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'EMOTIONAL STABILITY PREDICTS SUCCESSFUL CAREER OUTCOMES'

..... P6/ Life & Times

A new study published in Psychological Science has found that the changes during young adulthood indicate personality...



LEADERSHIP CRISIS

A leader paves the way for a movement to be launched, sets its goals, inspires and shows the roadmap to his followers.

P8/OUTPOST...

1 CRORE HEALTHCARE WORKERS WILL BE 1ST TO GET COVID-19 **VACCINE: GOVERNMENT**

COVID-19 vaccine will be first given to about one crore health workers from 775 both the public and private sectors...



Contact: -0194-2502327



"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." — Aristotle



ACB Arrests Naib Tehsildar

SRINAGAR: The Anti- Corruption Bureau officials on Friday arrested a revenue official from Srinagar for amassing huge assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Abdul Rashid Malla, Naib Tehsildar, Rawalpora was arrested by the ACB on Friday in a case FIR 23/2020 u/s 5(10 (e) r/w 5(2) of J&K PC Act Svt. 2006 registered against him on 17-11-2020 for acquiring huge assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, a Bureau spokesperson said.

The case, he said was registered on the basis of a verification conducted by ACB Srinagar into the allegations that Malla was in possession of huge assets in the shape of Shopping complex, palatial

Mughal Road Closed Due To Snowfall

POONCH: The Mughal road. connecting Shopian and Poonch districts, has been closed due to fresh snowfall along the thoroughfare, officials said on Friday.

DySP Traffic Rajouri-Poonch Zabir told news agency GNS that the road has been closed as

it was snowing near Peer Ki Gali. "The traffic has been closed on both sides as a precautionary measure. The road would be opened depending upon weather conditions," he said.

India, Pak Troops **Trade Fire Along LoC** SRINAGAR: The Indian and

Pakistani troops on Friday exchanged gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran Sector of Kupwara district.

Pakistan on Friday initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC in the Keran Sector, news agency ANI reported. Pakistan violated the ceasefire by firing small arms and mortars.

The Indian Army is retaliating befittingly, the report added.

On December 1, a sub-inspector of the Border Security Force (BSF) was killed when Pakistan violated ceasefire along the LoC in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ambulance Turns Turtle. Two Injured

JAMMU: An ambulance carrying dead body of an 81-year-old man turned turtle in Gool area of Ramban district, resulting in injuries to two relatives of the deceased person, officials said on Friday.

"Today at about 0530 hours, an ambulance bearing no PB02Cd/9941 driven by an unknown person carrying the dead body of one Ali Mohd (81) Son of Baaja Gujjar of Deedah ,who had died in Jammu turned turtle as a result of which two family members of the octogenarian were injured," reported news agency GNS.

The injured identified as Abdul Gani son of Baaja and his son Shabir Ahmed were shifted

to Gool Hospital, they said. "Driver along with his co-driver fled from the spot," said a police officer. He said a case under relevant sections of IPC has been registered at Police Station Gool. He said the dead body has been taken by his family members.

50.53% Vote In Phase III: SEC



JAMMU: The third phase of District DDC POLLS

Development Council (DDC) elections held across 33 constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir recorded 50.53% of voter turnout, State Election Commissioner K.K Sharma on Friday The SEC said that a large number of people have come out to cast

their votes during the third phase of DDC polls and long queues were seen right from morning despite severe cold conditions in Kashmir Division and hilly areas of Jammu "Polling has been by-and-large

peaceful in the poll going 33 constituencies of DDC including 16 in Kashmir division and 17 in Jammu division," Sharma said. He said polling was held on 2046

polling stations including 1254 from Kashmir division and 792 from Jammu division. The SEC further informed that

Jammu division recorded an average voter turnout of 68.88% with Reasi District recording the highest percentage of 75.20% followed by Rajouri district with 72.81%. The



Candidate Shot At, Injured In Kokernag

SRINAGAR: In the first attack on a District Development Council (DDC) election contestant in Jammu and Kashmir, militants shot at and injured an Apni Party candidate in Anantnag district on Friday,



lowest turnout in Jammu division was in Doda district which record-

KO Photos: Abid Bhat

"The Kashmir Division recorded an average turnout of 31.61 %. Kulgam district recorded highest polling at 64.45 % followed by Bandipora District at 56.73% and Budgam with 50.18% polling in the third phase of elections," Sharma said.

Giving the district wise details about the DDCs, the SEC said that in Kashmir division, the polling percentage recorded in Kupwara was 46.25%, Baramulla 30.94%, Ganderbal 24.69%, Shopian 22.68%, Anantnag 21.64%, and Pulwama 10.87%.

"Similarly, in Jammu division, poll percentage of 72.18% was recorded in Poonch, 70.44% in Jammu, 70.35% in Kishtwar, 70.15% in Samba 64.79% in Ramban and 62.18% in Kathua," he added.

Sharma further said that counting of votes for Sarpanch and Panch constituencies which went to poll in the third phase is being conducted immediately after the close of poll and results shall be declared then and there only.

New Waqf Boards Soon In J&K, Ladakh: Naqvi

NEW DELHI: Waqf Boards taking serious note of bungling will soon be established in the and encroachment of Waqf Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and the in several states, state governprocess for it has already start- ments were asked to take strict ed, Minority Affairs Minister action in such cases, Nagyi said. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on

After chairing a Central Waqf Council meeting here, Naqvi in a statement said that Waqf Boards will be established in the lammu-Kashmir and the Leh-Kargil areas for the first time since Independence.

It has become possible to do so only after the revocation of Article 370, he said and added that the Waqf Boards in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will ensure proper utilisation of Waqf properties for the welfare of society.

The central government will provide adequate financial assistance to construct infrastructure for socio-economic and educational activities on Waqf properties in the Union Territories under the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karykram (PMJVK)', Naqvi said.

Waqf properties in the Jammu-Kashmir and the Leh-Kargil ar- programmes for minorities in eas, and the process has been started to register them, he said in the statement.

Digitisation, geo-tagging or GPS mapping of these Waqf properties has also been initiated and the work will be completed soon, the minister said.

In Friday's meeting, while

properties by "Waqf mafias"

He said that a team of the Central Waqf Council will visit these states in this regard. Naqvi said that just like in

other parts of the country, the central government will construct schools, colleges, ITIs, polytechnics, girls hostels, hospitals, multi-purpose community halls 'Sadbhav Mandap', 'Hunar Hub', common service centres, employment oriented skill development centres and other basic infrastructure on Waqf land in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh under the PMJVK.

These basic infrastructure will ensure quality education for the needy and employment opportunities to the youths, he

Naqvi said that while only 90 districts of the country had been identified for minority communities' development There are thousands of earlier, the Modi government has expanded development 308 districts, 870 blocks, 331 towns and thousands of the villages.

The minority affairs minister said that about 6,64,000 registered Waqf properties are there across the country and digitisation of all the state Waqf boards has been completed. (PTI)

PM Chairs Meet On Covid-19 **Situation**



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday chaired an all-party meeting with leaders of various political outfits and top union ministers to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country, sources said.

Floor leaders from all parties in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have been invited to attend the virtual meeting which started around 10:30 am.

Former Kashmir Interlocutor D Sharma Dead

NEW DELHI: Former Jammu and Kashmir interlocutor and administrator of Lakshadweep Dineshwar + Sharma, who earlier headed the Intelligence Bureau, died at a Chennai hospital on Friday following a severe lung disease, officials said.

Sharma, 66, was recently shifted from the national capital to a Chennai hospital for specialised treatment of the lungs where he breathed his last on Friday morning,

JK Heading For A | CBI Begins Probing **Bright Future: LG**

'Panchayats Have A Huge Role To Play In Developmental Process'

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that after facing a deficit of good administration for decades, Jammu and Kashmir was heading for a brighter future and the Panchayats have a huge role to play in the developmental process.

Addressing the 2nd State Conclave of Rashtriya Sarpanch Sansad, through virtual mode, Sinha as per an official spokesperson said that the 3-tier Panchavati Raj system was non-existent in J&K and with the recent developments, the government has made sure to add district-level Panchayati institutions to the village-level & block-level system.



"It is now the true form of grass-root democracy as existing in other parts of the country," LG said.

JDA-Encroachers Nexus

tered four preliminary enquiries of high court directives by officials of the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) and others to "cover up" the complicity in illegal acts of encroachment of land.

ing to the encroachment on 784 kanals, 17 marla of land in Gole, enquiring into the matter. tehsil Jammu which was transferred to JDA.

the first step initiated by the CBI to assess criminality in prima fa-cie allegations levelled by a comproceeds with an FIR or else the PE

NEW DELHI: Widening its probe in Roshni scam cases in Jammu and Kashmir High Court had diand Kashmir, the CBI has regis- rected the deputy commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, into the alleged non-compliance Srinagar, Budgam and Pulwama districts to submit the compli-

ROSHNI SCAM

The first enquiry registered by ance report on handing over the the CBI relates to matter pertain- relevant record of the present case to the vigilance director, who was

In spite of subsequent repeated directives of the high court, no ac-A preliminary enquiry (PE) is tion was initiated by the compe-

tent authorities. "The above court proceedings establish the reluctance of these plainant. If the allegations appear senior officers and all authorities to be serious enough, the agency revenues, Jammu Development Authority etc. to assist the inquiry, which reluctance in fact

tantamount to obstruction and hurdles created by these authorities to prevent disclosure of the truth, protect law breakers and facilitate misappropriation of public properties of which they were guardians.

"Such acts and omissions of these officials tantamount to complicity in the illegal acts and criminal offences. These officers in the State have flouted court orders with impunity," the high court had noted while handing over the probe to the CBI.

The second preliminary enquiry registered by the CBI pertained to alleged encroachment on 154 kanals of land and its conversion to commercial use by a businessman named Bansi Lal Gupta in collusion with unidentified JDA officials and private persons, officials said.

NIA To Probe Nagrota Encounter Case

NEW DELHI: The Investigation Agency (NIA) will probe the recent encounter at Nagrota in the Jammu region in which four militants of the Jaishe-Mohammed (JeM) were killed by police, officials said on Friday.

The premier probe agency took over the case following a notification issued by the Centre. The militants were killed on November 19 in Jammu and Kashmir's Nagrota area in a swift operation by the police.

The NIA probe will try to ascertain the planning and final objective of the four JeM militants and the people with whom they were in touch with in Jammu and Kashmir.

The agency's team had visited the encounter site at Ban Toll Plaza on November 19.

The NIA is already probing an encounter that took place on January 31 this year in which three militants from the JeM were killed.

Govt Gears Up For Covid-19 Vaccine Rollout

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday directed the Deputy Commissioners and the health department officials to kick off preparatory planning for the roll-out of Covid-19 vaccination and its hassle-free and time-bound delivery in the Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam on Friday chaired a marathon meeting with the officials of the Union Territory to chalk out a plan for the roll-out of Covid-19 vaccination, an official spokesperson said. He said admin-Housing & Urban Development, Divisional Information. Commissioners of Jammu and

Kashmir, Mission Director, National

Health Mission (NHM) and Deputy



Commissioners of all the districts be available for usage soon. The requirements.

istrative Secretaries of departments along with concerned Chief Medical meeting was also conveyed that of Health & Medical Education, Officers (CMOs) were present at the to effectively deliver the vaccines at the grass-root level, all dis-The meeting, he said, was in-tricts must undertake detailed formed that the Covid-19 vac- micro-planning with regard cines are currently in the third to vaccination sites, cold chain phase of clinical trials and will storage points, and logistics

12 More Die Of Covid, **544 Fresh Cases Detected**

SRINAGAR: At least twelve more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on ed an 80-year-old and a 75-year-Friday, taking the toll due to vi- old man from Talab Tiloo. rus related deaths in the Union Territory to 1730.

In Kashmir Valley, four more has reached 11 people died of Covid-19 at different hospitals, while in Jammu the deadly infection claimed eight more lives, officials said Friday. Among the victims from the Valley included a 70-yearold woman from Lal Bazar, an 84-year-old man from Sonwar, a 60-year-old man from Beerwah and an 80-year-old man from Chogul Handwara in Kupwara

Among others, the officials said, victims from Jammu includ-

With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1119 and 611 in the

Srinagar district with 425 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (312), Baramulla (163), Budgam (102), Pulwama (86), Kupwara (85), Anantnag (79), Doda (57), Bandipora (52), Kulgam (51), Udhampur (51), Rajouri (50), Ganderbal (39), Shopian (37), Kathua (39), Samba (32), Poonch (22), Ramban (20), Kishtwar(19), and Reasi (9). More On P2

RTGS To Be Available 24x7 From Dec 14

MUMBAI: In a bid to give a push to digital payments, the Reserve Bank on Friday announced a slew of measures including enhancing the limit for contactless card transactions to Rs 5,000 and making RTGS transaction facility available round the clock from December 14.

