M)
		Bid submission end date		09 -12 -2020upto (4.00 P.M)
		Date & time of opening Bids (on line)		10 -12-2020 at (11.00 A.M) in the Office of the Executive
		,	Engine	er R&B Division Sopore

It is compulsory for bidders to upload the additional performance security deposit in advance while uploading the bid process as

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Chillan in favour of Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to tender receiving authority Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jketenders.gov.in and conveyed

to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority). The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NIT No:1 of 2020-21 issued under No;-1-20 dated: 01.4.2020 PWD form (Double agreement form) and NIT1457 of 2020-21

If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

For and on behalf of the,

Executive Engineer, **R&B Division Sopore**

10567-87 DIPK-9905/20 Dated:-

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING **ENGINEER O&M KPDCL Circle Sopore**

Fax No:-01954-222321 email:-senmrekmr@yahoo.com,semrespr\@gmail.com NIT No.-SE-N/ 07 / Sopore of 2020-21 Dated: 28/11/2020

TENDER INVITING NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from registered A or B class Electrical Contractors registered with J&K state Government, Central Public Works Department, Railways and other state or central governments or any other relevant Government agency enlisted with CPWD,MES, Railway, DGBRO of appropriate class, for Replacement of Damaged LT Cables with New XLPE LT Cables and MCCB of Distribution Transformer fed from 11KV Pilot feeders (Model Town, Samad, Seeloo, Sopore II, Pattan) of Electric Division Sopore under T&D Loss Reduction Scheme as per terms, conditions, technical specifications, Drawings and schedules forming part of this tender document. Intending bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexures forming part of this tender document

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

The tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

Α	Date & Time of down loading of Standard Bidding Document	30th of November 2020 ; 04:00 pm
В	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	03 rd of December 2020 ; 12:00 pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	19th of December 2020 ; 04:00 pm
D	Clarifications start date	30 th of November 2020 ; 12:00 pm
E	Clarifications end date	09 th of December 2020 : 12:00 pm
F	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and	09 th of December 2020 ; 12:00 pm
	other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	· · ·
G	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and	19th of December 2020; 04:00 pm
	other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	
Н	Online Bid opening and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	21th of December 2020 : 04:00 pm
I	Online financial e-Bid opening date and time (Only of the commercial &	Will be communicated online to the commercial and
	technical qualified bidders)	technical qualified bidders after evaluation of Technical Bid
J	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of Superintending Engineer O&M Circle Sopore
K	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.1000.00 (Rupees one Thousand only) (Non-refundable)
L	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.280000.00
M	Estimated amount	INR Rs 140.00 lacs

The Successful bidder need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through Demand Draft (Preferably State Bank of India/J&K Bank) pledged to adding Engineer O&M circle Sopore, payable at Sopore. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original Demand Draft / tender fee receipt should reach to the office of Office of Superintending Engineer O&M Circle Sopore before opening of financial bid.

4. The bidder has to upload the successful completion certificates of three completed works duly verified by the DDO / Executive agencies along with the details of the works currently under execution. The certificates to the effect that the bidder has completed the work to the satisfaction of the department and is not a defaulter.

The user (KPDCL) will be at liberty to distribute 40% of the work among L2,L3 OR others on the rates of L1 The Quantity Mentioned in the BOQ may vary around 30% ().

copy shall be used only for reference purpose. Any documents submitted in hard copy but not uploaded on the website shall be treated as irrelevant

The Department has the right to place the order in piecemeal or in one go. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only, pledged to the Superintending Engineer O&M Circle Sopore. No Interest

An ink signed and stamped hard copy of the complete SBD document including Tender Fee, Earnest Money Deposit, Technical Specifications, Drawing and Schedules is required to be

submitted along with Bid documents to the Office of Superintending Engineer O&M Circle Sopore by Registered post/Courier/By Hand from the bidder before opening of financial bids.

10. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://jktenders.gov.in. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site at Office of Superintending Engineer O&M Circle Sopore

The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent venience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding

In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the

All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOO should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOO should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD. To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

16. An ink signed and stamped hard copy of the complete SBD document including Technical Specifications, Drawing and Schedules is required to be submitted along with Bid documents to the Office of superintending Engineer O&M Circle Sopore by Registered post/Courier/By Hand from the bidder before opening of financial bids.
 17. The name of the bidder and NIT No. shall be clearly written on the cover of ink signed copy.

