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News Digest

Weather To Remain Dry Till Nov 4: MeT

Srinagar: The Meteorological department on Thursday said that weather will mainly remain dry till November 04 in Kashmir; there may be isolated rains from Oct 31 to Nov 01. A Met official told news agency KDC that there are chances of isolated rains on 31st Oct and 1st Nov in hilly areas, but overall weather is likely to remain dry till November 04.

India Sans Kashmir On Saudi Banknotes

New Delhi: India has conveyed its serious concern to Saudi Arabia over "gross misrepresentation" of its external territorial boundaries in a banknote issued by the Gulf nation last week, and asked it to take "urgent corrective steps", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday. The global map printed on the new 20 Riyal banknote, released to mark Saudi Arabia's presidency of the G20 grouping, does not feature Jammu and Kashmir.

LG Greets People On Eid-I-Milad

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday extended his greetings to the people of the Union Territory of J&K on the auspicious occasion of Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi. In his message of felicitations, the LG hoped that the auspicious occasion would spread the message of oneness, peace and universal brotherhood among all the sections of the society, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said prayed for...

Man Shot Dead In Kathua

Kathua: A man was shot dead after an altercation with his friend over repayment of money borrowed by him in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Thursday, officials said. Sanjeev Sharma went to the house of his friend Banu to get back his money borrowed by his friend in Kathua, they said. An altercation between the duo ensued and Sharma was...

Newborn Among 2 Die In Ramban Mishap

Srinagar: Two persons including a baby were killed while six others received injuries in a road accident that took place in Ramban district on Thursday. An Ecco vehicle was moving on a road near BagliharHydel power project in Ramban when it skidded off the road on Thursday evening, officials said. A few days old baby and another unidentified person were killed in the accident while six passengers have received injuries.

6 Gamblers Held In Bandipora: Police

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a group of six gamblers in a raid in Sumbal area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Acting on an input, a police team carried out a raid in Check Ganastanarea of Sumbal and arrested six gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Thursday. He said that playing cards and an amount of Rs7600 was recovered from the gamblers. "They have been...

3 BJP Workers Shot Dead In Kulgam



pic courtesy: Social media

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Thursday shot dead three Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers, including party's youth wing General Secretary in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Around 8:15pm on Thursday, suspected militants opened fire upon three BJP workers, including party's Yuva Morcha General Secretary for Kulgam Fida Hussain Ya-

too and his associates Umer Rashid Beigh and Umer Ramzan Hajam near Eidgah Y K Pora, officials said. The trio, they said were critically injured in the militant attack and were removed to the emergency hospital Qazigund for treatment.

However, before the doctors could operate upon them, all the three BJP members succumbed to gunshot wounds.

"All three of them were brought dead," Dr Asima Medical Superintendent Qazigund

Militant Arrested In Pulwama: Police

Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a militant in Below area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. A senior police officer said that a joint team of Police, army's 44RR and CRPF during Naka duty arrested a militant affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF) outfit in...

PDP's Protest March Foiled, Several Leaders Detained

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Several PDP leaders were on Thursday detained by police as they tried to stage a protest against the new land laws notified by the Centre for Jammu and Kashmir.

PDP leader Khurshheed Alam, party spokesman Suhail Bukhari and youth president Waheed Parra were among those detained by police as they came out of the party's Srinagar office at Sher-e-Kashmir Municipal Park, officials said.

The party leaders wanted to hold a protest rally against the amendments made to the land laws of the Jammu and Kashmir by the Centre on Tuesday which allow people from other parts of the country to buy land in the region.



Ko Photo: Abdul Bhat

Mehbooba's Jibe At BJP 'Take On China, Why Suppress Hapless Kashmiris'

Claiming that Kashmir has been turned into a prison, former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday dared BJP-led government to retrieve the land occupied by Chinese troops in Ladakh instead of suppressing the helpless people.

'Does Centre Want Us To Quit Politics?' Other States, UTs Have Laws To Protect Their Land, Why Not J&K: Omar

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday accused BJP-led government at the Centre of pushing to the brink the mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir who have formed an alliance to fight for special status. "What do the Delhiwallas (Centre) want? Do they..."

NIA Continues Raids On Trusts In Kashmir For Second Day

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The NIA carried out fresh raids for the second day on Thursday on some more organisations as part of its investigations into NGOs within and outside Jammu and Kashmir that are allegedly being used as modes for "militant funding".

In continuation of the searches carried out on Wednesday, seven more locations in Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag and Kulgam in the union territory and two locations in Delhi were raided, National Investigation Agency (NIA) spokesperson and Deputy Inspector General Sonia Narang said in a statement.

She said the searches were conducted in connection with a case pertaining to certain registered and unregistered NGOs and Trusts raising funds in the name of charitable activities and then using those funds for carrying out "secessionist and separatist" activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The case was registered by the NIA on receipt of "credible information" that certain NGOs and Trusts are collecting funds domestically and abroad through donations and business contributions in the name of various welfare activities such as public health and education.

The NIA alleged that these funds are sent to Jammu and

Amnesty Calls For An End To 'Suppression Of Dissent'

Expressing concern over the continued raids by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on the homes and premises of civil society groups, human rights defenders and journalists in Jammu and Kashmir, global

Kashmir Media Bodies Condemn 'Continuous Harassment'

Several media associations on Thursday condemned the "continuous harassment" of media institutions and journalists of the Valley saying that such acts were aimed at silencing reporters and curbing the

Kashmir through various channels such as hawala and cash cour-

KP's Demand Ban On J&K Land Sale To Outsiders

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Migrant Kashmiri Pandits on Thursday demanded a ban on sale of land to outsiders in Jammu & Kashmir till the community is rehabilitated in Kashmir.

Satish Mahaldar, chairman of Reconciliation, Return and Rehabilitation, an organisation of migrant Pandits said in a statement: "The Government of India notified land law for Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday, October 27, 2020,

The law paves the way for any citizen of India to buy land in J&K."

"Kashmiri Pandits feel betrayed. For 31 years we have been waiting for return and rehabilitation in our land of origin. Without getting us rehabilitated in our land, the Government of India has thrown open the Kashmir land for sale. Is this justice? Since 1989, the community has suffered genocide and ethnic cleansing in the valley."

"The forced exodus has cut us from our roots. This has affected

KASHMIRI PANDITS FEEL BETRAYED.

For 31 years we have been waiting for return and rehabilitation in our land of origin. Without getting us rehabilitated in our land, the Government of India has thrown open the Kashmir land for sale. Is this justice?

Probe Ordered Against Director Health Over 'Sexual Harassment'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered time-bound probe against Director Health Services, Kashmir Dr Samir Mattoo over serious allegations of sexual harassment leveled by a consultant.

According to reports, on the directions of Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat Office, Health and Medical Education Department has ordered a probe against Mattoo after a female consultant leveled serious charges of sexual harassment against him with the LG's office.

LC's Principal Secretary Nit-

ishwar Kumar, reports said has written to Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner H&ME to get the allegations probed by 'Internal Complaint Committee' and submit a report within 7 days. He has also stayed the transfer order of the female consultant, who was transferred to SDH Kunzar by the incumbent Director Health without following norms.

The 'Internal Complaint Committee' which has been constituted to probe into sexual harassment complaints in the Health Department is headed by Satvir Kour Sudan-Director General P&S, H&ME and its members

40% In Srinagar Have Covid Antibodies, Shows Sero Survey

SRINAGAR: Over 40 per cent people living in Srinagar district have developed COVID-19 antibodies, according to a latest sero-prevalence study which suggests a large fraction of the population in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir may have been infected by the novel coronavirus.

The results of the study conducted by the Government Medical College Srinagar (GMC) reveal a quantum jump from 3.8 per cent sero-prevalence recorded in a similar study conducted in the city in June.

A sero-survey involves testing the blood serum of individuals to

Corona Claims 11 More Lives In J&K 9 SF Men Among 551 New Cases

At least eleven more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the number of fatalities in the Union Territory due to the pandemic to 1467.

At least nine security men and six minors were among 551 new cases of coronavirus detected in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the total

check for the prevalence of antibodies against an infection.

"We have conducted a sero-survey in Srinagar district which has revealed that over 40 per cent

of the 2,400 persons tested negative but had developed antibodies," said Dr Muhammad Salim Khan, head of community medicine at GMC Srinagar.

In FOCUS With Everest On Mind, Young Hikers Sparking Adventure In Kashmir Heights

Zeenish Imroz

Danish Dhaar and Amir Lateef, two GST-Goods and Services Tax-practitioners from Srinagar have started a non-profit club by the name of Jammu and Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation (JKMF) to make climbing accessible to youth for exploring the undiscovered treasures of Kashmir.

Along with their members, the duo is holding Sunday treks to make mountaineering a leisure activity for the adventure lovers.

So far, the duo has hosted groups to 50 different alpine lakes, out of the total 200-plus lakes in Kashmir

including that of Nundkol, Gangabal, Tala sar, Sundarsar and have a forethought of exploring all the alpine lakes unravelled.

So far, the highest elevation the group has reached is that of Stok Kangri in Ladakh—the part of pre-August 5, 2019 Kashmir.

The summit was undertaken in late 2019 summer, when the atmosphere was very grim for adventure sports due to post abrogation lockdown in the valley.

Amid communication blockade, nine JKMF members left home and eventually climbed the highest mountain in the Stok Range of the Himalayas in Ladakh with an altitude of 6,153m.



The peak, notably, is just 2,695m short of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world.

The essence of Ladakh, Amir says, is spiritual and relaxing. The prayer flags, he mentions, equally uplifts

the natural beauty of the place.

"We started trekking in the cold desert at 8am to reach the first camp called Manakorma at 5 in the afternoon," he recalls. The temperature steps to minus 8-degrees at night in late summers.

The next day, the duo's group reached the basecamp and left for summit push at 11pm so the ice is trekkable and the crevices aren't dangerous, Amir continues.

"It was a beautiful night of full moon and the headlights weren't needed," he recounts his adventurous journey. "We trekked the whole night and reached the summit at 9 in the morning."

The climb to the summit of Stok

Kangri takes 10 days which the group finished in just three days!

To make trekking and mountaineering a leisure activity for Kashmiri youth, Danish Dhaar, back in 2018, had started JKMF as Har-mukh Adventures. Since then, he has hosted many peak summits in Kashmir frozen heights.

His group, in July 2019, climbed the Sunset Peak which is the highest mountain of Pir Panjal Range. With an elevation of 2,745 metres, the peak is also known as Ramesh Thong.

The duo-led group has already climbed the Mahadev Peak, which is Srinagar's highest peak, with an altitude of 3,966m in 2019, in a

single day.

The group got recently affiliated with Peaks Alpines Adventures from North Kashmir and is planning to connect with schools and colleges so the children take the adventure sport as a co-curricular activity.

The group also plans to climb Mount Everest and shift from trekking to mountaineering for which it plans to sponsor courses for their members of Sunday treks.

However, driven by the "catch them young" motto, the duo focuses on influencing schools and students—"so that Kashmir in near future produces its own mountain stars on the global platform," Danish asserts.

Puri Takes Note Of Covid-19 Protocol Breach At Srinagar Airport

NEW DELHI: Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday promised to take immediate action after a passenger alleged violation of COVID-19 social distancing protocol at the Srinagar airport.

Sanjay Raina posted three pictures on Twitter on Thursday morning showing passengers standing extremely close to each other during a security check at the airport.

Raina tagged Puri in his tweet, saying: "Shocking violation of #COVID19 protocol , sheer incompetence of authorities & security personnel at #SrinagarAirport. Horrible to say the least. Someone needs to take responsibility. Hats off to airline staff still managing."

In his response, Puri said that he had discussed the matter with Arvind Singh, Chairman, Airports Authority of India (AAI).

"We will check the facts & take immediate corrective action," the minister added.

The AAI manages more than 100 airports across India, including the Srinagar airport.

In April, the AAI had issued guidelines to its airports wherein it said sufficient staff must be deployed near washrooms, X-ray machines and conveyor belts to ensure that passengers maintain social distancing norms.

Alternate check-in counters may be opened and that too well-in advance so as to stagger the crowd and avoid congestion, the guidelines noted.

India, China To Hold Another Round Of Military Talks Next Week

Agencies

NEW DELHI: India and China will hold eighth round of military-level talks next week to resolve the ongoing standoff along the border in eastern Ladakh.

Lieutenant General P.G.K. Menon will lead the Indian delegation. Joint Secretary from the Ministry of External Affairs, Navin Srivastava, will also be part of the delegation.

Menon took over the charge of the 14 Corps Commander in mid October after his predecessor Lieutenant General Harinder Singh was transferred to the Indian Military Academy (IMA).

India and China are locked in an over five-month-long bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh that has significantly strained their ties. Though both sides held a series of diplomatic and military talks to resolve the

row, no breakthrough has been achieved to end the standoff.

