



Maximum : 23°C
Minum : 11°C
Humidity : 48%

SUNSET Today 07:10 PM
SUNRISE Tomorrow 05:48 AM

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RAMAZAN 2020: MUSLIMS BEGIN MARKING A SUBDUED RAMAZAN UNDER VIRUS LOCKDOWN

Muslims worldwide begin Ramazan today with dawn-to-dusk fasting, but many will have to forgo the communal prayers and family gatherings that make the holy month special, as authorities maintain lockdowns aimed at slowing the coronavirus pandemic.

NEWS P5



News Digest

01ST RAMAZAN

	IFTAR TODAY	SEHRI TOMORROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:13	04:19
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:19	04:17

Army Soldier Killed In Kupwara Fire
Srinagar- An Army soldier was killed in an accidental fire after his service rifle went off accidentally inside an army camp at Hirri area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday, police said. The soldier namely Havaldar Rakesh Kumar of 8 JAT Regiment posted with army's 160 TA headquarters at Hirri sustained a bullet wound in his chest, reports said. The report said that the incident occurred while he was cleaning. **P-02**

2 Held With Fake Currency Notes
Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested two persons for circulating fake currency notes in Bandipora district of north Kashmir. "Acting on specific information, Bandipora Police arrested two individuals and recovered fake Indian currency notes from their possession," a police spokesman in a statement issued here said. "Officers arrested two individuals in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bandipora for circulating. **P-02**

Biker Dies On Srinagar -Jammu Highway
Pulwama: A biker died on Friday on Srinagar-Jammu highway in a road accident. Police sources said that incident occurred at Chandhara Pampore crossing. The bike rider suffered serious injuries in the accident. He was shifted to SMHS hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. A police official identified the deceased as Suhail Abdullah Sheikh s/o Muhammad Abdullah of Lalpora Chatlam Pampore. "A case vide **P-02**

Man Electrocuted In Srinagar
Srinagar: A 50-year-old man was electrocuted in Srinagar outskirts on Friday. The deceased was repairing electric wire when he came in contact with live wire. He was rushed to the SMHS hospital, where the doctors declared him brought dead. The deceased is identified as Bashir Ahmed Parry son of Ghulam Muhammad, a resident of Parimpora Srinagar. The incident occurred at Barthan Srinagar. Meanwhile police **P-02**

2 Boys, Woman & Her 3 Daughters Covid-19+ve
20 More Test Positive On Friday, J&K Tally At 454



SRINAGAR: A 5 and 8-year-old boys besides a woman and her three minor daughters were among twenty people who tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Kashmir Valley on Friday, taking the number of the infected persons to J&K to 454. All these cases were confirmed at Viral Diagnostic Lab of SKIMS Soura and as per Professor Farooq Jan, Medical Superintendent of the tertiary care hospital, nine of them are from Bandipora, five from Shopian, four from Kupwara and two from Baramulla districts. "395 sample reports were received today and twenty among them came out to be positive," he said. According to Chief Medical Officer Bandipora Dr Tajamul Hussain nine cases in the district are from two families of Gund Kaiser area. Sources said they include six females—aged 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, and 70—besides two males—one of the 65-year-old and other 80-years-old. "They belong to two families and are contacts of previous patients," said the CMO, adding, "Contact tracing is on. **PAGE 02**

18 Militants Killed During Lockdown

JAMMU- Fifty militants, including several top commanders of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT), were killed in anti-militancy operations by state forces in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far, officials said on Friday. Seventeen state forces personnel lost their lives while fighting the militants in the union territory, they said. "The militants also killed nine civilians in the last four months," the officials said. Giving details, a senior official told PTI that the slain militants included top commanders of JeM, LeT and Hizbul Mujahideen. He said of the 50 militants killed so far this year, 18 were killed during the on-going lockdown imposed to contain the spread of coronavirus. **P-02**

3 CRPF Cops Injured in Budgam Attack

SRINAGAR: Three paramilitary CRPF men were injured in a militant attack at Duniwari area of Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday evening. Reports said that the militants lobbed a grenade inside the camp of CRPF 29 battalion at Duniwari area of Chadoora. In the attack, three CRPF troopers suffered injuries, they said. The injured trio has been identified as Inspector Mayesh Chand, constable G Prakesh Rao and constable K Sirnu. The paramilitary troopers also fired some shots in retaliation. However, there was no causality reported to the other side. CRPF Spokesperson Pan-kaj Singh also confirmed the attack. The **P-02**



SOS FROM DELHI Stranded Kashmiri Girls Appeal For Evacuation

Observer News Service
An SOS From Bhopal
Over 250 Kashmiri students stuck in Bhopal city of Madhya Pradesh are demanding immediate evacuation, saying they are gripped in fear and panic. "We want to go home and request Jammu Kashmir Government to evacuate us from Bhopal. "We talked to District Development Commissioner Bhopal who in turn informed Government of India, but till date nothing has been done to give us a respite," said a student Muzaffar Hussain. **P-02**

SRINAGAR: A video is going viral on the internet where a bunch of Kashmiri girls are seeking J&K government's support for immediate evacuation. As per the video, these Kashmiri girls are stuck in Hauz Khas, Delhi in a hostel, where they have not been treated well. The owner of their hostel, they said, is harassing them to pay rents during lockdown. "Even when the government has announced not to take rent from tenants right now, still these people **PAGE 02**

THE STRANDED GIRLS SAID THEY aren't getting sufficient food to feed themselves.

