

Maximum : 28°C
Minum : 10°C
Humidity : 36%
SUNSET
Today 06:14 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:26 AM

News Digest

KEG Expresses Grief
At Demise Of Reporter

Srinagar: Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) has expressed shock over the sudden demise of a young reporter Javid Ahmad. Ahmad was associated with the daily 'Rising Kashmir'.

"The incident is not only tragic and shocking for the family of the young journalist but the

P-02

Youth Prevented From
Joining Militancy: Police

Srinagar: A youth from Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir, who was allegedly planning to join militancy, was apprehended and counselled before being handed over to his family, police said on Thursday. After receiving specific intelligence inputs about a youth planning to join militancy,

P-02

3 Gamblers Arrested
In Parimpora

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested three gamblers in a raid in Parimpora area of the city outskirts.

Acting on an input, a police team carried out a raid at Khowjabagh Malura Bund and apprehended three gamblers, a police spokesperson said. He said that

P-02

LAWDA Demolishes
Illegal Structures

Srinagar: The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Thursday demolished several illegal structures during a drive in this capital city. According to an official spokesperson, LAWDA's Enforcement Wing demolished several structures in Nowpora, Saderbal&Karpura

P-02

LOC FLARES UP

Pak Firing
Kills 3 Soldiers

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least three soldiers were killed and five others injured on Thursday as India and Pakistan troops traded heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Two soldiers were killed and four others injured when Pakistani troops opened fire and resorted to heavy shelling along the LoC in Naugam sector of the frontier Kupwara district on Thursday morning, officials said.

"Pakistan initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC in Naugam sector, Kupwara on Thursday morning by firing mortars and other weapons," Srinagar-

based defence spokesperson Colonel Rajesh Kalia said.

He said two soldiers were killed and four sustained injuries in the firing from across the border.

"The injured personnel are being evacuated while a befitting response is being given to the Pakistani firing," he added.

Earlier, a soldier was killed and another injured in Cross-LoC shelling in Krishna Ghati sector of the Poonch district.

The Pakistan Army initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing from small arms and intense shelling of mortars along the LoC in the Mankote and Krishna Ghati sectors on Wednesday night, a defence spokesperson said, adding that the Indian Army retaliated

PAGE 02

PAKISTAN INITIATED AN unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC in Naugam sector, Kupwara on Thursday morning by firing mortars and other weapons,"

Army To Buy 10 Lakh Grenades

The Indian Army will do away with its World War II vintage design hand grenade as the Defence Ministry has signed a Rs 409 crore contract for procurement of new 10 lakh multi-mode hand grenades. Providing further boost to the 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector, the ministry's acquisition wing

P-02

Decks Cleared for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Project

Rs 5300 crore project to be executed in Joint Venture mode between JKPDC and NHPC ; J&K's equity of Rs 776 crores to be provided as grant from Gol

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant decision, the Public Investment Board (PIB), in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India has recommended that the 850 MW Ratle HEP be developed through a Joint Venture company (JVC) between the JK Power Development Corporation (JKPDC) and the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).

The PIB has also recommended an investment approval for Rs 5281.94 crore for the project including an infusion of Equity of Rs. 808.14



crore by NHPC in the Joint venture company. The equity contribution of JKPDC in the company pegged at

Rs. 776.44 crore will be provided as grant from the Government of India. The recommendations of the PIB

will pave the way for final approval of the project and an early beginning of work on the project. It may be recalled that 850 MW Ratle HEP was the first project in India which was awarded through tariff-based bidding. However, the project was stalled due to the unilateral withdrawal by the erstwhile developer from the Project. All the clearances for the project are already in place and the project is expected to be completed within 36 months of the start of work. The initiation of the project will be yet another step in adding to the revenues of

PAGE 02

SC Directs Refund
Of Flight Tickets
Cancelled Due To
Lockdown

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Thursday directed refund of air tickets, domestic and international, for travel during the COVID-19 lockdown period from March 25 to May 24 within three weeks from the date of the cancellation of flights.

Accepting the Centre's proposal, the top court directed that if the tickets have been booked through an agent for travel within the lockdown period, in all such cases full refund shall be given by the airlines immediately and the amount shall be passed on immediately by the agent to the passengers.

It said: If on account of financial distress, any

Covid-19 Claims 15 More
Lives In J&K, Toll 1199

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least fifteen more people succumbed to Covid-19 in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the number of fatalities in the Union Territory since the pandemic outbreak to 1199.

While twelve more deaths were reported from Jammu division, three others were confirmed by officials from Kashmir Valley.

According to the officials, among the Covid-19 victims in Jammu division included a 70-year-old from Batehra Jammu, an

Ex-JK Bank
Chairman Booked
For Violating
Tendering Norms

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a case against a private firm and three former bank officials, including then chairman Parvaiz Ahmad, on the allegations of causing Rs 6.29 crore loss to the bank by not following tendering rules.

P-02

Former BMO Beerwah, 2 Other Officials Suspended
Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday suspended former BMO Beerwah along with two other delinquent

P-02



"Back to village is a unique and sincere effort of the government to reach the doorsteps of the people"

Manoj Sinha
Lieutenant Governor



Back to
Village-3
B2V3

02 -12 October, 2020

Governance at Peoples' Doorstep

Begins Today



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

A unique outreach initiative

Officer to spend 3 days and
2 nights in the Panchayat

Distribution of Domicile & other certificates
Griha Pravesh of PMAY houses

Sports Activities,
Distribution of Sports Kits

Gram Sabhas to meet and finalise
developmental plan

Developmental works to be
inaugurated, new works to be started

3 WEEK PRE-B2V3 PROGRAMME

JAN ABHIYAN
Awami Muhim

September 10-30, 2020
CONCLUDED SUCCESSFULLY

'Back to Village' Phase-III To Bring Mega Dev Push for Rural J&K: LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Asserting that the third phase of back to village programme was aimed to bring a mega development push for rural Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday asked the officers to use the opportunity to connect with the people and serve them to the best

Sinha made these remarks during a meeting he convened with all the Deputy Commissioners and Police Superintendents through video conferencing, a day before the launch of the B2V3 programme, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said invited innovative ideas & suggestions from all stakeholders and asked the officers to apply them to provide best services to the people.

"Give 100% for Equity, Growth and Inclusion in J&K villages, use B2V3 Jan Abhiyan opportunity to connect with the people and serve them to the best. Back to Village programme is not for one person, Panchayat or District, but for the whole UT and everyone should come forward to own it and play their important role to uplift the socio-economic condition of rural J&K," the LG, as per official spokesperson said.

He said that the LG also directed the officers to fully utilize

various communication tools to spread massive awareness about the programme so that it can reach the maximum population.

"Real-time feedback should be recorded by visiting officers regarding reach of various government services, status of 100 % saturation of different social security and individual beneficiary oriented schemes and analyzed report shall be submitted on the same, the Lt Governor maintained," the official spokesperson said.

He added that the LG said that special focus should be laid on coverage of beneficiaries under different scholarship schemes, Adhaar seeding of Ration cards, works under MGNREGA, distribution of Sports kits, installation of two dustbins in every Panchayat for solid and liquid waste management, water conservation and identification of at least two young entrepreneurs, road connectivity, power and water supply, he added.

"Agriculture Officers should remain updated for all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for farmers, especially nine major initiatives for farmers, including use of Micro irrigation, identifying high-density apple orchards and others, he added.

He directed for sensitization of all visiting officers so that they

can aware the farmers regarding the same," Sinha, as per official spokesperson said.

While observing the public response of Jan Abhiyan and Block Diwas achievements, the official spokesperson said that the LG enquired about the major demands and issues of the people raised during the programme.

"He also informed all DCs and SPs that like Jan Abhiyan, Back to Village 3 will also be monitored very closely at High level to assess the ground level situation in the UT," the official spokesperson said.

"He lauded the significant achievements made during Jan Abhiyan held across the UT. It was informed that 150212 participants attended the two Block Diwas under Jan Abhiyan. A total of 24313 grievances were received out of which 11271 were disposed of on the spot and rest were directed for speedy disposal. 15583 revenue papers and 3956 Universal Health cards were issued besides other important certificates during the two Block Diwas," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, Sinha suggested that three to four Sub-division level headquarters be identified as a regular feature in all districts for easy reach of the public to administration and advised for club-

bing two, three or more blocks for mega blocks level events.

"He issued directions to the DCs, ADCs, SSPs, ASPs and other senior officers of the Districts to remain present at all Sub-Division Headquarters in every District on a rotational basis from 10 am to 4 pm every Wednesday, with officers and representatives of different line departments," he said. The LG, he said further directed that every visiting officer shall apprise the people of respective panchayats about the availability of funds in the Panchayats and works should be done priority wise and on merit.

"He directed that works to be undertaken should be identified by the Gram Sabhas and officers should act as facilitators in identifying them," the official spokesperson said.

"Congratulating the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for publishing "Panchayat Letter", the LG directed for distribution of the same based on area wise language preferably, out of the five official languages of the UT," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that the LG also directed the DCs to lays special focus on awareness on Do's and Don'ts of COVID-19 during B2V3 and ensure adherence to all COVID-19 related guidelines.

Indian, Chinese Army Working To Schedule Next Round Of Talks: MEA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian and Chinese army are working to schedule their seventh round of talks to take steps towards "early and complete" disengagement of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in accordance with the existing bilateral agreement and protocols, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

The comments by the spokesperson of the MEA came a day after the two countries held another round of diplomatic talks under the framework of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs to resolve the five-month-long military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

The two sides have already held a series of diplomatic and military talks to defuse the standoff but no concrete breakthrough has been achieved yet.

The sixth round of Corps commander-level talks was held on September 21 following which they announced a slew of decisions including not to send more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further

complicate matters.

The military talks were held with a specific agenda of drawing a roadmap to implement the five-point agreement reached between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at a meeting in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) meet.

"As agreed in the last senior commanders' meeting, the two sides are now working to schedule the seventh round of the meeting so that both sides can work towards early and complete disengagement of the troops along the LAC in accordance with the existing bilateral agreement and protocols, and fully restore peace and tranquility," Srivastava said.

On Wednesday's diplomatic talks, he said the two sides were of the view that it was necessary to implement the steps outlined in the last meeting of the senior commanders so as to avoid misunderstandings and to maintain stability on the ground.

The MEA spokesperson said the two sides reviewed the situation along the LAC and had detailed discussions over it, besides reviewing the outcome of the sixth round of military

talks which took place on September 21.

"As I had noted last week that the meeting had resulted in a joint press release and two sides had agreed on some steps to ensure stability on the ground even as they work towards complete disengagement in all friction areas," said Srivastava.

The agreement reached at the Jaishankar-Wang meeting included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC.

Meanwhile, Jaishankar on Thursday greeted his Chinese counterpart Wang as well as the government and the people of China on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the founding of the country.

