



P6 LIFE & TIMES

RESEARCHERS DEVELOP SENSOR TO DETECT FATTY LIVER DISEASE Researchers have developed a diagnostic tool. based on nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), that could be used to detect fatty liver disease ...

INTERNAL ISSUE VS. EXTERNAL DISSENT Canadian Prime Minister.

Justin Trudeau, became the first foreign leader to make a statement on ...



P8 NEWS **'BHARAT BANDH' FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM ON TUESDAY: BKU** 'During the bandh essential services would not be curtailed and office-goers can move freely





"Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as you can." —Hillary Clinton



Hoteliers seek lease extension. vow to promote winter tourism **Re-elect Chaya as Chairman**

SRINAGAR: With an eye on winter tourism, J&K Hoteliers Club has urged Lt Governor administration to extend the lease of the hoteliers at various tourist resorts.

J&KHC Chairman Mushtaq A Chaya while addressing a media here said the hoteliers are in stress due to the expiry of the lease which, administration had from time to time assured to extend.

Chaya said due to recent snowfall especially at Gulmarg, travellers have started visiting the Valley and are expected to come in large numbers in com-+ ing months.

"However, to host them properly, the government has to provide every support to the hoteliers without pushing them to the wall," said Chaya.
More On P2

ACB registers case against JMC officials in graft case

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

'Fake News Is Deadly And Needs to Be Curbed'

AASHIQ HUSSAIN ANDRABI

s a data editor and media trainer, Sanjit has over a decade experi-L ence in the digital news and data space and has conducted media trainings across Asia.

Before working as a certified trainer of FactShala which is a news and information literacy programme, he worked with some of the top news sites – handling strategic editorial positions in organisations like TheQuint, Moneycontrol, IndiaSpend, Firstpost



FactChecker. In a candid chat with Kashmir Observer, the fake news buster talks about the menace of misinformation and the need of strengthening the newsroom fact-checking system.

To begin with, let's talk about FactShala. FactShala is a news and information

literacy programme launched in India

We're not just fighting an epidemic;

by Internews in collaboration with DataLEADS with support from Google. org and the Google News Initiative.

This programme aims to educate the Indian people about media literacy and empower them to consume information critically. It's designed to help people across India - especially in states with low literacy to understand the nature and characteristics of content published online.

I'm associated with FactShala as a trainer and we have trained to empower people to consume information critically. >> More On P2

4th Phase of DDC Polls Valley Records 31.95%, Jammu 69.31% KO Photo: Abid Bhat



AGENCIES

IAMMU: The 4th phase of DDC

and Anantnag 27.04%. Similarly, in Jammu division, Kishtwar recorded voting percentage of 70.32%. Doda Ramban 67.39%, Reasi 62.67%, Kathua 61.23%, Samba ent constituencies in Jammu and 71.97%, Jammu 71.80%, Rajouri 71.22% and 75.42% The voting was conducted in 34 constituencies, 17 each from Jammu and Kashmir Divisions, for which 1910 polling stations, 781 in Jammu division and 1129 in Kashmir division were set up for the

Country will not have to wait too long for COVID-19 vaccine: PM Modi



One thing, which I will definitely remind you is that the wait

for a vaccine is on but in the past few days, I have met scientists, and feel +that the country will not have to wait too long for it', PM Modi said.

LUCKNOW : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the country will not have to wait too long for the coronavirus vaccine even as he cautioned people that there should be no laxity as far as prevention of the infection is concerned.

He was speaking while inaugurating the construction of the Agra Metro project via video

conferencing.



AGENCIES

ment

Thakur on December 4

for modification of the

nearly two-month-old

judgment pleaded that

a large number of com-

mon people would suffer

unintentionally including

dwellings on small areas

Act "illegal, unconstitutional and JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashunsustainable" and ordered a CBI mir High Court on Monday adprobe into the allotment of the journed till next week the hearland under this law. ing on a petition filed by the administration seeking a review after the judgment amid criticism of its earlier order scrapping the Roshni Act in totality.

over its role in not defending the Act in the court, the government The petition filed by Special which has started releasing sepa-Secretary in Revenue depart- rate lists of beneficiaries of Roshni Nazir Ahmad

Act and encroachers of government land said the common people are unfortunately clubbed along with rich and wealthy land grabbers existing occupants.

who have obtained a

landless cultivators and individu- through the provision of now been asked to work out a plan to als who are themselves residing in struck down Act. There is a need

on October 9 finally declared the and on payment at appropriate rates.

66

It also raised apprehension that the High Court verdict may lead to an unintended roving inquiry by In its petition filed three months the CBI, which may go on endlessly without generating the results sought by the high court.

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

The principal secretary and title over state land the revenue department have retrieve large tracts of state land vested under the Act

we're fighting an infodemic"



THE DAILY

CORONAVIRUS

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday registered a case against four officials of the Jammu Municipal Corporation and a restaurant owner for illegal construction here, a spokesperson of the anti-graft body said.

Searches were conducted at the houses of the accused which led to the recovery of incriminating material, he said.

The verification revealed that one Sanjeev Bhasin sought the permission for renovation of his commercial building being run as a restaurant 'Hot Billon' to the extent of existing area in ground floor (102 sqft), proposed area in ground floor (127.5 Sqft), totalling 229.5 sqft and proposed 229.5 sqft area in first floor which was granted to him on July 22, 2013," he said.

During the probe, it was found that the owner had initially constructed the whole building illegally in connivance with the then officers of JMC and under the garb of new permission, he raised a huge three-storied commercial building.

Power shutdown

SRINAGAR: According to the Power Controller, Kashmir Province, in order to replace GOAB switch with new serviceable one in 33kV line at Bemina Residential Colony, shutdown of 33 kV lines shall be observed as per programme below.

During the shutdown, the power supply to Receiving Stations Bemina II, JVC and PC Depot fed from Bemina-Bemina II shall remain affected on 10 December from 10 am to 10:30 am, and power supply to Receiving Stations Rakh Arth, Narkara, Jawahar Nagar and K P Bagh fed from Bemina- K P Bagh shall remain affected on 11 December from 4:30 pm to 5 pm.

Similarly, to execute DDUGJY/ IPDS/ PMDP Package-A works, shutdown of 33 kV >> More On P2 It said there was a need to dis-

tinguish between the common people and the wealthy land grabbers among the beneficiaries, and favoured that landless labourers or those with one house in personal use be allowed to keep the allotted land.

The High Court has adjourned the case till December 16, Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmad told PTI. Ahmad is representing Prof S

K Bhalla who had challenged the remain in possession of their land, State land within a period of six Roshni Act in the court, which subject to an appropriate ceiling months. Principal » More On P2

between these two classes of people; the fact of being either a landless cultivator or house-hold-

er with at the most one dwelling house in personal use, would be to the occupants. This included the primary criteria for differentiating between two classes, the petition read. The petition prayed for permis-

sion to formulate an appropriate ment, Revenue Department shall mechanism to enable people like also work out the modalities and landless cultivators and single plan to evict encroachers from dwelling owners to continue to such State Land and retrieve the

According to the high court order, a total of 6,04,602 kanals (75,575 acres) of state land had been regularised and transferred 5.71.210 kanals (71.401 acres) in Jammu and 33,392 kanals (4174 acres) in the Kashmir province.

"Principal Secretary to Govern-

elections recorded voter percent- 75.03%, age of 50.08 percent across differ-Kashmir on Monday. While Kashmir reported 31.95 percent voting, 69.31 percent was recorded in Jammu division, State Election Commissioner K K Sharma said addressing a presser.

In Kashmir Division, he said Kupwara recorded voting percentage of 44.35%, Bandipora 45. 22%, Baramulla 47.43%, Ganderbal 56.28%, Budgam 38.04%, Pulwama 6.70%, Shopian 1.96%, Kulgam 8.73% 340525 females. (GNS)

smooth conduct of elections. Moreover, in 4th phase, 717322 electors were eligible to cast their votes including 376797 males and

prime minister said, "One thing, which I will definitely remind you is that the wait for a vaccine is on but in the past few days, I have met scientists, and feel that the country will not have to wait too long for it."

Before ending his speech, the

"However, there should be no laxity from our side as far as prevention of the infection is concerned. Masks and a distance of two yards is very necessary," he said. —PTI

3 Kashmiris Among 5 **Arrested In Delhi After Encounter: Police**

NEW DELHI: Five people includ- five persons after an exchange of ing three Kashmiris were arrested fire. Weapons and other incriminatafter an encounter with police in ing material have also been recov-East Delhi's Shakarpur area and it is ered from their possession." suspected that some of them might have links to militant groups, officials said on Monday.

(Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kush- being verified, he said, adding that wah said, "We have apprehended further investigation is underway.

Families vouch for the innocent

BUDGAM: Three families of Cenfrom Central Kashmir's Budgam tral Kashmir's Budgam Monday district. They are Reyaz Ahmed refuted the claims of Special Rather and Shabir Ahmed Gojri, Cell of Delhi Police that trio both residents of Nasrullah from Kashmir arrested by them Pora and Muhammad Ayoub Pathan of Gondhipora village. have links with militant outfits. Today five men, three from Kashmir and 2 from Punjab these arrested men talked to news agency Kashmir News were arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police from Sha-

Trust and vouched for their karpur area of Delhi. Police said innocence. these arrests were made after Shaista- wife of Shabir Ahmed Gojri said her husband a gunfight in the area. Three Kashmiri men who visits the shrine of Ajmeer Sharif every More On P2 were arrested by police hail

Two of them are from Punjab and three belong to Kashmir, he said. Some of them are suspected to have Deputy Commissioner of Police links with militant groups but this is

The family members of all

Forces Launch Search Operation After Militants Escape In Narbal

SRINAGAR: State forces launched a search operation after a militant allegedly opened fire on CRPF personnel posted at the Narbal crossing on the Srinagar-Gulmarg road here on Monday, officials said.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers at the crossing claimed that they signalled a driver of a car to stop, but he drove past and stopped after a short distance, they said.

There were militants in the car and one of them got off, fired and they escaped, according to the troopers, the officials said, adding that the matter is being probed. The area has been cordoned off and a search operation launched to track the militants, they said.

Initially, police had said that a CRPF trooper's rifle went off accidentally, but now officials said that it is being investigated as to where the shots were fired from. The firing caused panic in the area and people ran helter-skelter. While running to safety, Showkat Ahmad fell down and suffered injuries, police said. – Agenices

2 Minor Sisters From PcK Who Inadvertently **Crossed LoC Repatriated**

POONCH: Two minor sisters from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK), who were detained after they inadvertently crossed the Line of Control (LoC) into Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, were repatriated on Monday, officials said

Laiba Zabair (17) and her younger sister Sana Zabair (13), residents of Kahuta Tehsil in PcK. were detained on Sunday after being spotted moving into this side by Indian troops.

"Two girls of Abbasspur, Tehsil Forward Kahuta of PoK, who had inadvertently crossed into Indian side in Poonch. have been repatriated from the Chakan Da Bagh (CDB) crossing point today," a defence spokesman said. Hore On P2

Avalanche Warnings Issued in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh **SRINAGAR:** Snowfall will start from forecast in both union territories. Avalanche warnings were issued

northwest Kashmir, Pirpanjal, Gulmarg, Sonamarg Zojila Drass axis and gradually affect the entire valparts of Ladakh especially Kargil, Zanskar and higher reaches of Leh by Tuesday, MeT office said on Monday. Minimum temperatures contin-

ued their upward rise on Monday

in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

areas as the authorities improved

their preparedness to meet chal-

lenges posed by heavy snowfall

on Monday for people living in avalanche prone higher reaches of ley, hilly areas of Jammu and some Jammu and Kashmir following an advisory by the weather office that moderate to heavy snowfall is likely in the Valley and Kargil district of Ladakh region beginning Monday afternoon.

Vehicles in Srinagar-Jammu highway have been advised to cross Nagrota from Jammu side and Khanabal from valley side before 2 p.m. so that they are >> More On P2

Covid-19 claims 9 more lives, J&K toll 1755



Jammu and Kashmir reported nine more deaths due to novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours, taking the number of those who succumbing to the virus to 1755. Among those who died include five from Jammu and four from Kashmir including a 41-year-old

man from Sangrama Soporein Baramulla district. The other victims from Valley include an 85-year-old man from Mamar Kangan Ganderbal, a 65-yearold man from Qazigund in Kulgam district and a 70-year-old 👩 man from Khanpora Baramulla. The victims from Jammu include two from the J&K's winter capital, Jammu-2 besides one each from Udhampur, Kishtwar and Reasi. Hore On P2

2004 Defamation Case

Mehbooba, Sagar compromise, seeking dismissal of the case

ing closer to each other and being during the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, the part of newly formed Peoples had filed a defamation suit against Alliance for Gupkar Decleration the PDP president, after Mehbooba (PAGD), both Mehbooba Mufti and Ali Muhammad Sagar Monday compromised and through their lawyers filed an application before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar stating they have no complaint against each other seeking dismissal of the case.

Pertinently, in 2004, the senior National Conference leader Ali Muhammad Sagar had filed a defamation case against former Jammu Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. Sagar, who was chief polling agent

SRINAGAR, DEC 7: In wake of com- of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah accused him of rigging elections by indulging in booth capturing.

Mehbooba had approached the High Court, seeking dismissal of the suit in the trial court. However, the High court dismissed the PDP leader's petition and directed the trial court to go ahead with the proceedings.

