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P6 LIFE & TIMES

**MIDWIVES COULD SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES PER YEAR BY 2035: LANCET STUDY** 

Increasing the number of midwives and their level of care could save up to 4.3 million lives per year over the next 15 years, particularly in low and ...





P7 NEWS

**ERDOGAN HOPES FRANCE 'WILL GET RID OF MACRON SOON'** 

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday he hoped France would get rid ...



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people for their folly, better than wise people for their wisdom." — Elizabeth Gaskell



#### **CRPF Man Shoots Self. Critical**

**SRINAGAR:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper on Saturday evening shot himself with his service rifle in Srinagar.

Official sources said that a CRPF man identified as Constable Yogesh Kumar (33) shot himself and got critically injured, reported news agency GNS.

"He fired himself with his service rifle at the camp in Wazir Bagh area,." He was immediately shifted to SMHS Srinagar in critical condition.

An official said that the reason behind taking this extreme step was not known yet and a case has been registered in this regard.

#### **Minor Found Dead** In A Tin-Shed

**SRINAGAR:** A minor boy was + found dead under mysterious circumstances in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, reports said Saturday.

12-year-old Showket Ahmed Dar of Paden Saller Srigufwara along with other local boys left home to play in the field, news agency KNTreported. The boy however, didn't return home after which family members started looking for him.

During the search, his body was found in a tin shed of a neighbour, the report said. It added that police rushed to the spot to ascertain the facts.

#### **Employee Suspended For Joining Poll Rallies**

**KUPWARA:** Authorities on Saturday placed under suspension a microbiologist in PHE division Sogam Kupwara for participating in election related rallies and political meetings in violation of the model code of conduct.

As per an order by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, the suspending of Microbiologist PHE Sub Division Sogam, Reyaz Ahmad Tantary, followed a complaint filed with Governor's Grievance Cell J&K regarding the official's participation in Election related rallies and political meetings, reported news agency GNS.

"The participation of the government employee in election rallies is a clear violation of Model Code of Conduct which deserves punitive action as warranted under law," reads the order. While placing him under suspension, the ADC also attached Tantray with the Accounts Officer of the deputy commissioner's office with immediate effect.

"The accounts Officer shall conduct the enquiry into the matter and furnish a detailed report within 15 days," the order

#### **Hideout Busted In Baramulla: Police**

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have busted a militant hideout in north Kashmir's

Baramulla district. The hideout between Shirpora and Naribal was busted by Baramulla police along with CRPF 53,176 BN after launching a CASO, a police statement said. It said that 2 UBGL grenades, a Chinese grenade, medicines, a blanket and some "incriminating documents" were recovered from the hideout.

# NC Shifts Goal Post, Demand J&K's 1953 **Position**

**OBSERVER MONITORING DESK** 

SRINAGAR: The National Conference on Saturday demanded restoration of pre-August 9, 1953 position of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the ruling BJP government has to accept the 'reality' and 'return' what was snatched away from the people of the erstwhile state through a unilateral decision last year

"BIP has to accept reality and restore Articles 370 sooner or later. We also demand the August 9, 1953 position of Jammu and Kashmir to be restored in its original form. Sheikh Sahab had warned beforehand the challenges Article 370 could face and asked people to stand united to save internal autonomy of the state," NC General Secretary, Ali Muhammad Sagar said Saturday.

Sagar was speaking to reporters at the mausoleum of NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his 115th birth anniversary.

The NC leader said that the the efforts of party president, Dr Farooq Abdullah of bringing all regional political parties on a single platform were being appreciated everywhere. He also said the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) was formed to bring all regional political parties on a single platform to fight for the restoration of the special constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the political party's needs to stay united at this juncture and fight for the restoration of Article 370 than to fight with each other.

Terming the NC founder as a visionary leader, he said Sheikh had warned the people that special constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir would face challenges and that they need to stand united to save internal autono-

## **Time Over For NC, PDP's Dynasty Rule: BJP**

SRINAGAR: Accusing National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), two major regional mainstream parties of looting Jammu and Kashmir's resources, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national general secretary Tarun Chug Saturday said that time was over for the dynasty rule in the erstwhile state.

Addressing a press conference at a hotel here on Saturday, Chug said that it was for the first time that District Development Council (DDC) polls are being held in J&K and he was glad to see that people are coming out in large numbers to vote for the candidates who come from villages and ground zero.

"This is an indication that time for dynasty politics is over now in J&K. Dynasty leaders, who till yesterday, fought against each other and were arch rivals, are today against BJP," he said.





**DYNASTY LEADERS, who till** yesterday, fought against each other and were arch rivals, are today against BJP"

## **Guns Roar Again Along** LoC, IB

IAMMU: India and Pakistan troops exchanged heavy gunfire, including mortars for the second day running on Saturday along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in twin districts of Poonch and Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials here said that Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to firing and mortar shelling on forward posts and villages along the LoC and ÎB in Poonch and Kathua districts. The firing and shelling from across the border, they said, was unprovoked and drew a strong retaliation by the Indian troops.

At about 11.40 am, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along the LoC in Balakote sector of Poonch, a defence spokesperson said.

More On P2

## 'NARCO-MILITANCY' CASE **Banker, 5 Others** Charged

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday filed a chargesheet against six persons including a bank manager in a case related to the seizure of 21 kgs of heroin and cash amounting to over Rs 1.35 crore.

While four of the accused including the branch manager of Central Cooperative Bank, Handwara, Afaq Ahmad Wani stand arrested, two others are absconding.

#### **PANCHAYAT BY-POLLS**

## **Phase III Panch Elections Witness 61% Turnout**

**49.25% VOTES POLLED FOR SARPANCH SEATS** 



#### **OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU: The third phase of byelections held on Friday to vacant seats of Panch and Sarpanch in Jammu and Kashmir recorded 61.10% and 49.25% voter turnout respectively, State Election Commissioner (SEC) K K Sharma said Saturday.

In Jammu division, 79.47 percent while in Kashmir division 59.63 percent voter turnout was recorded for the third phase of by-poll to vacant Panch seats held in 327 constituencies on Friday, Sharma said.

Regarding vacant Sarpanch constituencies, Sharma said, 49.25

per cent polling was registered in 66 constituencies. "Besides, 74.74 per cent polling was registered in Jammu division where as 42.57 per cent voting was recorded in Kashmir division," the SEC said.

In Jammu division, he said, Kishtwar district recorded the highest voter turnout of 89.55 per cent for Panch by-elections followed by Rajouri with 88.29 per cent and Ramban with 86.10 per +

"Similarly, Kulgam district topped the voter turnout in Kashmir division with 77.11 per cent followed by Budgam with 74.21 per cent and Bandipora with 64.88 per cent," Sharma added.

## **'IIT-2020: The Future Is Now'**

## J&K Has Conducive **Business Environment: LG**

'Kashmir's Young Population Armed With New Innovative Ideas Is Ready To Realize The Entrepreneurial Dreams'

**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Saturday said that J&K was gearing up for a post-pandemic world with new policies and technological tools in place. He said policies are inclusive, people-centric and focus on domestic investment & consumption.

"We are devising new paths, new policies, and new technological tools to strengthen our business ecosystem for the post-pandemic world" Sinha said in his keynote address at the "IIT-2020: The Future is Now" Global Summit, organized by PanIIT USA.

The Summit aimed to bring together change-makers, innovators, and thinkers and inspire them to redefine humanity's future, an official spokesman said.

During his address, the LG appreciated the PanIIT USA for focusing on important issues like → More On P2





### WE HAVE A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT,

a robust grass-root democratic system and talented young men and women to set up innovative business and services"

## **J&K Witnesses 12 More Corona Deaths, Toll 1742**

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK Among the six victims from the

Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the fatality count since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1742.

cumbed to the virus in Jammu Charar-e-Sharief Budgam. division, officials said Saturday.

Valley, three were residents of SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed north Kashmir's Bandipora, inlives of twelve more people in cluding an 85-year-old man from Arin, an 80-year-old man from Hajin and a 75-year-old man from Argam. Three more victims included a 75-year-old woman In Kashmir, six more people from Nayi Sadak Srinagar, a lost the battle with the deadly 61-year-old man from Anantnag infection, while six others suc- and an 80-year-old woman from

# **Panel Of Doctors To Meet**

**Emergency Cases** 

ment on Saturday constituted a has been tasked with superstreamline the working of emer- Kashmir. gency rooms for dealing with emergency cases.

Kashmir, the committee which emergency cases.

SRINAGAR: The health depart- comprises specialist doctors committee of senior doctors to vising emergency care across

Director Health Services Kashmir, Sameer Mattoo said that the According to an order issued emergency rooms have been set up by the Director Health Services in each hospital for dealing with

## **501 More Test Positive**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 501 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including thirty-one travelers thus taking the total number of infected people across the Union Territory to

While in Kashmir division 234 more people tested positive for coronavirus, in Jammu division 267 new cases of Covid-19 were detected on Saturday, officials said.

district-wise Giving break-up of the cases, officials said Srinagar reported 92, Baramulla 12, Budgam Pulwama 22,Kupwara 18, Anantnag 12, Bandipora 13, Ganderbal 11, Kulgam 4, Shopian 10, Jammu 147, Rajouri 6,Udhampur 34, Doda 16, Kathua 10. Poonch 2. Samba 10. Kishtwar 18, Ramban 12 and Reasi 12 new cases.

## **Amid Repair Ban And New Policy, Houseboats Are Sinking In Kashmir**

**AUQIB JAVEED** 

hen a midnight creaking sound followed by a thud jolted Farooq Nagoo out of his sleep on December 3, 2020, he heard an alarming spurt of water.

His seven-member family, including his three daughters and two sons, woke up and wondered about the nocturnal wobbling in their houseboat on river Ihelum in Srinagar.

"We thought the earthquake hit us," recalled Nagoo, 45-year-old owner of



H.B Prince House. After tremors, his houseboat tilted towards the left. It panicked his family.Next, Jhelum's murky,cold water flooded his bedroom—a reminiscence of the deluged fall of 2014 when the brimmed river stormed living rooms

and created a riot run for life. "I couldn't understand what to do," the owner said while sitting ashore with



his sodden home articles. "My daughters started crying. But somehow I managed to get my family out of the houseboat." From their sinking home, Nagoo's shivering family walked into an open and frozen Bund. Their midnight shrieks awakened nearby neighbours, who came to their rescue, and took them home.

But Nagoo stayed put and watched in sheer disbelief, as his floating home sank in front of his eyes. "It broke my heart," he lamented. "I

had nothing except it. The houseboat was built by my grandfather and we were living here for decades." >>> More On P2



Our future is very dark," the houseboat owner said. "I think it would be better if the government allotted me some piece of land now for my family's peace of mind."

#### **2 YOUTH PREVENTED FROM JOINING MILITANCY: POLICE**

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have prevented two youth from joining militant ranks in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

Based on a credible input about joining of two youths from Wussan area of Ganderbal into militant ranks, police on the basis of technical inputs immediately swung into action and apprehended both of them from the Old City here, a police spokesperson said.

"Preliminary investigation reveals that both the persons had developed tendency to join militant ranks," he added.

The police spokesperson said that the arrested youth were properly counselled by Police, Psychiatrist and other experts and were later on handed over to their parents with the advice to keep an eye on their daily activities.

As per the spokesperson, SSP Ganderbal said that anti-national elements operating across the border were "preying on the gullible youth" of Kashmir through various social media platforms and enticing them to joining militancy which needs to be curbed. "He further said that parents should come forward and report any such activity of their wards so that they are mainstreamed through concerted counselling by experts," he added.

#### 4 'GAMBLERS' **ARRESTED IN PAMPORE**

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in Pampore town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Acting on an input about gambling activities, a police carried out a raid in Bagander locality of Pampore and arrested four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Saturday. He said an amount of Rs 13,330 besides playing cards were seized from the spot.

The police spokesperson identified the alleged gamblers as Adil Maqbool Dar, Mudasir Ahmad Mir. Mehrai ud din and Fayaz Ahmad Hajam.

"They have been arrested and shifted to PS Pampore where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 97/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Pampore and investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson added.

#### **SUSPICIOUS BAG CREATES PANIC IN POONCH**

POONCH: A suspicious bag with a logo of 'Fakhr-e-Kashmir' was found near mini secretariat Mendhar area of Poonch district and created panic in the area.

Official sources said that at around 0800 hours, one suspicious bag was found near Mini Secretariat, Mendhar. "The bag had the logo of two weapons crossed with each other and words written below them as the 'Fakhr-E Kashmir'.

A police team headed by Station House Officer reached the spot and checked the bag in which few clothes, medicines of diabetes etc. one blood pressure electronic machine, walnut(20 gram) and two packets Henna (Mehandi) were found, reported news agency GNS. Confirming it, the SHO Mendhar Manzoor Kohli said that "verification is being conducted to trace its owner."

#### **4 HOUSES GUTTED IN KULGAM FIRE INCIDENT**

KULGAM: Four houses were gutted in a devastating fire incident in South Kashmir's Kulgam hamlet on Friday late night.

The incident occurred at

Kutamarg, D K Marg village of Kulgam. Eyewitnesses said fire engulfed a house and the flames spread to three other houses. All the four houses were completely damaged in the fire incident.