"Extend my felicitations to State Councilor & FM Wang Yi and the Government and People of PRC on the 71st anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China," Jaishankar tweeted.

On October 1, 1949, Chairman Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China after Communist forces won a 20-year civil war.

5% Interest Subvention For Borrowers: Govt

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday evening accorded formal sanction for interest subvention of 5% in case of all borrowers, excluding borrowers under KCC, ACC, Loan against deposits, Loans under personal segments, NBFCs for a period of six months w.e.f 1st April, 2020 announced by the Government for Relief and Revival of Business Sector. According to an order issued by Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Financial Commissioner, Finance Department the benefit shall be available to those borrowers whose accounts were standard on 31-07-2019 or 31-03-2020 whichever is applicable. The J&K Bank (Convenor UTLCB) shall provide list of all such borrowers. Money shall be transferred in DST mode and modalities for release of interest subvention shall be communicated by the J&K Bank (Convenor UTLCB) within a weeks' time.

Onus On Pakistan To Create Normal Ties: India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said it desires to have normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence and the onus is on Islamabad to create such an environment.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson AnuragSrivastava said India's efforts to step up engagement with the countries of the region are reflection of its 'Neighbourhood First policy'.

"This is certainly a reflection of our Neighbourhood First policy, wherein the government

is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with our neighbours," he said at a media briefing.

He said India's engagement with these countries is based on a consultative, non-reciprocal and outcome oriented approach.

Srivastava was replying to a question on India's renewed efforts in the last few months to further expand ties with Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Maldives and several other countries of the region.

"We have a large development cooperation footprint in these

countries and we are engaged in several projects for greater connectivity, improved infrastructure and broader people-to-people contacts," he said.

On Pakistan, he said the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment for normal ties.

"As regards Pakistan, the government has conveyed that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an atmosphere free from terror, hostility and violence. The onus is on Pakistan for creating such an environment," he said.

Pak Firing Kills 3 Soldiers...

in a befitting manner. Lance Naik Karnail Singh was killed in the firing from across the border, the spokesperson said.

According to reports, another jawan identified as Virender Singh was injured in the firing in the Krishna Ghati sector and has been hospitalised. Earlier, an Army personnel was killed and two others, including an officer, were injured in firing from across the border on September 5 in the Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district, officials said. On September 2, one JCO was killed in yet another cross-border firing incident in the Keri sector of Rajouri. (With PTI inputs)

Army To Buy10 Lakh Grenades...

signed a contract with Nagpur-based Economic Explosive Ltd (Solar Group) for supply of the new grenades.

The multi-mode hand grenade has been designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratories (TBRL) and is being produced by EEL, Nagpur. The grenades have a distinctive design, and can be used in both offensive and defensive modes.

This is a flagship project showcasing public-private partnership under the aegis of the DRDO and the Defence Ministry enabling "AtmaNirbharta" in cutting-edge ammunition technologies, with 100 per cent indigenous content, the Ministry said.

Decks Cleared for 850 MW...

the UT from its abundant hydro resources.

It may be recalled that although a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been signed among J&K Power Development Department, J&K State Power Development Corporation Limited and NHPC Limited on 3rd Feb, 2019, regarding the execution of the project in JV mode, yet the matter had remained pending for want of a final decision on the mode of execution. The government of J&K had been consistently arguing for execution of the work in the JV mode as agreed in the Feb 2019 MoU.

J&K has over 20,000 MW of hydro power potential, out of which 16000 MW has been identified. With the PIB decision, J&K would have moved another step closer to harnessing nearly 2500 MW of this potential. While the 1000 MW Pakaladul project and 624 MW Kiru are already under execution by Chenab Valley Power Project Private Limited (CVPP), a Joint Venture of JKSPDC, NHPC and PTC India limited, the 540 MW Kawar is likely to be taken up shortly.

Now that the decks have been cleared for the 850 MW Ratle project too to come up after incorporation of Joint Venture company i.e Jammu Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, an additional 3000 MW will be available to supplement the demand-supply position in J&K and boost the overall economy of the UT.

SC Directs Refund Of Flight...

airline/airlines are not able to refund then they shall provide credit shell, equal to the amount of fare collected, in the name of passenger when the booking is done either directly by the passenger or through travel agent so as to consume the same on or before March 31, 2021. It is open to passengers either to utilise such credit shell up to March 31, 2021 on any route of choice or transfer the credit shell to any person including the travel agent concerned, and the airlines shall honour such a transfer, the top court said.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah said the suggestions and formulations arrived at the meeting held by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA), Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which are acceptable to the majority of stakeholders have to be implemented in letter and spirit.

We also feel that such formulations are workable solutions in these peculiar circumstances which are prevailing in the country, the bench said, while passing a slew of directions for refund of air tickets to the hassled passengers, whose flights were cancelled due to the pandemic-induced lockdown.

The top court's verdict came on a batch of petitions, including by NGOs and passengers associations, seeking complete refund of ticket fare for the flights cancelled.

It said that the court cannot lose sight of the present situation prevailing in the country and across the globe with regard to the effect of the

COVID-19 pandemic and any strict enforcement action of Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) (aviation norms) against the airlines would further restrict their operations.

It cannot be disputed that the civil aviation sector, which is one of the important sectors, is seriously affected in view of the ban imposed for operating flights. Added to the same, air passenger traffic has come down heavily and which is gradually being restored, the top court said. It added that any such enforcement action may further jeopardise the possibilities of generation of cash by airlines which can further adversely affect/delay the refund cycle.

Strict enforcement of Civil Aviation Requirements at this moment may not yield any meaningful result for any stakeholder, the bench said. It said that the passengers who booked tickets at any period of time but for travel after May 24, then the refund of fares to the passengers covered under this category shall be governed by the provisions of CAR. Even for international travel, when the tickets have been booked on an Indian carrier and the booking is ex-India (flights originating from India), if the tickets have been booked during the lockdown period for travel within the lockdown period, immediate refund shall be made, the bench said in its order.

If the tickets are booked for international travel on a foreign carrier and the booking is ex-India during the lockdown period for travel within the lockdown period, full refund shall be given by the airlines and said amount shall be passed on immediately by the agent to the passengers, wherever such tickets are booked through agents, it added.

In all other cases airline shall refund the collected amount to the passenger within a period of three weeks, the bench emphasised and added that the credit shell issued in the name of the passenger shall be transferable which can be utilized up to March 31, 2021 and the concerned airline shall honour such a transfer by devising a mechanism to facilitate such a transfer.

It is also made clear that such a credit shell can be utilized by the concerned agent through whom the ticket is booked, for third party use. It is also made clear that even in cases where the credit shell is transferred to a third party; same is to be utilized only through the agent who has booked the ticket at the first instance, it directed.

Justice Reddy, who penned the verdict on behalf of the bench, said that in cases where passengers have purchased the ticket through an agent, and credit shell is issued in the name of passenger, such credit shell is to be utilized only through the agent who has booked the ticket.

It said that in cases where tickets are booked through agent and credit shell is issued in the name of the passenger remains unutilized till March 31, 2021, then the refund of the fare collected shall be made to the same account from which account amount was received by the airline.

The bench said that in all cases where credit shell is issued there shall be an incentive to compensate the passenger from the date of cancellation up to June 30, 2020 in which event the credit shell shall be enhanced by 0.5 per cent of the face value (the amount of fare collected) for every month or part thereof between the date of cancellation and June 30, 2020.

Ex-JK Bank Chairman Booked ...

"The ACB has registered an FIR against Sahil Vora and Rishabh Vora, directors, SILA Solutions Pvt Ltd, on the allegation that officials of J-K Bank awarded tenders of housekeeping to a Mumbai-based company by not following the proper tendering norms that led to the losses to the tune of Rs 6.29 crore to the bank from the date of award of contract," an official spokesperson said.

In its FIR, the ACB has also named Surjeet Singh Seghal, the then executive president J-K Bank (now retired), Parvaiz Ahmad, the then chairman of J&K Bank (now retired), Feroz Ahmad, the then assistant vice president, he said.

The spokesperson said the case pertains to allotment of tenders for housekeeping of off site ATMs to SILA Solutions by not following proper tendering norms as provided the contract to the said firm despite not falling into the criteria of any such allotment.

"Earlier, a verification was conducted by the Anti Corruption Bureau into the matter wherein it was revealed that J-K Bank with headquarters at Srinagar came out with a pan-India tender for housekeeping services in 2015.

"J-K Bank officials in contravention of tender conditions negotiated the rates with SILA Solutions and the company was awarded the tender in gross violation of the General Financial Rules (GFR)," the

spokesperson said.

The contract of SILA Solutions, amongst other conditions, included ATM cleaning and deployment of janitors.

"The additional management fee awarded to SILA Solutions by J-K Bank was not part of the original tender. The loss on the account of the tender has worked out to be over Rs 6 crores. The loss is likely to go up as the investigation progresses," he added.

The spokesperson said in this connection, ACB Srinagar conducted searches on September 17 at the residential house of Feroz Ahmad, the then assistant vice president J-K Bank, in Kathidarwaza area of the city and recovered incriminating documents

Former BMO Beerwah, 2 Other...

officials, pending enquiry into their conduct in connection with a case registered by the vigilance organization Kashmir, now Anti-Corruption Bureau, in 2014.

The suspension order has been issued with immediate effect in terms of Rule 31 of Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules 1956, reads a government order issued here, reported news agency GNS.

Besides the then BMO Beerwah Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Bandy, the other officials suspended include Mushtaq Ahmad Parray, the then Junior Assistant (Cashier), Medical Block, Beerwah presently posted at Medical Block Khansahib and Zahoor Ahmad Bandy, the then Pharmacist, SDH, Beerwah, presently posted at Medical Block Soibugh, Budgam.

Covid-19 Claims 15 More Lives...

82-year-old from Talab Tillo, a 78-year-old man from Nanak Nagar, a 53-year-old from Sainik Colony Jammu, a 78-year-old man from Doda town, a 61-year-old man from Shiva area of Doda and a 65-year-old woman from Surankote Poonch.

In Valley, two among the three victims of the deadly infection were from Budgam and another from Anantnag. Besides these deaths, officials said, 1199 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far—844 from the Valley and 355 from Jammu division.

Srinagar district with 292 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (192), Baramulla (124), Budgam (84), Pulwama (69), Kupwara (67), Anantnag (66), Kulgam (43), Bandipora(37), Shopian (32), Rajouri (32), Ganderbal (29), Doda (31), Kathua (22), Samba (21), Udhampur (18), Poonch (16), Ramban (10), Kishtwar(7) and Reasi (6), (With GNS inputs)

28 Security Men Among 1093...

28 army and paramilitary men besides fifteen travelers, taking the number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 76163. Of these cases, officials said 692 were from Jammu Division and 401 from Kashmir Valley.