The lawyers of both Mehbooba Mufti and Ali Muhammad Sagar filed a joint application in the court of CIM Srinagar seeking dismissal of the case. Advocate Shabir Ahmed Khan and Advocate Rafig Ahmed

Bakshi represented Ali Muhammad Sagar while Advocate Jawad Reshi and associates were present on behalf of Mehbooba Mufti.

Advocate Shabir Ahmed, Vice President Province National Conference Kashmir confirmed to news agency Kashmir News Trust that they filed a joint application before Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar, seeking dismissal of the case. "Since both these leaders are to-

gether and united thus there is no need to proceed against each other. Both these leaders decided to withdraw the case and work jointly in the interest of people," Advocate Shabir Ahmed told KNT. –KNT

"BJP fighting DDC polls on agenda of development of all regions of J-K"

section of society," Singh told PTI.

JAMMU, DEC 7 (PTI) Union Minister litendra Singh on Monday said that the BJP is fighting the ongoing District Development Council (DDC) election in Jammu and Kashmir on the common agenda of development of all regions of the Union Territory DDC election campaign," said Singh, and among every section of society.

Accusing the Congress, National Conference and the PDP of resorting to their old practice of playing the communal card, he said the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sought to establish a new political culture by reaching out to the needy, wherever it is required, regardless of caste, creed or religion.

"The Congress and the National schemes initiated by the Modi Conference (NC) are playing politics government, he said that while gas of communal and regional divide cylinders were distributed, it was by speaking in different languages never asked what was the caste or among different sections of people religion of the household. and in different regions during the Describing the first-ever District Development Council election in the Minister of State for Personnel. Jammu and Kashmir as not only a

mere election but a mission, Singh He said, while in Kashmir valley, said Prime Minister Modi has sought they speak against alleged injustice towards the people of valley, in Jammu to correct an anomaly by empowering they promise to restore Dogra Raj. local body representatives at the grassroots level which was "On the other hand, BJP is fighting happening in the rest of India but not this election on the common agenda of development in all the regions of in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir and among every "This will ensure prompt redressal of local demands and grievances Referring to various public welfare with accountability, he said.

'Srinagar district admin has prepared micro plan for COVID vaccination'

Srinagar, Dec 7 (PTI) The Srinagar district administration has prepared a micro plan for COVID-19 vaccination under which the entire population of the district will be vaccinated within four months, an official spokesperson said here on Monday.

The plan, prepared in consultation with the District Taskforce Committee Srinagar, has been submitted to the union territory government ahead of the expected vaccine roll out, he said.

"With over 12,000 vaccine shots a day at 100 shots per vaccine site, the entire vaccination process in Srinagar is targeted for completion within three to four months," the spokesperson said. The micro plan is part of the advance planning being made

in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure smooth and time-bound distribution and provision of COVID-19 vaccine when it is available, he said.

It covers all aspects from collection and storage of the vaccine to distribution and inoculation.

The COVID-19 vaccine, when it is available, will be collected and stored at 50 cold chain points or CCPs located in areas spread across Srinagar, the spokesperson said.

From CCPs, the COVID-19 vaccine will be transported in vaccine carriers to 123 sites identified as points of inoculation where vaccination will be administered to people as per a separate plan based on a database of prioritised groups of beneficiaries being compiled, he said.

A detailed micro plan covering all aspects of vaccination process has been prepared for smooth and time-bound COVID-19 vaccination in the district, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said, adding that the plan has been submitted to the union territory government.

Choudhary, who is also the Chairman of the District Taskforce Committee Srinagar, said the plan also includes details of logistics requirements. He said the idea is to ensure a wellprepared and hassle-free vaccination programme in the district. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has begun advance

planning for COVID-19 vaccination which is set for a rollout soon, the spokesperson said.

Congress won't be cowed down by **BJP's 'rants': Bhalla**

JAMMU, DEC 7 (PTI) Senior Jammu and Kashmir Congress leader Raman Bhalla on Monday said his party would not be cowed down by BJP's rants and would continue its fight against the wrong policies of the saffron party without compromising on people's wishes and rights.

He accused the BJP of pushing the people in Jammu and Kashmir to the wall in the name of development and claimed that the party is working to implement its political agenda which is divisive and anti-people, and triggered unrest across the country including Jammu and Kashmir.

The remarks of Bhalla, a former minister, came a day after BJP national spokesperson Shahnawaz Hussain launched a blistering attack on the Congress and said it is as good as dead

Our party will not be cowed down by BJP's anti-Congress rants, rather it will further strengthen our resolve to fight for the people's rights. People have realised as to what BIP has done since it assumed power at the Centre and erstwhile J-K state and how it pushed them to the wall for electoral gains, the senior vice president of J-K Congress said.

Addressing election rallies in support of party candidates in the R S Pura area of Jammu, he said the Congress believes in secularism and had always promoted equitable development.

Urging people to reject the politics of hate, Bhalla stressed that the Congress is the guarantee for development, peace and growth of common masses.

The falsehood and deceitful politics by BIP was the source behind restlessness among the people, which has to be defeated in the larger interest of well being of people and overall development of J-K, he said.

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He alleged that the people have been pushed to the wall in the name of development while the reality is that BJP is working on the implementation of its political agenda, which is divisive and anti-people, responsible for the crisis and restlessness in J-K and across the country.

Bhalla said it was the Congress which gave a three tier panchayat system to the nation, aiming at involving people in the process of their own development at the grassroots level.

BJP government harmed the very foundation of the Panchayati Raj system by eroding its authority to serve their vested interests, he claimed

Appealing to people not to get swayed by false propaganda of the BJP and exercise their franchise against the divisive, wrong and anti-people policies of the BJP, Bhalla assured that his party would continue to work for the well-being of the people, despite the concocted and false propaganda unleashed by the BJP against it.

Congress will continue its fight against the wrong policies of BJP and would not compromise on people's wishes and rights, he said, adding his party never compromised on people's urges and aspirations for power.

FROM FRONT PAGE

Fake News ...

Tell us something about media literacy and why is it so important?

Media literacy has become of paramount importance today. With the ever increasing rise in fake news, we need to train and empower citizens and journalists alike to counter this rapidly growing misinformation disease. This can only be done through keeping abreast of latest tools and skill sharing from experts in various

+ domains. FactShala aims to bridge this gap between the two.

As they say, media literacy does not mean "don't watch", it means "watch carefully, think critically". What's the FactShala's philosophy of education?

FactShala has been built in mind not only on misinformation generated by conventional and social media but also on educating people about understanding media, analyzing content and equipping them with the skills needed to consume information critically.

Our training takes into account how one an think critically and out of the box One has to be very observant when dealing with fake news and critical thinking helps to analyse patterns. As BuzzFeed editor Craig Silverman puts it, "I also want to remind you of the first thing I talked about, which is that your brain is the most important tool. You have to be willing to look at the same sites and information again and again, to monitor them over time, and to apply the investigative mindset in order to find the points of connection or flaws.

society? Social media is the place where fake news is thriving.

It's unfortunate that a lot of people have suffered because of the spread of fake news. Many people have been wrongly quoted upteen times or past statements have been given a new twist to suit current ongoing news thereby stimulating propaganda.

How responsible are social media outlets for misinformation spreading on their platforms? How does technology enable the spread of disinformation? Also, what role should more traditional media play in elevating or debunking good or bad info?

Social Media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, etc have to play an important role in debunking or atleast bringing to light the page or person behind the spread of mis/ disinformation as these are the very places where such news is thriving.

Facebook has tied up with fact checkers across the globe to ensure that there is some transparency coming up.

And how has misinformation troubled journalistic communities?

fake news as they have gon way to bring light to the truth. Some of them have been intimated, attacked, while video journalists have been at risk for the evidence they hold. As journalists, we need to use the citizen's right to freedom of expression to keep them informed and that often leads us to go to areas by putting ourselves at risk to gather and investigate factual information to stop and curb wrongdoings.

fact-checkers worldwide.

And to answer whether it is enough to stop misinformation - No. Fact-checking alone cannot stop the spread of misleading information, nor can the media alone do this. We have to act as a society together and work on this.

But who will check the fact checkers?

I would say 'other fact checkers'.

Today we have multiple fact checking organization does put out a misleading

Misinformation has increased in times of pandemic. COVID-19 has been plagued by rumours, half-truths, and hoaxes. False and misleading information is spreading uncontrolled like the coronavirus itself. How has misinformation affected the

disinfectant from to sprav skv to

2. Search By Image by Armin Sebastian 3. InVid extension (https://www. invid-project.eu/tools-and-services/ invid-verification-plugin/)

4. YouTube/Vimeo

5. Socialcatfish.com helps you find people and verify information like images, email addresses, phone numbers and online

profiles. 6. Capturing: Snagit - Screen Capture & Reco Software

7. InstaDP: Instagram profile pictures are very small. Using this tool, you can see anyone's Instagam profile pic in high quality. You can search any account. (https://www.instadp.com)

8. Archiving: WayBack Machine: Capture a web page as it appears now for use as a trusted citation in the future. https:// archive.org/web

9. Archive.is: It takes a 'snapshot' of a webpage that will always be online even if the original page disappears. (http:// archive.is)

10. Virus Total: Analyze suspicious mmunity (https://www.virusto

Hoteliers seek ... Chaya further said the hoteliers are facing harassment at the hands of administration at a time when tourism has just started to pick up after over a year long zero tourist

arrivals in Kashmir Valley. "Kashmir tourism has been the worst hit since August 2019 and is struggling to survive. After August 2019 and later nation wide coronavirus lockdown, Kashmir tourism was hit badly. Hoteliers which have a lot of investment and manpower at stake were the worst hit. Now as the government has opened the Valley for tourism activities, they are facing harassment which is hampering their efforts to promote tourism," said Chaya.

hearth for no fault of theirs.

The JKHC Chairman further said the hoteliers are ready to welcome tourists on Christmas, New Year and also host India's mega sporting event Khelo India this winter. adding that Shabir is sole bread winner of

rumors around the covid-19 pandemic. files and URLs to detect types of malware, are also making efforts and encouraging sisters. travellers to visit Kashmir. We have activated our marketing teams for winter tourism promotions. However, at this time, we badly need government support and not the harassment," he said. Chaya fervently appealed to the Lt Governor S K Sinah to impress upon the administration that the lease of the hoteliers may be extended so that they can work shoulder to shoulder with the government in attracting tourists in large numbers.

Sonam Lotus, director of the MET department said.

Srinagar recorded 4.6°C, Pahalgam 1.5°C and Gulmarg minus 3.5°C as the minimum temperatures. Leh recorded minus 5.3°C and Kargil minus 4.6°C as the minimum temperature. Jammu city and Katra recorded 12.2°C, Batote 6.9°C, Bannihal 5.0°C and Bhaderwah 3.5°C as the minimum temperatures.

Families vouch ...

year and this time another youth from the same village Reyaz Ahmed accompanied him. "My husband had to pay obeisance at Ajmeer Sharif while Reyaz being a Welding expert had to get some stuff from Delhi,' she said adding that on Sunday late evening, her husband informed that he is alright.

"My husband is a tipper driver with clean police record. We were shocked over the claim made by Delhi Police," she told KNT To make these events a success, hoteliers family comprising old parents and two little

> Muhammad Shafi Rather, father of Reyaz Ahmed also vouched for the innoce

This is a good one.

organizations in India and almost everyone is tracking and correcting fake news. If one statement, there are many others who would jump to correct them and this is also

something we have seen in the past.

pandemic? I think initially there were too many Journalists have been affected by the rise From hearing about the 'Air Force' planning automatically share them with the security

Does media literacy apply to social media and user-generated content? Also does it include online safety?

Media literacy is a holistic approach. It is inclusive and adopts a whole-of-society approach.

Internet was supposed to be a democratizing force, what we see is that we are exposed to inaccurate information. As misinformation and so-called "fake news" continues to spread rapidly on the internet, our society has become increasingly shaped by false information. Why are people so susceptible to fake news?

Unfortunately, many of us live in 'filter bubbles' or enter into 'echo chambers'. We do not realise that we have been dragged so deep into these mines that regularly posting of articles makes us believe that they are true and we end up sharing them.

Most of the people who create fake news rely on evoking underlying biases that are already present in us and they stimulate that with morphed pictures or videos to shock or invoke a strong reaction.

As is rightly stated, misinformation has created a new world disorder. It's big, it's sprawling, it's hard to get a handle on. It's frightening what it can do to our lives. What is driving this misinformation?

We have seen the effect of misinformation across various areas like politics (elections), health, etc. Some of these can be potentially devastating and lead to harmful actions taken by communities.

An incident which happened a few years back led to the unfortunate death of two people who were just passersby when the village folks mistook them for 'child snatchers'. The gruesome act was also recorded and shared online.

Fake news is deadly and needs to be curbed by putting in laws that penalise those who are creating them.

How is misinformation on social media evolving and how "fake news" and

Authorities need to understand that fake news should not be used to suppress journalist.

However, it is not one-sided.

Recent news in November 2020 tells us how two journalists have been booked for allegedly promoting enmity between different groups by spreading fake news. The journalists have said that they spoke what was told to them by the family.

No doubt technology has brought us to a point where we can no longer believe everything we hear, read, or even see. In this era of information disorder, tell us how we can navigate the pollution of information out there and avoid being duped by 'fake news'.

Yes, that's true. Technology has made it difficult to identify fake news but that very same technology also has tools we can use to identity if pictures have been picked up from another place, the source of a video, who is behind an account, etc.

All this does take time and effort but can be useful in identifying culprits and bringing them to book.

In this regard, how media literacy can help discern fake news?