Locals alleged that fire tenders arrived on the spot when locals had put out the fire. "These houses belonged to poor people," they said.

These houses belonged to Jamaluddin Kasana, Gulam Hassan Kasana, Parvaiz Ahmad Kasana and Abdul Rashid Badana. The locals urged upon the government to rehabilitate the victims and provide them financial assistance. The cause of the fire was not known.

#### **KULGAM POLICE ARRESTED RAPE ACCUSED WITHIN 6** HOURS

KULGAM: Police Station Devsar received a written complaint from a person stating that his Minor sister (name withheld) aged 17 Years has been raped, Video-graphed and later on same obscene video has been uploaded on social media networks.

Acting promptly upon the complaint, a team headed by SHO Devsar Insp. Jazib Mohammad under the Supervision of DySP PC Kulgam Shri Arvind Kumar Badgal-JKPS was constituted to nab the accused. Utilizing all available means with strenuous efforts, specific information was generated by the investigating team which led to the arrest of accused Namely Mohd Aamir Bhat S/O Mohamad Ishaq Bhat R/O Gudder Kulgam within six hours after complaint was received.

Regarding the incident, Case FIR No. 120/2020 U/S 376, 506 IPC, 4 POCSO Act, 67A IT Act stands registered in Police Station Devsar and further investigation is on. Community members hailed the efforts of Kulgam police for timely action.

## **NC Halqa Presidents, Youth** leaders join Apni Party

SRINAGAR: A number of NC Halqa Reyaz Ahmad, Khan, Farooq Ahmad Presidents and Youth leaders on Saturday joined Apni Party at the party office in Srinagar.

Ghulam Nabi Mughloo NC Halqa President Rainawari, Mohammad Younis Dar NC Halga Secretary Rainawari, Muntazir Yaseen Parray NC youth leader Amirakadal, Nazeer Ahmad Bechoo Political activist, Peer Showkat Hazrat President All Kashmir Tourist Transport Association, Mohammad Shafi Dar NC active worker, Mohammad Rafiq Mattoo, Mohalla Committee President Rainawari,,Sheikh Javid Political activist, Shabir Ahmad Dar Kursoo Rajbagh , Mohammad Rizwan Bhat from Kawadara, Altaf Ahmad Chaila from Parimpora, Zakir Hussain Bhat from Tanki, Pora, Ilyas Iqbal from Shaheed Gunj, Rameez Raja from Nowhatta, Rameez Raja from Nowhatta, Umar Sofi from Nowhatta, Sahil Ahmad from Nowpora, Abid Ahmad Parray from Nowpora, Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat Baghe Mehtab NC active worker, From Mehjoor Nagar: respective areas.

Qasba, Shakeel Ahmad, Jameel Ahmad Wani, Mohammad Yaoob Bhat, Umar Malik, Mohammad The new entrants included : Ashraf Dar, Asif Iqbal, Muzum Khan, Nadeem Manzoor, Mohammad Ayaz Bhat, Manzoor Ahmad Kalla, Farooq Ahmad Qasba and Naseer Ahmad Kakroo . They stated that due to people oriented agenda and performance of Apni Party leaders have convinced them to join their hands into the party fold.

The joining ceremony took place in presence of the party president Syed Altaf Bukhari and other senior leaders.

The new entrants pledged to work indefatigably for strengthening the Party at its grass root level and cooperate and coordinate the party leaders in getting the grievance of the people in their respective areas redressed.

Apni Party President welcomed the new entrants into the Party fold. Bukhari impressed upon them to work tirelessly for the mitigation of sufferings of the people in their

## **FARMERS' AGITATION J-K Cong Stages Protest In Jammu**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir that the government is "drunk with unit of the Congress on Saturday staged a protest here to express solidarity with the ongoing farmers' agitation and demanded the immediate rollback of the recently introduced farm laws in the country.

Led by J-K Congress vice president and former minister Raman Bhalla, the protesters assembled outside the party headquarters at Shaheedi chowk and held a peaceful protest to show their opposition to the anti-farmer farm laws.

Criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks that the farm laws reforms have opened doors of new opportunities for support of the legislations shows the country to the rich.

power" and is rigid even in reconsidering them. He demanded that the government should immediately announce the suspension of the three "anti-agriculture" laws.

Bhalla claimed that the laws would pave way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving the farmers at the mercy" of big corporates.

The farmers of the country are angry and agitated over the three farm laws enacted recently by the Central government. It would be better if the Centre reconsiders these laws enacted without forging any consensus with farmers, he said. He accused farmers, Bhalla said insistence in the Centre of seeking to mortgage

## **HC Seeks 'Action** Plan' On Relocation, **Rehabilitation Of Dal Dwellers**

**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary Revenue Department and Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department, to examine the issue of relocation and rehabilitation of persons within and around the Dal Lake, the flagship of Kashmir's tourism.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta directed both the officers to come up with a proper action plan with regard to the various measures which are to be taken.

The direction followed perusal of a report by committee of experts that the method with regard to relocation and rehabilitation of families and persons within and around the Dal Lake has not progressed because of the noncommitment of the Government Departments.

"Let the aspect of the matter relating to flow of sewage into the Dal Lake be brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir forthwith," the court said in another directions.

So far as declaring the Dal Lake and surrounding areas as Eco Sensitive Zone, the court direct the Secretaries to Department of Housing & Urban Development; as well as the Forest, Ecology and Environment to take urgent steps for preparation and approval of the proposal in this regard.

"The same should be forwarded

to the concerned Competent Authority of the Government of India within a reasonable timeframe of two months if not already done," the court. The direction followed perusal of a report by Committee of Experts the issue was unnecessarily languishing with the Government Departments.

Regarding the Guidelines for Registration of Houseboats and all Water Vessels, the court observed that while some progress has been made regarding houseboats, yet, the Department of Tourism has taken no steps with regard to registration of houseboats, Shikaras and all other vessels which are ferrying in the Dal Lake.

"The Department of Tourism shall forthwith prepare an action plan, announce guidelines and take immediate steps for registration of Shikaras and all other vessels on the Dal Lake."

The court also directed J&K LAWDA to examine and take immediate steps for making a clear, cogent and detailed contract of the deweeding machineries.

The court also directed VC LAWDA to take urgent steps for introduction of proper variety of fish culture in the Dal Lake.

"The J&K LAWDA shall ensure that the result of Drone Survey and GIS Data prepared by it is properly maintained. The same may be put in the public domain," the court said, adding, "The Government shall take urgent steps to construct a western peripheral road on the Dal Lake in order to prevent encroachments of the Lakes." (GNS)



The Department of Tourism shall forthwith prepare an action plan, announce guidelines and take immediate steps for registration of Shikaras and all other vessels on the Dal Lake."

#### FROM **FRONT** PAGE

#### Guns Roar ...

+ Later in the day, he said, Pakistan shelled forward areas in Qasba and Kirni sectors of the district from 4 pm. Indian army retaliated befittingly, the spokesperson said, adding there was no report of any casualty on the Indian side.

Earlier, the officials said Pakistani Rangers opened fire on forward posts and villages along the IB in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district.

The firing from across the border started around 9.50 pm on Friday in Pansar Border Outpost area, prompting a strong and an effective retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF), they said.

The officials said that firing between both the sides continued till 3.35 am, but there was no report of any damage on the Indian side. (PTI)

## Banker, 5 Others ...

The chargesheet against the accused, all residents of Handwara town of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, was filed in the NIA special court here, a spokesperson of the investigating agency said.

He said Handwara police registered a case on June 11 after one of the accused Abdul Momin Peer's private vehicle was intercepted at a checkpoint at Kairo bridge in Handwara, leading to the recovery of over Rs 20 lakh and two kgs heroin.

On the disclosure of Peer, the spokesperson said two more accused, Syed Iftikar Andrabi (50) and Islam-Ul-Haq Peer (20), were arrested.

The NIA took over the case on June 23 and investigation was taken up, he said, adding that another accused bank manager, who was on the run, was arrested on July 16 on the basis of technical analysis.

He said investigation revealed that accused persons including Abdul Momin Peer and Saleem Andrabi were involved in cross-border smuggling and supply of the narcotic drug heroin in J&K and other parts of the country after procuring the same from their associates based abroad including Pakistan.

The accused Iftikhar Andrabi and Abdul Momin Peer visited Pakistan several times during 2016-17 to meet the operatives of militant organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), the spokesperson said.

He said the amount generated from the sale of heroin was pumped by the accused to further the militant activities of LeT in the Union Territory. Andrabi's son Saleem (31) and Muneer Ahmad

Banday are still absconding and efforts are on to nab them, the spokesperson said. (PTI)

#### NC Shifts Goal ...

On the other hand, NC Parliamentarian from north Kashmir, Mohammad Akbar Lone said that his party will fight for the restoration of Article 370 come what may. He said BJP which claims that the special status of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be restored is highly

"BJP is highly mistaken if it says that Article 370 stands buried or cannot be restored. We will fight for its restoration come what may," Lone added.

Meanwhile, the NC leaders paid rich tributes to party founder on his birth anniversary.

Led by NC president Farooq Abdullah, the party leaders and workers held a commemorative function at the mausoleum of Sheikh Abdullah at Naseem Bagh on the banks of the Dal Lake here to mark the

Besides Farooq Abdullah, his son and National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah, Lok Sabha members Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone were among several leaders who visited the

the customary interaction with the media due to some unruly scenes created by a group of journalists.

The 114th birth anniversary of Sheikh Abdullah could not be observed last year as most of the top leaders of the party, including Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, were under detention following the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. (With inputs from agencies)

#### Time Over For NC ...

"This is because they are feeling unnerved by BJP's growing popularity. BJP is growing in J&K like a storm and reach every village and district," he added.

over as BJP's national general secretary was flanked by former BIP minister Shahnawaz Hussain, and BIP's national spokesman and Rajya Sabha MP Syed Zafar

He said if one compares the 1960's picture of Mumbai, Banglaore and Hyderabad with Srinagar and Jammu, difference is huge and quite obvious. He went on to say that Mumbai has emerged as a dream city for everyone while Bangalore is a technology hub today and Hyderabad a place, where dreams come true.

"Delhi is a metropolitan city where life moves at a great speed. The question remains why Srinagar and Jammu remained away from the development," Chug said, adding that "Srinagar and Jammu will be taken to new heights. Now that democracy is flourishing in J&K, Srinagar and Jammu should be compared with Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad in 2030 now. Difference

promoted by the dynasty leaders, choked development in I&K.

"Late Mufti Muhammad Sayed spoke against corruption when he took over, but he never acted against NC's big fish," Chug said.

The BJP national general secretary appealed to NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti to stop talking about China's intrusion in Leh and Pakistan's involvement in promoting militancy

"They should now talk about how Kashmir which is under the illegal control of Pakistan can be retrieved," he said. He also lashed out at the Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti asking them to stop talking about China, Pakistan and instead campaign for retrieval of Kashmir under Pakistan.

## J&K Has ...

global economy, technology innovation, health, habitat conversation, and universal education through this Global Summit.

Sharing his views on the global business environment, Sinha said: "I have four Mantras for the 'Present' & a 'New Future'- Peace, Progress, Prosperity, and People First. Being a civil engineering student, I realize that in order to create sustainable development, our growth prospects must depend significantly on policies that are inclusive, peoplecentric, focus on domestic investment & consumption while at the same time are enabled to compete with top players in the global market".

LG remarked, "In India, we have an oasis of talent, it may look like a small drop on the global stage, but they are tributaries of a great river of technology innovation & evolution. IITs & IITians have again demonstrated their capabilities by coming up with innovative solutions to tackle COVID".

Speaking on business opportunities in J&K, the LG observed that the young population armed with new innovative ideas is ready to realize the entrepreneurial dreams and in turn contribute to making 'Atmanirbhar

a robust grass-root democratic system and talented young men and women to set up innovative business and services, he said. Sinha highlighted the achievements made towards

promoting budding entrepreneurs and said that the UT Government has exceeded the initial target of extended handholding to 8600 young boys and girls, two from each 4290 Panchayats, for setting up their business, and within three weeks, for which more than 12,000 applications were received. There are new found dreams of youth of Jammu and Kashmir who are keen to exploit rich dividends of real democracy and do something extraordinary for

themselves and the society. We have sanctioned all Chug, who replaced Ram Madhav recently and took the cases and today I can proudly say within a short added a team of entrepreneurs in different sectors These harbingers of change at the grass-roots with right assistance from administration can offer longterm and sustainable solutions to diverse sectors and also improve the business environment in the Jammu Kashmir Union Territory, the LG said.

shared his views on new entrepreneurs and current challenges, and said that the current crisis and the turmoil in several sectors have opened the doors of challenges and opportunities for new entrepreneurs.

He further stressed on the need to put extensive focus by the world economy on at least 6 sectors-Infrastructure, Services, Industries, Start-ups, Agriculture and Technology where new entrepreneurs would need handholding and other assistance. The industry sector in today's environment requires a new language of re-engineering, of creative solutions, He alleged that the corruption and nepotism of transforming small and medium enterprises, he maintained.

