



Maximum : 33°C
Minum : 17°C
Humidity : 40%

SUNSET
Today 07:43 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:30 AM



News Digest

Section 144 Imposed In Budgam

Budgam: Authorities in Central Kashmir's Budgam district imposed restrictions under section 144. The prohibitory order has been implemented in wake of surge in Covid-19 cases.

Eyewitnesses said that police vehicles were seen making announcements, informing people that section 144 has been imposed in the district. Shopkeepers were asked to close their shops in wake of the imposition of the prohibitory order.

When contacted, a district administration official said the prevailing health situation due to Covid-19 has given rise to **P-02**

Boy 'Mistakenly' Consuming 'Poison', Dies

Shopian: A minor died after he "mistakenly" consumed some poisonous substance inside his home in Feeripora area of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Monday afternoon.

A police official said that a minor boy identified as Zahid Yousuf Mantoo son of Mohammad Yousuf, a resident of Feeripora Motaj consumed some poisonous substance mistakenly. He said that though the boy was rushed to district hospital Kulgam, he succumbed at the hospital. "We have registered **P-02**

CASO Launched In Srinagar Area

Srinagar: Government Forces Monday launched a cordon-and-search operation in Habakadal area of Srinagar city.

Sources said that combined forces launched a cordon-and-search operation Zaindar Mohalla of Haba Kadal area. The sudden operation launched in congested area surprised people. Sources said the operation was launched following the inputs about the movement of suspected militants in the area. A police official said that **P-02**

Abandoned Drone Recovered In Jammu

Jammu: Police on Monday morning recovered an abandoned drone from the fields in Boothai Chak village located on the outskirts of Jammu city. Police officials said that locals spotted some suspicious object lying in fields in Boothai Chak village which falls under the jurisdiction of Phalian Mandal police post of Jammu. "Locals informed the police following which a police team rushed to the spot and took the object in their possession," they said. However later, during investigation, it came to fore that **P-02**

Man Injured In Bear Attack In Ganderbal

Ganderbal: A 50-year-old man was injured in a bear attack in Cherwan area of Kangan in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Monday morning. An official said that a man identified as Abdul Rasheed Tenda, son of Shams-u-din Tenda of Thune Kangan was attacked by a black bear near an orchard in the upper-belt of Cherwan, leaving him severely wounded. In the attack, Rasheed suffered serious head injuries and was taken to Sub-District Hospital Kangan where from doctors referred him to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment—

First Time Since 1947, Martyrs' Day Observed Sans Govt

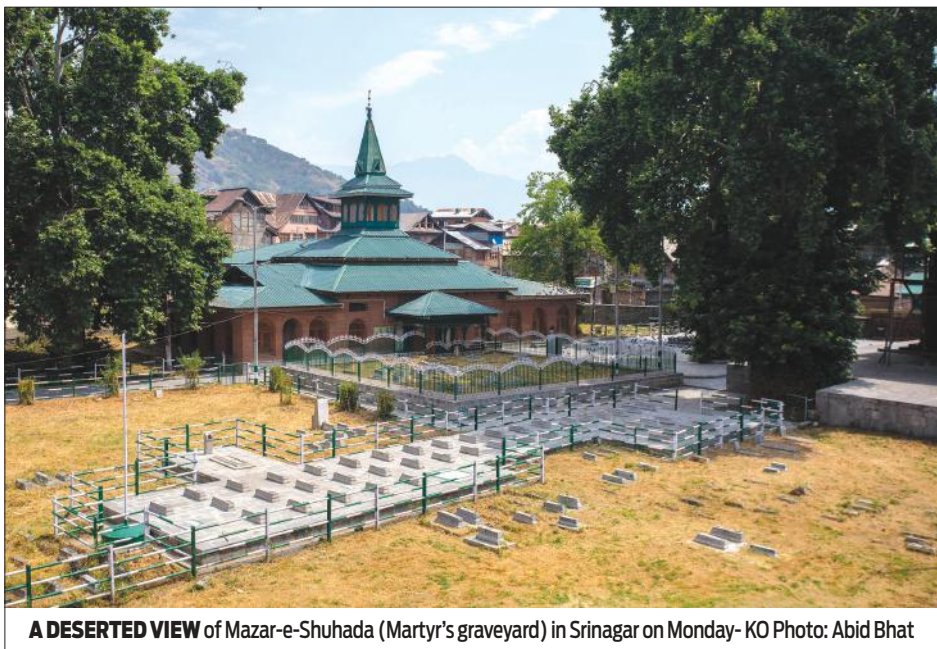
Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: For the first time since 1948, there was no holiday and official function to commemorate the annual Martyrs' Day in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

In a break from past, there was no function at the Martyrs' graveyard here after the government dropped July 13 from the list of gazetted holidays last year following the abrogation of special status of the state now turned into a union territory.

Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the then prime minister of Jammu and Kashmir, had declared July 13 as a holiday in 1948.

Apart from the official function at the Martyrs' graveyard situated in the lawns of Sufi shrine of Bahaudin Naqshband, unionist political leaders used to pay floral tributes at the resting place of 22 Kashmiris who were killed in Dogra army's firing while protesting the autocratic rule of Mahara-



A DESERTED VIEW of Mazar-e-Shuhada (Martyr's graveyard) in Srinagar on Monday- KO Photo: Abid Bhat

ja Hari Singh on this day in 1931. However none of the political leaders visited the graveyard on

Monday in view of the strict restrictions imposed in most parts of Kashmir to contain the spread

of coronavirus infection. The Shrine area in Khojabazar was sealed off and its **PAGE 02**

“PUTTING CURBS ON THE VISIT OF POLITICAL PARTIES TO MARTYRS' GRAVEYARD for paying homage to our heroes who laid down their precious lives against autocracy and oppression is unjustifiable,” Bukhari said in a statement.

Patient Declared Covid-19 Positive 6 Days After Death

Scores Of Women Waived Over The Body For Entire Night, Hundreds Participated In Funeral

PULWAMA: In what appears to be sheer negligence, a patient from Pulwama district of South Kashmir was declared Covid-19 positive six days after his death at SKIMS Soura.

Muhammad Ashraf Mir son of Muhammad Munavar Mir, resident of Nikloora village of Litter, Tehsil in Pulwama district who died at SKIMS last Wednesday, was declared positive for Covid-19 today after a gap of six days, a local news gathering agency KNO reported.

The relatives of deceased said that after Mir complained of breathless-

ness, they took him to GMC Anantnag, where his sample was taken and after few days he was referred to SKIMS, Soura where his another sample was taken for Covid-19 testing.

They said on Wednesday, SKIMS authorities asked them to wait till his report comes. "However, they asked us take the body saying that the deceased was negative for Covid," the family members of Mir claimed.

On Wednesday evening, Mir's body reached home and on Thursday morning he was laid to rest in his native village. "Hundreds of his relatives and neighbours **PAGE 02**

PHQ Sealed After Police Officer Tests Positive

SRINAGAR: A massive sanitisation drive was undertaken at Police headquarters Srinagar after a police officer tested positive to Covid-19 on Monday, reports said. Police said that the test samples taken of an officer came positive today following which a massive sanitisation drive was launched at the PHQ located in Hyderpora area of Srinagar.

He said all the officials including the officers have been asked to come out from the headquarters so that the massive sanitisation process will be started.

Meanwhile, officials said senior officers have been advised



File Pic

to avoid attending office for a few days as a precautionary measure. "The reports that PHQ has been completely closed are not true. It's a central office and can't be shut fully," an official said.

LG E-Inaugurates 10 Power Projects

Power Curtailment In Kashmir To Reduce By 6-8 Hours During Winter Season

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to the power sector in Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today e-inaugurated 10 power projects worth Rs 19.51 cr for Districts- Srinagar, Shopian, Anantnag, Budgam and Kulgam and laid foundation stones for 07 others costing Rs 30.35 cr for Srinagar, Pulwama, Anantnag and Baramulla districts of Kashmir.

This is in addition to the two projects viz Augmentation of

33/11 KV Receiving Station Yari-pora from 2x6.3 MVA to 2x10 MVA, Kulgam and Construction of 6.3 MVA Receiving Station, Batagund (Gulbagh), Trial, Pulwama costing Rs. 2.40 cr and Rs. 3.13 cr respectively, which were recently inaugurated by the Lt Governor during his tour to the said Districts, thus taking the total of newly commissioned power projects to 12 at the cost of Rs 25 cr.

Sh. Baseer Ahmad Khan, Advisor

to the Lieutenant Governor; Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, Sh. Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Managing Director, KPDC, Chief Engineers and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The Lt Governor observed that with the commissioning of new projects sanctioned under PMDP, IPDS, DDUGJY and languishing projects being implemented **PAGE 02**

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, Rohit Kansal informed that the newly inaugurated projects will benefit around 35,000 households across Kashmir.

Minor Drowns While Fishing in Dal

SRINAGAR: A minor drowned after he fell down while fishing in Dal Lake near Dalgate area here on Monday.

Official sources said that soon after the boy drowned, some locals immediately retrieved him even as the police party rushed to the spot. Later the boy was taken to SMHS hospital but was declared brought dead on arrival by the doctors there. He has been identified as Ayan Ahmad Sofi (9) son of Abdul Majeed Sofi of Khaniyar. A police official said that boy seems to have fallen due to giddiness.



40 Foreign, 17 Local Militants Active In North Kashmir: Police



SRINAGAR: Police Monday said that there were 35-40 foreign militants active in parts of north Kashmir.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police North Kashmir zone Mohammad Suleiman Chowdhary disclosing this on Monday said that 16 to 17 of the active militants were locals.

Addressing media persons in Sopore DIG said there are fluctuating reports about active militant operatives in northern Kashmir but as per the reports available at present, nearly 35 to 40 foreign militants are

active in northern districts besides 16 or 17 local militants.

He said foreign militants who are active in parts of north Kashmir may have infiltrated in last couple of months from across LOC.

Meanwhile 5 sector commander of Army, Vivek Narang, who was accompanying the DIG north Kashmir, said that "many of the infiltration attempts have been foiled by the forces along LoC. At present, some 250-300 militants are ready on launch pads to infiltrate but we are ready to foil any design."

SC Refuses To Entertain Plea For Covid Restrictions On Amarnath Yatra

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking restrictions on devotees in the Amarnath Yatra pilgrimage this year due to COVID-19 pandemic, saying the issue has to be left with the local administration to look into.

"We have to respect principle of separation of powers," said a bench comprising justices D Y Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and K J Joseph and declined to enter the arena of the executive which has to deal with it as per statutory norms.

"We are of view that recourse being taken here under Article



File Photo: Abid Bhat

32(of the Constitution) is inappropriate. The issue as to whether Yatra be held should be left with the local administration. Undoubtedly any decision arrived at must be based on law and all relevant

statutory provisions", the bench, which conducted the hearing through video conferencing, noted in the order.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by 'Shri Amarnath **PAGE 02**

Real Ayodhya In Nepal, Lord Ram Not Indian: Nepal PM Oli

KATHMANDU: After claiming Indian territory in the Lipulekh-Kalapani area, Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli, on Monday, claimed that Lord Rama belongs to Nepal, not India. Nepalese media quoted Oli as saying that 'real Ayodhya' is in Nepal and 'Lord Ram is Nepali, not Indian'.