Giving district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 164, Budgam 54, Baramulla 39, Pulwama 25,Anantnag 16, Bandipora 34, Kupwara 27, Ganderbal 27, Kulgam 13, Shopian 2, Jammu 490, Rajouri 39, Udhampur 20, Kathua 16, Doda 22, Samba 20, Poonch 14, Ramban 22 and Kishtwar 49.

Among them, many cases were confirmed at CD and SKIMS Soura diagnostic laboratories including 15 from BB Cantt Srinagar, seven BSF personnel, six CRPF men, 03 minors and one doctor.

Moreover, officials said, 1680 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 1071 from Jammu Division and 609 from Kashmir Valley.

More Than 10K Covid-19 Cases...

of 85 per cent, the chief of the country's largest paramilitary force, A P Maheshwari, said on Friday.

He said the force is undertaking various measures to ensure that its troops remain fit and have high immunity levels to combat diseases such as COVID-19.

"We have had over 10,000 coronavirus cases in our force, but most people have recovered. The recovery rate is about 80-85 per cent.

"Conducting a running event like this during the times of COVID-19 is to underline the fact that we need to boost our immunity and enhance physical capability to combat diseases like the coronavirus while following medical protocols such as wearing face masks and ensuring physical

Pakistan ex-PM Sharif Accuses Army Of Political Interference

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday accused the country's powerful military of political interference, saying in a televised speech from exile in London that the military had rigged the 2018 vote that brought the country's current prime minister to power.

The 70-year-old Sharif has had a long uneasy relationship with the military, with Thursday's tirade the latest confrontation.

"I will never reconcile with those who violate the constitu-

tion by indulging in politics, Sharif said, listing off ways he said the 2018 was rigged to bring Prime Minister Imran Khan to power. He said interfering in politics in uniform amounts to treason under the country's constitution. His allegations sparked an angry response from Khan, who in his own televised remarks on Thursday said Sharif was playing a very dangerous game by humiliating the military and intelligence services. He dismissed the allegations of rigged elections as baseless.

distancing," the CRPF director general told reporters at the closing event of the "Fit India Freedom Run" at Vijay Chowk in the national capital.

CRPF spokesperson Deputy Inspector General Moses Dhinakaran said the force personnel deployed across the country have collectively walked and run about 1.5 crore kms as part of the fitness initiative that was launched on August 15.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officials, sportspersons including the first Arjuna award recipient of the country G S Randhawa, Olympian Sushil Kumar, weightlifter Kunjarani Devi and others took part in a run from Vijay Chowk to India Gate in central Delhi to mark the occasion. The CRPF, with about 3.25 lakh personnel in its ranks, is the mainstay for anti-Naxal operations in the country and counter-terrorist operations in the Kashmir valley.

According to latest data, 58 personnel of the force have succumbed to the coronavirus.

KEG Expresses Grief At Demise...

entire media fraternity in Kashmir is pained at his sudden demise", KEG said in a condolence message.

KEG has expressed solidarity with the family members of the young journalist saying the editors body shares their pain and agony equally. According to reports Javed suffered a massive heart attack near Hyderabad Pattan while travelling to Srinagar from Baramulla in the morning. Though he was shifted to a nearby trauma hospital but he was declared as brought dead.

Javed Ahmad hails from Watergam area of Rafiabad and had recently got married as well.

Youth Prevented From Joining...

police in Ganderbal district in Central Kashmir apprehended him and he was put to a brief questioning, a police official said.

During the questioning and upon verifying his social media outlook especially on WhatsApp and Telegram, the official said, it transpired that 22-year-old Umar Nazir Sheikh was in constant touch with some suspects in Bandipora and Pulwama and had developed an inclination to join militancy.

The youth was properly counselled by Ganderbal SSP Khaili Ahmad Poswal and other experts in presence of his parents and was later handed over to his parent, the official said.

He said Sheikh's parents expressed their gratitude to the police for this gesture and thanked them 'for saving their beloved one early before his life gets ruined'.

The SSP said several anti-national elements and operatives from across the border have been preying upon gullible Kashmiri youths on various social media platforms and enticing them to join militancy which needs to be curbed.

Poswal said parents should also come forward and report any such activity of their wards so that they are mainstreamed through concerted counselling by experts. PTI

3 Gamblers Arrested In...

besides playing cards and three mobile phones, an amount of Rs 15300 were recovered from the spot.

The police spokesperson said that all the accused have been shifted to Police Station Parimpora.

"Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Parimpora and investigation has been initiated," he added.

LAWDA Demolishes Illegal...

which were raised by some violators taking the undue advantage of Covid-19. "On the occasion the Enforcement Officer said strict action shall be taken against those found indulging in any sort of illegal constructions/encroachments in LDA jurisdiction," he said.

According to the official spokesperson, the Enforcement Officer also impressed that no construction activity within 200 meters from the lake and the other restrictions imposed under Master Plan should come up and the violators shall be dealt-with strictly under the law.

"He further added that the public residing within the LDA jurisdiction are hereby directed not to go for any sort of illegal constructions," he added.

Journalist Javid Ahmad Dies Of Heart Attack

SRINAGAR: Journalist Javid Ahmad, who was working as a correspondent with daily Rising Kashmir, died of heart attack while on way to Srinagar from north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday. The demise has been widely condoled.

A resident of Watargam Ra-fiabad, the journalist was on his way to Srinagar in a passenger vehicle when he suddenly fell unconscious after suffering a heart attack in Pattan. He was shifted to a nearby hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Govt Announces 2 New Schemes For Artisans

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday announced 2 new schemes for artisans to provide fillip to the famed handicrafts and handloom sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a first, the government today announced a new financial support scheme for cooperatives and self-help groups (SHGs) registered in the handicrafts and handloom department under the J&K Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999 by replacement of the existing Managerial Subsidy Scheme, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

Under the scheme, he said each cooperatives/ SHG shall be provided a one-time financial support of Rs.1lakh in two equal installments of Rs 50,000/- each.

"The funds shall be transferred to the beneficiary Co-operative/ SHG through DBT mode only. An annual target of 2000 Cooperatives/ SHGs has been fixed for implementation in both rural and urban areas of the Union Territory," the official spokesperson said.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/1962/MVD/ANG

Date:-01/10/020



NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Mohd Amin Bhat S/O Gh Qadir Bhat R/O Nipora Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Santro Bearing Regd. No.JK03B-4115(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Gh Mohi ud din Bhat S/O Gh Mohd Bhat R/O Bilal Colony Paibugh Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Salia Anantnag.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

MJA

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.ARTO/ANG/PUB 101/1963

Date:-01/10/020



NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Mohd Amin Magray S/O Ghulam Qadir Magray R/O Naibasti Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle M/C Bearing Regd. No.JK03E-2120(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Mudasir Shamim S/O Shamus ud din R/O Brain Dangerpora Nishat Sgr.(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with N/A.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

MJA

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

HC Miffed Over 'Unnecessary Delays' Caused By Govt Counsel

Orders Personal Appearance Of Com Sec JSD, Asks CS To Take Note

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has ordered personal appearance of Commissioner Secretary to Jal Shakti Department even as pulled up government counsel for causing "unnecessary delays".

"The respondents (officials) have neither filed the reply nor are they represented before us," a bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta said while an application filed in PIL regarding conserva-

tion and preservation of Dal Lake.

"Let the Commissioner / Secretary to Government, Jal Shakti Department of J&K, remain present in person on the next date of hearing," the court said, adding, "We may note that despite service of advance notices / copies of the petitions, counsels appearing for the official respondents are never prepared to make submissions in opposition, resulting in completely

unnecessary delays."

The court said that it appears that no effort is made to obtain instructions from Government departments to assist the Court on the first date of hearing and it is taken for granted that notices would be issued in a routine.

"No effort is made to oppose the matter. As a result, interim orders which have serious repercussions (for instance stays of land acquisition for large infrastructure proj-

ects; stay of selection processes which have been conducted after following long procedures; stays of transfers and posting orders; interim protection to encroachers amongst others) results," the court said, adding, "We find that these cases remain pending for decades. As a result illegalities are perpetuated for decade's together having the heavy burden on the public interest as well as public exchequer."

The court said that the service of advance copy before filing means that a counsel representing the opposite side is well prepared to assist the Court.

"This is the practice followed in other courts. Let a copy of this order be served upon the Chief Secretary and the Secretary, Law Department, to ensure that henceforth, a more efficient practice in the interest of government is adopted," the court said and posted the case on October 22. (GNS)

2 October

Nation pays tributes to
Mahatma Gandhi & Lal Bahadur Shastri
on their birth anniversary

Revered Babu's life reminds us to ensure that our every action should be such that it leads to the well-being of the poor and deprived. Likewise, Shastri Ji's life imparts to us the message of humility and simplicity.
- Narendra Modi

Scan the QR Code to participate in the quiz on Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri

DAMP-22201/13/0021/2021

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, IRRIGATION DIVISION SHOPIAN CORRIGENDUM

Subject :E-NIT SL No: (33) for the year 2020-21

Reference :This office E-NIT No: 2690-2712 dated: 21-09-2020

Please read the description of the item No 01 of BOQ of Enit 33 figuring at S.no 02 on NIT (amount of work Rs. 2.95 lacs)

"Earth work in bulk excavation by mechanical means (hydraulic excavator) over areas (exceeding 30 cm in depth, 1.5 m in width as well as 10 m2 on plan) including disposal of excavated earth lead upto 50 meters and lift upto 1.5 m, as directed by Engineer-in-Charge. All kinds of soil"

INSTEAD OF

"Earth work in excavation by manual means in trenches for foundations, drains, pipes, cables etc. (not exceeding 1.5 min width) and for shafts, wells, cesspits and the like not exceeding 10 sqm on plan, including dressing of sides andramming of bottoms lift upto 1.5 m, including getting out excavated earth and disposal of surplus excavated earth asdirected: (All kinds of soil)"and work figuring at S. No 07 of the said E-NIT has been cancelled due to error on its BOQ.

All other terms and conditions shall remain the same as laid down in the afore mentioned E-NIT.
No. SID/2902-2929
Dated: 30-09-2020

Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division Shopian.

DIPK-6630/20

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUFFASIL R&B DIVISION, BUDGAM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 105/MDB/ 6082-6102 of 2020-21 DATED:30.09.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K (Union Territory), e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs)	E/M (In Rs.)	Time	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9
1	Repairement/Re-Construction of drain near Graveyard Yagipora at Ward No: 01 MC Magam	0.90 Lacs	200/-	1800/-	10 days	DEE	UDS
2	Construction of lane/Drain from H/O Ashiq Hussain Mir and Mohammad Ashraf Mir via H/O Nasir Ahmad Mir to Kul at Jamia Mohalla Ward No: 5 at Magam	1.28 Lacs	200/-	2560/-	10 days	DEE	UDS
3	Construction of RCC culvert from Foot path of Back side Court complex to Land of Manzoor Ahmad Mir at Jamia Mohalla Ward No: 05 MC Magam	1.40 Lacs	200/-	2800/-	10 days	DEE	UDS

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30.09.2020 4.00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30.09.2020 from 4.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	30.09.2020 from 4.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	08.10.2020 upto 4.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	09.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Chitatan/Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam(tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).

- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).
- The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No:6082-6102
Date:30.09.2020

DIPK-6650/20

Executive Engineer,
Muffasil (R&B) Division, Budgam.

Sd-

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

Short term NIET NO: 20 e-Tendering/2020-21

Dated: 28-09-2020

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest money	Time of Completion in days/ Weeks	Class of Contract (Civil)	Head of Account
1	Barricading of Damaged Foot Bridge at Flood channel Mehjoor Nagar Srinagar	1.16	200	2320	05 days strictly	DEE	Approval under process

1	Publish date	28-09-2020 06:00 PM
2	Document download	29-09-2020 10:00AM To 06-10-2020 04:00PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	01-10-2020 06:00PM To 06-10-2020 04:00PM
4	Bid Opening date	07-10-2020 02:00 PM
5	Submission of hardcopy for successful bidder	08-10-2020 upto 4.00 PM

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Note: The intended bidders have to deposit the tender fee in the Municipal Account No: 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Brach Balgarden, before uploading of their bids and scanned copy of the same (with NIET No & Serial no. mentioned) to be uploaded along with all other documents prescribed in the NIET while uploading their bids and also upload the CDR,Bank Receipt.

No: SMC/EELRWD/1697-1706
Dated:20-09-2020

DIPK-NB-2688/20

Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Mehbooba Mufti's detention

Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the centre and J&K government how long it wished to keep the former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti in custody. The observation was made while hearing the petition of Mehbooba's daughter Iltija Mufti that challenges the former Chief Minister's detention under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA). Mehbooba along with other political leaders was taken into custody on August 5, 2019 when the centre repealed Article 370 that granted J&K autonomy under India's constitution. But while other leaders including Dr Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah, both former J&K Chief Ministers, have since been released, Mehbooba not only continues to be under detention but has also the PSA slapped against her to perpetuate her incarceration.

Supreme Court has asked the government that prima facie it had "exceeded the maximum period of detention" for Mehbooba. However, the reality is that there is still no indication that Mehbooba is going to be released anytime soon. Her release will depend on how the court disposes of the case in a future hearing.

Besides political leaders, there were civil society activists and hundreds of youth who were part of over 13000 detentions made in the wake of August 5 move. A large number of them have since been released. But many who have not been have also filed their petitions with the courts. Their cases are yet to be disposed of leading the High Court Bar Association to raise this issue in a letter written in June to Chief Justice of India S A Bobde.

According to Bar Association, 99 per cent of the habeas corpus petitions filed with the J&K High Court since the scrapping of Article 370 in August last year have remained pending. The letter reveals that "since 6th of August, 2019, more than 600 habeas corpus petitions have been filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Union Territory of J&K at Srinagar and till date not even 1 per cent of such cases have been decided". The bar association has also said that it had approached High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal with their concerns, but no concrete steps were taken.

The past year, however, has been tough on both the people and the institutions of J&K. Due to a stringent security lockdown and snapping of all means of communications, even High Court could not function properly. Things became worse when post-Article 370 lockdown was followed by Covid-19 lockdown that brought the economy and the government to a stop. But with economy incrementally re-opening, things can be hoped to get back to normal in near future. There is hope that not only the habeas corpus petitions in the High Court will be disposed of soon but there will also be a decision on Mehbooba's continued detention.

OTHER OPINION

Impunity in Hathras

The gangrape and maiming of a 19-year-old woman from the Dalit community in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, ended on Tuesday night with her death, and a hasty, lonely cremation in the dead of the night. It was a crime that stands out for being enabled by many inequalities and injustices. The most striking is the caste privilege that allows upper-caste men entitlement, with apparent impunity, over the bodies of Dalits. (The accused are from a Thakur family with a record of caste violence against the victim's family). It is one more example of the epidemic of sexual violence that regularly crushes Indian women and girls. UP police officials stand accused of cremating the woman, without allowing a last glimpse to the grieving parents and without their consent. To be able to inflict so much cruelty takes insensitivity, of course, but it is also a function of a reflex, honed over years, to bend to entrenched systems of power.

The Uttar Pradesh police, in the last few years, has consistently chipped away at its facade of being a professional police force. In the service of "a tough administration" and a "nationalist" macho government, it has crossed several red lines. Extra-judicial killings are projected and celebrated as justice, despite reprimands from the Supreme Court — and no police officer is held accountable. As an investigation in this paper has shown, the National Security Act (NSA) is used recklessly in cases of cow slaughter — often a dog whistle in heartland politics against the minorities — and also to book those protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act. The crackdown against protestors during the anti-CAA protests, their naming and shaming through posters in public places, were all giveaways of a police force ready to use a heavy hand to serve a partisan agenda.

In a democracy, the state is granted the monopoly of violence, but, in turn, it is bound to fairness, justice and due process for all — and not just the few. But lawkeepers, unless held accountable to law, remain a weapon in the hands of the powerful. The Hathras incident underlines that the all-powerful UP policeman, impatient with the checks of procedure and law, stands against the vulnerable and powerless. The UP police has often justified its excesses in the name of maintaining law and order; it must ask itself what law was protected by violating the sanctity of a 19-year-old girl's last rites.

Indian Express



View from the Foyer

Encounter Killings

R. Raj Rao

News channels that favour the government always claim that civilians aren't killed by the army but by militants; they are frequently killed in the crossfire that occurs when militants attack soldiers. However, many of us think otherwise.

This week saw the death of both a soldier and a militant in Pulwama, which has somehow become synonymous with killings. It began with news about the presence of militants in Kamrazipora, which led the forces to scout the area. An exchange of fire ensued, in which the soldier, Sowar Jilajeet Singh Yadav, lost his life. But a militant was also killed in the encounter. Search operations in the fruit orchard in which the militants hid, continued for the next few days. Colonel Rajesh Kalia, the Indian Army's Public Relations Officer, told journalists that an AK 47 rifle, grenades, pouches and other ammunition were recovered during the search.

The incident reminded me of what happened in Srinagar on 1st July, when a 60-year-old man who was driving with his four-year-old grandson was pulled out of his car and shot dead, allegedly by security forces. We who securely live in mainland India were moved to tears by images of the little boy innocently sitting on his grandfather's corpse, which went viral on social media. How long will such atrocities go on in Jammu & Kashmir, we asked ourselves.

Just a week before the July incident, a 62-year-old father and his 32-year-old son in Tamil Nadu were arrested, tortured and brutally killed in custody by policemen for keeping their mobile store open well beyond the stipulated hours during the coronavirus lockdown. However, in this case a Tamil Nadu court held the cops guilty on the basis of autopsy reports, and ordered their arrest. Later, the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court asked the CBI to investigate the case. Only last week, we heard that the CBI has charge-sheeted the nine policemen guilty of the heinous crime. They have been booked for murder, criminal conspiracy and destruction of evidence.

The way I see it, it is one set of rules that prevails in Jammu & Kashmir, and another in the rest of India. The difference of course is that in Tamil Nadu it was the police who were the culprits, while

in Srinagar it is often the army.

Now the army, as everyone knows, enjoys impunity under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). According to this act, no soldier can be tried for anything without the express sanction of the home ministry. And soldiers are blue-eyed boys of the home ministry.

News channels that favour the government always claim that civilians aren't killed by the army but by militants; they are frequently killed in the crossfire that occurs when militants attack soldiers. However, many of us think otherwise. It isn't unusual for the government to invariably put the blame on militants and Naxalites, whether in Jammu and Kashmir or elsewhere. Besides, militants, to the government's way of thinking, are outlaws. If they kill, they are only acting in character. Soldiers, on the other hand, aren't outlaws. They are supposed to safeguard our lives.

The army has a dubious track

from Rajouri in their twenties; they had gone to Shopian two days earlier. The army admitted for the first time that in killing the young men, its troops "exceeded" powers vested in them by the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. It is hoped that such punitive action taken by the army will serve as a deterrent to trigger-happy men in uniform in the future.

I have friends in Jammu & Kashmir who have been victims of the army's brutality. There are instances when soldiers have actually entered and killed civilians in their own homes! Bollywood films like Uri: The Surgical Strike have valorised and glamorized the army more than is required, and have prevented us from seeing that army men may have their dark side too.

It is about time that the government takes a fresh look at AFSPA and reviews its validity. A law that gives soldiers unregulated power to shoot and kill with impunity, all in the name of "aiding civil power" violates

A human rights violation is a human rights violation, regardless of who commits it. Thus, it comes as a welcome change when we hear that the army has finally initiated disciplinary action against its soldiers for firing upon and killing three civilians in the name of encounters in Shopian

record when it comes to opening fire on civilians. Only last month, they beat up two journalists, again in Pulwama. One of them, Faisal Bashir, was a freelance journalist, while the other, Kamran Yousuf, was a photo-journalist employed by a news portal. Yousuf's camera, it is said, was damaged in the scuffle.

A human rights violation is a human rights violation, regardless of who commits it. It thus comes as a welcome change when we hear that the army has finally initiated disciplinary action against its soldiers for firing upon and killing three civilians in the name of encounters in Shopian district on 18 July, a little over a fortnight after the Srinagar incident. The civilians were casual labourers

the Fundamental Rights granted to citizens by Article 19 of the Constitution. It is also contrary to the spirit of the welfare state. Soldiers must not get away with the impression that they have the licence to rape, torture and kill civilians without the fear of being court-martialled. Unfortunately, they have been doing this for decades in all the so-called "troubled" regions of the country.

Dr. R. Raj Rao is an internationally known Indian English novelist, poet and critic. He was Professor and Head of the Department of English at the University of Pune in Maharashtra. He has also been a Visiting Professor at universities in Canada and Germany



OBSERVER
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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Disclosing Identity of a Rape Victim

The Hathrasgangrape incident took the internet by storm and netizens were demanding that the culprits should be brought to Justice and strictly penalized. This is a legitimate call. But in this entire hue and cry, many, including high class celebrities crossed the line and disclosed the identity of victim.

These celebrities who have a great following on social media used a Hashtag which disclosed the name of the victim and this criminal hashtag was obviously set to become a trend. Some of them even shared pictures of the victim without blurring it. This was another illegal and worrisome instance incidental to this rape case and equally shocking and condemnable.

The point of law on the issue is well settled by statutory declarations and the judicial pronouncements. By and large, they place an absolute bar on any kind of identity disclosure of rape victim in the public domain. The act of disclosing the identity of rape victim constitutes an offense and is punishable under Section 228A of Indian Penal Code (I.P.C). Section 228A of I.P.C is clear and unambiguous — the consequence of breach of it is inescapable and the question whether the disclosure was intended, bonafide or without knowledge of law has no relevance.

