

News Digest

Sagar Set Free After 10 Months

Srinagar: National Conference general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar was on Wednesday released from a sub-jail after 10 months, officials said, a day after the Jammu and Kashmir High Court quashed his detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA). Sagar, 67, was released from a government guesthouse which has been designated as a sub-jail, the officials said here. The six-time MLA was detained in August last year after the

Hurriyat Hails UN Report On J&K Children

Srinagar: A day after UN chief Antonio Guterres expressed concern over child casualties in Jammu and Kashmir and sought and end to the use of pellet guns, the Hurriyat Conference (M) on Wednesday said the 'atrocities' committed against children was a consequence of the lingering Kashmir dispute. Reacting to the UN Secretary-General's report on 'Children and Armed Conflict', a Hurriyat

Minor Girl Drowns In Baramulla

Srinagar: A minor girl on Wednesday died of drowning in Rafiabad area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Nine-year-old Humaira Farooq slipped into a nallah near her house in Chatloora village of Rafiabad Wednesday evening, reports said. The locals instantly started a rescue operation to save the girl. However, after two hours of hectic efforts, they found unconscious state. According to the reports,

Missing Trekker's Family Stage Protest

Srinagar: The family and relatives of Srinagar youth on Wednesday staged a protest, demanding authorities to help them in tracing their son who is missing since intervening night of June 14-15. The family members and relatives of Hilal Ahmad Dar, son of GhulamMohi-ud-din Dar of Bemina Srinagar assembled at Srinagar's press enclave, reports said. They demanded authorities to help them in tracing their beloved. The family said their beloved went missing when he

Police Arrests 4 'Gamblers' In Raid

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in Zakura area of the city. Acting on an input, a police team raided a gambling site in Meerak Shah Colony near Zakura and arrested four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He said an amount of Rs 3900 besides playing cards were recovered during the raid. The accused have been shifted to Police Station Nigean. "Accordingly, a case FIR No.106/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Nigean and

2 More Die Of Covid-19, J&K Toll 65

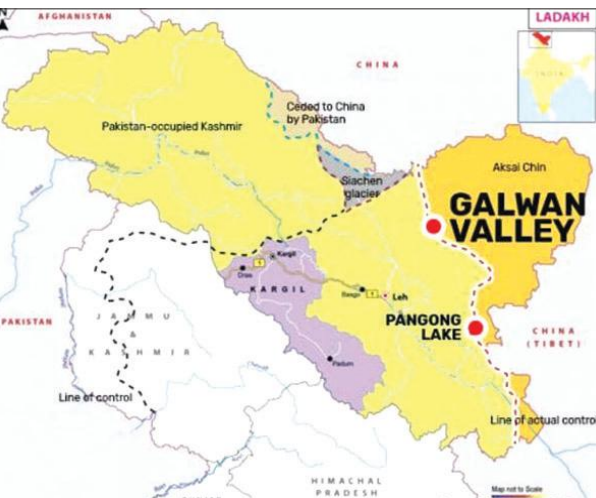
Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: Two elderly men from twin districts of Shopian and Baramulla died at the hospitals here on Wednesday, taking the number of fatalities due to the disease in Jammu and Kashmir to 65, officials said. 65-year-old man from Feripora area of Shopian died of cardiopulmonary arrest at 4:15 am at SKIMS Hospital Soura, they said. The officials said the patient was admitted to the hospital on Monday with complaints of fever and shortness of breath, and was diagnosed with acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder. The patient was on non-invasive ventilation and his son who was attending him had given negative consent for intubation, they added. Another death due to coronavirus

After Deadly Clash, China Lays Claim Over Galwan Valley

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING- China on Wednesday claimed that the sovereignty over the Galwan Valley area in Ladakh "always belonged to it" but underlined that Beijing does not wish to see "more clashes," after the militaries of the two countries were engaged in the biggest confrontation in over five decades.

India's External Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said the violent confrontation between armies of India and China in eastern Ladakh was the result of an attempt by the Chinese side to unilaterally change the status quo in the region. The ministry said both sides suffered casualties that could have been avoided had the



agreement arrived earlier at the higher level been scrupulously followed by the Chinese side. At a briefing at the Chinese

Talks Between Major Generals Inconclusive: Report

Talks between Major Generals of India and China in Galwan Valley concluded on Wednesday, 17 June. The talks have remained inconclusive as no immediate disengagement or change in ground has taken place, ANI reported quoting sources. More talks will reportedly take place in the coming days. Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs said

Foreign Ministry, Spokesman Zhao Lijian said the

ON THE SITUATION AT THE CHINA-INDIA BORDER BOTH SIDES ARE HAVING close communication with each other to resolve this through diplomatic and military channels, Zhao said.

India Moves Fighters, Warships To Forward Bases

Observer Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: The government has given powers to the armed forces to take emergency procurements to stock up its war reserves in the wake of escalating conflict with China along the Line of Actual Control, media reports said here on Wednesday.

Government has asked Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat to coordinate with the three services on prioritising the requirements, where necessary, The Economic Times reported.

Navy has also been given the go-ahead to deploy its assets near the Malacca Strait



Military convoys headed to Ladakh as seen near Sonmarg. KO Photo- Abid Bhat

No Road Ahead: Reporting Galwan from Gagangeer

Auqib Javeed

GAGANGEER, Sonamarg – Wind that swept from the sweltering side of the Sind Valley created flutters, as a bunch of chary cops hawked the highway leading to Ladakh. They invoked some official orders to check the media movement towards the Galwan Valley – the confrontation zone where Indian Army and People's Liberation Army of China lately locked horns over the bloodcurdling clash.

To report the ground mood in the cold desert, a media corps from Srinagar drove towards the rugged terrains on June 17, but they were cut short at picturesque Gagangeer area and forced

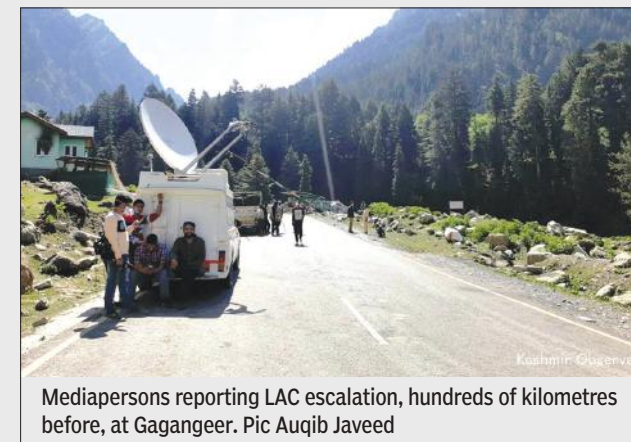
to return to their bureaus.

While some waited and vainly tried numbers for intervention, a military convoy made its way towards the other side.

In times of LAC faceoff, the routine highway military movement caught everyone's attention, so did some sidewalk pickets overlooking the enthralling Sind water body.

There was, however, no death-defying in the air – until cops on duty pressed the command.

"Stopped on our way to cover an important Ladakh story, we were told by cops at Gagangeer that journalists aren't allowed beyond this point," Mir Fareed, bureau chief of Times Now told



Mediapersons reporting LAC escalation, hundreds of kilometres before, at Gagangeer. Pic Auqib Javeed

Kashmir Observer: "It was futile to even ask and argue why journalists should be stopped from discharging their duties." PAGE 02

Modi To CMs: Need To Think About Unlock 2

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The indicators of economic performance are showing signs of revival following reduction in restrictions imposed during the coronavirus lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday as he told chief ministers to think about 'Unlock 2.0' and also ways to minimise infection.

He noted that the spread of COVID-19 is more in a few big states and cities and urged the chief ministers to make full use of their

state's existing testing capacity and also work to augment health infrastructure.

He said there was a need to "fight" rumours that the lockdown could be reimposed.

Speaking to chief ministers and representatives of 14 states and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Modi said big crowds, lack of physical-distancing, daily movement of large number of people and small houses in some cities have made the battle against coronavirus "more challenging".

This was the second day of Modi's sixth round of consultations with chief ministers on fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saving lives should be the top priority, he said, and called for expanding health infrastructure, according to a statement.

He underlined the need to "fight rumours of lockdown", pointing out that the country is now in the "phase of unlocking".

"We need to now think about phase 2 of Unlock and how to minimise all possibilities of

WE NEED TO NOW THINK ABOUT PHASE 2 OF UNLOCK AND how to minimise all possibilities of harm to our people," he said according to the statement.

PM Modi Breaks Silence On Galwan Clash

Says India Wants Peace But Capable Of Giving Befitting Reply



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In his first remarks on the violent face-off between the troops of India and China in Ladakh's Galwan Valley, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India wants peace but is capable of giving befitting reply if instigated, and asserted that the sacrifice of our army men will not go in vain.

In his opening remarks on day

two of the virtual conference with chief ministers on the coronavirus crisis, Modi said India would not "compromise with its integrity and sovereignty" and will firmly defend its self-respect and every inch of land.

Modi's remarks came two days after the fierce clash between the troops of India and China in which at least 20 Indian Army personnel, including a colonel, were killed in the Galwan Valley in

PM Calls All-Party Meet On Friday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has convened an all-party virtual meet on Friday to discuss the situation along the India-China border, his office said on Wednesday. The meeting comes against the backdrop of demands by the opposition seeking details of the violent face-off between

Heavy Mortar Shelling Along LoC In Rajouri

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: India and Pakistan troops resorted to heavy mortar shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Naugam sector in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Wednesday.

"On 16 June 2020, in the late evening hours, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation (CFV) along the LoC in Naugam Sector by firing mortars and other weapons," a defence spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said that the Indian Army gave a befitting response to the ceasefire violation by Pak troops.

Soldier Injured In Landmine Blast

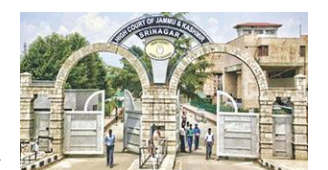
An Army man was injured in a landmine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, official sources said. The anti-personnel mine exploded in Khour belt of Akhnor sector, they said.

There were no casualties reported in the incident, the spokesperson added

HC Asks JK Bank To Hold Online Registration For 1850 Posts

Agencies

SRINAGAR- Jammu and Kashmir High Court has issued a notice to government over the cancellation of the selection process for filling up the posts of probationary officers and banking associates in the J&K Bank. A bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey also ordered the J&K Bank to postpone till further orders the date of availability of the link for online registration of candidature by



the prospective candidates pursuant to a fresh notification, issued on June 1 this year, for 350 probationary officers and 1500 banking associates vacancies.

The court was hearing a petition filed by as many as 288 aspiring candidates who

J&K Govt Amends Special Recruitment Rules, 2015

Probation Period Reduced To 2 Years

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday announced new rules for appointments to various posts in the union territory and reduced the probation period to two years from five years, according to a notification. The new rules would be called as Jammu and Kashmir Probationer (Condition of Service, Pay and Allowances) and Fixation of Tenure Rules, 2020, it said.

Under these rules, after completion of probation, every appointee would be entitled to fixation of pay in the pay level

applicable to the post against which the person is appointed, the notification said.

The appointee under these rules shall be entitled to annual increment, dearness allowance, house rent allowance and city compensatory allowance or any other allowance sanctioned by the government after successful completion of the probation period, it said.

The notification said the new candidates shall be entitled to benefits under the Medical Attendance Rules and Leave Rules from the date of appointment. It further said there

After Deadly Clash, China...

"sovereignty of the Galwan Valley area has always belonged to China," echoing a statement of the Chinese military on Tuesday, opening up another dispute. When asked since Galwan is regarded as settled border and why China is claiming sovereignty over the area now, Zhao said, "regarding the mater of the Galwan area we are having communication through military and diplomatic channels. Right and wrong of this is very clear. This happened at the Chinese side of the border and China is not to be blamed for it."

He also refused to comment on reports of 43 casualties on the Chinese side during the face-off with the Indian Army in the Galwan Valley on Monday night.