It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents. For evaluation purposes the uploaded offer documents will be treated as authentic and final. The hard Superintending Enginee

NO: SE-N/TS/1991-95

DIPK-NB-4333/20



Afghanistan Counts Days For Milestone Opening Of Iran Railway Link

Δgencie

Tehran: Iranian and Afghan flags flutter in the air as workers lay the track at a section of the Khaf-Herat railway, connecting Iran and Afghanistan.

A 200 km railway line, long touted as the sole viable option to build Afghanistan's economy, will come to operation in the next couple of weeks, connecting the Afghan city of Herat to Mashhad in Iran and on to Turkey.

Afghanistan has almost no functioning railways, where there is less than 25 km of track in the entire country. The Afghan section of the Khaf-Herat railway built with Iran includes 114 km of track which will open a new chapter in domestic freight and passenger transportation. It will reduce

the current Iranian month in about two weeks, Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami said last week.

"With the opening of the railway line, easier conditions have been created for the transportation of goods, so we hope that this issue will have positive effects on trade between Iran and Afghanistan," head of Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce Hossein Salimi said Tuesday.

"Freight transportation by train to Afghanistan will cost exporters less than freight transportation by truck, while delays in freight transportation by truck, such as delays at customs and delays in transporting goods from Iranian trucks to Afghan trucks will decrease," he added.



the cost of moving goods across the region to a fraction of that of highway transport.

The railway will stretch to Chabahar in southeast Iran, boosting Afghanistan's trade and bringing in its mining sector from the cold to exploit billions of dollars in untapped mineral reserves.

High ranking officials from Iran and Afghanistan will gather at their joint border to open the line by the end of According to Salimi, Iran's exports to Afghanistan are estimated to reach \$2.7 billion by the end of the current Persian year in March 2021.

Afghanistan under occupation

Afghanistan remains one of the world's poorest countries, some 19 years after the US invasion. Its main products are dried and fresh fruits, and carpets, which amount to a fraction of illegal opium esti-

Azerbaijan says 2,783 soldiers killed in Nagorno-Karabakh clashes

Agencies

Baku: Azerbaijan has said that 2,783 of its soldiers were killed during its conflict with ethnic Armenian forces over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and that more than 100 of its troops were still missing.

Azerbaijan had until Thursday not disclosed any of its military losses in the conflict that erupted on September 27 and came to a halt on November 10 when a Russian-brokered peace deal ushered in a ceasefire.

Swaths of territory in Nagorno-Karabakh previously controlled by ethnic Armenians were handed over to Azerbaijan, whose forces had captured territory including areas that Baku lost in an earlier war in the 1990s.

Armenia has not yet disclosed a final death toll for its military, but an ethnic Armenian official confirmed on November 14 that 2,317 soldiers had been killed.

Dozens of civilians from both sides also died during the conflict, which saw Azerbaijan and Armenia accused of using cluster munitions in civilian



In a separate development, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would visit Ankara's staunch ally, Azerbaijan, on December 9 and 10.

The planned visit is the first by a foreign head of state to Baku since the ceasefire.

Ankara announced on Tuesday that Turkey and Russia have agreed to monitor the Karabakh truce from a joint peacekeeping centre.



Δσencie

Paris: Britain has become the first Western country to approve a Covid-19 vaccine for general use, giving the green light to the Pfizer/BioNTech drug.

As authorities in the US and Europe probe other candidates, here is how countries have sped up their approval procedures to face up to the pandemic.

Britain: 'rolling reviews' -

Britain was able to approve the Pfizer vaccine after the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) gave its all-clear.

The MHRA used a "rolling review" process from June to assess the vaccine in record time.

Teams of scientists had worked "around the clock" on different aspects of the safety assessment, often tackling several topics in parallel, MHRA chief June Raine said.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock and others claimed that Britain's departure from the EU had allowed it to approve the vaccine faster than its continental neighbours.

"Unlike the EMA (European Medicines Agency), they can ask questions as they go and obtain responses faster as

Dhaka: Human rights groups

have urged Bangladesh to imme-

diately stop its plan to relocate

thousands of Muslim Rohingya

refugees to a remote, flood-prone

that the Dhaka government is

planning to start the relocation

of some 4,000 Rohingya Mus-

lims to Bhasan Char next week

in a bid to ease overcrowding

in the refugee camps at the

district of Cox's Bazar, on the

this hasty relocation process,'

Ismail Wolff, the regional di-

rector of Fortify Rights, said

on Thursday. "Not one refugee

should be moved until all hu-

man rights and humanitarian

"Bangladesh should halt

border with Myanmar.