The LG further said that as we are becoming a 'remote society' in which virtual is the new normal, there is a hastened demand for closer cooperation between academia and the industry. The appetite for solutions that is in harmony with nature and humankind is much more today to facilitate smoother transformation from withering away pre-COVID to post-COVID era the world is eagerly awaiting for.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his undeterred resolve to push for a new India would materialize as the country is striving to be 'Atmanirbhar' or selfreliant. His mantra of holistic, balanced growth and focus on digital infrastructure is our guiding principle, Sinha added.

The LG observed that we have made decent progress in creating digital networks across the country for effective penetration of technology at Gram Panchayat level which paid rich dividends.

"I believe increased investment in design, innovation and manufacturing can make India not just 'Atmanirbhar' but a potent player in the global value chain. India is going to play a major role and our comparative advantage lies in large scale manufacturing infrastructure, availability of land, labour, natural resources, technological advancement, financial development and ease of doing business", the LG added.

#### J&K Witnesses ...

Those who died in Jammu included an 84-yearold from Talab Tillo, a 59-year-old man from Kanhal Bishna, a 53-year-old woman from Dollian Samba and an 80-year-old man, a 74-year-old man and an 85-year-old woman from Kathua.

With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1125 and 616 in the Jammu region. Srinagar district with 426 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (314), Baramulla (163), Budgam (103), Pulwama (86), Kupwara (85), Anantnag (80), Doda (57), Bandipora (55), Kulgam (51), Udhampur

grave of the party founder. Farooq Abdullah did not hold Jammu Kashmir'. We have a conducive environment, (51), Rajouri (50), Kathua (42), Ganderbal (39), Shopian (37), Samba (33), Poonch (22), Ramban (20), Kishtwar(19), and Reasi (9). (With GNS inputs)

## **Panel Of Doctors ...**

As per the director, Emergency Rooms (ERs) have been set up in each district hospital which are equipped with monitors, life saving drugs, essential equipment and staff.

These ER rooms will be dealing with emergency cases like trauma, cardiac arrest etc.

The committee comprises of Dr Manzoor A Rather. Consultant Anesthesia. Dr Akhtar Ganaie. Consultant Surgeon, Dr Muzaffar Zargar, Consultant Physician, Dr Nasir Shams, Consultant Physician, Dr Liza Rafiq, span of a month, in our Union Territory, we have Consultant Gynecologist, Dr Irshad Tabassum, Consultant Orthopedic and Dr Massarat Sultan Consultant Pediatrician.

The committee has to ensure accountability and create coherence in the functioning of emergency rooms across the division. The Chief Medical Officers have been directed to cooperate and ensure functioning of emergency rooms.

## Amid Repair Ban ...

The icy cold water made muck of his bedding, TV

refrigerator, furniture, and other items. "There was a dire need of repairing my houseboat. but I couldn't do it due to the government ban," Nagoo, who sells tea for living, said.

## **ANOTHER HOUSEBOAT GONE**

Nagoo's H.B. Prince was the sixth houseboat to sink

in the plagued year of 2020. This dwelling demise is in addition to over seven houseboats gutted in different fire incidents in last 10 years, said Mohammad Yakub Dunoo, spokesperson Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association (KHBOA).

"Currently." Dunoo said. "over 200 houseboats are in urgentneed of repairs. But sadly, the Tourism Department's dockyard for houseboat repairs has been long rendered defunct.'

Houseboats are a source of livelihood for thousands of people, including shikara-wallas, florists, fishermen, artisans, woodcarvers, photographers, and many others in the valley.

"We kept tourism alive even in uncertain situations," Dunoo continued. "But the government doesn't allow the industry to flourish. Since they've pushed us to the wall, we've decided to stage a protest in New Delhi's Jantar Mantar in coming days."

#### LONG LEGAL HAUL

Behind these sinking houses of Kashmir, said Abdul Hameed Wangnoo, Chairman KHBOA, is the high court ban on the reconstruction and repair of houseboats.

Notably, the court sees houseboats as a "major source of pollution" of water bodies.

"Earlier we used to get the permission from Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) and Tourism Department, but now the cases are being referred to high court for permission," Wangnoo said. Over ten houseboat owners have petitioned the high court for permission to reconstruct their

houseboats. "But despite the court telling a high level committee that they can give permission for the same,nothing

has been done till date," KHBOA chairman said. Earlier, in October 2018, the J&K high court constituted a three-member 'Committee of Experts' (CoE) headed by E Sreedharan, former chief of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, for ascertaining measures required to restore and preserve the worldfamous Dal Lake which is shrinking "due to illegal

encroachment, untreated sewage from hotels and houseboats and uncontrolled growth of weeds". The CoE in its report recommended reduction of +

Subsequently, the court directed all authorities concerned that the number of houseboats in Dal and Nigeen Lakes shall not be permitted to be increased.

the number of houseboats and dongas.

However, Wangnoo said that a houseboat being a wooden and fragile structure, needs constant reconstruction and repair.

"But the government has made it difficult for the houseboat owners," he said. "The new policy has also worsened things for us."

#### **NEW POLICY**

April 8, 2020, the government approved new policy guidelines for registration/renewal/operation ouseboats in Dal and Nigeen Lakes.

The decision, the government said, will help to regulate functioning and operation of houseboats in both the water bodies and to preserve the lake for future generations by adopting sustainable tourism, preventing pollution besides, providing conducive and pleasant atmosphere for tourists on one hand and ensuring sustainable source of living for the houseboat owners/shikarawallas on the other hand.

The government said it has taken this step while complying with the directions of the high court and suggestions made by the CoE on Dal and Nigeen Lake – the twin lakes which have already become graveyards for many houseboats since August 5, 2019. when the crippling lockdown broke the backbone of tourism in Kashmir.

According to the draft policy, the owners will require no objection certificate from Power Development Department, PHE Department, Fire and Emergency Services Department, Pollution Control Board, LAWDA, and any other registered authority. But this new policy has already drawn flak for

being an "anti-houseboat" in Kashmir. "With no business, is it possible for us to follow

such type of guidelines," Wangnoo said. "We're unable to pay our electricity bills currently. Such is our condition right now. This new policy is only going to deliver the final blow to Kashmir's iconic houseboat industry."

## **OFFICIAL LINE**

Passing the buck, Nisar Ahmad, Director Tourism, Kashmir, said the department is only following the high court orders.

"The court directed our department to frame a policy to reconstruct, repair, transfer, registration and renewal of houseboats." Nisar said. "We comply with the orders and framed the same.

However, it was unacceptable to houseboat owners as they maintained that they were not involved while framing the policy. Hence they challenged it."

A new updated policy has now been submitted to the government for approval.

"Houseboat owners have to follow a proper

procedure now," Director Tourism said. "In the name of repairing, we won't allow illegal constructions. Over 910 houseboats are registered withTourism Department and all are in good condition. We can't overload our water bodies with houseboats. We need to keep the carrying capacity in

## **LAMENTING OVER LOSS**

Staring at his sank H.B. Prince at the ghats of [helum,Nagoo predicted a mass demise of houseboats]

amid a ban on repairs and the new policy. "Our future is very dark," the houseboat owner said. "I think it would be better if the government allotted me some piece of land now for my family's peace of mind."



# DC, Srinagar asks people to take part in ongoing 7th ES

SRINAGARChairman District Level Coordination Committee (Deputy Commissioner) Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary has urged upon all residents and traders of Srinagar district to take part in the ongoing 7th Economic Census (ES) being held as part of the nationwide exercise to collect data on non farm economic activities carried out in the country.

Dr Shahid appealed all the residents os Srinagar district, especially, business establishments, to cooperate with the designated enumerators and take part in the ongoing 7th Economic Census. He said the representatives of traders associations have an important role to play in this activity and appealed them to facilitate conduct of the census exercise within their respective markets.

DC said that Economic Census has been the means of measuring the diversity of non farm economic activities in all its major dimensions — the aim being to evolve policy interventions for their economic boost.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the 7th Economic Census was to be completed by March 2020 but got delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The MoSPI has now extended the deadline for completing the census to 31 December 2020.

Being held under the provisions of the Collection of Statistics Act 2008, the Census is being conducted through door-to-door survey of each household and commercial establishment. The data collected - using a mobile application - will include information on basic characteristics of a business or trading establishment like nature of activity, number of persons engaged, type of ownership, et cetera.

#### **Kansal Inspects Hydro Power project Kangan, Alesteng Grid Station**

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 05: Principal Secretary, Power Development and Information Departments, Rohit Kansal, today chaired a high level meeting to review the functioning of Power Development Department (PDD) in Ganderbal and Bandipora districts at Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The meeting was attended by MD KPDCL (Kashmir), Ajaz Ahamd, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shafqat Iqbal, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad, Secretary (Tech) Bashir Ahmad Dar, CE (Distribution) Aijaz Ahmad Dar, CE Transmission Hashmat Qazi, CE Projects Javed Yousuf and CE (Load Dispach MY Baba, MD PDC, SE O&M Circle Ganderbal besides Executive Engineers of different wings of PDD.

Principal Secretary was given firsthand appraisal by the SE O&M Circle Ganderbal and concerned Engineer from Bandipora about the power scenario of twin districts besides status of languishing projects and progress on centrally sponsored schemes in both the districts.

He said that PDI

vital sector is receiving focused attention from the government He stressed upon the concerned engineers to maintain discipline in functioning of the department and said that no laxity would be tolerated on part of any official with regard to regulation of pow-

The meeting also reviewed the status of languishing projects including segregation of 11KV Repora feeder, segregation of 11KV Saloora feeder and construction of 33/11 KV Receiving station along with 33KV Line at Batwina

er supply to the people.

in Ganderbal and concerned briefed the Principal Secretary about the physical and financial progress on these projects.

While underlining the importance of these projects of the department in twin districts. Principal Secretary said that adequate infrastructure has been created to improve power scenario across J&K and said these projects after completion shall establish a robust power supply mechanism in both the districts. He directed the concerned SEs to take periodic review of pace of progress on the projects to ensure their early

## Public Notice

This is for the information of general public that I have lost my driving licence bearing No 34533 LMV, MCWG somewhere in Eidgah area of Srinagar during the last week.

Since, I am unable to trace it, I am applying for a duplicate driving licence. Anybody having any objection may inform the concerned authorities or Regional Transport Office within the next 3 days, after which no objection will be entertained.

Shadab Ahmad Sheikh S/O Mohammad Sadiq Sheikh R/O 69 Al Noor colony Elahibagh Buchpora Mob No:6006873223

## SHAMAA celebrates the Birth Anniversary of Shaheed Major Arvind Bazala with



Dec 5, 2020, Jammu: SHAMAA, a registered society formed in the memory of Shaheed Major Arvind Bazala celebrated his birth anniversary with the inmates of BALGRAN, Jammu. Shaheed Major Arvind Bazala belonged to the Aviation Division of Indian Army and was a resident of R.S.Pura and alumni of Sainik School Nagrota. He attained martyrdom on 30th November 2016 during a tragic chopper crash in Sukna, West Bengal. BALGRAN is a well known organization which provides family home to orphaned and neglected children while laying foundations for a secure and inde-

On this occasion, members of the family of Shaheed Major Arvind Bazala including his father Sh. T.R. Bhagat and mother Smt. Santosh Bhagat were present. The speakers highlighted the life and story of Shaheed Major Arvind Bazala and urged the young inmates to lead a life which is dedicated to the cause of nation. Besides cake cutting, daily use items were also distributed to the

SHAMAA has been engaged in various kinds of social works including helping inmates orphanages, organizing Blood Donation

# **Serving Humanity Ingrained** in Our Culture: LG

JAMMU, DECEMBER 05: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today participated in the International Volunteer Day celebrations at Police Auditorium, Gulshan Ground Jammu The day is being celebrated throughout India including the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the theme "Together We Can Through Volunteering" highlighting the core spirit of volunteerism.

During his address, the Lt Governor congratulated the Jammu & Kashmir chapter of the Red Cross Society and all those associated with the organization on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day.

Acknowledging the significant contribution made by the Volunteers, the Lt Governor said that the day is an opportunity to express our gratitude to all those volunteers who believe in the importance of the common good and have served the society selflessly. He said the purpose of today's celebrations is also to build the capacities of volunteers so that they make significant contributions to the communi-

Terming Volunteering for selfless service as core philosophy of Red Cross ideals, the Lt Governor said that volunteering represents an important part of the Red Cross movement, as they are key agents in the implementation of humanitarian activities and promoting Red Cross ideals in the field.

"I feel that for the spirit of service, to become a Volunteer, it is not necessary to have a degree, but passion, love, and a soft soul. To rise above the self and serve humanity is deeply ingrained in our great Indian culture", he observed.

The Lt Governor expressed pleasure upon the fact that the society has been working here since 1947 and has a strong team of volunteers in all 20 districts of the Union Territory. The society not only helps the needy at troubled times, but also organizes events to educate people about dealing with emergency situations like natural calamities which is praiseworthy,

#### **DIAL-EMMA**

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686



PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:

2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

#### **AIRPORTS**

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

#### **RAILWAYS**

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

#### BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



**PRAYERS FAJR** 5:53 **ZUHR** 12:21 **ASR** 3:45 Magrib 5:25 6:50

20 Rabi-us-Sani

1442

**ISHA** 

## **This Day In History**

631 - 1st predicted transit of Venus (Kepler) is observed. 1873 - 1st international football game in US: Yale 2, Eton (Eng-

1877 - First recording made of the human voice - Thomas Edison reciting "Mary had a little lamb". 1877 - Washington Post publishes 1st edition.