"The border troops are dealing with relevant matter," he said.

When pointed out that the India has released the number of casualties and why Beijing was not providing the number for Chinese side, he said, "I have stated that Chinese and Indian border troops are now jointly dealing with the relevant matter on the ground. I have nothing to add at the moment."

"On the situation at the China-India border both sides are having close communication with each other to resolve this through diplomatic and military channels, Zhao said.

"The over all border situation is stable and controllable," he told correspondents to a volley of questions.

Responding to a question whether further clashes could be averted, the spokesman said, "from the Chinese side we do not wish to see more clashes."

"I believe you have noticed that China and India have both said that we are committed to resolve the differences through dialogue safeguarding peace and tranquility in the border area.

"As the world's two biggest countries and emerging economies, the shared interest of China and India are far larger than the differences.

"Both sides should earnestly follow important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and ensure that the bilateral relationship can move forward in the right direction and that serves our peoples interests and expectations. We hope India can work with China to this end," Zhao said.

Twenty Indian Army personnel, including a Colonel, were killed in the clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley on Monday night, the biggest military confrontation in over five decades that has significantly escalated the already volatile border standoff between the two countries.

A large number of Indian and Chinese troops have been engaged in an eyeball-to-eyeball situation in Galwan Valley and certain other areas of eastern Ladakh for the last five weeks, including in Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie in eastern Ladakh.

Monday's face-off was the biggest confrontation between the two militaries after their 1967 clashes in Nathu La when India lost around 80 soldiers while over 300 Chinese army personnel were killed in the face-off.

The Indian Army has been fiercely objecting to the transgressions, and demanded their immediate withdrawal for restoration of peace and tranquillity in the area. Both sides held a series of talks in the last few days to resolve the row. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC). China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet, while India contests it.

Talks Between Major...

that the Galwan clash between Indian Army jawans and Chinese PLA on Monday was a premediated and planned action by China and that this was strongly conveyed to the Chinese counterpart in a telephonic conversation by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

India Moves Fighters...

and, if needed, anywhere else in the Indo-Pacific to counter Chinese action, the report added.

ET reported Air Force assets, including fighters, too have been moved up to forward locations.

Meanwhile situation along Line of Actual Control in Ladakh remained tense with at least four Indian Army soldiers having received "critical injuries." The "casualties could increase" further in what is being seen as one of the deadliest attack in 45 years, carried out by Chinese Army at Line of Actual Control.

According to the news agency ANI, four soldiers were critically injured during the face-off.

However, government sources quoted by news agency IANS said that the number of critically injured personnel is in double digit. Indian Army refused to comment on the numbers and stated that several are injured.

The attack on Indian Army personnel by the Chinese Army took place on Monday night and it continued for almost six to seven hours.

On Tuesday, Indian helicopters flew around 16 times to bring bodies and injured Indian Army personnel from the site of attack at Galwan Valley in Ladakh region, government sources said. Four bodies of Indian Army personnel were flown to Leh from Galwan on Wednesday morning.

On Tuesday, Indian Army stated that 20 of their men, including officers, were killed in an unprecedented violent clash with the Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley. The force also said the attack was brutal and injuries sustained were critical.

Indian Army issued a statement late on Tuesday night, and said, "Seventeen Indian troops who were critically injured in the line of duty at the standoff location and exposed to sub-zero temperatures in the high altitude terrain have succumbed to their injuries, taking the total that were killed in action to 20."

The force further stated that Indian and Chinese troops have disengaged at the Galwan area where they had earlier clashed on the night of June 15 and June 16, 2020."

No Road Ahead: Reporting...

Mir like his colleagues ended up reporting one of the high-voltage escalation events at the Line of Actual Control from Gagangeer itself.

The ongoing Sino-India standoff escalated at night hours of June 15, when over twenty Indian Army personnel, including a Colonel, were killed in the clash with PLA in the Galwan Valley.

New Delhi media has already reported some grotesque details—"Chinese death squads hunted down Indian troops in savage execution spree"—about the nocturnal encounter in the contested valley which Beijing now claims in its entirety. It proved to be the biggest military confrontation between the armies of the two most populous nations in over five decades. They had last traded guns in 1962.

New Delhi reacted sharply, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying "India can give fitting reply when provoked".

Following the fierce clash, Zubair Dar, who works with Voice of America went to cover the biggest news. After waiting for hours at Gagangeer, he returned to Srinagar.

"Commercial vehicles were allowed to move on," Dar said, "but media-persons were stopped for reasons best known to officials."

When Kashmir Observer contacted some concerned police officials, they cited the COVID guidelines and travel passes as the reason to stop some Ladakh-bound passengers.

"Srinagar – Kargil NHW is open for vehicular movement,"

Russian Poplars And Covid-19:HC Warns Govt Of ‘Punitive’ Action If Report Not Filed By June 23

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has warned authorities of "punitive" action if the report by an expert committee on aspects relating to the Russian Poplar trees including the impact of the pollen and fluff from these trees on the spread of the novel coronavirus was not filed before it by June 23.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and VinodChatterjiKoul warned the authorities after Additional Advocate General AseemSawhney said that he has received oral instructions that the needful has been done by the General Administration Department.

"It is truly unfortunate that we have not been informed

about what is the 'needful' which is done," the court said, adding, "In case the action taken report is not filed before us before the next date of hearing, we shall be constrained to take a strict view of the matter and pass punitive orders against the authorities concerned". The case has been listed for further consideration on June 23.

Last month, Additional Advocate General Amit Gupta had informed the court that the General Administration Department has taken a view on the report submitted by the Expert Committee and the same stands forwarded to the Department of Law and the Forest Department for compliance.

"Neither report of expert

committee nor the decision taken thereon has been placed before us," the court had said previously and sought the same.

Headed by Dr. Mohit Gera (IFS), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and HoFF, the members of panel included Farooq Ahmad Gillani (Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir), Dr. Mush-taqSiddiqi (Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Science & Technology), Dr. Naveed-Nazir Shah (HoD, Pulmonary Medicine, Government Medical College, Srinagar), Zubair Ahmad Shah (Conservator of Forests, Srinagar), Dr. Tariq. H. Masoodi (Dean, Department of Forestry, SKUAST, Kashmir) and Mehraj-ud-din Malik (Regional Director, So-

cial Forestry, Kashmir).

The panel was formed following the Court's order on April 10 last, directing the Chief Secretary to constitute it to examine the impact of the pollen and fluff from the poplar trees and the desirability of felling poplar trees amid coronavirus pandemic.

The court had passed the orders days after almost all deputy commissioners in Kashmir ordered axing of the "female" poplar trees.

"Significantly a grave error is pointed out which is to the effect that female poplar trees have been directed by the authorities to be felled on account of the "pollen" generated by them. This by itself is a basic mistake," the court had observed.

the line of duty and sacrificed their lives in the highest traditions of the Indian Army.

"The Nation will never forget their bravery and sacrifice. My heart goes out to the families of the fallen soldiers ...We are proud of the bravery and courage of India's bravehearts," he wrote on Twitter.

Soldier Injured In Landmine

According to the sources, the jawan has been hospitalised.

HC Asks JK Bank To Hold ...

had participated in the selection process pursuant to a notification on 6 October 2018. The candidates have challenged the notification issued earlier this year by the Bank whereby it notified that the selection process conducted for the posts stands canceled. They have also challenged the fresh recruitment notice.

As soon as the petition came up for the hearing, Khan Roshan Khayal, an Officer of the J&K Bank, working in its Legal Section, appeared before the court and raised a preliminary objection to the maintainability of the plea. He submitted that the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited is not a State within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution. He, in this regard, invited the attention of the Court to the Full Bench Decision of the Court in Firdous Ahmad Tanki v the J&K Bank Ltd (2006), wherein the majority view taken was that the Bank was neither the State nor an authority or instrumentality of the State within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India. He submitted that the bank was not amenable to the writ jurisdiction of the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

However, senior advocate Jahangir Iqbal Ganai on behalf of the petitioners submitted that the judgment of the Full Bench was distinguishable as the factors which formed the basis for such declaration have changed so much so the judgment was based on the fact that the share capital of the Bank was only 53% which is now 68.18%. He submitted that in view of the "changed circumstances", the financial and Administrative control of Bank is now with the Government.

He also referred to the impugned notice by President-HR of the Bank, cancelling the selection process conducted for the posts by the Bank. "This notice reads that approval to the cancellation of the selection process was accorded by the Board of Directors of the Bank on 15.4.2020 in pursuance of directions of the J&K's Administrative Council," he said.

After hearing both the parties, the court issued notice to the government, observing the impugned notice (dated 15.04.2020) reveal that the decision has actually been taken by the Administrative Council of the J&K.

"Since the petition is to be heard on an important question of law of general public importance, the Advocate General is requested to render his valuable assistance to the Court in determining the question," the court said and ordered listing of the petition on June 26. (GNS)

J&K Govt Amends Special...

would be fixed tenure of five years after the initial appointment of the candidate.

The other conditions of service shall be governed by the recruitment rules of the service to which the post to which the person has been appointed belongs, the notification said. The administration may exempt any class and category of post or service from the provisions of this notification, it said.

Modi To CMs: Need To Think

harm to our people," he said according to the statement. He noted that with reduced restrictions, indicators of economic performance are showing signs of revival. Inflation has also been kept under control, and asked states to take steps to boost infrastructure and construction-related activities.

In a word of caution, Modi referred to the rise in number of infections and underscored the need for testing, tracking, tracing and isolating COVID-19 patients to deal with the pandemic.

There has been criticism that some states and cities, including Delhi, are not doing enough testing. The prime minister, however, stated that the number of recovered patients has also been rising, and added that it is a matter of relief that very few patients needed ICU and ventilator care.

People's discipline during the nationwide lockdown has stopped the virus' exponential growth, he said, adding that India is now better placed than earlier vis- -vis treating patients, health infrastructure and trained manpower. Citing the details of the boost in capacity to deal with the virus, he asked states to continue to put emphasis on "health Infrastructure, information systems, emotional support and public participation". Praising efforts of states and local administration, he said the country now has more than 900 COVID-19 testing labs, lakhs of special beds, thousands of isolation and quarantine centres, adequate stocks of testing kits, with over one crore personal protective equipment (PPEs) and almost same numbers of N-95 masks supplied to states.

Despite a rise in coronavirus cases in a few places, people's patience, administration's work and dedication of corona warriors have ensured that things did not go out of control, he said.

Stressing on the importance of providing timely information, the prime minister said it should be ensured that helplines are not "helpless" but helpful for people.

He called for building teams of senior doctors and young volunteers to guide patients through telemedicine and run

helplines, respectively.

Modi also called for fighting the stigma associated with the disease, saying people should be assured that there is no need to panic if somebody has been infected as the number of those cured is huge.

He highlighted the need to keep reminding people of the benefits of sanitation, wearing masks and social distancing to fight the virus.

He asked states to share their best practices with each other.

An officer on special duty in the Union Health Ministry told the participants that there has been a continuous decline in growth rate of cases during the phases of lockdown and subsequently also in Unlock 1.0.

The OSD also informed that the number of cases and deaths per lakh of population in India are amongst the lowest in the world.

During the interaction, the chief ministers talked about health infrastructure available to meet the challenge and steps taken to strengthen it further.

They also spoke about the support provided to frontline workers, monitoring in containment zones, campaigns to encourage usage of masks and other safety precautions, increase in testing, and providing gainful employment opportunities to the migrants who have returned.

Home Minister Amit Shah, who also took part in the virtual meeting, said the country has so far been quite successful in the fight against the virus.

He, however, cautioned that the "battle is far from over". Shah underlined that as the country begins to unlock, people must stay vigilant.

He requested all the chief ministers to encourage download of Aarogya Setu app to act as a "self-shield" for protection. Continuing with his consultations with state governments on ways to check the spread of coronavirus during 'unlock 1.0', Modi held consultation with the chief ministers for the second consecutive day.

Chief ministers of Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were among those who attended the meeting on Wednesday.