Supreme Court, in the Nipun Saxena Case had declared, "No person can print or publish in print, electronic, social media, etc. the name of the

victim or even in a remote manner disclose any facts which can lead to the victim being identified and which should make her identity known to the public at large. Where the victim is dead or of unsound mind the name of victim or her identity should not be disclosed even under the authorization of the next of the kin, unless circumstances justifying the disclosure of her identity exist, which shall be decided by the competent authority."

This law has a social objective of preventing social victimization or ostracisation of the victim or her family. It needs to be understood that it is not mandatory to use the name of victim as a symbol for protest or to arouse public opinion and sentiment against

heinous sexual offenses.

Furthermore for the efficient implementation of any law and to avoid repercussions of lawlessness, the awareness of laws in public becomes sine qua non. Mere publication of laws in official gazette will definitely not suffice. There should be legal awareness programmes conducted on a large scale by governmental and non-governmental organisations throughout the country so as to have an effective check and permanent control on such mass violation of laws.

....
Raqeen Ul Hassan
raqeebulhassan11@gmail.com

Valuing Reflection in Understanding Religious Texts

Ahymon Ayoub

Although well-meant, we inadvertently allow our reverence to morph into an insurmountable hindrance for children whose relationship with God’s word becomes shallow and dictated.

The tradition of transmitting the Word of God is a rigorous exercise throughout the Muslim world including Kashmir. Various mechanisms are followed in different cultures to pass down the Sacred word to new generations. The exercise at every succeeding level becomes more nuanced and branches out further to include the study of allied subjects like Islamic Jurisprudence, detailed exegesis and Tassawuf studies. However, being the first encounter with the Sacred Word, elementary learning of Quran is of quintessential importance for children and society at large as it sets the trajectory for their future relationship dynamic with religion. This calls for a very subtle, carefully planned teaching pedagogy and robust learning environment to foster critical thinking and deeper engagement which unfortunately is gravely missing in our context.

In our Valley, transmitting down the Sacred Word at basic level has undergone a sea of change over the past few decades. Traditionally, elementary Quranic teaching was a household exercise taken up by family elders which encapsulated perusing Kashmiri translations as well. In past few decades the entire framework of dispensing the Quranic knowledge has undergone some major positive changes which have underlining sociological reasons.

Over the years, Quranic teaching wrested itself from the hegemonic clutches of few dominant groups who exercised exclusive control over its dispensation. With the decentring of epistemological hegemony over the Word of God, Darsgahs now became primal centres for elementary teaching and learning of Quran. Today, preaching the Sacred Word is no longer a prerogative of dominant few groups and age barriers on learning are also dwindling down. Nonetheless, the common thread that runs through these phases of teaching is impermeability to critical thinking and intolerance to questioning which is either taken as a disregard for the sacred



text or dismissed as weakness in faith.

Quranic teaching has become a robust and commonplace exercise with the establishment of study centres for Quranic learning which have diversified it further with the inclusion of allied religious texts like Hadith and nuances like rules if recitation. Some schools have also redefined their curricula and mandated teaching and memorising of Quran, and allied subjects right from the elementary level. Internet has further democratized preaching practices. Yet despite all these well-meant and informed transformations in teaching and learning dynamic, critical learning largely faces a dismissal. This partly entails from the fact that questioning and critical understanding is often dismissed as digression from Satan. In our common understanding, in darsgahs and other religious platforms, reflection and reasoning is almost pitted against faith. Critical engagement which engenders a holistic relationship remains undervalued and the Prophetic teaching, “The cure for ignorance is to question”, unpractised.

Although well-meant, we inadvertently allow our reverence to morph into an insurmountable hindrance for children whose relationship with God’s word becomes shallow and dictated. Mumtaz Mufti, a prominent Pakistani writer’s personal observations in this case offer some prolific insights. He once noted in his renowned work Talaash (The Search) that he always wanted to informalise his relationship with the Glorious Quran by, for example, keeping the Book by his bedside or on a regular table so that he could read it anytime. He wanted his relationship with the Sacred word to be intimate and more engaging rather than of hesitation and formalities.

Mufti’s observations are not out of place for us even today. Our bond with the Holy book is of mere reverence and not of close engagement when it should be both. We recite and memorise it usually with an intent to find our way to Paradise which is but an incomplete exercise. The tradition of reflecting upon the Holy verses, posing questions and digging into answers is however miss-

ing. “Afala Taqi’lun”, Afala Tattafaqarun, as many times Quran invites us to reason and think rigorously, we prefer only to read rather than study it. Wrapping it up in the fabrics of satin and silk finds more meaning with us than adopting an approach of reflection.

Also, isolated understanding of Quran and other religious texts is not free from fallibilities. Complementary and responsible reading of history, psychology, culture, developments in science is important to attain a more contextual and nuanced grasp over religious knowledge. This will also serve as a panacea to counter unhindered information overload and fragmented treatment meted out to religious texts that is a character of the present, networked societies. Imparting the spirit of questioning and reasoning to children in particular and every learner in general is indispensable to encouraging self-research and hence the quest of finding answers. Bottling up doubts, or casting a cynical eye conversely, in the name of reverence or often goes into birthing passivity or faith crises specially for children as they grow up.

Darsagahs, religious Islamic learning centres and schools in addition to disseminating religious education need to foster the atmosphere of critical inquiry for younger generations to become active contributors rather than passive adherents of a set of rules they don’t understand the true spirit of. Further, debunking deep-seated colonial tropes that have tainted Muslims’ understanding of their own history and religious texts essentially warrants this pedagogical reformation. Such reformation will resolve many issues that our society is facing internally and prepare it for various challenges coming from without.

Ahymon Ayoub has completed her Masters in Sociology from Kashmir University and is a freelance researcher interested in topics related to Islam and Women

A couple of years ago, when Coldplay’s Chris Martin was going through a divorce from the actress Gwyneth Paltrow and feeling down, a friend gave him a book to lift his spirits. It was a collection of poetry by Jalaluddin Rumi, the thirteenth-century Persian poet, translated by Coleman Barks. “It kind of changed my life,” Martin said later, in an interview. A track from Coldplay’s most recent album features Barks reciting one of the poems: “This being human is a guest house / Every morning a new arrival / A joy, a depression, a meanness, / some momentary awareness comes / as an unexpected visitor.”

Rumi has helped the spiritual journeys of other celebrities—Madonna, Tilda Swinton—some of whom similarly incorporated his work into theirs. Aphorisms attributed to Rumi circulate daily on social media, offering motivation. “If you are irritated by every rub, how will you ever get polished,” one of them goes. Or, “Every moment I shape my destiny with a chisel. I am a carpenter of my own soul.” Barks’s translations, in particular, are shared widely on the Internet; they are also the ones that line American bookstore shelves and are recited at weddings. Rumi is often described as the best-selling poet in the United States. He is typically referred to as a mystic, a saint, a Sufi, an enlightened man. Curiously, however, although he was a lifelong scholar of the Koran and Islam, he is less frequently described as a Muslim.

The words that Martin featured on his album come from Rumi’s “Masnavi,” a six-book epic poem that he wrote toward the end of his life. Its fifty thousand lines are mostly in Persian, but they are riddled with Arabic excerpts from Muslim scripture; the book frequently alludes to Koranic anecdotes that offer moral lessons. (The work, which some scholars consider unfinished, has been nicknamed the Persian Koran.) Fatemeh Keshavarz, a professor of Persian studies at the University of Maryland, told me that Rumi probably had the Koran memorized, given how often he drew from it in his poetry. Rumi himself described the “Masnavi” as “the roots of the roots of the roots of religion”—meaning Islam—and the explainer of the Koran.” And yet little trace of the religion exists in the translations that sell so well in the United States. “The Rumi that people love is very beautiful in English, and the price you pay is to cut the culture and religion,” Jawid Mojaddedi, a scholar of early Sufism at Rutgers, told me recently.

Rumi was born in the early thirteenth century, in what is now Afghanistan. He later settled in Konya, in present-day Turkey, with his family. His father was a preacher and religious scholar, and he introduced Rumi to Sufism. Rumi continued his theological education in Syria, where he studied the more traditional legal codes of Sunni Islam, and later returned to Konya as a seminary teacher. It was there that he met an elder traveller, Shams-i-Tabriz, who became his mentor. The nature of the intimate friendship between the two is much debated, but Shams, everyone agrees, had a lasting influence on Rumi’s religious practice and his poetry. In a new biography of Rumi, “Rumi’s Secret,” Brad Gooch describes how Shams pushed Rumi to question his scriptural education, debating Koranic passages with him and emphasizing the idea of devotion as finding oneness with God. Rumi would come to blend the intuitive love for God that he found in Sufism with the legal codes of Sunni Islam and the mystical thought he learned from Shams.

This unusual tapestry of influences set Rumi

Whitewashing Rumi

Rozina Ali

apart from many of his contemporaries, Keshavarz told me. Still, Rumi built a large following in cosmopolitan Konya, incorporating Sufis, Muslim literalists and theologians, Christians, and Jews, as well as the local Sunni Seljuk rulers. In “Rumi’s Secret,” Gooch helpfully chronicles the political events and religious education that influenced Rumi. “Rumi was born into a religious family and followed the proscribed rules of daily prayer and fasting throughout his entire life,” Gooch writes. Even in Gooch’s book, though, there is a tension between these facts and the desire to conclude that Rumi, in some sense, transcended his background—that, as Gooch puts it, he “made claims for a ‘religion of love’ that went beyond all organized faiths.” What can get lost in such readings is the extent to which Rumi’s Muslim teaching shaped even those ideas. As Mojaddedi notes, the Koran acknowledges Christians and Jews as “people of the book,” offering a starting point toward universalism. “The universality that many revere in Rumi today comes from his Muslim context.”

The erasure of Islam from Rumi’s poetry started long before Coldplay got involved. Omid Safi, a professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies at Duke University, says that it was in the Victorian period that readers in the West began to uncouple mystical poetry from its Islamic roots. Translators and theologians of the time could not reconcile their ideas about a “desert religion,” with its unusual moral and legal codes, and the work of poets like Rumi and Hafiz. The explanation they settled on, Safi told me, was “that these people are mystical not because of Islam but in spite of it.” This was a time when Muslims were singled out for legal discrimination—a law from 1790 curtailed the number of Muslims who could come into the United States, and a century later the U.S. Supreme Court described the “intense hostility of the people of Moslem faith to all other sects, and particularly to Christians.” In 1898, in the introduction to his translation of the “Masnavi,” Sir James Redhouse wrote, “The Masnavi addresses those who leave the world, try to know and be with God, efface their selves and devote themselves to spiritual contemplation.” For those in the West, Rumi and Islam were separated.

In the twentieth century, a succession of prominent translators—among them R. A. Nicholson, A. J. Arberry, and Annemarie Schimmel—strengthened Rumi’s presence in the English-language canon. But it’s Barks who vastly expanded Rumi’s readership. He is not a translator so much as an interpreter: he does not read or write Persian. Instead, he transforms nineteenth-century translations into American verse.