1897 - London becomes the world's first city to host licenced taxi-

1912 - China votes for universal human rights

1916 - German army under Gen Mackensen occupies Bucharest. 1916 - World War I: The Central Powers capture Bucharest. 1917 - French munition ship "Mont Blanc" explodes in Halifax, kills

1917 - Taking advantage of the temporary relaxation of authority

on 20 November 1921 - Anglo-Irish Treaty signed; Ireland receives dominion status;

1925 - Italy, Britain & Egypt sign Jaghbub accord (Italy). 1938 - 117 Spanish knights under capt Piet Laros return to Neth-

1938 - French/German non-attack treaty drawn (Ribbentrop-Bonnet Pact).

1941 - Dutch & British pilots see Japanese invasion fleet at Singa-

. 1956 - Nelson Mandela & 156 others arrested for political activities

1957 - 1st US attempt to launch a satellite fails-Vanguard rocket blows up.

1958 - US lunar probe Pioneer 3 reaches 107,269 km, falls back. 1962 - US abandons Skybolt balistic missile program.

1965 - Pakistan's Islamic Ideology Advisory Committee recommends that Islamic Studies be made a compulsory subject for Muslim students from primary to graduate level. 1977 - South Africa grants Bophuthatswana independence. 1980 - NASA launches Intelsat V satellite, no. 502

1988 - Arafat meets prominent American Jews in Stockholm, Swe-

m anounces release of all forlegn nostage:

1992 - 300,000 hindus destroy mosque of Babri India, 4 die. 1998 - Hugo Chávez is elected President of Venezuela. 2006 - NASA reveals photographs taken by Mars Global Surveyor

suggesting the presence of liquid water on Mars. 2012 - A 243 million year old Nyasasaurus fossil is discovered in

## From KO Archives

## 22-hr storm on CRPF camp ends

RINAGAR: The 22-hr long gun battle raging at the CRPF 61 Batal¬lion camp at the defunct Heevan cinema at Ashajipora near Anantnag came to an end this afternoon after the army and the paramilitary forces killed the lone militant and in the process lost seven of their personnel with as many injured. According to reports, it was for the first time after the suspension of combat operations following the uni¬lateral Ramadhan ceasefire that the army had to be called out to as-sist paramilitary forces to rescue trapped CRPF personnel after two Lashkar-e-Taibas fidayeen stormed their camp at 5 p.m. yesterday. The two militants were identified as Abu Israr and Abu Hizbullah.

Three CRPF personnel were killed in the volly of fire when the militants forced their entry into the camp. They were identified as P K Sharma (belt No 971120336), H P Sampat and Rajesh Kumar. One of the militant was killed in the shootout while the other took position within the building. Late in the night, the exchange of fire stopped at which

the security forces thought both the fidayeen had died in the gun battle. However the lone surviving militant resumed the firing early this morning killing another four CRPF personnel and wounding six of their men besides an army jawan of 3 RR .While the deceased personnel could not be identified immediately, those injured included Arvind, Partap Singh, PK Loi and Raj Pal. Sources said more bodies of the security personnel could be buried under the debris. Security personnel's who had laid siege around the camp from outside immediately after the militant at-tack, entered the building where the holed up militant had taken shelter on the top of the multi-storied building restricting move-ment of CRPF men inside, an official spokesman said.

Police had taken into its custody the Maruti car bearing registration no JK03/3351used by the Fidayeen and which was lying at the gate of the camp. Meanwhile, the army foiled anoth  $\neg$ er suicide attack in Cherkote area of frontier district Kupwara late last night, shooting dead one of the two Lashkar activists attempting to storm Devar post, a defence spokesman said.

He said troops noticed two militants attempting to sneak into their camp at Devar and challenged them. The two opened fire and in the retaliatory action, one of them was killed while the other es¬caped, he said. He said troops suffered no casualty in the encounter.

**Deputy Registrar, Academics** 

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 06 DECEMBER, 2000)

## **International Volunteer Day-2020**

ty as helpers, educators, and trainers.

to ensure the well-being of our communities is one of the key ways in which we can build smarter and caring societies. The virtues of selflessness, altruism and dedication towards the welfare of others without expectation celebrates humanity", said the Lt Governor.

"I believe that the desire to help and

SKIMS Celebrates 38th Annual Day & 3rd Convocation

ical Sciences, (SKIMS) Srinagar celebrated its 38th Annual Day& 3rd Convocation on Saturday at SKICC Chasm-e-Shahi.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha who is also Chairman Governing Body SKIMS who was slated to be the Chief Guest on the occasion was unable to attend the function due to some 'unavoidable engagements'.

RR Bhatnagar Advisor to Governor conveyed appreciation and gratitude to Director SKIMS and administration on behalf of LG. "I congratulate and convey best wishes on behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor to all the scholars & appreciation to SKIMS for their huge contribution in healthcare services in J&K particularly their role in COVID-19 pandemic. ", he quoted.

Advisor later conferred degrees to the scholars and "Lifetime Achievement Award" to COVID warriors team at SKIMS for their outstanding contribution & exemplary services during ongoing COVID-19 Advisor lauded Director SKIMS &

Ex-Officio Secretary Dr. A. G Ahangar

led team of medical faculty & all health-

care workers of SKIMS for their immense

contribution & services to the people of

Jammu & Kashmir during COVID-19 pan-

demic and otherwise. He said SKIMS is always on forefront in serving people of J&K and beyond through their best patient care services and acknowledged the SKIMS as "Institution Par Excellence" in healthcare of J&K. SKIMS through effective leadership contributed immensely in COVID management despite challenges faced by Medical fraternity, he added. "I salute all healthcare warriors who risked their lives, faced hazards to serve community". He assured support to augment

health infrastructure in J&k and gave a detailed account of various initiatives taken by government including starting of news Medical Colleges, launching new courses & new schemes besides release of funds under Prime Ministers package for completion of mega projects. Later on, he e-inaugurated various mega projects at SKIMS including State Cancer Institute, 100 Bedded Maternity Hospital Engineering Block & Drug and Pharmacy



**ADMISSION (SELECTION) NOTIFICATION NO. 10 OF 2020** Consequent upon the available vacancies, the candidates bearing following Form Numbers have been provisionally selected/ upgraded under various

categories including self-finance (SF) for admission to various programmes for the Academic Session 2020-21.

B.Tech. Civil Engineering: OM: 202803\*, 202873\*\*, 203139\*, 203133\* CDPP: 202379\* SF: 200935\*, 200816\* 3.Tech. Electrical Engineering: OM: 202828\*. 200747\*. 201057\*\* 203522\* 200826\* 201244\* 202673\* 202942. 201777 CDPP: 202550\* SF: 203910\*

B.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering: OM: 202860\*, 202977\*, 203344\*, 203554\*, 202695\* SF: 202325\*, 200485\*, 202602\*, 202397\* B.Tech. Electronics & Communication Engineering: OM: 202929\*, 200816\*, 202233\*\*\*, 203487, 203105\*, 201642, 203971, 202307, 203764, 202360, 200033, 200875<sup>#</sup>, 202721, 202471 **SF**: 203627\*, 201543\*, 204178\*

B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering: OM: 204311\*\*\*, 202326, 201976, 201403, 203635, 202661, 202532, 203608, 202714, 202779, 202460, 203366, 202458\*,  $203201, 201639, 200979, 203630, 203603, 203141, 203073, 202925, 200366, 203890, 203378, 202454^{\#}, 200989, 202422, 200475, 203595, 202467, 202457,$ General Waiting List for B.Tech. Engineering: OM: 202919, 204268, 202380, 200881, 202525, 204205, 203573, 200268, 202343, 202710, 202481, 202863, 203568, 202624, 202432, 202684, 200292, 200575, 203812, 202979, 202999, 202384, 203598, 203138, 201575, 202870, 201654, 203140, 203197, 203561, 202684, 2026203648, 204177, 203158, 202331, 202902, 200309, 201149, 202578, 203179, 203448, 204058, 203074, 202718, 200954, 204070, 203872, 203092, 204175. 202703, 202597, 200696, 201769, 202325, 203087, 204288, 200485, 202544, 200348, 204052, 200699, 202784, 202994, 202357, 203856, 203424, 202602, 202397, 201829, 204133, 204194, 202562, 200229, 201762, 200274, 200748, 201228, 203013, 203099, 202299, 200528, 202852

B.A (Hons) in English: OM: 200242, 200646 Sports: 202073 Waiting: OM: 204033, 200490, 203955, 200759

B.Tech. Food Technology: OM: 203147, 204103\*\*\*, 200671, 203435, 203585 MBA (5-Year Integrated): OM: 200541, 203187, 202217\*\*\*, 203834, 200383 WUPSC: 202238

Master of Computer Applications (MCA): OM: 203943, 202584\*\*, 203840\*\*, 203941, 203912, 204530, 201714, 204596, 203335\*\*, 200304 RBA: 204400, Master of Science in Information Technology (M. Sc. IT): OM: 202713 RBA: 204164

General Waiting List MCA / M. Sc. IT: OM: 203646, 201978, 203588, 201742, 201497, 204088, 200042, 203428, 200890, 204151, 200542, 203932,

202393.204363. 204442. 201390. 200800. 200279. 204121. 204584. 204640. 202611. 204413. 203439. 203668. 200650. 203460 MA Islamic Studies: OM: 204428, 204775, 202367, 204054 RBA: 204157, 204435, 204093 WAITING RBA: 201449, 201984, 201925

M. Sc. Chemistry: OM: 201548, 203619, 203306 WAITING OM: 201743, 200453, 203483, 201648, 201957, 203130, 204119, 203385, 203584

MA Political Science (IR): OM: 201193, 203337, 202609 WAITING OM: 200139, 203396, 204011, 201202, 203375, 204567 MA Journalism and Mass Communication: OM: 204485, 202820, 202219, 203127, 203495, 204369, 204417

MA English Language & Literature: OM: 204148, 202438, 201435, 202229, 204775, 200013, 204025, 202928, 202696\*\*\*, 203449 RBA: 200558\*\* 203350, 204157 **WAITING RBA:** 204430, 200605, 201055, 201541, 202028, 204093, 204556, 202191 M. Sc. Statistics: OM: 204403, 201581, 204458, 200718, 200918, 203888, 200479

Master of Business Administration (MBA): OM: 200585, 204717\* Master of Business Administration (International Business) MBA-IB: OM: 200056, 200638, 204763, 204562, 202070, 202115, 204700, 202641, 204382

Internal Quota: 203712 IMPORTANT NOTES:

L. The selection list of candidates who have applied against notification no. IUST/Acad/Admissions/20/705 dated: 27-11-2020 for SF/General seats will be available on the University website on 08-12-2020. Candidates are advised to check the website for further details. 2. The selection of the candidates is strictly provisional and subject to the fulfillment of eligibility criteria as determined and fixed by the university and production/verification of the original documents/valid category certificate(s) wherever applicable. In case of any discrepancy found at any point of

time, the University reserves the right to cancel/modify such selection/admission without assigning any reason thereof. 3. Provisionally selected candidates are hereby informed to report to the office of the Dean Academic Affairs, IUST Campus Awantipora on any working day by or before 10-12-2020 (except on Saturday & Sunday) alongwith application form/ original documents/ copies thereof and requisite fee as mentioned in the University Prospectus 2020 for completion of admission formalities. In case any candidate fails to report within the stipulated time,

the seat shall be allotted to the next candidate in order of merit and preference. 4. The candidates in the Waiting List (s) are advised to register their interest online for admission in case of any available vacancy (ies) by or before 10-12-2020 by clicking on the tab (Submit Waiting Form) in admission portal available on University website www.islamicuniversity.edu.in. Once the form is submitted, take a print out of the waiting confirmation letter for records, failing which his/her candidature shall not be considered.

5. The candidates having (\*) superscribed on their Form Numbers are already admitted candidates and have been automatically upgraded from one

branch/ Programme to another in view of their merit and preference and they need not to report for upgradation. 6. The candidates having (\*\*) superscribed on their Form Numbers have been upgraded from reserved category to OM in the already allotted branch/programme in view of their merit and preference. 7. The candidates having (\*\*\*) superscribed on their Form Numbers have been upgraded from SF category to OM in the already allotted

branch/programme in view of their merit and preference. 8. The candidates having (#) superscribed on their Form Numbers are advised to report at above mentioned address by or before 10-12-2020 for the final allocation of their branches, failing which the candidate shall be retained in the already registered branch.

In case of any available vacancy (ies) after 10-12-2020, further upgradation of branch shall be done in the subsequent selection notification: on the basis of merit & preference amongst the ALREADY ADMITTED CANDIDATES ONLY.

No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/20/724 Dated: 04-12-2020 (Errors & Omissions Excepted)-

9. The Selection List of candidates under Sports Category will be notified after the receipt of verification report from J&K Sports Council.