Training is the key point here.

What is the importance and effectiveness of fact-checking? When is it helpful and is it enough to stop misinformation?

It is very useful at many levels. A full blown PR crisis can be averted if one knows how to fact-check. Many prominent folks and companies often tend to get misquoted or used in pictures or quotes they have not said.

In this case, having a fact-checker in your organisation will help in correctly dealing with a situation and averting bad press. Fact-checking is now globally recognised

as a principal branch of journalism and almost all leading newsrooms across the globe have dedicated fact checkers.

To understand the reach we can look at the initiative called International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) by the Poynter misinformation online is changing the Institute which looks to bring together

drinking cow urine as a cure.

The good news is that within a short period, fact check organizations are able to com/) and for tweet beaver (https:// dentify and debunk it before it spreads too tweetbeaver.com/) far.

The only issue lies in whether the correct fact checked news goes to the same people who received or shared the fake news in the first place. I think that's a bigger problem to solve.

Perhaps TV channels can take this up by mandatory spending 10 minutes during prime time to debunk fake news of the day.

"We're not just fighting an epidemic; we're fighting an infodemic," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) at a gathering of foreign policy and security experts in Munich, Germany, in mid- February, referring to fake news that "spreads faster and more easily than this virus." How did your team at the FactShala step up your communications efforts to make sure people have the best, most credible information?

One area where we have focused on is to train as many people as possible and tell them to verify before sending. There are many tools like 'Google Reverse Image', 'Invid', 'archive.org' etc which can be used to find out the sources of images and videos.

Of course, this takes time but it is important to know nonetheless. There are also sites like Google's 'Fact Check Explorer' which picks up articles from various factcheck websites.

One should keep in mind the following points when unsure about things:

1. Look at the domain name and URL 2. Do check the 'About Us' section

3. If there is an image, do a google reverse mage search to see where else the image has appeared

4. Keep track of Fact check sites like Boom Live, Alt News, Vishwas News, etc

5. Become part of Facebook pages of Fact checkers and ask your queries there if you have a doubt.

6. Write to fact check organisations to verify claims. Most of them have Whatsapp groups you can send your queries to.

Essentially, one will have to learn the skills and tools required to debunk the fake news pandemic.

Tell us what are some of the tools that can be used to fight misinformation? Tools one can use to verify Images & Videos

1. https://images.google.com/

Twitter Analytics Tools: FollowerWonk (https://followerwonk.

What did your analysis of the content, origin and reach of the fake news spread during covid-19 suggest?

We have not conducted any research as of now since the pandemic began early this year and there is not enough data.

High Court ...

11.

Secretary to Government, Revenue Department shall work out modalities for handling the money received for these lands after annulment," the JK government had said in a statement.

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

The Roshni Act was enacted in 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources for financing power projects and conferment of proprietary rights to the occupants of the state land.

It initially envisaged conferment of proprietary rights of around 20.55 lakh kanals (102750 hectares) to the occupants of which only 15.85 percent land was approved for vesting of ownership rights. The scheme was finally repealed by the

then governor Satya Pal Malik on November 28. 2018.

Amid reports claiming its widespread misuse, the entire legislation was challenged before the high court which stayed the proceedings under the Act and also directed that neither the occupants having been conferred upon the ownership rights shall sell these lands nor can raise constructions on such lands.

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

Earlier, the National Conference took a dig at the J&K administration over its alleged failure to defend the Roshni act and said thousands of citizens who were bonafide beneficiaries under the scheme are now virtually deprived of their homes and

Meanwhile, J&KHC held its 8th Annual General Meeting today where the EC unanimously re-elected Chaya as its Chairman.

Riyaz Ahmad Shahdad was elected as senior vice chairman, Amit Amla as junior vice chairman, Tariq Rashid Ghani as secretary general, Naseer Ahmad Khan as joint general secretary and Musadiq Shah as treasurer.

During the AGM, all EC members, Chapter Presidents and other members participated. The Hoteliers Club also announced re-

elected its Chapter presidents. Mukhtar Ahmad Shah is Gulmarg Chapter

President while Akib Chaya is its Secretary General at Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Hafiz has been re-elected as president of Sonmarg Chapter and Imtiyaz A Wani its Secretary General. Imad Rafi is Chapter President Pahalgam, Chandert Shekhar Mahajan at Jammu, Pintoo Narboo at Leh and Ashraf Ali at Kargil

The AGM was attended by all EC members and Chapter Presidents. (KNT)

2 Minor Sisters ...

The handover of the sisters took place at the CDB point in the presence of civilian and military officials of Pakistan. They were given gifts and sweets by the Indian Army as a goodwill gesture, he said.

Avalanche ...

not caught up in bad patches of the highway in case of inclement weather. At all Kashmir district headquarters snow clearance machines are in place and the staff of disaster management authority have been alerted to keep a close vigil to meet challenges likely to be posed.

"We expect snowfall to commence from northwest Kashmir, Pirpanjal, Gulmarg, Sonamarg Zojila Drass axis which will gradually affect whole Kashmir, hilly reaches of Leh district on December 8,"

his son saying he had gone to Delhi for the first time in life. "My son is unmarried who had gone to Delhi to purchase some welding stuff," he said and sought intervention of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"My son has clear police record who has been never ever arrested for anything wrong," Rather said.

Muhammad Ayoub Pathan, a resident of Gondhipora Budgam who is one among arrested by Delhi Police according to his family had gone to Delhi to purchase construction material. "We are constructing a house and for this purpose Pathan left for Delhi two days ago to get some material," his family members said.

Pathan is the father of 3 daughters and 2 sons. One of is sons is in police custody for his alleged involvement in Lawaypora militant attack in February this year.

Two militants Zia-ur-Rehman of Arth Budgam and Khateeb of Wagam Bijbehara were killed in Lawaypora shootout on 5 February this year. A trooper Ramesh Ranjan was also killed in this shootout.

"Few persons are still in detention in connection with Lawaypora Srinagar attack and among which is the son of Muhammad Ayoub Pathan as well, but: "we vouch for the innocence of both father aand son," the family members told KNT.

Covid-19 claims ...

With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1130 and 624 in the Jammu region. Srinagar district with 427 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (318), Baramulla (165), Budgam 103), Pulwama (86), Kupwara (85), Anantnag (80), Doda (57), Bandipora (55), Kulgam (52), Udhampur (52), Rajouri (50), Kathua (42), Ganderbal (40), Shopian (37), Samba (33), Poonch (22), Ramban (20), Kishtwar(20), and Reasi (10). (GNS)

Power shutdown ...

lines shall be observed as per programme below.

During the shutdown, the power supply to Receiving Station Chewa fed from Tral-Chewa Tap line shall remain affected on 12 December from 11 am to 3 pm, and power 😱 supply to Receiving Stations Kakapora, Newa and MM Flour Mill fed from 33 area of Jammu and some parts of Lada-kh especially Kargil, Zanskar and higher affected on 8, 12, 15 and 21 December from 10am to 4 pm.

NEWS

Kashmir Observer Tuesday 08-12-2020

Chanapora Murder Case

Post mortem report confirms death due to assault

Agencies

Srinagar: Post mortem report has confirmed the death of an elderly man in Chanapora Srinagar has occurred due to assault. Police produced the challan in the court of law and the accused has been sent to Srinagar Central Jail.

Pertinently, in August this year, a bank employee was accused of murdering a 65 year old man Abdul Majeed Bagal, a resident of Mini Colony Chanapora.

Pertinently, Sadaf Baqal, the daughter of the victim had said that one Waseem Ahmed alias Jimmy assaulted her father badly and he sustained grievous injuries resulting in his death after a few days in the hospital.

"It was an immaterial issue. My elderly father was cleaning the gate of the house, while sprinkling water on the gate, some droplets touched a pedestrian (girl), who is our neighbor. She accused my father of ruining her dress and called his brother Wasim alias Jimmy, Jimmy, without listening to the version of my

father and ignoring apologies from me and my father, assaulted him badly. My father fell on the ground and was dying with pain. I was request ing Jimmy with folded hands to let him go but drunk with pride, he didn't stop and continued to hit him. When we cried, some neighbours intervened and we shifted him (my father) to hospital. After

a couple of days, he died," she had told Kashmir News Trust. The post mortem of the deceased has maintains that the deceased had died due to blood clotting in his brain as a result

of the assault. "The post mortem report vindicates our stand. From day one, we had been maintaining that my father died due to assault by Wasim alias Jimmy," her daughter said. A police official told KNT

that the accused has already been shifted to Central Jail. "We produced a challan against him after receiving post mortem report," the official said. Pertinently, the accused

who is a Bank employee has already been suspended from the service. (KNT)

LG Inaugurates Center Of Invention, Innovation, Incubation

Srinagar: Centre for Invention, Innovation & Incubation (CIII) a joint collaboration between Indian Army, UT Govt of Jammu & Kashmir & Tata technologies Ltd (TTL) was today inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in an e-inauguration ceremony.

Army in a statement issued to news agency KINS said that the project will bring qualitative improvement in the field of technical education in UT of J&K.

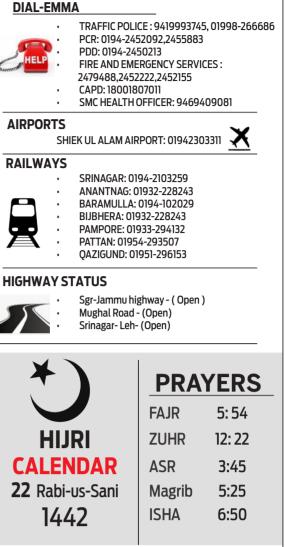
"It is an ultramodern state of the art facility, aimed to provide high end facilities and support to engineers, promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship and supporting technology start-ups" the statement reads. "The project will facilitate the

creation of a pool of skilled manpower like engineers and technicians which will augment the industrial growth and in turn increase the employment avenue for the Kashmiri youth. The project also witnessed a unified effort of the Indian Army and the civil administration in ensuring timely completion of the center. The center will offer courses for the students in the field of ITI Diploma, B. Tech, M. Tech, etc to enhance their



skills in line with current industrial needs and future technology trends. Initially, 18 majors courses are being introduced with an intake capacity of around 2880 candidates. Each batch will have a strength of 10-30 candidates. The center will strengthen industry academia partnership and will bring quality improvement in the technical education" it reads. 'This first of its kind project has

been completed in a record time despite facing all the challenges posed due to of COVID-19 pandemic. The center is also a testimony and prime example of the prowess of the unified efforts of all the stakeholders including the Indian Army, Civil Administration & private sector enterprises, making it a reality in very short span of time for bright future of the Kashmir"



In a First: Justice at Doorsteps a reality in J&K with "Insaf ki **Dastak**" Initiative

Srinagar: In a first, J&K High Court launched an ambitious legal outreach programme "Insaf Ki Dastak" aimed at providing access to justice at the door steps of people living in far-flung and inaccessible areas of the UTs of J&K and Ladakh who face severe hardships in reaching the courts for their legal issues.

The outreach initiative would provide succor to the people of Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir: and Ladakh where 'access to justice' is a challenge owing to its unique topography.

These are in Kathua, Reasi. Poonch. Ramban. Kishtwar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara Districts in the Union Territory

CUK VC inaugurates workshop on **'Intellectual Property Rights,** Start-Ups and Entrepreneurship Dev'

current

Ganderbal: Central University relevance of every field in the UK). Vice (cellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir Monday inaugurated the twoweek National Workshop on "Intellectual Property Rights, Start-Ups and Entrepreneurship Development" organized by the Department of Information Technology, School of Engineering and Technology, at Tulmulla Campus here. The Vice Chancellor also inaugurated 'Ta'aruf', an induction programme for the fresh batch of the students of B. Tech Computer Science & Engineering. Addressing the participants both offline and online, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehrai ud Din Mir. said "Innovation. be it in Engineering and Technology, Entrepreneurship or any other professional field has become the beating-heart that gives life to and maintains the

of Jammu & Kashmir; and Kargil and Leh Districts of the Union Territory of Ladakh which remain cut off even from the nearest courts for months together due to topography of the region and harsh weather which prevails for a considerable time of the year. The initiative will help

who have to wait for months together or alternatively are forced to travel to far off places to get any legal remedy for their disputes.

Mittal who has conceptualized the initiative said, "It is aimed to reach out to people living in far off places so that they do not remain deprived of the le gal rights.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT. Office Of The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Water Supply Master Plan Division Srinagar. **Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tenders**

e-NIT NO:- 33/WSMP OF 12/2020 Dated 04-12-2020 (2020-21)

For andon behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, Executive Engineer Water Supply Master Plan Division Srinagar invites tenders by e-tendering mode in Two cover system from Contractors/ firms approved/registered with J&K UTPWD/MES/Railways for the

works detailed below.	
(Position of Funds Available)	

Date of downloading the bidding documents.

Date of submission Start & Close of bid online.

Date of opening.