The RBI has also decided to grant licence to entities operating payments systems on a perpetual basis, and permitted companies to reapply for licence after one year of rejection of their application or revocation of their licence.

These were part of the announcements made by RBI Governor Shaktikant Das earlier in the day after the meeting of the central bank's rate setting panel -- Monetary Policy Committee. Now the central bank has issued >> More On P2









Jail Manual 'Undisputedly' Needs Urgent Relook: HC

to be urgently looked into, Jammu as this matter has been pending in this and Kashmir High Court has granted Court for over two years now, it is unthe government eight weeks time to

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta ordered that incase of the failure to comply with its orders, the Principal Secretary to J&K Government, Home Department, shall remain personally present before it on the next date of hearing on Feb 17.

"An adjournment is yet again re-

disputed that the existing Jail Manual requires to be urgently looked into which exercise is stated to have been undertaken and amendments have been made," the bench observed in the order.

The court directed the senior AAG to file the latest report regarding the Jail Manual before it within eight weeks," failing which the Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department, quested by B. A. Dar, learned Sr. AAG, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Observing that the existing jail manual undisputedly requires submitting that the Jail Manual is at the last stage of finalization. As much shall remain personally present before the last stage of finalization. As much

In April last year, the government had assured the court that the finalization of the Jail Manual was "nearly complete" and the same shall be placed before it by May 14, 2019. Meanwhile, advocate T. M. Shamsi,

Special Counsel appearing for the UT of Ladakh, sought more time on the ground that the Government was taking serious examination of the Jail Manuals of other States and Union Territories before finalizing the Jail Manual which would be applicable in the UT of Ladakh. (GNS)

FROM **FRONT** PAGE

PM Chairs ...

About 12 leaders from prominent political parties having five or more than five MPs, will be speaking at the meeting, the sources said.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad will speak on behalf of the Congress in the meeting. Sudip Bandyopadhyay from the TMC, Sharad Pawar of the NCP, Nama Nageswara Rao from the TRS and Vinavak Raut from the Shiv Sena among others will also speak during the meeting,

Opposition leaders are also expected to question the government about the expected availability of the COVID-19 vaccine and plans for its distribution, the sources said.

This will be the second all-party meeting called by the government to discuss the COVID-19 situation since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan are present in the meeting.

Besides them, Parliamentary Affairs Ministers

Pralhad Joshi and ministers of state in the same ministry Arjun Ram Meghwal and V Muraleedharan, who reached out to floor leaders for the meeting, will also be a part of it.

The meeting is likely to begin with a presentation by the Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan. The presentation would explain India's fight against the pandemic so far.

The meeting also assumes significance as it is being held after Modi's visit to pharmaceutical companies in Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Pune to review coronavirus vaccine development work

12 More Die ...

(With GNS inputs)

Meanwhile Jammu and Kashmir reported on + Friday 544 fresh cases of coronavirus, including five minors thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory

While Kashmir Valley reported 256 new cases of Covid-19 on Friday, the remaining 288 were detected from Jammu division, officials said. Giving district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 118, Baramulla 29, Budgam 37, Pulwama 15, Kupwara 10, Anantnag 12, Bandipora 11, Ganderbal 16, Kulgam 2, Shopian 6, Jammu 109, Rajouri 24, Udhampur 51, Doda 15, Kathua 13, Poonch 3, Samba 23, Kishtwar 27, Ramban 20 and Reasi 3.

Moreover, they said, 647 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 380 from Jammu Division and 267 from Kashmir.

Govt Gears Up ...

"MD, NHM informed that currently, the database of prioritized groups of beneficiaries is being compiled with regard to healthcare workers both in government and private establishments, and frontline workers including armed forces, home guards, police, volunteers, municipal workers; who will be administered the vaccine in its initial stages," the official spokesperson said. After frontline workers, he said, the next group

that could be taken up for vaccination would comprise persons above the age of 50 years, and persons with co-morbidities followed by the remaining population.

'For this, a detailed survey would be needed for which the data from Swastha Nidhi survey is being retrieved which will then be augmented with the required additional data," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the meeting was informed that to carry out a dedicated COVID-19 vaccination drive, around 4,500 vaccinators are being identified across the UT with a capacity of administering 100 vaccines per site per day-cumulating to an impressive capacity to deliver 4.5 lakh vaccines a day.

Regarding the human resource requirement at each vaccination site, the official spokesperson said, the Chief Secretary asked the Health department and district administrations to depute 2 trained vaccinators, 1 data operator, 1 record keeper, and 3 volunteers per site to ensure a well-coordinated and accessible vaccination drive.

"Further, Chief Secretary directed DCs to ensure submission of micro plans for vaccination sites, cold chain storage points, and logistics requirements by 7th December, 2020. He said that the information regarding the number of vaccination sites, beneficiaries per site/vaccines required, the requirement of ancillary equipment such as vaccination boxes, syringes, ice packs, hub cutters, biowaste disposable bags; must be worked out well in advance and be readily available with the health department," he added.

As per official spokesperson, Subrahmanyam impressed upon the concerned that special efforts should be undertaken to ensure maintenance of the cold chain throughout the distribution

"DCs were asked to calculate the requirement of Ice Lined Refrigerators (ILRs), deep freezers, large and small cold carrier boxes, and ice packs based on the number of storage points and vaccination sites identified for the purpose. "The efficiency of the vaccination drive will depend upon the accuracy of the micro-planning at district and block levels," Subrahmanyam, as per official spokesperson

said. He further said that The H&ME Department was asked to ensure that the existing arrangements for COVID-19 testing and routine immunization drives for children and pregnant women are not adversely affected by the COVID-19 related vaccination drive.

"The Department was advised to engage additional vaccinators among MBBS/BDS doctors/ interns, staff nurses, auxiliary nursing midwives, pharmacists, and retired persons, besides training potential vaccinators," he added.

As per official spokesperson, the Chief Secretary called for greater coordination between the frontline workers of various departments including health, social welfare, school education, rural development, and housing and urban development for conducting a successful vaccination drive.

"Chief Secretary also emphasized the need for evolving a multi-sectoral response to the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine by involving NGOs, NCC, and other volunteers, besides maintaining open and transparent communication through a proactive IEC strategy to curb misinformation and rumors," he added.

JK Heading ...

"After a deficit of good administration for decades, J&K is heading for a brighter future. Panchayats have a huge role to play in the developmental process. Only strong will, community participation, unity, and good governance can help us achieve the goal of developed villages," he added.

The conclave was organized by MIT School of Government (MIT), Pune. Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Nitin Gadkari; Founder, MIT School of Government, Rahul Karad and Sarpanches from across the country attended the

During the address, LG said that Gandhi ji too believed in creating self-sufficient villages with self-governance. In this regard, he said, we are geo-tagging a variety of village produce, installing food processing plants and threshers in villages, and providing tractors at subsidized rates to promote farm mechanization.

"The LG also highlighted the recent interventions made by the J&K Government to fill gaps between peoples' aspirations and delivery with the help of PRIs. All districts were provided Rs 2.5 crore and every Panchayat another Rs 10 lakh to finish incomplete works. Apart from this, every Panchayats have funds under MGNREGA and 14th FC," the official spokesperson said.

functionaries, finance, and framework help operate a Panchayat.

"The integrated approach to institutionalize and make it an integral part of our Panchayati Raj setup has been aptly exhibited by the Back to Village programmes," Sinha, as per official spokesperson said.

Divulging more details, the LG said that under the "Back to Village" programme, the officers visited villages, spoke to the public, and took the feedback of the on-ground development themselves.

"A framework was prepared under which different stages of Back to Village programme- Jan Abhivan, Unnat Gram Abhiyan and Jan Sunvaai Abhiyan, were conducted. Wednesdays were designated for public outreach and promotion of governmental schemes under the initiative. During the period, the public was delivered with services like Aadhaar Cards, Kisan Credit Cards, JK Health Scheme Cards, MGNREGA wages, and many others." he said.

"One of our motives was to provide employment opportunities to the village youth, and making a move ahead in the same direction; two youngsters were selected from every Panchayat and were provided with assistance by the administration for setting up their entrepreneurial project. We were positive that every one of them would provide employment opportunities to at least 8 other youth. We have exceeded our initial target of 8600 and finally provided assistance to over 12 thousand vouth to set up their own businesses." he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG said that a decision was taken under which every Panchayat was provided two large dustbins and sanitation workers designated under MGNREGA funds, sports kits, and playgrounds were provided to help nurture sporting talent in our villages.

"Similarly, more than 890 vacant government buildings were identified for use of Panchayats according to their needs. It is due to this action-based framework that we were able to complete more than 125 works, within 100 days, which were being delayed for over a decade," he added.

Emphasizing on speedy redressal of public grievances, the official spokesperson said that LG observed that earlier there was no institutional mechanism for grievance redressal of the public. The LG also mentioned about the initiative of "LG's Mulaqaat-Live Public Grievance Hearing" under which, every month, he met individuals from across the UT, listened to their issues/concerns, and tried solving them on the spot,"

"During 21 days of Jan Abhiyaan, 20 thousand, out of 40 thousand grievances were redressed on spot. while much of the rest have also been redressed in a time-bound manner. Women are also being empowered and are already participating in Panchayats' functioning actively," Sinha said.

He further said that the UT admin was going to launch a web portal for a live review of projects in ance of its orders by the JDA "reflects the depth

remote Panchayats. It will help in monitoring all Panchayats of the UT.

'J&K is number one among all the States and UTs as far as performance in PMGSY is concerned. In first of its kind initiative, the Government has extended Rs 5 lakh of Health Insurance without any discrimination. Many such initiatives have been taken by the UT Government aimed at meeting the aspirations of the people," the LG added.

Former Kashmir ...

A statement released by the MGM hospital in Chennai said Sharma, a 1979 batch IPS officer, had been admitted on November 25 for interstitial lung

He was admitted with Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) support, a treatment whereby blood is circulated through an artificial lung back into the bloodstream.

Sharma, 66, suffered "severe bleeding due to intra cerebral haemorrhage. With profound grief, we regret to inform that he passed away at 2.40 PM," a statement from the hospital said.

The former Intelligence Bureau chief was appointed as special representative for a "sustained dialogue" with all stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir in 2017 with an aim to bring peace to the troubled state. Sharma's journey as the Centre's pointsman on

Kashmir came to an abrupt end after the Centre abrogated special status to the erstwhile state and divided it into two union territories in August In October last year he was posted as

Administrator of the Lakshawadeep, a post which had remained vacant after his predecessor Farooq Khan was posted as advisor to the then JK governor Satya Pal Malik in July 2019. President Ram Nath Kovind expressed condo-

lences on his demise, saying the news of his death was shocking. "An outstanding police officer, Shri Sharma's expertise in internal security was particularly noteworthy. My deepest condolences to his family and friends."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah also condoled Sharma's death. "Administrator of Lakshadweep Shri Dineshwar

Sharma Ji made long lasting contributions to India's policing and security apparatus. He handled many sensitive counter terror and insurgency ops during his policing career. Anguished by his demise. Condolences to his family. Om Shanti," Modi

In his tweet, Shah said: "Deeply anguished to The LG, he said, underscored that functions, learn about the passing away of Administrator of Lakshadween Shri Dineshwar Sharma ii He served the nation with utmost devotion as a dedicated officer of the Indian Police Service. My heartfelt condolences to his family in this hour of grief. Om

Belonging to the Kerala cadre, Sharma had long-standing expertise on working on the Kashmir desk of the Intelligence Bureau.

Known among his friends and colleagues as a very "soft spoken gentleman", Sharma during his tenure as the Centre's pointsman had made several visits to Kashmir and Jammu regions for ensuring peace in the restive state.

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah also expressed condolences on his passing away, saying he "was a wise and sensible man who understood Kashmir. Unfortunately he was an interlocutor for a government that wasn't interested in listening but that isn't a reflection of either his efforts or his abilities. I'm sorry to hear of his untimely demise....

PDP chief and another former JK chief minister Mehbooba Mufti expressed shock by his sudden demise. "He was a thorough gentleman and as an interlocutor tried his best to restore bridges of trust and goodwill between people of JK and the rest of the nation," she tweeted.