# OBSERVER 1

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#### NO HOLDS BARRED



It seems Middle Eastern leaders are expecting Biden's presidency to be the exact opposite of Trump's and to bring back aspects of Barack Obama's. But this may not be the case, as his recent appointments of national security officials have shown. However, the new administration will certainly change the way US foreign policy is conducted in at least three ways.

# OIC Meet and Niamey Declaration on Kashmir

Niloofar Qureshi

The Niamey
resolutions against
India might please
politicians and
bureaucrats sitting
comfortably in their air
conditioned offices, but
they amount to nothing
for the common
Kashmiri who has been
given false hopes for
the last three decades

ow that the standard ritual of Pakistan moving a resolution against atrocities in Kashmir and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) adopting the same in Niamey [Niger] is over, it's time for everyone to rejoice because all concerned would be content of having done their duty, even if it's just lip service. However, what does this resolution, which is being hailed by Islamabad as a major 'diplomatic victory', mean for the common Kashmiri or the 'self-determination' movement remains questionable.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has in a tweet mentioned that, "The OIC has strongly reaffirmed their unequivocal and unanimous support for the Kashmir Cause in a Resolution adopted at #OIC47CFM-Niamey categorically rejected illegal actions taken by India since 5 August 2019 and this is good news." However, he has not clarified as to how without any plan of action to undo the "illegal actions" does this declaration become "good news"? If 57 member countries of the OIC are unanimous in their opinion that New Delhi's actions of August 5 in J&K and later are "illegal," then instead of just making hollow declarations, why doesn't OIC take up this issue with the International Court of Justice (IJC)?

The Niamey resolutions against India might please politicians and bureaucrats sitting comfortably in their airconditioned offices, but they amount to nothing for the common Kashmiri who has been given false hopes for the last three decades. When the 'armed struggle' erupted in Kashmir in the early nineties, the people were told that 'azadi' (independence) was 'just around the corner' and they believed it. How ever, even after all the bloodshed and violence that is continuing even today, 'azadi' is nowhere in sight. Similarly, when New Delhi abrogated Article 370, we were told that this move was "illegal"



as it violated United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on Kashmir and were assured by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan that Islamabad would approach UNSC on this issue as well as take this case to International Court of Justice (ICJ) and get this decision reversed.

Though UNSC held meetings to discuss Kashmir, but in the absence of any resolutions or directions, these discussions didn't achieve anything and thus, even after more than a year, Article 370 still remains abrogated. To make matters worse, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's promise taking this "illegal" action taken by New Delhi to ICJ remains unfulfilled. We were also told that Islamabad had called for an emergency meeting of OIC foreign ministers to discuss Article 370 abroga tion and compel New Delhi to reverse its decision, but no such exclusive meeting has been held. All we have is the OIC's 'categorical rejection' of this decision.

However, with OIC members states

(with exception of Pakistan), continuing to maintain extremely cordial diplomatic ties with New Delhi post Article 370 abrogation, it's obvious that the Niamey resolution is no different than the dozens of similar ones adopted by OIC in the past! OIC members might feel that they have fulfilled their moral obligation towards the people of Kashmir and thus would have returned home with a clear conscience. However, those for whom the OIC members had collectively criticised New Delhi, have been left wondering what good would the 'categorical rejection' of Article 370 abrogation declaration do to the 'self-determination' movement!

The Niamey declaration also states that "We reiterate the OIC's principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute for a peaceful settlement in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions". From this, it's evident that while it has criticised abrogation of Article 370, but by reiterating that its "principled position on J&K" is its "peaceful settlement

(in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions," OIC has also made its disapproval of the 'armed struggle' absolutely clear. This brings back to focus the frequently asked question about whether 'armed struggle' is helping or harming the Kashmir cause?

On January 20, 2006, during his visit to Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK), Hurriyat (M) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had remarked of how "Our fight on the political, diplomatic and military fronts (has) not achieved anything other than creating more graveyards." One and a half decades may have passed since then but what Mirwaiz said then still remains relevant today.

Views expressed are author's own and do not necessarily reflect that of Kashmir Observer

The author is a New Delhi based analyst and can be reached at niloofar. qureshi@yahoo.com>

## Bequeathed To Biden

## Trump is leaving Biden a landmine field in the Middle East

Joe Macaron

S President Donald Trump has caused much damage by questioning the legitimacy of the US elections and the victory of his opponent, Joe Biden. His refusal to accept the results of the vote has not only caused much trouble at home but it has also undermined the image of the United States abroad and its moral authority to preach smooth power transition and commitment to democratic ideals to foreign leaders.

This, along with the policies he is leaving behind after four years in the White House, is setting up a turbulent transition for Biden at home and most probably a rough start for the new administration abroad, especially in the Middle East.

In recent weeks, Trump's administration has been giving unprecedented attention to the region. At least four US officials have visited Israel and close Gulf allies in recent weeks: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Special Representative for Iran and Venezuela Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs R Clarke Cooper from the State Department and the White House adviser, Jared Kushner.

Meanwhile, Trump has ramped up sanctions on Iran and is suspected of giving a green light for Israel to kill Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. A US aircraft carrier group led by the nuclear-powered USS Nimitz has also moved back into the Gulf region. This offensive posture seems linked to US domestic politics rather than to a clear policy objective.

Allies of the outgoing administration in the Middle East may have congratulated Biden, but they are also giving the impression that they will join hands with Trump and the political opposition to the Democratic White House he will soon lead.

Still, they, along with the rest of the Middle East, are gearing up for the Biden presidency. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman now

seems inclined to resolve the dispute with Qatar (even though it is not clear yet if he will give this foreign policy win to Trump or Biden) and ease relations with Turkey; he is also more cautious about normalisation with Israel. MBS is aiming to defuse tensions so he can start on the right foot with the Biden administration.

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi seems to be making conciliatory moves. The Egyptian government has been releasing political prisoners in recent weeks. In Turkey, Erdogan has felt less constrained to let go of his son-in-law Berat Albayrak as finance minister whose primary added value until recently was being the indispensable contact person for Kushner and Trump's White House. Iran is also trying to avoid escalation in the region, hoping to potentially restore nuclear talks with Biden and get US sanctions relief.

It seems Middle Eastern leaders are expecting Biden's presidency to be the exact opposite of Trump's and to bring back aspects of Barack Obama's. But this may not be the case, as his recent appointments of national security officials have shown. However, the new administration will certainly change the way US foreign policy is conducted in at least three ways.

First, institutional decision making will be restored in Washington. US foreign policy under Trump was dangerously personalised by a leader with narcissistic and authoritarian inclinations, which helped foreign leaders gain more influence in the White House. Officials who challenged his authority were fired from his administration or pushed to resign and those who stayed were loyalists or opportunists. Traditional foreign policymaking was sidelined and so was inter-agency cooperation. Trump did not trust key institutions like the Pentagon and the State Department, which were

defunded or marginalised under his administration.
Once Biden and the Democrats are officially in power, Middle East leaders will no longer be able to

get their way by exchanging late-night WhatsApp messages with Trump's son-in-law or pretend the US State Department is a trivial agency. They will have to turn to traditional diplomacy, dealing with the embassies and official emissaries. The re-establishment of this institutional process also means a return to rivalries between US agencies over foreign policy issues, most notably in the Middle East. This will likely slow down the decision-making process in Washington.

Second, the Biden administration will bring back the predictability of US foreign policy. The domestic turmoil of Trump's presidency – the highlevel investigations, the impeachment, the racial tensions, the Twitter rants, the constant change of appointed officials, etc – affected not only US politics but also political dynamics abroad.

The outgoing president's penchant for unconventional foreign policy moves – using tariffs as a political tool, bashing allies, casually issuing threats to use force, and engaging traditional foes like North Korea's Kim Jong-un and Afghanistan's Taliban – also brought uncertainty on the international scene. Biden will likely bring back positive engagement with traditional allies, especially in Europe, and return to foreign policy rhetoric that can be more easily anticipated.

Third, there will likely be a major shift in the US priorities in the Middle East. The Biden administration will most likely align with the thinking of the Washington establishment, seeking to pull US resources out of the Middle East to focus on deterring Russia and China, a move that Trump is now making more difficult by antagonising Iran.

The Biden administration will seek to mitigate conflicts across the Middle East and will most probably face resistance from concerned actors looking to maximise their strategic positions. This expected shift of priorities in Washington to deter Russia and China on a global scale will be most probably be viewed by Middle East leaders once again as a sign of weakness

and as an affirmation of the limits of US power.

Trump has overly invested in the Middle East with emphasis on a transactional approach, and Middle East leaders should prepare to not to be overindulged by Washington in the next four years. His core approach was the advancement of an Arab-Israeli alliance against Iran at the expense of traditional Arab partners like Jordan, and the support of disparate allies ranging from Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman.

Unlike Trump, the Biden presidency will most probably be reactive instead of proactive in the Middle East. This means minimal engagement with Iran, complex relations with Turkey and the appeasement of Israel. Biden will be somewhere between Trump and Obama and will have to reckon with Trump's legacy in the Middle East, which includes new preconditions to strike a deal with Iran and a timid Arab-Israeli normalisation process.

Some Middle Eastern leaders are wary of the coming change in Washington. If the Biden administration sets a new tone in exposing their authoritarianism or goes too far in engaging the Iranian regime, these staunch Trump allies might be inclined to ignore Biden's demands on human rights issues and exploit their new alliance with Israel to stand their ground. They can directly cooperate with Israel or use its clout in Washington to pressure the Biden administration.

The legacy of the outgoing Trump presidency may offer some opportunities for the new administration moving forward, but the regional challenges will persist. The Trump team has already planted a field of foreign policy landmines in the Middle East and clearing it over the next four years will be a fraught endeavour. Middle East leaders will test Biden early on and the new US president will have to show some spine if he is to be taken seriously over the next four years.

Al Jazeera

# Pandemic, Mental Health and Social Media Overuse

Carlin Barnes and Marketa Wills

pandemic, it is particularly important that we recognise the potential negative consequences of social media use not only because many of us are turning to these platforms with an increased frequency but also because there are specific issues relevant to the 2020 pandemic and social media issues that can have a negative impact on our mental health

his year the Covid-19 pandemic has sparked a major uptick in social media usage. As people around the world have been unable to spend quality time with friends and family members, due to social distancing measures, many have relied heavily on their devices as the only means for interaction. Undoubtedly, there are numerous benefits to using social media. Many old and new platforms became the primary manner to stay current with accurate news and health information, connect to loved ones, participate in viral challenges and stay on top of celebrity gossip.

But despite the positive benefits of social media, evidence has shown that there are harmful consequences as well — especially as it pertains to our mental health. Research suggests that the regular use of social media platforms is linked to an increase in the incidence of anxiety, depression, ADHD, eating disorders and addictions among users.

During this pandemic, it is particularly important that we recognise the potential negative consequences of social media use not only because many of us are turning to these platforms with an increased frequency but also because there are specific issues relevant to the 2020 pandemic and social media issues that can have a negative impact on our mental health. Here are a few that we have noted:

#### Increased used of screens

As we spend more time at home, our overall use of technology has increased. This includes tablets, phones, televisions and computer monitors. All of this screen time greatly increases our overall exposure to a frequency of light referred to as blue light. This blue light interferes with melatonin metabolism and leads to poor sleep and irritability which impacts our mental health.

#### Information overload

Reports of increasing numbers of death, illness, grief, unemployment, loss of businesses, food insecurity, evictions and homelessness are constant reminders of the pandemic-related devastations that currently grip our nation. This repeated sharing of disturbing news can negatively impact the mental health of those social media users who are overexposed to this tragic material. Feelings of anxiety,



depression, increased irritability, and excessive worry are likely consequences of being exposed (or overexposed) to this deadly health crisis information.

#### Covid-19 misinformation

From conspiracy theories to false information about cures, there is an abundance of misinformation spread on social media platforms about the novel coronavirus. Overexposure to inaccurate and false information can be confusing and overwhelming, ultimately leading to increased anxiety, mistrust, stress, and depression.

Social media was certainly not designed to negatively impact our mental health, but as with all things, there is often the good and the bad. To preserve your energy, it's recommended that you regularly unplug, and focus your time and energy on the people and things around you that are of importance to you. Here are some important social media usage tips to optimise your mental wellness during this world health crisis:

Take an occasional social

media "holiday": if the intensity of social media is getting to you, delete your apps for a pre-specified period of time to "turn down the heat" generated on social media. This will help you recenter and calm down and use your energies to what matter most.

Set time limits: With more time being spent at home, there is more downtime in which to engage in social media surfing. Make sure that while you're on social media, you're focused on aspects that truly matter to you. Allow yourself the opportunity to be intentional and thoughtful as you set your online priorities. Use other methods of com-

you set your online priorities.
Use other methods of communication: So many times, we default to using social media to connect with our peers because it's easy and convenient. Use this time to rediscover other forms of communication. Send a card in the

mail, or pick up the phone and give your loved one a call. This will give you the personal connection that you crave and will keep you from scrolling through your feed.

Turn your notification settings off: Out of sight, out of mind? We think so. Turning off notifications from your phones and tablets will make cut down on the time that you are interrupted from real world interactions, and will hopefully, limit the amount of time that you spend on them.