There have been reports

island in the Bay of Bengal

a single agency," said Penny Ward, professor in pharmaceutical medicine at King's College London.

Raine insisted that "no corners whatsoever have been cut" in the vaccine approval process.

Jonathan Van-Tam, deputy chief medical officer for England, told the BBC on Thursday that "I actually don't expect other regulators... to be very far behind with this vaccine," saying approvals elsewhere were likely "a matter of days".

- EU: accelerated procedures -

The Amsterdam-based EMA, which regulates medicines across the 27 EU countries, has also turned to a "rolling review" process for safety and effectiveness data from Covid-19 vaccine developers.

All three of the most advanced candidates -- Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna and Oxford/Astrazeneca -- have been subject to the scheme for several weeks already.

According to the EMA, the accelerated procedures are granted for medicines "that fulfil an unmet medical need on the basis of less complete data than normally required."

The normal pipeline for vaccines would see all the data collected and submitted at the very

Rights groups urge Bangladesh to

In a separate statement

on Thursday, Saad Hammadi,

a South Asia campaigner for

Amnesty International, said,

"The authorities should imme-

diately halt relocation of more

Rohingya refugees to a remote

island, which is still off limits

to everyone, including rights

groups and journalists, with-

out prior permission, poses

grave concerns about indepen-

dent human rights monitor-

first let the United Nations (UN)

and humanitarian agencies car-

ry out independent assessments

of Bhashan Char's habitability.

N E W S M A K E R S

He said Bangladesh had to

ing," Hammadi said.

"The relocation of so many

refugees to Bhashan Char."

halt relocation of Rohingya

is assured.

start of the authorisation process. An EMA decision on Pfiz-

er/BioNTech's vaccine is expected "by December 29 at the latest", while a ruling on Moderna's version should follow by January 12.

It is up to the European Commission in Brussels to issue the final green light. - US: advisory committee -

Both Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna have requested emergency use authorisation (EUA) for their Covid-19 vaccines from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

But the American process is slower than the British one and involves a public consultation.

The FDA carries out its own analysis of the vaccine and calls on an independent advisory committee.

"The FDA process is a completely transparent process with independent experts commenting and asking questions and recommending or advising the agency," Moncef Slaoui, scientific advisor to Washington's Operation Warp Speed (OWS) program, said Wednesday.

The advisory committee is scheduled for a December 10 meeting on the Pfizer/BioN-Tech vaccine and for Moderna on December 17

of the refugees was necessary

spoke on the condition of ano-

nymity, told Reuters that "many

families" had been moved out of

the camps in Cox's Bazar as of

Wednesday night, but declined

said the first 400 of the 2,500

refugees would leave on Thurs-

Douza, the deputy Bangladeshi

government official in charge of refugees, said housing had

been built for 100,000 people

and authorities wanted to re-

locate them during the Novem-

ber to April dry season, when

Bangladeshi officials also

Shamsud

A senior local official, who

for any relocation

to give a number.

Mohammed

day evening.

the sea is calm.

concerns have been resolved The Amnesty official, too, said

France: 76 Mosques Face Closure, 66 Migrants Deported

Agencies

Paris: The French government has launched a "massive and unprecedented" wave of measures to combat what it calls religious "extremism", Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin has said, adding that 76 mosques are suspected of "separatism".

Darmanin on Thursday tweeted his interview with RTL radio, writing: "In the coming days, checks will be carried out on these places of worship. If ever these doubts are confirmed, I will ask for their closure."

He also said 66 undocumented migrants suspected of "radicalisation" had been deported.

President Emmanuel Macron's government has responded to several deadly attacks in recent weeks with a promise to crack down on what Darmanin has said is "the enemy within".

In October, Macron laid out a plan to tackle what he termed "Islamist separatism", as he described Islam as a religion in crisis across the world – comments that upset Muslims in France and globally.

France is home to the largest Muslim minority population in Europe, and some fear being collectively punished after a series of attacks in recent months.