Sharma was appointed as Director Intelligence Bureau in December 2014 for a fixed two-year term. Post-retirement, he was appointed as an interlocutor for talks with Assam-based insurgent groups and also headed a committee to restructure the Home Ministry. (PTI)

CBI Begins ... Gupta has allegedly covered the JDA land with

plinth and four walls but managed to get rights under the Roshni Act. "Since the land was duly recorded JDA land in

the revenue record and in view of /bar contained in Section 3(b), the case in hand for conferment of ownership rights should have been rejected at the threshold on this score only by the then district collector, Jammu," the high court had noted and sought a response which was not furnished by

The divisional commissioner of Jammu in August had filed a response stating that a committee has been formed to resolve the matter.

"We have strong apprehension that the JDA and the revenue authorities have now commenced a huge cover-up exercise now," the high court had

The CBI has registered a third preliminary enquiry into refusal of JDA to comply with court orders to demarcate 66436 kanals of land transferred to it by the government.

The high court noted that the non-compli-

of involvement of the official machinery with the "It was observed that the revenue department

had entered into superficial correspondence with the JDA with regard to transfer of the land and its mit the application. demarcation," it had said.

The court on November 12, 2014 had directed the revenue department as well as the JDA to file a status report with regard to the demarcation of this balance land which has not been complied with even after six years.

"Having seen the record of this case, we are compelled to state that the non-compliance was for obvious reasons," the court had noted.

The fourth preliminary enquiry pertains to publication of Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Rules, 2007 in purported exercise of power under section 18 of the Roshni Act in the official Gazette on May 5, 2007.

"It seems that no approval of these rules was sought from the legislature and they were unauthorisedly published in the government Gazette." it had noted

The Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act 2001 known as Roshni Act was enacted on November 9, 2001 and was published in the government Gazette on 13th November, 2001.

The law was repealed in 2018.

"The very enactment of the J&K State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 as also its amendments and J&K State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Rules, 2007 are completely unconstitutional, illegal, unjustified and void ab initio," the high court had held.

After the orders of the high court to the CBI to take over investigations from Vigilance Bureau of Jammu and Kashmir, the agency has registered nine FIRs in the matter. (PTI)

RTGS To Be ...

circulars notifying the announcements.

On 24x7 availability of Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System, the RBI said it has been decided "to make RTGS available round the clock on all days of the year with effect from 00:30 hours on December 14, 2020".

RTGS System is used for high value transactions. The NEFT System of payments is already available round the clock.

RTGS will be available for customers and inter-bank transactions round the clock, except for the interval between 'end-of-day' and 'startof-day' processes, whose timings would be duly broadcasted through the RTGS system. The RBI also decided to increase the

contactless card transactions to Rs 5.000 from Rs December 19. 2,000 at Point of Sale (PoS) terminals from January 1, 2021 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and feedback from stakeholders. Earlier in the day, the RBI Governor had an-

nounced that per transaction limit for Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) relaxation for contactless card transactions will be increased.

"Accordingly, given the sufficient protection available to users, it has been decided to increase the per transaction limit to Rs 5,000," said one of the circulars, adding that all other requirements, including the discretion of cardholder to use contactless or contact mode of transaction, would continue to remain applicable.

Similarly, the limit for processing e-mandates and standing instructions on cards and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) for recurring transactions has been increased to Rs 5.000. In both cases, the existing limit is Rs 2,000 per

In another significant decision, the RBI has decided to grant authorisation for all PSOs (both new and existing)

the usual conditions, with an aim to reduce licensing uncertainties and enable them to focus on business as also to optimise utilisation of regulatory resources. authorised existing

on a perpetual basis, subject to

Payment System Operators (PSOs), grant of perpetual validity shall be examined as and when the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) becomes due for renewal.

Currently, RBI grants authorisation to new entities desirous of operating a payment system for specified periods up to five years. Similar approach is adopted for renewal of validity of authorisation to existing entities.

In another circular related to authorisation of entities for operating a payment system, the RBI said it has been decided to introduce the concept of "cooling period" in certain situations so as to inculcate discipline and encourage submission of applications by serious players as also for effective utilisation of regulatory resources.

The cooling period would be for one year from the date of revocation, non-renewal, acceptance of voluntary surrender or rejection of application, as the case may be

In respect of entities whose application for authorisation is returned for any reason by RBI, the condition of cooling period would be invoked after giving the entity an additional opportunity to sub-

ACB Arrests ...

"During investigation, it was further established that the suspect has received a salary of around Rs 45,00,000/- with effect from year 2008 up to 2019 however, the properties acquired by Abdul Rashid Malla in the said period are worth crores of rupees which is totally disproportionate to his known sources of income. The omissions and commissions on behalf of the suspect invokes the provisions of section 5(1) (e) of J&K PC Act Svt, 2006", the ACB spokesperson said.

"Subsequently, after registration of the instant case search warrants got from the competent court and searches conducted on18-11-2020 at various places in district Budgam and Srinagar simultaneously. During searches, important documents were seized by the search teams of this bureau," he added.

He further said that after collection of evidence it has been found that Malla, a resident of Hassipora Chadoora has committed the offence u/s 5(1) (e) r/w 5(2) of J&K PC Act Svt. 2006.

"During the investigation, it has been found that the accused has acquired properties at different places in District Srinagar and Budgam for which the arrest of accused was mandatory so that the alleged accused could not temper the evidence". the ACB spokesperson said.

"On 04.12.2020, the accused has been accordingly arrested and he shall be produced before the Court as per procedure. Further investigation in the instant case is going on," he added.

Candidate Shot At ...

Aneesul Islam Ganaie was shot at by the militants in Sagam area of Kokernag in the south Kashmir district, a police official said.

Ganaie, who is contesting the ongoing DDC polls on an Apni Party ticket, sustained minor injuries to his hand and leg.

In a handout issued here, a police spokesperson said that today around 1200 hours, Anantnag police received information about an incident at Sagam Kokernag area of District Anantnag, where militants had fired upon a DDC candidate. Senior police officers immediately reached the spot.

This was the first attack on a candidate contesting the eight-phase DDC polls in Jammu and Kashmir being held from November 28 to

The spokesperson said Ganaie was allocated cluster accommodation in Khanabal.

"After the end of the scrutiny period, Ganaie was instructed to get escort personnel for campaigning purposes which he did not take," he added. The police spokesperson said all the candidates

have already been instructed to inform the police before going out for campaigning. "The information regarding Ganaie's movement was neither conveyed to PCR nor to concerned po-

lice station." he added. IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar has requested all the candidates and vulnerable people to inform concerned PCRs or police stations as and when they are desirous of going for poll campaign or other such movements so that appropriate security arrangements are accordingly provided to them, he

Meanwhile, several political parties including the Apni Party and CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami condemned the attack. (PTI)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my Vehicle Bearing Registration No.JK03G-1639.Now applied for its duplicate if anybody has any objection in this regard may file at ARTO Anantnag within Seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Khalid Hussain Bhat R/O Dirhama Serigufwara Anantnag

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

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri: Mukhtar Ahmad Lone S/o: Mohammad Anwar R/o: Check Raithan Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E-5223 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Fin Service B/U Srinagar. Now therefore it is notified for the



information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper No. ARTO/BUDGAM.1949 Dated 04-12-2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer

MCB

Budgam Kashmir

LG launches 12 online services; e-Book of **Transport Department**

Terms faceless, paperless & cashless services as the first step towards 'Good Governance'

JAMMU: In yet another move to provide effective public delivery service at people's doorsteps, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday launched 12 online services of Transport Department here at Raj Bhavan.

The Lt Governor also launched the e-book of the department elucidating the different services being provided to the people, besides the procedures for applying for the same to facilitate the general public.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated the Transport Department for this people-friendly initiative. With this initiative of electronic service delivery. there will be a reduction in public interface with depart-

Srinagar, Dec 4: To facilitate

its customers with a range of commercial vehicles, Jammu

and Kashmir Bank – premier bank of J&K UT - today en-

tered into a tie-up with Ashok

Leyland - second largest

manufacturer of commercial

Manzoor Hussain exchanged

the Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) on behalf

of J&K Bank with the Head

Retail Finance, Ashok Ley-

land, Suvendu Moitra, who

represented Ashok Leyland,

in presence of the bank's Ex-

ecutive President Arun Gan-

dotra and Head Sales Finance,

Ashok Levland D S Madhusu-

dan, Territory Sales manager

Umar Mir and other officers of

Executive President Arun

Gandotra said. "In our quest

for deeper engagement with

our customers, we feel pleased

Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion

Srinagar: PDP President and former Chief

Minister, Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said

that the ongoing protests of the farmers have

forced the Government of India to bow down

the power of the people which is why after

the abrogation of Article 370 an atmosphere

of fear and terror was created in Jammu and

Mehbooba said that the BJP is afraid of

vehicles in the country.

Vice-President

ment officials ensuring hassle-free services to the people in a transparent & accountable manner, he added.

Terming faceless, paperless and cashless services as the first step towards 'Good Governance', the Lt Governor said that we have introduced a new era of transparent governance in the transport sec-

Laying special focus on easing out the public delivery system in the Transport sector, the Lt Governor observed that the services like getting a 'route permit' or 'procuring a learners license' will also become a lot easier with the launch of these online services. The issuance and renewal of the trade certificates of Automobile dealers of Jammu

J&K Bank ties-up with Ashok Leyland

to partner with Ashok Leyland

- one of the leading manufac-

turers of commercial vehicles

in India - to make an array of

customized commercial vehi-

cles including trucks, tippers

and school buses accessible

to them through its extensive

network of touch points across

the country especially in the

UT, where they have a sizable

presence and are going to dou-

ble the number of touch points

Farmers forced Govt to its knees: Mehbooba

"The agreement is a

within a year.'

and Kashmir has also been made transparent and simplified through online mode.

Pertinently, Dealer-Point Facilitation of registration of the Non-Commercial vehicles in the UT of J&K by the Department has been widely hailed by the general public. Similarly, online services were launched to facilitate people with smooth and hassle-free services.

The Lt Governor stressed upon the need to make adoption of e-services wider and the prevalent way of providing services to the common

Highlighting the progress being made by Jammu and Kashmir in the transport sector, since 2015, the Lt Governor said that in March 2016,

win-win for our customers

as they will avail customized

solutions from both the com-

panies tailored to meet their

financial as well as vehicular

add-ons as per tie-up for the

bank's customers include free

service package of Rs 15000 for

each truck and Bus (MHCV

Range from 8T to 55T) and

4-vear driver term- insurance of Rs 10 lacs on every AVTR

truck funded by the bank.

She made these remarks in a tweet in re-

"Farmers protests have brought GOI to

sponse to ongoing protests by farmers on the

knees BJP is scared of people's power &

why a reign of repression has been unleashed

in J&K since Illegal abrogation of Article 370.

Not allowing any peaceful medium for dis-

sent shows their nervousness & failure on all

fronts," she tweeted.

Delhi borders against agrarian reform laws.

Notably, the attractive

requirements", he added.



Anti Israeli protests were held after Friday prayers in Hassanabad, Srinagar condeming the assasination of Iranian nuclear scientist

Kansal reviews status of IT implementation in PDD

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, Rohit Kansal, today chaired a meeting convened to review the progress of various projects being carried out for augmentation of power sector and strengthening IT and Communication Divisions of J&K PDD here at Civil Secretariat.

The meeting discussed vari-

ous aspects and issues related to implementation of Information Technology in JKPDD, status and progress achieved for various ongoing projects under RAP-DRP, SCADA/DMS, RT-DAS, installation of smart metering. AMC, consumer friendly customer care service and measures undertaken for feeder management and billing issues.

Addressing the meeting, Rohit Kansal called for taking advantage of modern technology in power sector to improve the power supply across Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed upon Engineers to develop consumer friendly information technology modules for generation and timely delivery of power bills to ensure target revenue realization.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RIGHT RIVER WORKS DIVISION CORRIGENDUM/EXTENTION

The Tender Notice (NIeT) 12 of 2020-2021 dated: 16-11-2020 issued vide this office endorsement No.SMC/EERRWD/2134-2141 dated:-16-11-2020 for which the tenders were scheduled to be received / uploaded from 21-11-2020 to 01-12-2020 upto 4:00 PM is hereby extended as follows:-

| Particulars | Date from to |
|---|--|
| Date of uploaded | 21-11-2020 to 05-12-2020 upto 4:00 PM |
| Date of bid opening | 07-12-2020 at 2:0 PM |
| Date of submission of uploaded documents (hard Copies) by successful bidder including bid security CDR/FDR (Fresh Dated) and all other relevant documents drawn from 16-11-2020 to 05-12-2020 | 08-12-2020 upto 4:0 PM |
| Date of submission of performance Security (Additional Deposit) in the shape of CDR/FDR latest drawn after the issuance of said NIeT by the successful bidder | Within three days after bid opening |

All other terms and conditions shall remain un-

changed

Executive Engineer R.R.W.D. SMC

No.SMC/EERRWD/2345-50

Dated:01-12-2020

DIPK-NB-4385/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.II, Sgr.

FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.124/CDII/10641-51 of 2020-21

DATED: 03.12.2020.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage 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 | Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs) | E/M (in Rs.) | Time | M.H of Account | Class of Contrac- tor |
|----------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Finishing and other items for construction of office complex for Wild Life Department at Raj Bagh Sriangar. | 13.7.200.00 | 2600/- | 299540/- | 90 Days | 4406- Wild Life | "AAY" |

Position of AAA: 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

| _ | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 05.12.2020 from 10.00 AM |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 05.12.2020 from 10.00 AM. |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 10.12.2020 upto 4.00 PM. |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 11.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Execu- tive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar |

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR (The Date of Treasury Challan earnest money/Bid security shall remain same as per the date of NIT No. 118/CDII/10105-10115 dated 24.11.2020) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov. in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued vide this office No. 07/CDII/2011-12/389-414 dated 07.04.2011.

No. 10641-51

Dated: 03.12.2020

DIPK-9955/20

(DR. NASIR SHAH)

Department

Addl. Director Science & Technology

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** R&B Construction Division IInd

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

PATTAN: 01954-293507

OAZIGUND: 01951-296153



BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132

HIGHWAY STATUS



Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open) Mughal Road - (Open) Srinagar-Leh-(Open)



1442

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

This Day In History

- 771 Charlemagne becomes the sole King of the Franks after the death of his brother Carloman 1082 - Ramon Berenguer II, Count of Barcelona is assas-
- sinated 1301 - Pope Boniface VIII's degree Ausculta fili (only nomi-
- 1360 The French Franc is created
- 1408 Emir Edigu of Golden Horde reaches Moscow
- 1448 Bishop Jona of Moscow chosen as metropolitan of Kiev/Intoxication
- 1456 Earthquake strikes Naples; about 35,000 die 1492 - Christopher Columbus discovers Hispaniola (El Es-
- 1602 Giulio Caccini's "Euridice" premieres in Florence 1741 - Russian princess Elisabeth Petrovna grabs powers
- 1757 Battle of Leuthen: Prussian army beats Austrians 1804 - Thomas Jefferson re-elected US President, George **Clinton Vice President**
- 1912 The Triple Alliance among Italy, Austria, and Germany (originally signed in 1882) is renewed for six years, beginning in 1914, a move inspired by instability in the 1941 - Soviet anti-offensive in Moscow drives out Nazi
- 1950 Sikkim becomes a protectorate of India 1955 - The American Federation of Labor and the Congress
- of Industrial Organizations merge and form the AFL-CIO. 1957 - President Sukarno of Indonesia expels all Dutch people. 1958 - The Preston bypass, the UK's first stretch of motor-
- way, opens to traffic for the first time. It is now part of the M6 and M55 motorways. 1959 - Intikhab Alam bowls Colin McDonald with 1st ball
- in Tests 1960 - Ghana drops diplomatic relations with Belgium
 - 1971 Libya nationalizes British Petroleum concession 1977 - Egypt breaks off diplomatic relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq & South Yemen
- 1990 British Indian novelist Salman Rushdie appears in public for 1st time in 2 years after Iran called for his assassination 1990 - Iraq announces willingness to speak with US about resolving the Persian Gulf crisis
- 1993 Astronauts begin repair of Hubble telescope in space 2008 - Human remains previously found in 1991 are finally identified by Russian and American scientists as those
- of Tsar Nicholas II 2013 - 52 people are killed and 167 are injured in a militant attack on a defense ministry compound in Sana'a, Yemen
- 2016 Malta becomes the 1st country in Europe to outlaw conversion therapy

From KO Archives

Ikhwanis attack CRPF post, woman killed, 5 hurt

Observer News Service

RINAGAR: A woman was killed and five other civilians were injured when a group of counter-insurgents hurled a grenade towards a security picket manned by the central reserve police force (CRPF) followed by firing at Anantnag today. In a swift response, the CRPF personnel apprehended the Ikhwanis and handed four of them to the police after a thrashing

According to a report, passenger bus bearing registration No JKE/8867 was about to leave the Anantnag bus staud for Chowgam(Devsar) at about 4 p.m The passengers included five Ikhwanis who were perched at its rooftop They were identified as Muhammad Hanief Rather of Mondial, Muhammad Amin Dar of Lalan, Manzoor Ahmad Dar of Devsar, Khursheed Ahmad of Munawarabad, Srinagar, and Feroz Ahmad of Bomthan.

Quoting eyewitnesses, the agency report said the Ikhwanis hurled a grenade towards the Goodview hotel where the CRPF 95 battalion has a camp. They followed it by discriminate firing. However, the grenade missed the intended target and exploded on the road side injuring six civilians. Of them, a woman, Jawa¬hira w/o Saif-ud-din of Churat, succumbed to her injuries. Others injured in the incident were identified as Jamila

d/o Muhammad Ismail Bhat of Bona Devsar, Jalal-ud-din Kumar of Kahlil Trfal, Ghulam Hasan Shah of Babapora, Bona gam, Qazi-gund, Farida w/o Muhammad Ismail Shah of Churat and Abdul Rasheed Hajam of Sopat, Qazigund. Reports said the CRPF personnel immediately swung into

ac-tion and arrested all the five counter-insurgents. After giving them a sound beating, they handed over all but one to the police. However, they took Feroz Ahmad with them.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 05 DECEMBER, 2000)

S B/C Gandhi Nagar Jammu, e-mail jkstlc89@gmail.com **ADVERTISEMENT**

Breakthrough discoveries cannot change the world if they do not leave the laboratories. In this regard, the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council (Union Territory of J&K) in partnership with IDREAM (Interdisciplinary Division for Renewable Energy & Advanced Materials), a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at NiT, Srinagar - is launching an "Innovation Challenge" event for talented young brainpower of J&K to "transform ideas into self-employment/or small scale technology-based business," This initiative is aimed to focus on the challenges of contemporary Knowledge-To-Technology-Transfer.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

J&K Science Technology & Innovation Council

Department of Science and Technology

Innovation Challenge will be completed into two stages

Selection of the ideas from practical demonstrations by participants/teams. Allocating seed money to take ideas to market under the constant mentoring of iDREAM

ELIGIBILITY; This is an open challenge; the level of education is irrelevant; hence, anyone/or team with any age group having an innovative ideas is encouraged to apply.

SUBMISSION: The proposed idea (hard copy) should be submitted to the office of undersigned at JK Science, Technology and Innovation Council, SDA Colony, Bemina, Srinagar (Tawanai Ghar) and 5B/C, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu on or before 24-12-2020,5.00 pm and soft copy through mail (jkstic89innovation@gmail.com). The application form should be accompanied with two passport size photographs of the applicant (For further details/query please contact on Mob. 9419196296(Jammu) and 9796301630(Sri nagar).

No:-JKST&IC/80/2020 /452-53 Dt:-3-12-2020

DIPK-9926/20

INNOVATION CHALLENGE REGISTRATION FORM

| 01 | FULL NAME |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 02. 03. | PARENTAGE |
| 03. | OCCUPATION |
| 04. | HOME ADDRESS |
| 04. 05. | PHONE |
| 06. | email ID |
| 07. | EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION, IF ANY |
| 07. 08. | AGE AS ON 01-01-2021 |
| 09 | IDEA TITLE |
| 09 10 | TARGET MARKET |
| n. | IDEA DETAILS |

OBSERVER 1

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leader paves the way for a movement to be

launched, sets its goals, inspires and shows

the roadmap to his followers. A leader either gains the objectives of a movement

launched or creates an explicit difference in the al-

has been struggling with political instability and leadership crisis since 1947, when India and Pakistan took over it. Hari Singh, the local Dogra ruler

at the time of partition of India wanted Jammu &

Kashmir to become independent. It was only with

the help of Sheikh Abdullah (the founder of the Na-

tional Conference and arguably, the unparalleled

leader of Kashmir during Dogra rule) that India successfully made Hari Singh to sign the requisite

instrument to accede the state of Jammu & Kash-

pending a plebiscite to determine the will of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. At numerous other

occasions Pandit Nehru had made the same promises not only to the people of Jammu & Kashmir

but to the international community as well. As

a ruler of Jammu & Kashmir, Sheikh Abdullah

always stressed Pandit Nehru to ignore UN reso-

lutions on Jammu & Kashmir and make its acces-

Instrument of accession was provisional,

The excruciating state of Jammu & Kashmir

RNI Registration No: 69503/98

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ready existing structure.

mir to Indian dominion.

sion to India permanent.

NO HOLDS BARRED



Jammu & Kashmir is yet to come across an astute and principled leadership towards which people can look at with trust and belief

Leadership Crisis

Shafi Rather



As the state of Jammu & Kashmir has a history of betrayals and a track record of unreliable leadership, restoration of Article 370 and Article 35-A seems an uphill task.

Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad further strengthened the accession of Jammu & Kashmir with India ignoring the demand of people for a plebiscite. The Constituent Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir under the leadership of Bakshi ratified the accession of Jammu & Kashmir with India.

Ghulam Mohammad Sadiq was the next Kashmir leader who wanted the pace of the process of

Ghulam Mohammad Sadiq was the next Kashmiri leader who wanted the pace of the process of integration of Jammu & Kashmir with India to be quickened to end the constitutional ambiguity once for all. Abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution which gave special position to Jammu & Kashmir within India, was one of his political objectives. With Sadiq's assistance, New Delhi successfully replaced the position of Jammu & Kashmir's Sadar-e-Riyasat by the governor and that of Prime Minister by the Chief Minister.

During this period, Sheikh Abdullah had reduced himself to the level where he had little choice except to follow the dictation from India. As the demand from Kashmir for a plebiscite was gaining momentum, Sheikh Abdullah in 1975 at Shimla signed an Accord with Indira Gandhi (the then Prime Minister of India) dropping his demand that the people of Jammu & Kashmir be given the right to self-determination. This is considered as one of the worst political blunders of Sheikh Abdullah. His demand for the restoration of the pre-1953 relationship between Jammu & Kashmir and India was also not accepted.

After selling all innards of Article 370 to India and reducing it to a skeleton, Sheikh Abdullah did not stop there. On March 02, 1981, a bill to abrogate Article 370 was tabled in State Assembly by the

Sheikh Abdullah led government. On the same day, Sheikh Abdullah in the state Assembly said, "there is a clear mention of this in the constitution that Article 370 is not a last word nor it is a gospel that in no way can be amended or fiddled with...If we want betterment in our relations with the Indian Union, discussing the relevance of Article 370 is imperative".

After Sheikh Abdullah's death, the National Conference now led by Farooq Abdullah, "a completely untrustworthy man", as called by Indira Gandhi, dominated the politics of Jammu & Kashmir. Farooq Abdullah, though unreliable but admired by his party workers throughout the state, never made any sincere endeavour for the restoration of pre-1953 position of the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

Instead, Farooq Abdullah often termed the state of Jammu & Kashmir as "atoot aang" (integral part) of India. Omar Abdullah, after ascending to power as Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir (thanks to the dynastic politics) also failed in bringing any change in the political structure of the state of Jammu & Kashmir. Although Omar Abdullah talked about

Autonomy of Jammu & Kashmir during his election campaigns & at other occasions, but during his term as the chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir he never made any sincere effort to take up the matter with New Delhi.

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, India's first Muslim home minister and a two-time chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir formed the People's Democratic Party in 1999 on the ideology of Self-rule. He spoke of soft borders, free trans-LoC travel & trade, cultural and academic exchanges with PoK as processes that will lead to Self-rule. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed advocated "Vajpayee Way" as the fundamentals of a solution to the long pending dispute of Jammu & Kashmir. After his initial endeavours in this direction, he also failed in making any explicit difference in the political structure of the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

During his 2014 election Campaign, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed termed Bharatiya Janata Party's slogan of "Mission 44 plus" as dangerous for the state of Jammu & Kashmir but ended up forming a coalition government in the state with the same party. Af-

ter Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's death, callow and callous Mehbooba Mufti, took up the mantle of the first woman chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir. Like her father, Mehbooba Mufti believed in "Vajpayee's Kashmir policy" and asked India and Pakistan to rise above their political compulsions and initiate a dialogue for the resolution of Kashmir issue but her voice always went unheard. During her tenure, over one hundred civilians were killed and thousands injured when in July 2016, Kashmir erupted with protests over the death of militant commander Burhan Wani. "Milk & toffee" statement made by Mehbooba Mufti in a press conference during 2016 Kashmir Unrest in presence of Rajnath Singh, the then Home Minister of India, still haunts the people of Kashmir. Although Mufti later apologised for the same but the statement is now recalled time and again by Mufti's rivals and commoners.

