

Maximum : 14° Minnum : 2° Humidity : 68% SUNSET Today 05:21 PM SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:21 AM

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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 ...

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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 and cultures.

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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...



Wisdom Quote!

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

—Leo Tolstoy

news DIGEST

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.

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 stretch.

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



Each DDC To Have 5 Standing Committees

Panels Will Deal With Finance, Development, Public Works

SRINAGAR: Every district development council in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory will have five standing committees to look after different subjects ranging from financial matters to development.

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 exercising their franchise, he said

sanitisers, thermal scanners and 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 from Jammu division, are contesting

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.

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.

J&K Reports 10 More Corona Deaths

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: At least ten more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu 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 582 New Cases

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 to the Prime Minister, Dr. P. K. Mishra on Thursday reviewed the sector-wise implementation 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 Central ministries and the UT Government across various sectors 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

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 Sonmarg from illegal constructions and preserving 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 Sonmarg area, it is evident, has suffered serious environmental degradation because of apathy on

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 Sonmarg 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 use 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 and encroachments

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 hordes, 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

Parties Like NC, PDP Exploiting People: Bukhari

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

KPDCL Begins 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 Humbhama area of Srinagar outskirts since yesterday.

Artistic Lament Over DD Kashir At Zero Bridge

ASIF KHAN, ARBEENA SHAH

As a witness to the rise and fall of different artistic dynasties, an old dusky treet at 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 oak tree.

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 ends meet."

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.

always been a parallel universe in a sense that over the time it has proven to be an aisle of creativity. The bridge brought together outrageously rich names of bedraggled DD Kashir who in early 2000 would enthrall people with their characters whose voices would reverberate in every Kashmiri home. 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 satirically.

KASHMIR
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K O V I E W

Reviving tourism

Every 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.

O T H E R O P I N O N

BTech in mother tongues

The 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 Rashtriya Swayamsevak 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 students' future careers.

Telegraph India



Pandemic Profiteers

ALAN MACLEOD

The 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 COVID-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

The 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 MintPress today.

There was this absurd view that somehow we 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 COVID-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 years 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.

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Review Power Cut Schedule

Winters 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 Electric-

cal 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
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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.

India 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.

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Lack Of Women In Cybersecurity

Nir Kshetri

Women 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.

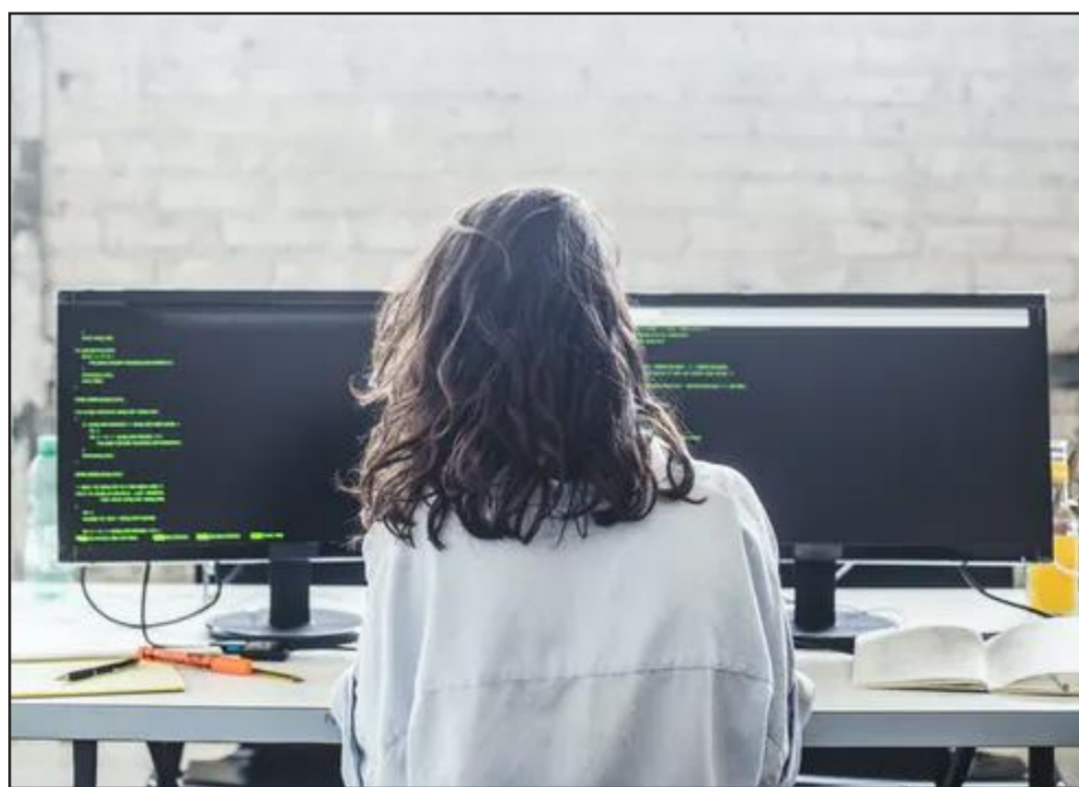
Women are also generally not presented with opportunities in information technology fields. In a survey of women pursuing careers outside of IT fields, 69% indicated that the main reason they didn't pursue opportunities in IT was because they were unaware of them.