After the seventh round of military-level talks on October 12, both sides had called the dialogue "positive and constructive".

"Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels, and arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement as early as possible. Both sides agreed to earnestly implement the important understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries, not to turn differences into disputes, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity in the border areas," a joint press statement had said.

In the sixth round of talks, both sides had agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline, and to refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground. Those talks

were held on September 22 and focused on implementing the five-point agreement reached on September 10.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that while the troops are standing firm in eastern Ladakh, the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution of the crisis will continue.

Nearly 50,000 Indian Army troops are currently deployed in a high state of combat readiness in various mountainous locations in eastern Ladakh in sub-zero conditions.

Earlier this week, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo assured India that the US stands firmly with it to confront threats to its sovereignty. His remarks, which came after the Indo-US 2+2 dialogue, drew sharp reaction from China which said its border standoff with India in eastern Ladakh is a bilateral issue.

Remittances To India To Drop By 9% In 2020: World Bank Report

WASHINGTON: The World Bank on Thursday said remittances to India would fall this year by nine per cent to USD 76 billion due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and global economic recession.

India followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt continue to be the top five countries in 2020 to receive foreign remittances, the World Bank said in its latest report.

As the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis continues, the amount of money migrant workers send home is projected to decline 14 per cent by 2021 compared to the pre-COVID-19 levels in 2019, according to the latest estimates published in the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief.

The impact of COVID-19 is pervasive when viewed through the lens of migration as it affects migrants and their families who rely on remittances, said Mamta Murthi, Vice President for Human Development and Chair of the Migration Steering Group of the World Bank.

Remittance flows to low and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to fall by 7 per cent to USD508 billion in 2020, followed by a further decline of 7.5 per cent to USD 470 billion in 2021.

The foremost factors driving the decline in remittances include weak economic growth and employment levels in migrant-hosting countries, weak oil prices, and depreciation of the currencies of remittance-source countries against the US dollar, the bank said.

The declines in 2020 and 2021 will affect all regions, with the steepest drop expected in Europe and Central Asia (by

3 BJP Workers Shot Dead...

told news agency GNS. Soon after the attack, state forces in large numbers reached the area and started a search operation to nab the assailants. "Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this."

According to news agency PTI, The Resistance Front (TRF), which is believed to be a shadow group of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the killings.

In a message in English and Hindi on its social media account, the TRF said "crematoriums will get overbooked", PTI reported. Militants have since June stepped up attacks on BJP workers and leaders, killing eight of them so far.

Militant Arrested In Pulwama...

Below area of the district, reported news agency GNS. The police officer further told that 02 grenades were recovered from his possession.

As per the sources, the arrested militant has been identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Dar son of Ali Mohd Dar resident of Khankabagh Pampore.

PDP's Protest March Foiled,...

The mainstream parties of Kashmir have decried the amendments and termed the move akin to putting Jammu and Kashmir up for sale. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti tried to reach the PDP office, but was asked by the police to return to her residence.

Addressing reporters at her Gupkar residence, Mehbooba said the party leaders were protesting the new land laws, but no one was allowed to speak in Kashmir.

"Our protest was against the laws passed for looting the resources of Jammu and Kashmir But no one is allowed to speak here," she said accusing the BJP of pursuing communal agenda.

"PDP's @parawahid, Khurshid Alam, Rouf Bhat, @MohsinQayoom_ & @buttuk were arrested by J&K police for protesting against the settler colonial land laws thrust upon people of J&K. We will continue to raise our voice collectively & won't tolerate attempts to change demographics, the PDP leader tweeted earlier.

Meanwhile, all the detained leaders were released from police station Kothi Bagh after signing surety bonds at a local court here, a local news agency KDC reported.

An order issued in this regard by Executive Magistrate Ist Class (Tehsil-dar South Srinagar) reads, " Surety persons have appeared before this court and gave written surety bonds to the tune of Rs 10,000 As such you are hereby directed to release the accused persons who are under judicial custody."

All the nineteen accused PDP leaders have been told to remain present before the Court on 5th November.

Those who have signed surety bonds include Khurshid Alam, Ab Hameed Kohsheen, Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, Ab. Rouf Bhat, Tahir Syed, Mohammad Yaseen Bhat, Mohsin Quyoom Wani, Bilal Ahmad Pandith, Arif Laigaroo, Mohd Umar Dar, Mustakeen Khan, Shah Nawaz Ahmad Mir, Dr. Harbakash Singh, Suhail Bukhari, Mohit Bhan, Touseef Shah, Umer Dar, Ghulam Rasool Dar, and Mohd Altaf Bhat.

'Take On China, Why Suppress...

of Kashmir. Hours after the police foiled her party's protest against the new land laws that allow non-residents to buy land in Jammu and Kashmir, furious Mehbooba said she won't allow BJP to "loot and plunder" the resources of Jammu and Kashmir and will fight it out with the help of people.

"Kashmir has been turned into a jail. Nobody is allowed to express himself. Neither journalists or allowed to talk, nor civil society and politicians. People in Bihar demand jobs and food from BJP and this party tells them to go to Kashmir and purchase land there. BJP can't think beyond elections. It is befouling people and using Kashmir in every election," Mehbooba told media at her Gupkar residence.

She said that the Government of India has communal intention with regard to Kashmir.

The former Chief Minister also criticised BJP's silence over the land occupied and China and using muscle power on the people of Kashmir. "Go and get the land occupied by China that has killed so many soldiers. No, BJP can't and won't do this because it can't overpower China. It is suppressing the helpless people of Kashmir," she said.

Mehbooba also claimed that her party workers, who were planning to stage protests against the new land laws, were arrested from their homes during night hours.

"Our office was sealed. There is complete lawlessness and people have been caged," she said.

She said people of Jammu and Ladakh have started coming around to the views of people of Kashmir.

"BJP wants to loot the land and resources of Jammu and Kashmir. People of Ladakh were airlifted to Delhi when they started protesting against the BJP's diktats. They want to loot everything from Kashmir and we won't allow them to do so," the PDP President said.

She said everybody is not a Twitter politician and she will hit roads against the diktats that are coming from New Delhi.

"Every day BJP issues new 'Farmaans'. Sometimes they violate domicile rules and sometimes put our land on sale. We won't remain silent, come what may," she said.

The ex-CM further said that BJP was not doing this for common masses but to appease the capitalists of India.

"A poor who lacks food and clothes can't buy land here but this new land law diktat is for those rich capitalists who are hand in glove with the BJP," she said.

"Today you stopped us using muscle power, tomorrow you will fail. People will respond to you in a big way," she said.

Mehbooba Mufti said that Kashmiris were never in good books of New Delhi and BJP but now this (BJP govt) have started targeting people of Jammu and Ladakh too.

"Whatever India did here was unconstitutional, illegal and irrational," she said, adding that Modi has ruined the whole country and BJP's communal intent is clear now.

Mehbooba concluded her briefing with the couplet: "Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai, dekhnai ki zor kitna baazu-e-qatil mein hai." (The desire for revolution is in our hearts, we shall see how much strength lies in the arms of the enemy.)

Pertinently, these lines had become a war cry for India's freedom strug-

gle against the British.(KNT)

Other States, UTs Have Laws...

want us to leave the mainstream? We are battling to save our identity and land," he said, while, addressing a function at the National Conference headquarters here.

Asserting that it was not a crime to seek constitutional rights through peaceful and democratic means, he said, "Today, there was a peaceful protest against the new (amended) land laws (by PDP) but it was not allowed. Are we wrong in seeking our right within the Constitution and peacefully?"

Abdullah said last year after the Lok Sabha elections, political parties had expected that assembly elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir.

"But today we are fighting for our identity. Shame on those of us who are still hankering after power. It is no more about power," he said. About the formation of the People's Alliance, he said the Centre has been using "all kinds of tricks" to "weaken and divide us".

"I wish we had forged an alliance earlier. Maybe we could have avoided the situation (revocation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir)," he said, adding "Whatever we are facing today is because of that weakened voice. We were divided and they implemented their plan, our voice got weakened and they attempted to erase our identity".

He further said those making "tall claims about merging Jammu and Kashmir with India are still indulging in step-motherly treatment with us", saying the land amendments done earlier this week were an apt example for that.

The former Chief Minister also said that many states especially in the northeast have special laws relating to land ownership whereby people from other parts of the country cannot buy land there, and questioned why the Jammu and Kashmir could not have similar laws.

"There are many states like Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Nagaland and union territories where no Indian can go and buy land even today," the former chief minister said.

"Why is it only us who become anti-national when we talk of these laws? Why are there no media debates when similar voices (for special provisions) are raised from other states?" he asked.

He further said the "fight" is for protecting "our identity" for "our tomorrow". The Centre had on Tuesday cleared the decks for people from across the country to buy land in Jammu and Kashmir by amending several laws, a move which mainstream political parties in the union territory said was akin to putting the erstwhile state up "for sale".

NIA Continues Raids On...

and militant activities in the erstwhile state.

Among those raided by the NIA on Thursday were JK Yateem Foundation at Srinagar and Kulgam, The Salvation Movement at Srinagar run by Zafar Akbar Bhat, Human Welfare Foundation at Delhi and Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir Voice of Victims at Baramulla run by Abdul Qadeer, Falah-e-Aam Trust at Budgam run by GM Bhat and Charity Alliance at Delhi run by Zafar ul Islam, who is also former chairman of the Delhi Minorities Commission.

The NIA spokesperson said several incriminating documents and electronic devices have been seized during the searches.

Reacting to the raids, Khan said his home and offices were raided by the NIA this morning from 7-11 am during which the officials took many papers, all laptops, hard disks of all desktops, cash found etc.

"They showed me an order on their mobile, issued by one Yadav of NIA to conduct the raid linking me and my NGO with Kashmiri terrorism," he said. Khan said he had "no relationship or even contacts with Kashmiri militants and have not even visited Kashmir for many years. "It seems an attempt to implicate me in some terror or riot case," he tweeted.

He said he has been "thrown to stone age. No laptop, no mobile, no desktop. The NIA people said order for raid came from the very top and they were woken up at 4 am for this great task of raiding a journalist. They had no patience. They jumped the wall to enter my house like they did with (P C) Chidambaram."

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) also strongly condemned the NIA raids at the offices of prominent English daily Greater Kashmir and a number of NGOs in Kashmir.

Terming the raids by the NIA as part of political vendetta against the people, the PAGD cautioned the Centre that the raids were "unwarranted" and "unjustified".

"The consequent harassment is bound to deepen uncertainty and alienation of the people and urged it to desist from such vindictive measures," the amalgam of seven mainstream parties, including the NC and PDP, said.

The NIA had on Wednesday searched 10 locations in the Valley and one in Bangalore in connection with the same case of diversion of funds.

Those whose premises were searched include Khurram Parvez (coordinator of the J&K Coalition of Civil Society), his associates Parvez Ahmad Bukhari, Parvez Ahmad Matta and Bangalore-based associate Swati Sheshadri as well as Parveena Ahanger, chairperson of the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP).

The offices of the NGO Athrout and GK Trust, owned by prominent English daily Greater Kashmir's Fayaz Kaloo, were also searched, the statement added.

The APDP issued a statement saying all information and material sought by the raiding team was provided to them. "The team examined all documents relating to APDP's work. They subsequently seized several documents and some electronic devices. Ahanagar's (heading APDP) mobile phones were also seized," the statement said.

They alleged that the documents and devices seized by the NIA team contain details of the names, identities and incidents of human rights abuses by security personnel.

"There is a grave apprehension that the same may be accessed by other agencies, and/or lead to adverse consequences and reprisal against victims and families who have testified and are pursuing justice," it said.

The statement further said the APDP neither receives foreign funding nor engages in any illegal activities and the raid has no basis and only "exposes the state's desperation to deter APDP from pursuing justice for hundreds of victims of human rights violations committed by state actors in Kashmir."

Amnesty Calls For An End...

human rights watchdog Amnesty International on Thursday asked the government of India to "immediately halt its intensifying suppression of dissent"

Amnesty's statement comes a day after NIA carried out a series of raids

at 10 locations in the Valley and one in Bangalore in connection with a case related to NGOs and trusts diverting funds meant for charitable activities to "secessionist and separatist" activities in Jammu and Kashmir. "These raids are an alarming reminder that India's government is determined to suppress all dissenting voices in Jammu and Kashmir. The authorities are evidently targeting these civil society and media groups because of their continued work reporting and advocating for the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir despite a harsh communications blackout that was imposed by the Indian government in the region since 5 August 2019," said Julie Verhaar, Acting Secretary General of Amnesty International in a statement.

"In a worrying pattern, the UAPA and the foreign funding law are being repeatedly and deliberately weaponized to intimidate, harass and restrict the ability of civil society groups from operating, in clear violation of their rights to freedom of expression and association," she added.