Be a responsible user: Seek out and share accurate Covid-19 pandemic and political information from credible sources. Many social media platforms struggle to appropriately monitor all content that is posted. Flagging potential misinformation can help stop the spread of false information.

Psychology Today

# When Flaunting Online Is Both A Blessing And Curse

Alvin Cabral

either the awe you may feel or the rolling eyes that come automatically. Keep it cool, folks. Keep it simple. Or, better yet, keep it to yourself. Mixed blessings can be a heavy burden.



ow... how many times have you wanted to, or at least thought of, responding with go to hell?

You've probably seen it. Hop on to your social media account and you're likely to run across someone who's describing something as 'blessed'.

Blessed to have this. Blessed to have that. Blessed to be feeling like this. Blessed to be feeling like that. Blessed to be whatever I can think of.

Now... how many times have you wanted to, or

at least thought of, responding with go to hell?
Social media tends to overplay things. If I remember correctly, one of my first — if not the first — encounter with such a bit is when some gal was flaunting her new car with the adjectives including,

of course, 'blessed'.

Here's my beef with that post: The car in question was the fruit of a business that was basically a pyramiding model, and you know how those

schemes work. And by the way, the car was a garden-variety, very affordable Ferrari. (If you aren't fluent in sarcasm, cease reading right now).

If that's the way you feel, being 'blessed' for everything life throws at you, fine, go ahead. No one's stopping you. But at least be sensitive about how others would react. I particularly feel bad for those 'used' in that pyramiding biz; quite sure they saw that because that post is apparently part of the strategy to 'inspire' others to sell more (and get their

own Ferraris in the process).

Religion is a very sensitive topic. I'm fine with criticism, but do it with respect, just like I do when I speak on something, particularly on topics in other beliefs that I'm completely oblivious to. Learning is one of those big rooms for improvement; it doesn't make you less of a person to admit to not knowing something, more so to signify your intent to acquire new knowledge.

new knowledge.

And to overplay religion — anything, as a mat-

ter of fact — can have serious consequences. Some things don't cross over very well, especially if you force the issue on connecting something that is sometimes pointless.

Just like the other day in my hometown, a popular basketball player rocked a pair of uberrare Air Jordans specifically designed for the Philippine market on his social media account and, you guessed it, he described the moment as being 'blessed'. There were only 150 pairs of the coveted shoe that went on sale, and the only way to even have the chance to purchase one is to enter an electronic raffle.

Expectedly, there were not-so-kind reactions. One netizen in particular suggested that Mr Player should've given the chance to others, no matter how slim, to cop a coveted pair. Player fired back saying he was only made to wear the kicks by Nike, a fair point but still leaves a bad taste in, this case, the feet, if you'd like to play the rich-get-richer card.

As a sneakerhead myself, I had a paradoxical feeling: Happy for him because he got it, but at the same time disappointed. Apparently, his pair was No.149, so I thought, yeah, maybe Nike should've given him his own pair if the intent was to hype it, not take one out of the already few 150 pairs up for grabs.

So, if I may defend those I'm targeting (how ironic), the underlying burden of fault doesn't seem to always rest on them. It may be a kneejerk reaction for getting or experiencing something they know only a few others would get. Or maybe it's part of a deal with whatever they're promoting. We'll never know for sure, but the problem is to what degree is the bragging at — and I'd bet you a hefty sum that you know at least one person in your circle who posts things just to rub it in to others.

This is just one example of the countless others you encounter, and I can imagine either the awe you may feel or the rolling eyes that come automatically. Keep it cool, folks. Keep it simple. Or, better yet, keep it to yourself. Mixed blessings can be a heavy burden.

But yeah, I still feel a bit salty not being able to learn of that sneaker raffle earlier. I'm just hoping there's a blessing in disguise waiting to unravel itself upon me.

Khaleejj Times

## More midwives could save millions of lives per year by 2035: Lancet study

Increasing the number of midwives and their level of care could save up to 4.3 million lives per year over the next 15 years, particularly in low and middle income countries, according to a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal.



London: This modelling study estimates that scaling up the provision of midwife-led care the Lives Saved Tool (LiST) which models the deaths that could be avoided, assuming a 400,000 maternal deaths per year by 2035 and over deaths per year by 2035. Similar to the scenario of a scaling up the provision of midwife-led care across the world could potentially reduce maternal deaths by 67 per cent, newborn deaths by 64 per cent and stillbirths by 65 per cent if midwives were enabled to provide a range of interventions from family planning to post-natal care.

This could equate to saving 4.3 million lives per year by 2035, the researchers noted. "Supported by appropriate professional education, regulation and improved working environments, it is possible to achieve

a substantial increase in the level of provision of essential interventions delivered by midwives. This could save millions of lives," said study lead author Andrea Nove from Novametrics Ltd. UK.

"However, there are numerous barriers to fulfilling this level of scale-up, particularly in low to middle income countries," Nove said.

These limitations, he explained, include inequitable distribution of qualified midwives, poor transport links, lack of supplies and equipment and, in some countries, a lack of trust from the public, adding there is need for greater recognition of the importance of supporting and enabling this service to reach its potential.

The new study follows a past report on

specific uptake, effectiveness and impact of a range of interventions.

Using an updated version of LiST, the current study aimed to provide a more accurate estimate of the impact of increasing the provision of midwife healthcare around the world.

The study used the LiST to model effects on mortality at a country level of about 30 essential interventions which can be delivered in their entirety by competent and enabled midwives, the researchers said.

These were treatments, responses and procedures that can be provided before conception, in antenatal care, during labour and birth and after birth, such as family planning, hypertension screening, induction of labour and the use of antibiotics for newborn sepsis, they said.

The study modelled the effect of changes in the level of provision of healthcare interventions delivered by midwives for 88 countries and amalgamated the results.

This was also done for three groups of countries that were categorised according to their level of development.

If current mortality rates persist, in these 88 countries there will be over three million a 65 per cent reduction in stillbirths and a for all contribute to this," said Renfrew, who midwifery in The Lancet journal and uses stillbirths per year by 2035, three million 64 per cent reduction in deaths of newborn was not involved in the study. -PTI

according to the researchers.

They estimated that relative to the current provision of healthcare by midwives, a 25 per cent increase every five years in the 88 countries would result in 41 per cent fewer deaths of mothers, 26 per cent fewer stillbirths and 39 per cent fewer deaths of

The researchers noted that this would mean averting 170,000 maternal deaths. 852,000 stillbirths and 1.2 million newborn deaths per year by 2035, adding the reduction in deaths was estimated to be greater in the least developed countries.

Even a modest scale-up in interventions -- 10 per cent every five years -- delivered by midwives would result in 22 per cent fewer maternal deaths, 14 per cent fewer stillbirths and 23 per cent fewer deaths of newborn ba-

bies, according to the researchers. It is estimated this would avert 93,000 maternal deaths, 448,000 stillbirths and 718,000 newborn deaths per year by 2035, they said. Scaling up midwife delivered interventions to ensure universal coverage (95 a 67 per cent reduction in maternal deaths,

Similar to the scenario of a substantial increase in coverage, these reductions would be greatest in the least developed countries, the researchers said.

Overall, this universal scale-up could potentially avert 280,000 maternal deaths, 2.1 million stillbirths and 2 million neonatal deaths annually by 2035, they said.

The study found that, in comparison, a small decrease of 2 per cent in the provision of midwife delivered healthcare would result in 34,000 more maternal deaths, 222,000 more stillbirths and 295,000 more newborn deaths per year by 2035.

"These new findings build on and strengthen existing evidence on the impact of quality midwifery care in averting deaths and improving health and wellbeing out-comes," said Professor Mary Renfrew, from the University of Dundee, UK.

"They should command the attention of the global community in the same way that a new drug or innovative technical intervention would. There is serious and longstanding under-investment in international-standard midwifery. Gender, social, per cent coverage) by 2035 could result in professional, and economic disempowerment of midwives and the women they care

# **Scientists find more** efficient, inexpensive way to measure evaporation

Science (IISc) has developed a new device that it said could measure the rate of evaporation of + a local area within a couple of minutes.

"The device is a more efficient and inexpensive way to measure evaporation when compared with existing methods," Bengaluru-based

IISc said in a statement on Friday. "Our method allows you to get a much more realistic measure of transpiration from plants and evaporation from soils," says Jaywant H Arakeri, Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, IISc, and senior author of the study recently published in the Journal of Hydrology.

Evaporation is the process by which water turns from liquid to a gaseous state.

Apart from being an integral process in the ter surface. in regulating water loss in plants through a process called transpiration.

Being able to measure the evaporation rate is useful for farmers to gauge water requirements for their fields and in weather stations to characterise the local atmospheric condition

It is also widely used by botanists to study the dynamics underlying transpiration by plants. Currently, pan evaporimeters are the most commonly used devices to measure evaporation

A team of scientists from the Indian Institute of rates. They resemble large pans that are filled

The change in water level over a day gives the evaporation rate from that area for that day. The disadvantages (of existing methods) are

that the evaporation rates are for one whole day, and over a large area (one square metre). And one needs an open ground to place the

But we have a simple method of directly measuring evaporation from a small surface at the order of a couple of centimetres, and over a short period of time, Arakeri explains.

The proposed device consists of a filter paper connected to a capillary tube that takes water from a reservoir to the filter paper, thereby wetting it and thus mimicking an evaporating wa-

By measuring the distance travelled the lower meniscus in the capillary tube over an important parameter that is currently not a couple of minutes, the evaporation rate is

The innovation lies in being able to measure the very small amount (about one microlitre) of water that is lost in evaporation from the surface in a minute, according to IISc.

Since the evaporation rate is affected by a number of factors such as temperature, wind velocity, and humidity, this device could show the evaporation rate within a niche

"It gives you an idea of evaporation rate even from a small leaf. For example, if this device is kept near a paddy plant, we could get a better measure of the evaporation rate that a particular leaf of that plant might be experiencing," explains Arakeri.

The device would be useful to scientists studying the physiological process of transpiration in plants because of its ability to measure the evaporation rate over small areas over short periods of time, IISc said.

Stomatal responses can also now be addressed, in a better and more controlled way, using this device, the statement said.

The authors also suggest that it could be used in oceans to study changing evaporation patterns in the open sea and in weather stations to estimate evaporation rates in the atmosphere measured.

The next step is to make the device commercially available.

"We are looking for interested companies to take it up to make it into a product. Meanwhile, we have been doing some experiments in the polyhouse (a kind of greenhouse used to grow crops in a controlled environment), and we also want to try it out in the field," said Arakeri. - PTI



Our method allows you to get a much more realistic measure of transpiration from plants and evaporation from soils,"

says Jaywant H Arakeri, Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, IISc, and senior author of the study recently published in the Journal of Hydrology



Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

#### **ICAR-IARI** Centre for Environment Science and Climate Resilient Agriculture Senior Research Fellowship 2020

Description: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) are inviting applications for ICAR-IARI Centre for Environment Science and Climate Resilient Agriculture Senior Research Fellowship 2020' from master's degree

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates between 18 and 35 years of age. They must hold a master's degree (MSc/MTech) in Remote Sensing & GIS / Geomatics / Geoinformatics / Natural Resources Management or hold a first-class master's degree in the above subject with 4 years/5 years of bachelor's degree. They must have 3 years bachelor's degree and 2 years master's degree or have a master's degree with a NET qualification or PhD in any of the above

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 31,000 per month plus 24% HRA Last Date to Apply: 15-12-2020 Application modé: Via email only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/EJF4

#### **NPOL-DRDO Junior Research Fellowship 2020**

**Description:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) invites applications for NPOL-DRDO Junior Research Fellowship 2020 from BE/BTech degree holders.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 28 years of age who hold a BE/BTech degree in Electronics & Communication Engineering in 1st division with valid NET/GATE qualification OR hold an ME/MTech degree in Electronics & Communication Engineering in 1st division (both at Graduate and Postgraduate level).

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 per month plus HRA **Last Date to Apply: 20-12-2020** 

Application mode: Via email only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/PDO7

### **College Board India Scholars Program 2020-21**

Description: College Board in association with Global Higher Education Alliance institutions is offering financial support to students looking forward to taking admission in Indian universities post class 12, based on the SAT. Also, the program offers full tuition fee scholarship for graduation degree at member institutions.

Eligibility: For SAT fee discount, the applicant must be an Indian resident with an annual family income less than 10L and must be studying in class 11 or 12. To be considered eligible for a full college tuition scholarship, the applicant's family income should be below INR 4L p.a. The student must also perform very well in SAT and must receive an offer of admission from the Global Higher Education Alliance institution.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to 90% waiver for SAT examination and complete tuition fee waiver for study in member institutions based on their SAT Exam performance of minimum 1350 out of 1600 and annual income should be less than 4L acceptance to the respective

Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2020 Application mode: Apply online Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/CBI2

# website:http://jkpsc.nic.in

#### JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001 Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530

Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Sub:- Interview Notice for the post of Lecturer Anatomy, Government Medical College Jammu, in Health & Medical Education Department, notified vide advertisement No. 03-PSC(DR-P) of 2019 dated 19.03.2019.