"We have been oppressed a bit culturally. Facts have encroached. We still believe that we gave Sita to Indian Prince Ram. But we gave to the prince from Ayodhya, not India. Ayodhya is a village a little west to Birgunj, not the Ayodhya created now (sic)," Oli said at an event at his official residence in Baluwatar.

Oli was addressing a program to mark the birth anniversary of Bhanubhakta Acharya.

The stunning claim comes on the



backdrop of an ongoing diplomatic tussle between Kathmandu and New Delhi over the newly published Nepal map which claims Indian territory as its own.

Bilateral ties between India-Nepal were stressed after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-long road connecting Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8. Kathmandu reacted sharply to the **PAGE 02**

From Front page...

First Time Since 1947,...

gates locked by the police, residents said.

None of the leaders of Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq who had on Saturday called for a strike for the day, could visit the graveyard either.

A National Conference leader, however, said the party had applied for permission to visit the Martyrs' graveyard, but there was no response from the district administration.

Meanwhile, both NC and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) – the two key pro-establishment parties in Jammu and Kashmir – paid glowing tributes to the martyrs on this day.

In a statement, the NC said the day marked the inauguration of struggle of Jammu and Kashmir against oppression and discrimination .

The day has an emblematic importance for the people of Jammu and Kashmir as it marked the launch of widespread people's agitation for the restoration of their due human rights...

Every year we remember the supreme sacrifice of the martyrs of 13 July 1931, NC said adding the idea behind remembering them is not merely an act of reminiscing past but there is more to it. "On this day we galvanise our lives with their mission as was done by (NC founder) Sher-e-Kashmir (Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah) all through his life", NC president Farooq Abdullah said.

Farooq Abdullah, the Member of Parliament from Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, said it is the day of assertion of Jammu and Kashmir's identity and rights of its people.

"The day marks the shift from stoicism to dynamism. It was a fight of the tyrannised against a tyrant, of the oppressed against oppressors... I on this day pay my earnest tributes to all the martyrs who laid their lives on that day to secure a new dawn of freedom for future generations".

The martyrs of 1931 will continue to be a beacon of light for us and for the coming generations. Every single drop of their blood is sacred to us, he said.

NC vice-president Omar Abdullah while paying tributes to the martyrs said the day marks the collective defiance of the oppressed against oppressors .

The day is the watershed moment in the people's struggle for restoration of their universal human rights. It was their valour that inspired millions of others to rise against the then despotic and autocratic regime. We observe the day to reiterate our commitment to fight evil with kindness, violence with non-violence and peaceful struggle, he said.

The PDP, while paying tributes to the martyrs said, their role in Jammu and Kashmir's freedom struggle can neither be undone nor can be forgotten .

The memory of 13th July martyrs cannot be erased by changing the government calendar of holidays as they will live forever in the hearts and memories of every freedom loving democrat, a PDP spokesman said in a statement.

He said the PDP reiterates its commitment to the objectives of justice, empowerment and democratic rights that the martyrs have laid their lives down for.

Regional political parties used to pay homage to the martyrs on this day while the successive governments would organize official functions to commemorate this day in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) president Syed Altaf Bukhari termed the restrictions as highly regrettable.

Bukhari said that the martyrs' graveyard in Old Srinagar city symbolizes the legacy of those brave hearts and sons of the soil who sacrificed their lives to lay edifice for democracy and natural justice in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Putting curbs on the visit of political parties to martyrs' graveyard for paying homage to our heroes who laid down their precious lives against autocracy and oppression is unjustifiable," Bukhari said in a statement.

He said that July 13, 1931 is a historic day for the people of Jammu and Kashmir as the day marks the beginning of a struggle against suppression and inequality and its relevance will remain the same for times to come.

2 Militants Killed, Woman...

well as non-local militants including some top commanders like Riyaz Naikoo of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Qari Yasir of JeM, Hyder of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Burhan Koka of Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind were killed in series of military operations this year so far.

Earlier authorities snapped internet services in the Anantnag district soon after the news of the encounter broke out.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued here, Police spokesman said that on specific inputs generated by Anantnag Police regarding presence of militants in Srigufwara area of Anantnag, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by JKP, 03 RR and CRPF in the said area.

During the search operation, as the presence of militants got ascertained they were given the opportunity to surrender, however they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

In the indiscriminate firing by militants, one woman received gunshot injuries. She was shifted to hospital for treatment where her condition is stated to be stable.

In the ensuing encounter, two militants affiliated with JeM were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. One of the slain militants has been identified as Nasir alias Shahbaz alias Baz Bai, a Pakistan resident, 'A' category militant, while as the identification of the other slain militant is being ascertained.

"Arms and ammunition and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of encounter. Search in the area is in progress," police said.

Keeping in view present COVID situation, the dead bodies of the slain militants shall be sent to Baramulla for their last rites after conducting medico-legal formalities including collection of their DNA. "In case any family claims the slain militant to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for their identification and participation in last rites at Baramulla," police said.

In this connection, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station and investigation has been initiated, police said, while appealing people to cooperate with them till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any.

3 Slain Sopore Militants ...

Usman killed in encounter. He was involved in recent Militant attack at Sopore in which one CRPF jawan was killed and one civilian was killed. Big success for Police & Sfs."

Patient Declared Covid-19...

spent entire night wailing over the body of Mir while a large number of people also participated in his funeral," they said.

Today morning, the family members of Mir were taken by a big surprise when a medical team reached their home and asked them go with them for quarantine. "All of us were surprised after medical team asked us to get ready for quarantine," said Ashiq Ahmed, a close relation of deceased Mir. "If we were supposed to go under quarantine, then people of entire village have to go under quarantine as they participated in the funeral of the deceased."

He said that when the samples of the deceased were already taken at GMC Anantnag, how come authorities at the SKIMS, Soura told them that he had tested negative.

"You can't even imagine how many people came here for condolence and met his primary contacts and how many people they may have met since then in the past six days."

The family members of the deceased Mir have demanded a

thorough probe into the entire testing process of the deceased Mir to find out possible negligence on part of the doctors.

Meanwhile, experts say that this negligence of doctors can prove very dangerous and can prove super spreader of Covid-19. "This is a sheer negligence and this has put the life of hundreds of people at high risk," he said.

Dr Farooq Jan, Medical Superintendent at SKIMS said that there are clear cut guidelines that if a patient whose samples are awaited, dies, his/her body can't be withheld. Asked why reports came so late, he said that it happened only due to back log the reports that were received on July 08 were investigated today only—(KNO)

Lockdown Re-Imposed...

given by the authorities following the three-month-long strict lockdown.

However, the decision to re-impose the lockdown was taken by the district administration after certain sections demanded the re-imposition of lockdown following the spike in the number of COVID cases.

Many of the areas and roads were sealed by the authorities to thwart the movement of people. "The barricades were erected by the authorities in many areas while many bridges were also sealed by the authorities," they said.

Over 180 people have died due to the COVID-19 while over 10, 000 people have got infected to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far.

4 More Succumb To Covid-19

the toll of total deaths related to COVID-19 in the Union Territory to 186.

Officials sources said that four patients who died include 55-year-old CRPF man, 65-year-old man from Rawalpura Srinagar, 46-year-old man from Sopore Baramulla and 55-year-old woman from Arabal Pulwama.

Dr Nazir Choudhary, Medical Superintendent at SMHS said that a 55-year-old CRPF man of 174 Battalion Kulgam who was admitted on Sunday and was tested positive after his death on Monday. He was suffering from bilateral pneumonia and other ailments, he said.

Assistant Commandant and CRPF spokesman for (operations) in Kashmir, Junaid Khan also confirmed his death and said the deceased personal was tested positive for COVID-19.

He said that his last rites will take place as per the protocol and guidelines of authorities.

Dr G H Yatoo, Nodal Officer for COVID-19 at SKIMS said that a 46-year-old man from Sopore, who was admitted on July 07, died at SKIMS on Monday morning at 5:45 AM.

He said the patient was suffering from multiple myeloma, Thrombocytopenia, Electrolyte dysfunction and other ailments.

Dr Salim Tak, Medical Superintendent at CD hospital said that a 65-year-old man from Rawalpura Srinagar had come for COVID-19 sampling. However, he said that the man died while his sample was taken and he was tested positive after his death. He died due to Cardiac arrest and the patient was suffering from heart ailments.

He said that a 55-year-lady from Pulwama, who was admitted on July 05, died at CD hospital on Monday afternoon.

Dr. Tak further stated that the patient was suffering from COPD, bilateral pneumonia and other ailments.

With four more deaths, the death toll due to COVID-19 has reached to 186 in Jammu and Kashmir including 169 from Kashmir division and 17 from Jammu division— With inputs from KNO

4 Men in Police Custody, 13...

to 8495 including 4569 recoveries and 170 deaths while as total number of positive cases in Jammu division have reached to 2332 including 1526 recoveries and 17 deaths.

The officials said that total number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 4545 including 3756 from Kashmir division and 789 from Jammu division.

With 116 more recoveries, the tally of total recoveries in Jammu and Kashmir has reached to 6095 which is 56.29 percent of the total cases which was over 63 percent few days before.

"Cases tested positive in J&K include 101 from Srinagar, 21 from Kulgam, 06 from Baramulla, 16 from Shopian, 14 from Anantnag, 30 from Kupwara, 06 from Pulwama, 11 from Budgam, 20 from Bandipora and 26 from Ganderbal in Kashmir division while as 89 from Jammu division include 25 from Jammu, 01 from Udhampur, 16 from Kuthua, 09 from Ramban, 24 from Samba, 04 from Poonch, 06 from Doda and 04 from Kishtwar," officials disclosed.

Dr Farooq Jan, Medical Superintendent at SKIMS said that out of 1413 samples were tested at SKIMS on Thursday, 101 were tested positive.

He said 101 patients include 22 from Srinagar, 18 from Kulgam, 13 from Bandipora, 11 from Budgam, 04 from Anantnag, 03 from Kupwara, 03 from Baramulla and 01 each from Pulwama and Ganderbal.

Patients also include 6 CRPF personals from different battalions, 13 BSF personals, 6 from Crime branch and one from IG office Nehru Park.

Dr Reyaz Untoo, Principal at JVC Bemina said that out of 407 samples tested at SKIMS Bemina (JVC) 29 all from Srinagar were tested positive. He said that cases include a 35 days old baby from Bemina and 4 from High court.

Officials from CD hospital said that new positive cases include 09 from BB cantonment Srinagar, two cops and four persons under police custody.

As per officials figures, 1806 positive cases including 46 deaths and 524 recoveries are from Srinagar, 1326 including 35 deaths and 545 recoveries are from Baramulla, 1021 including 686 recoveries and 20 deaths are from Kulgam, 918 including 16 deaths and 697 recoveries are from Shopian, 802 including 14 deaths and 597 recoveries are from Anantnag, 802 including 473 recoveries and 11 deaths are from Kupwara, 662 including 366 recoveries and 07 deaths are from Pulwama, 572 including 320 recoveries and 14 deaths are from Budgam, 385 including 289 recoveries and 03 deaths are from Bandipora, 201 including 90 recoveries and 04 death are from are from Ganderbal.