On October 20, France ordered the temporary closure of a mosque outside Paris as part of a crackdown on people who are suspected of inciting hatred, after the killing of teacher Samuel Paty, who had shown his class caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

The Grand Mosque of Pantin, in a low-income suburb on the capital's northeastern outskirts, had shared a video on its Facebook page before the attack that vented hatred against Paty, who was beheaded in broad daylight near his school.

France has also closed two organisations – the Muslim charity BarakaCity and a civil rights group which monitors hate crimes – the Collective Against Islamophobia in France (CCIF); both have refuted the government's accusations that they harboured "radical" links.

Singapore okays sale of lab-grown meat in world first

Agencies

SINGAPORE: Lab-grown chicken will soon be available in restaurants in Singapore after the country became the first to green-light meat created without slaughtering any animals.

US start-up Eat Just said on Wednesday that its meat had been approved for sale in the city-state as an ingredient in chicken nuggets.

The news marks a "breakthrough for the global food industry", said the company, as firms increasingly try to find less environmentally harmful ways of producing meat. products in the market are plant-based.

There were concerns that lab-grown varieties would be too expensive, but a spokesman for Eat Just said the company had made "considerable progress" in lowering the cost.

"Right from the start, we will be at price parity for premium chicken at a high-end restaurant," he said.

He did not reveal the price of the nuggets but said they would be launched soon at a Singapore restaurant before other products — including chicken breasts with labgrown meat — are rolled out.



"I'm sure that our regulatory approval for cultured meat will be the first of many in Singapore and in countries around the globe," said Josh Tetrick, co-founder and CEO of Eat Just.

Consumption of regular meat is an environmental threat as cattle produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas, while logging forests to make way for animals destroys natural barriers against climate change.

Demand for sustainable meat alternatives is rising due to growing pressure from consumers about the environment and animal welfare, but other

Coronavirus Pandemic Is Rebuke

Eat Just hopes to bring down the cost to below that of conventional chicken in the coming years, the spokesman added.

The company conducted more than 20 production runs in 1,200-litre bioreactors to make the chicken alternative, and checks on safety and quality showed that its "cultured" product -- the term for meat grown in labs from animal cells — met food standards.

Meat consumption is projected to increase more than 70 percent by 2050, and lab-grown alternatives have a role to play in ensuring a secure food supply, Eat Just said.

Boris Johnson Might Take Covid Shot On TV, But Won't Jump Queue: Official

ondon: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson might be persuaded to take a COVID-19 vaccination on television to show it is safe but he would not have one before those in greater need, his press secretary said on Wednesday.

Johnson, 56, who spent time in intensive care earlier this year after contracting COVID-19, has hailed the UK approval of Pfizer Inc's vaccine as a global win and ray of hope amid a pandemic that has hurt the economy and upended normal life.

But, like other leaders, Johnson cannot be seen to be jumping the queue for the vaccine, ahead of more vulnerable people. However, he



wants to illustrate its safety to try to persuade others to take it when it is more widely available.

Asked if the prime minister would take the shot live on television, press secretary Allegra Stratton said she had not asked him directly.

"I don't think it would be something he would rule out," she said. "But I think we also know that he wouldn't want to take a jab that should be for someone who is extremely vulnerable, clinically vulnerable and who should be getting it before him."

Johnson has said the shots would be voluntary, and a snap YouGov poll found that 20% of Britons were either not confident or not very confident that it was safe. There was support for the health minister Matt Hancock getting a shot live on TV, with 66% backing the idea.

Britain's government has said the health service will prioritise vaccinations, putting older residents in care homes and their carers first, then all those over 80 and frontline health workers.

Johnson has spoken openly of his struggle with COVID-19 in April, saying he fought for his life and that it was 50-50 whether the doctors were going to put him on a ventilator.

From Nature, Says Prince Harry adon: Britain's criticised in the p

ondon: Britain's Prince Harry has suggested that the coronavirus pandemic is a rebuke from nature as he called for more action to tackle climate change.

The prince spoke during a conversation about the environment with the chief executive of a streaming platform for climate documentaries.

"Somebody said to me at the beginning of the pandemic, it's almost as though Mother Nature has sent us to our rooms for bad behaviour, to really take a moment and think about what we've done," Harry said.

"It's certainly reminded me about how interconnected we all are, not just as people



but through nature. We take so much from her and we rarely give a lot back."

Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, have spoken out on issues such as race and the environment since stepping down from their roles as working members of the royal family at the end of March and moving to California.

The prince, who has been

criticised in the past for his use of private jets, urged people to imagine being a raindrop in order to help repair the Earth.

"Every single raindrop that falls from the sky re-

lieves the parched ground,"
he said. "What if every one of
us was a raindrop? If every
single one of us cared? We do,
because we have to, because
at the end of the day nature
is our life source."

Since the start of the

Since the start of the pandemic, scientists have stepped up warnings that deforestation, ecosystem destruction and illegal trade in wildlife can increase the risk of disease transmission from animals to people, and have urged tighter controls.

Kashmir Observer

Business of adulteration sophisticated, brands confuse consumers with language jugglery: CSE

The CSE was responding to statements by Dabur and Patanjali claiming that the honey sold by them meets all domestic

NEW DELHI, DEC 3: A day after reporting adulteration in the honey sold by major brands in the country, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on Thursday said any claim by these companies of meeting all Indian standards "holds limited value" and was "jugglery" of language.

The CSE was responding to statements by Dabur and Patanjali claiming that the honey sold by them meets all domestic testing standards.

"That is what we have been saying—that the business of adulteration is sophisticated. The Indian labs testing for parameters set by the FSSAI could not detect this evolved adulteration," the environment watchdog said.

"We have also noted that Dabur is constantly changing the language on its claims regarding NMR tests. In earlier advertisements, it has said 'NMR tested, pure honey'; as of today—after the release of the CSE investigation—Dabur is claiming 'source NMR tested'," said CSE director general Sunita Narain.

"Is this jugglery another attempt to confuse the consumer?" she asked.



The Centre for Science and Environment had on Wednesday claimed that honey sold by several major brands in India has been

found to be adulterated with sugar syrup. In a study conducted by it, the CSE's food researchers selected 13 top and smaller brands of processed and raw honey being sold in the

country to check their purity. They found 77 per cent of the samples adulterated with the addition of sugar syrup. Out of the 22 samples checked, only five passed all the tests. The CSE also specified the names of the brands.

Dabur and Patanjali were among those

their products meet all Indian standards. The CSE, in a statement, responded to the claims made by Dabur and Patanjali said, "Any claim of meeting all Indian standards

actually holds limited value". "We stand by our findings. Our findings

WE STAND BY OUR FINDINGS. Our findings have revealed that 10 out of 13 brands have failed all tests of purity. Most of these are big brands, including Dabur. This is not only about Dabur. In fact, we have talked about how smaller brands are also adulterated"

that failed the NMR (Nuclear Magnetic

Both companies have questioned the not-for-profit environment organisation's claims that the varieties of honey sold by them are adulterated with sugar syrup, alleging that the study seems to be motivated and aimed at maligning their brands.

The two companies also clarified that

have revealed that 10 out of 13 brands have failed all tests of purity. Most of these are big brands, including Dabur. This is not only about Dabur. In fact, we have talked about how smaller brands are also adulterated,' the environment watchdog said. CSE further said Dabur's claim about compliance with

Indian laws comes as "no surprise". "The fact that samples deliberately

adulterated by us by up to 50 per cent of syrups passed all Indian tests is a robust proof of this (sophisticated adulteration). So, any claim of meeting all Indian standards actually holds limited value," it said.

The CSE further said the NMR test report available on Dabur's website and shared with the media in support of the company's statement is a report of the Bruker equipment/machine for NMR profiling.

On allegations of Patanjali that the move is to promote the German technology, the CSE said NMR test is being used in different parts of the world for the same reason and even the Indian government has mandated it since August 2020 for honey meant to be exported.

"So, it could be important to include such advanced testing in government testing system that can help the enforcement agencies to know if the honey sold to consumers is adulterated or not. It can also help the agencies know which companies are selling adulterated honey, which is a crime, and take required punitive action against the defaulters," the CSE said. – PTI

Flights Upped To 80% Of Pre-**Covid Levels: Government**

Now, Domestic

The government had resumed domestic flights from May 25, however airlines were allowed to operate not more than 33% of their pre-COVID domestic flights. On June 26, this was increased to 45% and on September 2, it was further increased to 60%. On November 11, it was increased to 70%.