The statement further said that the raids come after Amnesty International India was forced to halt its work and let go of its employees in the country from 1 October 2020 after its bank accounts were frozen by the government, shortly after it released a Situation Update on human rights in Jammu & Kashmir.

Since 2014, the Amnesty statement said several organizations have been "targeted" under the foreign funding law, including Greenpeace India, Lawyers Collective, Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns, Sabrang Trust, Navsaran Trust, Act Now for Harmony and Democracy, NGO Hazards Centre, and Indian Social Action Forum.

"In September 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the FCRA was further amended, without any public consultation, to choke civil society in India," the Amnesty statement said.

"By directly attacking and failing to protect civil society organizations organisations, India stands in a clear violation of its human rights obligations, particularly Articles 19 and 22 of the International Covenant of the Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which it's a state party," it added.

Kashmir Media Bodies...

freedom of press. In a joint statement issued here, Journalist Federation of Kashmir, Kashmir Working Journalist Association, Kashmir Journalist Corps, Kashmir National Television Journalist Association, Anjuman-e-Urdu Sahafat Jammu and Kashmir, Kashmir Photo Journalist Association, Kashmir Journalist Association and Kashmir Press Club condemned the "continuous harassment" of media institutions and Kashmiri journalists, including Parvaiz Bukhari, an internationally known journalist, who works for Agency France Press as its Kashmir correspondent.

"In recent months raids and continued harassment of journalists has become a regular norm and we see it as a broader tactic to intimidate and silence professional journalists, who have been reporting on the region without any prejudice for decades," the statement said, adding that the journalist fraternity also sees this continuous harassment aimed at silencing reporters and curbing the freedom of press.

"Since August 5 2019, dozens of Kashmiri journalists have been questioned, summoned, harassed and even physically assaulted by the authorities under the garb of various charges. For decades Journalists in Kashmir have been working under extremely hostile conditions and this constant harassment only obstructs the delivery of professional obligations," the statement added--(KNO)

KP's Demand Ban On J&K...

our unique religious, cultural and traditional identity. Today, we feel we feel this government has completely betrayed us. If the earlier ones did nothing to help us get our land back in Kashmir, this government has made sure that we remain in exile forever," he said.

"The exodus has scattered the community and after this order the community will always remain scattered, lose its ethnicity and die a slow death. A community which has a 5,000-year history in Kashmir is finally being slowly poisoned by the powers that are there."

"Our Constitution has ensured singularity in plurality, diversity in unity and safeguarding of minorities, but the successive governments have failed to protect the ethnicity of the minority in Kashmir. This order of the Government of India sounds like a death knell for the KP community. It seems that J&K has been put up for sale. The rich and powerful will buy lands and take over the place whereas the original aborigines will continue to live in exile," he said.

"We fear that land sharks will usurp our lands, including our temples, shrines and other KP institutions. We demand that there should be an immediate ban on the sale of any kind of land until the Kashmiri Pandit community is rehabilitated. We demand that those 419 families be rehabilitated, who a year ago had given in writing to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs that they want to return. We request all parliamentarians to kindly come forward and help to rehabilitate Kashmiri Pandit refugees in Kashmir."

Probe Ordered Against Director...

are Dr Samia Rashid, Principal Government Medical College Srinagar, Dr Reenu Sharma, Director Health Services, Jammu.

Muhammad Iqbal Lone, Under Secretary to Government H&ME in communiqué to Chairperson 'Complaint Committee' has asked her to probe into the allegations in a time bound manner.

"Madam, I am directed to invite your attention towards the subject about complaint submitted by Consultant MCH regarding sexual harassment against Dr. Samir Mattoo, Director Health Services Kashmir and I request you to enquire the issue in terms of Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) constituted by the H&ME Department vide Government Order No. 818 JK (HME) of 2020 dated 23.10.2020. The complaint along with allied documents, as received, are enclosed for further necessary action," reads the official communiqué, according to local news agency KNT.

40% In Srinagar Have Covid...

Khan noted that the samples were taken randomly from 20 clusters in Srinagar district which also revealed higher prevalence of antibodies in the female population than males.

"The trend is encouraging but there is no way we can say that COVID-19 will be defeated at a certain level of population by developing the antibodies. The scientific community is also wary of using the term herd immunity in the absence of a vaccine," he added.

Herd immunity occurs when a large number of people, usually 70 to 90 per

cent, become immune to a contagious disease after being infected by it. But there are many grey areas clouding the issue as far as the novel coronavirus is concerned with no consensus on when herd immunity sets in. Srinagar has been the worst affected district by COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir with nearly 19,000 persons infected so far and 348 deaths due to the pandemic.

The district has 1,651 active cases as compared to 5,300 in the remaining 19 districts of the union territory.

Khan said a wider sero-survey is underway across the remaining nine districts of Kashmir valley where 400 samples have been collected from each district.

"The results are expected to come within two weeks from now," he added.

Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed nearly 85,000 COVID infections and 1,455 deaths so far due to the pandemic

Corona Claims 11 More Lives...

According to officials, seven more people succumbed to Covid-19 in Kashmir valley, while four more died of the virus in Jammu division.

The victims from the valley included two women from Chattergam and Lal Bazar here, besides five men hailing from Budgam, Baramulla and Srinagar districts. Three among the victims from Srinagar were residents of Shalimar, Chanpora and Bemina

The victims from Jammu region include a 44-year-old man from Bakhshinagar Jammu and two persons from Udhampur besides one from Rajouri.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 975 in Valley and 492 in Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 352 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (252), Baramulla (144), Budgam (94), Pulwama (80), Kupwara (72), Anantnag (74), Kulgam (46), Bandipora(46), Rajouri (47), Doda (45), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (32), Udhampur (32), Kathua (31), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Kishtwar(14), Ramban (13), and Reasi (8). (With GNS inputs)

9 SF Men Among 551 New Cases

number of people infected across the Union Territory to 93764

Officials said that Srinagar reported 127 cases, Budgam 22, Baramulla 85, Pulwama 19, Kupwara 44, Anantnag 10, Bandipora 11, Ganderbal 21, Kulgam 13, Shopian 2, Jammu 109, Rajouri 3, Udhampur 21, Doda 12, Kathua 15, Poonch 8, Samba 7, Kishtwar 6, Ramban 8 and Reasi 8. Moreover, officials said, 588 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—264 from Jammu Division and 324 from Kashmir Valley.

India, Pak Troops Exchange ...

ceasefire 26 times this month.

On October 1, an Army jawan was killed and another injured when the Pakistan army violated ceasefire by resorting to heavy firing and mortar shelling along the LoC in Krishnagati area of Poonch district, officials said.

According to official sources, 3,589 ceasefire violations by Pakistan were reported along the LoC and International Border till October 6 this year compared to a total of 3168 in 2019.

The highest 427 ceasefire violations took place in September followed by 411 in March and 408 in August, the sources said, adding that July recorded 398 ceasefire violations, June and April (387 each), May (382), February (366) and January (367).

India Sans Kashmir On Saudi...

Kashmir and Ladakh as part of India.

MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said India has asked Saudi Arabia to take "urgent corrective steps" in the matter, and asserted that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral parts of the country.

"We have seen the banknote referred by you which gives an incorrect depiction of India's external territorial boundaries. The note was issued by Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority on October 24 to mark the occasion of Saudi presidency of the G20," Srivastava said during a weekly media briefing.

"We have conveyed our serious concern to Saudi Arabia, both through their Ambassador in New Delhi as well as in Riyadh, for this gross misrepresentation of India's external territorial boundaries on an official and legal banknote of Saudi Arabia and asked the Saudi side to take urgent corrective steps in this regard," he said.

Srivastava said, "I would like to further reiterate that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral parts of India." According to reports, the map does not even depict Pakistan-controlled - Kashmir including Gilgit-Baltistan as part of Pakistani territory.

LG Greets People On Eid-I-Milad sustained peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and well-being of its people.

Man Shot Dead In Kathua...

fired upon by the accused with a single barrel gun, they added.

The injured was shifted to a hospital but doctors declared him dead on arrival, they said.

The police arrested the accused and seized the rifle from his residence, the officials added.

Newborn Among 2 Die In...

they said. They identified the injured as Haleema Begum, Firdous Ahmed, Rustam Ali, Ramesh Kumar, Hafeeza Begum and Mushtaq Ahmed.

Officials added that locals, police and Army rescued all the injured and took them to Ramban district hospital where they are undergoing treatment. (KNO)

6 Gamblers Held In Bandipora:...

arrested and shifted to Police Station Sumbal where they remain in custody," the police spokesperson said.

He identified the accused as Mohd Maqbool Naikoo, Syed Reyaz Shah, Imtiyaz Hussain Ganai, Mohammad Qasim Dar all residents of Nowgam Sumbal, Mohammad Shafi Bhat resident of ZariporaTergam and Mohammad Haneef Dar residents of Gund Khalil Trigram.

"Accordingly, a case FIR No. 162/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Sumbal and investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson added.

Blaze renders 3 families homeless in Sopore

Sopore: At least three families were rendered homeless after a devastating fire incident turned their residential houses into ashes last evening at Neharpora area of Sopore.

Fire broke out in the double-storey residential house of Ghulam Nabi Shah on Wednesday late evening.

"The nearby residential houses of Abdul Majeed Shah and Reyaz Ahmad Shah also caught fire, thus rendering three families homeless," officials said, adding that the property worth lakhs got damaged.

They further stated that two more residential houses belonging to Ali Muhammad Shah and Bashir Ahmad Shah got partially damaged in the blaze.

According to the Tehsildar Sopore Shabir Ahmad a team dispatched to the spot has assessed the damage.

Directorate of Fisheries Gets New Office at TRC

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: Principal Secretary Fisheries Department, Animal/ Sheep Husbandry, Agriculture, Horticulture and Cooperatives Departments, Navin Kumar Choudhary, along with Director Fisheries, Mohammad Amin Mir, today inaugurated office of Directorate of Fisheries at Tourist Reception Center Srinagar.

On the occasion, the Director briefed the Principal Secretary about various ongoing developmental activities of the department.

It was informed that the fish production during the year 2019-20 has reached to 21.35 thousands tonne and the department is continuously upgrading and strengthening the infrastructure for efficient and sustainable aquaculture.

Director Fisheries informed that the propagation of Fish Culture in the private sector has been successfully undertaken to provide employment avenues to the educated un-employed youth and till date 1703 Carp rearing units and 534 Trout Rearing units besides 1 Trout Hatchery has been established in private sector.

It was given out that about 17398 professional Fishermen of the Union Territory derive their livelihood from natural water resources on nominal average license fee of Rs. 400 or 500 per annum.

Union Secretary inspects progress on Pakkal Dul, Kwar and Keru HEPs

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 29: Union Secretary, Ministry of Power, Sanjiv Nandan Sahai today inspected the pace of work on the Hydro Electric Projects coming up in Kishtwar district and inaugurated various assets created in the adjoining areas under the Project Area Development plan.

At the outset, the Union Secretary inspected Dulhasti Dam site and reviewed the generation capacity of 390 MW Dul Hasti Power Project.

He also inaugurated various assets created in the adjoining areas under the Project Area Development plan.

Later, he visited the power house site of 1000 MW Pakal Dul HEP at Dul where he took part in the Puja held to mark the start of concreting of the power house.

Earlier, he was briefed by CGM, CVPP, P.B Jain about the site plan of the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric project and allied works. He inspected the work sites and took stock of the various developmental works there.

The Union Secretary directed the CVPP authorities to ensure the completion of the works in a stipulated time following all COVID-19 SOPs.

The Union Secretary also visited the 624 MW run-of-the-river Kiru HEP at Kiru village of Block Nagseni and participated in the Puja held to start the construction work of power house at Kiru power project.

He also took stock of the developmental works there and directed the project



authorities to expedite the pace of work to complete the project in a set time frame.

Principal Secretary PDD Rohit Kansal also reviewed the status of Land acquisition of these power projects and directed ADDC Kishtwar to complete all acquisition proceedings on war footing basis. He was also briefed about the power scenario in the district by SE PDD Kishtwar.

The Union Secretary also reviewed the status of 540 MW Kwar HEP through the presentation made by GM Kwar, S.P Puri.

The team of officers also conducted an

aerial survey of various HEPs including the Rattle, Budsar, Pakkal Dul, Kwar and Keru.

Appreciating the efforts of CVPP for starting the works amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Secretary said that completion of these projects will not only add to the overall electricity generation by J&K but will also contribute immensely for the growth and development of Kishtwar and the UT and country as a whole. These power projects will also play a vital role in providing Employment to the local people, he added.

All girls trekking expedition flagged off for Gulmarg

SRINAGAR : The Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir in collaboration with Hussaini Sports Club on Thursday organized an all girls one day trekking expedition to Gulmarg.