It assumed importance as some of these states account for a majority of the cases in the country.

2 More Die Of Covid-19,...

said that the septuagenarian had bilateral pneumonia.

"He was admitted to SMHS hospital on June 15 and died today," he added.

With two more fatalities, the death toll due to the pathogen has risen in Jammu and Kashmir to 65– 58 in Valley and 7 in Jammu division.

So far Srinagar district with fourteen deaths due to the virus has the highest fatalities, followed by twelve in Baramulla, eight each in Kulgam and Shopian, five each in Anantnag & Kupwara, four each in Budgam & Jammu, two in Pulwama while one death each has been reported in Bandipora, Doda, Rajouri & Udhampur. (with GNS inputs)

Newborn Among 108 More ..

the officials said.

The cases detected on Wednesday included 22 persons who had returned to Jammu and Kashmir recently.

Shopian district, in south Kashmir, had the highest number of cases at 27, followed by Srinagar & Udhampur districts at 17 cases each, Kupwara at nine , Kulgam & Baramulla at seven each, Budgam at five, Anantnag at four, Rajouri& Reasi at three each, Pulwama, Bandipora & Ramban at two each and Ganderbal & Kathua at one each, the officials said.

Among the cases from Srinagar, include a fifteen day-old baby and a teenager from Bemina and two women from Ish-ber and Khanyar, besides two men and women from Nowshera.

They said four districts Jammu, Doda, Kishtwar and Poonch had no fresh cases.

The officials said that 133 more patients recovered and were discharged from different hospitals.

The number of confirmed cases has now reached 5,406, out of which 4,172 are in Kashmir, while 1,234 are in Jammu, the officials said.

There are 2,428 active cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in J&K – 1,762 in Kashmir and 666 in Jammu – and 2,914 (2,353 from Kashmir and 561 from Jammu) patients have recovered, according to officials.

The J&K has witnessed 64 COVID-19 (57 from Kashmir, 7 from Jammu) deaths so far, including the one that took place on Wednesday.

Sagar Set Free After 10..

special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 was withdrawn. Among the grounds of his preventive detention, it was said Sagar might use his influence among people to organise mass gatherings against the government's decision to revoke provisions of Article 370. "Your capacity of influencing people for any cause could be gauged from this fact that you were able to convince your electorate to come out and vote in huge numbers even during peak militancy and poll boycotts. Your activities are aiming to raise a voice against the Union of India by way of encouraging mass agitation," read the dossier against Sagar.

Hurriyat Hails UN Report...

spokesperson said that the report verifies killing of 8 and maiming of 15 children between the ages of 1 and 17, during joint operations of the Indian forces. The report, Hurriyat spokesperson said cites 68 instances where children between the ages of 9 and 17 have been detained by Indian security services in Jammu and Kashmir on national security-related charges. The spokesperson said that the practices pointed out in the report highlight the 'atrocities' committed against children as a consequence of the lingering Kashmir conflict.

Expressing concern over the media reports that some jailed leaders and political activists, including from Hurriyat were complaining of fever and Covid-19 symptoms, the Hurriyat spokesperson urged immediate release of all the Kashmiri prisoners lodged in various jails on humanitarian grounds.

Minor Girl Drowns In Baramulla

the girl was removed to the Sub District Hospital (SDH) Sore where doctor declared her brought dead.

Missing Trekker’s Family...

went trekking to Gangballake along with his five friends. "All his five friends have returned while our beloved has not returned yet," the family said.

They said they filed a missing complaint at Kangan Police Station on June 15. They appealed the Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. ShahidIqbal Choudhary to personally intervene into the matter and help them in tracing their beloved. (KNO)

Police Arrests 4 ‘Gamblers’

investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson said.

Develop software for simplifying building permissions: Lt Governor

Observer News Service

JAMMU, JUNE 17: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today chaired a meeting, through video conferencing, to review the functioning of Housing and Urban Development Department with focus on the working of Jammu Development Authority and Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The Lt Governor took stock of the overall working and progress made under several developmental works being executed at different sites by the JMC and JDA.

Sh. Bipul Pathak, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Sh. Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary to

the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department; Ms. Avny Lavasa, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation and Ms. Babila Rakwal, Vice-Chairperson, Jammu Development Authority attended the meeting.

Principal Secretary to the Government, H&UDD, Dheeraj Gupta, gave a detailed presentation on the Civic issues of Jammu including strengthening the legal framework, Sanitation & Solid Waste Management, Control of Building Operations, IT Initiatives, Revenues & Resources, Street Lighting, Green-scaping- Parks & Gardens, Urban Transport – Mechanised & Non mechanized Parkings, Transfer of State Land/Nazool Land to JDA, New Projects etc. Initiatives, action taken

and achievements under COVID-19 management were also briefed to the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor stressed on taking comprehensive measures as per the needs of the local population and directed for mobilizing resources to ensure completion of the projects at the earliest. He entrusted upon the officers to ensure the distribution of ration in slums and other backward pockets. He also took stock of the water supply, sewerage network and garbage collection, besides emphasizing on maintenance of Electronic Asset Registers for Urban Local Bodies and activating interactive public grievance cells to redress the public issues.

The Lt Governor called for developing software for building

permissions on the lines of Municipal Corporations of Delhi and Mumbai that would assist in improving the ranking in Ease of Doing Business. Besides, he stressed on minimizing the number of No Objection Certificates (NoCs) required for building permissions.

Proper waste disposal and ecological concerns were also addressed during the meeting. “Apart from promoting IEC activities to create awareness and disseminate information regarding conservation of water bodies, be firm and strict on the polluters of Tawi river, canals, and other water bodies and impose penalties for the same”, the Lt Governor asked the officers.

Div Com reviews role of PRIs in fighting Covid-19 pandemic

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR JUNE 17:- In order to review the role of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in containment and management of Covid-19 pandemic, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole chaired a meeting here today.

The meeting was attended by Director Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, Deputy Director Planning, besides members of PRIs of Srinagar district, while as the members of Panchayati Raj Institutions including Chairpersons of Block Development Councils, Sarpanches and Panches, besides presidents of Municipal Committees of other districts of Kashmir division attended the meeting through video Conference.

During the meeting the members of PRIs and Municipal Committees appraised the Divisional Commissioner about the various measures undertaken in their respective jurisdictions for containment and mitigation of the Coronavirus outbreak in the rural areas of Kashmir. The meeting was told that the members of Panchayati Raj Institutions including Chairpersons of Block Development Councils, Sarpanches and Panches are working in close co-ordination with concerned district Administrations to contain the spread of Covid-19 infection.

They further informed that Village Awareness and Monitoring Committees have been framed at Panchayat and Block Levels for purpose of creating awareness, surveillance and monitoring of Covid -19 among the rural masses and are making rural population aware about the benefits of wearing masks, frequent and proper washing of hands with soap, use of sanitizers and maintaining cleanliness in and around the villages fumigation/sanitization of work places, besides at markets/ business places which have been now allowed to operate.

LAWDA restores Wulergrar Nalla

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: The watershed management division of LAWDA today launched an operation of restoration of Wulergrar Nalla choked due to filling by the land mafia of the Khimber.

The operation was launched by Enforcement Wing of LAWDA headed by DSP and Supervisor and the field official of watershed management including Range officer and Foresters jointly to restore the actual position of the said Nalla and.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost My driving licence No. 3725 issued by RTO Doda from from 27-05-2020 if any person found it please contact phone No.9419214204. Otherwise I have to apply for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Doda within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Anayatullah Bhat S/o Kh. Rajabullah Bhat R/o Mohalla Faridya Doda Ward No.16 House No.51.

OFFICE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOURISM (M&W) SRINAGAR

e-mail: ddtmandw1@yahoo.com

Sub:- Purchase of lawn mowers/ Brush Cutters.

E-QUOTATION

DT/MandW/K/Quotation- 1 of 2020-21 dated: 17.06.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor of U.T of J&K , online quotations are invited from registered dealers/suppliers for supply of following garden equipments to this office :-

S.No.	Name of item	Qty
1.	Lawn mower Honda GXV 160 petrol operated with cutting width 12” inch, cutting height 3” and adjustable forwarded speed	3 Nos.
4 -	stroke brush cutter (Honda Engine) petrol operated, four point anti-vibration system.	3 Nos

Terms and conditions

- The bidders will provide email ID and complete postal address including cell numbers.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Website in o/o **Dy. Director Tourism, (M&W) Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).**
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening.
- The intending agency shall upload documents in pdf form copies of valid registration of the agency, GST/PAN card in the name of the agency, Treasury receipt for an amount of Rs.200/- as document cost (**under 1452-Tsm Revenue Head**) and CDR for an amount of Rs.3000/- pledged to the Deputy Director Tourism, M&W, Srinagar.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.
- The intending quotationers shall quote rates in the BOQ, uploaded.
- The last date for submission of the online bids is 25.06.2020 upto 2.00 p.m. and the same shall be opened on next working day.
- The successful bidder shall submit original **Treasury Receipt for Rs.200/-** /CDR fort Rs.3000/- and copies of Registration Certificate and PAN/GST No. in person within two days from the opening of the bids failing which proceeding as warranted under rules shall be initiated in the matter. No Demand Drafts shall be entertained.
- The under signed reserves the right to accept or reject any Quotation or Quotationer without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms & conditions shall remain same as in PWD form 25 Double leaf.

DIPK-1830/20

Dy. Director Tourism
(M&W) Srinagar.
Dated: 15- 06.2020

No. DT/MandW/K/Quotation-1/80-85



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

EXTENSION NOTICE

In view extension of COVID-19 lock down, the critical dates for the NleT
NO: 27 e-Tendering/2019-20 Dated:-17/03/2020, issued under endorsement NO:SMC/EELRWD/2435-2445, Dated:-17/03/20 and retendered vide NO:SMC/EELRWD/15-19, Dated:-11/04/2020 are further rescheduled as under;

1	Documents download date	19/03/2020 10:00 am to 24/06/2020 04:00 pm
2	Date & Time for Submission of Bids online	19/03/2020 10:00 am to 24/06/2020 04:00 pm
3	Bid Opening date	25/06/2020 02:00 pm
4	Date & Time for Submission of Hard Copy for successful bidder	26/06/2020 upto 04:00 pm

Rest No Change


DIPK-NB-777/20

NO:SMC/EELRWD/ _____
Dated: __/__/2020

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

HKM GDC Bandipora,
Potlushai, Bandipora,
J&K- 193502

Website: www.gdcbandipora.net
Email: gcceecollegebnd@gmail.com



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
HASSAN KHOYIHAMI MEMORIAL
DEGREE COLLEGEBANDIPORA, KASHMIR

No.: HKM/GDCB/20/96

Dated:16/06/2020

NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all B.G 5th, 2nd and 4th semester students (Regular/Fresh Private/Backlog) of this institution that their examination will be conducted as per the following schedule:

Semester	Commencement date & Time	Last Date & Time for Submission of Answer Scripts/Assignments
5 th	24/06/2020 (10:00 AM)	28/06/2020 (4:00 PM)
2 nd	29/06/2020 (10:00 AM)	03/07/2020 (4:00 PM)
4 th	04/07/2020 (10:00 AM)	08/07/2020 (4:00 PM)

As per the University guidelines the examination shall be conducted in non-conventional online mode and the pattern of examination would be teacher specific (Assignments/MCQs, etc). In this connection the students are informed to download the question papers/ assignments of the respective subjects from their Google classrooms / Official WhatsApp groups / E-mails and upload the handwritten solved papers to the concerned HOD's on their emails that are available in the detailed notice on website.

However, the candidates who are not in a position to upload their solved answer scripts/assignments, can contact on these phone numbers: 7889729404, 9419345723, 8825067387, 7006575530, 990691581, and 8082786944

All the necessary guidelines regarding the conduct of examination, mode of examination, How to write the answer and submit the answer script, etc are available on the college website www.gdcbandipora.net.