DIPK-10053/20

S. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Docu- ment	Head of Ac- count	Time of compl.	Class of Contract
			money	incite		compa	contract
1.		Rs.5.56 Lacs	Rs. 11120/-	Rs. 250/-	5475 District Sector	15 Davs	CEE &
	DIAGI / 40mm dia GI Pipe including Hamzah Colony Bemina (Under District Sector).	Lucs	11120/	250/	District Sector	Days	DEE
2.	LAYING AND FITTING OF 100MM DIA / 50MM DIA / 40MM	Rs.6.20	Rs.	Rs.	5475	15	CEE
	DIA PIPE INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER SUPPLY WORNOUT AT SULTAN AFREEN COLONY AND MUSLIMABAD	Lacs	12400/-	300/-	District Sector	Days	& DEE
3.	BEMINA BYPASS. (UNDER DISTRICT SECTOR). PROVIDING AND FIXING OF WIRE GUAZE TO TOP OPENING OF	Rs.0.61 La	csRs.	Rs.	2215	10	DEE
5.	IMG SR (AT KOHIMARAN) AT 4MGD WATER TREATMENT PLANT POKHRIBAL.	RS.U.01 Ld	1220/-	rs. 100/-	Non Plan	Days	DEE
4.	MAINTENANCE AND REAPIRS AND OTHER EMERGENCY WORKS	Rs. 3.59	Rs.	Rs.	2215	RUNNING	DEE
	AT 10MGD WATER TREATMENT PLANT TANGNAR DURING THE YEAR 2020-21.	Lacs	7180/-	200/-	Non Plan	Till 31-03-2021	
5.	FACE LIFTING, GRILL WORK, RACKS, WIRING AND PANNEL	Rs. 23.47	Rs.	Rs.	Languishing	30	BEE
	BOARDS ETC. FOR STATE LEVEL WATER TESTING LABORATORY AT HMT ZAINAKOTE. (UNDER LANGUISHING PROGRAMME).	Lacs	46940/-	800/-	Programme Under JKIDFC	Days	& CEE

This Day In History

1710 - Battle of Brihuega in the War of the Spanish Succession: British General James Stanhope captured by French & Spanish forces. 1863 - 2,500 reported killed as result of fire at Jesuit Church of La Compana, Santiago, Chile. 1863 - Abraham Lincoln issues his Amnesty Proclamation and plan for Reconstruction of the South. 1869 - Timothy Eaton founds T. Eaton Co. Limited in Toronto, Canada 1881 - Vienna's Ring Theater destroyed by fire, kills between 640-1895 - Battle at Amba Alagi: Ethiopian Emperor Menelik II drives Italian General Baratieri out. 1921 - Earnon de Valera publicly repudiates Anglo-Irish Treaty. 1923 - German-US friendship treaty signed 1923 - Salary & price freeze in Germany. 1941 - London: Dutch government-in-exile declares war on Japan. 1941 - US & Britain declare war on Japan, US enters WW II. 1952 - Isaak Ben-Zwi elected president of Israel 1953 - Dwight D. Eisenhower gives his "Atoms for Peace" speech at the UN in New York. 1962 - 114-day newspaper strike begins in NYC. 1963 - Pan Am Flight 214 crashes outside Elkton, Maryland with 81 killed. Only case of lighting causing air crash. 1965 - Nikolai Podgorny succeeds Mikojan as president of USSR. 1969 - Greek DC-6B crashes in storm at Athens, 93 killed. 1972 - United Airlines crashes at Chicago's Midway Airport killing 1974 - Soyuz 16 returns to Earth.

1982 - Colombian writer Gabriel García Márquez receives the Nobel Prize for Literature 1983 - 9th Space Shuttle Mission, Columbia 6, lands at Edwards

1984 - Europe & 64 developing countries sign Lome III treaty. 1987 - Occupied Palestinians start "intefadeh" (uprising) against

Israel Agreement. 1987 - US President Reagan & Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev

sign a treaty eliminating medium range nuclear missiles. 1989 - Great Britain performs nuclear test. 1991 - Russia, Belorussia & Ukraine form Commonwealth of Ind

States. 1991 - The Romanian Constitution is adopted in a referendum. 1992 - Galileo's nearest approach to Jupiter (303 km).

People living in those areas The Chief Justice Geeta

Date of Publishing.

ing environment and we can't stay away from it in the current digital world." He encouraged the students to participate frequently in such workshops and asked them to become part of the solutions for the future.

Inaugurating 'Ta'aruf.' Vice Chancellor, welcomed the newly admitted students and said, "The university will extend

all possible help, support and cooperation to the students to achieve their goals in academics and make an indelible mark in their field of study. He asked the freshers to enjoy their stay in the varsity and help in building a better society and serve the community thereafter. He also apprised the participants about the facilities provided by the university and scheme of the courses offered

سيدمحد شفيع اندرابي رحمت حق	
اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 10 دسمبر کوانجا دی جائیگی	
ی خبرانتہائی ریخ وغم کے ساتھ شایع کی جاتی ہے کہ حاد دورہ بڈگام کے معروف ساجی	
شخصیت سید محمد شنیع اندرابی صاحب مورخه 6اور 7دسمبر 20 2 0 2 کی در میانی رات کو اس	
د نیائے فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ مرحوم ایک ساجی شخصیت ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ نیک اخلاق کے	
ما لک اورصوم وصلوات کے پابند تھے۔مرحوم کوعلاقہ بھرمیں انتہائی عزّت واحتر ام کی نگاہوں سے دیکھا جا تا تھا۔مرحوم کی جسد خاکی کو ہزاروں افراد کی غمنا ک آنگھوں کی	
موجودگی میں ان نے آبانی مقبرہ یاری کلان چا ڈورہ بڈ گام میں سپر دخاک کیا گیا۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو کردٹ کردٹ جنت الفردوں نصیب فرما ئیں۔ مرحوم کی	
اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی مور خہ 10 دسمبر 2020 بروز جمعرات کو مرحوم کے آبائی مقبرہ میں انجام دی جائے گی۔	
سوگواران: سوگواران:	

ritory of Jammu and Kashmir		

Union Ter Office of the Executive Engineer, Estates Division Srinagar.

05-12-2020

05-12-2020

21-12-2020

05-12-2020 to 19-12-2020

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER E-TENDERNIT No: -92/E-tender/Estates/2020-21 of 12/2020

Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar on behalf of the Lt. Governor Union Territory J&K, invites by E-tendering on item rate basis from approved and eligible Registered Approved Electric Contractors with Union Territory J&K /CPWD/Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S.	Name of Work	Est. Cost	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest Money	Time of	Class of	Major Head
No		(Rs. In Lacs)	(Rs. In Lacs)	(Rs. In Lacs)	completion	Contractor	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Supply Installation, Test-	2.50 lacs	200/-	5000/-	20 days	Approved	2216 Non-
	ing And commissioning				-	Electric	Plan
	of Power Control Panel					Contractors	
	including allied accessories						
	at Estates Divisional Office						
L.	at 9A Poloview Srinagar.						
Posi	ition of AA						

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

1. Date of Issue of Tende	er Notice	07-12-2020
2. Period of downloadin	g of bidding documents	From 07-12-2020 (2:30 PM) to 12-12-2020
		(4.00 PM)
3. Bid submission Start	Date	07-12-2020 (2.30 PM)
4. Bid Submission End D	ate	12-12-2020 (4.00 PM)
5. No Hard copy is requir	ed but in case of any ambiguit	y found, the original documents may be
	, 0	, , , ,

demanded after opening of online tenders	
	12-12-2020 (04.05 PM) In the Office of the
	Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar,

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of G.R to be remitted in Treasury under Major Head: 216-Housing and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR/ B.G pledged to Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders auto-

atically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site the Office of Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar. (tender receiving authority)

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bid

The earnest money shall be forfeited. If:-

Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make anymodifications in the terms and onditions of the bid.

- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

سيدمحدايازاندرابي (برادرمرحوم) سيد سجاداندرابي، سيدروف اندرابي، سيد داوؤ داندرابي (فرزندان) 11:00 A.M

upto4:00 P.M

Executive Engineer WSMP Division Srinagai **Executive Engineer**

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Estates Division, Sgr.

1994 - Fire in cinema in Karamay China, 310 killed. 1998 - Tadjena massacre: 81 people are killed by armed groups in Algeria. 2002 - The Caribbean Community Heads of Government meet with the Government of Cuba and declare the date to be "CARI-COM-Cuba Day" - To celebrate diplomatic ties between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Cuba. 2004 - The Cuzco Declaration is signed in Cuzco, Peru, establishing the South American Community of Nations. 2009 - Bombings in Baghdad, Iraq kill 127 and injure 448

From KO Archives

12 Bangladeshis killed near Jammu

Observer News Serivce

RINAGAR: Twelve Bangladesh nationals were killed when Border Security Force (BSF) jawans opened fire at a group of people attempt¬ing to sneak into Jammu region from across the border today, official reports here said

The reports said BSF personnel noticed a group of persons attempting to sneak into Indian territory from Pakistan-con-trolled Kashmir (PcK) near Sangral village in R.S.Pura sector of Jammu in the wee hours today.

They mistook the intruders for militants and opened fire at them when they tried to flee back after being asked to surrender, the reports said, adding the deceased were totally unarmed.

In the past, a number of Bangladeshi nationals were either arrested or killed while making attempts to sneak into this side.

However, a Jammu datelined PTI report, weaving a cockand-bull story, said; "On being confronted by the BSF Jawans and asked to sur¬render, the intruders started running back, they (official sources) said.

"Meanwhile, Pakistani troops resorted to firing from across the bor¬der forcing BSF jawans to retaliate. In the exchange of fire, the intrud¬ers were killed, the sources said.

"Senior BSF and police officers have rushed to the area and the bod¬ies of the intruders are being handed over to police for further investi¬gation', the sources said."

Elsewhere in Kashmir valley, militants shot dead a civil-ian, in-jured a surrendered militant and a BSF jawan and abducted a villager, while security forces repulsed a militant attack on a police station since last evening, an official spokesman said.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead a farmer Abdul Aziz Dar inside his house at Putshahi-Lalpora in frontier district of Kupwara early today, he said.

Jammu and Kashmir police and CRPF jointly repulsed a militant at ¬tack on police station Lalpora in frontier district of Kupwara late last night, the spokesman said.

A group of militants opened heavy fire and hurled grenades on the police station. However, the police and CRPF contingent stationed there retaliated and repulsed the attack. No casualty on either side was reported, he added.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 08 DECEMBER, 2000)

No:-XEN/EDS/20/3024-33/T-1 Dated: - 05-12-2020

DIPK-10071/20



Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com

OBSERVER

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Covid vaccine

In a welcome development, Pfizer Inc has applied for emergency use authorisation in India after getting the nod for such use in the United Kingdom and Bahrain, The UK is already in the process of using the vaccine and is now in the final stages of planning before the vaccination drive starts on December 14. China is already vaccinating its people with a million people in the country having already received the shot. This despite the fact that China claims to have contained the spread of the virus within its borders and having put its economy back on track. This has been evidenced by the country's second quarter results.

On the other hand, in an attempt to bolster the confidence of the people in the vaccine, the US president-elect Joe Biden and the three former presidents of the country - Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton - have said they are willing to get inoculated against the novel coronavirus on television. Their announcement has come less than a week before the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is set to meet to decide whether to authorise a Covid-19 vaccine produced by Pfizer and BioNtech. Similarly, the World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said that he too would be happy to have a coronavirus vaccine to help promote public confidence.

Meanwhile, challenges remain. Haryana health minister Anil Vij tested Covid-19 positive fourteen days after taking a shot of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin. However, Bharat Biotech has clarified that the shot is meant to be protective only two weeks after the second dose – which is given after a gap of 28 days following the first dose

The arrival of the vaccine is, however, no reason to be complacent about the safety precautions. Over eight months after the union government implemented nationwide lockdown to help curb the contagion, India has recorded 9,608,211 confirmed COVID- 19 cases, including 139,700 deaths. On a welcome note, a total of 9,058,822 people have recovered from the infection leaving only 409,689 active cases in the country. This is a recovery rate of 94.28 percent. Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have reported the highest number of cases. In recent past, infections have spiked in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. Around the world, more than 6.64 crore people have been infected by the coronavirus and 15.27 lakh have died so far.

Going forward, the situation seems to be moving in the positive direction. After initial logistical challenges, the distribution of the vaccine will become progressively easy. This, in.turn, will hopefully enable the return of

Haris Rashid

By expressing his concern, Trudeau might be able to leverage the Sikh electorate for his political gains but on the other hand, it hurts the national interests of Canada as it affects the relationship with a foreign country. This is however trivial as India-Canada relations are already at worse.

anadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, became the first foreign leader to make a statement on the ongoing Indian farmers' protests, setting off a debate among the Indian diplomatic community whether the statement constituted foreign interference in the "internal affairs" of India. Speaking on the occasion of Gurupurab to his Canadian-Punjabi constituents, Trudeau expressed concern over farmers protests in India, saying that he would be remiss if he did not start by recognising the news coming from India about the protest by farmers. He further informed that Canada has reached out through multiple means to the Indian authorities to highlight their concerns regarding the protests.

The statement does not seem to have gone well with the Indian government as Ministry of External Affairs served a demarche to Canadian Higher Commissioner to India, protesting that the "comments by the Canadian Prime Minister, some Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament on issues relating to Indian farmers constitute an unacceptable interference in our internal affairs" and that "such actions, if continued, would have a seriously damaging impact on ties between India and Canada."

The reaction by India has however stoked debate over what constitutes foreign interference in India's internal affairs according to India's own standards. Trudeau

Internal Issue vs. External Dissent



ster, that India has applied to Trudeau's statement on farmers' protest was applied to India's statements related to Khalistani Movement, it would be safe to say that it is an ininditerference in the internal affairs of Canada. It might be that Khalistani Movement affects India's Punjab and is one of India's national security concern but then India's farmers' issue affects Canada's domestic audience because there is a large Indian diaspora in Canada

eign policy disaster for Canada as it made the bilateral relations only worse, Trudeau and his family later indulged in activities, targeting their domestic constituents and hence ended up being benefitted politically from the tour.