In the early morning hours, around 32 girl enthusiasts and Adventure lovers belonging to various Districts were flagged off by Deputy Director, Tourism Publicity / Recreation Mr. Ideel Saleem from TRC Srinagar towards the world famous and picturesque all weather destination of Gulmarg.

At Gulmarg, the girls trekked from Gondola Base Station upto Kongdori and finished back at the beautiful Gulmarg Golf Course.

The girl participants had a great time during the expedition and found a new sense of confidence in stepping out of the comfort zone and venturing into an adventurous yet healthy activity.

Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority, Mr. Inam ul Haq and Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg Dr Ja-

ved-ur- Rehman later distributed certificates among the participating girls.

The event is part of the overall tourism promotional campaign started by the Tourism Department following easing of COVID-19 restrictions in the Union Territory and to communicate a message to the Tourists, adventure lovers and travelers that all tourism destinations are open in J&K with COVID-19 SoPs in place.

New Land law: Apni Party stages protest in Jammu

Srinagar: Terming the new land law as a total 'Black law' Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) on Thursday staged a strong protest in Jammu against the introduction of new land law for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dozens of Apni party leaders and workers assembled outside the Jammu Press Club and staged a strong protest against the new land law.

However, the protestors tried to march towards the Civil Secretariat Jammu but police deployed there did not allow the leaders and workers to move on.

Apni Party leader Vikram Malhotra while talking to the

media according to news agency KDC said that despite assurances from the Prime minister and Home minister of India that the rights of people of JK will be protected; the government has come up with this black law.

He termed the new land law as totally 'Black law' and said that it is an attempt to vanish the identity of Dogra people.

"We will continue to come on roads and will protest till the revocation of new land law in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Another protesting leader said that the introduction of the new land law is a complete betrayal with the people of JK.

Power Shutdown

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29: According to the Power Controller, Kashmir Province, Srinagar, in order to carry out necessary preventive maintenance works, 200 MVA Grid Station Pampore, 140 MVA Rawalpura GS & 132 D/C Pampore Rawalpura TL, 75 MVA, 132/33 KV GS Awantipora & 132 KV D/C Pampore Awantipora TL shall observe shutdown on November 04 from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Similarly, 160 MVA Wanpoh GS, 132 D/C Mir Bazar Wanpoh TL & 132 D/C Awantipora Wanpoh TL shall observe shutdown on November 05 from 9:30 Am to 05:00pm.

Also, 75 MVA 132/33 kv GS Lassipira & 132 kv D/C Awantipora Lassipora TL shall observe shutdown on November 04 from 9:30am to 5:00pm.

اہلیہ مرحوم حبیب اللہ شمالہ انتقال کر گئی
یہ خبر نہایت ہی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ مرحوم حبیب اللہ شمالہ ساکنہ ملک آنگن فتح کدل منظر علات کے بعد انتقال کر گئی۔
مرحومہ کا اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 30 اکتوبر 2020ء بروز جمعہ بعد از نماز دن کے 2.30 بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ ملہ کھاہ میں انجام پزیر ہوگی۔
سوگوران۔ ارشاد احمد شمالہ (فرزند)
فون نمبر: 9149942417

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Ferozpora Basin Irrigation Division Tangmarg.
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
Short term E-Tender Notice NO.20 OF 2020-21

and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders on item rate basis are from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. for following works :-

name of work	Estt. Cost of Qty. Work (In Lacs)	E/M (Amount in Rs)	Time	Class	Cost of TD (Amount in Rs)	Position Of Funds
Supply of dry and doped Keekri Fire wood Bukharies size including carriages upto Division re at Tangmarg including weighing etc complete with carriage.	7.02 Lacs	900/- Qtl	14040/-	07 days	CEE/ DEE	Committed
Publishing date :	28-10-2020					05:00 PM
Download date start:	28-10-2020					06:00 PM
Bid Submission date start:	29-10-2020					10:00 AM
Bid Submission date Ends:	03-11-2020					04:00 PM
Date of Opening	04-11-2020					11:00 AM

and Conditions:
In case bid of the tenderer is found unbalanced than advertised cost , the bidder shall produce , deposit additional performance security equivalent" to as under of advertised shape of FDR/CDR pledged to executive Engineer FBI Division Tangmarg before issuance of int so as to protect the department against any financial loss in the event of default of the full bidder / tenderer which the successful bidder should submit/deposit/deposit within 15 m the date of formal intimation is issued in his favour from the department and failing which nest money in shape of CDR/FDR shall be forfeited and his tender shall not be considered and as invalid bid/ tender and shall be rejected. The performance security shall be valid upto the ; from the date of expiry of defect liability period for the work.
o 20% @ 5% of the Adv. Cost.
to 25% @ 10% of the Adv. Cost.
to 35% @ 20% of the Adv. Cost
The contractor has to produce the following documents along with the hard copies of easury Receipt/E-Challan etc. latest GST certificate .The Lowest bidder has to submit hard n the office of Executive Engineer, FBI Division Tangmarg as per the time Schedule above after 3 of the tender.
If the tender found beyond 35% below against the Adv.cost the tender will be rejected t, and without assigning reasons.
The whole quantum of fire wood should be dumped within 07 days after issuing of tment.
Executive Engineer, FBI division Tangmarg.

175/20

Union Territory of Government Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NIT No. 180/EEP/RNB/2020-21/7066-76DATED. 28/10/2020
For and on behalf of the President, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Government .CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time of Completion in days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	Construction of foundation platform/abutment in crates and approach road for launching of Bailly Bridge at Leihar.	38.27	1100/-	76,600/-	30 days	07/11/2020	Aay & BEE	Re-modelling/ Beautification of Bridges

Position of AAA: Accredited
Postion of Funds: Available

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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	28 /10/2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	29/10/2020 4:00 PM to /11/2020 04:00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start date	29/10/2020 10:00 AM
4.	Bid submission End date	06/11/2020 04:00 PM
5.	Date and time of opening of Bids (online)	07/11/2020 11:00 AM

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Valid Treasury Receipt/e-Challan under Major Head 0059 Revenue in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (tender receiving authority)
2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website 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 the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (tender receiving authority).

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Head Draftsman Technical Officer Executive Engineer, R&B Division Pulwama

DIPK-8155/20

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
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 25
ZUHR 12: 15
ASR 4: 03
Magrib 5: 44
ISHA 7: 05

HIJRI CALENDAR
12 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1442

This Day In History

- 637 - Antioch surrenders to the Muslim forces under Rashidun Caliphate after the Battle of Iron bridge
- 1137 - Battle of Rignano between Ranulf of Apulia and Roger II of Sicily.
- 1470 - Wars of the Roses: Henry VI of England returns to the English throne after Earl of Warwick defeats Yorkists in battle
- 1502 - Vasco da Gama returns to Calicut, India for the second time.
- 1697 - Germany signs French/English/Spanish/Dutch/Brandenburgs peace treaty ending Nine Year War.
- 1739 - Great Britain declares war on Spain: War of Jenkin's Ear [NS=Oct 19]
- 1883 - Austria-Hungary, Germany and Romania sign military treaty
- 1886 - Great Britain and Germany agree boundaries in East Africa
- 1899 - Battle of Ladysmith, Natal: Boers defeat the British, leading to the Siege of Ladysmith
- 1918 - Slovakia asks for creation of Czechoslovakian state
- 1918 - WWI: Turkey signs an armistice with the Allies, agreeing to end hostilities at noon on 31 October.
- 1922 - Benito Mussolini forms government in Italy
- 1930 - Turkey & Greece sign a treaty of friendship
- 1939 - USSR & Germany agree on partitioning Poland, Adolf Hitler deports Jews
- 1944 - Sweden announces intention to stay neutral & refuse sanctuary in WW II
- 1944 - Tholen Island (Netherlands) freed during WWII
- 1956 - Israel captures Egyptian military post at El-Thamad
- 1957 - Soviet Union launches Sputnik II, carrying a dog named Laika
- 1961 - Soviet Union tests a 58 megaton hydrogen bomb named Tsar Bomba, the most powerful nuclear weapon ever detonated
- 1961 - Soviet Party Congress unanimously approves a resolution removing Stalin's body from Lenin's tomb in Red Square
- 1963 - Morocco & Algeria sign cease fire
- 1967 - USSR Kosmos 186 & 188 make 1st automatic docking & Vennera 13 launch
- 1968 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Lars Onsager (thermodynamics)
- 1968 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Luis Alvarez (bubble chamber)
- 1968 - Jack Lynch, Irish Prime Minister (Taoiseach), meets with Harold Wilson, then British Prime Minister, in London, calling for the ending of partition as a means to resolve the unrest in Northern Ireland.
- 1973 - The Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul, Turkey is completed, connecting the continents of Europe and Asia over the Bosphorus for the first time
- 1979 - NASA launches space vehicle S-203
- 1980 - NASA launches F1t Satcom-4
- 1985 - 22nd Space Shuttle Mission (61-A)-Challenger 9-launched
- 1991 - Colombian government negotiate with M-19-guerrilla
- 1991 - Mid East peace conference begins in Madrid Spain
- 2013 - 44 people are killed after a bus catches fire in Mahabunagar, India
- 2017 - Kenyan election rerun, President Uhuru Kenyatta declared the winner with 38% turnout

From KO Archives

Passengers forced to walk 3km with luggage

Observer News Service

SOPORE: Security forces have unleashed terror at Watlab on Sopore-Bandipore road for the past four days in the wake of a recent landmine explosion in which a securityman, Suresh Ku-mar, was killed. People in general and the commuters and employees in particular are scared travelling on the route for fear of being belaboured by the personnel of 15 RR deployed at Watlab.

Eyewitnesses told Observer News Service the passengers are brought down from the buses and forced to walk over a distance of three kilometres on either side of Watlab. The Ban-dipore-bound passengers are forced to disembark at War-pora and made to foot the distance upto Sangri top. Likewise, the Sopore-bound passengers have to come down at Watlab and walk three kilometres upto to Warpora.

Lending a sadistic touch to the torment, eyewitnesses al- leged, the security forces force the passengers, both men and women, to carry their luggage over their head all through the 3-km ordeal.

They said many transporters were reluctant to ply their ve- hicles of the route compounding the people's problems further.

Reports said the hospital authorities here referred a villag- er of Botengoo to Srinagar after his condition deterio- rated fol- lowing several dog bites. He had been beaten by the security forces at the Watlab camp after which dogs were set at him. He was brought to the sub district hospital where doctors re- ferred him to Srinagar with multiple dog bites.

(Kashmir Observer, October 30, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Srinagar Sero-Survey

The latest seroprevalence study carried out by the Government Medical College Srinagar (GMC) in Srinagar district has revealed that over 40 per cent people living in Srinagar district have developed COVID-19 antibodies. This means that a large segment of the population in the city have been infected by the Covid-19. A serosurvey tests the blood serum of people to identify the existence of antibodies against a Coronavirus infection.

The new study reveals a 3.8 per cent jump in seroprevalence over a similar study conducted in the district in June. The samples were taken randomly from 20 clusters in Srinagar district. In the survey over 40 per cent of the 2,400 persons tested negative but had developed antibodies. Significantly, a higher prevalence of antibodies was found in the female population than males.

But the doctors are skeptical about the herd immunity setting in anytime soon. Herd immunity is expected to occur after a large number of people, usually 70 to 90 per cent, become immune to a contagious disease after being infected by it. So, it will need many more people to be infected by the contagion for people in the Valley to develop immunity. But at the same time it is still premature to say if herd immunity will work against the novel Coronavirus.

Srinagar has so far recorded 19000 infections and 348 deaths making it the worst affected district by COVID-19 in J&K. As of now, the district has 1,651 active cases as compared to 5,300 in the remaining 19 districts of the union territory. J&K, as a whole, has witnessed nearly 85,000 COVID infections so far and 1,455 deaths.

Going forward the situation doesn't give any confidence. With winter setting in, the number of cases are going to be far too many in near future to be handled by our doctors. More so, when the community transmission has already set in. The situation, we are given to believe, has aggravated after the government took steps to open up the economy. And which is also important. It is not possible for people to remain in a perpetual state of lockdown. This has already wrought havoc with the economy. More so, in Valley which has been under lockdown for the past twelve months. This has led to a loss of employment for thousands of people. The vital sectors of our economy like tourism, horticulture, handicrafts have been hit hard. So, resorting to lockdown is not an option. What the administration can do and which is eminently possible is to create more awareness about social distancing norms and take action against the people and the businessmen who violate it. It is time people are made responsible for their own health. We have to ensure that both life and livelihood are saved.

And to this end, the government will have to run an aggressive awareness campaign about the disease. It has to also work towards involvement of the community by charging village, locality elders, mosque managements etc to ensure people follow the safety precautions. Government should also enlist the youth for the purpose. This will go a long way to make a redeeming difference to the attitude of the people towards the contagion and in turn arresting its spread.