Both, the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party dominated by Abdullahs and Muftis respectively, never urged New Delhi for the resolution of protracted Kashmir dispute. Instead, all the leaders of both these parties collaborated with New Delhi from time to time and enriched themselves.

On the other end, All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) was formed in 1993 as a political front to further the cause of Kashmir. The persuasion of All Party Hurriyat Conference to resolve the prolonged Kashmir dispute as per the aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir is genuine but has taken a backseat.

People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an alliance formed by various mainstream political parties is seen as yet another betrayal from the mainstream leadership. Although the alliance claims safeguarding of the special identity of the state of Jammu & Kashmir and restoring of Article 370 and Article 35-A; continuous holding of the membership of Indian Parliament (the institution that abrogated Article 370 and Article 35-A) by the members of two main political parties of this alliance, the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party, makes it hard for the people of Jammu & Kashmir to trust its leadership.

As the state of Jammu & Kashmir has a history of betrayals and a track record of unreliable leadership, restoration of Article 370 and Article 35-A seems an uphill task. The very concepts of the National Conference's Autonomy and the People's Democratic Party's Self-rule also seem utopian now.

Jammu & Kashmir is yet to come across an astute and principled leadership which people can look at with trust and belief. Jammu & Kashmir needs such a leadership that will act on its own and makes India, Pakistan and international community realise that Jammu & Kashmir is a disputed territory and the people of Jammu & Kashmir are the main stakeholders of this dispute.

The author can be reached at msrshumlaran@gmail.com

Antibiotic Resistance: A Global Threat

Yasir Bashier

⁻ Antibiotics allow doctors to safely perform surgeries, cesarean sections, and organ transplants. Today, these complex procedures are thought of as almost routine, but this could all be in jeopardy because antibiotics have been widely overused and misused in human medicine and animal agriculture around the world

hen antibiotics were introduced as a medicine in the 1940s, they changed the face of medicine. The drugs quickly became the cornerstone of modern medicine. In a pre-antibiotic world, even a simple cut to the knee could kill if it became infected, as we had no reliable tools to kill bacteria. Antibiotics allowed thousands of soldiers from World War II to come home, because their infections from the battlefield could be treated. By contrast, during World War I, one out of every three soldiers died from infection or disease.

Antibiotics allow doctors to safely perform surgeries, cesarean sections, and organ transplants. Today, these complex procedures are thought of as almost routine, but this could all be in jeopardy because antibiotics have been widely overused and misused in human medicine and animal agriculture around the world. This has led to antibiotic resistance—one of the greatest public health threats today. Antibiotic resistance happens when an antibiotic loses its ability to effectively control or kill bacteria. The bacteria become "resistant" and continue to grow because the antibiotic being administered has no ability to kill them.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The World Health Organization and numerous medical societies all warn that if antibiotic use is not significantly reduced, we could soon be living in a post-antibiotic era where routine surgeries and other procedures become high risk. Antibiotic-resistant infections are becoming increasingly common, and if we don't change course, it is estimated that by 2050, antibiotic-resistant infections will kill 10 million people per year worldwide. That's roughly one person dying every three seconds.

Losing antibiotics to fight bacterial infections is almost imaginable. There would be no organ transplants or joint replacements, routine surgeries could become life threatening and a simple cut



Losing antibiotics to fight bacterial infections is almost imaginable. There would be no organ transplants or joint replacements, routine surgeries could become life threatening and a simple cut could kill

could kill. That's a dire prediction of the future of medicine, but it does not need to come true. If antibiotic overuse is reduced in people and animals, the tide of this looming public health crisis can be turned. Antibiotic resistance does not discriminate, it is a risk that everyone faces so everyone must work together to turn this issue around.

In 2016, the UN General Assembly gave unprecedented attention to antibiotic resistance – only the 4th time in the history of the world body that it focused on a health issue. It's up to the citizens of the world to call on their home countries to implement meaningful plans and track their progress to reduce unnecessary uses of antibiotics. We must work swiftly and meaningfully to combat antibiotic resistance and ensure antibiotics work for people and animals when they are needed.

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Respect Persons with Disabilities

Iulian Francis

ome dos and don'ts
My elder brother, James, who
was born in 1943 with a genetic
chromosomal abnormality, Down
Syndrome, and who had a severe learning
disability, died in 1999 in the UK as a result of negligence.

He died of bronchial pneumonia, because doctors who were treating him did not take the time and trouble to find out exactly what was wrong with him. He had been suffering with diarrhoea and they treated him for that without properly examining him at the residential care home in which he lived. He died because he was unable to communicate with the doctors and his carers, supposedly trained to look after people with such difficulties. His birthday, which he always celebrated with a lot of fun and laughter among friends, even going to a local pub for a drink, was December 3.

This date, therefore, has special significance for me, because, in most countries of the world, December 3 is observed as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Do we understand?

It is only right to ask ourselves if we ever take time to understand the problems, the challenges, the feelings, and the aspirations of those people who live among us who, as a result of a disability or disabilities, find their lives more difficult to handle than most of us. When we meet people with disabilities, due to our lack of knowledge, we often feel awkward and embarrassed as we do not know how to react, what to do, or what to say.

I am writing down some practical advice which may help in the understanding of how people with disabilities feel. I draw on my own personal experience of growing up with a brother with a severe learning disability and later in life having a son, now 45 years old, with a similar disability. These experiences and knowing many other people with disabilities who have become close personal friends, have enriched my life and my work.

On the policy leve

Having assisted, in 1990/91, for putting together the first preliminary draft of Bangladesh's National Disability Policy, and having seen how slowly it made progress, I am well aware of how officialdom looks at the problems of the disabled. Although, nearly 40 years ago, 1981 was observed as the International Year of Disabled Persons, the rights of persons with disabilities have always tended to be at the bottom of most governments' budget plans, and so, it can only be stressed that much more work has to be done.

Having said that, I am very pleased to see that the government in Bangladesh is taking a much closer interest in the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities and that the Disability Welfare Act 2001 was amended and strengthened in parliament through the Disability Rights and Protection Act, 2013.

In addition, "Protection of Persons with Neuro-developmental Disability Trust Act, 2013" was also enacted. Significantly, multilateral, bilateral, and INGO donors have now adopted the slogans "Leave no one behind" and "disability inclusion." 30 to 40 years ago, all development programs had to address issues related to women to be accepted by donors. So very many years later, the rights of people with disabilities are



It is only right to ask ourselves if we ever take time to understand the problems, the challenges, the feelings, and the aspirations of those people who live among us who, as a result of a disability or disabilities, find their lives more difficult to handle than most of us

now, at last, recognized!

My work over the years has been enriched by many friends in Bangladesh and elsewhere who have disabilities, and all the time I try to focus on the person and not on the disability and hopefully what I write below -- and I first wrote most of these words 35 years ago -- will help government ministers and government officials better understand what they have to do and how to relate to persons with disabilities. The best advice, however, is that if you do not know how to handle your relationship with a person with a disability, ask him or her for advice. I hope these "Dos and Don'ts" will enrich the lives of those who read them and some of the millions of people with disabilities in Bangladesh.

Don't treat a person with one disability as if she/he is disabled in other ways. People tend to talk in simple single syllable words to people who use wheelchairs, they shout at the deaf, and often address a blind person through someone else.

Don't focus on a person's disability, focus on the person.

Do ask if you can help -- and how to help -- if it looks as if help might be needed. You may be shy about offering help. The disabled person may also be shy about asking for it. And don't be offended if your help is not needed -- persons with disabilities usually like to be as independent as possible. And don't be put off from offering your help at another time.

Don't say: "I wouldn't try that if I were you" -- a disabled person is likely to be the best judge of what she/he can or cannot do

Don't show pity and say: "I don't

know how you manage; I'd die if I couldn't walk." It is often hurtful and, under the guise of praise, reinforces the sense of being different

Do treat children with disabilities as normally as possible -- including not allowing them to misbehave. Disabled children need to learn the boundaries of acceptable behaviour, in their own society, just as other children do.

Do identify yourself straight away. A blind person can't always place you by a "hello." It's hard for her/him to reply warmly if she/he doesn't know who you are. So, give a name and context. "Hello, it's Tasneem. We met last week at Shahana's house."

Do make a special effort to remember the name of a person who is blind. Beginning with her/his name is the only way of letting him know that you are talking to ber/him

Don't feel shy about saying things like "nice to see you" to a blind person. She/he may even say it back. It's impossible to avoid words connected with seeing—blind people aren't self-conscious about it and needn't be.

Don't grab a blind person's arm unexpectedly. You'll startle her/him. In fact, don't hold a blind person's arm at all. Allow her/him to hold yours. She/he is then safely half a step behind you and so is forewarned of what your next move will be by the change in your position.

Don't say "here's a step" -- say, "step up" or "step down." It's dangerous as well as embarrassing to be waving your foot in mid-air when the step actually leads down. Also, if the step is exceptionally deep or shallow, do mention it.

Don't leave doors half open. Shut them all the way or open them flat against the wall

Don't exclude a blind person from television. It gives her/him access to a world familiar to her/his sighted friends.

Don't exclude a blind friend from outdoor activities. Ask if she/he would like to shop with you instead of your doing it for her/him.

Don't chase a child away from a person with a learning disability (often, wrongly, referred to as "mentally retarded") who might approach her/him. It only perpetuates the feeling that there is something to be afraid and ashamed of if she/he reaches out to touch a child -- take her/his hand and turn it into a friendly handshake, deflecting the attention away from the child and on to yourself

Don't be afraid of a person with a learning disability. Very few are violent -- and if they are among people, you can assume that they are not violent. Avoidance and rejection are among the most commonly upsetting things to people with learning disabilities.

Do be honest and keep promises. Don't assume that a person with a learning disability doesn't understand or remember what you've said. As an example, my son Neil, now 45 years old, who has a severe learning disability, has a very good memory, an amazing sense of direction, and a sense of humour.

Do take time to listen to someone who is mentally ill -- and don't assume that she/he has no knowledge or opinions of value.

Don't express pity for parents of "retarded" children -- their child is just as precious to them as any child is to any parent. Don't give advice, except to point someone in the direction of professional help if none is being given and some help seems necessary.

Do remember that any practical help you offer may need to be given for a long period.

Don't tell a person who is mentally ill to "pull themselves together." If they could, they would.

Don't grab hold of a wheelchair without being asked. The occupant can easily be thrown out by an inexpert enthusiast. Remember to warn her/him if you are going to turn the chair round quickly. In fact, it's thoughtful to tell her/him whatever your next move is going to be.

Do check with the person in the wheelchair if the speed you are pushing her/him at is comfortable. Too fast -- it's unsettling Too slow -- it's plain boring

unsettling. Too slow – it's plain boring.

Don't lift the wheelchair by the armrests -- they'll probably come out in your hands. Do remember that the person may find it hard to hear what you are merrily chattering about --and since your voice, coming from behind, may not compete well with traffic noise. Also, from her/his vantage point, she/he may not be able to see what you are pointing to.

Do chat to a person in a stationary wheelchair with your head on the same level. It's embarrassing always literally to be "looked down upon," and uncomfortable always to be looking up.

Do ask her/him how to get a wheelchair up or down a flight of stairs -there are often simple mechanisms or techniques which the disabled person will know.

Do keep your face clearly visible when talking to a deaf person. Face the light. If you stand with your back to the light or window then you may be silhouetted, wiping out the details needed for lip reading. Don't move around, your deaf friend will miss words each time you turn your face.

Do not distort your face exaggeratedly to "help" a lip-reader. The subtle signs she/he watches out for will be swamped by such contortions. And don't shout -- it doesn't help and can distort hearing aids.

Do bear in mind that someone who is deaf may be nervous of going out in the dark. Already denied one sense, she/he may be uneasy about being deprived of another. Indoors, make sure she/he has easy access to a safe light. And don't forget to take a torch if you go out at night with someone who is deaf – shine it on your face when you speak.