NEW DELHI: The cap on the number of domestic flights that Indian airlines are permitted to operate was increased from 70 per cent to 80 per cent of their pre-COVID levels today, said Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

The minister had said on November 11 that the Indian airlines can operate up to 70 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic passenger flights due to the prevailing demand amid the coronavirus situation.

Mr Puri tweeted today saying, "Domestic operations recommenced with 30K passengers on 25 May & have now touched a high of 2.52 lakhs on 30 Nov 2020."

"Ministry of Civil Aviation is now allowing domestic carriers to increase their operations from existing 70% to 80% of pre-COVID approved capacity," he stated. The ministry had resumed scheduled domestic passenger services from May 25, after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus

However, the airlines were allowed to operate not more than 33 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic

On June 26, this was increased to 45 per cent and on September 2, it was further increased to 60 per cent. On November 11, it was increased to

Delhi Police Suggests Routes To Enter, Exit City Amid Farmers' Protest Farmers Protest Delhi

NEW DELHI: With no let up in the farmers protest against the Centre's new farm laws, the Delhi Police today intensified its security arrangements and suggested alternative routes to commuters entering or exiting the city.

The agitating farmers had on Wednesday demanded that the Centre convene a special session of Parliament and repeal the farm laws as they threatened to block other roads in Delhi and "take more steps" if it failed to do so.

A crucial round of talks between the Centre and the representatives of protesting farmers is scheduled to be held later in the day. In a series of tweets, the Delhi Traffic Police on Thursday alerted + commuters about the closure of Singhu, Lampur, Auchandi, Chilla and other borders in view of the farmers protest.

It, however, said those wanting to travel to Haryana can take Daurala. Kapashera. Dhansa. Rajokri NH 8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera

"Singhu border is still closed from both sides. Lampur, Auchandi & other small borders also closed. Please take alternative routes. Traffic has been diverted from Mukarba Chowk & GTK Road," the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

It also advised commuters to avoid Noida Link road and instead use NH 24 and DND as the Chilla border on Noida Link road remained closed for traffic.

I in 2 urban Indians early adopters

of technology: Survey

"Tikri, Jharoda Borders are closed for any Traffic Movement. Badusarai Border is open only for Light Motor Vehicle like Cars and two wheelers. Jhatikara Border is open only for two wheeler traffic," it said in another tweet.

As part of their 'Delhi Chalo' march, farmers have been staging protests at four busy border points of the national capital - Singhu, Noida, Ghazipur and Tikri - to press their demands for repealing the agri-marketing laws. Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad is also likely to join the protestors today at the Singhu border where thousands have been protesting for the last seven days. Mr Azad had recently met the protesters at Ghazipur border near UP Gate.



India Will "Hopefully" Get Vaccine Nod By Early

NEW DELHI: AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria pinned his hopes on the five COVID-19 vaccine candidates which are in advanced stages of clinical trial in India, stating they are logistically feasible for distribution in both urban and rural areas.

His assertion comes amid Pfizer-BioNTech's anti-coronavirus vaccine getting emergency clearance in the LIK, paying the way for mass vaccinations against the deadly novel coro-

Guleria expressed hope that by the end of this month or early next month, at least one of the five vaccines being locally-tested should get emergency use authorisation from the drug regulator to be administered to the public starting with priority groups. According to sources, global pharma giant Pfizer had talks with the Indian government late August, but since

then there has been no development. During a briefing last month, NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr VK Paul, who also heads the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration, said that sufficient doses of the Pfizer vaccine as required for the Indian population will not be available but the government is examining the possibilities and will work out a strategy (for its procurement and distribution) in case the vaccine

gets regulatory approvals.

by Pfizer poses a big challenge for its delivery in a developing nation like India, especially in its smaller towns and rural areas where maintaining such cold chain facilities would be very difficult, Dr Guleria said.

"Five vaccine candidates are in advanced stages of clinical trial in India and no significant serious adverse effects have been seen so far. Also, they are logistically feasible for distribution in a large country like India, both in its urban and rural parts."