It’s verse of a very particular kind. Barks was born in 1937 and grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He received his Ph.D. in English literature and published his first book of poetry, “The Juice,” in 1971. The first time he heard of Rumi was later that decade, when another poet, Robert Bly, handed him a copy of translations by Arberry and told him that they had to be “released from their cages”—that is, put into American free verse. (Bly, who has published poetry in The New Yorker for more than thirty years—and

whose book “Iron John: A Book About Men,” from 1990, greatly informed the modern men’s movement—later translated some of Rumi’s poems himself.) Barks had never studied Islamic literature. But soon afterward, he told me recently, over the phone from his home in Georgia, he had a dream. In the dream, he was sleeping on a cliff near a river. A stranger appeared in a circle of light and said, “I love you.” Barks had not seen this man before, but he met him the following year, at a Sufi order near Philadelphia. The man was the order’s leader. Barks began spending his afternoons studying and rephrasing the Victorian translations that Bly had given him. Since then, he has published more than a dozen Rumi books.

In our conversation, Barks described Rumi’s poetry as “the mystery of opening the heart,” a thing that, he told me, “you can’t say in language.” In order to get at that inexpressible thing, he has taken some liberties with Rumi’s work. For one thing, he has minimized references to Islam. Consider the famous poem “Like This.” Arberry translates one of its lines, rather faithfully, as “Whoever asks you about the Houris, show (your) face (and say) ‘Like this.’ ” Houris are virgins promised in Paradise in Islam. Barks avoids even the literal translation of that word; in his version, the line becomes, “If anyone asks you how the perfect satisfaction of all our sexual wanting will look, lift your face and say, Like this.” The religious context is gone. And yet, elsewhere in the same poem, Barks keeps references to Jesus and Joseph. When I asked him about this, he told me that he couldn’t recall if he had made a deliberate choice to remove Islamic references. “I was brought up Presbyterian,” he said. “I used to memorize Bible verses, and I know the New Testament more than I know the Koran.” He added, “The Koran is hard to read.”

Like many others, Omid Safi credits Barks with introducing Rumi to millions of readers in the United States; in morphing Rumi into American verse, Barks has dedicated considerable time and love to the poet’s works and life. And there are other versions of Rumi that are even further removed from the original—such as the New Age books by Deepak Chopra and Daniel Ladinsky which are marketed and sold as Rumi but bear little resemblance to the poet’s writing. Chopra, an author of spiritual works and an alternative-medicine enthusiast, admits that his poems are not Rumi’s words. Rather, as he writes in the introduction to “The Love Poems of Rumi,” they are “moods” we have captured as certain phrases radiated from the original Farsi, giving life to a new creation but retaining the essence of its source.”

Discussing these New Age “translations,” Safi said, “I see a type of ‘spiritual colonialism’ at work here: bypassing, erasing, and occupying a spiritual landscape that has been lived and breathed and internalized by Muslims from Bosnia and Istanbul to Konya and Iran to Central and South Asia.” Extracting the spiritual from the religious context has deep reverberations. Islam is regularly diagnosed as a “cancer,” including by General Michael Flynn, President-elect Donald Trump’s pick for national-security adviser, and, even today, policymakers suggest that

non-Western and nonwhite groups have not contributed to civilization.

For his part, Barks sees religion as secondary to the essence of Rumi. “Religion is such a point of contention for the world,” he told me. “I got my truth and you got your truth—this is just absurd. We’re all in this together and I’m trying to open my heart, and Rumi’s poetry helps with that.” One might detect in this philosophy something of Rumi’s own approach to poetry: Rumi often amended texts from the Koran so that they would fit the lyrical rhyme and meter of the Persian verse. But while Rumi’s Persian readers would recognize the tactic, most American readers are unaware of the Islamic blueprint. Safi has compared reading Rumi without the Koran to reading Milton without the Bible: even if Rumi was heterodox, it’s important to recognize that he was heterodox in a Muslim context—and that Islamic culture, centuries ago, had room for such heterodoxy. Rumi’s works are not just layered with religion; they represent the historical dynamism within Islamic scholarship.

Rumi used the Koran, Hadiths, and religion in an explorative way, often challenging conventional readings. One of Barks’s popular renditions goes like this: “Out beyond ideas of rightdoing and wrongdoing, there is a field. / I will meet you there.” The original version makes no mention of “rightdoing” or “wrongdoing.” The words Rumi wrote were iman (“religion”) and kufr (“infidelity”). Imagine, then, a Muslim scholar saying that the basis of faith lies not in religious code but in an elevated space of compassion and love. What we, and perhaps many Muslim clerics, might consider radical today is an interpretation that Rumi put forward more than seven hundred years ago.

Such readings were not entirely unique back then. Rumi’s works reflected a broader push and pull between religious spirituality and institutionalized faith—though with a wit that was unmatched. “Historically speaking, no text has shaped the imagination of Muslims—other than the Koran—as the poetry of Rumi and Hafiz,” Safi said. This is why Rumi’s voluminous writings, produced at a time when scribes had to copy works by hand, have survived.

“Language isn’t just a means of communication,” the writer and translator Sinan Antoon has said. “It’s a reservoir of memory, tradition, and heritage.” As conduits between two cultures, translators take on an inherently political project. They must figure out how to make, for instance, a thirteenth-century Persian poet comprehensible to a contemporary American audience. But they have a responsibility to remain true to the original work—an act that, in the case of Rumi, would help readers to recognize that a professor of Sharia could also write some of the world’s mostly widely read love poetry.

Jawid Mojaddedi is now in the midst of a years-long project to translate all six books of the “Masnavi.” Three of them have been published; the fourth is due out this spring. His translations acknowledge the Islamic and Koranic texts in the original by using italics to denote whenever Rumi switches to Arabic. His books are also riddled with footnotes. Reading them requires some effort, and perhaps a desire to see beyond one’s preconceptions. That, after all, is the point of translation: to understand the foreign. As Keshavarz put it, translation is a reminder that “everything has a form, everything has culture and history. A Muslim can be like that, too.”

THE NEW YORKER

Govt to allow local purchases in GeM

Local entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and suppliers to get preference

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 01: The Government is allowing local purchases in GeM thereby increasing the marketability of goods and services provided by local units. The step will go a long way in boosting the local economy as local entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and suppliers will get preference, official spokesman said.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha had directed for constitution of a committee to analyze the problems and for recommending measures for the relief and revival of the business sector in J&K after taking cognizance of the issues raised by stakeholders of

the local business sector in the region. The committee held consultations with the various business organizations and subsequently, a mega relief and revival package of Rs 1350 crore was announced to help the J&K business sector to tide over their problems.

One of the major demands that were put forth by the local industry was to allow purchases made from the local industry or waiver from Government e-Market Place (GeM).

Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the matter was taken up by the UT Government with the Union Govern-

ment, for adding a provision of the local filter in GeM portal, so that the supplies locally available within the UT could be procured from the local Suppliers through GeM. The Union Government today approved the proposal for provision of local filter for purchases on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal for enabling local purchases.

The communication from the Finance Ministry, Government of India mentions that the proposal of GeM has been agreed to for one year to be used by buyers in appropriate circumstances after due justification

and reasonability of rates.

The local industry also enjoys an advantage regarding the ability to make timely supplies in areas where the terrain is tough and conditions become harsh at times due to weather or other logistic adversities.

Besides increasing the marketability of goods and services provided by local units, it will further boost the local economy, as local sellers will get the preference. Moreover, it is going to address the long pending demand of entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and suppliers hailing from UT of J&K.

Tourist circuits to be a game changer in tourism sector: Sarmad

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 1: Secretary Tourism and Culture, Sarmad Hafeez today said that infrastructure is quintessential for advancing tourism of any area. He maintained that every tourist asset should be an insignia of local culture and heritage.

He made these remarks while reviewing the multi-crore tourism infrastructure projects taken up under the Prime Minister's Development Plan (PMDP). These projects include development of several tourism circuits across J&K.

Director Tourism, Nisar Ahmad Wani; Director Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Munir-ul-Islam; Director SKICC, Javid Bakshi, Director Planning Tourism, Parvaiz Sajad Kakroo, CEOs of all the Tourism Developmental Authorities and representatives from R&B, JKPC, LAWDA, J&K Housing Board and NBCC were present in the meeting.

The Commissioner Secretary impressed upon the officers that nobody is immune to accountability and it is our duty to accomplish the tasks given best from us.

He urged them that such kinds of meetings are held to find solutions to problems instead of only discussing them.

Sarmad directed the executing agencies to be sensitive to the local needs of the place while formulating the DPR's of the projects. He impressed upon them to ensure all the infrastructure projects raised reflect aesthetic aspects in them. He asked them to be sensitive about the beautification and development of surroundings also as they act as eye sore if kept unaddressed.

B2W perfect way to honour Father of the Nation: LG

SRINAGAR : Commencing of the third phase of the Back to Village programme across J&K is the perfect way to honour Father of the Nation on his birthday.


These were the remarks made by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha in his message on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. An apostle of peace and social service, Mahatma Gandhi's contributions to the freedom struggle and promoting the rights and welfare of the oppressed sections of the society have unending imprints on the global history and would continue to inspire the generations to come.

Everyone must follow the path

of Non-violence, Social justice, Equality, Upliftment of under-privileged sections of the society, Secular traditions and Brotherhood shown by the Father of the Nation for bringing an era of peace and development in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi advocated Panchayati Raj, a decentralized form of Government. Following the Gandhian ideas of Gram Swaraj and Panchayati Raj system, the J&K Government is making untiring efforts to reach out to the people and including all the stakeholders in the process of decision-making and public policy formulation to bring a positive social and political change in J&K.