Those candidates who remains absent in any paper/course in the said examination shall have to re-appear under the status and guidelines of the University of Kashmir in vogue at the time when his/her backlog examination become due.

All the officers/officials and students are advised to follow the COVID-19 guidelines as issued by the Government in letter and spirit.

DIPK-1834/20

Principal

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL
HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in-----

Gist of e-tender
NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/22/e-tendering
Dated 15.06.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, e tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned

Name of Work				
Annual Contract for extinguishers of various Capacities of Foam at GMC, Srinagar and its associated /other departments within District Srinagar				

Downloading of Bids The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and can be downloaded

The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from

Opening of Bids bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on _____ or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer

DIPK-1805/20

Executive Engineer

Dt:-15.06.2020

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
26 Shawwal
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 34
ZUHR	12: 32
ASR	5:32
Magrib	7:47
ISHA	9:29

This Day In History

- 618 - Coronation of the Chinese governor Li Yuan as Emperor Gaozu of Tang, the new Emperor of China, initiating three centuries of the Tang Dynasty's rule over China
- 860 - Rus Vikings attack Constantinople
- 1155 - Pope Adrian IV crowns Frederick I Barbarossa Roman-German Emperor
- 1264 - The Parliament of Ireland meets at Castledermot in County Kildare, the first definitively known meeting of this Irish legislature
- 1316 - Peace of Fexhe: prince-bishop Adolf II of Mark and Luik towns
- 1538 - Treaty of Nice: ends war between Emperor Charles V & King French I
- 1541 - Irish parliament selects Henry VIII of England as King of Ireland
- 1574 - Polish King Hendrik of Anjou secretly leaves Poland
- 1580 - States of Utrecht forbid catholic worship
- 1583 - Richard Martin of London takes out first life insurance policy, on William Gibbons; premium was £383
- 1629 - Sea battle at Dungeness: Piet Heyn beat the Dunkirkers, commerce raiders in the service of the Spanish Monarchy
- 1639 - Treaty of Berwick: Ends the First Bishops' War between England and Scotland
- 1682 - William Penn founds Philadelphia, US
- 1757 - Battle at Kolin Bohemia: Austrian army beats Prussia
- 1812 - War of 1812 begins as US declares war against Britain
- 1815 - Battle of Waterloo; Napoleon and France defeated by British forces under Wellington and Prussian troops under Blucher
- 1821 Opera "Der Freischutz" is produced (Berlin)
- 1822 - Part of US-Canadian boundary determined
- 1837 - Spain gets new Constitution
- 1912 - The Chicago national Republican Convention splits between President Taft and Theodore Roosevelt; after Taft is nominated, Roosevelt and progressive elements of the Party form the Progressive Party (also known as the "Bull Moose Party")
- 1941 - Turkey signs peace treaty with nazi-Germany
- 1948 - UN Commission on Human Rights adopts the International Declaration of Human Rights
- 1953 - Egypt proclaimed a republic, General Neguib becomes president
- 1959 - 1st telecast transmitted from England to US
- 1977 - Space Shuttle test model "Enterprise" carries a crew aloft for 1st time. It was fixed to a modified Boeing 747
- 1981 - Vaccine to prevent hoof & mouth disease announced
- 1981-The AIDS epidemic is formally recognized by medical professionals in San Francisco, California.
- 1983 - 7th Shuttle Mission-Challenger 2 launches Sally Ride as 1st US woman in space
- 1986 - De Havilland Twin Otter & Bell 206 helicopter collide, kills 25
- 1986 - US House of Representatives approves Bill to impose stricter sanctions on Apartheid South Africa
- 2003 - Google launches AdSense, a program that enables website publishers to serve ads targeted to the specific content of their individual web pages, many of which like On This Day (then History-Orb.com) go on to start their own publishing businesses
- 2006 - The first Kazakh space satellite, KazSat is launched
- 2012 - 15 people are killed and 40 injured in a suicide attack in Baquba, Iraq
- 2014 - King Juan Carlos I of Spain abdicates the Spanish throne to make way for his son Felipe 2015 - Pope Francis blames human selfishness for global warming in his encyclical, named "Laudato Si (Be Praised), On the Care of Our Common Home"
- 2016 - Soyuz capsule returns to Earth 1st British International Space Station astronaut Tim Peake, Russian Yuri Malenchenko and American Timothy Kopra after 186 days
- 2017 - Pakistan defeat India to win cricket's Champions Trophy at the Oval in London by 180 runs, Fakhar Zaman scores 114 runs
- 2018 - President Trump orders US military to set up sixth branch of the military - a space force

From KO Archives

Jam'at replaces Geelani, orders him to leave-house

SSRINAGAR Toughening its stand against pro-Pakistan leader Syed Ah Shah Geelani, the Jamaat-i-Islami has removed him from its Advisory Council and told him to vacate his house in Srinagar which is Jamaat property.

A letter was sent to Geelani late Wednesday night informing him about his “replacement” and directions to vacate his residence. Amir-e-Jamaat Nazir Ahmed Kashani told PTI Thursday.

Kashani, however, refused to divulge the name of Syed Ah Shah Geelani's successor in his council.

Geelani, along with Ashraf Sehrai and two others, had been suspended, from the Majlis-e-Shura (General Advisory Council) a few months back.

Confirming receipt of the letter, Geelani told PTI that it was “unconstitutional” and his replacement or the decision to expel him from the Advisory Council had to be taken by the council itself.

“No individual is authorised to take the decision on behalf of the council,” he said.

Kashani said “as and when Geelani and others dissociate themselves front Tehrik-e-Hurriyat (a parallel Hurriyat Conference formed by Geelani), they will be welcomed back into the fold.”

(Kashmir Observer, 18 June, 2005)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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On The Brink

In a dramatic escalation of the ongoing border stand-off between India and China in Ladakh, 20 Indian soldiers including a commanding officer died in a clash with the Chinese troops. This is the biggest loss suffered by India in a stand-off with China since 1975 when Four Indian soldiers died when a patrol of Assam Rifles jawans was ambushed at Tulung La in Arunachal Pradesh in 1975. The ANI has reported that 43 Chinese soldiers also were killed in the clash. And the US media reports quoting its intelligence officials have said that 35 Chinese troops have been killed in the clashes. However, China has so far neither confirmed nor denied its casualties. The killings on both sides have taken the border stalemate to a boiling point with the two countries on the brink of a full-fledged war. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for an all-party meet on the issue on June 19. On Tuesday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh went to the Prime Minister's residence for a late night meeting. The duo are said to have been joined by Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The coming days will be crucial as to what happens next. However from the statements emanating from New Delhi and Beijing both sides are trying to play down the incident and get back to resolving the issue through dialogue. In his first statement, the PM has said that India wants peace but was capable of giving befitting reply if instigated. India, he added, has tried that the differences with China do not become disputes. On the other hand, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian has said his country doesn't don't wish to see more clashes, while urging India to avoid "provocative gestures" that could complicate the border situation. Lijian said both countries were having close communication trying to resolve the crisis through diplomatic and military channels.

But this hardly detracts from the fraught situation on the border. The two sides have irreconcilable differences on the perception of the Line of Control, more so in Ladakh. A day after the killing of 20 soldiers China has laid claim to entire Galwan Valley, a strategic geographical feature in Ladakh. New Delhi has demanded China to go back to the status quo as it existed before May 5. China which has already captured areas falling in Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, Hot Springs etc has so far refused to vacate them. The stand-off between the countries is likely going to be a long haul. As things stand, war will be in neither country's interest, a reality that also informs the statements of the leaders of the two countries. The way out is to continue engagement on military and diplomatic levels. It may take time but this remains the only viable option outside a military confrontation that will be mutually destructive and, in the end, may offer no solution.

OTHER OPINON

An inflection point

The brutal killing of 20 Indian soldiers by the Chinese Army in the deadliest escalation of violence between India and China on the LAC in nearly four and half decades puts a heavy question mark on an already fraught process. It has the potential to vitiate and undermine the disengagement agreed upon only a few days ago between senior military officers on both sides and harden the standoff between the two countries. The provocation is grave — this is not the toll taken by an act of terror by a non-state actor, but a clash between two armies. Yet India must keep a clear and determined head. It needs to respond with calm deliberation and steely resolve. It must be fully prepared to escalate but it must not embark on such a course without a full assessment of what transpired on the ground, or without hearing out what the Chinese leadership has to say — and being mindful of what lies ahead.

When two armies are fully mobilised and standing eyeball to eyeball, there is always the possibility of an accident that triggers an escalation that neither side wants. Monday night's clashes came after both sides had publicly stated that the situation was under control and that disengagement had begun in the Galwan area. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has accused the Indian Army of violating the consensus that the two sides arrived at, and New Delhi has accused Beijing of doing the same. Clearly, much is being lost in translation even as Chinese adventurism breaches the understanding underlined in several meetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. New Delhi should activate all political lines of communication with Beijing, including the ones between the special representatives to the border negotiations and the foreign ministers, to make this point and take it forward.

Many in Delhi have been lulled into complacency by previous diplomatic successes in defusing military crises in Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014) and Doklam (2017). But Delhi can't ignore the profound change in Beijing's worldview and the new sense in Beijing that it can afford to take on all comers. Nor can Delhi turn a blind eye to President Xi Jinping's political swagger, China's growing assertiveness in the territorial disputes with its neighbours, its simmering Cold War with the United States, and the PLA's aggressive postures on the ground. In other words, India's political illusions about China are becoming increasingly unsustainable and Delhi has arrived at an inflection point in its policies toward Beijing. China, on its part, would be unwise to underestimate India's political resolve, its capacity to come together amid a national crisis and the international coalition in its favour. If Beijing refuses to restore the status quo ante on the frontiers, it will push India irrevocably towards a comprehensive and long-term political, diplomatic and military strategy of responding purposefully.

Indian Express

Owing to these fraught conditions, an estimated 400 faceoffs occur each year along the LAC, all of which are quickly defused. But this time is different. Chinese troops have reportedly advanced into territories that China itself traditionally considers to be on the Indian side of the divide. And rather than merely patrolling, they have established a fixed presence (with pitched tents, concrete structures, and several miles of road) well beyond China's own "Claim Line," occupying the "Finger Heights" near Pangong Tso Lake.

SHASHI THAROOR

No 'Peaceful Rise' This

Chinese troops have been establishing fixed positions in areas that even it considers to be on the Indian side of the disputed Line of Actual Control. The message is clear: China is now the region's preponderant power, and everyone else should fall in line

COVID-19 isn't the only threat that has crossed India's borders this year. According to alarming reports from India's defense ministry, China has deployed a "significant number" of troops across the disputed Line of Actual Control (LAC) along the countries' Himalayan frontier. So far, these transgressions have occurred at four points on the world's longest and most highly disputed border, with thousands of Chinese troops showing up in Sikkim and in parts of the Ladakh region, northeast of the Kashmir Valley.

Neither government disputes the fact that Chinese soldiers have occupied territory that India considers its own. Notwithstanding a brief but bloody war in 1962 that ended with the humiliation of India's underprepared army, China and India have managed an uneasy but viable modus vivendi on their common border for nearly half a century. No shots have been fired in anger since 1976, and both countries tend to downplay each other's troop movements, citing "differing perceptions" as to where the LAC — which has never been officially demarcated — actually lies.

Owing to these fraught conditions, an estimated 400 faceoffs occur each year along the LAC, all of which are quickly defused. But this time is different. Chinese troops have reportedly advanced into territories that China itself traditionally considers to be on the Indian side of the divide. And rather than merely patrolling, they have established a fixed presence (with pitched tents, concrete structures, and several miles of road) well beyond China's own "Claim Line," occupying the "Finger Heights" near Pangong Tso Lake.

Obviously, these encroachments have met with resistance. Last month alone, there were two physical clashes between Indian and Chinese soldiers, with brawls resulting in dozens of injuries on both sides. Though the two armies had a similar standoff on Bhutan's Doklam Plateau in 2017, that was in a third country. This time, India has every reason to interpret China's incursion as direct aggression.