2 Militants Killed During Kidnap Bid: Police

SRINAGAR: Two militants were killed minutes after they abducted a railway policeman at Yaripora area of Kulgam in south Kashmir on Friday, police said. Inspector General of Police Kashmir Range, Vijay Kumar (IPS) said that militants abducted a railway police constable at Shirpora village following which an immediate cordon was launched by a joint team of police and army. Soon militants were chased at Kharpora leading to a brief gunfight in which both of them were killed while a policeman was injured. Acting on a tip off that the militants along with the abducted cop were travelling in a vehicle, a joint naka was laid where militants opened fire when they were signalled to stop. "This triggered **PAGE 02**

HC Denies Interim Protection From Arrest To Journalist Gowhar Geelani

Observer News Service
Earlier, Cyber Police Station accused Geelani of "indulging in unlawful activities" through social media that are "prejudicial to the national integrity, sovereignty and security of India". The amended UAPA allows the government to proscribe individuals as terrorists and empowers more officers of the National Investigation Agency to probe cases. A person charged under the act can be jailed for up to seven years. Appearing on behalf **PAGE 02**

SRINAGAR: Denying interim protection from arrest to journalist Gowhar Geelani, a bench of High Court headed by Justice Ali Muhammad Magrey Friday directed the government to file its response on the petition before the next date of hearing scheduled on May 20. Geelani through his counsel was seeking quashing of FIR lodged against him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act -1967.

Kashmir Journalists Subjected to Heat by Admin: PCI

SRINAGAR: The Press Club of India on Friday said that amid the restriction on high speed internet in Jammu and Kashmir, the journalists of the local media have been subjected to heat by the administration. In a statement issued today, **P-02**

Lone Fraud Accused Seeks Bail Over Covid-19 HC Dismisses Bail Plea By Ex-Minister's Son

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: A former NC minister's son, arrested in a bank fraud case, sought bail citing the COVID-19 outbreak, but the High Court on Friday rejected his plea saying his apprehension was "misplaced as of now". A bench of Justice Puneet Gupta had on April 20 reserved for orders the plea by Hilal Rather, the son of former minister Abdul Rahim Rather, an accused in the Rs 177 crore bank loan fraud case and dismissed it for "being without merit". The court also said that Hilal cannot leverage a Supreme Court directive on decongesting jails in view of the pandemic to seek relief as he faces charges of "serious nature". "The bail cannot be granted on the mere asking of the accused nor can the accused claim bail as a matter of right. Each case has to be decided on its own merits," Justice Puneet Gupta said in his order. Hilal had moved the plea on March 4, seeking interim bail on medical grounds and the Supreme Court directive for decongestion of jails across the country in view of the COVID-19 outbreak. Hilal was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) **PAGE 02**

JK Bank Guard Opens Fire During Scuffle

SRINAGAR: Panic gripped Chowgam area of Qazigund in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday after a bank guard allegedly fired aerial shots in air during a scuffle. A police officer said that acting on reports, a police team reached the Chowgam branch of Jammu and Kashmir bank to investigate the alleged aerial firing which had taken place around noon. "It emerged that the bank guard had fired the shots during a scuffle with someone," the officer said. Several local boys were **P-02**

FIR Against IAS Officer Who Quit Over GOP's Kashmir Move JK Police Massively Engaged in Containing Covid-19 Spread: DGP

NEW DELHI: A police case has been registered against Kannan Gopinathan, who resigned from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) last August, for not joining duty as directed by the government amid the coronavirus pandemic. An FIR under the Epidemic Diseases Act and Disaster Management Act was registered against him on April 21 at Moti Daman police station in the Union territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, police said. He is also facing a charge under Section 188 of the IPC for refusing to obey a government order, said police inspector Liladhar Makwana. Gopinathan, who hails from Kerala, had quit the service over "denial of freedom to the people of Jammu and Kashmir". "Based on a complaint by Superintendent of Personnel HK Kamble, an FIR has been registered against Gopinathan for not resuming his duty in the wake of coronavirus pandemic," the police officer said. **PAGE 02**