Don't remain silent if you can't make out what a deaf person is trying to say, or if her/his hearing aid is making a whistling noise. Be frank. How else is she/he expected to know?

Don't condescend. A deaf person's voice may sound strange. But there's no need to behave as if she/he has a learning disability as well.

Do play music. People who are deaf can "hear" the beat through the vibrations. Deaf teenagers love records and dancing at discos -- the louder the music the better.

Julian Francis has been associated with relief and development activities of Bangladesh since the War of Liberation. In 2012, the Government of Bangladesh awarded him the 'Friends of Liberation War Honour' in recognition of his work among the refugees in India in 1971 and in 2018 honoured him with full Bangladesh

You count because you need to cry

Life, for all of us, is now lived in the looming shadow of death

Syed Badrul Ahsan

eath is no more thoughts of the neigbourhood graveyard.

It is no more a story of the relative who died of an ailment. You wake up at dawn every day, quite surprised that you are alive even as so many others are dying around you and away from you. You pray in that early hour of the day, as the cold winds rush through the trees bereft of leaves in a fresh new winter, for everyone across the globe to remain safe.

On your quivering lips, in your waking hours as in your moments of slumber, it is God you remember. Faith sustains you, revives that confidence in you about life returning to what it used to be before you went into lockdown. Hope does not spring eternal anymore, but it does flicker.

Life, in these parlous times, is not that moment when the heart in you informs you that death will come when it will come. Something has changed, something has snapped in the soul. Life, for all of us, is now lived in the looming shadow of death. Not surrounded by death, not in the vicinity of death. Life is trapped in death. And death is a straitjacket it cannot get out of. You stand at that window. No, you are not eager to live on, for you have perhaps been philosophically made ready to acknowledge the laws of mortality over the years. But what worries you is the sheer helplessness you feel and the pain you share with everyone else on this planet.

The airports are barren land; all those aircraft are parked all across the runways. You think of home, home where you need to go. You miss those nieces and nephews, need to hug them, to tell them you are

back. You remember the way they smile, the sparkle in their eyes every time they see you. The old tactility is what you miss. You worry about the siblings thousands of miles away, praying that the coronavirus does not make a mess of their lives.

You turn away from the window, you turn away from that view of a deserted, desolate street and watch your slowly waking spouse. Would she like some tea? You move into the kitchen, rather startled that your world, as has the world of others, has in these past many months become so worryingly circumscribed. You walk

grave. Suddenly you realize that those ancient graves are beginning to lose their appeal. It is your own grave you have now begun to think of. You do not know where that grave will be or when you will die. But you will die. And who says you are living anyway?

As you sip your tea, which is losing its steam in the cold, you jot down the names of all those men and women you met yesterday, people who do not live today. Life has ceased for them. Back home, and in this global village, it is those lengthening cemeteries which shape elegies with every new corpse of every

We have forgotten to laugh. The old humour, the repartee and wit that marked our conversations in what now seems like centuries ago, we have locked away somewhere in the woodlands of the heart now overgrown with weeds. We have forgotten where we have kept the keys. Do we need the keys when the dusty path leads only to the valley of silence?

to the kitchen, to the living room, to your study.

And that is the limit to your freedom. The old independence, that jauntiness which not so long ago propelled you into jumping on to a bus and striding purposefully into a train and going about the city, is a story which defined you aeons ago. The bookshops are closed; the charity shops nearby, where good used books were always ready to leap at you, do not have their doors open any more.

The government says non-essential things can well stay away from you. It has your good at heart when it tells you, ever so subtly, that a trip to buy a book could well be the beginning of a journey to the

individual you knew making its hurried way to burial, on the shoulders of men in death-resistant attire, men who do not have the luxury of relaxation.

They have other dead men to lower into their premature graves. You make a list of all the good souls claimed by the coronavirus, surprised at the rising numbers as you remember all those faces. So many good people, so many humble friends have gone that you might as well give up counting. And yet you count. You count because if you don't, the heart in you will crack. You count because you need to cry, because the tears must flow.

It is a predator, this virus, that yet has not had its

fill of grotesque killings. It strikes people down everywhere. It takes away jobs; it forces businesses to shutter. It causes violence in the household. It leaves the young struggling for a preservation of sanity. It is a curse which hangs low over us. It does not permit us to shake hands or give one another a hug.

We have forgotten to laugh. The old humour, the repartee and wit that marked our conversations in what now seems like centuries ago, we have locked away somewhere in the woodlands of the heart now overgrown with weeds. We have forgotten where we have kept the keys. Do we need the keys when the dusty path leads only to the valley of silence?

Chilly day gives way to freezing night. Outside that window, a three-quarter moon peers into the room. It has just welcomed an unmanned spacecraft from China. You try recalling the old cadences of poetry, of the light of the moon raising tiny diamonds in the ripples in your village pond. It was another day, another era.

Silence whispers around the pastoral home you miss. Not a leaf stirs. No starlight plays in the water. No, it is not the end of time, but in the mind a vast universe takes form and substance, lifeless and pointless in its ebony manifestation.

Somewhere in the ageing night, a family loses its way, perhaps its hold on the future.

The virus has turned its happy children into sudden orphans.

Syed Badrul Ahsan is a journalist and biographer.

Dhaka Tribune

KO Pix Abid Bhat

Emotional stability predicts successful career outcomes: Study

A new study published in Psychological Science has found that the changes during young adulthood indicate personality growth which can be beneficial for career growth.

Agitudinal study at the University of Houston, the importance of personality growth during young adulthood indicates benefits in career. They stated that young people who develop higher levels of conscientiousness and emotional stability during the transition to employment tend to be more successful in some aspects of their early careers.

Kevin Hoff, assistant professor of industrial-organisational psychology at the University of Houston said, "Results revealed that certain patterns of personality growth predicted career outcomes over and above adolescent personality and ability."

According to the journal, Hoff's study is the first to assess the predictive power of personality changes for a broad range of career

right now

What you need to know about the

1.5 million people

have lost their lives due to

COVID-19 with one death

reported every nine seconds on av-

erage in the past week, as vaccina-

tions are set to begin in December

Half a million deaths occurred

in a handful of developed nations.

in just the last two months, indi-

cating that the severity of the pan-

infected by the disease and the

worst-affected country, the United

States, is currently battling a third

In the last week alone, more

wave of coronavirus infections.

+ died on average every single day,

and the number has been steadily

rising each passing week. The dis-

in 2019 and nearly four times the

number of deaths due to malaria,

according to the World Health

ing tightening its social distanc-

coronavirus cases on Friday, the

tions in the country peaked in late

rules late last month, and added

on Sunday whether to upgrade

S.Korea considers

tighter restrictions

as cases hit nine-

month high

Organization.

ccording to a 12-year lon- outcomes across more than a decade of young adulthood.

The researchers of the study assured the good news for adolescents experiencing difficulties and dissatisfaction with aspects of their personality.

"The study showed you're not just stuck with your personality traits, and if you change over time in positive ways, that can have a big mpact on your career," said Hoff.

Hoff's team tracked two representative samples of Icelandic youth for approximately 12 years, from late adolescence (about 17 years old) to young adulthood (about 29 years old) and found individuals who developed higher trait levels achieved greater success as young adults.

Across both samples, the study found the strongest effects for growth in conscientiousness,

emotional stability and extraversion. Specifically, conscientiousness changes predicted career satisfaction; emotional stability changes were tied closely to income and career satisfaction, and extraversion changes were linked to career and job satisfaction.

Focusing on personality changes as predictors, Hoff stated, "It was important to include a replication sample and data from more than two-time points. So, we used data from three and five-time points,"

"Adolescent trait levels also predicted career success, highlighting the long-term predictive power of personality. Overall, the findings highlight the importance of personality development throughout childhood, adolescence and young adulthood for promoting different aspects of career success," Hoff



PEOPLE STAND IN A QUEUE OUTSIDE a mutton shop in Srinagar on Friday as the stalemate over prices continues between dealers and authorities.

Here's what you need to know about the coronavirus right now: coronavirus

Coronavirus claims 1.5 million lives globally with 10,000 dying each day

on Thursday could prove to be aneconomies and may threaten the other source of infections. Chung urged students to refrain from

visiting high-risk areas such as

karaoke bars and internet cafes as

they celebrate the end of the exam

chances of his premiership beyond next autumn. Britain to cover vaccine side-

effects under damages scheme Britain will pay individuals who suffer any severe side-effects



Japanese PM to hold news conference amid third wave

Japan's prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, is set to hold a news conference to provide an update on South Korea said it is consider- on Friday, his first since coronavirus case numbers surged in ing rules as it reported 629 new November. Suga is expected to explain his backing of a widely most since the first wave of infec- criticised travel subsidy campaign meant to help revive the economy February. Prime Minister Chung amid infection controls.

Sye-kyun said the situation was In recent weeks, a third wave critical as infections continued to of the coronavirus has arrived in rise at an alarming rate despite the parts of the country, and some re-imposition of social-distancing medical groups and experts blame it on the government campaign to that the government would decide encourage domestic tourism.

Suga's approval ratings have dipped, with many unhappy with Authorities are concerned that his handling of the pandemic, university entrance exams which polls showed. That could deal a time to develop and approve vacnearly half a million students sat blow to his plan to prop up local cines against the illness. -Agencies

from COVID-19 vaccines under an existing programme, the government said on Thursday, ahead of a rollout of Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine in the country following emergency approval.

COVID-19 will be added as a precautionary step" to the list of diseases covered for potential liabilities under the Vaccine Damage Payments Scheme (VDPS), the Department of Health and Social Care said. Under the scheme, individuals are entitled to a lump sum capped at 120,000 pounds (\$161,676) if they can prove to have been seriously disabled as a result of a vaccination.

Compensation for any possible side-effects from a COVID-19 vaccine has been the subject of much debate in recent months, as drugmakers and governments around the world have worked in record

MIND'S EYE

Scientists create implant that bypasses eyes, flash images in brain

cientists are a step closer to restoring vision for the blind, after building an implant that bypasses the eyes and allows monkeys to perceive artificially induced patterns in their brains.

The technology, developed by a team at the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience (NIN), was described in the journal Science on Thursday.

It builds on an idea first conceived decades ago: electrically stimulating the brain so it "sees" lit dots known as phosphenes, akin to pixels on a computer screen.

But the concept had never realized its full potential because of technical limitations.

A team led by NIN director Pieter Roelfsema developed implants consisting of 1,024 electrodes wired into the visual cortex of two sighted monkeys, resulting in a much higher resolution than has previously been achieved.

The visual cortex is located at the back of the brain and many of its features are common to humans and other primates.

"The number of electrodes that high-resolution artificial images, is unprecedented," said Roelfsema.

This allowed the pair of monkeys to make out shapes like letters of the alphabet, lines and moving dots, which they'd previously been trained to respond to by moving their eyes in a particular direction to win a reward.

The monochrome patterns are still crude compared to real vision, but represent a major leap over previous implants, which allowed human users to only determine vague areas of light and dark.

Roelfsema likened it to a highway matrix board, and said his team now had a "proof of principle" that laid the foundation for a neuroprosthetic device for the world's 40 million blind people.

This might consist of a camera that the user wears or a pair of glasses, which uses artificial intelligence to convert what it sees into a pattern it can send to the user's brain. Graphic on how scientists are de-

veloping techniques they hope will we have implanted in the visual cor- one day help restore sight to people tex, and the number of artificial pix- with damaged eyes, by sending els that we can generate to produce electronic signals directly to the brain /AFP Similar technology has appeared

in works of science fiction, such as the visor device worn by Geordi La Forge on "Star Trek: The Next Generation.'

In a written commentary, Michael Beauchamp and Daniel Yoshor of the University of Pennsylvania hailed the breakthrough as a "technical tour de force."

The NIN team benefited from advances in miniaturization, and also devised a system to make sure their

about three years.

But the electrodes the team used require silicon needles that work for about a year before tissue builds up around the needles and they no longer function.

'So we want to create new types of electrodes that are better accepted by the body," he said.

Ultimately, a wireless solution would be best, as it would mean the user wouldn't need to wear an implant on the back of their skull, which requires scientists to operate and puts the user at risk of infection.

Fortunately, wireless devices that interface with the brain are advancing rapidly.

The prosthetics would only be +suitable for people who once had sight and then lost it owing to disease or injury.