OPINION

Additionally, the statement by Trudeau was essentially meant to satisfy his domestic constituents and it did not seek to alter or manipulate Indian opinion or policies. It was not backed by any state

The reaction by India has however stoked debate over what constitutes foreign interference in India's internal affairs according to India's own standards. Trudeau was speaking to his domestic audience about something going on in a foreign country that affected his audience

coming from Punjab whose families and friends have been affected by the recently passed farm laws against which the present protests are taking place.

There is also a concern that by making the statement, Trudeau is putting his political interests over the national interest of his country. There is no doubt that Trudeau made the statement for his own political gains because Punjabi Sikhs in Canada form a huge voting bloc whose support is crucial to any win in elections By expressing his concern, Trudeau might be able to leverage the Sikh electorate for his political gains but on the other hand, it hurts the national interests of Canada as it affects the relationship with a foreign country. This is however trivial as India-Canada relations are already at worse. During his visit to India in 2018, Trudeau was cold-shouldered by the Indian government. Contrary to Modi's hugplomacy at that time, Modi did not even receive the leader himself. The then minister of state for agriculture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat had received the guest during a low-key ceremony. While that tour itself was a formachinery to alter the outcome of some process. Moreover, the prime minister was only talking about the citizen's right to peaceful protest, not the economic policies or the new farm laws of India. It is rather a concern that a foreign leader's statement on right to peaceful protests and human rights in another country should have evoked such a harsh response and labelled as foreign interference.

How does showing concern for another country's citizens' right to peaceful protest or human rights become interference in "internal

the old normalcy.

OTHER OPINON

Criminal Trespass by the Israeli Army

wo weeks ago, dozens of soldiers raided the al-Arroub refugee camp in the dead of night. They sowed terror and anger, dragged out a 16-year-old boy and took him barefoot to be arrested. The boy was left for almost 24 hours without food, and much of that time, he was outside in the cold, until he was finally questioned for a few hours and released.

A few months earlier, the boy, Basel al-Badawi, had been summoned for a similar round of questioning, and then, a phone call to his father was enough to bring him in under his own power, without a complicated, frightening arrest operation. His story appeared today in Haaretz.

On Wednesday, Hagar Shezaf reported in Haaretz that the Israel Defense Forces has failed almost completely to carry out a pilot program to summon Palestinian teens for questioning without terrifying their families and neighbors. Six years after the pilot began, the IDF continues to drag hundreds of children and teens out of their beds and arrest them, almost every night. A report released this week by three Israeli human rights organizations, Breaking the Silence, Physicians for Human Rights and Yesh Din, described the severe psychological harm caused by these operations, which destroy Palestinian homes as protected spaces. In 2017 and 2018, there was an average of 267 raids per month on Palestinian homes. In a quarter of these, violence was used, and in a third, property was destroyed. Fully 64 percent of families said the IDF had invaded their homes more than once.

It's no secret that some of these nighttime raids are meant to train the soldiers, and also to demonstrate control and make a show of force to the Palestinian population. In other words, some of these raids are unnecessary and even criminal. It's not hard to imagine life in their shadow, with tens of thousands of families, including many children, feeling vulnerable and threatened every night by soldiers' raids on their homes even when the West Bank is peaceful.

The Shin Bet security service and the IDF must therefore revise their policy on arrests and searches from top to bottom and reduce the number of raids to the minimum necessary. Nighttime raids on homes ought to be an extreme measure, not a routine modus operandi. And that is doubly true when we're talking about the arrests of children and teens. To date, the occupation authorities don't seem to have given any consideration to the damage caused by their actions, which are legally dubious and morally flawed.

Haaretz

was speaking to his domestic audience about something going on in a foreign country that affected his audience. There is a parallel to this where India can be blamed to interfere in Canada's internal affairs. India repeatedly accuses Canada of providing safe space to Khalistani Movement and blames it for harbouring Khalistani terrorists. For instance, reacting to Justin Trudeau's presence at Khalsa Day in April 2017, the then MEA spokesperson Gopal Baglay had informed that they had taken up such issues in the past with the government of Canada and in this particular case also the practice had not been discontinued. If the same vardstick

affairs" of that particular country? It seems India is either growing intolerant to foreign criticism of its policies and human rights in the same way as it is growing intolerant to the internal dissent of its citizens. It could also be that India now considers itself a powerful actor in global politics that should no more tolerate any criticism from smaller countries like Canada to avoid setting any precedent. In both these cases, India is disincentivising and curbing external dissent.

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Reckless British Behaviour

ast week the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered a rebellion by his own party's backbenchers in the House of Commons. Members of his party refused to vote in favour of the new three-tier coronavirus system that replaced the national lockdown in England from 3 December onwards.

The issue that sparked the revolt was supposed to be core to Conservative Party values -- freedom and the health of the economy. Mainly the tussle is over matters economic, allowing people to do Christmas shopping and relax at restaurants and pubs without any restrictions. Under Johnson's plan, much of England will still remain under stringent rules after the national lockdown's expiry on 2 December. People across UK will face limits on household mixing, in addition to tougher rules for pubs and restaurants, which are already weathering the impact of lockdown, in addi-

tion to social mixing rules.

Most British feel that the government is curbing their right to freedom by imposing stricter rules on shopping, visiting restaurants, friends and families.

Boris Johnson had earlier appealed to his colleagues to hold their nerve and back the restrictions until vaccines become widely available. "The end is in sight," Johnson said. "All we need to do now is to hold our nerve until the vaccines are indeed in our grasp and indeed being injected into our arms."

MPs said the new three-tier restrictions are too harsh and risk damaging the economy. They also complained that areas with low rates of infection would be grouped together under the same strict rules as regions where the virus is still spreading.

Interestingly, the vote also showed fissures in the opposition's Labour Party. 15 Labour MPs led by Jeremy Corbyn also broke their party whip by voting against the proposals. Some opposed on the basis of wanting a 'zero Covid' strategy; others due to lack of financial aid.

The response of the British public and politicians, both, shows that unlike Indians, the British just want to continue their normal life with no alarm for the Covid threat, except those who have been affected. The latest official figures on Covid deaths in the UK put the number at 60,000. However, the core British value seems to be money and merriment. Unlike Indians, which across the spectrum observed their festivals in a restrained manner, plus the Muslims in the UK who celebrated two Eids under restricted conditions, a majority of the British public wish to celebrate Christmas with normal gaiety and festivities.

Perhaps the Brits could have learnt a lesson from the Italians, who are able to ride over the worst of the first wave of Covid's devastation, by adopting tougher safety measures.

On the one hand, the Britishers bemoan the worsening economic conditions, but they don't seem to be in a mood to hear and obey the government regarding Covid precautions and in addition blame the government for not providing enough economic packages to the business class. For once the maverick Boris Johnson seems to have taken a prudential step to safeguard the health and lives of the Britishers, but a vast majority seems in no mood to listen.

Britishers who are usually considered to be a stickler for rules have emerged in this episode as the one who consider gaiety and merriment more paramount than their own safety and to restore their earlier image of being sensible citizens will take a lot of initiatives on their part.

> Asad Mirza asad.mirza.nd@gmail.com

PANORAMA

France's Propaganda From The Middle Ages



There is substantial evidence that an important number of prominent European intellectuals of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment were, if anything, Islamophiles rance, and indeed the whole world, were rightly shocked by the barbarous murder in October of schoolteacher Samuel Paty at the hands of an 18-year-old Muslim refugee from Chechnya. The alleged reason for the crime was that Paty, while teaching his students about free expression, showed infamous cartoons denigrating the Prophet Muhammad.

That horrendous crime was quickly followed by an even more brazen one: the murder of three people inside the Notre-Dame cathedral in Nice.

France, instead of taking targeted measures against the guilty parties and those who might have aided them, has instead gone down the now all-too-familiar path of blaming what it believes is an unreformed Islam and a backwards Muslim community. It stands on the cusp of adopting sweeping legislation that, while broadly threatening the civil rights of all of its citizens, will undoubtedly impact Muslims most negatively.

Central trope of Islamophobes

These responses come against the backdrop of President Emmanuel Macron declaring that Islam is "in crisis all over the world", and that his government would launch an aggressive campaign to combat what he calls "Islamist separatism". In justifying his muscular approach towards Islam (and not just towards Muslims who commit acts of violence), Macron sees himself as defending the ideals of the Enlightenment and sharing them with the benighted Muslims of France.

There is substantial evidence that an important number of prominent European intellectuals of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment were, if anything, Islamophiles

Contrasting the "enlightenment" of Europe with the "barbarism" of Islam is a central trope of Islamophobes, whether in Europe or North America. Yet, this dichotomy could not be further from the historical truth surrounding Europe's Enlightenment, and even its Renaissance. Both were characterised by a repudiation of the fanatic hatred of Islam and Muslims that the church in the Middle Ages had preached, in favour of a much more balanced appreciation of Islam and the Prophet Muhammad.

Indeed, there is substantial evidence that an important number of prominent European intellectuals of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment were, if anything, Islamophiles.

Two recently published books confirm this point. The first is Faces of Muhammad, a book that narrates how European perceptions of the Prophet Muhammad evolved from the figure of the crude imposter propagated by the Catholic church during the Crusades to a religious reformer, glorious leader, and anti-clerical hero to many figures in the Reformation and the Enlightenment.

Transformative effects

For Americans, the Enlightenment tradition of honouring the Prophet Muhammad manifested itself in his presence in a frieze at the Supreme Court honouring the great lawgivers of mankind.



Faces of Mohammed

The author of Faces of Muhammad, historian John Tolan, notes that the rise of humanism through the Renaissance and the Enlightenment allowed Europeans to begin to appreciate the Prophet Muhammad as a historical figure of immense significance, rather than simply as a threat to the church.

In addition, English historian Noel Malcolm's recent book, Useful Enemies, chronicles the transformative effects that the Ottoman Empire and Islam had on European political imagination.

European travellers to Ottoman territories in the 15th and 16th centuries, despite the often crude anti-Ottoman and anti-Muslim propaganda that prevailed in Europe, were duly impressed by the empire's religious tolerance; the orderliness and security of its cities; its highly disciplined military; the civic spirit of its well-to-do citizens; a reasonably effective, impartial and speedy judicial system; its reliance on merit as the metric for promotion; and the independence of the state from the religious class.

The increasing encounters of Europeans with the Ottomans and the Mamluks, at least until the conquest of Egypt and Syria in the first quarter of the 16th century, left their traces among the most important European political thinkers of the Renaissance, including the celebrated Florentine political writer Niccolo Machiavelli and the French political theorist Jean Bodin. France played an especially important role as a site for resistance to crude depictions of Islam by virtue of the alliance between Ottoman Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent and French King Francis I.

Catholic backlash

These positive encounters with Islam and Muslims in turn inspired European thinkers to imagine ways in which they could transform their own societies. So great was the attraction of the Ottoman model to 16th-century European political writers that, according to Malcolm, it produced a backlash at the hands of Catholic intellectuals, who sought to shore up support for the Hapsburgs in their struggle against the Ottomans.

Their campaign led to the invention of the trope of Oriental despotism in an attempt to subvert the attractiveness of the Ottoman Empire in the eyes of Europeans.

The values of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment amounted to a repudiation of traditional Christian hostility towards Islam and its Prophet

What these two books unequivocally demonstrate is that the values of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment amounted to a repudiation of traditional Christian hostility towards Islam and its Prophet, and the adoption of a spirit of respect - and even admiration - in its place.

While certain conceptions of freedom of expression might compel a state to permit denigrating portrayals of the Prophet Muhammad to be circulated freely (although anyone with knowledge of French law knows that this is not true for France), in no way can such images be viewed as compatible with the ideals of the Enlightenment; rather, they represent an atavistic return to the crudest propaganda of the Middle Ages, and deserve to be so treated.

Is isolation a feeling?

Carly Osborn

am feeling isolated. Is this a state, or an emotion? Rather than getting into the semantics of language, I will ask another question: what does isolation feel like?

Isolation feels like being stuck on the couch despite having time for a walk. Isolation feels like comfort eating nachos and box wine.

Our bodies are tired. Our minds slip and skid between blank boredom and anxious overthinking. What is happening to us, here in our homes, away from the routines and interactions that used to shape our days?

I am feeling isolated. Scholars of emotion talk about feelings as judgements – our considered response to what's happening. These judgements tint our experience as we live it: like the transferred epithets of Wodehouse's Bertie Wooster, "pronging a moody forkful" of eggs, or "balancing a thoughtful lump of sugar" on his teaspoon. Experience reaches us through these filters of judgement.

Every lonely person is lonely in their own way

Some of the effects of isolation are common to all human beings, across times and places. Humans have evolved as communal animals living in "families, tribes, and communities". We feel "the pain of social isolation and the rewards of social connection".

Beyond these human constants, our emotional experiences are powerfully shaped by our individual circumstances. Our communal and personal histories affect our expectations of life and our responses to events. In this sense, your feeling of isolation is different to mine. Like Tolstoy's unhappy families, each of us is feeling this crisis in our own way.

Medical researchers of isolation note this recursive flow of emotion: symptoms like poor sleep and high blood pressure correlated not with measures of patients' objective isolation, but their perceived isolation.

One person's agonising loneliness is another's boring staycation. We are as isolated as we feel.

This does not mean our feelings aren't real. They are, in fact, the only reality we can know. Is there a meaningful difference between asking "How are you?" and "How are you feeling?"