True, the Doklam standoff ended with a Chinese climbdown, as did a similar episode in the same part of Ladakh during Chinese President Xi Jinping's first visit to India in 2014. But the China of 2020 is stronger, more assertive, and eager to throw its weight around in a new era of Sino-American "decoupling." It will be less inclined to withdraw unilaterally this time.

Still, the world is taking notice. Recent statements by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Russia both expressed growing concern,



despite Chinese officials' statement that the situation is "overall stable and controllable."

But the problem is not that China is planning an all-out war or a major military campaign. Rather, it is using "salami tactics": minor military incursions that inflict small-scale military setbacks on India. Most likely, the Chinese will occupy a few square kilometers of territory for "defensive" purposes, and then declare peace. This approach is nothing new, and it poses a test of India's resolve.

Because India's government cannot afford to take China's latest aggression lying down, it is reportedly already preparing for a long standoff. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationalist "strongman" regime, especially, cannot risk losing face before India's easily inflamed public. But even under a different government, India would have a strong interest in proving to would-be aggressors — not least Pakistan — that it is no pushover.

To be sure, China may argue that it was provoked by India's infrastructure construction along the LAC. But these projects are long overdue. Two summers ago, the Indian parliament's External Affairs Committee (which I chaired at the time) visited the border areas and found the infrastructure there to be woefully inadequate. China, meanwhile, has been building all-weather roads, railway lines, and even airports on its side of the LAC. It also boasts conventional military superiority over India, both in the LAC area and overall; but India has shorter supply lines to maintain in the mountainous terrain.

The India-China relationship is nothing if not complicated. The wounds of the 1962 war never healed, yet annual bilateral trade has grown to almost \$100 billion, albeit overwhelmingly in China's favor. Moreover, China uses its alliance with Pakistan to needle, distract, and confine India within its own sub-region. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, one of the crown jewels of Xi's Belt and Road Initiative, runs through portions

of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir that even China acknowledges as disputed territory

China also continues to reiterate its claims to Indian territory directly, particularly the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which it describes as "South Tibet." Against this backdrop, episodes like the current standoff should be understood as part of a larger strategy of keeping India in check.

Indian foreign-policy analysts understand this, warning that, because the latest act of Chinese belligerence clearly marks a shift in the longstanding status quo at the border, it augurs the end of China's self-proclaimed "peaceful rise." Under Xi, China seems much more willing to demonstrate openly that it is the region's preponderant power. By taking a tough stand on the Indian border, China hopes to show the world, especially the United States, that it is not intimidated by Donald Trump's bluster, and that other Asian countries should fall into line.

For now, Indian officials have announced that high-level military talks with China have produced an agreement that the two sides will "peacefully resolve the situation in the border areas in accordance with various bilateral agreements." But, as the standoff has made clear, each side has a very different understanding of what those bilateral agreements mean. It remains to be seen whether China will actually withdraw its troops from the disputed areas. The devil, as always, is in the details.

Clearly, India and China need to finalize a permanent border agreement. China has long argued that a formal border settlement is best left to future generations, but that is because its geopolitical power — and therefore its negotiating position — grows stronger with each passing year. China is betting that the longer a settlement is deferred, the more likely it is to get the border it wants. In the meantime, it will use limited acts of aggression along the LAC to keep India off balance.

By arrangement with
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P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Covid-19: Retreat and rejuvenate self

The pandemic outbreak of Covid-19 has brought the world on its knees. Everything has come to standstill and economy is also collapsing so fast. We don't know where it may end but for sure it is pushing the world into deep recession. Every country is struggling very hard to contain the situation but so far there is no significant breakthrough to curb its spread. At this critical point of time, our safety matters the most. Its high time for us to adhere to advisories and act responsibly. What cannot be cured must be endured. In these challenging times, staying at home, is the safest option but it might not go well with those who suffer from economical or emotional issues.

When our loved ones are by our side, nothing could beat or bother us. We could face death or diseases dauntingly. Those were the best days of life when our families were extremely close-knit. There was so much of warmth. We stayed together to deal with any appalling situation or to teach a lesson to someone who picked up a fight with us. That social structure defined our strength. There was so much of fun, love and respect in those social circles. All occasions were cherished together and all adversities were confronted with resilience and unity. Unfortunately joint families rarely exist now. We have disintegrated that legacy into nuclear

entities and debased our values. Gone are the days, when we cared so much for others but now we hold our self interests above everything. We value only those concerns which serve our motives and don't give a damn about other things.

Due to Covid-19 lockdown, we couldn't help but have to stay inside for the greater good of the society. It might be the right opportunity for the workaholics to relax and rejuvenate themselves. It's appropriate time for them to reconnect with their families but do you think its going to be that easy for all those who have to deal with the obnoxious people. We may keep our selves busy in exercising, cooking, teaching kids, watching Ertugul but still there are toxic people who will manipulate and grind us down. Imagine when it's a daily affair. We have to overcome the sick feeling and maintain a respectful social distance.

The idle pleasure means there will be a lot of drama. The more it will prolong the more intolerable it will become. How frustrating it can be for a working class to stay at home and get nudged into 'Saas Bahu' scuffles. All those snide remarks and gossips of others are unbearable. They will never stop harboring their contempt which is more dangerous than Covid-19. They spit poison everywhere. It doesn't come as a surprise when they

ditch us and turn opportunists. For sure, our quietness time will turn into quarrelsome. More than Covid scare we will be consumed up by our own emotions and expectations. We have to rise above our differences and strive for the peace. How can we be happy when we carry so much of emotional baggage and expect people are going to be nice with us. Let's try to ease off our burden.

Pray And Prosper.

The whole world is going through a tough phase. Only Allah swt can save us from this catastrophe. We are learning our lessons from these crises. The sooner the better is to be on the spiritual journey. The righteous deeds can lead us to the salvation. In Allah swt's remembrance and treating people with dignity lies our peace and prosperity.

Give Up The Story.

When we complain about others we actually get engaged in pity parties. In fact we try to drag the listeners in an emotional spiral. The more we talk about the negative experiences, the more we get attached to the callous behavior. We have to stop wallowing in sorrows. Talking about others is more like digging our heels in disgrace and discomfort. When we put an end to our stories, there will be an end to the self-loathing.

Don't Expose Your Buttons

When we depend on others for the emotional support, we in fact hand over the keys of our affairs to them. We expose our weak areas and in the long run let them play with our emotions. And there comes a time, when they take us for granted. So it's better to be independent and fight our own battles than feeling miserable before others.

Respect Others.

We need to create invisible conversation boundaries. We have to respect our friends as well as foes, so that we can never give anyone a chance to pass back-end comments about us. Respect is a give and take process. Our one positive move can make a lot of difference.

Act Out Of Love.

If you want to defeat your enemies, nothing is more powerful than killing them by your generosity. There is no match to kindness. No matter how grave the situation will be, we should n't stop doing good and be humble.

These are the basics to rise over the toxic people and can safeguard you from the future harms. The trick is to stick to your guns and don't give others enough space and freedom to get you sucked into their mix.

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‘I Lived Death At The Door of Hell’: Kashmir’s Chilling COVID Chronicles

JYOTSNA BHARTI

“Ever since he “came out alive” from the hospital ward where he saw his fellow COVID patient dying a lonely and miserable death, Shabir Khan (not his real name) has taken to secluded gardening. His family members say their 35-year-old headman has grown quiet and thoughtful after having a near-death viral encounter.

THROUGHOUT his stay in a woeful ward, a young father from Baramulla craved to touch his toddler’s warm fingers with his trembling hands. On his possible deathbed, he wanted to see his home, “one last time”, before the virus could choke him to death and sent his boxed body for a hush-hush burial.

Ever since he “came out alive” from the hospital ward where he saw his fellow COVID patient dying a lonely and miserable death, Shabir Khan (not his real name) has taken to secluded gardening. His family members say their 35-year-old headman has grown quiet and thoughtful after having a near-death viral encounter.

Today, Khan restlessly talks about his state of numbness and hopelessness in the hospital ward. “That feeling somewhat explains the uncertainty of life and death when this coronavirus infects you,” Khan says in a low voice.

Since March this year, when the first COVID-19 positive case was detected in Kashmir, the virus has unleashed new horrors in the society: Some it killed, some it spared, many it scared.

While administration is still trying to figure out ways and means to address this novel situation, and medical professionals try to figure out how to stop it, it has already killed more than 60 persons in Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite a decent recovery rate, it equally has an alarming death rate.

“It seems like COVID is the only killer, as our hospitals have no place for cancer and other fatal diseases,” Khan says. “God forbid, if anyone catches an infection or a disease, it is only your good deeds that can save you!”

But as the valley has already lost many people in the COVID combat, many survivors share their moving journeys from their positive to negative test and trial.

Case 1: ‘I Wanted To See Birds’

They came suddenly one day to take me away when my mother was tested positive. By then, I had shown what they now call COVID symptoms.

I thought I had just developed this constant cold after eating an ice-cream. I confused my cold and running nose with my poor immunity. So, yes, I was just hoping against the hope.

But eventually, they said it.

After tested positive for this vicious virus, I felt like world blurring from my eyesight. Constant coughing and burning lungs made me restless.

In the hospital, I would feel like dying alone.

Nights haunted me more. I had no comforting company of my mother around me. She was herself lying in serious condition!

Even in that distress hour, where I was staring at my possible end, I wanted to go out and watch birds. I wanted to see them fly and free.

Only a captive can value the true meaning of freedom.

Case 2: ‘I Was at the Door of Hell’

After losing my husband to cancer and son to abroad, I live alone. I hadn’t stepped much out of home since the time pandemic lockdown was announced. I would only go out to buy groceries.



One fine day, when I went out to buy essentials, I was exposed to a lot of people on street. That evening, I felt like inhaling more oxygen than I usually do. A quick test followed and I was declared COVID positive.

On the third night in the hospital, I saw myself standing at the door of hell, mourning in pain. It was a terrifying nightmare. I didn’t want to die.

After that night, I became more faithful and fun-loving — entertaining COVID-depressed souls in the ward. Sharing, caring and storytelling felt like a healing.

But at the same time, being COVID positive was no fun. There were days when I couldn’t stop coughing. I was running out of breath. My vision turned blurry at days. I couldn’t even swallow anything. It was a terrible time. You understand life when you are an iota close of death.

Case 3: ‘I Felt An Excruciating Pain’

Burning joints, pounding headache and numbness made me feel like a living corpse in that COVID ward. Pain was excruciating, so was this feeling of dying alone in that apathetic space.

They keep a tab on your vital signs from distance there. Then, one day, one of them came and told me that my body wasn’t absorbing the right level of oxygen. My lung power was falling, so was the hope of coming alive from that ward.

It’s terrifying to be in that situation. All of a sudden, you wondered about the futility of your dreams, goals and life plans. Nothing made sense.

I was looking forward to this summer to attend my niece’s wedding. But then, who knew that I would instead be fighting for my own life in that horror ward, where you’re being dumped as some filthy person.

Case 4: ‘You Do Not Want To Catch This!’

After nursing COVID symptoms for 10 days, I suddenly fainted one day, and vomited. I had to call for help and was under observation for one night. The long feared news finally came and sent me packing to a COVID-designated hospital.

Soon as I breathed heavy, they put a device in my mouth. I started to panic. I had this sense of drowning and dying. I thought of my young kids and how they would be managing at my relative’s place. I imagined myself falling from a cliff and going down in an abyss. You develop that sort of mindset when you realise that you are up against a formidable enemy—who was slowly leaving you breathless.

Some days after, my situation started to improve. I moved on to another ward with four others.

After a few days, I was one of the lucky ones who made it through. I came home, but trust me, you do not want to catch this!

Case 5: ‘I Lived Death’

I woke up one morning gasping for air, feeling that I was having a heart attack. An initial coronavirus test came back negative. But when the symptoms worsened, I got tested again. This time the results were positive.

In a ward full of COVID patients, I struggled with fever and heavy breathing. It felt like something was stuck there and not coming out.