In Jammu division, 513 including 338 recoveries and 10 deaths are from Jammu district, 303 including 273 recoveries and 01 death are from Udhampur, 316 including 224 recoveries and 01 death are from Kathua, 270 including 209 recoveries are from Ramban, 275 including 89 recoveries and 01 death is from Rajouri, 268 including 138 recoveries and 01 death are from Samba, 146 including 01 death and 121 recoveries are from Poonch, 134 including 70 recoveries and 02 deaths are from Doda, 57 including 39 recoveries are from Reasi and 50 including 25 recoveries are from Kishtwar.

As per the daily information bulletin, 315,386 persons in Jammu and Kashmir are under observation while 38,643 persons have been kept under home quarantine besides that 4545 persons are in hospital isolation while 25 persons are under hospital quarantine.

According to the bulletin, 226,893 persons have completed surveillance period and 45,093 persons are under home surveillance besides that so far results of 459,703 samples are available.

Out of 459,703 the number of samples tested negative stands at 448,876 while as 10,827 have been tested positive, among them 4545 are active and 6095 persons have recovered and 187 persons have died.

LG E-Inaugurates 10 Power

by KPDCL and RECPDCL, the power curtailment in Kashmir would be reduced by 6-8 hours during winter season. Pertinently, during winter season, there used to be 12-16 hours of power curtailment in some parts of Kashmir Division. The commissioning of 12 Receiving Stations is a great leap forward to improve the capacity constraints from distribution side, he added.

Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, Rohit Kansal informed that the newly inaugurated projects will benefit around 35,000 households across Kashmir.

The Lt Governor said that the Government of J&K is aiming to achieve the larger goal of self-sufficiency in Power sector and stressed on putting concerted efforts towards achieving medium term target of providing reliable power supply to the consumers with no more than 2 hours of power curtailment.

During the last two years, J&K has witnessed rapid progress in execution and completion of major developmental projects. The projects under PMDP were sanctioned in 2015. However, the work on most of these projects started in the years 2018 and 2019 only, and within a short span of time, these projects are being commissioned, he added.

The Lt Governor set November 2020 as the timeline for the completion of 7 projects whose foundation stones were laid today. He also advanced the completion target for two power projects from December 2021 to May 2021.

The projects inaugurated today included- Construction of 33/11kV 10 MVA Receiving Station near DC Office Shopian, benefiting 1300 households; Augmentation of 33/11kV Receiving Station Qazigund from 1x 10 MVA to 2x10 MVA, benefiting 8200 households; Augmentation of 33/11kV Receiving Station SICOP (Bijbehara) from 1x6.3MVA to 2x6.3 MVA which would benefit 2850 households; Construction of 33/11kV 10 MVA Receiving Station Hanjoora, benefiting 1800 households; Augmentation of 33/11kV Receiving Station Kanir from 1x 6.3 MVA to 2x6.3 MVA which would benefit 2500 households; Augmentation of 33/11kV Receiving Station Khag from 1x 6.3 MVA to 2x6.3 MVA; Augmentation of 33/11kV Receiving Station Devsar from 1x 6.3 MVA to 2x6.3 MVA; Augmentation of 33/11kV Receiving Station Owantabhawan from 2x6.3 MVA to 2x10 MVA; Augmentation of 33/11kV Receiving Station Bone & Joint from 2x6.3 MVA to 2x10 MVA and Construction of 33/11kV 6.3 MVA Receiving Station Kellar benefiting 4400,5200, 2000, 2200 and 3000 households respectively.

Whereas, the works for which foundation stones were laid included construction of -3/11kV 6.3 MVA Receiving Station Awantipora-II; 33/11kV 10 MVA Receiving Station District Hospital Anantnag; 33/11kV 1x10 MVA GIS Receiving Station Pahalgam; 33/11kV 1x10 MVA GIS Receiving Station Batamalo; 33/11kV 10 MVA Receiving Station Ellahibagh (Rangpora); 33/11kV 10 MVA Receiving Station Aali Masjid (Sangam Takanwari) and 33/11kV 10 MVA Receiving Station Bugoo (Model Town) Sopore.

SC Refuses To Entertain...

Barfani Langars Organisation' (SABLO) which had sought a direction to the Centre, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board to restrict the access of pilgrims in the Yatra this year in wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

The plea had also sought a direction for 'live darshan' of Lord Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine by way of the internet and on television.

The bench dealt with the contention of senior advocate Devdutt Kamat, appearing for the organization seeking restrictions, that the top court had earlier put restrictions on the rath

Yatra of Lord Jagannath.

The apex court later modified the order to allow Rath Yatra at Puri, the bench said.

"We are ill-equipped to determine whether a Yatra should be held in a particular terrain or not," the bench said, adding that these matters needed to be dealt by the District administration.

The matter whether Amarnath Yatra is to be conducted or not was "better left to the local authorities", it reiterated.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration, on July 5, had decided to permit the Amarnath Yatra by restricting the number of pilgrims to 500 per day by road from Jammu to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine.

The Shrine Board is reportedly planning to allow the yatra for a period of 15 days only.

The move was challenged by SABLO in the top court saying that it will not be possible to carry out the norms of physical distancing, wearing of masks and other steps to prevent COVID-19 transmission at high altitudes.

Kamat said the organization was not against the conduct of rituals pertaining to Yatra, but was only seeking to restrict participation of people from all over the country. The petitioner also sought for allowing live-telecast of the rituals.

Real Ayodhya In Nepal, Lord

development and claimed that the road was built on Nepalese land.

Nepal also updated its political map which included Indian territories. India condemned the move and handed over a diplomatic note to Nepal over the map issue.

The ties worsened further when Oli blamed India for demands by his party colleagues who sought his resignation over multiple 'failures'. During a rally, Oli alleged that the leaders of his Nepal Communist Party (NCP) who were making attempts to 'topple his government', were doing so at the behest of India.

Section 144 Imposed...

serious concerns. "Covid-19 has a pattern of transmission at a rapid rate; therefore prescribed preventive protocols including avoiding mass gatherings, are to be strictly adhered to," he said.

Boy 'Mistakenly' Consuming

a case in this regard and started further investigation," he said.

CASO Launched In Srinagar...

random searches were conducted in some parts of Zaindar Mohalla.

Searches were underway in the area when last reports came in.

Abandoned Drone...

army was using the drone for some official purpose but it grounded due to some technical snag.


Panel Extends Provisional Validity Of Industrial Units In J&K

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam Monday said that in view of COVID-19 outbreak coupled with exodus of labour force, the amnesty relief being provided would facilitate establishing of industrial units at various industrial estates of Jammu & Kashmir.

He was speaking at the 46th meeting of Apex Projects Clearance Committee (APCC) of J&K State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (SIDCO). The meeting was convened to discuss extension in validity of time period for Provisional Registration in favour of industrial units registered prior to 01.01.2016.

Administrative Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development Department, Power Development Department, Industries and Commerce Department, along with concerned Heads of Departments participated in the meeting.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary reviewed the Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 45th APCC meeting. The Chief Secretary maintained that in view of COVID-19 outbreak coupled with exodus of labour force, the amnesty relief



being provided would facilitate establishing of industrial units at various industrial estates of Jammu & Kashmir.

Considering the proposal in favour of 94 industrial units that are ready to commence production, Chief Secretary approved an extension of provisional registration from upto 30th September, 2020 to 31st December, 2020.

In order to extend relief to around 102 industrial units, Chief Secretary impressed upon resubmission of fresh proposals by these units by 31st August, 2020, along with project timelines, if their registration is not to be cancelled.

Chief Secretary also reviewed the cases of about 190 industrial units which have taken effective steps towards establishing industrial units under various lines of activities and approved an extension of provisional registration upto 31st March, 2020.

The cases of various dormant industrial units, which have failed to take effective steps towards establishing required infrastructure, were also reviewed. Since a considerable period of time has lapsed and these units have remained non responsive, their provisional registrations were not considered for extension. As such, the Chief Secretary directed the Industries Department to start the proceedings of land retrieval



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SATHU PAYEEN BAGHWANPORA, BARBARSHAH, SRINAGAR, KMR.

Will de-recognize private schools violating fee orders: Govt

Complaints pouring frequently against some private schools of charging miscellaneous fee: DSEK

Srinagar: The government on Monday said it will cancel the recognition of the private schools that violate the orders of the School Education Department and charge miscellaneous fees in the name of tuition fee during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The School Education department also warned the management of private schools of strict action in terms of relevant provisions of law in case of any violation.

Following the government orders of de-recognition of accused private schools allegedly charging the miscellaneous fee in the name of tuition fee.

In this regard, the Directorate of School Education Department (DSEK) issued a circular, asking the private schools to refrain from violating the government orders.

DSEK on June-16 issued circular— instructing all recognized private schools to charge only tuition fee from students on a monthly basis instead of quarterly basis for the lockdown period.

“No fee hike shall be made during the academic session 2020-21 and the annual fee, if any, can be charged monthly on a pro-rata basis, after



schools reopen,” reads the circular.

DSEK in a circular said that the complaints are pouring on a frequent

basis that some recognized private schools are still charging tuition fees as well as miscellaneous fees under the

caption of tuition fee.

It further stated that no School shall deny access to online education, material or classes for the continuous assessment to poor and deserving students, who are unable to pay school fees due to the prevailing situation.

The School Education department impressed upon the recognized private schools to adhere to the instructions in letter and spirit.

“In case any violation or non-seriousness, strict action shall be initiated against the particular School in terms of relevant provisions of law, which includes the recognition thereof without further intimation,” it reads.

In view of COVID-19 pandemic, the government earlier instructed the private schools in Jammu and Kashmir to extend the last date of deposit of school fees up to April-30 without any late fees.

“No school shall either charge any fee for the online learning, assignments or shall link the result of the child on the basis of home assignment, “the government directed—(KNO)

Two young girls go missing in Valley

Srinagar: Two teenage girls have gone missing in two different parts of Kashmir.

Police sources said that a 17 year old girl is missing from Habakadal locality of Srinagar while another is missing from Zurhama village of Kupwara.

The missing reports about the 17 and 15 year old girls stand registered at police station Shaheed Gunj and police post Awoora Kupwara.

Srinagar girl has been missing since 11 July while Kupwara girl has gone missing on 9 July.

The missing report filed by parents of Srinagar girl reads that their 17 year old daughter (name withheld) went out from the house and didn't return while similar statement has been made by parents of 15 year old Kupwara girl (name withheld) in the missing report. (KNT)

Two Sootys, Eco Car stolen in Central Kashmir

Srinagar: Crooks have stolen a car and two Scootys in Central Kashmir. Police have registered cases and set investigation into motion.

Police sources said that a scooty was stolen from Mochwa area of Chadoora, another from Zoonimar Srinagar while an Eco car has been lifted from Bemina area of Srinagar city.

Sources said that Fahaad Furkaan Shiekh Furkan of Pamposh Colony Natipora reported at police station Chadoora that his scooty (JK01A/K8717) has been stolen by some unknown persons at Mochwa Chadoora during intervening night.

Similarly, another person Syed Mukhtar Ahmed, a resident of Pazwalpora Zoonimar reported at police station Zadibal that during intervening night his scooty (JK01C/7059) was stolen by some unknown persons.

Police station Zadibal instantly registered an FIR vide number 44/20 under section 379.