OTHER OPINION

J&K realty

The centre appears determined to go out of its way to court anger in Jammu and Kashmir, as if to convey to the people there that they are completely incidental to its plans for the one-year-old Union Territory. The new land laws notified on October 27, like the new domicile rules notified in April, do nothing to assure the people of the former state that their concerns on demographic change are being taken into consideration. Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha telling people, as late as the morning of the notification, to "rest assured" that no land would be sold to outsiders flies in the face of the notification that opens out J&K land for sale to anyone from any other part of the country, with no protections whatsoever. There are 23 petitions in the Supreme Court challenging the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision, revoking the special status of J&K and bifurcating the state into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. It would have been proper for the government to wait for the court to pronounce a verdict on these petitions, last heard in March, instead of creating a fait accompli on the ground.

If the Centre had hoped J&K's political parties might reconcile themselves to the August 5, 2019 decisions, the changes to the land rules have made it even more difficult for them to do that. In a place where people have come to view the government's every action as an assault on their ethnic, political and religious identity, land rights take on huge significance. The sentiment was reflected in the reactions of all political parties in J&K. The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration called it a "massive assault" on the rights of the people. Fears of demographic change have haunted the people of Ladakh, too, and the J&K notification would have sent shock waves through the newly elected councilors of the Leh-Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council. But it is in BJP-dominated Jammu that the feeling of having been let down by its own is most predominant.

From August 5, 2019, the government's actions in J&K have smacked of hubris, as if to say, "we do what we do because we can". That may win some elections for the BJP, but it is not a solution to the longstanding problems in Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured that there is no plan to change the demography of J&K and that the Centre would take all steps to protect employment and land rights of the people. These assurances have to be written into the law to prevent further alienation of the people of J&K.

The Indian Express

Religion and Secularism: A Misleading Dichotomy

SANA SHAH

The recent incident of beheading of a teacher in France, as a reaction to the images of the Prophet Muhammad, shown by a history teacher, that had first been published by the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo (Pailliez, 2020), and then a racist attack on two Muslim women at Eiffel Tower in the same country in quick succession have further exposed the fault lines vis a vis the debate on Secularism. In addition to that, the remarks of the French President serves a reminder that the debate around Secularism continues to be a point of contention across the globe for decades now and it seems far from settled.

Three Erroneous Linkages

Against this backdrop, the questions around the configuration of relationship between religion and the state assume a momentum of another kind. However, three commonly erroneous affixations and links that bedeck the discussion around the relationship of religion and politics in democracies can be sensed in the present moment too and should be addressed at the earliest. One is to do with the misplaced linkage drawn between liberalism and secularism, while branding everything that is wrong with secularism under the "Liberal" tag- this without stopping to care for explaining what the term actually implies. So much so, that secularism is being essentialised as an attribute of Liberalism, which is logically incorrect. Secondly, secularism is being understood as another definitive feature of democracy, which again shows the extent to which the idea of secularism is central to one's understanding of democracy, but it nonetheless is a misleading linkage and we can have democracies that exist independent of secularism and yet can fit the definition of a functional democracy. At the same time, we can have non-liberal states that are secular too. Third, is the very concept of secularism and its relationship with religion. More often than not, secularism is being understood as the chucking out of the religion out of the public sphere, thus calling for greater privatization of religion. Again, this is only one way of understanding secularism, and strictly speaking this has never been the dominant strand within political theory and practice, when one studies how various states operationalize the concept of Secularism.

Now, before proceeding further, it is pertinent to mention, that so far, the three erroneous links that have been listed, is not to deny the limitations in the concept of Secularism or a crisis brooding within for democracies on account of secular exhaustion. This, therefore should just be seen as an attempt to simplify certain misconceptions around the idea of secularism, to attain the clarity of air around the linkages that we tend to draw, often carelessly. We often employ the three words: 'democracy', 'liberalism' and 'Secularism' in the same breath, which might at times unnecessarily and unfairly burden one term with the conceptual weight of the other. It also must be remembered that Secularism in function clearly predated the rise of Liberal democracies.

The corporatisation of religion, even within liberalism is a much later development and has often been contested even internally. Even Liberal thinkers differ on the terms of relationship between religion and the state- therefore one must abstain from referring to liberal as a monolith tag. It is also possible for the state to exist relatively autonomous of the religion and that can well work without eliminating religion from the public sphere. Afterall, what is secularism but the idea that the state or the political authority shall exist in such a way that it does not have to depend on nor derive its legitimacy from the religious authority, plainly speaking. For this to be made possible, one does not require the absence of religion at all from the public sphere, nor the invisibilisation or demeaning of the same.

Secularism and the Question of Religious Identity

At the same time, it is to be mentioned, that whatever backlash the concept of secularism is facing or whatever exhaustion it is that one can think of vis a vis secularism, emanates from two broad issues. One, the tradition of toleration within which one roots secularism,

and second, religion in terms of not just beliefs and practices, but in terms of identity and the claims emanating from the same. Hence, the crisis of secularism is not a reaction against the excess of certain religious identities but the refusal to accommodate or acknowledge a set of other religious identities within the political discourse on part of the state and the social hostility towards it. In simple words, the problem is not why a state is for example funding a church or a temple, but rather why is the same measure being denied to say a mosque, for that matter.

Further, while Secularism can be practiced in diverse modes, to simply do away with it by attributing it to the West entirely is again an ill-founded argument; for it is true that Secularism arose in the West due to the demands thrown up by the political conditions of the time; however, by referring to it as a Western idea- it not only obliterates the contestations and diverse debates around secularism within the West itself but it also reduces the internal diversity intrinsic to the practice of secularism as seen from the differential experiences of many countries, to a homogenous practice redacted of its diverse historical and cultural contexts. As a simple example, Secularism in the US would be different than say the one being practiced in France or UK or Germany and these models come with its own distinct set of problems.

Cultural Racism and Deepening Faultlines

One final word on the existing framework employed to understand secularism: while the debates around secularism find themselves strongly opted within the tradition of toleration, one must at the same time remember that it is this tradition which also sets the limits on the working of secularism. For instance, when it comes to religious toleration, the premise inevitably fixes itself around the distinction

particular identity comes to be racialised will be an error of judgement. Thus, Islamophobia is not just a form of intolerance; it has gone beyond that years ago, rather it is a form of racism. The tradition of toleration will do little to help us understand this and deal with certain chain reactions as these, for here the question is less about one's religious beliefs and practices and more about the people marked by religious identity. It is needless to say that no amount of violence can be justified as a reaction to any expression that one finds hurtful or hurts the religious sentiments of a community, and at the same time a multilogue is essential to understand why are certain points hurtful for a community within the domain of freedom of enquiry. No one is arguing that one's religion is beyond questioning and yet it is pertinent to reiterate that the freedom of enquiry can be exercised in ways that do not have to be necessarily hostile or hurtful to a particular community.

The Charlie Hebdo attacks in 2015 and the later analysis that followed was a stark reminder that behind the simple facts of the case was a larger narrative about the alienation of the Algerian Muslim community in France and its perception that French secularism was being interpreted in a way that was meant to specifically humiliate and disenfranchise them. Further, the cartoons in the Charlie Hebdo magazine are analogous to the ethnic cartoons of Jews in Nazi Germany or the speckled, buck-toothed drawings of Japanese in American World War II posters. These kinds of images demean a whole race or culture. (Juergensmeyer, 2017). The question then arises- should we be comfortable with a culture that sees no issues with racializing a particular identity or not mind the same because that is the acceptable sense of humour in that culture? For instance, questioning ho-

“No one is arguing that one's religion is beyond questioning and yet it is pertinent to reiterate that the freedom of enquiry can be exercised in ways that do not have to be necessarily hostile or hurtful to a particular community.”

of religious beliefs and practices and therefore any incident of "intolerance" is countered by questioning the religious beliefs and practices approved of within that religion, in the name of which perpetrator of intolerance acts or commits the hate crimes. This is not helpful however, and is limiting in many ways.

The tradition of toleration not only makes one oblivious to the domain of religion as identity and the force of religious identity, it also renders the entire debate more around individuals and less about the groups and communities, in addition to arguing for maintaining strict lines of divide between the public and the private. If one then follows the arguments within the tradition of toleration, one will fail to situate the hate crimes so committed as a form of racism, or cultural racism to be precise. However, what makes these attacks racist, is that they emanate from a hatred directed against the people of a particular religious identity, and while religious beliefs and practices can and do overlap with religious identity and are often a source of the same, these attacks more often than not are not really a litmus test of how true one is as a Muslim or a Christian vis a vis the practices. One's name or symbol that marks one's religious identity is enough to make one the recipient of such hate. Hence forcing one community to take an apologetic stance, invoking the authenticity of approval around their religious beliefs or practices in the midst of such spree of incidents is not really a solution, when the problem is not really about the beliefs and practices but beyond it. For example, when one talks about the recent beheading incident, here, it is also important to situate the incident in the context of cultural racism and Islamophobia, where in Muslims have been at the receiving end for a long time now. Say for example, commenting on such incidents committed out of hate for a particular community, without taking into account the historical context against which a

locust or the holocaust denial is hurtful and extremely insensitive and is thus punishable in sixteen European nations as well; on similar lines there can be certain issues to which certain other communities can be sensitive about and a dialogue to understand this, while institutionalising this process of understanding would do no harm to anyone.

Such incidents or acts committed out of hate cannot really be seen at the level of individual alone, while you want the entire community to apologise for the same despite being comfortable with the culture of alienation that you impose upon them- for it obfuscates at times genuine grievances and the chain reaction that perpetuated those grievances for a period of time.

If a set of thinkers started battling for a separation of church and state in sixteenth and seventeenth century, it was not in relation to a particular radical individual unleashing violence in the name of religion- it was in relation to a confluence of events rooted in sectarian conflict and a chain of incidents linked to the same. The refusal to acknowledge the same would be of no avail in understanding the gravity of the situation and the pragmatic solution that the tradition of toleration brought for the people in that particular time period. And while we must be mindful of the same, in the present moment certainly the situation has changed and a lot of other factors have come into play which must be taken into account and not denied, for a viable solution to be thought of suited to the need and demands of the time- one that is inclusive and does not look down upon any particular identity, or does not require the breeding ground of demeaning the other, for it to thrive on.

The author is a research scholar working in the area of Liberal theory and Religion at JNU



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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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Panacea of Procrastination

Let's face it — we all procrastinate.

In order to combat it, we need to first identify the root cause, and then we can crush it like the little bug it is.

Some of the most prominent causes of Procrastination are peculiar. They include perfectionism and lack of motivation, all at once. Even the negative emotions attached with preferring to do simple tasks, being unsure of how to start, getting distracted and knowing that one will have to put an effort into are some of the main reasons people procrastinate.

It may be difficult to identify the main cause one procrastinates,

in fact, there may be more than one reason for it. While procrastination can be an indication of some mental health issues and may require medical supervision; those of us who aren't sure can help ourselves combat procrastination in many ways.

Doing the task for just a few minutes may help. Starting a task is the hardest part. Once you start a task your brain remains alert until you finish it. So if you can persuade yourself to start a task for a few minutes, the brain's desire to see it through to completion should then take over. Additionally, getting at the hard tasks while your brain is still fresh might also

help. Self-regulating is the key to combat procrastination and can be achieved by implementing some skills and strategies to help us believe in our ability and get us to complete the task.

Very often, our surroundings maybe a factor contributing to distractions. We need to control our environment instead of letting it get the best of us. Get rid of distractions especially that lovely beguiling phone of yours.

Another helpful regulator maybe an official or self-imposed deadline. Impending deadlines get you going. Set short deadlines to get your work done. You could also find ways to

make the task more entertaining or at least, pleasant to yourself. Like they say, when you enjoy what you do, it is already a success.

Rewarding one for completion of tasks is a positive reinforcement that removes negative emotions which can also encourage one to be goal oriented and motivated for future tasks. Tell yourself that if you sit at your desk and work on this task for 45 minutes without interruptions you will reward yourself with your favourite snacks or something else.

Aqsa Rashid
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Let's reclaim the spirit of Eid-e-Milad

Wajahat Qazi

The ultimate meaning of the Milad prayers and remembrance of God and the Prophet (SAW) should enable us to reorient ourselves towards enduring nobler and spiritual dimensions. But, given that most of us will revert to quotidian lives and forget the spiritual dimension of the Milad, our devotion and prayers will cease to be meaningful, unless it affects a change in our orientations.