Nights were more tormenting. I did not go to sleep for three days because I was scared that I wouldn’t wake up.

I lived death and that too when there was hardly anyone to console you.

Yet I made it alive from the hospital, where I saw the virus consuming a poor patient.

Pandemic’s Impact On Adolescents

SHREEJA RAVINDRANATHAN

COVID-19 has undeniably upended life as we knew it, redefining what normal is. But the disruption brought on by the pandemic has dealt a heavier blow to teenagers. With educational institutions still closed and extracurricular activities at a standstill, young adults have lost out on their main avenue of human interaction and socialisation – schools and universities.

“This can result in a feeling of boredom, social isolation, helplessness and even fear of exclusion from social connections,” says Tanya Dharamshi, clinical director and counselling psychologist at Priory Wellbeing Centre, Dubai, who has seen a marked increase in anxiety, depression and OCD in teenagers since schooling went online. She suggests some tips families can follow at home to help their teenagers manage thoughts and emotions.

1. Develop a “worry box”

Get your kids to write down their worries about exams, missing their friends, loneliness, college placements. Writing feelings down will help them process it and discuss them with parents. Reassure them verbally, emotionally and physically; even the most independent and grown-up teens need a hug.

2. Lead by example

Children, no matter their age, look up to their parents as role models and mirror your calm and confident demeanour. But do normalise being vulnerable and acknowledge how the current situation is worrying for you as well so they know they’re not alone.

3. Limit screen time

There is real potential for some teenagers to be addicted to their electronic devices and isolate from family and friends. Prevent that by scheduling time for digital learning, slots for communication with friends and time for accessing the news, so they’re not overwhelmed by grim news reports and never-ending statistics that can also exacerbate anxiety.

4. Count the positives

Missing out on important events to mark milestones, such as graduations, sports meets and fare-



wells, can exacerbate emotions of anger and disappointment. It’s important to redirect their attention to what they can do. Point out how there’s now time to bond with siblings and family members, rewatch their favourite movies, or even learn a new instrument or language.

5. Don’t predict the future

Trying to foresee what’s in store in terms of internships, job opportunities and university admissions can make them feel anxious and being left in limbo. Instead guide them to prepare for the next part of their future by reading books for their upcoming academic year or university course, learning to touch type, doing fund raising or volunteer work to enhance CVs, etc.

6. Nurture friendships

Peer interaction shapes a teen’s identity and beliefs and equips them with skills such as reading body language and non-verbal cues, how to react in

a variety of situations – all vital stepping stones into adulthood.

Trying to foresee what’s in store in terms of internships, job opportunities and university admissions can make them feel anxious and being left in limbo. Instead guide them to prepare for the next part of their future, says counselling psychologist Tanya Dharamshi

Supplied

So it’s critical their communication with friends now is over the phone or video chat instead of just texting, so that they can also hear changes in voice and see facial expressions.

7. Go outdoors

Encourage them to step out of the house daily. Running errands lets them interact with people other than family, which will hone their social skills, instil a sense of independence, make them feel valued and stop them from withdrawing into themselves.

Also, outdoor exercise releases feel-good chemicals in our brain, such as endorphins and serotonin, which can reduce stress and symptoms of depression and anxiety.

8. Keep routines intact

Try and continue rituals such as sit-down family dinners, at least one meal per day. It’s a chance to chat about what’s on their mind and check-in on teens who spend a lot of time studying alone in their rooms.

“Get your kids to write down their worries about exams, missing their friends, loneliness, college placements. Writing feelings down will help them process it and discuss them with parents. Reassure them verbally, emotionally and physically; even the most independent and grown-up teens need a hug.



87 % Indian Adults Believe Online Gaming Affects Well-Being: Survey

Agencies

NEW DELHI: About 87 per cent adults in Indian cities believe that online gaming takes a toll on their physical and mental well-being, showed a survey on Tuesday.

About 76 per cent of respondents feel that addiction to action games lead to changed behaviour and can increase depression and anxiety levels, according to the "India Digital Wellness Report" by consumer cybersecurity brand NortonLifeLock.

Nearly 70 per cent of respondents feel that children connecting with strangers while playing games online can lead to cyberbullying, harassment, and violence.

The findings are based on an online survey of over 1,500 city-based Indian adults.

"People could be drawn to online gaming for entertainment, but data shows that it is not all about fun and games. The virtual playing field comes with risks such as identity theft, cyber bullying, phishing, and credit card theft, to name a few," Ritesh Chopra, Director, NortonLifeLock, India, said in a statement.

Two of every three respondents said they prefer playing online games to going outdoors or having social interactions.

Almost 73 per cent of the parents in the survey said that their children prefer shooting and adventure games, while 21 per cent said that their children show a

preference for casino and card games.

There is a sense of growing concern among parents as 45 per cent of respondents said they find it difficult to control their children's smartphone usage.

Interestingly, 81 per cent of the respondents who put a check mechanism on children's usage of smartphones feel they have not been effective in controlling the gaming time.

The children of 42 per cent of these respondents played games online for more than two hours every day.

However, online gaming seems to have some positive impact, too, on users.

About 81 per cent of respondents feel that multiplayer online games enhance teamwork skills, while 70 per

cent of respondents feel that playing online games can make people smarter, as they improve brain coordination and reaction.

The online gaming space, largely perceived to be male dominated, seems to have a lot of female takers, the results showed.

About 88 per cent of female respondents find online games to be the best pastime as compared to 86 per cent of their male counterparts.

The study also showed that when it comes to mobile gaming, children and parents tend to have a shared behaviour – six in every 10 respondents said that they and their children spend roughly the same amount of time playing games online.

Filtering Capacity Of Face Masks 'Adversely Affected' By Repeated Coughing: Study

Press Trust Of India

London: While facial masks reduce the spread of COVID-19, their filtering efficiency is adversely affected by repeated coughing, according to a new study which recommends complete personal protective equipment for healthcare workers including helmets with built-in air filters, and face shields.

Scientists, including Talib Dbouk and Dimitris Drikakis from the University of Nicosia in Cyprus, used computer models to map out the expected flow patterns of small droplets released when a mask-wearing person coughs repeatedly.

Earlier computer simulations the researchers showed that droplets of saliva can travel 18 feet in five seconds when an unmasked person coughs.

In the current study, published in the journal *Physics of Fluids*, they used an extended model to consider the effect of multiple cycles of coughing on the filtering efficiency of face masks.

According to the study, while masks can reduce the spread of airborne droplets, their effectiveness is adversely affected by repeated coughing, as might happen when an individual is ill.

The scientists added that the use of a mask does not provide complete protection, and social distancing remains important during a pandemic.

In the analysis, the researchers modelled a sequence of coughs by applying several cycles of forward-directed velocity pulses to the initial droplets.

They then performed numerical simulations to account for droplet interactions with the porous filter in a surgical mask.

According to the scientists, even when a mask is worn, some droplets can travel a considerable distance, up to one



metre, during bouts of mild coughing.

Without a mask, they said droplets travel twice as far, adding that wearing a mask will help.

While masks also decrease the number of droplets leaking out the sides of the mouth, they fail to eliminate this entirely, the researchers said.

"The droplet sizes change and fluctuate continuously during cough cycles as a result of several interactions with

Women's Communication Plays Key Role In Household During Lockdown

Agencies

A new study has found that partner communication is the most important factor linking the division of household labour to satisfaction in the relationship. For women, an equal division of labour is important to their relationship satisfaction. For men, it depends on how his partner communicates with him.

In the study, Daniel Carlson of the University of Utah Department of Family and Consumer Studies led a team that analysed the role that communication plays in the division of household labour.

The study, published in the journal *Socius*, focused on two things: How partners' communication influences the division of housework, and what role partners' communication quality plays in shaping how the division of housework affects relationship satisfaction.

The authors used data on 487 heterosexual couples from the 2006 Marital and Relationship Survey. Amanda Miller and Stephanie Rudd from the University of Indianapolis were co-authors of the study.

For many couples, COVID-19 quarantine has shattered the normal routine and led some to renegotiate who does what around the

house. Research has shown that the way couples divide up housework and how they feel about their arrangements are related to relationship satisfaction.

"Right now people are quarantined, and families have lost important supports that enabled them to work. We've lost child care and schools, and some people have lost jobs, so more responsibilities have been thrust onto parents," said Carlson, associate professor and lead author of the paper. "In these times, focusing on the division of labor and understanding what factors shape it is important."

The study found that the way women communicate shapes how couples split up the housework, and when women communicate negatively, men do more. However, the negative communication causes men's relationship satisfaction to decline. Men's communication isn't implicated in how couples divide the housework.

When men contribute equally to household duties, they communicate better. When women do the majority of the housework, men communicate worse.

"The division of labour has ramifications for not only individual relationships in terms of how happy they are, but also has impli-

cations more broadly in society," said Carlson. "When societies have gender equality, people have more life satisfaction and happiness."

At first, Carlson had expected that men's communication would determine the division of labour. Traditionally, women have had difficulty gaining equality in relationships and men were the impediment to this. But in this study, that doesn't bear out.

"Women's communication driving the labour division makes a lot of sense. If change needs to happen, women tend to be the one that's going to fight for more equality. The burden of communication would fall on their shoulders," said Carlson.

"It's also surprising that it's not compassionate communication that gets men to do more housework, it's the negative communication," Carlson is now looking into how the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent quarantines has shifted the parents' divisions of childcare and housework. In a pre-publication brief, Carlson shared his and the team's initial findings. They analysed responses to a survey of 1,060 parents in heterosexual couples conducted in mid-April that asked them to assess the division of labour in their household during the pandemic compared with before it began.

Wearable patch can efficiently deliver drug to treat skin cancer

Agencies

New York- Purdue University innovators in the US have created a novel wearable patch with fully miniaturized nanoneedles that can enhance drug delivery for people with melanoma which is a form of skin cancer.

The bioresorbable silicon nanoneedles are built on a thin, flexible and water-soluble medical film.

The water-soluble film serves as a temporary holder that can be conformably interfaced with the soft, curvilinear surface of the skin during the insertion of the nanoneedles, followed by rapid, complete dissolution within a minute.

The surface of the nanoneedles is configured with nanoscale pores and provides a large drug loading capacity comparable to those using conventional microneedles.

According to Chi Hwan Lee, a Purdue assistant professor of biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering, nanoneedles could deliver the chemotherapeutic drugs to target melanoma sites in a sustainable manner.

Being happy can protect you from gastrointestinal distress

Agencies

NEW YORK: Researchers have found that Serotonin, a chemical known for encouraging happiness and well-being, can reduce the ability of some intestinal pathogens to cause deadly infections.

The findings, publishing in the journal *Cell Host & Microbe*, could offer a new way to fight infections for which few truly effective treatments currently exist.

"Although the vast majority of research on serotonin has cen-

tered on its effects in the brain, about 90 per cent of this neurotransmitter - a chemical that nerve cells use to communicate with each other - is produced in the gastrointestinal tract, study lead author Vanessa Sperandio from UT Southwestern Medical Centre in the US, explained.

In humans, trillions of bacteria live within this space. Most of these gut bacteria are beneficial, but pathogenic bacteria can also colonize the gastrointestinal tract, causing serious and potentially fatal infections.

Because gut bacteria are signif-

icantly affected by their environment, the research team wondered whether the serotonin produced in the gut can affect the virulence of pathogenic bacteria that infect the gastrointestinal tract.

They worked with *Escherichia coli* O157, a species of bacteria that causes periodic outbreaks of often deadly food-borne infection. The team grew these pathogenic bacteria in Petri dishes in the lab, then exposed them to serotonin.

Gene expression tests showed that serotonin significantly reduced the expression of

a group of genes that these bacteria use to cause infections.

Additional experiments using human cells showed that the bacteria could no longer cause infection-associated lesions on the cells if these bacteria were exposed to serotonin. Next, the researchers examined how serotonin affected virulence in living hosts.

Using mice, the researchers studied how serotonin might change the ability for *Citrobacter rodentium* - a mouse gut bacterium often used as an analog for *E. coli* in humans - to infect and sicken their hosts.