The brains of people who are born blind dedicate the visual cortex to other functions. But in people whose eyes stop working, the brain Roelfsema said his team hopes to region remains idle, waiting for an make similar devices for humans in input that never comes. - Agencies

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the demise of Syed Sajad Hussaini of Hassanabad Srinagar, presently residing at Hyderiya Colony, Sector -10, Khomeini Chowk, Bemina Srinagar who passed away on Wednesday 2nd December 2020.

input currents were big enough to

create noticeable dots, but not so

great that the pixels grew too large.

some electrodes at a more advanced

stage of the visual cortex, to moni-

tor how much signal was coming

through and then adjust the input.

They achieved this by placing

His congregational Fateha Khawani would be held on Sunday 6th

December, 2020 at their ancestral graveyard Hasanabad Srinagar at 7:30 am. After that daylong condolence meeting will be continued at their residence at Hyderiya Colony, Sector -10, Khomeini Chowk Bemina Srinagar.

> BEREAVED Syed Akhter Hussain (Son)

Climate change already disaster to health: Lancet study

Researchers have revealed that high temperatures are putting hundreds of thousands of people's health and livelihoods at risk every year.



The study, published in the journal The Lancet, found that heat-related deaths among older adults grew by nearly 54 per cent between 2000 and

According to The Verge, the report

Organization (WHO), and other UN not working when it's too hot outside

The report offers proof that climate change will not only reshape life in the future, but it is actively endangering lives now. Health care providers already see

themselves treating a climate crisis. The report, while covering a sweep-

ing range of health threats from hunger to pollution, included brand-new findings on how many more lives have been taken by extreme heat. The number of heat-related deaths

globally in 2018 reached an alarming 296,000 - and that's just among people over the age of 65, who are among the most vulnerable to heat illness.

China, India, Japan, and central Europe had the most deaths among

In the US, heat-related mortality has nearly doubled for this demographic over the past 20 years, reaching a record 19,000 deaths in 2018.

The study showed that people who work outside are also more vulnerable was produced by more than 100 ex- to heatwaves. Staying inside during a perts from academia, the World Health heatwave is often a healthier choice. But

comes with costs, too.

According to the researchers, globally, people worked 302 billion hours less in 2019 because of scorching temperatures 103 billion more hours than were lost

Rising temperatures have also triggered more wildfires, which poses another set of health threat.

Globally, the risk of people being exposed to a wildfire grew in a majority of the world's countries in recent years when compared to the period between 2001 and 2004.

The US saw one of the biggest increases in risk, with a 19 per cent rise in daily exposures to wildfires. That means more people are breathing in more soot and pollution from the blazes.

"Heatwaves and other natural disasters were particularly dangerous this year, as emergency responders and health care systems struggled to handle the pandemic,"study co- author Jeremy Hess was quoted as saying to The Verge, Experts fear that climate-related disasters could similarly overwhelm hospitals in the future. -Agencies

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir, Srinagar

Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

GIST of E-NIT

| NIT No: | MDS/TS /2020-21/ 132 /e-tendering (Tender ID: 2020_PWDJK_110570_1) |
|---------|---|
| Date | 03 .12.2020 |

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from registered contractors/firms for the

| Name of the Work | Estimated Cost (In Lacs) | Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs) | Earnest Money (In Rs) | Time of comple-tion | Position of Funds |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1.1 Replacement of façade of Direction and Circle Offices of Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir and allied works Fab- rication of operators' room with allied works at main boiler house of Direction office thereof. | | 200/- | 4,000/- | 05 days | CAPEX approved; Funds available. |

Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.iktenders.gov. in from 04 -12-2020 (10.00 hrs)

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 04-12-2020 (10.00 hrs) to 10-12-2020 (14.00 hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 10-12-2020 (16.00 hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Srinagar.

DIPK-9925/20

(Er. Abdul Rashid Bhat) Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Srinagar

Dated: 03-12-2020



No. MDS/TS-506/5518-22

UAE Activates Issuing Tourist Visa For Israelis

ISTANBUL: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Thursday it began issuing tourist visas for Israelis as a temporal procedure until a mutual exemption entry visa requirements are finalized.

The Foreign Ministry said it activated tourist entry visas through airlines and travel and tourism offices for Israeli passport holders, according to the UAE state-owned news agency WAM.

It said the visa issuing activation is within the frame-

The UAE's council of ministers ratified an agreement last month that was signed between UAE and Israel for mutual exemption of visa entry requirements

Following the signing of a normalization deal between the UAE and Israel, dozens of agreements were signed in different fields.

On Sept. 15, the UAE and Bahrain signed two agreements for full normalization of relations with Israel in a move that sparked anger among Palestinians, who say



work of an existing cooperation between UAE and Israel after both signed a normalizathe accords ignore their rights and do not serve the Palestin-

UN Calls For Probe Into Israel's Use Of Lethal Force **Against Children**

United Nations: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has called for a transparent investigation into the use of lethal force by Israeli troops against Palestinian children.

The "UN Human Rights Office calls on Israel to promptly, transparently and independently investigate all instances of (Isbody does not appear to conform with this requirement."

Between November 17 and 29, several Palestinian children were critically injured when Israeli soldiers used live ammunition and rubber-coated metal bullets.

On November 29, a 16-yearold boy was shot in the chest and critically injured in al-Bireh city.

On November 27, during protests in Kafr Qaddum village



raeli army) use of force that have led to killing or injury and to hold those responsible accountable," it said in a statement

The UN body also warned Israeli forces against using disproportionate force and live ammunition against Palestinian children across the occupied lands.

"In accordance with international law, use of lethal force is only allowed as a measure of last resort, in response to a threat to life or of serious injury." it said.

"Stone-throwing does not appear to constitute such threat. In addition, force must always be used in a manner which causes the least possible harm. Shooting in the head or upper in the north of the West Bank, soldiers shot a 16-year old boy in the head with a rubber-coated metal bullet. The boy fell from the impact and is hospitalized with a fractured skull.

On November 17, a 15-year old boy on his way back from school lost his right eve after being hit by ricochet ammunition in Qalandia refugee camp north of Jerusalem al-Quds.

"All injuries resulted from the use of potentially lethal force in circumstances where available information suggests the children did not pose a threat to life or serious injury of the soldiers or to anyone else," the UN body said.



US Intelligence Director Says China Is Top Threat To America

WASHINGTON: China poses the greatest threat to America and the rest of the free world since World War II, outgoing National Intelligence Director John Ratcliffe said Thursday as the Trump administration ramps up anti-Chinese rhetoric to pressure President-elect Joe Biden to be tough on Beijing.

The intelligence is clear: Beijing intends to dominate the U.S. and the rest of the planet economically, militarily and technologically." Ratcliffe wrote in an op-ed published Thursday in The Wall Street Journal. "Many of China's major public initiatives and prominent companies offer only a layer of camouflage to the activities of the Chinese Communist Party."

"I call its approach of economic espionage 'rob, replicate and replace," Ratcliffe said. "China robs U.S. companies of their intellectual property, replicates the technology and then replaces the U.S. firms in the global marketplace."

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying dismissed the editorial as a further move to spread "false information, political viruses and lies" in

tion and China-U.S. relations.

"It offered nothing new but repeated the lies and rumors aimed at smearing China and playing up the China threat by any means," Hua said at a daily briefing on Friday. "It's another hodgepodge of lies being produced by the relevant departments of the U.S. government for some time.

Trump administration officials have been stepping up their anti-China rhetoric for months, especially during the presidential campaign as President Donald Trump sought to deflect blame for the spread of the coronavirus . On the campaign trail, Trump warned that Biden would go easy on China, although the presidentelect agrees that China is not abiding by international trade rules, is

companies and stealing American innovation.

The Trump administration, which once boasted of warm relations with Chinese President Xi Jinping, also has been ramping up sanctions against China over Taiwan, Tibet, trade, Hong Kong and the South China Sea. It has moved against the Chinese telecoms giant Huawei and sought restrictions on Chinese social media application like TikTok and WeChat.

Ratcliffe, a Trump loyalist who has been accused of politicizing the position, has been the nation's top intelligence official since May. In his op-ed, he did not directly address the transition to a Biden administration. Trump has not acknowledged losing the election.

Ratcliffe said he has shifted money within the \$85 billion annual intelligence budget to address the threat from China. Beijing is preparing for an openended confrontation with the U.S. which must be addressed, he said

"This is our once-in-a-gener ation challenge. Americans have always risen to the moment, from defeating the scourge of fascism to bringing down the Iron Curtain,' Ratcliffe wrote in what appeared to be call for action to future intelligence officials

VELIKA KLADUSA: Their long journeys already filled with

grants staying in make-shift tent settlements in western Bosnia have been struggling to stay dry and warm.

sticks, the migrant tents outside the town of Velika Kladusa

Bent under heavy snow, the tents are wet and cold while



small fires offered meagre comfort. Migrants are wearing woollen caps and rain coats, but that is not enough.

very much, we have no sleeping place." Migrants often travel

Thousands have been stuck in Bosnia, mostly in the west of the country that borders European Union member state Croatia. Migrants seeking to reach Croatia follow illegal routes over mountain passes allegedly facing pushbacks and violence in

At the make-shift camp in Polje, near Velika Kladusa, the snow apparently caught the migrants by surprise as they had left their belongings unprotected clothes that had been hung out to dry after washing were blanketed with snow, and boots

hopes of damaging China's reputagiving unfair subsidies to Chinese **Iran Rejects Reworking Nuke Deal, Pushes For Compliance**

Agencies

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on Thursday ruled out renegotating the 2015 nuclear accord, asking the US and Europeans to return to full compliance "without pre-conditions."

Addressing a virtual session of the Mediterranean Dialogue meeting, Zarif said the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) provides for Iran "not implementing its obligations" if the other parties, the US and Europeans, fail to implement theirs.

His remarks came a day after Iran's top supervisory body gave its nod to parliament's strategic action plan, which requires the government to speed up nuclear enrichment activities.

The government and parliament have been at loggerheads

over a response to the killing of Iran's top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, which has threatened to re-ignite tensions

Parliament's plan, which was approved by the Guardian Council, a constitutionally-mandated body empowered to vet legislation, requires the government to resume 20% uranium enrichment.

It also calls for ending voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). giving the government a onemonth deadline to suspend the protocol's implementation.

Zarif said the government was opposed to the plan, called the "Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions," but it is obliged to the country's laws and will implement the plan if it takes the shape of law.

He, however, defended the action to "reduce commitments' under the JCPOA, citing a lack of cooperation from the US and E3 (France, Germany and the UK) as well as "national sentiments" in the wake of Fakhrizadeh's killing.

Iran's top diplomat termed the killing of Fakhrizadeh "an act of international aggression" and said the three European countries have "failed to condemn" it.

On the possibility of negotiations with the new US administration, Zarif said the US has "commitments" under UNSC Resolution 2231, and it "cannot set conditions" for full compliance.

"We will not re-negotiate a deal which we negotiated. The deal was about give and take, not about one side asking and the other side giving," Zarif said.

Bangladesh ships Rohingya to remote island despite outcry

Dhaka: More than 1,600 Rohingya refugees sailed on Friday from Bangladesh's southern port of Chittagong for the remote island of Bhasan Char in the Bay of Bengal, a naval official said, despite opposition from humanitarian groups against the move.

The South Asian nation says it is only moving refugees who are willing to go and that this will ease chronic overcrowding in camps that are home to more than one million Rohingya, members of a Muslim minority who have fled neighbouring Myanmar.

But refugees and humanitarian workers say some of the Rohingya had been coerced into going to Bhashan Char, a flood-

gees lined up on blue plastic chairs under the watch of uniformed sailors.

"The government is not taking anyone to Bhashan Char forcibly. We maintain this position," Foreign Minister Abdul Momen told reporters late on Thursday.

"My family didn't want to go, they are taking them by force if my family go there to the island they will die because of floods," a woman told Al Jazeera.

Humanitarian and human rights groups have said the island is flood-prone and vulnerable to frequent cyclones, while the government has not allowed the United Nations to carry out a safety assessment.

'From what they told us the living conditions are good," Al Jazeera's Tanvir



prone island that emerged from

the sea 20 years ago.

The naval official said the Rohingya were on board seven boats, with two more carrying supplies. Pictures taken from one of the vessels showed refu

Chowdhury reporting from Cox's Bazar said.

"They have rooms that can accommodate up to four people, there are two hospitals, with 20-bed hospitals, there is a police station.

Snow, Cold Bring More Hardship For Migrants In Bosnia

Agencies

uncertainty and hardship, migrants stranded in Bosnia are now facing one more adversity a cold Balkan winter. As the first snow of the season fell this week, many mi-

Cobbled together from pieces of nylon and propped up with

are a poor cover for the people staying inside.