In the deserts of Arabia, about 15 centuries ago, in 570 AD, a supremely creative and paradigm shattering historical (even trans-historical) event with eschatological implications happened. The consequences of this event were far reaching: a world historical civilization was borne-one that transformed not only the environs of Arabia but the whole world. This event was the birth of the Holy Prophet of Islam, Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The day that the Great Prophet of Islam was born was later called the Eid Milad un Nabi. Eid Milad un Nabi(SAW)will be celebrated with fervor and gaiety on the 24th of December, 2015. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was rahma(t)(mercy) for the entire mankind. The message that he brought from God through Arch Angel Jibraeel was that of monotheism, peace, amity and a value system defined and characterized by truth equality, equity, and justice. He (SAW) taught mankind these values by example and deed. Belief in One God (monotheism) and His Messenger (SAW), Peace, Justice, Equality, Compassion for all Creation, a metaphysical dimension, were and are the essential and defining characteristics of Islam.

Because of the personality, attributes, spiritual dynamism and savoir faire of the Prophet(SAW) and the inherent appeal of Islam, the religion spread beyond Arabia to all corners of the world-gradually and inexorably. The appeal of Islam and its tour de force also reached Kashmir (roughly in the 13th century through Sufi Masters). The rather austere and spiritual but at the same time simple message of Islam and the Prophet (SAW) met with a fertile reception in Kashmir. Kashmiris or the people of Kashmir, in the 13th century were ripe for a spiritually uplifting and a socially and culturally redemptive message and appeal of Islam. The people of Kashmir almost converted en masse to Islam. Central to the Sufi ethos of Islam that percolated to and in Kashmir, besides the essential message of Islam was devotion to the Prophet (SAW).

Devotion to the Prophet (SAW) entailed emulation of the Prophet (SAW) in all aspects and details of corporeal existence. In other words, this meant imbibing, and incorporating the essential teachings of Islam, socially and individually. Islam in Kashmir gyrated to the Sufi dimension of Islam with great intensity.

Fast forward a few centuries.

We have morphed into a self absorbed, materialistic and vulgarly capitalist society (read distorted version of capitalism). Our selves are the centre and locus of our attention. Our nobler instincts are crowded out by baser ones. We are no longer as compassionate and caring as we were. Materialism motivates us and determines the locus and focus of our individual and collective energies. We are an angry society with a sense of entitlement that is disproportionate. Me,



mine, mine has, by and large become our motto. All this is in sharp contradistinction to the ethos of Islam and the teachings of the Holy Prophet. All this is not a self flagellating exercise aimed to demean and distort but to put our social and collective selves into perspective. We, Kashmiris, by and large, are still a fine people. There's, for instance, very few places in the world, where outsiders are treated so well; hardly any place in the world can demonstrate such fine traditions of hospitality that we are imbued with; very few places are as non-violent as we are(temperamentally). But, these fine attributes, are a legacy of the past-a past that was defined by the cosmogony of Sufi Islam and the centrality of the Prophet(SAW) in our lives. We cannot really afford to rest on the residual legacy of these. We need to and must re-inculcate these fine values and value system in our collective and individual selves.

Now coming back to the theme of Eid Milad un Nabi: this day will be celebrated with great festivity, fervor and nobility of spirit in Kashmir. Thousands will flock to the Durgah at Hazratbal, and other shrines to remember the Prophet (SAW) and make special devotional prayers. Many will endure the bitter cold wintry nights and pray. They will be spiritually uplifted but alas the enlightenment accruing from this spiritual odyssey will be ephemeral. It will not last long. We will after the Milad celebrations are

over revert to our usual selves. This, in the final analysis, constitutes a travesty. The ultimate meaning of the Milad prayers and remembrance of God and the Prophet (SAW) should enable us to reorient ourselves towards enduring nobler and spiritual dimensions. But, given that most of us will revert to quotidian lives and forget the spiritual dimension of the Milad, our devotion and prayers will cease to be meaningful, unless it affects a change in our orientations.

So, on this Milad un Nabi, let us all make that extra effort and resolve to make self purification, self transcendence and self transformation our end goals. This can only happen if we seriously introspect and take to heart the teachings of our Great Prophet(SAW). To repeat, the essential components of his(SAW) message were Compassion, Honesty, Truth, Equality and Justice- ideas and themes that have over time become largely notional for us. This notional fidelity to these great moral and spiritual ideas and ideals has meant that we, as both society and individuals, have to a degree, lost our compass and bearing. The saving grace is that all is not lost. We can reclaim the spirit and essence of the Prophet's teachings. Key here is sincerity of purpose and fidelity. This would constitute real love for the Prophet (SAW); not mere mechanical and ritualistic incantations and behavior. So, on the Milad un Nabi, let us disavow the cosmetic and focus on the real and the substantive.

Deliberate Provocation

Publication of Prophet Mohammad's (pbuh) caricature is a deliberate provocation to further demean Islam

Afroz Shah

When you type "respect" in the online Cambridge dictionary search section, you will get this: "admiration felt or shown for someone or something that you believe has good ideas or qualities". It is a natural tendency to admire good things or behaviour, and it is also natural to feel uncomfortable with people who have the tendency to intentionally disrespect a culture, religion or language. Therefore, the reaction of the Muslim world to the caricatures of the prophet Mohammad (pbuh) is nothing but a natural reaction to an act of utter disrespect by some people in various countries especially France and Denmark. The blasphemous images were published by countries like Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and Norway. These countries also house some of the most respected educated communities in the world with a backbone of some of the top ranked educational establishments, and yet they have shown no respect for Muslims by constantly engaging in demeaning the image of Islam.

Isn't this contradictory to the basic tenants of education? How can someone deliberately indulge in spreading hate against religious personalities, even though they may disagree with their teachings? Isn't a routine to agree and disagree on a scientific research problem, and that behaviour is not seen an insult to scholarly community standard but often praised for raising some of the critical questions that otherwise would have remained untouched. But the sanity of those communications remains intact in the ability to argue without engaging in name calling.

Who abuses: someone who has lost the power to communicate sensibly, or someone who is deliberately doing it to fulfil a set agenda. Therefore, it is safe to argue that the wave of atrocities on Muslims and the attack on Islam is a pre-planned and is an organized campaign that will not end anytime soon. How can it end when the motive is to generate a mass hysteria about Islam in the entire world, and this has started decades ago with 9/11 attack in America as a recent incident that fuelled its rise.

Interestingly, the religion of Islam is not about hate but peace and was founded to bring justice in the world and it proclaims that no living or non-living entities should be worshipped expect Allah, the one God that controls what is hidden and what is revealed. How ironic that those who have power at their disposal feel threatened by powerless Muslims



The blasphemous images were published by countries like Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and Norway. These countries also house some of the most respected educated communities in the world with a backbone of some of the top ranked educational establishments, and yet they have shown no respect for Muslims by constantly engaging in demeaning the image of Islam.

just because Islam teaches self-respect and obedience to Allah and his emissaries. For them, this means that a typical Muslim cannot be tamed. Historically, Muslims have emerged winners after each struggle and the life of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) is the best example of perseverance and truthfulness to achieve the goal of enlightening the world about the message that Islam has for the known and unknown worlds.

It is clear that people who have published the cari-

atures of the beloved Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) are well aware about the reaction from the Muslims. It seems that the plan is to deliberately provoke with a motivation to further demean Islam. This becomes clear when we see double standards with respect to Muslims especially their life style. For example, the call for ban on the Muslim women head and face cover has been one of the most intensely debated questions in French society. Why? Because the society argues that the Muslim women's veil is a form of oppression,

and therefore they have the right to protect the fellow citizens from the religious oppression enacted upon them by Muslim men. Strangely enough, this they are doing without asking the Muslim women about their opinion on why they are practicing veil, and thereby directly contradicting and violating their own French constitution which guarantees equal rights to women, and secular life to all without distinction of origin, race or religion. Here is the text from the French constitution: "France shall be an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic. It shall ensure the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction of origin, race or religion. It shall respect all beliefs. It shall be organised on a decentralized basis. Statutes shall promote equal access by women and men to elective offices and posts as well as to position of professional and social responsibility."

French President recently said "Islam is a religion that is in crisis all over the world today, we are not just seeing this in our country", and this cannot come out of blue and must be part of the anti-Muslim rhetoric that has become part of his life now. The various unfortunate attacks by people affiliated with Islam have helped such hate mongering, and therefore, it is important to investigate such barbaric attacks and connect the dots to understand the full picture of who is doing it and why. Until then it will continue and Islam will be used frequently and particularly during the election times.

A Nigerian-American writer and photographer, aptly summed it up Facebook. They wrote, "The people of Charlie -who in my view were simultaneously the victims of a terrifying, unspeakable crime, and the producers of an antic and gross publication (nothing wrong with that) that was at the same time deeply prejudiced - finally step away from the mask of 'it's satire and you don't get it' to state clearly that Muslims, all of them, no matter how integrated, are the enemy," he said.

"Reading this extraordinary editorial by Charlie, it's hard not to recall the vicious development of 'the Jewish question' in Europe and the horrifying persecution it resulted in. Charlie's logic is frighteningly similar: that there are no innocent Muslims, that 'something must be done' about these people, regardless of their likability, their peacefulness, or their personal repudiation of violence. Such categorisation of an entire community as an insidious poison is a move we have seen before."

The author is an Assistant Professor of Structural Geology at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Workplace Interruptions Lead To Physical Stress

Agencies

Interruptions in the workplace may lead to physical stress, suggested a study.

If this stress becomes chronic, it can lead to states of exhaustion that have a negative impact on public health and carry a significant economic cost.

The study was published in the journal Psychoneuroendocrinology.

According to the Job Stress Index 2020 compiled by Stiftung Gesundheitsförderung Schweiz, a Swiss health foundation, almost one-third of the Swiss workforce experience work-related stress.

In a digital early warning system at the Mobiliar Lab for Analytics at ETH Zurich, an interdisciplinary team is working to pre-empt such states of exhaustion by developing a digital early warning system that uses machine learning to detect stress in the workplace in real-time.

"Our first step was to find out how to measure the effects of social pressure and interruptions - two of the most common causes of stress in the workplace," said psychologist Jasmine Kerr. Kerr is driving the project forward together with mathematician Mara Nagelin and computer scientist Raphael Weibel.

The three doctoral students, who all lead authors on a recent study, used a university platform to recruit 90 participants, who agreed to take part in an experiment lasting just under two hours. To conduct their experiment, Kerr, Nagelin and Weibel transformed the Decision Science Laboratory at ETH Zurich into three group office environments. Each workstation was equipped with a chair, a computer with monitor and kits for collecting samples of saliva.

Playing the parts of employees at a fictional insurance company, the participants were asked to perform typical office tasks, such as typing up information from



hand-written forms and arranging appointments with clients. While they did so, the researchers observed their psychobiological responses. At a total of six points during the experiment, the participants rated their mood on questionnaires, while a portable ECG device continuously measured their heartbeat. The researchers used the saliva samples to measure the concentration of the stress hormone cortisol.

Later in their experiment, the researchers divided the participants into three groups and exposed each group to a different level of stress. All groups were given the same workload. In the middle of the experiment, all participants were visited by two actors masquerading as representatives of the insurance company's HR department. For participants in the control group, the actors staged a sales pitch dialogue, while in the two stress groups they pretended to be looking for the most suitable

candidates for a promotion. The difference between the two stress groups was that participants in the first group stopped work only to have samples of their saliva taken. But the participants in the second stress group had to contend with additional interruptions in the form of chat messages from their superiors urgently requesting information.

Upon evaluation, the data indicated that asking participants to compete for a fictional promotion was enough to raise their heart rate and trigger the release of cortisol.

"Participants in the second stress group released almost twice the level of cortisol as those in the first stress group," Nagelin said. Weibel added: "Most research into workplace interruptions carried out to date focused only on their effect on performance and productivity. Our study shows for the first time that they also affect the level of cortisol a person releases, in other words, they actually influence a person's biological stress response."

What surprised the researchers were participants' subjective responses in terms of how they perceived psychological stress. They observed that participants in the second stress group, who were interrupted by chat messages, reported being less stressed and in a better mood than the participants in the first stress group, who did not have these interruptions.

Interestingly, although the two groups rated the situation as equally challenging, the second group found it less threatening. The researchers inferred that the release of cortisol triggered by the additional interruptions mobilised more physical resources, which in turn led to a better emotional and cognitive response to stress. It is also possible that the interruptions distracted the participants from the impending social stress situation, meaning that they felt less threatened and thus less stressed.

Social Isolation Increases Risk Of High Blood Pressure, Hypertension In Women

Agencies

Loneliness and social isolation may increase the risk of high blood pressure and hypertension in women, suggested a study.

The research was undertaken by the researchers at the University of British Columbia and was recently published in the Journal of Hypertension.

The study has found that social isolation affects the health of men and women in different ways--including placing women at higher risk of high blood pressure.

It further discovered that middle-aged and older women who lacked social ties were much more likely

than men to suffer from hypertension -- a known risk factor for heart disease, which is the leading cause of death among women--and stroke.