Full bodied feeling

Our feelings are experienced by our whole selves: bodies, minds, emotions, all intertwined.



We are feeling isolated. Despite our Tolstoyan uniqueness, we find comfort in shared feelings. We share memes about interminable Zoom meetings, or homeschooling. We feel seen, heard, understood – less isolated.

We feel the absence of human touch, we feel anxiety as we obsess over daily statistics, we feel exhausted by shopping trips that feel like ventures into noman's-land, we feel grief at the horrific headlines of death, and frustration at government responses. We feel loss and confusion about our about our identity and value as jobs disappear.

Those who contract COVID-19 report not only fear of dying, but boredom and anger at being isolated from family and friends.

We are feeling isolated. Despite our Tolstoyan uniqueness, we find comfort in shared feelings. We share memes about interminable Zoom meetings, or homeschooling.

We feel seen, heard, understood – less isolated. These are called affiliative behaviours and they are a powerful coping strategy for all kinds of crises. Somehow our suffering is more bearable if another human being knows how we feel, and feels it too.

Connecting with one another, and feeling that we are in this together, can mitigate some of the pain of isolation. Sufferers during previous pandemics who felt their isolation was serving an altruistic goal of protecting their neighbours reported less negative emotions about isolation.

Political exiles have, throughout history, found ways to endure isolation. Early modern English nuns in exiled European convents drew upon antique history to comfort themselves, identifying with Biblical stories of suffering that finally resolve in homecoming and restored community.

Prisoners in solitary confinement have relied on simple things like sunlight and human voices on the radio to keep the worst at bay.

They are feeling isolated. Isolation feels like being alone but it also feels like reaching beyond our usual spheres, feeling new empathy with people who were strangers before.

Isolation is a long-term state for many. From professional women in male-dominated fields, to caregivers and those in remote communities, to religious and queer minorities.

Asylum seekers in detention report deep feelings of isolation and invisibility. Their poems open up for us in new ways now.

New parents, especially mothers, experience isolation with feelings familiar to many of us right now: "powerlessness, insufficiency, guilt, loss, exhaustion, ambivalence, resentment and anger". Those who are young, or poor, or single, are especially at risk of feeling isolated, overwhelmed and worried.

In our empathy we are connected across social and economic gaps.

Emotional force

We are feeling isolated. Now, our shared emotions become a central part of how we make sense of the crisis.

Shared, collective emotion can be a strong driver of collective activity. Enough shared emotion can cause us to feel like a unified nation, our common humanity stronger than our superficial differences. Conversely, emotional sparks can create political cliques who cohere around shared anger towards other groups.

Scholars of emotion describe emotions as a force, not only felt within, but acting upon the external world. Emotions do things. Big, collective emotions do big things. We are only beginning to discover what isolation is doing to us.

> By arrangement with The Conversation

Life & Times Tuesday | 08.12.2020

Brain implants might soon help restore rudimentary vision for blind people

impaired people might soon the a reality with the help of published in the journal Science. The study has revealed that newly developed high-resolution implants in the visual cortex of people who are blind will make it possible for them to understand artificially induced percepts and shapes.

The concept of stimulating the brain via an implant to generate artificial visual percepts is not new at all and dates back to the 1970s. However, the existing systems can only generate a small number of these artificial "pixels" at any given time. Researchers from a team led by Pieter Roelfsema at NIN are now using new implant production and implantation technologies, advanced materials engineering, microchip manufacturing, and microelectronics, to develop more stable devices and durable than previous implants. The initial results are very promising.

Electrical stimulation When electrical stimulation is

the perception of a point of light brain implants, due to recent dis- at a particular location in visual

estoring vision for visually delivered to the brain via an im- electrodes we have implanted in micro-stimulation was delivered planted electrode, it generates the visual cortex and the number on a sequence of electrodes, and a of artificial pixels we can generate to produce high-resolution artificoveries at the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience (NIN), which were The team developed high-resolu-cial images are unprecedented". Recognize dots, lines and letters



tion implants consisting of 1,024 electrodes and implanted them in the visual cortex of two sighted monkeys. Their goal was to create interpretable images by delivering electrical stimulation simultaneously via several electrodes, to generate a percept composed of several phosphenes. Roelfsema says "The number of

The monkeys during the research were first required to perform a simple behavioral task in which they made eye movements in order to signal the location of a phosphene that was triggered during electrical stimulation by an individual electrode. They were further in social settings, significantly imtested on more complex tasks such as a motion direction task, in which

letter discrimination task, in which micro-stimulation was delivered to 8 to 15 electrodes simultaneously. , creating a percept in the form of a letter. The monkeys were able to recognize shapes and percepts, including lines, moving dots, and letters, using their artificial vision.

Xing Chen, a postdoctoral re-searcher in the Roelfsema team explained, "Our implant interfaces directly with the brain, bypassing prior stages of visual processing via the eye or the optic nerve. Hence, in the future, such technology could be used for the restoration of low vision in blind people who have suf-fered injury or degeneration of the retina, eye or optic nerve, but whose cortex visual remains intact".

This research lays the foundations for a neuroprosthetic device that would permit profoundly blind people to regain functional vision and to recognize objects, navigate in unfamiliar environments, and interact more easily proving their independence and quality of life. –Agencies

'How airflow inside car may affect COVID-19 transmission risk decoded'

sing computer simulations, scientists have analysed the the potential ways to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission while the opposite side from the driver. sharing rides with others.

The study, published in the jour- this seating arrangement since it nal Science Advances, assessed the maximised the physical distance airflow inside a compact car with between the two people. various combinations of

windows open or closed.

According to the researchers, including those from Brown University in the US, the simulations showed that opening windows created airflow patterns that dramatically reduced the concentration of airborne aerosol particles exchanged between a driver and a single passenger.

However, they said blasting the car's ventilation system didn't circulate air nearly as well as a few open windows.

'Driving around with the windows up and the air conditioning or heat on is definitely the worst scenario, according to our computer simulations," said Asimanshu Das, co-lead author of the research from Brown university.

"The best scenario we found was having all four windows open, but even having one or two open was far better than having them all closed." Das said.

While there's no way to eliminate risk completely, and current guidelines recommend postponing travel, the scientists said the goal of the study was simply to assess how changes in airflow inside a car may worsen or reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission.

models simulated a car, loosely airflow patterns inside a car's based on a Toyota Prius, with two passenger cabin, shedding light on people inside -- a driver, and a passenger sitting in the back seat on The scientists said they chose

In the research, the computer driver was at slightly higher risk than the passenger since the average airflow in the car goes from back to front, but added that both occupants experience a dramatically lower transfer of particles.

0 Z

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When some -- but not all -- windows were down, the study yielded counterintuitive results. Citing an example of one such

instance, the scientists said opening the windows next to each occupant carried a higher exposure risk, compared to putting down the window opposite each occupant. 'Ŵhen the win-

dows opposite the occupants are open, you

get a flow that enters the car behind the driver, sweeps across the cabin behind the passenger and then goes out the passenger-side front window," said Kenny Breuer, a professor of engineering at Brown University and a senior author of the research.

"That pattern helps to reduce cross-contamination between the driver and passenger," Breuer said.

The scientists said airflow adjustments are no substitute for maskwearing by both occupants when inside a car, adding that the findings are limited to potential exposure to lingering aerosols that may contain pathogens. Citing another limitation of the study, the scientists said it did not model larger respiratory droplets or the risk of actually becoming infected by the virus.

However, they said the findings provide valuable new insights into air circulation patterns inside a car's According to the research, the passenger compartment. -PTI

Research reveals connection between Vitamin D levels and gut bacteria

cently demonstrated that in older men the levels of active Vitamin D are linked to that person's gut ed by multiple reports. microbiome, which is crucial for immunity and bone health. A new conducted till date with more understanding of Vitamin D and how it's usually measured was also that Vitamin D supplements have revealed by the study in Nature Communications. Out of the several different forms of Vitamin D, standard blood tests can only detect one amongst them, an inactive precursor that can be stored by the body. The body must metabolise the precursor in an active form in order to utilise Vitamin D.

The senior author Deborah Kado, + MD, Director of the Osteoporosis at UC San Diego Health said "We were surprised to find that microbiome diversity the variety of bacteria types in a person's gut was closely associated with active Vitamin D but not the precursor form".

He further added, "Greater gut microbiome diversity is thought to be associated with better health in general".

The study for the National Institute on Aging Aging-funded (Mros) Study Research Group, a ite effort that started

■ he researchers and collabo- School of Medicine. Individuals individuals who participated, all rators at the University of with low levels of Vitamin D are at California, San Diego re- a higher risk for heart disease, cancer, and even COVID-19 infections among other diseases, as suggestcondition.

Yet the biggest clinical trial During the research, a technique called 16s rRNA sequencing was than 25,000 adults, concluded used by the researchers to quantify and identify the types of bac-

teria in each stool sample based on unique genetic identifiers. A method known as LC-MSMS was used to quantify Vitamin D metabolites (the precursor, active hormone,

and the breakdown product) in the bloodstream of each participant. The researchers in addition to discovering a link between active Vitamin D and overall microbiome diversity, during

no impact on health-related out- the study also found that 12 parcomes, including cancer, heart disticular types of bacteria appeared ease, or even bone health.

more often in the gut microbiomes Kado, who is also a professor at of men with lots of active Vitamin Osteoporotic Fractures in Men UC San Diego School of Medicine D. Out of these 12 bacteria most of stool and blood. All of these factors and Herbert Wertheim School of them produced butyrate, a benefi- over time can fluctuate depending Public Health said: "Our study sug- cial fatty acid which also helps in gests that might be because these studies measured only the precur-

the men who lived in San Diego, California got the most sun along had their average age around 84, lived in six cities around the USA, with the most precursor form of and most of them reported be-Vitamin D ing in good or excellent health Surprisingly, the team could not

find any correlation between the levels of active Vitamin D hormone and the regions where these men lived.

Kado said, "It seems like it doesn't matter how much Vitamin D you get through sunlight or supplementation, nor how much your body can store".

"It matters how well your body is able to metabolize that into active Vitamin D, and maybe that's what clinical trials need to measure in order to get a more accurate picture of the Vitamin's role in health," Kado added.

Thomas said, "We often find in medicine that more is not necessarily better".

"So in this case, maybe it's not how much Vitamin D you supplement with, but how you encourage your body to use it," further stated Thomas.

As pointed out by Kado, the study depended on a single snapshot in time of the microbes and Vitamin D found in individuals' on an individual's sleep habits en

Overweight, obese adults often don't accept weight problems: Study

The authors still emphasize that

ore than 40 per cent of US obesity did not consider themselves to be overweight, suggests a cross-sectional analysis of NHANES (National Health and Nutrition Èxamination Survey) data.

This trend has increased over the last two decades and was especially true of non-Hispanic Blacks and persons with low socio-economic status. The findings are published in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

The researchers from the University of Chicago Medicine analyzed NHANES data to investigate the trends of overweight and obesity self-awareness among US adults

The authors say that as BMIs of may contribute to increasing obeadults were overweight Americans increase, people adjust sity rates in the United States. The authors also found that The authors also found that health

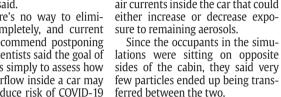






Since the novel coronavirus is thought to spread via tiny aerosol particles that can linger in the air for extended periods of time, the researchers simulated airflow around and inside a car moving at 50 miles per hour.

Part of the reason opening windows is better in terms of aerosol transmission is because it increases the number of air changes per hour (ACH) inside the car that reduces the overall concentration of aerosols, the study noted. The scientists showed that different combinations of open windows created different air currents inside the car that could either increase or decrease expo-



in 2000 was led by Kado.

Deborah Kado teamed up with Rob Knight, Rob Knight, PhD, pro- sor form of Vitamin D, rather than fessor and director of the Centre for active hormone". Microbiome Innovation at UC San Diego, and co-first authors Serene of Vitamin D formation and break-Lingjing Jiang, a graduate student down may be better indicators of in the Biostatistics Program at underlying health issues, and who Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity supplementation". Sciences, and Robert L. Thomas, MD, PhD, a fellow in the Division men who participated in MrOS

Kado further added, "Measures might best respond to vitamin D

Stool and blood samples of 567 of Endocrinology at UC San Diego were analysed by the team. The

maintaining gut lining health. Jiang said, "Gut microbiomes are really complex and vary a lot from person to person. When we do find associations, they aren't usually as distinct as we found here".

As the men who participated in the study lived in different regions of the United States of America, hence these men were exposed

to differing amounts of sunlight. which is one of the vital sources of Vitamin D due to the bacteria.

of Vitamin D. Not surprisingly,

vironment, medications, diet, and more

More studies are required according to the team in order to better understand the role bacteria plays in deciding whether intervening at the microbiome level can be used to augment current treatments to improve bone and other health outcomes, and also understand the metabolism -Agencies

with overweight or obesity.

They also looked at factors associated with obesity self-awareness and weight loss attempts among to promote positive body images and adults with obesity. Survey particisuggest the use of varving BMI cutoffs to define overweight and obesity pants were asked about self-perception of weight using the question: may be necessary when comparing "Do you consider yourself to be varying demographic subsets. overweight, underweight, or about the right weight?" They found that this study data showed persons more than a significant proportion with obesity who did not view their of those overweight or obese did weight to be overweight were less not recognize the issue.

professional-guided education on weight improved both obesity selfawareness and attempts to lose weight among persons with obesity.