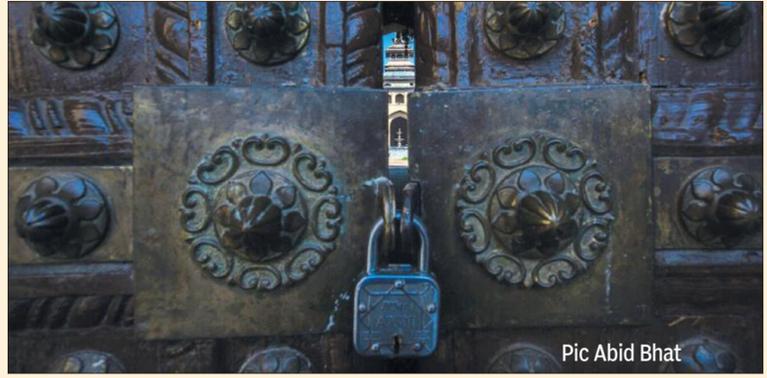
SRINAGAR: The DGP Dilbagh Singh Friday directed the officers that minimum public movement has to be ensured particularly in the areas declared as containment zones to prevent the spreading of the novel coronavirus. He said that with the cooperation of cross section of the society, effective implementation of lockdown is being ensured. DGP asked the officers to maintain similar rapport with social and religious leaders to observe same level of social distancing during the holy month of Ramazan too so that there is no letup in the current level of precautions. DGP was on day log visit to CTC, Lehtpora and Anantnag **P-02**



Kannan Gopinathan

Religious Leaders Call For Prayers At Home During Ramazan

SRINAGAR- Ramzan, the holy month of fasting for Muslims, which begins this Saturday, will be a subdued affair in Jammu and Kashmir this time as gatherings and mass prayers are strictly banned due to the lockdown imposed to fight coronavirus. Most of the Muslim religious leaders and organisations have thrown their weight behind the administration's efforts to curb the spread of the virus, urging followers to pray at home and follow the government's instructions of maintaining social distancing. However, a few small mosques in the Valley have been holding congregational prayers through-



Pic Abid Bhat

made by the people during the past month go waste. Action will be taken in case congregational prayers are held in violation of prohibitory orders passed on April 15," Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary said. The Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid in Srinagar has asked people to continue abiding by the medical advisories. "In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar, keeping in view the strict medical advisories of maintaining social distancing by health experts, will continue with the suspension of Friday congregations and the Taraweeh prayers in Jama Masjid, till the situation returns to normal," a spokesman of the mosque said. The Muslim Auqaf Trust has also issued a similar advisory. Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir, Nasir-ul Islam, has also asked people to offer the five mandatory prayers and Taraweeh (night prayers during Ramzan) at home. The best way to protect humanity in the holy month of Ramazan will be to offer five-mandatory prayers (of the day) and the Taraweeh prayers in their homes. People should behave like a mature society and not rush towards masjids in Ramzan. Instead, they should pray in their homes and seek blessings. **PAGE 02**

...COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Stay Home, Stay Safe: Div Com Appeals To General Public

Pole wishes happy Ramzaan to people

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, today greeted people on the occasion of the beginning of holy month of Ramadan. "In this holy month, we should pray to Allah to combat Corona virus infection instantly so that the stranded life across valley will again come on track and also enhance the spirit of peace and harmony across Kashmir Division" he said while

issuing a statement to media. The Divisional Commissioner further said that in view of COVID-19 Pandemic, the divisional administration has imposed lockdown for the health and safety of the general public and religious leaders had also appealed people to offer five times Nimaaz at their home during the month of Ramzaan including Tarawah Nimaaz, so that the chain of Corona virus infection

is broken. "Follow lockdown measures in letter & spirit, stay home and adopt the health guidelines regarding Corona virus seriously besides, wash your dates properly before breaking fast. While staying at home, immunity in the body remains balanced which will help to fight against the Corona virus disease so stay home and stay Safe", added the Div Com.

Restrictions Intensified In Red Zones Villages Of Anantnag

ANANTNAG: As prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC, Disaster Management Act, and the Epidemic Disease Act are already in place in the district, the District Magistrate, Anantnag reiterated that no inward and outward movement of any person from the red zones villages should be al-

lowed and the people should stay in their homes to ensure complete lockdown as restrictions have been intensified.intensify "The area has become more vulnerable as far as further transmission of the COVID-19 virus is concerned, hence is has become imperative to take strin-

gent precautionary measures by declaring concerned villages as red zones and adjoining villages as buffer zone," the DM said. This entails complete restriction of vehicular movement toward the red zone villages, except the vehicles carrying essential commodities for the inhabitants

of such villages, he added. DM directed the officials concerned to ensure supply of essential commodities as per laid down protocols in the villages covering both local residents and outside labourers, and warned of stern action against anyone trying to violate the orders.