Ashiq Ahmed Gadoo, a resident of Bemina reported at police station Parimpora that his Eco Car (JK01R/8243) has been stolen by some unknown persons.

As reported earlier, the vehicle theft cases are on rise across Kashmir Valley. Scores of vehicles, motor-cycles and Scootys have been stolen in different parts of Valley during this pandemic.

3 LeT militants killed in Sopore gunfight were planning a big strike: DIG

Srinagar: At least three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants including two foreigners were Sunday killed in a day-long encounter in Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, a top police officer said. He also stated that they are putting their every effort to ensure that the local youth will not pick up arms.

Addressing a presser in Sopore, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), North Kashmir Range, Muhammad Suliaman Choudhary said that a major threat has been averted after three militants affiliated with LeT have been killed in Sopore gunfight.

“We can't rule out the possibility of the attack. The arms and ammunition recovered from the slain militants also in-



dicade that they were planning for something big. After their killing, a major threat has been averted,” he said.

He added that they have witnessed the attacks in the past

and are ready to face any kind of challenge.

He identified the two among the three slain militants as Usman Bhai and Saifullah, adding that the identification of

the third militant was being ascertained. “Usman Bhai was involved in the recent attack in model town Sopore in which one CRPF man and a civilian were killed. The duo foreign militants were active here from the last two years,” he said.

Giving details about the encounter, the DIG North Kashmir range said that the Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) was launched in the area after receiving inputs about the presence of militants. “Soon after the search party reached near the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them, which was retaliated and thus resulted in an encounter,” he said, adding that in the encounter that lasted for the entire day, three militants were killed.

ACB produces chargesheet against former ExEn

Srinagar: Anti-Corruption Bureau Kashmir on Monday produced chargesheet against former Executive Engineer Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC), Parvaiz Ahmad Naqash in alleged disproportionate assets case.

In a statement, ACB said that it presented a charge sheet in a case under FIR number 45/2007 under sections 5(1) (e) r/w 5(2) PC Act. Svt. 2006 P/S ACB against the former Executive Engineer Parvaiz Ahmad Naqash, son

of Ghulam Ahmad Naqash of Peerbagh Srinagar in the court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Srinagar.

“The instant case was registered in this Bureau against the accused with regard to accumulation of disproportionate assets beyond his known source of income on the basis of verification conducted by State Vigilance Organization (Now ACB),” ACB said.

The statement reads that several movable and immovable properties have been acquired by Parvaiz Ahmad

Naqas, which include two palatial houses at Peerbagh, Hyderpora, two cars and several bank accounts having sums in lacs were detected during the investigation of the case.

“During the course of investigation the charges were proved against the accused. Subsequently, sanction under relevant law was obtained from the competent authority in favour of the accused for judicial determination for commission of offences,” the statement added.

LAWDA starts dredging of Settling Basin at Teilbal

SRINAGAR, JULY 13: Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) today started the dredging of the Settling Basin at Teilbal using the Pamposh Crawl Cat Suction Dredger.

The dredging work was started to remove a huge quantity of silt that had accumulated in the Settling Basin which otherwise has the carrying capacity of arresting 80000 tonnes per annum of silt coming from catchment.

Over the last two decades about 1.25mts thick layer of silt has got deposited in the Settling Basin and it is of paramount importance to desilt the Settling Basin having an area of about 0.12Sqkms (122500 sqmts) to clean it of unwanted material as it acts as a filter before the water goes into the Dal Lake.

Div Com reviews status of subjudice sanctioned building permissions in Srinagar

SRINAGAR JULY 13: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Monday chaired a meeting of officials to review the status of cases pertaining to violations of sanctioned commercial building permissions in Srinagar city and the court directions thereof.

The meeting discussed various matters that are under consideration in court including sanctioned commercial building permissions in Srinagar, besides measures undertaken to curb illegal constructions and monitor work on sanctioned building permissions.

The Div Com directed the officers to adopt proper and effective mechanisms to keep vigil on illegal constructions and deviation to sanctioned building permissions.

He also stressed for taking



concrete and sustainable steps to curb illegal constructions and violation of the Master Plan.

The Div Com appealed the general public to refrain from making illegal constructions which otherwise leads to unplanned haphazard growth of the city, choking of pedestrian space, encroachment

on road sides and other issues become cause of great concern.

He directed the concerned authorities to check all the permissions issued, mostly that fall on road lines and road fronts are analysed and compared with on ground deviation from norms.

He further asked the SMC authorities to conduct site inspections to commercial build-

ings and check for parking facilities for customers and ensure there are proper sign boards and lighting facilities for the convenience of customers or visitors.

Among others the meeting was attended by Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Chief Town Planner, Secretary LAWDA and other concerned officers.

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
- BUBHERA: 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

22 Zu al-Qa'dah
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 48
ZUHR	12: 36
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:47
ISHA	9:25

This Day In History

- 1864 - Gold is discovered in Helena, Montana
- 1865 - English mountaineer Edward Whymper leads first expedition to climb the Matterhorn (four die on the descent)
- 1891 - John T Smith patents corkboard
- 1914 - Robert Goddard is granted the first patent for liquid-fueled rocket design
- 1933 - All non-Nazi parties are banned in Germany
- 1938 - Benito Mussolini publishes anti-Jewish/African manifesto
- 1945 - Battleship USS South Dakota is 1st US ship to bombard Japan
- 1957 - Soviet steamer "Eshghbad" sinks in Caspian Sea, drowning 270
- 1958 - General Abdul K Kassem forms a military government in Iraq overthrowing the monarchy.
- 1959 - USS Long Beach, first nuclear powered cruiser launched at Quincy, Mass
- 1965 - Israeli/Jordanian border fights
- 1965 - US Mariner IV, 1st Mars probe, passes at 6,100 miles (9,800 km)
- 1967 - Surveyor 4 launched to Moon; explodes just before landing
- 1969 - The United States \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 bills are officially withdrawn from circulation.
- 1972 - USSR performs underground nuclear Test
- 1976 - USSR banishes dissident Andrei Amalrik to Netherlands
- 1977 - US House establishes permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
- 1983 - Mario Bros. is first released by Nintendo in Japan as an arcade game about an Italian-American plumber
- 1984 - STS 41-D vehicle moves to Vandenberg AFB for remanifest of payloads
- 1984 - USSR performs nuclear Test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1986 - NASA's plan to implement recommendations of Rogers commission
- 1987 - Taiwan ends 37 years of martial law
- 1988 - 200,000 demonstrate in Soviet Armenia for incorporation of Nagorno-Karabak
- 1991 - Failed military coup in Mali
- 2012 - Suicide bomber attacks a wedding reception and kills 22 people and injures 22 in northern Afghanistan
- 2014- The death toll from the West African Ebola outbreak passes 500
- 2014- The Egyptian government propose a cease fire in the Israel-Gaza conflict
- 2014 - After 7 days, Israel has struck Gaza 1320 times, while Gaza has fired 940 rockets at Israel
- 2015 - Scientists from the Large Hadron Collider announce the discovery of a new particle called the pentaquark
- 2015 - Arms deal agreed between 6 world powers and Iran limiting Iranian nuclear arms but ending sanctions

From KO Archives

Omar's Homily To Hurriyat
'Don't Look Towards New Delhi'
Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR - Accusing the Centre of not being serious in resolving the Kashmir issue, President of opposition National Conference Omar Abdullah today said the solution of the problem lies neither with India nor Pakistan but with the people of Kashmir, and counselled the Hurriyat Conference not to trust New Delhi.

“The solution to Kashmir issue neither lies in the hands of India nor Pakistan. This complicated and long-standing issue could be resolved only in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people of Kashmir,” Omar said addressing party workers and supporters at martyrs graveyard at Nagashband Sahib in Srinagar today.

Omar cautioned the Hurriyat Conference against trusting New Delhi, saying that his party too had lost faith in the Centre because of its dithering on the setting up of an autonomy committee.

“The Hurriyat should not place any trust with New Delhi,” he said.

“The antics of the conglomerate on this front are futile. All that the Hurriyat will get out of its talks with the central government is having a up of tea with the leaders,” he said.

National Conference from its inception has been demanding resolution of Kashmir issue in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people but unfortunately India has never been serious to address the long standing problem, the NC chief said.

Claiming that Centre was perusing a double standard with regard to Kashmir, the National Conference President said Centre has always used “puppets” like Mufti Mohammad Sayeed (Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir) to deviate attention of the people from the real issue.

“Sayeed is part of double policy of New Delhi. He is speaking in different tones to divert attention of the people from the basic issue,” he said adding Sayeed at times talks about healing touch and sometimes beating the drum to highlight the opening of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road. The reality is that the people are being oppressed on the name of healing touch, poor people are deprived of electricity to light their homes, he alleged.

The NC president also attacked the Centre for rejecting his party's demand for greater autonomy to the state, passed in the Assembly in 2000. Omar said Union Home Minister called him six months ago and asked to make the demand afresh for autonomy. He also made an announcement of formation of a high level committee to look into the issue but so far nothing has been done, he added.

(Kashmir Observer, 14 July, 2005)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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‘Martyrs’ Day’

For the first time since 1948, J&K didn’t observe a holiday on July 13 otherwise commemorated as the Martyrs’ Day by the successive governments. Now was there any official function held. On this day in 1931, twenty two people were killed near Srinagar’s Central jail when they were protesting against the trial of an anti-government activist Abdul Qadeer. Kashmir was then ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh, an autocratic ruler. The killings became a trigger for a drawn political movement against Maharaja’s rule spearheaded by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. Sixteen year later, as India got freedom from British, Maharaja’s control of his state too slackened and finally it was the subsequent tribal invasion from Pakistan that forced his exit from power. But before that Maharaja had signed the Instrument of Accession on October 26, 1947 that made J&K an autonomous part of India. Later, Abdullah, then J&K’s most popular leader, who too threw in his lot with Kashmir’s destiny with India became the first Prime Minister of J&K. July 13 was made the gazetted holiday of J&K. It became a potent symbol and reference point for Kashmir’s struggle against feudalism and Maharaja’s rule. It remained one for 88 years before being struck off as a holiday this year. In recent years, however, sections of political opinion in Jammu had started observing July 13 as the “black day”. They remembered the day when first ever communal attack took place against religious minorities in Kashmir.

Incidentally, the government has also delisted Abdullah’s birthday on December 5 as the official holiday. The decisions have followed the revocation of Article 370 on August 5 last year. In the new list of gazetted holidays, the government, however, has declared October 26 as one. On this day in 1947, Maharaja had signed the Instrument of Accession with the dominion of India.

However, the government’s decision not to observe the July 13 has not gone down well with the political and civil society organizations in Kashmir. There has also been a backlash on social media. The decision is being interpreted as an attempt by the government to erase an important event of Kashmir’s history from the collective memory. Incidentally, the re-imposition of the Covid-19 lockdown which has come into force on this day has pre-empted any street expression of the opposition to the government move. On its part the government when it delisted the July 13 holiday didn’t explain the rationale behind it. That said, the withdrawal of the government patronage of the day has made people more conscious of its historic and symbolic significance. If the government doesn’t review its decision, July 13 is likely to grow in its symbolic significance with time and become a powerful rallying point for the dissident voices in the union territory.