However, having health insurance did not affect obesity selfawareness, suggesting health professionals are not routinely providing weight counselling to palikely to try to lose weight and this tients with obesity. –Agencies

Researchers develop sensor to detect fatty liver disease

Researchers have developed a diagnostic tool, based on nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), that could be used to detect fatty liver disease or liver fibrosis.

ince it's a non-invasive test, you could screen people even before they have obvious symptoms of the compromised liver, and you would be able to say which of these patients had fibrosis," said study author Michael Cima from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US.

The device, which is small enough to fit on a table, uses NMR to measure how water diffuses through tissue, which can reveal how much fat is present in the tissue.

This kind of diagnostic, which has thus far been tested on mice, could help doctors catch the fatty liver disease before it progresses to fibrosis, the study published in the journal Nature Biomedical Engineering said. Fatty liver disease occurs when liver

cells store too much fat. This leads to inflammation and eventually fibrosis, a build-up of scar tissue that can cause jaundice and liver cirrhosis, and eventually liver failure.

Fibrosis is usually not diagnosed until the patient begins to experience symp- ers are now working on improving the toms that include not only jaundice but also fatigue and abdominal swelling.

To create an easier way to check for this kind of liver disease, the research team had the idea of adapting a detector that they had previously developed to measure hydration levels before and after patients undergo dialysis.

That detector measures fluid volume in patients' skeletal muscle by using NMR to track changes in the magnetic properties of hydrogen atoms of water in the muscle tissue.

In a study of mice, the researchers showed that their detector could identify fibrosis with 86 per cent accuracy, and fatty liver disease with 92 per cent accuracy. It takes about 10 minutes to obtain the results, but the researchsignal-to-noise ratio of the detector, which could help to reduce the amount of time it takes.

The current version of the sensor can scan to a depth of about six millimetres below the skin, which is enough to monitor the mouse liver or human skeletal muscle.

The researchers are now working on designing a new version that can penetrate deeper below the tissue, to allow them to test the liver diagnosis application in human patients. - Agencies

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

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	05/12/2020
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06/12/2020 to 16/12/2020 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	06/12/2020 from (10.00A.M)
03. 04.	Bid submission end date	16/12/2020 upto (04.00P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	17/12/2020 at (10.00A.M) in the Office of the
		Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of E Challan /Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar(tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar (Tender receiving authority).

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jketenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders auto-З. matically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar (Tender receiving authority)

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

No: 3089-98 Dt: 05/12/2020

DIPK-10091/20

Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar ≍

NEWS

Pope To Visit Iraq In March, First Foreign Trip Since Covid Pandemic

Agencies

Paris: Pope Francis will break a 15-month hiatus from international travel to visit Iraq in



March

Agencies

The Holy See Press Office has confirmed that the Pope accepted the invitation of the Republic of Iraq and the local Catholic Church.

The Apostolic Journey will take place from 5 March to 8 March and includes visits to Baghdad, the plain of Ur, Mosul and Qaragosh

His itinerary will be re-

leased at a later date, and will, according to the Press Office take into consideration the evolution of the worldwide health emergency.

In January this year, Pope Francis met the President of Iraq, Barham Salih, at an audience in the Vatican.

The two spoke about "preserving the historical presence of Christians in the country" and "highlighting the need to guarantee their security and a place in the future of Iraq.", according to the Holy See press office.

A few hundred thousand Christians are left in Iraq following sectarian warfare after the 2003 US-led invasion and the Islamic State group's sweep through a third of the country

in 2014. The Iraq foreign ministry said the March visit "symbolises a message of peace to Iraq and the whole region"

Fadavi said on Sunday that

the gun fired a total of 13 shots

at Fakhrizadeh and managed

to target him with such accu-

racy that his wife, sitting just

inches away from him in the

same vehicle, escaped injury.

He added that 11 bodyguards in

separate cars were also accom-

panying the couple at the time.

targeted killing of a high-rank-

ing Iranian official since Janu-

ary, when outgoing US Presi-

dent Donald Trump ordered a

drone strike on General Qas-

The incident is the second



China Prepares Large-Scale Rollout Of Coronavirus Vaccines

Press Trust Of India

Beijing: Provincial governments across China are placing orders for experimental, domestically made coronavirus vaccines, though health officials have yet to say how well they work or how they may reach the country's 1.4 billion people. Developers are speeding

up final testing, the Chinese foreign minister said during a UN meeting last week, as Britain approved emergency use of Pfizer Inc's vaccine candidate and providers scrambled to set up distribution. Even without final approv-

al, more than 1 million health care workers and others in China who are deemed at high risk of infection have received

experimental vaccines under emergency use permission. Developers have yet to disclose how effective their vaccines are and possible side effects.

China's fledgling pharmaceutical industry has at least five vaccines from four producers being tested in more than a dozen countries including Russia, Egypt and Mexico. Health experts say even if they are successful, the certification process for the United States, Europe, Japan and other developed countries might be too complex for them to be used

there. However, China said it will ensure the products are affordable for developing countries and has been actively pursuing deals across the world.

On Sunday, 1.2 million doses of the Chinese company Sinovac's vaccine arrived in Indonesia, the government said. "We are very grateful, thank God, the vaccine is now available so that we can immediately curb the spread of the COVID-19 disease, President Joko Widodo said.

Within China, so far only one developer, China National Pharmaceutical Group, known as Sinopharm, said in November it applied for final market approval for use of its vaccine. Others have been approved for emergency use on people deemed at high risk of infection.

We must be prepared for large-scale production, Vice Premier Sun Chunlan said during a visit Wednesday to developers, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Sun, who has as overseen much of the country's response, visited one of Sinopharm's Beijing subsidiary companies, Sinovac and a research lab under the National Medical Products Administration, a regulatory agency that approves medical products for public use. The government has yet to say how many people it plans to vaccinate. Sun said plans call for vaccinating border personnel and other high-risk populations this month. The companies are using more traditional techniques than Western developers

They say unlike Pfizer's vaccine, which must be kept frozen at temperatures as low as minus 70 degrees Celsius (minus 94 Fahrenheit), theirs can be stored at 2 to 8 C (36 to 46 F). The Chinese producers have yet to say how they might be distributed. Health experts question why China is using experimental vaccines on such a vast scale now that the outbreak is largely under control

Health officials previously said China will be able to manufacture 610 million doses by the end of this year and ramp up to 1 billion doses next year.

The government of Jiangsu province, where the major city of Nanjing is located, issued a procurement notice for vaccines from Sinovac and Sinopharm on Wednesday for emergency use.

Authorities in Sichuan province in the west, which has about 85 million people, announced Monday they were already buying vaccines. An official newspaper in Anhui province, southeast of Beijing, said a local residential committee issued a notice asking whether residents

US, China Dominated Arms Market In 2019: Report

sales rose by almost five per-

cent in 2019 -- "this increase

corresponds to the implemen-

tation of reforms to modernise

the People's Liberation Army underway since 2015," she said.

Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grum-

man, Raytheon and General

Dynamics clinched the top five

spots, while China's AVIC, CETC

and Norinco held spots six, eight

and nine. US group L3Harris

persed...but if you combine the

European companies together

vou could have European companies the same size" as US

and Chinese manufacturers,

in the ranking) and Thales

(French, 14th) can meanwhile

boast of having the strongest

international presence -- each

is represented in 24 countries,

more internationalised" than

others. Beraud-Sudreau said.

Breakthrough in the Mideast

"European companies are

For the first time, a compa-

ny from the Middle East made it into the "Top 25": EDGE, of

the United Arab Emirates, was

formed by the consolidation of

some 25 defence entities in 2019.

good illustration of how the

combination of high national

demand for military products

and services with a desire to

become less dependent on for-

eign suppliers is driving the

growth of arms companies in

the Middle East," SIPRI re-

In 22nd spot, EDGE "is a

Airbus (European, 13th

Beraud-Sudreau noted.

ahead of US Boeing.

"Europe remains a bit dis-

Technologies was in 10th place.

US companies Lockheed

Agencies

Stockholm, Sweden: US and Chinese companies dominated the global arms market in 2019, while the Middle East made its first appearance among the 25 biggest weapons manufacturers, a report by the SIPRI research institute said Monday.

The US arms industry accounted for 61 percent of sales by the world's "Top 25" manufacturers last year, ahead of China's 15.7 percent, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Total sales by the "Top 25" rose by 8.5 percent to \$361 bil lion, or 50 times the annual budget of the UN's peacekeeping operations.

Six US companies and three Chinese firms were in the top 10, rounded out by Britain's BAE Systems in seventh spot.



"China and the United States are the two biggest states in terms of global arms spending, with companies cut to size," Lucie Beraud-Sudreau, director of SIPRI's arms and military expenditure programme, told AFP.

The US has dominated the market for decades, but

searcher Pieter Wezeman said for China -- whose companies' in the report.





proach skips all the conver-

Nuclear Scientist: Report operated by someone who later fled the country.

Satellite-Controlled Gun

Used To Kill Iranian

Tehran: A satellite-controlled machine gun was used in last week's assassination of a top Iranian nuclear scientist, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported

Fakhrizadeh, Mohsen who was killed in a gun and car bomb attack on the outskirts of Tehran on November 27, was driving on a highway east of the capital when the weapon "zoomed in" on him "using artificial intelligence," Mehr said on Sunday, quoting Commodore Ali Fa-



Iran's top banker says US blocking COVID-19 vaccine purchase

Maziar Motamedi Al Jazeera

permits from OFAC," Hemmati wrote in an Instagram post, referring to the Office of

Iranian health authorities say the real numbers are likely Agencies to be more than twice the of

within its borders.

high-ranking Iranian official since January, when outgoing US President Donald Trump ordered a drone strike on General Qassem Soleimani.

davi, deputy commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Various accounts of his death have emerged since the incident. While early news reports said he was caught in a gunfight between his bodyguards, others said that he was fired at by a remotecontrolled machine gun mounted on a pick-up truck sem Soleimani.

Tehran has blamed Israel for Fakhrizadeh's killing, the fifth assassination of a nuclear scientist on Iranian soil since 2010. Israel hasn't commented on the allegations, however Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had singled out the scientist in a power-point presentation on Iran's nuclear program in April 2018.

Tehran, Iran – The United States is actively trying to prevent Iran's efforts to buy a COVID-19 vaccine through COVAX, a global initiative undertaken by the World Health Organization, according to the chief of Iran's central bank.

Abdolnasser Hemmati on Monday said it must be "recorded in historical memory" that Iranian efforts to buy a vaccine through COVAX have been hampered due to money transfer issues arising due to the sanctions imposed by the US against Iran. "So far, any methods to

make payment and transfer the required currency have faced obstacles due to the inhumane sanctions of the US government and the need to obtain

Foreign Assets Control of the **US** Treasury

Iran, which is dealing with the largest and deadliest CO-VID-19 pandemic in the Middle East, announced months ago that it had become a member of CO-VAX in order to secure vaccines.

The WHO touts COVAX as "the world's best hope" for tackling the pandemic in a coordinated and timely manner. and says the international initiative's aim is to "guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to vaccines for people in all countries".

Iran's official COVID-19 death toll surpassed 50,000 on Saturday as the country battles the third wave of the virus with more than a million reported cases.

E W S MAKERS

cial figures

After unilaterally reneging on Iran's 2015 nuclear accord with world powers in May 2018, US President Donald Trump has imposed waves of economic sanctions on Iran.

The Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran has since seen the blacklisting of the entire Iranian financial sector.

The sanctions, which have also targeted the Iranian central bank, have had a documented impact on Iran's access to vital medicine in the past three years.

Iranian authorities have repeatedly said they consider the sanctions an instance of "economic and medical terrorism" against the Iranian people.

Washington: Scientists have developed a novel technology for a CRISPR-based CO-VID-19 diagnostic test that uses a smartphone camera to provide accurate results in under 30 minutes

According to the research published in the journal Cell, the new diagnostic test can not only generate a positive or negative result, but it also measures the viral load -- the concentration of virus -- in a

given sample. All CRISPR diagnostics to date have required that the viral RNA be converted to DNA and amplified before it can be detected, adding time and complexity, the researchers said. In contrast, the new apusing CRISPR to directly detect the viral RNA, they said.

"One reason we are excited about CRISPR-based diagnostics is the potential for quick, accurate results at the point of need," said Jennifer Doudna, a senior investigator at Gladstone Institutes in the US.

"This is especially helpful in places with limited access to testing, or when frequent, rapid testing is needed. It could eliminate a lot of the bottlenecks we've seen with CO-VID-19," Jennifer Doudna said.

Jennifer Doudna won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for co-discovering CRIS-PR-Cas genome editing, the technology that underlies this work.

Asteroid Dust Collected By Japan Space Mission Arrives On Earth

okyo, Japan: In a streak of light across the night sky, samples collected from a distant asteroid arrived on Earth on Sunday after being dropped off by Japanese space probe Hayabusa-2.

Scientists hope the precious samples, which are expected to amount to no more than 0.1 grams of material, could help shed light on the origin of life and the formation of the universe.

The capsule carrying samples entered the atmosphere just before 2:30 am Japan time (1730 GMT Saturday), creating a shootingstar-like fireball as it entered Earth's atmosphere.

"Six years and it has fi-



nally come back to Earth," an official narrating a live broadcast of the arrival said, as images showed officials from Japan's space agency from beacons emitted by the JAXA cheering and pumping capsule as it plummeted to Earth after separating from Havabusa-2 on Saturday, while the fridge-sized probe was some 220,000 kilometres (137,000 miles) away.

We found the capsule! Together with the parachute! Wow!." the mission's Twitter account tweeted.