"Hopefully, by the end of this month or early next month, at least one of them should get emergency authorisation from the Indian drug regulator for its distribution among

The five vaccines are under different phases of clinical trials in India with the Serum Institute of India conducting phase-3 trial of the Oxford-Astrazeneca COVID-19 vaccine, while the indigenously developed vaccine by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with ICMR has already started the phase-3 clinical trial. Another indigenously-developed vaccine by Zydus Cadila has also completed phase -2

in India. Also, Biological E Ltd has started early phase 1 and 2 human trials of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

Vaccine: Travel Agents NEW DELHI: Travel agents have

Many Indians Keen On

Going To UK To Get Covid +

started receiving enquiries from Indians who want to travel to the UK as soon as possible to get the COVID-19 vaccine that was approved on Wednesday by the British government.

One travel agent is planning to launch a three-night package for the of the mass vaccination drive in the UK that is likely to begin as early as next week. UK on Wednesday became the first country to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine against COVID-19 after "rigorous" analysis by its independent regulator Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

A Mumbai-based travel agent told the PTI that some people on Wednesday raised queries on "how and when and if' they can travel to the UK to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

"I have told them it is too early to say (whether Indians can get vaccine in UK). Anyway, the first in line to get the vaccine would be the elderly and health workers in the UK who are most vulnerable to the coronavirus," the agent added.

Nishant Pitti, Co-founder and CEO, EaseMyTrip.com said while this is an offbeat season for travel to London, after Wednesday's announcement about the Pfizer vaccine he has already received queries from some Indians who have got UK visas and can afford to go to London.

He said his company was waiting for clarity from the UK government on whether there would be compulsory quarantine requirements for travellers who want to get vaccinated and whether Indian passport holders are eligible for vaccination there or not. Pitti said his company is planning to launch a Indians who want to get the benefit three-night package for those interested in travelling to the UK for the purpose of vaccination only.

"We are dealing with an airline to offer fixed price seats. We already have deals with London hotels. And we are planning to do some deal with a hospital over there so that we can generate a package for that," he explained.

The recent UK government rules state that from December 15, every international arrival in the UK would have to remain in self isolation for five days and then get the RT-PCR test done on the sixth day. The passenger can leave isolation on the sixth day if found COVIDnegative in the test. On Wednesday, a Bengaluru-based travel company said Indians are asking if a short trip, without quarantine, to the UK to get the Pfizer vaccine was possible.

However, Ivoti Maval, President, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) told PTI that people are right now "waiting and watching" as they want to know what the vaccine is going to be like.

Technophiles in India skew towards the 18-34 years demographic to a greater extent than many other surveyed markets, according to the data provided by YouGov. More than three in five (62 per

dominantly young and affluent,

are early adopters of technology

and are eager to buy new products

as well as adopt new technology, a

new survey said on Thursday.

cent) dedicated followers of new technology are males and dedicated followers are twice more likely than the public to get influenced by opinions of celebrities and influencers, the findings showed.

In India, one in three (30 per cent) belong to the "dedicated followers" group and a fifth (19 per cent) to the "first wave consumers". Latecomers account for just 15 per

cent of the online population in the country. The second wave makes up 17 per cent of the Indian online population while discerning customers make up another 20 per cent.

"YouGov's whitepaper shows that India has a substantial proportion of early tech adopters, with a high appetite for technology as well as high engagement with it," said Russell Feldman, Director of

One in two urban Indians, pre- Digital, Media and Technology research at YouGov.

> nology adoption across 25 markets worldwide, based on more than ers about their tech habits and attitudes.



When it comes to personal disposable income, a third of early adopters have between Rs 10,001-Rs 50,000 per month to spend on themselves, compared to 28 per cent of the urban online

Early tech adopters in India differ from the online public even in The whitepaper looked at techterms of their usage of the internet. This group of technophiles is more likely to engage in every category email, messaging and streaming.

"In terms of attitudes, the early adopter group in India tends to be aspirational and are comfortable taking a risk with their money. They enjoy testing new products before they go on sale," said the survey. Their attitudes appear consistent with the public in some areas but deviate from them in other important areas.

Dedicated followers, for example, are twice more likely than the public to take the opinions of celebrities and influencers into account when making a purchase.

Dedicated followers' affinity towards social media also stands important for brands, as they are more likely to seek experiences that make for great content on so-

"Therefore, if a brand wants to engage with these new tech enthusiasts, they should approach them with enticing ways rather than mundane marketing gimmicks," the survey noted. -Agencies

January: AIIMS Director

navirus from as early as next week.