CIA Unit That Crafts Hacking Tools Didn't Protect Itself

Agencies

Washington: A specialised CIA unit that developed sophisticated hacking tools and cyber weapons didn't do enough to protect its own operations and wasn't prepared to adequately respond when the secrets were stolen, according to an internal report prepared after the worst data loss in the intelligence agency's history.

"These shortcomings were emblematic of a culture that evolved over years that too often prioritised creativity and collaboration at the expense of security," according to the report, which raises questions about cybersecurity practices inside U.S. intelligence agencies.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., a senior member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, obtained the redacted report from the Justice Department after it was introduced as evidence in a court case this year involving the stolen CIA hacking tools.

He released it on Tuesday along with a letter he wrote to new national intelligence director John Ratcliffe, asking him to explain what steps he's taking to protect the nation's secrets held by federal intelligence agencies.

The October 2017 report,

whose findings were first reported by The Washington Post, examined the theft one year earlier of sensitive cyber tools the CIA had developed to hack into the networks of adversaries.

The document is dated months after WikiLeaks announced that it had acquired tools created by the CIA's specialized Center for Cyber Intelligence.

The anti-secrecy website published comprehensive descriptions of 35 tools, including internal CIA documents associated with them, according to the report.

The report describes the spring 2016 theft as the largest data loss in agency history — compromising at least 180 gigabytes to as much as 34 terabytes of information, or the equivalent of 11.6 million to 2.2 billion pages in Microsoft Word.

The agency did not realize the loss had occurred until the WikiLeaks announcement a year later, the report said.

As officials scrambled to pinpoint who was responsible, they ultimately identified as a prime suspect a CIA software engineer who they said had left the agency on stormy terms after falling out with colleagues and supervisors and had acted out of revenge.

Palestinians Shred Files Amid Fear Of Israeli Incursion



Agencies

RAMALLAH: Palestinian security services have been destroying secret files, fearing Israeli raids on their offices as the Jewish state weighs annexing parts of the occupied West Bank, sources in such organs say.

"We have been ordered to destroy confidential documents in our possession and we have obeyed this order," a Palestinian security source said, adding that the instructions came from "high up".

During the Palestinian uprising known as the Second Intifada, which erupted in the early 2000s and included waves of suicide bombings, Israeli security forces repeatedly stormed Palestinian security services' offices and removed confidential documents.

Several Palestinian security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the services are concerned that this could happen again if Israel moves ahead with annexation.

US President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan, unveiled in late January, envisions Israel annexing its settlements and the Jordan Valley in the West Bank.

More than 450,000 Israelis live in settlements deemed illegal under international law, alongside 2.7 million Palestinians in the wider West Bank.

Washington's proposals provide for the creation of a Palestinian state, but on reduced territory and without Palestinians' core demand of a capital in east Jerusalem. The plan has been rejected in its entirety by the Palestinians.

One Palestinian security source, who did not describe the nature of the documents, said the security services began destroying them a month ago, around the time Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas said he was ending security coordination with Israel.



WHO Moves To Update Covid-19 Guidance After 'Great News' In Drug Study

Agencies

Seoul: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said it was moving to update its guidelines on treating people stricken with COVID-19 to reflect results of a clinical trial that showed a cheap, common steroid can help save critically-ill patients.

Trial results announced on Tuesday by researchers in Britain showed dexamethasone, used since the 1960s to reduce inflammation in diseases such as arthritis, cut death rates by around a third among the most severely ill COVID-19 patients admitted to hospital.

Britain has increased the amount of dexamethasone it has in stock and on order to 240,000 doses, health minister Matt Hancock said.

But some doctors were cautious, citing possible side effects and asking to see more data.

The WHO's clinical guidance for treating patients infected with the new coronavirus is aimed at doctors and other medical professionals and seeks to use the latest data to inform clinicians on how best to tackle all phases of the disease, from screening to discharge.

Although the dexamethasone study's results are preliminary, the researchers behind the project said it suggests the drug should immediately become standard care in

Trial results announced on Tuesday by researchers in Britain showed dexamethasone, used since the 1960s to reduce inflammation in diseases such as arthritis, cut death rates by around a third among the most severely ill COVID-19 patients admitted to hospital.

severely stricken patients.

For patients on ventilators, the treatment was shown to reduce mortality by about one third, and for patients requiring only oxygen, mortality was cut by about one fifth, according to preliminary findings shared with WHO.

The benefit was only seen in patients seriously ill with COVID-19 and was not observed in patients with milder disease. The positive news comes as coronavirus infections accelerated in some places including the United States and as Beijing cancelled scores of flights to help contain a fresh outbreak

in China's capital.

"This is the first treatment to be shown to reduce mortality in patients with COVID-19 requiring oxygen or ventilator support," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement late on Tuesday. The agency said it was looking forward to the full data analysis of the study in coming days. "WHO will co-ordinate a meta-analysis to increase our overall understanding of this intervention. WHO clinical guidance will be updated to reflect how and when the drug should be used in COVID-19," the agency added.

South Korea's top health official cautioned about the use of the drug for COVID-19 patients due to potential side effects.

"Some experts have warned of the drug not only reducing the inflammatory response in patients, but also the immune system and may trigger side effects," said Jeong Eun-kyeong, head of Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We have been burned before, not just during the coronavirus pandemic but even pre-COVID, with exciting results that when we have access to the data are not as convincing," said Dr. Kathryn Hibbert, director of the medical intensive care unit at Harvard's Massachusetts General Hospital.

Coronavirus Leaves More Americans Dead Than World War One

Agencies

Washington: With 740 new coronavirus deaths in 24 hours, the United States has seen more people die from the pandemic than died in World War I, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The new figure, counted at 8:30 pm (0030 GMT) Tuesday, brought the country's total COVID-19 deaths up to 116,854, the tracker from the Baltimore-based university showed.

The increase came after two days of death tolls under 400.

And 23,351 new cases in the same 24-hour period brought the total US count up

to 2,134,973, making it by far the hardest-hit of any country in the world.

The country's pandemic death toll had already passed that of its soldiers in the Vietnam War in late April.

The United States, where many businesses are reopening, continues to register around 20,000 new cases of the novel coronavirus each day. Several states are even recording their highest levels of new cases since the start of the pandemic.

The administration of President Donald Trump, who has downplayed risks of the virus and instead focused on reviving the economy as he faces a tough re-election battle in November, insists there will be no shutdown of the economy

if a second full-blown wave of the epidemic arises.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell meanwhile warned that the US economy is unlikely to recover as long as "significant uncertainty" remains over the course of the pandemic.

Trump has come under scrutiny for an upcoming campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma — his first since March when the pandemic halted mass gatherings. It is so far planned for an indoor arena that holds about 20,000 people.

The United States also agreed to keep its borders with Mexico and Canada closed until July 21, officials said Tuesday, extending travel restrictions for a third time due to the pandemic. — AFP

Seven nations vie for five UN Security Council seats

Agencies

United States: The UN General Assembly (GA) on Wednesday will elect five new non-permanent members of the Security Council for a 2021-2022 term, with battles under way for the Western and African seats.

Kenya and Djibouti are facing off for an African Group seat, while in the Western European and Others Group three nations - Canada, Ireland and Norway - are vying for two seats among them.

In the Asia-Pacific Group, India - which has been trying unsuccessfully to win a permanent seat in an expanded Security Council - is assured of a seat as it is running unopposed, as is Mexico in the Latin America and Caribbean Group. This year, Africa failed to continue its tradition of

welcoming of refugees from Somalia and South Sudan, as well as support it has given the two countries' fragile governments.

Djibouti, in turn, notes its strategic location and unusual role as a defence base for diverse countries - France, the United States, China and Japan - as well as its contributions in Somalia.

In the Western bloc, the competition is more customary. Canada is still stung by a defeat in 2010 during its last bid for the Security Council when the GA chose Portugal instead.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has invested heavily in the latest Security Council effort, with a defeat potentially causing him political embarrassment at home.



deciding a candidate among the member states, setting the stage for a showdown on Wednesday.

Kenya enjoys the support of the African Union, but Djibouti says it should have the seat because Nairobi already sat on the Security Council twice.

French-speaking Djibouti and English-speaking Kenya are both highlighting their roles in seeking peace in the Horn of Africa, as well as their contributions to UN peace-keeping missions.

Kenya has pointed to its

Celine Dion vs Bono

Hoping to woo delegates, both Canada and Ireland have brought out their star power. Celine Dion sang in New York City to promote Canada at the UN, while U2 performed a concert in the Big Apple for Ireland.

"Campaigning for a UNSC seat involves endless lobbying, entertaining and worrying that the ambassador who just promised you a vote is a liar," tweeted Richard Gowan, an expert on the world body at the International Crisis Group.

Fools Gold? \$190,000 In Gold Bars Unclaimed From Swiss Train

Agencies

Geneva: If you happened to leave more than \$190,000 worth of gold bars in a Swiss train, you can now come forward to claim it.

Authorities in the central city of Lucerne say a package containing bars worth some 182,000 Swiss francs was found in a train that arrived from the northern town of St. Gallen in October, and efforts to find the owner failed.

The bars were then seized by Lucerne prosecutors. Regional authorities confirmed on Tuesday a statement from law enforcement over the weekend saying any claimant has five years to report "justified claims" of ownership.

The incident is eye-popping even for a wealthy Alpine country with a high cost, and standard, of living.

In a similar incident three

years ago, authorities in Geneva turned up wads of cut-up 500-euro notes (about \$600 at the time) that were mysteri-



ously jammed into the toilets of three restaurants and a bank in separate episodes. The shredded notes were once worth tens of thousands of euros in total. — AP

NEW SMAKERS

'Neelam Ghar' Fame Tariq Aziz No More

M Zulqernain | PTI

Lahore: Pakistan's first television male broadcaster Tariq Aziz passed away here on Wednesday.

Aziz, 84, was born in Jalandhar in 1936. After partition, his family migrated to Pakistan and settled in Sahiwal. Later, he moved to Lahore.

"Aziz was diabetic and had heart issues. Today morning, he felt pain in his chest and was rushed to a hospital where he breathed his last," his family said.

When Pakistan's first television broadcast (PTV) was made in November 1964, Aziz became the first male news anchor.

His game show, Neelam Ghar, started in 1970s on PTV and remained the most



popular show for over three decades.

The COVID-19 lockdown seems to have impacted his life and recently he expressed his frustration on being "detained" at home.

"It seems as if time has paused and life has stopped. I have been lying in this bed for so many days and thinking what a blessing the freedom of movement itself was," Aziz tweeted on June 16.

"I wonder when old time will return, for now I see no hope," he said.

Aziz performed in over half-a-dozen films in late 1960s and 1970s.

He also joined politics in mid-1990s and became a member of National Assembly on the platform of PML-N in 1997. He was later disqualified by the Supreme Court for his alleged involvement in an attack on the Supreme Court by a PML-N rally.

Aziz was awarded the prestigious Pride of Performance Award by the Pakistan government in 1992.

Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed grief over the death of Aziz.

"I am saddened to hear about Aziz's death. He was an icon in his time and a pioneer of our TV game shows," he said.

Some Amazon villagers eschew drugs for COVID-19, take 'toothache plant' herbal tea

Portel : Some villagers in the eastern Amazon are spurning Brazilian government advice to take the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine to keep the novel coronavirus at bay and are drinking tea of jambú, also known as the toothache plant.

Maria de Nazaré Sajes, 65, tested positive for the coronavirus and believes she fought off the symptoms by drinking the infusion of bitter leaves.

"I made jambú tea and felt healthy again. People said: 'Look at Maria, how she has recovered, she no fever or pains'," Maria said boiling water on a gas stove in her wooden house.

Her village on the banks of a tributary of the Amazon



was visited by public health workers to test inhabitants for the virus that is ravaging Brazil in the world's second worst outbreak after the United States.