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
- BIJHERA: 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
14 Safar
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR

5: 05

ZUHR

12: 22

ASR

4:35

Magrib

6:21

ISHA

7:41

This Day In History

- 939 - Battle at Andernach: King Otto & Hermann of Zwaben beat Eberhard of France & Gisbert of Luthrans
- 976 - Hisham II appointed kalief of Cordoba
- 1949 - USSR recognizes People's Republic of China.
- 1972 - Aeroflot Il-18 crashes near Black Sea resort of Sochi, kills 105
- 1977 - Pakistani general Zia ul-Haq bans all opposition
- 1980 - 38 year old Muhammad Ali comes out of 2-year retirement to challenge undefeated world heavyweight champion Larry Holmes at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas; Ali pounded unmercifully for 10 rounds before corner throws in towel.
- 1981 - Ali Khamenei elected president of Iran
- 1984 - 3 cosmonauts return after a record 237 days in orbit
- 1986 - Sikhs attempt to assassinate Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
- 1990 - WW2 Allied nations cede any remaining rights as occupiers of Germany
- 1990 - Chinese plane explodes, about 100 die
- 1994 - Pakistan cricket batsmen Inzamam-ul-Haq & Mush-taq Ahmed put on 57 runs in 8 overs for highest last-wicket partnership ever to win a Test, as the home team beats Australia by 1 wicket in the 1st Test in Karachi.
- 2001 - NATO backs US military strikes, following 9/11
- 2007 - President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea walks across the Military Demarcation Line into North Korea on his way to the second Inter-Korean Summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il
- 2009 - The International Olympic Committee votes to award Rio de Janeiro, Brazil rights to host the 2016 Summer Olympics and Paralympics
- 2009 - The economic crisis in Ireland is considered to be the driving force behind the largest migration of Irish people to London in 20 years, it is reported today.
- 2014 - Siege of Syrian town Kobani and its surrounds by ISIS prompts 130,00 people to flee the area

From KO Archives

European team arrives on fact-finding mission

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - Top diplomats from four European Union (EU) countries, including the European Commission envoy in New Delhi, arrived here Monday on a fact-finding mission. The team led by EC ambassador Michel Caillouet met the leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference at their Rajbagh headquarters soon after their arrival in the capital. The delegation is scheduled to have meetings with top government officials as well tomorrow.

The team includes ambassadors Guy Trouveroy of Belgium, Bernard de Montferriand of France and Johana Nordenfeldt of Sweden. The delegation spent an hour and a half at the APHC headquarters where top leaders of the alliance including Chairman Prof Abdul Ghani, Syed Ali Geelani, Maulana Abbas Ansari and Sheikh Abdul Aziz were present. Emerging from the meeting EU ambassadors ducked questions from reporters present there about the nature of discussions with the APHC leaders. When the French envoy Montferriand was asked specifically whether they had brought a new proposal for solving the Kashmir issue, he parried the question and said the purpose of their visit was of the same nature as the previous ones. He said the Indian government was aware of the purpose of their current visit.

Sources however said during the meeting the EU delegation informed the APHC leaders that India and Pakistan were being persuaded to resume talks on Kashmir. The delegation was keen for APHC to enter into a dialogue with New Delhi and wanted to know the reasons for Hurriyat's reluctance for such their current visit. Sources however said during the meeting the EU delegation informed the APHC leaders that India and Pakistan were being persuaded to resume talks on Kashmir. The delegation was keen for APHC to enter into a dialogue with New Delhi and wanted to know the reasons for Hurriyat's reluctance for such a move. APHC leaders have reportedly outlined their position and said that they were not against talks in principle but insisted on purposeful and result oriented negotiations. Prof Abdul Ghani later told reporters the discussion with the envoys focussed on the Kashmir issue but added they have their own ideas and we have our own. Meanwhile official sources said the government would brief them on the current scenario in Kashmir, including the offer and I then withdraw earlier this year of a ceasefire by the Hizbul Mujahideen. The ambassadors also met Fazal Haq Qureshi who mediated in the talks between Hizb and the government recently. The delegation was briefed by the DG Police about the current situation in the state.

Kashmir Observer, October 02, 2000

CUK Holds Workshop for Police Personnel

Ganderbal: Department of Law, School of Legal Studies (SLS), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) through Legal Aid Clinic for Juveniles in Srinagar organised a one-day training workshop on "Juvenile Justice System in Jammu and Kashmir: Procedures and Practices - A Way Forward" in collaboration with UNICEF at Tulmulla campus on Wednesday.

The Legal Aid Clinic has been established under the

patronage of the project "Access to Justice" sponsored by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. The workshop was inaugurated with a welcome address by Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, Head of the Department of Law and Dean of the School of Legal Studies.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, who chaired the session during

the workshop highlighted the contributions of the Department in organizing such events and appreciated the quality of academic activities at the School of Legal Studies. He focused on the institution of the family and stressed that delinquency in childhood becomes a sort of ladder which needs to be looked after. "Taking care of it at an early stage would prevent the rate of crime to shoot up."

Research Methodology Workshop Begins at CUK

Ganderbal : The 10-day research methodology workshop for Research Scholars in Social Sciences' organised by the School of Social Sciences, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) began from Thursday at Green Campus here.

Faculty members and research scholars from the three departments, Economics, Politics and Governance and Religious Studies were present during the function, which was chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir.

Prof. Pulin Nayak from Delhi School of Economics joined online from New Delhi to deliver the special lecture.

Addressing the participants,

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din, said the present world has found itself in a new reality which has changed the way of operations at all levels and the same is true for Research Methodology. He stressed the need for adopting the interdisciplinary approach and said that there is no fun in simply getting a degree if the research is not used for the benefit of the society. Prof Mir said that "cut-paste" research has no relevance in present times and that there must be original contribution to knowledge. He also congratulated the organizers of the workshop.

Prof. Pulin Nayak's lecture focused mainly on inequality. He started his lecture with a brief outline of history of Economic thought starting with Adam Smith and David Ricardo and connected it to the burning issue of inequality. He said that inequality is not only an economic phenomenon, but is a socio-political phenomenon as well and it must be understood in a holistic manner. Stressing on the importance of interdisciplinary approach in academics, Prof. Nayak said that the law and economics are more closely related. He also added that legal framework must be understood fully in order to make progress.



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

INTERVIEW NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all candidates who have been shortlisted for the post of Assistant Professor, **Electronics & Communication Engineering** vide Notice No. IUST/Reg/Adm/E/20/601 Dated: 07-08-2020 in response to Advertisement Notice No. 02 of 2019 dated 20.02.2019, that the interview shall be held on **08-10-2020** (10.00 AM) in the University Campus, Awantipora.

The provisional interview call letters to the shortlisted candidates are being sent on their respective Email Id's and the candidates who do not receive the same shall treat this notice as provisional call to appear for the interview.

Candidates are advised to report half an hour before the scheduled time at University Campus, Awantipora along with all documents in original.

Candidates who reside outside the Union Territory of J&K and opts for virtual mode of interview are advised to communicate their option in advance by or before **06-10-2020 (upto 4.00 PM)**.

No TA/DA shall be paid for appearing in the interview.

No: IUST/Reg/Adm/E/20/656
Dated: 01-10-2020

Sd/-
Registrar



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

EXTENSION NOTICE

It is notified for information of all the concerned that the last date for submission of online application forms alongwith deposition of application fee for admissions to various **Post-Graduate and Lateral Entry** Programmes advertised vide Admission Notification No. 1 of 2020 Dated: 21-08-2020 has been extended upto **15-10-2020**. The candidates can apply online for the aforesaid academic programmes on the University Website at www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

All other Terms & Conditions including eligibility criteria for admission to the advertised programmes shall remain the same. Queries, if any, can be made on (01933) 247252 & can also be mailed on admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in

No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/20/576
Dated: 01-10-2020

Sd/-
Deputy Registrar, Academics

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) LANDSCAPING
DIVISION KMR. ENGINEERING COMPLEX, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

FRESH TENDER NOTICE
Fresh of NIT 40
NIT No.e-45/2020-21/LSD/Srinagar/Jammu Dated:- 29/09/2020
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt in Rs.)	E/M / Bid Security (Amt in Rs.)	Time	T&D of Opening of tender	Class	Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Face lifting by way of repairs, cleaning, washing and painting to existing grill fencing, tree guard and kerb stone from Tengpora Crossing to Bemina Crossing via Mominabad	Rs.5.923 Lacs	Rs. 300/-	Rs.11850/-	30 Days	07.10.2020 at 11.00AM	"CEE" & DEE class Contractor"	MH 3054 M&R (Srinagar)

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

Date of issue of Tender Notice	29.09.2020
Period of downloading of bidding documents	29.09.2020 from 04.00 PM
Bid submission Start Date	29.09.2020 from 04.00 PM
Bid Submission End Date	06.10.2020 up to 06.00 PM
Deadline for receiving the Hard copy (Original e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt and EMD)	Hard copy to be submitted by the successful bidder (L1) only within seven days after Financial evaluation.
Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07.10.2020 at 11.00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan or Treasury challan/receipt (Non-refundable) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority). (The BG validity should be 45 days more than bid validity days)

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)

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

50.The Employer can cancel the NIT/LOI/ALLOTMENT at any stage without any reason.

No:- LD/ 1839-44

Dated:-29-09-2020.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Landscaping Division,
Rajbagh, Srinagar

DIPK-6620/20

Office of the Executive Engineer
lake Division No. 1st.
J&K Lakes and Waterways
Development Authority Srinagar
PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in general and Dal /Nigean Dwellers in particular for whom plots are reserved/allotted by J&K LWDA w.f January 2017 in any Housing Colony at Srinagar and Rakh-i-Arth Housing Colony at Bemina Budgam are directed through the medium of this notice to submit original copies of reservation / allotments in the office of the undersigned within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice in the print media.

Any reservation/allotment produced/submitted after stipulated time shall be treated as invalid.

Sd/-
No.LD-I/4244-51
Dated:29.09.2020

Executive
Engineer
Lake
Division No.1st

DIPK-NB-2698/20

Office of the Executive Engineer
lake Division No. 1st.
J&K Lakes and Waterways
Development Authority Srinagar
PUBLIC NOTICE

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Any reservation/allotment produced/submitted after stipulated time shall be treated as invalid.

Sd/-
No.LD-I/4244-51
Dated:29.09.2020

Executive
Engineer
Lake
Division No.1st

DIPK-NB-2698/20

Chaotic debate leaves America dispirited

Agencies

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump and Joe Biden return to the campaign trail on Wednesday after a chaotic debate that allowed the 77-year-old Democratic candidate to rebuff Republican claims that he doesn't have the stamina for the White House job.

Snap polls on the debate performances of the presidential candidates leaned towards Biden, who withstood a barrage of barbs from the 74-year-old Trump while delivering some of his own.

A CBS sampling of 1,039 likely voters who watched the televised debate held in Cleveland, Ohio, had Biden edging Trump by 48 percent to 41 percent — a margin similar to that of the national polls heading into the November 3 election.

But the overall winner — or loser in the case — was the 69 percent of those surveyed who said the unruly shoutfest simply left them “annoyed.” “A hot mess inside a dumpster fire inside a trainwreck,” said CNN host Jake Tapper, an assessment shared by many viewers and analysts. “That was the worst debate I have ever seen. “It was a disgrace and it's primarily because of President Trump,” Tapper said.

Trump spent much of the time interrupting Biden, accusing him of being controlled by the “radical left” and trying to get under his skin with comments about his son Hunter's past business affairs.

Trump had insinuated ahead of the debate that Biden is too old for the job and his mental faculties have been diminished by age.

An exasperated Biden variously described Trump as a “clown,” a “fool,” a “liar” and “Putin's puppy” while telling him at one point to “shut up, man.” But the former vice president mostly kept his composure and went toe-to-toe with Trump for the full 90 minutes, attacking his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, race relations and the economy.