NOTICE Dated:-04.12.2020

In furtherance to the Notice dated 15.10.2020, it is hereby notified that the interview of the following shortlisted candidates for the post of Lecturer Anatomy in Government Medical College, Jammu in Health and Medical Education Department shall be held on 18.12.2020 at J&K Public Service Commission Office Complex, Resham Garh, Colony, Jammu at 9.30 A.M sharp:

S.No.	Application form No.	Name	Parentage	Category
1.	19010300800001	MUBEEN RASHID	ABDUL RASHID KHAN	OM
2.	19010300800002	SHALIKA SHARMA	MAHESH RAJ SHARMA	OM
3.	19010300800003	SIMRITI	PREM CHAND	OM

#### Note:

1. The Candidature of all the candidates is purely provisional.

- Recruitment Rules shall be allowed to appear in the interview subject to the further condition that they are within the prescribed age limit on the cut-off date of notification.
- 3. The candidates shall produce their original certificates/testimonials on the date of interview. Any failure to adhere to present the documents, in the manner, as prescribed shall be entirely the responsibility of the candidate.
- 4. The candidates shall ensure that the publications/presentations/books/books chapter bound and indexed with cover page in following format:-

S.No.	Title of publication/ Presentation/Book	Journal conference/workshop	Impact factor, applicable	Date acceptance publication	of of
and the second s	on: ified that all the above pon/presentation/book.	publications/presentation	ons etc. are my o	original resea	arch

No:- PSC/DR/Anatomy/2019

J&K Public Service Commission

- 2. Only eligible candidates possessing requisite qualification prescribed under relevant
- which they intend to place before the interview board for evaluation shall be properly

S.No.	Title of publication/ Presentation/Book	Journal conference/workshop	Impact factor, applicable	Date acceptance publication	of of
Declaration	on:				

DIPK-9984/20

Dated: 04-12-2020

## Researchers discover life in "inhospitable" deep ocean sediments

According to the international team of scientists, including those from the University of Rhode Island in the US, the diversity of microbes below the seafloor is as rich as on Earth's surface.

"Water boils on the (Earth's) surface at 100 degrees Celsius, and we found organisms living in sediments at 120 degrees Celsius." said Arthur Spivack, a co-author of the study from the University of Rhode

In the current study, the scientists assessed samples from the Nankai Trough off the coast of Japan, where the deep-sea scientific vessel, Chinkyu, drilled a hole 1,180 metres deep to reach sediments at 120 degrees Celsius.

"We found chemical evidence of the organisms' use of organic material in the sediment that allows them to survive," Spivack

"This research tells us that deep sediment is habitable in places that we did think possible," he added.

The scientists believe the findings could point to the possibility of life in harsh environments on other planets. They said sediments that lie deep below the ocean floor are harsh habitats with temperature and pressure steadily increasing with depth, and the energy supply for life forms becoming increasingly scarce.

#### Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the transport Commissioner J&K, Jammu

Sub:- "Jammu & Kashmir Transport Subsidy Scheme" for replacement of Old Buses.

## **ADVERTISMENT NOTICE**

The Govt, in the Transport Department has introduced scheme for phasing out of old buses over 15 years of age vide Govt. Order No. 73-TR of 2019 issued under endorsement No.TR-19/MVD/2017-II dated 20.11.2019 followed by notice dated 2.11.2020. Accordingly, applications are invited from the owners of the Buses (except Mini Buses/Matadors) of J&K UT for purchase of new buses in private sector under the "Jammu & Kashmir Transport Subsidy Scheme" for replacement of Old Buses. Terms & conditions:-

- 1. The Bus aged above 15 years shall be eligible for availing the subsidy.
- The existing vehicle should have cleared all Government dues including token tax, passenger tax, fitness fee, permit fee, bank liability etc.
- The vehicle should have a valid permit renewed upto date along with valid insurance For availing of subsidy the concerned owner would be required to condemn the

vehicle and get it scraped and after cancellation of registration Mark, he shall be

allowed to avail the subsidy. 5. The subsidy shall be provided to only those applicants who shall avail loans to raise capital for purchase of these buses.

The applications alongwith all requisite supporting documents should reach in the Regional Transport Office, Jammu/Kashmir/Kathua within a period of (One month) positively.

DIPK-10022/20

(Pardeep Kumar), KAS Transport Commissioner, J&K, Jammu

No:TC/JK/MV/3182 - 90

Dated 05.12.2020

## Amid Gulf talks, regional interests Qatar's 'priority'

Zehra Nur Duz **Anadolu Agency** 

ANKARA: Qatar on Friday said regional interests remain its top priority as it welcomed Kuwait's statement regarding progress in ongoing discussions to resolve the Gulf crisis.

"The Kuwaiti statement is an imperative step towards resolving the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] crisis," Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, Qatar's foreign minister, said on Twitter.



He thanked Kuwait for its "mediation" and the US for its

"The interest and security of the people of the Gulf and the region remain our top priority," he said.

His statement came after Sheikh Ahmad Nasser al-Sabah, Kuwait's foreign minister, said talks to resolve the dispute – which has seen Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt severe ties with Qatar since 2017 - have been "fruitful."

The top Kuwaiti diplomat said all sides have expressed a desire "to reach a final agreement."

Faisal bin Farhan, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, also praised Kuwait and the US for their moves to end the dispute.

We hope that these efforts, which have been made for the good of the region, will result in success," he said on Twitter.

Oman also welcomed the Kuwaiti minister's positive statement, and hailed the efforts made by Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah and US President Donald Trump to resolve the

Trump, according to a report by US daily New York Times, is pressing for a solution to the standoff before he leaves office in January.

His adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, was in the region this week and met Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Ha mad al-Thani on Wednesday.

Accusing Qatar of supporting terrorism and meddling in their internal affairs, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt cut ties with Doha and imposed a land, sea, and air blockade on the country in 2017.

Qatar denies the charges and has voiced readiness for dialogue to end the impasse.

## **Moscow Starts Mass COVID-19 Vaccination With** Its Sputnik V Shot

Agencies

Moscow: Moscow began distributing the Sputnik V COV-ID-19 shot via 70 clinics on Saturday, marking Russia's first mass vaccination against the disease, the city's coronavirus task force said

The task force said the Russian-made vaccine would first be made available to doctors and other medical workers, teachers and social workers because they ran the highest risk of exposure to the disease. "You are working at an ed-



ucational institution and have top-priority for the COVID-19 vaccine, free of charge," read a phone text message received by one Muscovite, an elementary school teacher, early on Saturday and seen by Reuters.

Moscow, the epicentre of Russia's coronavirus outbreak, registered 7,993 new cases overnight, up from 6,868 a day before and well above the daily tallies of around 700 seen in early September.

"Over the first five hours, 5,000 people signed up for the jab - teachers, doctors, social workers, those who are today risking their health and lives the most," Mayor Sergei Sobyanin wrote on his personal website on Friday.

The age for those receiving shots is capped at 60.

People with certain underlying health conditions, pregnant women and those who have had a respiratory illness for the past two weeks are barred from vaccination.

Russia has developed two COVID-19 vaccines, Sputnik V which is backed by the Russian Direct Investment Fund and another developed by Siberia's Vector Institute, with final trials for the both yet to be completed.

Scientists have raised concerns about the speed at which Russia has worked, giving the regulatory go-ahead for its vaccines and launching mass vaccinations before full trials to test its safety and efficacy had been completed.

The Sputnik V vaccine is administered in two injections, with the second dose is expected to be given 21 days after the first Moscow closed down all public places including parks and cafes, with exception for delivery, in late March, with police patrolling the streets looking for whose

violating the rules. Russia as a whole reported 28,782 new infections on Saturday, its highest daily tally, pushing the national total to 2,431,731, the fourth-highest in the world.

In October, certain restrictions such as remote learning for some secondary school children and a 30% limit on the number of workers allowed in offices were introduced again.



site, near Saudi Arabia's northwestern town of al-Ula. |Pic Fayez Nureldine/AFP/Getty Images

## **Saudi Has Changed Beyond Recognition. But Will Tourists Want To Visit?**

Riyadh: I've been visiting Saudi Arabia for close to two decades and in that time I've experienced some incredible things.

I've climbed the scarily steep and staggeringly beautiful mountains of the south. I've scuba dived the immaculate Red Sea coral reefs off Saudi's western coast. I've driven rally cars over the dunes in the north. I've visited ancient wells. Spent freezing winter nights in the desert cooking food with red hot fire embers buried in the sand. And I've walked barefoot along the kingdom's eastern shores on sweltering summer evenings.

I've flown in flimsy microlights, soaring serenely above rich farmland. I've ridden tactical combat helicopters missions, skimming the desert floor and banking hard around sand dunes

Yet none of these has affected me as much as the moment I felt Saudi change.

It's no exaggeration to say that the recent social upheaval in the country has been profound and fast.

In 2018, I was in downtown Riyadh, chatting to people at a near-empty outdoor cafe in the early evening.

The religious police, once

Gokhan Ergocun and Tuba Sahin

ISTANBUL / ANKARA: Af-

ter a difficult period for all

humanity in 2020 due to the

global COVID-19 crisis, experts

project worse problems in the

coming period, including fam-

ines related to climate change

lated to the pandemic, such

as the lack of seasonal work-

ers, caused food production

interruptions, and several

countries begin to implement

more protectionist policies in

agriculture and food to provide

food security for their citizens.

er countries, such as Russia,

limit or ban wheat exports,

some other countries, includ-

ing China, Pakistan, and Saudi

Arabia, increase their wheat

Besides the ongoing issues.

While large wheat produc-

In 2020, the problems re-

Anadolu Agency

and the pandemic.

widely feared and respected, arrived by car, stopped at the roadside and started telling people to go to prayers.

Previously, this would've prompted an immediate reaction, with people obeying their commands

This time, no one moved.

It was in that moment I connected with what Saudis had been feeling in the months since Mohammed bin Salman or MBS, Saudi Arabia's crown prince, stripped these morality guardians of their power.

It was a sense of lightness, a freedom to make choices.

That was two years ago. These days the religious police have mostly been consigned to desk duties. Decades of oppressive psychological pressure to conform to the conservative strictures of Islam have fallen away.

And today, freedom is blossoming, albeit still controlled by the invisible lines of most Gulf states: enjoy, have fun but don't get ahead of the leadership.

Outdoor cafes along new festive looking pavements are abuzz with men and women out for fun, to meet, to shop, to chat, to relax.

Mounira Al-Qwait, a 20-year-old fashion designer wearing a traditional black abaya she styled herself, told

World may face famines in coming period

climate change and drought

also continue to threaten agri-

David Beasley, the UN

"The impact on food secu-

Vorld Food Program's (WFP)

executive director, said in No-

vember that the world will face

famines of biblical proportions

rity has been catastrophic. Pre-

COVID-19, analyses found the

number of people facing severe

food insecurity was expected

to exceed about 17 million peo-

ple out 29-30 million people in

Speaking to Anadolu Agen-

cy ahead of the World Soil Day,

Nov. 5., Eren Gunhan Ulusoy,

the head of the International

Association of Operative Mill-

ers (IAOM) Eurasia, said the

global climate change un-

doubtedly affected the agricul-

2020," Beasley noted.

Wheat's importance

tural sector closely

cultural production globally.

me what this means for her.

"We have more fun now. going outside for movies, going outside for the restaurants and meeting with friends," she says, her eyes sparkling above a face-covering niqab.

fashionably Nearby, dressed without a headscarf (an omission enough to get her pulled off the street a few years ago), is Tutu, a 42-yearold kindergarten teacher. She told me she loved the sense of "freedom" and "more energy."

"Now our lives as Saudis completely changed," she says. "Actually from all the decisions taken by Mohammed bin Salman. All Saudis now is happy about all these changes."

I was in town this time covering the global economic powers' G20 summit. Saudis were the hosts of the November 21-22 meeting -- a massive responsibility and challenge.

After it wrapped, I watched Finance Minister Mohammed al Jadaan lavish praise on his youthful team. The "wealth of the nation," he concluded later. His offices in the new Digi-

tal City district of Riyadh -- a futuristic complex of buildings interwoven with cascading water fountains and open, airy pedestrian spaces -- feels more like Dubai than the dusty Rivadh of old

Problems due to global

climate change, especially the shift in the precipitation re-

gimes, cause fluctuations in

agricultural production from

time to time in Turkey, he un-

that wheat is a strategic prod-

uct. After the pandemic broke,

countries started to stock

import wheat before, it has

been buying wheat during the

pandemic period, he said, add-

ing: "China will import 7 mil-

lion tons wheat to strengthen

its stocks. The country will

close the year with 163 million

tons of stock -- which is half of

di Arabia also continue their

large amount of wheat pur-

chases, Ulusoy stressed that

all these purchases increase

Saying that Egypt and Sau-

the world wheat stock."

wheat prices.

wheat," Ulusoy highlighted.

"We have seen once again

While Pakistan does not

derlined.

## Erdogan hopes France 'will get rid of Macron soon'

Agencies

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday he hoped France would get rid of Emmanuel Macron as soon as possible, the latest salvo in an escalating war of words between the two leaders.

Turkey is embroiled in a series of disputes with France and its EU partners, from tensions in the eastern Mediterranean to the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The spat has risen to new levels in recent months as France has moved to crack down on extremism after sev eral attacks on its soil.