OTHER OPINON

Rule of lawlessness

Nothing better exemplifies the collapse of rule of law in India than the daylight murder of gangster Vikas Dubey in Uttar Pradesh on Friday morning. The entire Vikas Dubey episode beginning with the ambush and massacre of eight cops, including Deputy Superintendent of Police Devendra Mishra, on July 3, reeks of the rot in the UP society, which celebrates the politician-police-gangster nexus. The so-called encounter between Dubey and cops on their way from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh to Kanpur prima facie appears to be an extra-judicial murder as it follows the UP Police’s standard operating script in dealing with certain inconvenient criminals.

In the last one week, five of Dubey’s accomplices were shot dead, of which at least one was caught and then killed as he attempted to snatch a cop’s weapon when the vehicle stalled with a flat tyre. According to the same script, Dubey tried to snatch a gun when the vehicle he was travelling in overturned, leading to his custodial killing. But there are gaping holes in this story: news reports suggest that the police stopped TV crews following the convoy shortly before the shootout and more curiously, Dubey seemed to have been shifted from one vehicle to another according to CCTV footage from a toll plaza. The arrest from Ujjain itself was staged for all to see. Or else, how could a scheming, cop-killing gangster suddenly appear alone and unarmed, after crossing four state borders, to be so easily ‘overpowered’ by two temple guards?

Dubey and his key associates have been silenced. Now, it is difficult to prove who tipped him off about the raiding party headed by DSP Mishra, or at whose behest he mowed down the cops, or who offered him political patronage to remain at large despite 60-odd cases, including murder. More importantly, we will never know all that Dubey did for his political masters. The UP model justice delivery system is instant and foolproof: the real criminals in khaki and khadi never get caught. The UP Government is a metaphor for all that is wrong with this country’s governance.

Tribuneindia

Glancy’s report provided a corrective to nearly a century of marginalizing the largest number of the Kashmir state’s subjects. Through its many recommendations, it re-inscribed Muslims into their history and region

13 July 1931

It is widely believed that the Kashmir conflict has its roots in the Partition of India in August 1947. This view perpetuates the understanding of the conflict as one between India and Pakistan. However, recognising that the roots of the conflict lie in an earlier history – indeed, that there was a history before August 1947 – changes the understanding of the “intractable” conflict in Kashmir. This article by MRIDU RAI, author of the book, Hindu Rulers, Muslim Subjects: Islam, Rights and the History of Kashmir (2004), discusses the salience of the events in Srinagar on this day.

For Kashmiris, made double-subjects of the British empire in India and of the princely state the latter had installed under Dogra maharajas in 1846, nationalism’s work of forging a nation and giving it political articulation involved taking a double step. It had to overthrow the yoke both of Dogra thralldom and of colonial dominance. Their martyrs could not be the same as those of the Indian nation. And it was 13 July 1931, not the familiar markers on the Indian independence movement’s calendar, that gave Kashmiri nationalism its first sacrificial deaths for commemoration.

Srinagar, 13 July 1931

Several historians have elected this date to mark the inauguration of the freedom struggle of Kashmiris against Dogra rule. Neither the events of that day in Srinagar nor the death toll of twenty-two demonstrators and one policeman seem so outstanding as to command remembrance when compared to contemporaneous developments in British India. But this date was not intended to serve the fashioning of the Indian nation. In Kashmir, the date’s emblematic importance drew from the fact that it was the first time a gathering of Kashmiri Muslims had openly challenged the Dogra maharaja and his government.

The portentous events of that day had followed upon rumours, spreading since mid-1931, about the maharaja’s officials mistreating Muslims and deliberately offering insults to Islam in Jammu. The report that elicited the most vehement reaction was about a Hindu police constable who had not only prevented a Muslim subordinate from saying his prayers, but had added to this insult the injury of throwing the latter’s copy of the Quran to the ground. Later investigation found the account of this incident to have been exaggerated although not entirely without basis. However, it brought to a head a gathering discontent born out of a number of factors other than the purely religious among Muslims in the state and, by the time its reports reached Srinagar, it set the stage for the unprecedented occurrences of the following days. On June 25th, Abdul Qadir, identified by some as a Pathan and others as a Punjabi servant of a European vacationing in Kashmir, made an inflammatory speech at a meeting held in a Srinagar mosque that condemned the Dogra maharaja and incited his hearers to kill Hindus and burn their temples. He was promptly arrested. A general impression created by accounts of subsequent events was of an unprovoked attack led by Srinagar Muslims against hapless Hindus. However, contrary to later reconstructions of the events of the day, Kashmiri Pandits and other

Hindus, shaken by the expression of such hostile sentiments as those of Qadir, had not been sitting by idly as unwitting victims of a carnage-about-to-happen either. They had been disseminating their own set of rumours to rally other co-religionists into action. One such, spreading like wildfire and indicating the fear felt by a minority that had until then enjoyed security of power that they were in danger of possibly losing ground in the state to an increasingly vocal Muslim majority was that the Dogra ruler was about to lift the state-wide prohibition on cow slaughter. And were this to come about, it would have been no mean concession since the ban defined the identity of the state as one in which Hindu religious tradition enjoyed primacy. Thus, in the days preceding the fateful date of martyrdom, segments of both the Hindu and Muslim populations in Kashmir were raising their defences and the situation was moving inexorably towards a confrontation.

On July 13th, when Abdul Qadir was to be tried at the Central Jail in Srinagar, a crowd had attempted to enter the penitentiary to protest his prosecution. Retaliating, the police fired into the gathering that then scattered and went on a rampage in Srinagar city. In Maharajgunj, a quarter of Srinagar inhabited predominantly by Kashmiri Pandits and Punjabi Hindu traders, crowds of Mohamadan hooligans attacked shops, looted large quantities of goods and committed indiscriminate assaults. The British Resident in Kashmir had reported that there had recently been much discussion among Mohammadans in Kashmir about their grievances against the comparatively small Hindu community which, as a result of a mistaken policy of many years standing, had been allowed to monopolize most of the appointments in the State. Yet, the Resident confessed that no one had for a moment suspected then any danger was to be feared in the city of Srinagar. Evidently taken by surprise by the overt activism of the Kashmiri Muslims, the maharaja’s government devised makeshift and quick fix solutions. Relying on the tested strategy of his predecessor, Maharaja Hari Singh received a deputation of all the leading Muslims of the city with a view to removing their apprehensions. Meeting with the ruler, members of these eminent Muslims assured him of their unfaltering loyalty. However, as the Resident suggested, the greatest difficulty the maharaja would have to face would come, not from the small Kashmiri Muslim elite but, from the public disapproval of his policies freely expressed in British India and particularly in Punjab.

The events of July 1931 had catapulted a number of new actors onto the political stage of Kashmir

each seeking to capitalize on the momentum of Muslim restiveness unleashed through these incidents. A younger generation of Muslim politicians led by Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah and aiming at broad social bases of mobilization was pitted against the older and more socially exclusive, elite leadership of the Jama Masjid Mirwaiz and others. These Kashmiris were joined in their competition for the leadership of Muslims in the valley, by two rival sets of interests from the Punjab represented by the Ahmediyas and the Ahrars. By mid-August 1931, the Resident was already reporting on dissatisfaction among Kashmiri Muslims being fuelled by letters from Muslim organizations from outside the state urging them to keep up their agitation. Under such prompting, Kashmiri Muslims led by Sheikh Abdullah had refused to meet with the Maharaja on August 6th, 1931, aiming to procrastinate until August 14. The latter date had been declared Kashmir Day throughout Muhammedan centres in British India by the Kashmir Committee formed only a week after the killings of July 13th and supported by large numbers of the valley’s Muslims long settled in the Punjab.

In the aftermath of July 13th, and viewing with trepidation the bleeding of political protest across their carefully demarcated and vigilantly policed borders between the Punjab and the Dogra state, the British colonial government of India exercised its prerogative as paramount power to appoint a commission, working under the direction of B. J. Glancy, to examine the grievances that had caused the disturbances. Its report of 1932 included a powerful indictment of the Kashmir durbar’s partisan functioning in favour of its Hindu subjects to the neglect of Muslims. Strikingly, the report had also invalidated the principle of first peoples on the basis of which the Dogras and Pandits had re-imagined Kashmir as originally Hindu. Glancy’s report provided a corrective to nearly a century of marginalizing the largest number of the Kashmir state’s subjects. Through its many recommendations, it re-inscribed Muslims into their history and region. And, perhaps unconsciously, it also redefined the contemporary territory of Kashmir no matter what lay beneath its historical layers as Muslim. From hereon, the challenge gathered a momentum that would end with stripping the legitimacy of the Dogra princes to rule over Kashmiris. Over the following decade, this newly grounded assertiveness extended into a wider struggle for the fulfilment of a spectrum of economic and political demands that culminated in the unravelling of Dogra sovereignty itself in 1947.



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I was Covid-19 negative but was not allowed to go home

Muhammad Kifaytullah from Plan, Bandipora, came from Dubai to Kashmir on the 30th June after months of struggle to get back home.

We were almost 170 passengers in the plane and landed at Srinagar airport. Our samples were collected by the airport authorities.

From the Airport, the authorities took us to the Tourist Reception Center in SRTC buses, for registration and were quarantined till reports came.

After a few hours, we were told that we were put under quarantine in respective districts. I was happy that I will be finally at home town and even if they put me under quarantine for 20 days, I won’t be having any issues. But Alas!

We were told that if the COVID-19 reports came negative then we can be put under home quarantine.

Following day, we were shifted to our respective districts and were put under quarantine at a local centre in the Bandipora town.

While on the way to Bandipora

from, I got a call from incharge quarantine centre Mr. Nisar Ahmed Para as he was waiting for me.

Luckily, the report came negative on 1 July, and following the protocol, I approached Mr. Parra and informed him that since the report came negative and that I shall be allowed to go home for home quarantine.

Seeing the conditions of the quarantine centre, I didn’t want to be there at any cost. Also, my co-passengers came negative and they were allowed to go home, so I had no reasons to be there.

Mr. Para approached Dr. Nabeel Ishtiyag, Nodal Officer, Bandipora that I should be allowed to go home since the report came negative.

I had strong apprehensions that if I stayed at the centre, I would fall ill because of the unhygienic atmosphere.

But, Dr. Nabeel refused to allow me to go home and said we have to follow protocol for the international passengers. They have to do a 7-day

quarantine.

When I raised a point if there are other districts and out of 170 passengers, among them one person is not going to do home quarantine does it make any sense. But he didn’t listen at all and even didn’t bother to respond.

I approached almost all the officials in the administration but nobody was willing to hear my pleas. I felt suffocated.

My point was how can they treat a human like an animal? Why did they listen to my pleas? There was no doctor for my media check-up and so I didn’t know what kind of strategy was this? What kind of SOPs are being followed in the district?

I also informed them as one more flight arrived on 3rd from Dubai to Srinagar, and on 4th July, after the report came, they sent passengers to do home quarantine, but there was no one to answer my pleas.

I was kept at the quarantine centre for over 7 days, and every single

day, I felt miserable. The quality of food was worst, pulses were served every other day.

After 7 days they allowed me to go home but didn’t issue me a discharge certificate on the same day. After repeated pleas, I had to visit myself to the hospital and got the certificate.