US regulators withdrew approval this week for the emergency use of hydroxychloroquine to treat patients with COVID-19, the disease caused

by the new coronavirus. It is still being prescribed in Brazil as scientists around the world are working to develop a vaccine and effective treatments.

In remote corners of the Amazon rainforest, where access to intensive care wards can require long boat rides to the nearest cities, prevention is paramount, and people there place their faith in traditional herbal medicines.

Nurse Marília Costa says there is resistance to taking hydroxychloroquine.

"We are seeing that most inhabitants here are taking home-made remedies that they believe have great curative qualities," she said. "They accept pills for fever, but they take it with their own local medicine."

"Closely Monitoring" India-China Border Clash In Ladakh: US

WASHINGTON: The US is "closely monitoring" the situation following a fierce clash between Indian and Chinese forces in eastern Ladakh, and hopes that the differences will be resolved peacefully, a senior State Department official has said.

Twenty Indian Army personnel, including a Colonel, were killed in the clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley on Monday night, the biggest military confrontation in over five decades that has significantly escalated the already volatile border standoff between the two countries.

"We are closely monitoring the situation between Indian and Chinese forces along the Line of Actual Control," the State Department spokesperson said on Monday.

"We note the Indian military has announced that 20 soldiers have died, and we offer our condolences to their families," the official said.

Both India and China have expressed their desires to de-escalate and the US supports a peaceful resolution of the current situation, the spokesperson said.

"During their phone call on June 2, 2020, President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had discussed the situation along the India-China border," the official added.

The Indian Army initially said on Tuesday that an officer and two soldiers were killed. But in a late evening



statement, it revised the figure to 20 saying 17 others who "were critically injured in the line of duty and exposed to sub-zero temperatures at the standoff location succumbed to their injuries."

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry officials were silent on the casualties suffered by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops, but Hu Xijin, the editor of the ruling Communist Party-run Global Times tabloid, tweeted to say that there are casualties on Chinese side too.

According to a report in the US News, at least 35 Chinese troops including one senior official died in the violent clash with Indian soldiers.

"According to the US (intelligence) assessment, the Chinese government considers the casualties among

their troops as a humiliation for its armed forces and has not confirmed the numbers for fear of emboldening other adversaries," the report said on Monday, quoting unnamed sources.

Meanwhile, leading US experts on the region have commented on the India-China violent face-off and said that the Chinese military's aggressive maneuvers posed a threat to the entire region.

If there is one lesson for the US to draw from this, it is that the India-China border needs to be on the US foreign policy radar screen as a frontline for Chinese assertiveness, said Alyssa Ayres from the Council on Foreign Relations.

SC: Moratorium Means Banks Can Charge Interest But Not 'Interest On Interest'

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Wednesday said there is "no merit in charging interest on interest" for deferred loan payment instalments during the moratorium period announced in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan observed that once moratorium is fixed then it should serve the desired purposes and the government should consider interfering in the matter as it cannot leave everything to banks.

"Once the moratorium is fixed then it should serve the desired purposes and we see no merit in charging interest on interest," the bench, also comprising Justices S K Kaul and Justice M R Shah, orally observed.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by an Agra resident Gajendra Sharma, who has sought a direction to declare the portion of the RBI's March 27 notification "as ultra vires to the extent it charges interest on the loan amount during the moratorium period, which create hardship to the petitioner being borrower and creates hindrance and obstruction in 'right to life' guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of India".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India, told the apex court that waiving the interest

completely will not be easy for banks as they have to pay interest to their depositors.

"There are 133 lakh crore rupees in deposits with banks and interest has to be paid on them and the waiver will have a cascading effect," Mehta told the bench.

The bench, which posted the matter for hearing in first week of August for allowing the Centre and the RBI to review the situation, asked the Indian Banks Association to examine whether they can bring new guidelines in the meantime on the issue of loan moratorium.

Mehta argued that complete waiver of interest during moratorium period might risk the financial stability of banks and this would put the interests of depositors in jeopardy.

The counsel representing banks association and State Bank of India (SBI) urged the bench that the matter should be deferred by three months.

The counsel appearing for banks said that plea seeking waiver of interest during moratorium period is premature and the banks would have to consider the issue on a case to case basis.

On June 12, the top court had asked the Finance Ministry and the RBI to hold a meeting within three days to decide on waiver of interest on interest for deferred payments of instalments for loans during moratorium period.



India Sees Record Jump Of 2,000 Dead, Germany Advises Citizens To Leave

NEW DELHI: India's official coronavirus death count leapt by more than 2,000 to reach 11,903 on Wednesday as Germany advised its citizens to consider leaving the country because of growing health risks.

Mumbai revised its count up by 862 to 3,165 because of unspecified accounting "discrepancies" while Delhi saw a record jump of more than 400 deaths, taking its total to more than 1,800.

It was not immediately clear how many of the deaths had occurred in the past 24 hours and how many were from adjustments over a longer period.

The pandemic has badly hit densely populated major cities and Chennai ordered a new lockdown from Friday because of a surge in cases.

Elsewhere, lockdowns are gradually being eased because of the damage they have caused the economy.

India, the fourth-worst-hit country in the world by cases, has now recorded 354,065 cases, according to official figures.

Experts say the figure is much higher and have called for more widespread testing.

With hospitals in several cities now struggling to keep up with the pandemic, Germany became the first country to warn its nationals about staying in the country.

The German foreign ministry sent a message to nationals in India saying it "recommends that you and your families seriously consider whether a temporary return to Germany or another coun-

try with an assured health care system makes sense".

The note said that while the lockdown was being eased "unlike in Europe, case numbers are still rising strongly. This increases considerably the risk of infection."

The embassy said its medical experts believed that people with the coronavirus and other serious medical needs have "no or very little chance of being admitted to hospitals. This increases considerably the health risks of a stay in India."

Hospitals in Mumbai have been overwhelmed by coronavirus cases, while the government has sent specially adapted railway carriages to Delhi and authorities have taken over hotels and banquet halls to put coronavirus patients.

COVID-19 Situation Not Improving In Country, It's Getting Worse: Top Court

NEW DELHI: The COVID-19 situation in the country is worsening each passing day and not improving, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while extending the parole of a Punjab based businessman accused in a drug racket case.

The top court's observation came while hearing a criminal case in which the accused Jagjit Singh Chahal has sought extension of his parole ending next month.

A bench of Justices RF Nariman, Navin Sinha and BR Gavai said that in a situation like this there is no point in overcrowding the prisons when some of the accused are either out on bail or are on parole.

"You see...the COVID-19 situation is not getting any better with each passing day. It is only getting worse in the country," the bench told the Punjab government's counsel who opposed the plea.

The bench perused the affidavit of Punjab government which said that the bail was granted to him in the case on February 19 and his appeal is coming for hearing on July 16.



THE PAROLE IS TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE APPEAL IS HEARD AND finally decided provided that the petitioner cooperates and does not ask for any adjournment on any ground when the appeal comes up for hearing. The special leave petition is disposed of. Pending applications stand disposed of,"

India Set For Comfortable Victory In UN Security Council Elections

India is expected to register a comfortable victory in the Security Council elections on Wednesday that will bring the country to the UN high-table as a non-permanent member for the 2021-22 term.

The 193-member UN General Assembly will hold elections for President of the 75th session of the Assembly, five non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of the Economic and Social Council under special voting arrangements put in place at the UN headquarters due to COVID-19 related restrictions.

India is all set to join the powerful 15-nation Security Council as a non-permanent member. India is a candidate for a non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term.

India's victory is certain since it is the sole candidate vying for the lone seat from the grouping. New Delhi's candidature was unanimously endorsed by the 55-member Asia-Pacific grouping, including China and Pakistan, in June last year.

President of the UN General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad-Bande on Monday circulated a letter to member states with the names of candidates for the various elections. For the two vacant seats from among the African and Asia-Pacific States, three candidates have been communicated, namely, Djibouti, India and Kenya.

Of those three candidates, India and Kenya are endorsed candidates. For the one vacant seat from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, one endorsed candidate has been commu-



nicated, namely, Mexico.

For the two vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, three candidates have been communicated, namely, Canada, Ireland and Norway.

Each year the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of 10 in total) for a two-year term.

The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis as follows: five for African and Asian States; one for Eastern European States; two for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and two for Western European and other States.

To be elected to the Council, candidate countries need a two-thirds majority of bal-

lots of Member States that are present and voting in the Assembly.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti has said that India's presence in the Security Council will help bring to the world its ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', as he underscored that the United Nations as well as multilateralism need to change to reflect contemporary realities and remain credible as the world organization marks its 75th anniversary this year, "India's journey with the United Nations is quite a remarkable one. As a founding member of the United Nations, India's contribution to implementing the goals of the United Nations Charter and to the evolution of UN specialised agencies and programmes has been substantial. In many ways, quite extraordinary," Tirumurti said in a video message ahead of the elections.

Can't Award Death Penalty Retrospectively: Supreme Court On Telangana's Plea

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has refused to award death penalty to a convict, who committed rape and murder of a nine-year-old child last year in Telangana, nearly two months prior to the amendment of POCSO Act by parliament prescribing extreme sentence for the heinous crime, saying that retrospective effect to the law cannot be granted.

The Telangana government has moved the top court against the Hyderabad High Court order of November 12, last year by which it had commuted the death sentence of the 25-years-old youth, who committed the grave crime and awarded him life sentence till last breath.

The youth, Polepaka Praveen alias Pawan, was awarded death penalty in a trial completed in record time of 48 days by the lower court after the commission of crime on June 18-19, last year.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and KM Joseph said that it is unable to persuade itself with the argument of the state government on the aspect of retrospective punishment

of extreme sentence on the ground that a signal goes to the society by imposition of the death sentence.

"Firstly, we fail to see how retrospective effect can be granted when the punishment is to operate prospectively and logically so. Even otherwise, the punishment of not being released till his last breath is punitive enough to send a signal to the society and it cannot be that only the death sentence can send a right signal," the bench said.

The bench said, "We are of the view that the High Court has deemed it appropriate to impose the life sentence till the last breath, this Court under Article 136 of the Constitution of India should not interfere only for conversion of the same into again a death sentence was imposed by the trial court"

During the hearing, counsel appearing for the state submitted that the imposition of death sentence was included in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 with effect from August 6, 2019 and the offence was committed on June 18-19, 2019.

NEWS MAKERS

Man Dies On Road, Body Lies Unattended For 3 Hours Over COVID Fears In UP

SHAHJAHANPUR: The body of a 60-year-old man remained unattended for almost three hours on a roadside in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur, as people suspected that he had died due to COVID-19, an official said on Wednesday.

The man, identified as Liaquat, was a hairdresser in Mumbai and had recently returned to Tilhar in Shahjahanpur, he said.

Mr Liaquat was going to meet his niece on Tuesday, but started experiencing difficulty in breathing and died on the way, the official said.

The people feared they



might get infected with the coronavirus if they went near

him and his body remained unattended for almost three hours, the official said.

"On Tuesday evening, we got information that the body of a person was lying unattended. A ticket from Mumbai was found from his possession. This created doubts that the person is a COVID-19 suspect. After this, senior officials were informed," said Qamruzama, the in-charge of Tilhar primary health centre.

He said the body was buried on Tuesday night, as per the COVID-19 guidelines, and the graveyard was sanitised.

Man Beats Wife To Death For Mangoes In Odisha: Police

BHADRAK: A drunken man allegedly beat his wife to death for being unable to serve him mangoes in Bhadrak district of Odisha, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place at Jalamunda village on Monday after the accused Kartik Jena returned home late at night in an inebriated condition and asked his wife to give him mangoes to eat, police said.

When his wife told him that their children had eaten all the mangoes, the man picked up a bamboo plank



and started hitting her.

Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to their house and found the woman lying unconscious.

She was rushed to Dhamnagar hospital where doctors declared her brought dead.

Additional Superintendent of Police Kailash

Chandra Parida said, Jena was arrested on Tuesday and an investigation is in progress.

The body has been sent for post-mortem.