"It is very cold now,

last night (we had a) very big problem," said 30-year-old Shahin from Bangladesh, who gave only his first name as is usual for migrants crossing borders illegally. "We are suffering

for months, if not years, from the Middle East, Africa or Asia to reach Western Europe.

the hands of Croatia's police.

and shoes were wet inside and out.

NEWSMAKERS

Time Magazine names Gitanjoli Rao as first-ever Kid of the Year

itanjali Rao on the cover of Time Magazine Photo Credit: Time Magazine The recognition in the US, in partnership with

eter for the rising leaders of America's youngest generation, the magazine said Time Magazine has named 15-year-old Gitanjali Rao as its first-ever Kid of

Nickelodeon, is a barom-

the Year. Indian-American The teenager from Colorado was chosen for her work using technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyberbullying,

reports PTI. She was selected from more than 5,000 nominees to be nominated as the first-ever Kid of the Year by the magazine, which has been announcing a Person of the Year for 92 years.

The recognition in the US, in partnership with Nickelodeon, is a barometer for the rising leaders of America's youngest generation, the magazine said.

Actor and activist Angelina Jolie conducted a virtual interview of the teenager from her home in Colorado, US on behalf of the Time magazine.

While speaking with Jolie, Rao said about her process: "Observe, brainstorm, research, build and

The aspiring scientist said from a very young age she started thinking about us-



ing science and technology to bring about a social change in

the global dynamics. She said she was 10 when

she told her parents that she wanted to research carbon nanotube sensor technology at the Denver Water Quality Research Lab. Rao said there are many problems her gen-

eration is seeing, that had never been seen before. She pointed out that even though there are new problems in society like the Covid-19 pandemic, old problems like human-

rights issues still persist. There are problems that we did not create but that we now have to solve, like climate change and cyberbullying with the introduction of

technology," she said. When asked when she knew that science was her passion, Rao said she always wanted to put a smile on someone's face.

Nasa buying moon dust for \$1



our firms are to collect a small amount of lunar soil from the moon and to provide imagery to Nasa of the collection and the collected material

The US space agency Nasa awarded contracts to four companies on Thursday to collect lunar samples for \$1 to \$15,000, rock-bottom prices that are intended to set a precedent for future exploitation of space resources by the private sector.

"I think it's kind of amazing that we can buy lunar regolith from four companies for a total of \$25,001," said Phil McAlister, director of Nasa's Commercial Spaceflight Division.

The contracts are with Lunar Outpost of Golden, Colorado for \$1; ispace Japan of Tokyo for \$5,000; ispace Europe of Luxembourg for \$5,000; and Masten Space Systems of Mojave, California for \$15,000.

The companies plan to carry out the collec-

tion during already scheduled unmanned missions to the moon in 2022 and 2023.

The firms are to collect a small amount of lunar soil known as regolith from the moon and to provide imagery to Nasa of the collection and the collected material.

Ownership of the lunar soil will then be transferred to Nasa and it will become the "sole property of Nasa for the agency's use under the Artemis program." Under the Artemis program, Nasa plans to

land a man and a woman on the moon by 2024 and lay the groundwork for sustainable exploration and an eventual mission to Mars. "The precedent is a very important part

of what we're doing today," said Mike Gold, Nasa's acting associate administrator for international and interagency relations. We think it's very important to establish

the precedent that the private sector entities can extract, can take these resources but Nasa can purchase and utilize them to fuel not only Nasa's activities, but a whole new dynamic era of public and private development and exploration on the moon," Gold said.

"We must learn to generate our own water, air and even fuel," he said. "Living off the land will enable ambitious exploration activities that will result in awe inspiring science and unprecedented discoveries.

'Block All Roads To Delhi': Farmers Call For 'All-India **Bandh' On Tuesday**

their position ahead of the fifth round of talks with the government, agitating farmers on Friday announced a "Bharat Bandh" on December 8 and said they would occupy toll plazas on that day.

Addressing a press conference, farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chadoni said if the Centre does not accept their demands during Saturday"s talks, they will intensify their agitation against the new farm laws.

"In our meeting today, we have

decided to give a "Bharat Bandh' call on December 8 during which we will also occupy all toll plazas," said Harvinder Singh Lakhwal, another farmer leader.

"We have planned to block all roads leading to Delhi in the coming days if new farm laws are not scrapped," he also said.

Delhi"s border points remained choked as thousands of farmers from Haryana, Punjab, and other states held demonstrations for the ninth consecutive day, after talks with the government failed to yield any resolution on Thursday.

The farmer community has expressed apprehension that the new laws are "anti-farmer", and would pave the way for dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporations.

However, the government has maintained that the new laws will bring farmers better opportunities and usher in new technologies in

ANTI ISRAELI PROTESTS were held after Friday prayers in Hassanabad, Srinagar condemning the assasination of Iranian nuclear scientist Dr Mohsin Fakhrizadeh - Photo Syed Shahriyar

I Crore Healthcare Workers Will Be 1st To Get COVID-19 **Vaccine: Government**



NEW DELHI: COVID-19 vaccine will be first given to about one crore health workers from both the public and private sectors, and then to about two crore front-line workers, the Union Health Ministry said in its presentation at the all-party meet today, sources said.

The presentation was given by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan at the meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In its presentation, the ministry said that COVID-19 vaccine will be first given to about one crore health workers, including doctors and nurses, the sources told news agency Press Trust of India.

Thereafter, it will be given to about two crore front-line workers such as police and armed forces personnel, and municipal workers, among others, they said.

Floor leaders from all parties in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha have been invited to attend the virtual meeting which started around 10:30 am.

The sources said that 13 leaders from prominent political parties having five or more than five MPs. spoke at the meeting.

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad will speak on behalf of the Congress at the meet, they said.

Sudip Bandyopadhyay from the TMC, Sharad Pawar of the NCP, Nama Nageswara Rao from the TRS and Vinayak Raut from the Shiv Sena, among others, will also speak during the meeting, the sources told news agency PTI.

US Approves Sale Of \$90 Million Worth Military Equipment, Services To India

USD 90 million worth of military hardware and services in support of its fleet of C-130J Super

Hercules military transport aircraft. This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to strengthen the US-Indian strategic relationship and improve the security of a Major Defence Partner, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) of the Department of Defence said on Thursday.

In a major sales notification to Congress, DSCA said that India continues to be an important force for political stability, peace and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia region.

Among the requests made by India include aircraft consumables spares and repair/return parts; Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) fire extinguisher cartridges; flare cartridges; Advanced Radar Warning Receiver shipset; 10 Lightweight Night Vision Binocular; 10 AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggle; GPS; Electronic Warfare; instruments and lab equipment support. The estimated total amount is USD 90 million.

The Pentagon said that the proposed sale ensures the previously procured aircraft operates effectively to serve the needs of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the Army and the Navy transport requirements, local and international humanitarian assistance,

This sale of spares and services will enable the IAF to sustain a mission-ready status with respect to the C-130J transport. India will have no difficulty absorbing this additional sustainment support, it said.

According to the Pentagon, the proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the

basic military balance in the region. The prime contractor will be Lockheed-Martin Company, Marietta, Georgia.

In a major move in 2016, the US had designated India a "Major Defence Partner" intending to elevate defence trade and technology sharing to a level commensurate with that of its closest





MESSAGE

Sh. Manoj Sinha

President Indian Red Cross Society, J&K Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir

International Volunteer Day with theme "Together We Can Through Volunteering" is being celebrated throughout India including the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The theme of today's International Volunteer Day encompasses the core spirit of volunteerism. Volunteerism is thinking about and serving others during very critical times. Be it earthquake or floods, pandemic or road accident, volunteers reach out to needy and serve in the spirit of humanism. The purpose of today's celebrations means to build the capacities of volunteers so that they make significant contribution to the community as helpers, educators and trainers. As in any part of country, volunteers represent an important part of Red Cross Movement in Jammu and Kashmir. It is they, who are key agents in the implementation of humanitarian activities and promoting Red Cross ideals in the field. The pandemic COVID-19 has cast a spotlight on the power of volunteers in Jammu and Kashmir. The COVID-19 preparedness and response plan of Indian Red Cross Society in J&K recognises volunteers as key stakeholders for dissemination of information, prevention and reaching out to the needy. This year, our volunteers have been able to reach out to more than 30,000 families in Jammu and Kashmir with essential items like ration, masks, hygiene kits, sanitizers, fresh vegetables, milk, blankets and drugs.

To those who spend every single day thinking about needy, I offer profound gratitude for their services to community and hope more and more young people will come forward to volunteer their spirit to serve the humanity.





MESSAGE

Kifayat Hussain Rizvi, (IAS Rtd)

Hony, General Secretary, IRCS-J&K UT Branch

Together we can through Volunteering, reduce the suffering of humanity. Earthquakes, Floods, Tsunamis or other natural calamities aren't less devastating and distressing but by and large these are localized. Covi-19 didn't remain confined to region, country or continent but affected the globe. It devastated economies and brought innumerable suffering to human beings throughout world. Though human beings suffered a lot but this pandemic couldn't defeat the humanity. 'Humanity' remained in service of human beings be in the shape dedicated workers of government and non-governmental organizations or Red Cross Volunteers.

Red Cross Volunteers, recognized the need to respond, prevent and plan to alleviate the suffering of needy and poor during the pandemic and with togetherness, dedication & selfless service reached every corner as a key stakeholder.

People serve in many ways but those who dedicate time, energy and resources to be part of such segment of society who are poor and needy that too without any remuneration or reward are best people of society. Red Cross Volunteers belong to that category.

Let us contribute to save lives, protect livelihood, provide relief in times of disasters and be part of Red Cross.

CBI Searches 3 Locations In Delhi In **₹1,800-Crore Bank Fraud** Case

A forensic audit by Ernst and Young showed alleged diversion and siphoning off of bank funds, fictitious transactions, forgery etc resulting in the FIR, they said.

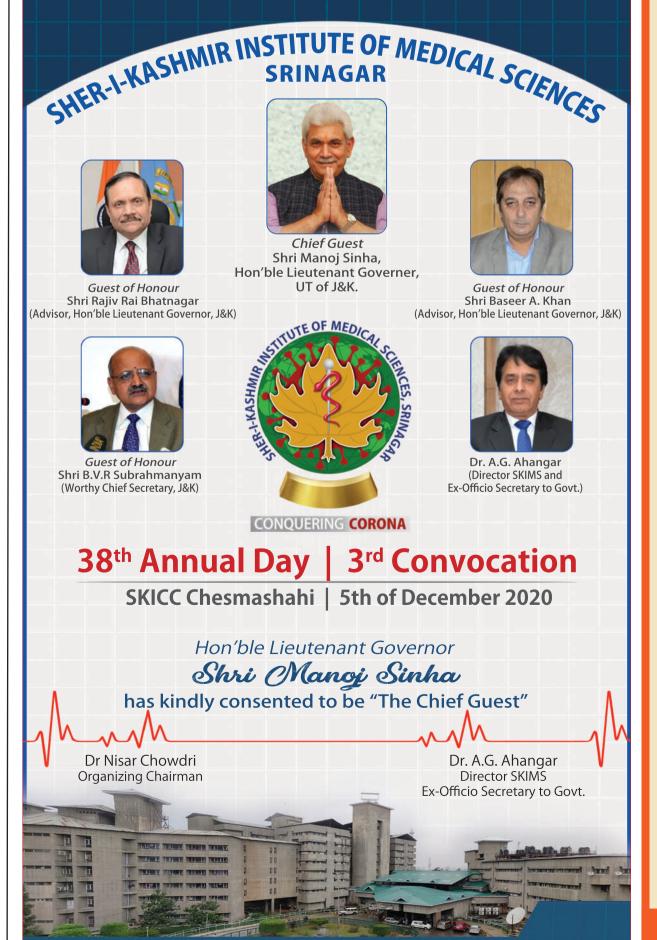


NEW DELHI: The CBI on Friday carried out searches at three locations after registering a case of bank fraud against Jay Polychem Ltd, officials said.

The agency has received a complaint from the SBI against the Lajpat Nagar-based company and its promoters and directors for causing a loss of ₹ 1,800.72 crore to a consortium led by the bank, they

A forensic audit by Ernst and Young showed alleged diversion and siphoning off of bank funds, fictitious transactions, forgery etc resulting in the FIR, they

"Searches are being conducted today at three locations in Delhi at the office and residential premises of borrower company and other accused," CBI spokesperson R K Gaur



Join as Volunteer