"Macron is trouble for France. With Macron, France is passing through a very, very dangerous period. I hope that France will get rid of Macron trouble as soon as possible," the president told reporters after Friday prayers in Istanbul.

He said the French should dump their leader "otherwise they will not be able to get rid of yellow vests", referring to the protest movement that erupted in France in 2018.

'Yellow vests could later turn into red vests," Erdogan said, without elaborating.

The Turkish leader has repeatedly suggested that Macron get "mental checks" and urged the Turkish people to boycott French-labelled products.

Turkey and France are also at odds over Nagorno-Karabakh, a region of Azerbaijan populated by ethnic Armenians that broke away from Baku's control in a 1990s post-Soviet war.

Fresh fighting broke out in September, leaving several thousand people dead, until a Russian-brokered ceasefire deal was sealed last month.

Turkey is a staunch ally of Azerbaijan. France along with Russia

and the United States co-chairs

the Minsk Group, which has led

talks seeking a solution to the

conflict for decades but has failed

to reach a lasting agreement.

Last month, the French Senate adopted a non-binding resolution calling on France to recognise Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent state.

"Why? You are a mediator but on the other side, you have passed a resolution in your parliament... about a region on which you are supposed to be a mediator," Erdogan charged.

He also repeated comments by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev that France should concede the Mediterranean port city of Marseille to Armenia if it wanted to establish a state for the Armenians of Karabakh.

"I am giving the same advice: if they are so keen, they should give Marseille to Armenians," Erdogan said.

In September, Macron's comments on the simmering eastern Mediterranean standoff, which has pitted Turkey against Greece and the rest of the EU, drew Ankara's wrath.

"The people of Turkey, who are a great people, deserve something else," Macron said while discussing Erdogan's approach to the crisis.

France backs Greek claims in the row over the contested energy-rich waters, with Athens seeking EU sanctions to

## Collapse of illegal gold mine in Nicaragua traps at least 10



mudslide in an unlicensed mine in Nicaragua trapped at least 10 workers Friday, state-run media reported. After the disaster, crews

began work to try to rescue the miners in the La Esperanza region of southern Nicaragua.

Vice President Rosario Murillo, who is also the government spokeswoman, did not say how many miners were in the shaft when it collapsed or if there were fatalities.

"We hope not to have bad

news," she said, according to the government news site El 19

The independent newspaper La Prensa quoted witnesses as saying at least 15 people are trapped in the mine. In Nicaragua, an estimat-

ed 3,000 people work in unlicensed mines. In 2014, at least 24 gold

miners were also trapped by a landslide in the north of the

Agencies

## Venezuela urges firms to sign trade deals with Turkey, Iran

enezuela's government is encouraging private firms to sign import and export deals with companies in Asia and the Middle East as part of an effort to limit the effect of United States sanctions, according to four sources with knowledge of the matter.

The plan expands on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's existing commercial relationships with allies such as Turkey and Iran, which have already been providing the cashstrapped government with food and fuel in exchange for gold.

Vice President and Finance Minister Delcy Rodriguez has been developing the strategy for over a year, according to the sources, paving the way for private firms to export pineapples and mangos to Iran and import pasta from Turkey.



Rodriguez has created a new vice ministry of foreign commerce and sent allies to these new markets to promote private trade deals, according to public statements, seeking ways around a broad sanctions package meant to force Maduro from office.

Because operations of pri-

vate Venezuelan companies are not explicitly targeted by US sanctions, shifting trade away from state-run firms and towards private enterprise makes foreign partners more interested in Venezuela deals, said the sources, who asked not to be identified.

#### **US** urges countries to make law over access to Tibet

lamming China for its alleged repressive regime in Tibet, a top American diplomat has urged other countries to pass their own versions of a US law that calls for denying access to the US for Chinese officials known to be involved in restricting visits to the remote Himalayan region.

Robert A Destro, Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, on Friday said that together with partners around the world, the US has and will continue to call on China to provide unhindered access to foreigners travelling in Tibetan areas, including for diplomats? and? journalists, just as other countries give Chinese diplomats, journalists and citizens access to their respective countries.

The US adopted the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act to press for greater access and transparency.?Today, I call on our like minded friends? and partners? to pass their own versions of the Act, he said in his remarks at a virtual event: Religious Freedom in Tibet: The Appointment of Buddhist Leaders and the Succession of the Dalai Lama.

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Mechanical Hospital &

# **Central Heating Division Srinagar**

## **Corrigendum for Extension**

References:1.This office e- NIT no: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/192/e-tendering Dated 13.11.2020.

In view to have wider Participation to the above referred NIT, the critical dates are extended as

	l	S.No	Description	Date and Time
	l	1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	07.12.2020 (13.00 hours)
	l	2.	Date of Bid Opening	07.12.2020 (16.00 hours)

All the other terms and conditions will remain the same

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** MHCH Division Srinagar.

MHCHD/TS/6576-79Dt:-04-12-2020

DIPK-9970/20

# COMMANDENT GENERAL, HOME GUARDS CD&SDRF J&K

## **MESSAGE**



**Ram Nath Kovind** President of Republic of India

I am happy to learn that the Civil Defence and Home Guards Organisations are celebrating their 58th Raising Day on December 6, 2020.

Members of the Civil Defence and Home Guards organisations have upheld the highest traditions of voluntary work in the service of the nation. I am sure that both the organisations will keep up these traditions and serve the community with their customary zeal and dedication in the coming years.

On the occasion of their 58th Raising Day, I extend my greetings and good wishes to all the members of the Civil Defence and Home Guards and their families and wish the organisations every success in the times to come.

## **MESSAGE**



**Narendra Modi** Prime Minister of India

It is a pleasure to learn about the 58th Annual Day of Civil Defence and Home Guards on December 6, 2020.

Displaying utmost dedication and professionalism, organisations like Civil Defence and Home Guards have been untiring in their efforts towards nation-building. Their role in maintaining internal security, performing civil defence duties and protecting life and property during crises has

The humanitarian assistance provided by both these organisations in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic has strengthened the nation's resolute fight against the pandemic. The continued endeavour of the members of Civil Defence and Home Guards to encourage people towards continuing with precautions without being complacent or negligent is vital to our fight against Corona.

May the occasion inspire members of both the organisations to continue to serve the nation with renewed devotion and

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the 58th Annual Day to all members of Civil Defence and Home Guards and their



**Amit Shah** Home Minister of India

#### संदेश

यह हर्ष का विषय हैं नागरिक सुरक्षा एवं गृह रक्षक संगठन द्वारा दिनाँक ०६ दिसम्बर, २०२० को अपना **५८वाँ** स्थापना दिवस मनाया जा रहा है।

परंपरागत रूप से, दोनों संगठन संकट के समय में राष्ट्र को मूल्यवान निस्वार्थ सेवा प्रदान करते रहे हैं । कोविड-१९ महामारी के खिलाफ लडाई में भी नागरिक सुरक्षा और गृह रक्षक संगठनों की प्रतिबद्धता और सकारात्मक योगदान प्रशंसनीय हैं । मुझे विश्वास हैं कि वे वर्तमान कोविड-19 परिदृश्य में उपयुवत व्यवहार के लिए समुदाय को प्रेरित करते रहेंगे और भविष्य में भी समर्पण और प्रतिबद्धता के साथ काम करेंगे।

नागरिक सुरक्षा एवं गृह रक्षक संगठन के वार्षिक दिवस के अवसर पर उनके आदर्श वाक्य "**सर्व भूत हिते स्तः**" एवं "निष्काम **सेवा**" के साथ समुदाय और राष्ट्र को सशक्त बनाने की दिशा में सकारात्मक योगदान की

इस अवसर पर मैं नागरिक सुरक्षा एवं गृह रक्षक संगठन के समस्त पदाधिकारियों, सभी सदस्यों और स्वयंसेवकों को अपनी हार्दिक श्रुभकामनाएँ प्रेषित करते हुए सभी भविष्य के प्रयासों में सफलता की कामना करता हूँ।

शभकामनाओं सहित !

(अमित शाह)

# **MESSAGE**



**Manoj Sinha** Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir

I am happy to learn that the 58th Raising Day of Home Guards and Civil Defence is being celebrated on 6th December 2020.

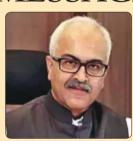


I commend all the Home (Guards and Civil Defence volunteers for rendering yeoman services to the nation by serving as an auxiliary support to the police & civil administration and assisting them in maintaining law and order, managing internal security situations, besides their indispensable role in mitigating the problems of people in case of any disasters.

The significant role being played by our Home (Guards and Civil Defence organizations helping the community) in any kind of emergency, besides promoting communal harmony and assisting the administration in protecting weaker sections and participating in socio-economic and welfare activities is praiseworthy.

On the occasion of their Raising Day. I extend my greetings to all the officers, members and volunteers of the Home (Guards and Civil Defence organization and wish them high success in future.

## **MESSAGE**



**Ajay Bhalla (IAS)** Home Secretary Government of India North Block New Delhi

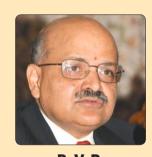
1. On the occasion of 58th Annual Day of Civil Defence and Home Guards on 6th December 2020, I extend my sincere greetings and good wishes to all the members of two organizations and call upon them to rededicate themselves in true spirit, to the motto of

"सर्व भत हिते रत:" and "निष्काम सेवा" to the community.

2. The Civil Defence and Home Guards personnel support the citizenry in moments of crises and are the epitome of selfless community service. These voluntary organizations continue to play an important role in harnessing community efforts at the time of crisis. The dedicated efforts of both the organizations in augmenting the State response mechanism during the COVID-19 pandemic is praiseworthy.

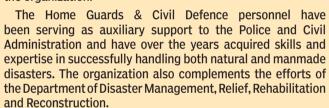
3. I am sure that both the organizations will continue to render valuable service in the important task of nation building.

## **MESSAGE**



**B. V. R. Subrahmanyam (IAS) Chief Secretary** Jammu and Kashmir

I am pleased to know that the Home Guards/Civil Defence organization is celebrating its 58th Raising Day. On this occasion, I extend my warm greetings and felicitations to all the officers and members of the organization.



I wish the Home Guards success in its future endeavours and hope that it will continue to work for public good with utmost dedication, zeal, and commitment.

## **MESSAGE**



**Shaleen Kabra (IAS)** 

**Home Department** 

The Home Guards/Civil Defence, as a committed, vibrant & disciplined Organization has rendered valuable services to the Nation by safeguarding civilian lives and property in times of emergencies, natural calamities & disasters, and by playing its part in field

of Public awareness and community capacity building, apart from aiding the Police & Civil Administration, in the times of

To achieve the vision of a safe and disaster resilient Nation, the HG/CD organization has a very vital role to play, in the highest tradition of its selfless service to the Nation.

On the occasion of its Raising Day on 6th December, 2020, I extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to all the mem-Principal Secretary to the Government, bers of the organization for the good work done by them.

## **MESSAGE**

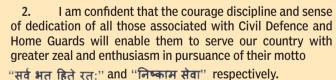


**Md Jawed Akhtar (IPS) Director General** 

**Fire Services, Civil Defence** & Home Guard **Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt** of India

#### Civil Defence and Home Guards volunteers play a vital role in rendering selfless service to the nation. Their contribution to the community as first responders towards relief & welfare measures, maintaining internal security and search & rescue work during war, natural/man-made disasters have been invaluable and praiseworthy. In the COVID-19 pandemic, both the organizations have emerged as true 'corona warrior' and acted as a

real 'force multiplier' to the local / state administrations.



I extend my heartiest greetings to the members of Civil Defence and Home Guards Organization on the occasion of their Raising day on 6th December 2020 and wish them all the success in their future endeavors.



**MESSAGE** 



**Dilbag Singh (IPS) Director General of Police** Jammu& Kashmir

It is heartening to note that the Civil (Defence and Home Guards of the UT is celebrating its Rising (Day on 6th December 2020. Extending my heartiest greetings and the Best wishes to the members of these community based voluntary Organizations on this occasion is a matter of joy for me.

The Civil defence and Home (Guards have emerged as Key players in the disaster management mechanism of the UT and proved to be an asset to various levels of administration. The continued reliance of Police authorities on Home Guards and Civil Defence is a tribute to the contributions made by organization. Their contribution to the society has been vital and has been acknowledge over the years.

It gives me immense pleasure to express my deep appreciation for the contribution they have made during the past years in dealing the varied arising emergencies and wish great success in future as well.

## **MESSAGE**



Dr. B. Srinivas (IPS) Homeguards/ Civil Defence & SDRF J&K - Jammu

On the occasion of 58th Raising Day of Civil Defence and Homeguards on December-06-2020, heartiest greetings and best wishes to all the members of Civil Defence and Homeguards volunteers of the organization.



The Civil Defence and Homeguards have emerged as key players in the Disaster Management mechanism in Jammu and Kashmir. They are also playing a vital role in contact tracing, isolation/quarantine of suspected and positive cases of pandemic COVID-19, thereby facilitating the work of various levels of administration. The continued reliance of Police authorities and public on Civil Defence and Homeguards is a befitting tribute to the commitment of all the members of organisation.

It is hoped that all the members of Civil Defence and Homeguards shall continue to perform with the same zeal and enthusiasm in the coming years.