I don’t know how our administrations and doctors of Bandipora work, are they working for themselves or for people?

Being abroad I saw how administration and Government officials take care of the public but here it is totally opposite. I realise here they are treating humans as animals and they don’t bother to listen and act as uneducated. I would like to request higher authority if anyone is reading this article please look into this matter so onwards others will not face the same problem.

Muhammad Kifayatullah
R/o Plan, Bandipora
Business development Manager,
Dubai

5 Historians On July 13, 1931: ‘The Uprising Which Shook The State’

RAKSHANDA AFRIN

As a day of remembrance, Kashmir’s Martyrs Day this year paints a different picture due to altered equations in the valley post abrogation of Article 370, removal of 13 July from the list of state holidays and obviously the ‘invisible enemy’ looming large in Kashmir.

EVEN as Kashmir’s grand old political party—National Conference—put up a classic carnage capture of the day on its official twitter handle as a mark of tribute, there’s no official sanction for the 89th Martyrs’ Day in Kashmir in the pandemic-plagued 2020.

For the first time in years, there’re no public and political gatherings at the historic Mazar-e-Shuhada of Old Srinagar. An armoured vehicle was earlier seen at the gates of the martyrs’ cemetery sited nearby the revered shrine of the famous Sufi saint of Naqeshbandi order.

Restrictions coincided with the COVID lockdown return in the city and countryside “to tame the surging viral curve” in the valley.

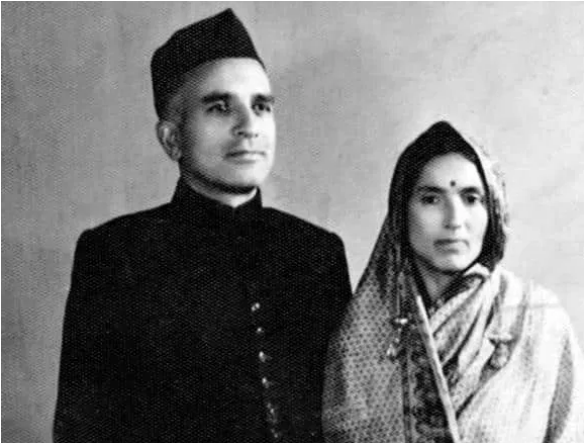
Annually, Kashmiris would pay tribute to the 22 civilians who fell to Dogra police bullets this day, 89 years ago, at Srinagar’s Central Jail premises.

But once vibrant public event in the valley, the remembrance day over the years had become a hush-hush political affair, with local unionists arriving during wee-hours in the well-guarded cemetery for the hasty floral tribute.

The incidents of the day have been seen as the harbinger of the biggest show of struggle against suppression and autocracy in the valley. The developments following it have completely revolutionised the internal politics of the region for the years to come.

Over the years, however, as a torrent of narratives and accounts interpreted the day—July 13, 1931—differently, *Kashmir Observer* looks at how five contemporary historians have accounted and talked about the historic day in their own perspectives.

Prem Nath Bazaz



Pandit Prem Nath Bazaz and his wife Badri wrote in great detail about his personal observations and political happenings of the 1931 uprising in his book, *Inside Kashmir* (1941).

Historically and politically, Prem Nath Bazaz writes, 13 July 1931 was the most important day in the annals of contemporary Kashmir.

“From this day,” he notes, “the struggle for independence and freedom in the most modern sense started openly.”

Bazaz, whose accounts continue to be indispensable in understanding the historical event, considered the anti-Dogra protests of the yore as the urgency of his Muslim counterparts—“who had been treated unfairly and harshly by the rulers, over the years”.

He went on to comment on his book, “Firstly, because contrary to all professions of treating all classes equally, it must be candidly admitted that Muslims were dealt with harshly in certain respects only because they were Muslims.”

Among the few Kashmiri Pandits, Bazaz had realised the end of the Dogra rule and saw the happenings of that day outside the Central Jail of Srinagar as the “watershed moment” in Kashmir’s socio-political history.

In July 1931, Bazaz subsequently observed, the Kashmiris rose in rebellion and turned the corner.

“It was an unprecedented elemental upheaval,” he writes, “almost a revolution which shook the State and brought the Dogra Raj to realisation of the stark reality.”

Mridu Rai



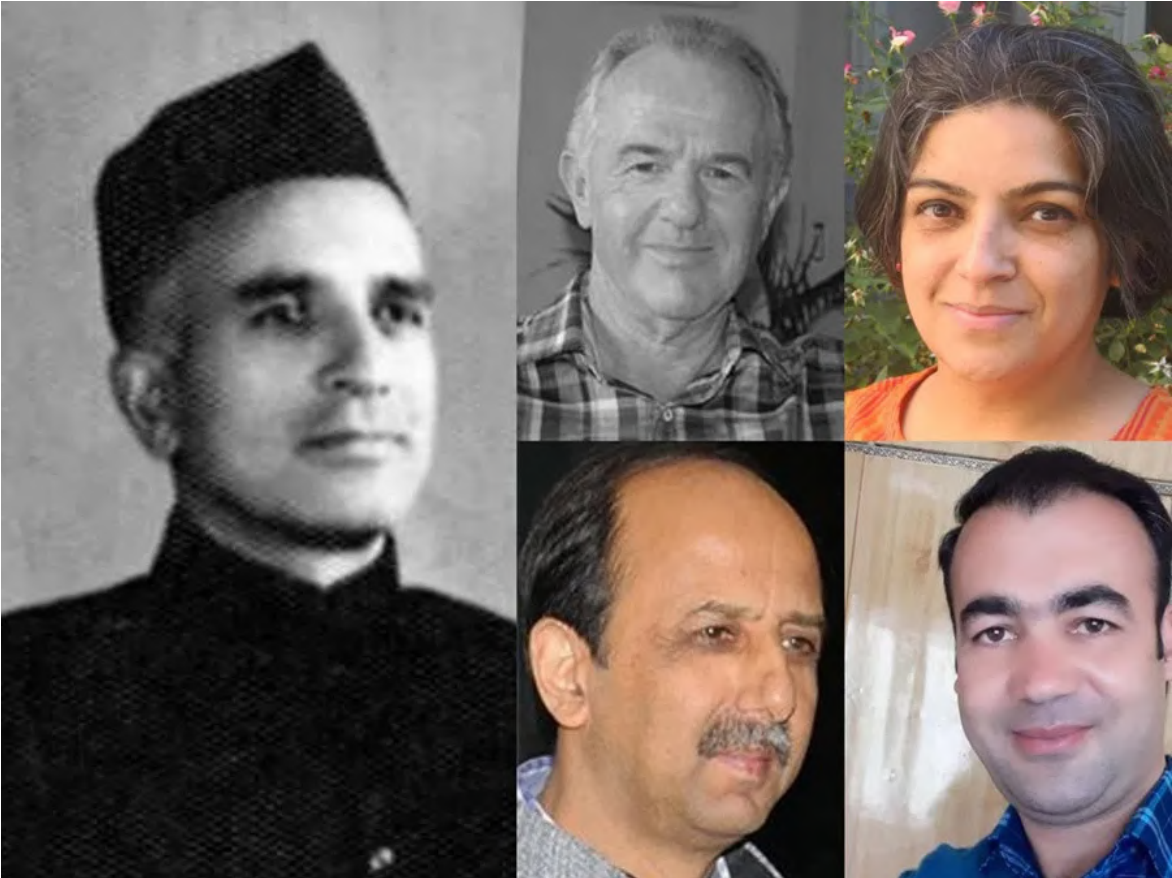
Historian and author of the much-acclaimed book, *Hindu Rulers, Muslim Subjects: Islam, Rights, and the History of Kashmir* (2004), Mridu Rai writes, “And it was 13 July 1931, not the familiar markers on the Indian independence movement’s calendar, that gave Kashmiri nationalism its first sacrificial deaths for commemoration.”

In her piece, “Memorializing 13 July 1931 in Kashmir”, the historian observes that the symbolic significance of the day is that it was for the first time that a gathering of Kashmiri Muslims had openly challenged the Maharaja’s rule.

In Rai’s opinion, events of that day were followed by rumours that were spreading throughout the valley about Hari Singh’s officials’ mistreatment and insults towards Muslims.

But the author does agree that all of the incidents which triggered such vehement reactions by the Kashmiris were born out of their discontent over a number of factors, and not purely religion.

Rai talks about how Abdul Qadeer’s, the disputed



Pathan’s fiery and inflammatory speech, in a meeting at historic Khanqah-i-Moula that year against the Dogra rule and his subsequent arrest on June 25 had shaken the Muslim populace as well as Kashmiri Pandits and other Hindus.

In the days preceding the dreadful day of 13th July of 1931, both sections comprising the vocal majority Muslims, and minority Hindus—“who until then enjoyed primacy and security under Maharaja’s rule”—started raising their voices almost like a confrontational situation.

Rai believes that the events of July 1931 had given rise to a number of new political actors and competition among leaders who would go on to capitalise on the valley’s restiveness.

Tracing the significance of this particular day to the present scenario, Rai upheld that such days of remembrance and commemoration of the sacrificial deaths are not to be seen only in vacuum and as events of the past.

“It also shapes and constructs meaningfulness in the present and future,” she asserts.



Christopher Snedden

In his book, *Understanding Kashmir and Kashmiris*, Christopher Snedden writes about the event of July 13, 1931 when “Kashmiris mounted a serious anti-Maharaja uprising in the Kashmir valley.”

The Australian political scientist observes in his writing that the memorandum presented to the Viceroy in 1924 by some leading Kashmiris resulted in Maharaja’s excessively harsh treatment towards the petitioners and his Muslim subjects.

By 1931, the author mentions, the Kashmiris were ‘suppressed and sullen.’

Snedden sees the particular incident of alleged desecration of the Quran by a Hindu cop in Mirpur as a catalyst of the uprising.

The writer observes that the Kashmiris became particularly vocal after the 13 July incident of Maharaja’s police force brutality and killings of 22 civilians.

He mentions that Hari Singh’s heavy-handed arrests, imprisonments and further shootings and crackdowns on Kashmiri Muslims, resulted in significant popular unrest and violence throughout the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir.

“For maintaining law and order, the British had to send a troop of about 500 soldiers to support the ruler,” the author writes.

Snedden tells that the 1931 uprising had become a serious one, as the agitation and protests spread across.

“The uprising resulted in the rise of many prominent young voices such as Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah to the forefront,” he writes.

Khalid Bashir Ahmad



Khalid Bashir, the well-known historian of Kashmir: Exposing the Myth behind the Narrative, questions the allegations of widespread loots and arson at the hands of Kashmiri Muslims on July 13, 1931.

“Unsubstantiated and propagandist allegations were circulated to present 13 July 1931 as ‘The Black Day’ instead of ‘The Martyrs Day’ as the Muslims observe it,” Bashir writes.

The historian notes that most of the narrative was manufactured over the years around “incidents of fracas between aggrieved mourners and pro Maharaja sympathisers at few places, like Maharaj gunj, were converted into stories of large scale murders, lootings, raping and killings of the Hindus and Pandits”.