"Among older adults, social isolation is the largest known risk factor for mortality, equal only to smoking," said principal investigator Annalijn Conklin, assistant professor in the faculty of pharmaceutical sciences at UBC and researcher with the Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences.

"Less well known is how social isolation affects men and women differently, or how it affects biomarkers of longevity. Our research indicates that women, in particular, are more likely to be hypertensive when they experience



isolation in middle and older age."

Using data from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging, these researchers analyzed the social ties of 28,238 adults aged 45 to 85, and found that women who were non-partnered, engaged in fewer than three social ac-

tivities a month, or had a small social network (fewer than 85 contacts) had higher odds of hypertension. Average systolic blood pressure was highest among widowed, lone-living and socially inactive women, and the largest difference in blood pressure was between widowed and married women. Widowed women were found to have the strongest likelihood of hypertension across all categories.

Among men, the picture was quite different. Those who were single, shared a home with others, and had the largest social networks had the highest blood pressure, while those who had smaller networks and lived alone had lower blood pressure.

'Omega-3 Rich Foods Improve Post-Heart Attack Prognosis'



Agencies

A team of researchers has shown that regularly consuming foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids, from both animal and vegetable origins, strengthens the membranes of the heart and helps improve the prognosis in the event of myocardial infarction.

The study was conducted by researchers from the Germans Trias i Pujol Hospital and Research Institute (IGTP) and the Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute (IMIM).

To arrive at these conclusions, they used data from 950 patients. The omega-3 levels in the blood of these individuals were determined when they were admitted to hospital to be treated for the heart attack. This measurement indicates, very accurately, how much of these fats the patients had eaten in the weeks prior to the sam-

pling, in other words, before the heart attack.

The patients were monitored for three years after being discharged, and the researchers observed that having high levels of omega-3 in the blood at the time of the infarction, which had been consumed in the weeks leading up to the heart attack, was associated with a lower risk of complications.

The results of the study have from been published in the prestigious Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) is a type of omega-3 fatty acid found in oily fish. When we eat oily fish on a regular basis, EPA is incorporated into the phospholipids in the membranes of the cardiomyocytes, protecting them from a wide variety of heart stressors. This enrichment of the myocardial membranes limits the damage caused in the event of a heart attack.



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Notice No-1

It is notified for information of all concerned candidates of B.Voc Automotive Technology (BVO-CAT) & B.Voc Electronic Media (BVCEM) 1st Semester (batch 2019) that the link for submission of online examination forms will be open on the University website www.kashmiruniversity.net from 30 October to 10 November, 2020.

Notice No-2

It is notified for information of all concerned candidates of Regular B.Tech 2nd Semester batch:- 2019, backlog/supplementary batch 2013-2018, Regular B.Tech 4th Semester batch:- 2018, backlog/supplementary batch 2013-2017, Regular 6th Semester batch:- 2017, backlog/supplementary batch 2013-2016, backlog/supplementary batch 2013-2016, & Backlog/supplementary 7th Semester batch 2013-2016, Regular 8th Semester batch:- 2016, that the link for online submission of examination forms will be open on the University website www.kashmiruniversity.net from 29 October to 10 November, 2020.

Notice No-3

It is notified for information of all concerned candidates of Regular B.E 2nd Semester batch:- 2019, backlog/supplementary batch 2013-2018, Regular B.E 4th Semester batch:- 2018, backlog/supplementary batch 2013-2017, Regular 6th Semester batch:- 2017, backlog/supplementary batch 2013-2016, backlog/supplementary batch 2013-2016, & Backlog/supplementary 7th Semester batch 2013-2016, Regular 8th Semester batch:- 2016, that the link for online submission of examination forms will be open on the University website www.kashmiruniversity.net from 29 October to 10 November, 2020.

Note:

- Students whose forms are generated as "Verified" shall complete the payment of fee online via debit/credit card/ Rupaya Card (free of charges) UPI (free of charges).
- All students shall retain the hard copy of the examination form,
- In case of any discrepancy send an email to examhelpline@uok.edu.in

Assistant Controller of Examinations
(Professional Conduct)

No:-Gen-177
Dated: 29/10/2020

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NOTICE

The candidates who have applied for MBA/MBA-IB, M.Sc. Statistics, M. Tech Food Technology & M.A. English are advised to check the status of their application form (s) by clicking on the tab (Check status) in admission portal available on University website and respond to the objections by sending a mail on admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in mentioning the applicant number and attaching the required documents as shown in the objection by or before 02.11.2020. Fresh candidates can also apply upto the stipulated time as mentioned above, other terms and conditions including eligibility criteria for admission to the advertised programmes shall remain the same as advertised vide admission notification No. 01 of 2020 dated: 21-08-2020.

Queries, if any, can be made on 01933247252 & can also be mailed on admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in.

No. IUST/Acad/admissions/20/639

Dated: 29-10-2020

Sd/-
Deputy Registrar, Academics

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER ACHABAL Short Term Quotation

Sealed Quotations affixed with revenue stamp worth Rupees Six are hereby invited by the undersigned from registered publishers /printing presses for supply of IEC items for Anganwadi centers of ICDS Project Achabal for PoshanAbhiyanMaah Celebration to be delivered to this office, the quotations shall be reach this office of the under signed within five days positively after publication of this notice.

S.NO	Name of the Item
01	Colored Growth weight chart on ecofriendly flex banner of size 3ft x 4 ft
02	Coloured Growth Monitoring chart register for Boys and Girls having 100 Pages
03	Coloured Scheme display chart on ecofriendly Flex banner of Size 3ft x 4 ft.

The Details are also available in the Office.

Terms and Conditions:

- The rates should be quoted inclusive of Taxes.
- The rates should be quoted on letter head only in Figures and words inclusive of all charges and all rates and Taxes.
- The Envelope should be super scribed as Quotation for IEC for PoshanAbhiyanMaah Celebration and have INR6/=Rupees Six, Revenue stamp affixed on it.
- The Supply will have to be delivered to this office.
- Quotation received after date and time will not be taken into consideration.
- No advance payment or part time will be made .Payment will be made after successful completion of the work.
- In case the supplier does not execute the supply order placed with him, TheEMD of the supplier will be forfeited to the Govt and the supply order shall stand terminated with no further liabilities in either party to the contract .09-No extra charges other than above mentioned rates will be paid.
- Right to accept or Reject without assigning any reason thereof ,any or oral of quotations in part or Whole is reserved with the quotation inviting Authority and the decision or all matters relating to acceptance or rejection of the Quotation as a whole or in part will be final and binding on all.

No:CDPO/Ach/2020/759-60

Dated: 21/10/2020

S/d= Child Development ProjectOfficer
Achabal

DIPK-8214/20

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SPECIAL SUB – DIVISION TANGDAR Fresh Short Tender Notice No: 38 of 2020-21

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT sealed tenders affixed with Rupee Five Revenue stamps are hereby invited for the works listed below from the Government Approved Contractors.

S No	Name of work	Adv. Cost in lacs	E. money in lacs	Class of contr.	Cost of T/D	Time for comp.
1	Providing /fixing of CGI sheets roofing over wooden truss to Security Hut at Gabra	3.00	0.06	DEE	200/	15 days
2	Construction of Secure Shelter Shed at village Jabdi.	9.30	0.1860	C&D	600/	20 days

The tenders should be addressed to Executive Engineer and should reach in his office at Tangdar by or before: 09.11.2020 upto 2.00 pm by hand. In case the tender Receiving date being declared as holiday or hartal, the tenders shall be received on the next working day.

The tender documents for the works can be held from the office of the office of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Tangdar against cash payments on any working day during office hour's upto:07.11.2020.contractors are advised to paste cello tape over the rates quoted by them on the tender's document without which the tenders will be rejected.

The contractor shall not in any case quote more than one rate per item of work. In case the tenderer splits the quantity of any item of work and quotes more than one rate for the same item, his tender will not be accepted.

The contractor is liable and bound to take photographic evidence at every stage of work and submit the same in duplicate duly attested by the AEE/JE and cost on account of this has to be bare by the contractor "Taxes which are admissible for deduction shall be deducted at source at the rates admissible at the time of payment of the bills of the contractors"

IMPORTANT CONDITION:

There can be no laxity in completion period of the work. For each day delay a penalty of one percent shall be imposed subject to a maximum of ten percent of the allotted cost besides other normal penalties. Time is the essence of the contract.

The work shall have to be started within two days from the date of issue of allotment /letter of intent. The contractor/firm is advised to see the site before tendering for the work. After completion of work physically, the defective liability period shall be minimum one year and the contractor shall be responsible for rectifying all defects, which may be caused till DLP is over.

The tender should be delivered duly sealed with proper cover/envelop with the name of the contractor, name of the work reference to CDR No & date etc. without which tender can be rejected by the opening authority without assigning any reasons. Also the CDRs must be pledged in favour of the tender opening authority, failing which the tender will be rejected without assigning any reasons.

Unbalanced Bid:- incase bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced ,the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ within (7) days after opening of price bids ,as per following break-up:-

01	upto and including 15% below	NIL
02	>15% upto and including 20% below	5%
03	>20% upto and including 25% below	10%
04	>25% upto and including 30% below	15%
05	>30%below	20%

Additional security shall be released after successful completion of (03) three year maintenance liability period. All other Terms and conditions shall remain same as per this office NIT No: 01of 2020-21.
No: 2628-37
Dtd: 29.10.2020

Executive Engineer
Spl Sub Div Tangdar

DIPK-8212/20

Office of the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla

Interview Notice

Subject: Recruitment of Class-IV posts advertised in the year 2006 vide advertisement notice No. 04/DCB of 2006 dated 18.10.2006. Wherein, an advertisement notice was issued vide No. 04/DCB of 2006 dated 18.10.2006 for inviting applications from the permanent residents of J&K for recruitment against vacancies of Class-IV posts, but due to prolonged litigation, the process of selection to these Class-IV posts could not be completed as different petitions were filed by aggrieved candidates.

Whereas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 31st February 2020 ordered as under:- (i) "A refusal of the affidavit affirmed by the appellants dated 31st January, 2020 was sought to be superseded as lacking in transparency by the process in the year 2013 afresh in pursuance to the Government order dated 23rd April, 2013 but with a caveat that it would be confined to only those candidates who had applied in pursuance to the advertisement dated 18th October, 2006. The appellants thus state that the respondents would not be prejudiced and this selection process would be completed within a period of five months from today. We are inclined to accept this course of action and give our imprimatur to the same".

Whereas, GAD vide its letter No. 664 GAD of 2013 dated 23.04.2013 conveyed: (i) The selection process be carried out afresh in a strictly time bound manner, only for the candidates who had applied in pursuance of the 2006 advertisement;

(ii) The candidates shall not be barred for crossing the maximum age bar and shall be given deemed relaxation;

Whereas, the applications were scrutinized afresh in light of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in order to complete the process of selection in a time bound manner;

Whereas, a category wise provisional shortlist with a ratio of 1:5 has been framed and annexed herewith at Annexure A" for information of all shortlisted candidates to appear in the interview as per the scheduled date and time given below:-

Table with columns: Date, Category, From S.No., Time, Venue, Remarks. Rows include dates from 09-11-2020 to 16-11-2020 with categories like Open, RBA, Scheduled Caste, and Social Caste.

Note:- The candidates are required to bring all the original certificates/ testimonials along with them on the date of interview.

No.: DCB/N/Estt/655-60 Dated: 25-10-2020

Sd/- Joint Director Planning Baramulla

(Chairman, Screening Committee)

Table with columns: S.No., F.No., Name of Candidate, Parentage, Residence, Tehsil, District. Lists candidates for various posts across different districts.

Table with columns: S.No., F.No., Name of Candidate, Parentage, Residence, Tehsil, District. Continuation of candidate list from the previous table.

Table with columns: S.No., F.No., Name of Candidate, Parentage, Residence, Tehsil, District. Continuation of candidate list from the previous table.

Pak Oppn Leader Says India Was Planning Attack Post Pulwama



ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani opposition leader has claimed that Indian Air Force pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was released after Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told a meeting of Pakistan's top leaders that India would attack Pakistan.

In a speech in the National Assembly, Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) leader Ayaz Sadiq said Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told a meeting of parliamentary leaders that India was about to attack their country if Pakistan did not release Wing Commander Varthaman "that night by 9 pm."

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's "legs were shaking" while Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told a meeting of parliamentary leaders that India was about to attack their country, said a Pakistani lawmaker as he recounted the events of February 2019 meeting during which the Imran Khan government decided to release Indian Air Force pilot.

The PML-N leader told opposition leaders that Mr Qureshi in a meeting with the parliamentary leaders, including PPP and PML-N and Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, had asked for Wing Command-

er Varthaman to be let free. "I remember Shah Mahmood Qureshi was in the meeting in which Imran Khan had refused to attend and Chief of Army Staff General Bajwa came into the room, his legs were shaking and he was perspiring. Foreign Minister said for god's sake let Abhinandan go, India's about to attack Pakistan at 9 pm," Mr Sadiq recounted the events of the meeting.