The requirement of an extreme low temperature of -70 deg C for storing the COVID-19 vaccine developed Indian population," he said.

clinical trial in the country. Dr Reddy's Laboratories and the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) on Tuesday announced the start of adaptive phase 2 and 3 clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V

Maharashtra Teacher Wins \$1 Million, Says Will Share Half With Finalists

Ranjitsinh Disale, 32, from Paritewadi village in Maharashtra's Solapur district, emerged the winner among 10 finalists from across the world.

LONDON: A primary school teacher from a multitude of ways. But, in this hard time, India was on Thursday named the winner of the \$1 million annual Global Teacher Prize 2020 in recognition of his efforts to promote girls' education and trigger a quick-response (QR) coded textbook revolution in India.

Ranjitsinh Disale, 32, from Paritewadi village in Maharashtra's Solapur district, emerged the winner among 10 finalists from across the world. The annual prize was founded by the Varkey Foundation in 2014 to recognise an exceptional teacher who has made outstanding contribution to the profession.

Mr Disale, who believes that teachers are the world's "real changemakers", announced that he will be sharing 50 per cent of his prize money with his fellow finalists to support their "incredible work".

"The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed education and the communities it serves in

teachers are giving their best to make sure every student has access to their birthright of a good education," Mr Disale said.

'Teachers are the real changemakers who are changing the lives of their students with a mixture of chalk and challenges. They always believe in giving and sharing. Therefore, I am very pleased to announce that I will share 50 per cent of the prize money equally among my fellow top 10 finalists to support their incredible work. I believe, together, we can change this world because sharing is growing," he said.

His gesture means the other nine finalists will receive just over \$55,000 each, making history as the first winner to share his prize money.

"By sharing the prize money, you teach the world the importance of giving," said Indian education philanthropist Sunny Varkey, the founder of the prize.

"I now encourage you to use this platform to give all teachers a voice. There is not a moment to lose as it will fall on young people to find solutions to problems that their parents and grandparents have lacked the will to solve, including climate change, conflict and global pandemics," he said. In another first, the Global Teacher Prize

2020 winner's announcement was made at a virtual ceremony, broadcast from the Natural History Museum in London by British actor-broadcaster Stephen Fry.

"Teachers like Ranjitsinh will stop climate change and build more peaceful and just societies. Teachers like Ranjitsinh will eliminate inequalities and drive forward economic growth. Teachers like Ranjitsinh will save our future." said Stefania Giannini. Assistant Director General for Education at UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), a partner of the initiative.

When Mr Disale arrived at the Zilla Parishad Primary School at Paritewadi in Solapur in 2009, it was a dilapidated building, sandwiched between a cattle shed and a storeroom.

He took on the task of turning things around and ensuring the textbooks were available in the local language for the pupils. He not only translated the textbooks into their mother tongue, but also embedded them with unique QR codes to give students access to audio poems, video lectures, stories and assignments.

As a result of his interventions, no teenage marriage has been reported in the village and there has been 100 per cent attendance of girls at the school.

Mr Disale's school went on to become the first in Maharashtra to introduce QR codes. After submitting a proposal and successful pilot scheme, the state ministry announced in 2017 that they would introduce QR coded textbooks across the state for all

In 2018, the human resources development ministry announced that all the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks would have embedded QR codes.

Mr Disale is equally passionate about building peace between young people across conflict zones and through a "Let's Cross the Borders" project, he connects young people from India and Pakistan, Palestine and Israel, Iraq and Iran, and the

US and North Korea. Over a six-week programme, students are matched with a peace buddy from other countries with whom they closely interact with. So far, Mr Disale has inducted about 19,000 students from eight countries

into this programme. Besides, with the use of the Microsoft Educator Community platform, the

enterprising teacher spends his weekends taking students from schools around the world with lack of resources on virtual field

He is well-known for demonstrating scientific experiments from the science lab he built in his home as well.

Mr Disale was selected in the final 10 from over 12,000 nominations and applications from over 140 countries, alongside Olasunkanmi Opeifa from Nigeria, Iamie Frost from the UK, Carlo Mazzone from Italy, Mokhudu Cynthia Machaba from South Africa, Leah Juelke from the US, Yun Jeong-hyun from South Korea, Samuel Isaiah from Malaysia and Doani Emanuela Bertan from Brazil.

The Global Teacher Prize is paid in equal installments over 10 years, with the Varkey Foundation providing winners with financial counselling and support through an ambassadorial role for the profession.