The capsule was recovered in the southern Australian desert, and will now be processed before being sent to Japan.

The samples were collected by Hayabusa-2, which launched in 2014, from the asteroid Ryugu, some 300 million kilometres from Earth.

The probe collected both surface dust and pristine material from below the surface that was stirred up by firing an "impactor" into the asteroid

Mass Evacuation In Germany's Frankfurt After World War 2 Bomb Found

tions, the authorities said.

Some 75 years after the

Earlier this year, experts

war, Germany remains lit-

tered with unexploded ord-

nance, often uncovered dur-

defused seven World War II

bombs found on the future lo-

ing construction work.

erlin: Nearly 13,000 residents were evacuated in Frankfurt on Sunday as experts defused an unexploded World War II bomb, local emergency services said.

500-kilogramme The (1,100-pound) British bomb had been found on a construction site in Germany's financial capital on Thursday, the emergency services said.

A 700-metre (half-mile) evacuation radius was set up in the west of the city centre in an area that included a number of old people's homes, heating and internet infrastructure and facilities of the Deutsche Bahn nation al rail operator.

The work was expected to



cation of Tesla's first Europecontinue into the evening because of coronavirus restrican factory, just outside Berlin.

Sizeable bombs have also been defused in Cologne and Dortmund this year.

In 2017, the discovery of a 1.4-tonne bomb in Frankfurt prompted the evacuation of 65,000 people -- the largest such operation since the end of the war in Europe in 1945.

their fists in excitement. A few hours later, JAXA confirmed the samples had been recovered, with help

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Centre sends countrywide advisory for Bharat Bandh; asks states to tighten security, ensure peace

Union Home Ministry says state governments and UT administrations must ensure that Covid guidelines issued with regard to health and social distancing are strictly followed



NEW DELHI: The Centre has asked all states and Union Territories to tighten security during Tuesday's 'Bharat Bandh' called by the farmers unions and supported by opposition parties, while asserting that peace and tranquillity must be maintained on that day, officials said.

In a countrywide advisory, the Union Home Ministry also said the state governments and UT administrations must ensure that the COVID-19 guidelines issued with regard to health and social distancing are strictly followed.

The states and UTs were told that peace and tranquillity must be maintained during the 'Bharat Bandh' and precautionary measures taken so that no untoward incident takes place anywhere in the country, a home ministry official said on Monday.

+

The 'Bharat Bandh' has been called by the farmers' unions who have been protesting against the three farm laws enacted in the Monsoon Session of Parliament. Major political parties, such as the Congress, NCP, DMK, SP, TRS and Left on Sunday came out in strong support of the bandh. Thousands of farmers, mostly from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, are protesting at various border points

of Delhi against the new farm laws. Talks between the government and protesting farmers remained inconclusive on Saturday even after five rounds of discussions as union leaders stuck to their demand for the repeal of the new farm laws and went on a 'maun vrat' seeking a clear 'yes or no' reply, forcing the Centre to call for another meeting on December 9 to resolve the deadlock. PTI

Reforms needed for development, says PM amid farmers' protest LUCKNOW: Amid the row over self-confidence in the country,

laws meant to bring a major change in the agri-marketing sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said reforms are needed for development and some laws from the past century have become a burden now.

Launching the Agra Metro rail project through video conference, Modi said the reforms carried out by his government are also getting reflected in election results.

His pitch on the importance of reforms comes ahead of Tuesday's Bharat Bandh over the three new farm laws enacted at the Centre. But during his brief address, the Prime Minister made no direct reference to the new laws or farmers'

protests. "Reforms are needed for development. Reforms are very much needed for a new order and to give new facilities. We cannot build the next century with the laws of the

previous century," he said. "Some laws that used to be good in the past century have become a burden in the present century. Reforms should be a continuous process," he said.

Modi said his government is carrying out "holistic reforms". "Earlier, reforms used to happen in a piecemeal manner, or keeping in mind some sectors and departments," the Prime Minister said. He said the reforms carried out in recent past have infused adding that people will be satisfied when they go through the "finer details".

"This confidence has been seen in every election in the recent past. A glimpse of this confidence is seen in the election results in every part of the country, including Uttar Pradesh," he said.

The Prime Minister said in recent years the poor and the middle class have showered their "unprecedented blessings" on the efforts of the government. He said their support and the small joys experienced by the countrymen "gives me the courage to do new things and take new initiatives".

Modi said his government intends to solve the festering problems faced by people, make life easy, increase investment and ensure the maximum use of modern technology

He said a major problem in the country's infrastructure sector was that new projects were announced but not much attention was given on how they will be funded.

His government ensures the availability of funds at the start of a new project itself, Modi said.

He said over Rs 100 lak- crore will be spent under the National Infrastructure Pipeline project and work is being done on the master plan for multi-modal connectivity. Efforts are also on to attract investment from all over the world to

improve the country's infrastructure, he added. Work is being carried out on 1,000 km of new Metro rail lines in 27 cities countrywide, Modi said, claiming big progress in this sector since his first government took charge in 2014.

The Rs 8,379.62-crore Agro Metro project has two corridors with a total length of 29.4 km and will connect major tourist attractions like Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Sikandara with railway stations and bus stands.

The project is scheduled to be completed in five years. Agra has a population of 26 lakh, and about 60 lakh tourists visit the city every vear. The Prime Minister said tourism sector benefits the most from better connectivity and infrastructure. Work is on to make "local tourism vocal", he added.

He said the government has not only increased the number of countries covered under the e-visa scheme, it has also significantly reduced the tax on hotel room tariff.

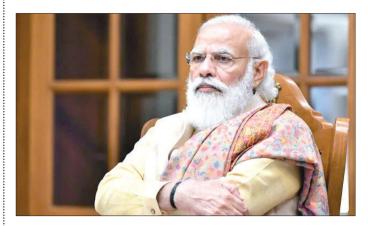
"With the efforts of the government, India is now ranked at number 34 on Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index.

In 2013, India was ranked 65th on this index," he said, while hoping for a recovery in the sector as the coronavirus situation improves. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the event. PTI

Development, Old Laws A Burden: PM **Amid Farmer Protests** The government believes in all-round holistic reforms.

Need Reforms For

he stressed after inaugurating the construction of the Agra Metro project via video conferencing.



LUCKNOW: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that reforms are needed for development, and said some laws of the past century have become a "burden" in the current times.

The government believes in allround holistic reforms, he stressed after inaugurating the construction of the Agra Metro project via video conferencing.

"Reforms are needed for development. Some laws which used to be good in the past century, have become a burden in the present century," he said.

His remarks came in the backdrop of ongoing protests by farmers against three new farm laws. "Our government is doing holistic reforms. Earlier reforms used to happen in a piecemeal manner," PM Modi said.

He also said that his government intends to solve pestering problems faced by people, make life easy, increase investment, and ensure maximum use of modern technology.

The Rs,379.62 crore Agra Metro project comprises 2 corridors with a total length of 29.4 km and will connect major tourist attractions like Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Sikandra with railway stations and bus stands.

The project, which is scheduled to be completed in 5 years, will benefit the 26 lakh population of the city of Agra. It will also cater to more than 60 lakh tourists who visit Agra every year.

"OUR GOVERNMENT is doing holistic reforms. Earlier reforms used to happen in a piecemeal manner"

'Bharat Bandh' from 11 am to 3 pm on Tuesday: BKU

'During the bandh essential services would not be curtailed and office-goers can move freely'

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) has said the 'Bharat Bandh' on December 8 would start at 11 am and end at 3 pm as they don't want to cause inconvenience to the public.

BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait said, "The 'Bharat Bandh' will begin at 11 am and continue till 3 pm on Tuesday." The farmers are protesting against the Centre's new agricultural laws for the last several days. During the bandh essential services would not be curtailed and office-goers can move freely, said the BKU

spokesperson. The farmers call for a 'Bharat Bandh' is being supported by several political parties, including the Congress, Left, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Telangana Rashtra Samithi



Air India Crew Member Hides Rs 72.46 Lakh Gold In Overhead Bin, Arrested +



NEW DELHI: An Air India crew member and a catering staff were arrested by the customs officials for allegedly rving to smuggle into the country gold valuing about Rs 72.46 lakh at the Indira Gandhi International airport, an official statement said on Monday. The crew, who had come in a flight from London on Sunday, after seeing the customs officers had secreted the gold in the overhead bin of the aircraft. it said.

staff of the catering company - M/s Ambassador Sky Chef - and "based on the discussion between the above said crew of Air India and staff of the catering company" recovered four 'kadas' of gold coated with silver colour from the aircraft on the identification of the crew, the statement issued by the customs said.

The total weight of the recovered gold is 1.667 kg, having tariff value of Rs 72.47 lakh, it said. The gold was seized and both the accused were arrested, according to the statement "Further, both the above said persons admitted their role in smuggling of 1.5 kg of gold on December 3, 2020 from London into India," it said. Thus, these two persons were directly or indirectly involved in the smuggling of gold to the tune of 3.11 kg (1.5 kg on December 3 and 1.667 kg on Sunday), the statement added.

(NDA) ally - Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP).

The fifth round of talks between the Central government and farmer leaders on Saturday noon remained inconclusive as several farmer representatives said they demanded only the repeal of the three new Union farm laws.

Sources say the government was agreeable to amendments to The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act. 2020 while farmers are pushing for the scrapping of the "anti-farmer" laws. – IANS

Karnataka to bring law against 'love jihad' during next session, says minister

An anti-cow slaughter bill will be introduced during this session, says R. Ashoka

The anti-cow slaughter bill will be introduced during the ongoing winter session of the Karnataka legislature, while a law against "love jihad" will be taken up in the next session, State Revenue Minister R. Ashoka said on Monday

"It has been decided at the government level to enact anticow slaughter legislation during this session.

Cow is worshiped as god by farmers.. there is a special place for cows in Indian culture. To stop the killing of cows we are beginning this law in Karnataka," Ashoka said.

Speaking to reporters here, he asserted that it is guarantee that the anti-cow slaughter bill will be cent percent introduced.

"No love jihad during this session..in the next session we will remove love jihad," he added.

A team of officials led by Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chavan had recently visited Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, where anti-cow gated in Uttar Pradesh against slaughter law has been enacted, "love jihad", Home Minister



to study about its implementation, aimed at strengthening the bill to be introduced during against such practices.

the session that began today. Uttar Pradesh had recently Officials have been directed promulgated an ordinance to gather information regardagainst forcible or fraudulent ing an ordinance promulreligious conversions, which provides for imprisonment of up to 10 years and fine of up

Basavaraj Bommai had said, as- to Rs 50,000 under different serting the state will have a law categories.

"Love jihad" is a term used by right wing activists to refer to the alleged campaign of Muslims forcing Hindu girls to convert in the guise of love. "No love jihad during this

we will remove love jihad," he added.

A team of officials led by Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chavan had recently visited Uttar Pradesh and where anti-cow Gujarat, slaughter law has been enacted, to study about its implementation. aimed at strengthening the bill to be introduced during the session that began today. Officials have been directed

to gather information regarding an ordinance promulgated in Uttar Pradesh against "love jihad", Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai had said, asserting the state will have a law against such practices. Uttar Pradesh had recently

promulgated an ordinance against forcible or fraudulent religious conversions, which provides for imprisonment of up to 10 years and fine of up

to Rs 50,000 under different categories. 'Love jihad" is a term used by right wing activiststo refer to the alleged campaign of

Muslims forcing Hindu girls to session..in the next session convert in the guise of love.

The officers later apprehended the

خانوادہ سادات رضوی نابدی پورہ کے عزیز رکن ادرآیت اللّٰہ سید احمد رضو کی ک کے فرز ندوذ اکثرآ غاسید مدثر رضوی کے دالدآ غاسید محمود احمد رضوی کی وفات پرشفیق عوام اور جن شخصیات خصوہ مقام معظم رہبری حضرت آیت اللہ لعظلی سیرعلی خامت۔ ای(سدعدامانہ) کے ہندو ستان

كيليخصوصي نمائنده جحت الاسلام والمسلمين حساج آقت الى مبسدى مب جموں کشمیر کےعلائے کرام، دانشوران، مذہبی، سیاسی وساجی تنظیموں کے سربراہان، حوزہ علمیہ قم کے ا طلاب، ہائی کورٹ سے وابستہ اراکبین ، ذرائع ابلاغ کے نمائندگان ،محلہ کمیٹی نابدی یورہ اور ملازم طیبے ہے جڑےافراد نے براہ راست، یابذ ریعہ ٹیلیفون،ای میل، دنسا پ اور سوشل میڈیا کے ذریعہ جموں وَ ہندوستان و یا کستان اور اسلامی جمہوریہ ایران سے جحۃ الاسلام واکمسلمین آغا سیدعبدالباقی، ڈاکٹرآغا سید مدیژ رضوی ، آ غاسیدا تجاز رضوی ، آ غاسید <u>مصطف</u>ر رضوی ، آ غاسید مبشر رضوی ، آ غاسید مزمل رضوی اور خاند ان اراکین کے ساتھ تعزیت ریں کی ادراس سانچہ پر **حت انو دارہ سے ادا ت نابدی یورہ** کے ساتھ تسلیت اور بیجیتی کااظهار کیااور مرحوم کے حق میں دعائے مغفرت کی ،ہم مخلصا نہ طور سمجھ کا شکر بیادا کرتے ہیں اورخدا کی بارگاہ میں دست بدعا ہیں کہ انہیں جزائے خیر عطافر مائے۔ آیین <u>ادات رضوبة نابدي يوره ز دُ ي بل س</u>