“Much of the tone for this debate was driven by Donald Trump's strategy to rattle Joe Biden with constant interruptions, taunting, and name-calling,” said Mitchell McKinney, a communications professor at the University of Missouri.

Trump plans to slash refugee admissions to US to record low

Agencies

San Diego: The Trump administration has proposed further slashing the number of refugees the United States accepts to a new record low in the coming year.

In a notice sent to Congress late Wednesday, just 34 min-



utes before a statutory deadline to do so, the administration said it intended to admit a maximum of 15,000 refugees in the fiscal year 2021.

That's 3,000 fewer than the 18,000-ceiling the administration had set for the fiscal year 2020, which expired at midnight Wednesday.

The proposal will now be reviewed by Congress, where there are strong objections to the cuts but lawmakers will be largely powerless to force changes.

The more than 16.5 percent reduction was announced shortly after President Donald Trump vilified refugees as an unwanted burden at a campaign rally in Duluth, Minnesota, where he assailed his opponent, former Vice President Joe Biden. He claimed Biden wants to flood the state with foreigners.

missions in March amid the coronavirus pandemic, citing a need to protect American jobs as fallout from the coronavirus crashed the economy.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the administration is committed to the country's history of leading the world in providing a safe place for refugees.

“We continue to be the single greatest contributor to the relief of humanitarian crisis all around the world, and we will continue to do so,” Pompeo told reporters in Rome on the sidelines of a conference on religious freedom organised by the US Embassy.

“Certainly, so long as President Trump is in office, I can promise you this administration is deeply committed to that.” But advocates say the government's actions do not show that.



Armenia, Azerbaijan vow to keep fighting, deaths increasing

Agencies

Baku: Armenia and Azerbaijan vowed to keep fighting and rejected international calls for negotiations on Wednesday as clashes over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region raged for a fourth day.

In the breakaway province's capital Stepanakert, two explosions were heard around midnight as sirens sounded. Residents said that the city had been attacked by drones.

Streets were dark with public lighting shut off, although some shops were open in the city, which local authorities said that came under fire when fresh violence erupted on Sunday.

Moscow said that Russian president Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron had called for a 'complete' halt to fighting in Karabakh and said that they were ready to intensify diplomatic efforts to help solve the conflict.

“Vladimir Putin and Emmanuel Macron called on the warring sides to halt fire completely and as soon as possible, de-escalate tensions and show maximum restraint,” the Kremlin said.

In a telephone call, the two leaders expressed ‘readiness’ to see a statement made on behalf of the co-chairs of the Minsk Group — Russia, France and the United States — that would call for an ‘immediate’ end to fighting and start of talks, it added.

Armenian and Azerbaijani forces were engaged in the heaviest fighting in years over Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian province that broke away from Azerbaijan in the 1990s when the Soviet Union collapsed.

The confirmed death toll surpassed 100 people including civilians on Wednesday, with both sides claiming to have inflicted heavy losses on the other.

Armenia vs Azerbaijan conflict
The Dispute Over The Nagorno-Karabakh Region Explained As Violence Continues

FINLAY GREIG
The Scotsman

Baku: Fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces in the hotly disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region shows no signs of abating.

Azerbaijani president has vowed to fight on, stating: “We only have one condition: Armenian armed forces must unconditionally, fully, and immediately leave our lands.”

French President Emmanuel Macron, meanwhile, has voiced concerns at the “extremely warlike messages” coming from Azerbaijan ally Turkey.

Though internationally recognised as a part of Azerbaijan, the region is controlled by ethnic Armenians and is regarded as one of Europe's frozen conflicts.

Nearly 100 people have died in three days of fighting including civilians.

This is the latest in a long line of conflicts which have plagued the disputed region, dating back to a bloody war in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The last time fighting was this intense was in 2016 when over 200 were killed in clashes.

There are fears that the conflict could destabilise the region with Azerbaijan backed by Turkey and Russia a close ally of Armenia, though Russia have called for an immediate ceasefire.

Why are the two sides in conflict?

Both modern-day Armenia and Azerbaijan became a part of the Soviet Union in the 1920s, and while Nagorno-Karabakh was an Armenia controlled region, the Soviet

‘Negotiators near compromise over interpretation of Islam’

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: The Afghan government and Taliban negotiators are nearing a compromise on a key sticking point that has stalled peace talks in Doha, Abdullah Abdullah, chairman of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation that is overseeing Kabul's peace push, said in an interview. After several small-group meetings, the issue had been resolved “to a large extent”, he added.

Talks started in the Qatari capital on Sept 12, but an optimistic beginning was marred by ongoing violence and discussions got bogged down by disagreements over which interpretation of Islam should be used to frame laws in a post-conflict Afghanistan.

The Taliban, who are Sunni hardliners, had insisted on strict adherence to the Hanafi school of Sunni Islamic jurisprudence, but government negotiators worried this could be used to discriminate against the predominantly Shia Hazara community and other religious minorities.

Both sides have provisionally agreed “to recognise the principal issue of Hanafi's role without any discrimination to Shia communities or minorities, so ... the compromise is around that,” Mr Abdullah said.

Resolution of the issue means one less obstacle as negotiators try to draw up an agenda for talks, which could take years to complete.

Another stumbling block has emerged: the extent to

which the Taliban recognise the legitimacy of the Kabul government under a future deal.

The insurgents have always insisted President Ashraf Ghani's government is a US-enabled “puppet” regime. In the deal the Taliban cut with Washington in February, they did not have to recognise Kabul.



Both sides have provisionally agreed “to recognise the principal issue of Hanafi's role without any discrimination to Shia communities or minorities, so ... the compromise is around that”

Similarly, the Taliban now want any future peace deal to exclude overt references to the government and instead to frame the agreement as some sort of “intra-Afghan” accord.

Without providing details, Mr Abdullah said the two sides appeared to have made progress on the issue.

He said after a slow start, the negotiating teams were now “getting along quite well and this latest impasse, hopefully we will overcome it soon.”

Suicide bomber kills 9 at checkpoint in south Afghanistan



Agencies

Kabul: An Afghan official says at least nine people including four civilians were killed when a suicide car bomber attacked a military checkpoint in southern Afghanistan.

Omer Zwak, a spokesman for the provincial governor in Helmand, said on Thursday a small child and three security personnel were wounded in the late Wednesday night attack in Nahri Sarah district.

Zwak said civilians were in a vehicle passing by when the attacker targeted the checkpoint. Two women were

among those killed.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Taliban insurgents are in control of most part of Helmand province.

The violence comes even as Taliban leaders and Afghan government-appointed negotiators are holding historic peace talks in Qatar, a Mideast country where the Taliban set up a political office after they were toppled from power in the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan. The negotiations, which started earlier this month, are meant to end the fighting and establish a roadmap for a post-war society. —AP

NEWS MAKERS

Yemeni Court Sentences Saudi Rulers, Trump to Death

A court in Yemen's northwestern province of Sa'ada province has handed down death penalties to 10 people, including the Saudi king and the US president, over their involvement in the massacre of dozens of Yemeni students two years ago.

The Specialized First Instance Criminal Court on Tuesday sentenced the defendants to death in absentia after finding them guilty of complicity in the Saudi-led airstrike on a bus carrying Yemeni schoolchildren in August 2018, Yemen's Saba news agency reported.

The school bus came under attack by Saudi-led warplanes in a market in the town of Dahyan in Sa'ada. At least 50 civilians, mainly school kids, were killed and nearly 80 others were injured.

UN says Saudi attack on Yemeni school bus ‘tragic, unjustifiable’

UN says Saudi attack on Yemeni school bus ‘tragic, unjustifiable’

The UN says there is no justification for Saudi Arabia

Among the convicts are



Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Yemen's former Riyadh-allied president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and US President Donald Trump.

The lists also includes Saudi Prince Turki bin Bandar bin Mohammed bin Abdurahman

Al Saud, former US secretary of defense James Mattis and other former American and Yemeni officials.

According to the ruling issued in the session presided over by the court Chief Judge Riyadh al-Ruzami, the convicts are obliged to pay a fine of 10 billion dollars to the families of the victims.

Saudi Arabia launched a devastating bin Salman-led campaign against its southern neighbor in March 2015 in collaboration with a number of its allied states, and with arms support from the US and a number of other Western countries.

The aim was to return to power the Riyadh-backed former regime of Hadi and defeat the Houthi Ansarullah movement that has taken control of state matters since the resignation of the then president and his government.

Joe Biden’s use of ‘Inshallah’ to mock Trump raises eyebrows

Democratic Presidential candidate and former US vice president Joe Biden used a phrase during Tuesday night's chaotic first presidential debate that is all too familiar to speakers of the Arabic language and Muslim households but could hardly be expected to be heard in a nationally televised American debate: Inshallah.

Biden used the word — meaning ‘God willing’ in Arabic and Farsi — as Republican President Donald Trump hedged on saying when he would release his tax returns.

“Millions of dollars and you'll get to see it,” Trump said of the amount he claims to have paid, according to The Washington Post.

“When?” The Democratic presidential candidate interjected. “Inshallah?”

The use of one of the most ubiquitous phrases in Arabic by gaffe-prone Biden, 77, a Roman Catholic, raised eyebrows in the Mideast and migrant communities, with many de-



bating the contextual meaning of the phrase.

Al-Arabiya, a Saudi-owned satellite channel based in Dubai, and The National, a state-linked newspaper in Abu Dhabi, both published articles noting Biden's use of the word.

Others questioned whether Biden had used the word at all. The former vice president has battled a stutter and is known for sometimes tripping over his words, so many viewers were left wondering if he had actually said “under the law?” or “In July?” or even “Enchilada?”

However, the Democratic nominee's campaign confirmed to NPR that he had, in fact, used the phrase.

Banker Arrested For Insider Trading Walks Free After Deleting WhatsApp

Konstantin Vishnyak, a former VTB Capital Plc banker who deleted his WhatsApp messages “under the noses of the police,” was acquitted by a London jury, dealing a blow to the Financial Conduct Authority's pursuit of insider dealing.

Vishnyak was found not guilty after jurors deliberated for slightly more than 3 hours and was promptly released by the judge. Prosecutors at the FCA had alleged that the 42-year-old banker removed the application knowing that it might be relevant to an insider-trading investigation.

But Vishnyak insisted that he'd deleted the messages because he feared being dragged into a “political scandal” if his links with a Russian suspect in a British murder investigation were known.

The verdict leaves the FCA empty handed. While the agency dropped the insider-trading investigation against Vishnyak and two other suspects, it had pursued the lesser charge of deleting the texts, a first for it.



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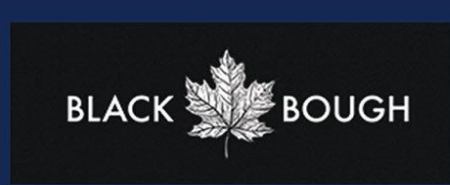
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