The authors observed that the Barjor Dalal’s Riots Enquiry Commission of 1931 did not come up with any evidence to establish the loots while many prominent Kashmiri Pandits like Gwasha Lal Koul, Jia Lal Kilam and P.N.K. Bamzai, who wrote in great detail about the incident of July 13, 1931, do not mention such “large scale loot” or any attack on Kashmiri Pandit properties.

Bashir believes much of the facts were twisted and presented in a way so “the victims of police firing on that fateful day are seen as ‘criminals’ attacking and organizing communal carnages thus getting killed in



the process.”

Altaf Hussain Para

Author of *The Making of Modern Kashmir*, Altaf Hussain Para writes in his book that the incidents of July 13, 1931, caused “a great uproar and it shocked the very foundations of the Dogra Raj.”

The historian wrote that huge public demonstrations against the autocratic Dogra ruler, protest rallies and bunch of meetings by the oppressed masses and fiery speeches by prominent public leaders such as Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Mirwaiz Mohammad Yusuf Shah, Abdul Rashid Tasir, were already happening during that year.

“But it was Abdul Qadeer’s emotional and stirring speech against the government followed by his arrest on charges of sedition which provided a fresh focus for public demonstration and protest,” he notes.

Para mentions that a huge crowd gathered at the gates of Srinagar Central Jail on the day of the hearing following which the angry crowd became uncontrollable and some of the Muslims forced their way into the outer compound of the jail.

On the order of the Magistrate, the police force retaliated and opened fire on the unarmed crowd.

“This very day saw the cold blooded massacre of twenty-two Muslims, and scores of demonstrators injured with bullets which went on to strengthen the national consciousness and struggle for freedom,” he writes.

Study Reveals Short, Frequent Walks Near Water Bodies Can Benefit Mental Health

WE SAW A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT in the participants' well-being and mood immediately after they went for a walk in the blue space, compared with walking in an urban environment or resting."

Agencies

While walking is good for cardiovascular health, a recent study has found additional benefits of the activity. According to a new study, taking frequent, short walks near water bodies, like beaches, lakes, rivers, or even fountains may have a positive effect on people's well-being and mood.

The study was led by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), a centre supported by the "la Caixa" Foundation. Conducted within the BlueHealth project and published in Environmental Research, the study used data on 59 adults. Over the course of one week, participants spent 20 minutes each day walking in a blue space.

In a different week, they spent 20 minutes each day walking in an urban environment. During

yet another week, they spent the same amount of time resting indoors. The blue space route was along a beach in Barcelona, while the urban route was along city streets. Before, during, and after each activity, researchers measured the participants' blood pressure and heart rate and used questionnaires to assess their well-being and mood.

"We saw a significant improvement in the participants' well-being

and mood immediately after they went for a walk in the blue space, compared with walking in an urban environment or resting," commented Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, Director of the Urban Planning, Environment, and Health Initiative at ISGlobal and coordinator of the study.

Specifically, after taking a short walk on the beach in Barcelona, participants reported improvements in their mood, vitality, and mental health.

The authors did not identify any cardiovascular health benefits, although they believe this may be due to the design of the study. "We assessed the immediate effects of taking a short walk along a blue space. Continuous, long-lasting exposure to these spaces might have positive effects on cardiovascular health that we were not able to observe in this study," commented ISGlobal researcher Cristina Vert, lead author of the study.

"Our results show that the psychological benefits of physical activity vary according to the type of environment where it is carried out, and that blue spaces are better than urban spaces in this regard," commented Vert.

Numerous ISGlobal studies have identified health benefits associated with green spaces, including a lower risk of obesity, better attention capacities in children, and slower physical decline

in older adults. The new study provides evidence showing that blue spaces are an environment favourable to mental health.

"According to the United Nations, 55 per cent of the global population now lives in cities. It is crucial to identify and enhance elements that improve our health—such as blue spaces—so that we can create healthier, more sustainable, and more liveable cities," explained Nieuwenhuijsen.

Understanding Bat Immune System May Help Identify Covid-19 Drug Targets: Scientists

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK: The capacity of bats to tolerate viruses such as the novel coronavirus may stem from their ability to control inflammation, according to a review of studies which says understanding the immune system of the flying mammals can provide new drug targets for human therapies against COVID-19.

Researchers, including those from the University of Rochester in the US, said while bats are the ancestral hosts to many deadly viruses affecting humans such as Ebola, rabies, and the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, the flying mammals themselves tolerate these pathogens without ill effects.

"Although humans experience adverse symptoms when afflicted with these pathogens, bats are remarkably able to tolerate viruses, and, additionally, live much longer than similar-sized land mammals," they noted in a statement.

In the review research, published in the journal Cell Metabolism, the scientists assessed how the natural ability of bats to control inflammation may be contributing to their longevity and tendency to fight off diseases.

"With COVID-19, the inflammation goes haywire, and it may be the inflammatory response that is killing the patient, more so than the virus itself," said study co-author Vera Gorbunova from



the University of Rochester.

"The human immune system works like that -- once we get infected, our body sounds an alarm and we develop a fever and inflammation," Gorbunova explained.

She said the goal of this immune system response in humans is to kill the virus and fight infection, but added that it can also be a detrimental response as patients' bodies overreact to the threat.

But unlike humans, the scientists said bats have specific mechanisms which reduce the replication of viruses in their bodies, and also dampen their immune response to a virus.

As a result, they said there is a beneficial balance in bats with their immune systems controlling viruses, and at the same time not mounting a strong inflammatory response.

According to the researchers, one of the factors for this ability may be driven by their flight.

Bats, being the only mammals that can fly, require that they adapt to rapid increases in body temperature, sudden surges in metabolism, and molecular damage, the scientists explained. They said these adaptations may also assist in disease resistance.

The researchers said another factor contributing to the heightened immunity in bats may be due to their environment, where many species of the flying mammals live in dense colonies, and hang close together on cave ceilings or trees.

"Bats are constantly exposed to viruses. They are always flying out and bringing back something new to the cave or nest, and they transfer the virus because they live in such close proximity to each other," said Andrei Seluanov, another co-author of the study.

Because bats are constantly exposed to viruses, the scientists believe their immune systems

are in a "perpetual arms race with pathogens" -- a pathogen will enter the organism, the immune system will evolve a mechanism to combat the pathogen, the pathogen will evolve again, and so on.

"Dealing with all of these viruses may be shaping bats' immunity and longevity," Gorbunova said.

While humans may be developing social habits that parallel those of bats, we have not yet evolved bats' sophisticated mechanisms to combat viruses as they emerge and swiftly spread, the scientists noted.

"COVID-19 has such a different pathogenesis in older people. Age is one of the most critical factors between living and dying, and we have to treat aging as a whole process instead of just treating individual symptoms," Gorbunova said.

According to the researchers studying bats' immune systems can provide new targets for human therapies to fight diseases and aging.

Citing an example, they said bats have mutated or completely eliminated several genes involved in inflammation, adding that scientists can develop drugs to inhibit these genes in humans. "Humans have two possible strategies if we want to prevent inflammation, live longer, and avoid the deadly effects of diseases like COVID-19," Gorbunova said.

High BP Pills Can Also Reduce Colorectal Cancer Risk

Agencies

Researchers have now claimed that medications commonly prescribed to treat high blood pressure may also reduce patients' colorectal cancer risk.

Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor (ACE-i) or angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) medications are prescribed for conditions such as heart failure, high blood pressure or heart disease. These medications inhibit or block angiotensin, a chemical that causes arteries to become narrow, the researchers said.

Doctors commonly prescribe these medications to people with high blood pressure to relax and open blood vessels, thereby lowering blood pressure.

The current study, published in the Hypertension, an American Heart Association journal, revealed that taking these medications may also reduce colorectal cancer risk.

"Our results provide new insights on a potential role of these medications for colorectal cancer prevention," said study author Wai K Leung from the University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong.

"This is the first study to show the potential beneficial effects of ACE inhibitors and ARBs on colorectal cancer development, based on a large group of patients who were colorectal can-



cer-free at the beginning of the study," Leung added.

The roles of ACE inhibitors and ARBs on cancer development are controversial and, in some cases, study findings are conflicting. Results of previous studies have been limited by several factors including a small number of patients and data only on short-term follow-ups.

For the present study, the research team reviewed health records of 187,897 adult patients in Hong Kong from 2005 to 2013, with a negative baseline colonoscopy for colorectal cancer. The analysis found that those who took hypertension medications such as ACE-i or ARBs had a 22 per cent lower risk of developing colorectal cancer in the subsequent three years.

The benefits of ACE-i and

ARBs were seen in patients 55 or older and those with a history of colon polyps and the benefit associated with the medications were limited to the first three years after the negative baseline colonoscopy.

"While ACE-i and ARBs are taken by patients with high blood pressure, heart failure and kidney diseases, the reduction in colorectal cancer risk may be an additional factor for physicians to consider when choosing anti-hypertensive medications," Leung said.

Researchers noted that the results should be verified with a prospective randomised controlled study, which would actively follow patients to determine the potential benefits of these medications on colorectal cancer risk.

Scientists Identify Brain Cells That Trigger Sugar Cravings, Consumption

Agencies

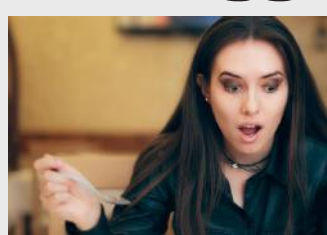
LOWA: A team of researchers has now identified the specific brain cells that control how much sugar you eat and how much you crave sweet-tasting food.

Most people enjoy a sweet treat every now and then. But an unchecked "sweet tooth" can lead to overconsumption of sugary foods and chronic health issues like obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Understanding the biological mechanisms that control sugar intake and preference for sweet taste could have important implications for managing and preventing these health problems.

The new study, led by Matthew Potthoff, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and pharmacology in the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, and Matthew Gillum, PhD, at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, focuses on actions of a

hormone called fibroblast growth factor 21 (FGF21). This hormone is known to play a role in energy balance, body weight control, and insulin sensitivity. "This is the first study that's really identified where this hormone is acting in the brain and that has provided some very cool insights to how it's regulating sugar intake," said Potthoff, who also is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center at the UI and the Iowa Neuroscience Institute.



Potthoff and his colleagues previously discovered that FGF21 is made in the liver in response to increased levels of sugar, and acts in the brain to

suppress sugar intake and the preference for sweet taste.

Building on that finding, the team has now shown, for the first time, which brain cells respond to FGF21's signals and how that interaction helps regulate the sugar intake and sweet taste preference. The study, published in the journal Cell Metabolism, also reveals how the hormone mediates its effects. Although it was known that FGF21 acted in the brain, identifying the exact cellular tar-

gets was complicated by the fact that the hormone's receptor is expressed at very low levels and is therefore difficult to "see."

Using various techniques, the researchers were able to precisely identify which cells express the receptor for FGF21. By investigating these cells, the study shows that FGF21 targets glutamatergic neurons in the brain to lower sugar intake and sweet taste preference.

The researchers also showed

that FGF21's action on specific neurons in the ventromedial hypothalamus reduce sugar intake by enhancing the neurons' sensitivity to glucose. Several drugs based on a modified form of FGF21 are already being tested as treatments for obesity and diabetes. The new findings could potentially lead to new drugs that more precisely target the different behaviors controlled by FGF21, which might help to control how much sugar a person eats.