Dunya News quoted Mr Sadiq as saying that the opposition supported the government in all issues including Wing Commander Varthaman, but would not be able to further support it. Reacting to the controversy Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar on Thursday said viewing the decision to release Indian air force pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan as anything other than "the mature response of a responsible state" is "highly regrettable".

"Yesterday, a statement was made in which an attempt was made to twist the facts [regarding Abhinandan's release]," he began by saying.

The DG ISPR was referring to statements by PML-N leaders during a session of the National Assembly a day earlier, where they had accused the government of releasing Abhinandan under pressure.

"On this decision, the entire civil and military leadership was on a single page. We responded with full might in the light of day and shot down two planes, along with arresting their pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan [Varthaman]," the DG ISPR said, recalling the events.

He said that the enemy was in such a panicked state that it shot down its own helicopter.

I REMEMBER SHAH MAHMOOD

Qureshi was in the meeting in which Imran Khan had refused to attend and Chief of Army Staff General Bajwa came into the room, his legs were shaking and he was perspiring. Foreign Minister said for god's sake let Abhinandan go, India's about to attack Pakistan at 9 pm,"

Delhi Records Coldest October Day In 26 Years, Mercury At 12.5 Degrees



The national capital recorded a minimum temperature of 12.5 degrees Celsius on Thursday, the lowest in October in 26 years, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The normal minimum temperature for this time of the year is between 15 to 16 degrees Celsius, it said.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the regional forecasting centre of IMD, said the last time Delhi recorded such a low temperature in October was in 1994.

The national capital had recorded a minimum of 12.3 degrees Celsius on October 31,

1994, according to IMD data. The city recorded its all-time low temperature (9.4 degrees Celsius) on October 31, 1937, Mr Srivastava said.

The senior IMD scientist said the absence of cloud cover was the major reason for such low minimum temperatures this time. Clouds trap some of the outgoing infrared radiation and radiate it back downward, warming the ground.

Another reason is calm winds which allow formation of mist and fog, Mr Srivastava said.

The minimum temperature is likely to dip to 11 degrees Celsius by November 1, the IMD added.



FERRYING DAILY LOAD: A woman carrying a basket full of sheet in Srinagar on Wednesday.

Economic Recovery Faster Than Expected, Confident Of Meeting \$5-Trn Target By 2024: Pm Modi

NEW DELHI: The Indian economy is getting back on track faster than expected as a timely lockdown and various relief measures announced by the government helped address issues faced by all sections of society and all economic sectors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said.

He also expressed confidence that the target of making India a USD 5-trillion economy will be achieved by 2024, saying that the crisis gave the government an opportunity to carry out reforms that were waiting to happen for decades but no one earlier took the initiative.

"Reforms across sectors such as coal, agriculture, labour, defence, civil aviation and so on have been undertaken which will help us get back on the high growth path that we were on before the crisis," Modi said in an interview published in the Economic Times newspaper on Thursday.

On COVID-19 vaccine, he said every Indian will be vaccinated as and when a vaccine becomes available, though the focus initially would be on protecting the most vulnerable and the frontline workers.

Modi reiterated that there should be no room for complacency in fighting this virus and the only way forward is to take precautions such as wearing masks, hand washing and social distancing.

He said the government in the very beginning decided to be proactive and introduced a timely nationwide lockdown.



"We not only got the broad timing of various phases of lockdown right, we also got the unlock process right and much of our economy is also coming back on track. The data for August and September indicates that" he said.

He said this is a new virus and countries which had initially controlled the outbreak are now reporting a resurgence.

"The geographical spread of India, population density, the regular social gatherings must be kept in mind when we look at these numbers and seek to compare with others. Many of our states are larger than countries," he added.

Modi said India's response in tackling the crisis has been focused on increasing capabilities to handle the situation, making people more aware, creating more facilities

etc in keeping with the dictum 'Hope for the best but prepare for the worst'.

Asked about plans for further stimulus for the economy, he said, "We will take all measures needed to constantly stimulate the economy in a timely manner while ensuring overall macro-economic stability."

"Remember, we are still not over with the pandemic. Yet, our economy has shown a remarkable capability to bounce back, largely because of the resilience of our people."

"This is something that is not captured in these numbers but is the reason behind those numbers. The shop-owner, the trader, the person running an MSME, the person working on the factory floor, the entrepreneur, all these are the heroes responsible for the strong market sentiment and revival of the economy," he said.

Modi further said India has not started speaking about manufacturing only after the pandemic and the work has been continuing on increasing manufacturing for some time now.

"India is, after all, a young country with a skilled workforce. But India doesn't believe in gaining from the loss of others. India will become a global manufacturing hub on its own strengths."

"Our effort is not to become some country's alternative, but to become a country which offers unique opportunities. We want to see the progress of all. If India progresses, one-sixth of humanity will progress," he said.

Can Excessive Media Reporting Hinder Justice, HC Asks Centre

The Bombay High Court on Thursday asked the Union government to clarify whether "excessive" reportage by the press on an ongoing investigation amounted to interference in the administration of justice under the Contempt of Courts Act.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni asked the government to state by November 6 if such reportage adversely affects the probe and subsequent trial, and if the court should lay guidelines on media reporting.

"If there is excessive reporting, that can put an accused on guard, and he may resort to destroying evidence or absconding. Or if that person is actually innocent, the excessive media reporting can damage his reputation," it said.

"We would not like the media to cross its boundaries and we would also like to be within our boundaries," the court said and asked the state if such reportage would amount to interference and if the government thought the HC had the jurisdiction to frame guidelines.

"Whether excessive reporting by media in an ongoing investigation amounts to interference in administration of justice under Section 2(c) of the Contempt of Courts Act and should we lay guidelines? This is the issue before us," HC said.

It also asked the government's counsel, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, to consider scenarios where such reportage on an ongoing probe, where a chargesheet was yet to be filed, influenced the investigating officer, or resulted in a witness being threatened.

It asked if the court must step in and formulate guidelines to regulate the press to avoid such scenarios. "If media identifies that a person is a very vital witness, he could be won over, threatened, or he could be even physically harmed so that he does not give evidence," it said.

On the possibility of the press influencing an investigating officer, the HC said, "Think of a police officer. Can anyone guarantee that he will not be influenced?"

"He may be following a particular track. Media says 'no no' this must be the track. He loses track and rounds up an innocent person," it said.

"Or, if the officer is competent and does not get influenced, then the media starts maligning him. Is this welcome in a society governed by rule of law?" the HC asked.

India Condemns "Personal Attacks" On Macron, Criticised For Islam Remarks

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday strongly condemned the personal attacks against French President Emmanuel Macron after his tough stance on radical Islam, calling it "a violation of the most basic standards of international discourse".

In a strongly-worded statement, the Foreign Ministry also condemned the brutal terrorist attack that killed a French teacher, and said "there is no justification for terrorism for any reason or under any circumstance".

"We strongly deplore the personal attacks in unacceptable language on President Emmanuel Macron in violation of the most basic standards of international discourse," the MEA said.

"We also condemn the brutal terrorist attack that took the life of a French teacher in a gruesome manner that has shocked the world. We offer our condolences to his family and the people of France," it said.

After the statement, French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain thanked India saying both countries can count on



each other in the fight against terrorism. "Thank you @MEAIndia. France and India can always count on each other in the fight against terrorism," he tweeted.

Macron has been facing criticism from various Muslim-majority countries after he took a tough stand on radical Islam and defended cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. The French President said that Islam was a religion in "crisis".

His comments came in the backdrop of the beheading of French teacher Samuel Paty on October 16 outside Paris in broad daylight. He had shown caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad to his students.

17-Year-Old Boy Kills His Father, Watches 'Crime Patrol' 100 Times To Learn How To Destroy Evidence



MATHURA (UTTAR PRADESH): In a shocking incident, a 17-year-old killed his father in a fit of rage and took cues from TV serial 'Crime Patrol' to destroy the evidence.

When the boy, a Class 12 student, was arrested on Wednesday, the police checked his mobile phone and found that he had watched the 'Crime Patrol' series over 100 times.

According to reports, the boy killed his father Manoj Mishra, 42, on May 2 when the latter scolded him.

The boy hit his father on his head with an iron rod and when he fainted, he strangled him with a piece of cloth.

Later, the same night, the boy with the help of his mother, carried the body on his scooter to a forest area about five kilometres away and burnt it with petrol and a toilet cleaner to destroy the identity.

On May 3, police found the partially burnt body that remained unidentified for almost three weeks as no missing person report was filed in any police station.

The family, finally, lodged a missing person complaint on May 27 under pressure from

ISKCON officials when Manoj Mishra worked there as a donation collector.

Some of his colleagues identified that the body was Manoj's colleagues at ISKCON said that they did not doubt his prolonged absence since Manoj often used to travel to preach Bhagavad Gita.

Mathura Superintendent of Police (city) Uday Shanker Singh said that whenever police called Manoj's son for questioning, he would evade coming and would instead ask the police under what provisions of the law they were trying to interrogate him.

However, when police checked his mobile phone, they found a history of the boy watching Crime Patrol episodes at least 100 times. Police said after several rounds of questioning, the boy finally broke down and admitted to his crime.

The police arrested the boy and his mother Sangeeta Mishra, 39. They have been booked for murder and destroying evidence.

The 11-year-old sister of the accused has been handed over to the grandparents. IANS

ON MAY 3, POLICE FOUND THE partially burnt body that remained unidentified for almost three weeks as no missing person report was filed in any police station.

NEWS MAKER

MHA confirms Suspension Of MP IPS Officer Caught 'Beating Wife' In Video

BHOPAL: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has upheld the suspension of senior Madhya Pradesh IPS officer Purushottam Sharma, who was seen purportedly thrashing his wife in a video that went viral last month.

In a letter issued to the Madhya Pradesh chief secretary on Wednesday, the MHA also directed the state government to chargesheet Sharma by November 27.

The state government had suspended Sharma from the post of special director general on September 29 following his viral video, in which he was seen beating his wife after she confronted him at the house of a news anchor with a regional channel.



When asked about the Centre's letter to the state government, Sharma said, "This is a procedure. I am going to file my reply and move the court."

After the incident came to light, Sharma had said that it was a family dispute which would be sorted out.

He had written to the state

government that his suspension be revoked. However, his plea was not entertained.

He had also moved the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which upheld his suspension saying that it was a move necessary for fair inquiry.

Sharma said that his plea was still pending with the CAT. PTI

No Face Mask Or Money To Pay Fine? Get Ready To Sweep Roads!

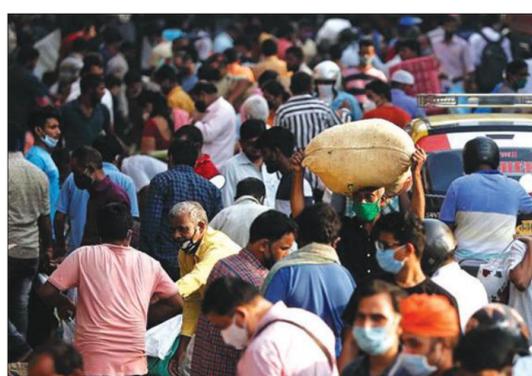
MUMBAI: Next time if you are caught without a face mask in public in Mumbai, get ready to sweep roads as part of community service if you fail to pay fine to the city civic body.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is making violators do community service in the form of sweeping roads if they are reluctant to pay Rs 200 as fine for not wearing masks in public places, according to civic officials.

In view of the coronavirus pandemic, authorities have made wearing of face masks mandatory in public to curb the spread of the infection.

The K-West civic ward, which includes areas like Andheri West, Juhu and Varsova, has already made several violators sweep roads for an hour to deter people from roaming around without a mask.

Vishwas Mote, assistant municipal commissioner (K-West ward), told PTI on Thursday that since the past



seven days they have made people do community service in the form of sweeping roads if they unnecessarily argue with officials or refuse to pay fine for not wearing a mask.

"Until today, a total of 35 people were made to do community service in the K-West ward," Mote said.

According to the officials, this punishment is being handed out as

per the BMCs Solid Waste Management Bye-Laws that give the civic body powers to ask citizens to do various community services for spitting on roads.

A civic official said initially most people show reluctance to do community service like sweeping roads, but they fall in line when they are warned about police action.

"On realising that they made a mistake by not wearing face mask, some people readily agree to do community service," the official said.

Aiming to control the pandemic, the civic body is continuously spreading awareness among citizens about wearing face masks, maintaining social distance and practicing hand hygiene.

Last the BMC had directed authorities concerned to disallow entry of people without masks in public buses, taxis, auto-rickshaws and even inside housing societies. PTI