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 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 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 CyberShiksha 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 conversation



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 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, socio-economic 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. -Agencies



"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"

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



New 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-month-old 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-Helene 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 understanding parents' perceptions and 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:

Name of work	Cost of tender document (Rate in Rs)	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest money (Rate in Rs)	Validity of offer	Time of completion	Position of funds
Various mechanical and electrical works to be carried out at WSS Sulkoat Kupwara	Rs 500.00	Rs 08.946	Rs 17,900.00	120 Days	45 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--	--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 600.00	Rs 14.975	Rs 30,000.00	--do--	--do--	Approved under NRDP
Various electrical and mechanical works to be carried out at WSS Shart Muqam Kuligam	Rs 500.00	Rs 7.989	Rs 16,000.00	--do--	--do--	Available under Languishing Projects
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) 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 of any holiday, or any other reason, on the scheduled 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

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.H.E Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore

DIPK-9868/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE 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 the Lt. 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. No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion in days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA
01	Upgradation of Botangoo Muqam Shaheed Mir road and Watlab Ghat road incl. inner links of Botangoo (Padshahi Mohalla link road) by way of providing and laying Nallah muck	4.80 lacs	200/-	9600/-	15 days	10.12.2020	DEE	Languishing	Accorded

Position of funds: Available

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:

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

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

2 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Chellan 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

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

5. 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 NIT457 of 2020-21

6 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,
Lt. Governor of J&K,

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

No:- 10567-87
Dated:- 03.12.2020
DIPK-9905/20

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER O&M KPDC 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

1. INVITATION:-
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.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexures forming part of this tender document 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:

A	Date & Time of down loading of Standard Bidding Document	30 th of November 2020 : 04:00 pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	03 rd of December 2020 : 12:00 pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	19 th 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 other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	09 th of December 2020 : 12:00 pm
G	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	19 th of December 2020 : 04:00 pm
H	Online Bid opening and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	21 st of December 2020 : 04:00 pm
I	Online financial e-Bid opening date and time (Only of the commercial & technical qualified bidders)	Will be communicated online to the commercial and 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

3. 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 Superintending 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.

5. The user (KPDC) will be at liberty to distribute 40% of the work among L2, L3 OR others on the rates of L1

6. The Quantity Mentioned in the BOQ may vary around 30% ().

7. The Department has the right to place the order in piecemeal or in one go.

8. 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 would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

9. 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 message 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

11. 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 day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced.

12. 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.

13. 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 appointed time and place.

14. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

15. 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 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.

Superintending Engineer
O&M KPDC Circle Sopore

No:SE-N/TS/1991-95
Date: 28-11-2020
DIPK-NB-433/20