Yemen's Houthis say Saudi oil facility hit in overnight attack

Agencies

Sanna: Yemen's Houthi rebels say they have attacked a large oil facility in an industrial complex south of the Saudi Arabian city of Jizan as part of an overnight operation.

The Saudi-led military coalition fighting the Houthis said on Monday it intercepted and destroyed four missiles and six bomb-laden drones launched by Houthi rebels towards the kingdom.

The missiles and drones

dozens of ranking military officers in Saudi Arabia.

The Houthis' military spokesman, Yahya Sarea, confirmed in a statement that the rebel group had launched attacks on Saudi military sites.

He said the group's ballistic missiles and drones had destroyed a number of military bases and installations of the Saudi coalition in Jizan, Najran and Assir near the border with Yemen, in a "wide-scale military operation".

"Additionally, the giant oil



were launched from Yemen's capital Sanaa and directed at civilian targets, coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

The Houthi rebels claim they also killed and injured

facility in the Jizan industrial zone. The strike was accurate," he said, adding that they also hit Saudi warplanes and other military targets in the airports of Abha, Jizan and Najran in southwest Saudi Arabia near the Yemen border.

Taliban kill 11 in assault on Afghan intelligence compound

Agencies

Kabul: Taliban insurgents launched a complex attack on an intelligence compound in northern Afghanistan on Monday that began with a suicide bombing and killed at least 11 intelligence agency personnel, officials said.

The attack took place in Aybak, the capital of the Samangan province. Sediq Azizi, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said another 63 people were wounded in the attack and the ensuing clashes.

A suicide bomber struck the compound, followed by two insurgents who opened fire. Both were killed in the gun battle, Azizi said. The blast from the initial bombing could be heard miles (kilometres) away and damaged several nearby buildings.



Abdul Khalil Musadiq, a provincial hospital chief, said many of those wounded were civilians, including children.

The Taliban claimed the attack. The insurgents have continued to regularly target Afghan security forces despite signing a peace agreement with the US in February that was intended to pave the way for an end to decades of war.

On Sunday, the Taliban attacked checkpoints in the northern Kunduz province, killing at least 14 Afghan security forces, according to Esmatullah Muradi, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

The Taliban said they were behind the attacks but claimed government forces fired mortar shells in response, hitting civilian homes — a claim dismissed by the Defence Ministry.

The Taliban and government forces have been trading blame over a recent surge in violence across Afghanistan — even as efforts continue to try and bring about the start of direct peace talks between the government and the insurgents.



Russia May Start Phase 3 Trial Of COVID-19 Vaccine In Mid-August

Agencies

Moscow: A Russian institute developing one of the country's potential coronavirus vaccines hopes to start its final stage testing in a small section of the general public in mid-August, the RIA news agency cited the institute's director as saying on Monday.

Globally, of 19 experimental COVID-19 vaccines in human trials, only two are in final Phase III trials - one by China's Sinopharm and another by AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford. China's Sinovac Biotech is set to become the third later this month.

Early results from the first small-scale human trial of the vaccine developed by the Ga-

maleya Institute in Moscow has shown it to be safe for use, according to a separate RIA report on Sunday.

"Around 14-15 August, I hope, the small amount of vaccine that we should be able to produce will enter public circulation," Alexander Ginsburg, the institute's director, was quoted as saying.

This will be equivalent to a Phase III trial, since people getting the vaccine will remain under supervision, RIA reported, citing Ginsburg.

Phase I and Phase II trials typically test the safety of a drug before it enters Phase III trials that test its efficacy on a bigger group of volunteers.

Human trials of the Gamaleya Institute's vaccine began

on June 18, with nine volunteers receiving one dose, and another nine testing the prospective booster dose.

The group did not experience any significant side effects and is due to be released from hospital on Wednesday, RIA reported on Sunday, citing a director at the Sechenov University in Moscow where the trial took place.

"Data currently available... shows the volunteers to have developed an immune response to the coronavirus vaccine," the defence ministry, involved in the trials, was cited by RIA as saying on Monday. Another 20 volunteers were administered the vaccine at a military hospital on June 23.

Coronavirus Has Worsened Global Hunger Crisis: UN Report

Agencies

Rome: Nearly one in nine people in the world are going hungry, with the coronavirus pandemic exacerbating already worsening trends this year, according to a United Nations report published Monday.

Economic slowdowns and climate-related shocks are pushing more people into hunger, while nutritious foods remain too expensive for many, contributing not only to undernourishment, but to growing rates of obesity in adults and children.

"After decades of long decline, the number of people suffering from hunger has been slowly increasing since 2014," said the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World annual report.

Not only did people need enough food, but nutritious food, the study said, citing costly "health and environmental consequences" of sub-par diets.

Nearly 690 million people, or 8.9 percent of people around the globe, are hungry, the UN found.

That number rose by 10

million people in just one year to 2019, and by 60 million in the past five years, found the study, which said eradicating hunger by 2030 - a goal set five years ago - will be impossible if

(UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Last year, the report estimated that over 820 million people were going hungry, but



trends continue.

By 2030, over 890 million people could be affected by hunger, or 9.8 percent of the world's population, it estimated.

Five United Nations agencies co-authored the report: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund

estimates were recalculated following revised data from China for prior years.

More undernourished people

When measuring both moderate and severe food insecurity in 2019, the number balloons from 690 million to 2 billion people without "regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food".

Pak to restore Afghan exports with India through Wagah from Wednesday

Agencies

Islamabad: Pakistan said on Monday that it will restore Afghanistan's exports through the Wagah border with India from Wednesday at the special request of Kabul and to facilitate Afghan Transit Trade.

Pakistan closed the Wagah border with India in mid-March in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"At the special request of the Government of Afghanistan and with a view to facilitating Afghanistan's transit trade, Pakistan has decided to resume Afghan exports through Wagah border crossing from 15 July 2020, after implementing COVID-19 related protocols," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The FO stated that with this step, Pakistan has fulfilled its commitments under Pakistan-Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA).

It also said Pakistan remains "fully committed" to improving bilateral relations with Afghanistan in all areas, including trade, and to facilitate Afghanistan's transit trade under the agreement.

Mohammad Sadiq, the Paki-

stan Prime Minister's Special Representative for Afghanistan, said that his country has already restored bilateral trade and Afghan transit trade at all border crossings.

Pakistan and Afghanistan share 18 crossing points. Pakistan closed its border with Iran and Afghanistan after COVID-19 cases increased in the country early this year.

Pakistan last week opened the Angor Adda point in South Waziristan and the Kharlachi crossing in Kurram districts bordering Afghanistan to boost trade between the two countries after months-long closure due to the coronavirus pandemic.

While the Angor Adda was operationalised on Friday, two days ahead of its scheduled opening, the Kharlachi was reopened on Saturday.

Last month, Pakistan reopened Torkham crossing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Chaman point in Balochistan and Ghulam Khan in North Waziristan tribal district to promote bilateral business and trade activities.

Pakistan has so far recorded 5,266 coronavirus fatalities and more than 251,000 cases.

Christian icons in the Hagia Sophia will be covered using optical technology: Hurriyet

Agencies

BEIRUT, LEBANON : The Turkish newspaper, Hurriyet

Teacher Affairs, located in Istanbul, into the presidency of Turkish religious affairs.

This came after the Turk-



Daily, said on Saturday that at the Hagia Sophia icons and paintings of Christian mosaics will be covered with light-based technology.

They explained that special curtains will be used during Islamic prayers, while carpets will be placed on the floor of the mosque, which will be lit in a certain way in order to darken the icons in the ceilings and walls.

Icons and mosaic panels are scattered in the walls and ceiling of Hagia Sophia, most of which carry Christian symbols such as the image of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary.

On Friday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a decree to open the historic Hagia Sophia landmark to worship as a mosque as of July 24.

He published on his official Twitter account, a picture of the presidential decree that transforms the Department of

ish Supreme Administrative Court issued a historical ruling to cancel the decision of the Turkish government in 1934 that transformed this historic landmark from a mosque to a museum, and the new decision to characterize the Hagia Sophia as a mosque was based on the title deed.

This decision has drawn widespread criticism from Russia, Greece, the European Union, the United States and UNESCO.

The Hagia Sophia was built in 537 AD as the largest church in the Byzantine Empire, and after the conquest of Constantinople (present-day Istanbul) by the Ottoman Empire in 1453, it was converted into a mosque, and in 1934 the Turkish secular government, led by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, decided to turn it into a museum that would be visited by tourists from different countries of the world.

NEWS MAKERS

US Man Dies After Attending "COVID-19 Party" Thinking Virus Was A "Hoax"

New York: A 30-year-old man from Texas died from the new coronavirus after attending a "COVID-19" party hosted by an infected person, a doctor has revealed, underlining the risk to younger people.

Jane Appleby, chief medical officer at the Methodist Hospital in San Antonio, said the man thought the virus was a hoax, despite it killing more than 135,000 people in the United States so far.

"Someone will be diagnosed with the disease, and they'll have a party to invite their friends over to see if they can beat the disease," Appleby said in a video broadcast by US media on Sunday.

"One of the things that was



heart-wrenching that he said to his nurse was, 'You know, I think I made a mistake.'

"He thought the disease was a hoax. He thought he was young and invincible and wouldn't get affected by the disease."

Appleby said young pa-

tients often do not realize how sick they are.

"They don't look really sick. But when you check their oxygen levels and their lab tests, they're really sicker than they appear," she said, calling on people to take the risks seriously.

US Town Grows Money From Trees During Pandemic Downturn

New York: Tenino had become a ghost town, and small businesses were struggling to survive amid the coronavirus pandemic, so local officials revived an unconventional idea from the last century: printing the town's own currency on thin planks of wood.

"There was no trading, no selling and the city streets were dead. They looked the same at 3 pm as they did at 3 am," said Wayne Fournier, mayor of the town of 1,800 people in Washington state, in the northwestern United States.

"We were getting a lot of calls from businesses saying they were not sure if they would be able to hang on," he told AFP.

The town's museum had a printing press, so it was put to use to make \$10,000 worth of bills on wooden rectangles, each nominally worth \$25.

They feature a portrait of President George Washington and bear a Latin inscription that translates as "We've got it



under control."

The money is being given as a grant to locals who demonstrate they have been economically harmed by the pandemic. Each resident is allowed up to \$300 per month.

Known as "Tenino dollars," "COVID dollars" or, sometimes, "Wayne dollars" after the mayor himself, the bills are traded at almost all shops in the town at a fixed rate equivalent to \$1.

The currency is good only inside the town limits.

Nelson Mandela's daughter Zindzi dies at 59

Zindzi Mandela, the daughter of South African anti-apartheid leaders Nelson Mandela and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, has died aged 59.

State television South African Broadcasting Corporation has reported that Mandela died at a Johannesburg hospital early Monday morning.

She had been South Africa's ambassador to Denmark since 2015.

The Mandelas' daughter came to international prominence in 1985, when the white minority government offered to release Nelson Mandela from prison if he denounced violence perpetrated by his movement, the Africa National Congress, against apartheid, the brutal system of racial discrimination enforced in South Africa at that time.

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-  Preventive Health Check-Up
-  Ayurvedic / Homeopathic Hospitalization Expenses

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