Ramadan: 50000 food kits prepared for distribution among impoverished families in Srinagar

Special support in view of prevailing situation with restrictions in place due to COVID-19 outbreak: DC Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar administration has prepared a massive 50 thousand food kits for distribution amongst impoverished families in the district. The distribution of free food kits amongst the said families is being made to support them during the month of Ramadan in view of the prevailing situa-

tion due to COVID-19 outbreak. Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority Srinagar visited the site where these kits were prepared to inspect their preparation. Each of these 50 thousand kits include multiple items of

food ranging from rice to wheat to edible oil to tea to spices. Each kit has 5 kilograms of rice and 2 kilograms of wheat and a packet each of other said items packed into it. Speaking on the occasion the Dr Shahid said the district administration has identified de-

serving families from across the district and that distribution of these kits amongst them will start tomorrow. He said the aim of distributing free food kits is to support the impoverished families of the district during the month of Ramadan in view of the prevailing situation with restrictions in place due to outbreak of COVID-19.

2 Boys, Woman & Her 3 Daughters

132 samples were collected today only and include 86 in Sumbal block and 46 in Bandipora." Five more cases were reported from Shopian district—three from Heerpora and two from Beminipora village. With three fresh cases including a 5-year-old boy, a 21-year-old female, and a 60-year-old man of Heerpora, a small village comprising around 1000 households, now has 45 COVID-19 patients even as a few among them have recovered. The two cases in Beminipora village in the southern Kashmir district includes an 8-year-old boy and a 45-year-old female.

Kupwara district reported four fresh cases and includes the 40-year-old wife of a policeman (posted in Srinagar) and their three daughters—aged 9, 12, and 16—of Muqam-e-Shahwali area. Two cases in Baramulla are from Solinda Tangmarg and include 21-year-old male and 13-year-old girl, both contacts of previous patients.

Official sources said that 17 more patients were discharged—five from Shopian, 4 from SKIMS and 8 from GMC Baramulla.

With these fresh cases, Bandipora now has 108 COVID-19 patients, highest in all districts, followed by Srinagar (79), Shopian (60), Baramulla (52), Kupwara (45), Jammu (26), Udhampur (20), Ganderbal (14), Budgam (14), Anantnag (15), Kulgam (6), Rajouri (4), Samba (4), Pulwama (3) while Kathua, Kishtwar and Ramban districts have one case each. While overall tally has gone upto 454, there are 340 active cases—39 in Jammu and 301 in Kashmir. Five persons have died of the disease so far while 109 others—17 in Jammu and 92 in Valley—have recovered.

Meanwhile, the government informed 65722 travellers and persons in contact with suspected cases have been put under surveillance which includes 6162 persons in-home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 340 in Hospital Isolation, 260 in hospital Quarantine and 11970 under home surveillance. Besides, 46985 persons have completed their surveillance period. (GNS)

18 Militants Killed During...

Four militants, including district commander of LeT Muzaffar Ahmed Bhat, were killed in an encounter with state forces in the Dialgam area of Anantnag district in south Kashmir on March 15, the official said, adding they belonged to LeT and Hizbul Mujahideen outfits

On January 25, three militants, including JeM Kashmir chief Qari Yasir, were killed while three soldiers were injured in an encounter in the Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, he said.

On January 23, another top militant commander Abu Saifullah alias Abu Qasim, an associate of Yasir, was killed in the Khrew area of Pulwama district, the official said.

On April 9, top Jaish-e-Mohammed commander Sajad Nawab Dar was killed by state forces in Sopore in Baramulla district in north Kashmir, he said.

A top Hizbul Mujahideen 'commander' Haroon Wani was killed in a fierce encounter with the state forces in the Gundana area of Doda in Jammu and Kashmir on January 15, he said.

Giving further details, the officer said 18 militants were killed during the lockdown in the union territory since March 14.

"As many as nine civilians were killed by the militants during this year," he said.

Besides, seventeen forces personnel were killed during the same period, which includes 13 security personnel, three Special Police officers (SPOs) and one policeman, he added.

As many as 160 militants were killed and 102 arrested in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh had said earlier.PTI

3 CRPF Cops Injured in Budgam

spokesperson told GNS that three jawans including an officer of Inspector rank suffered minor injuries and their condition is stable.

Soon after the attack, the paramilitary men along with additional reinforcement of SOG and

army launched a cordon-and-search operation in the area.

Stranded Kashmiri Girls...

are demanding money from us," a masked Kashmiri girl said in the video.

The stranded girls said they aren't getting sufficient food to feed themselves.

They can be seen pleading to the state government to rescue them as soon as possible.

"A few days back, some girls over here fell sick," another masked Kashmiri girl said. "We tried calling the healthcare helpline number, but they didn't come to our rescue."

In fact, they said, their recent call for help went unanswered.

"There is no one for us here," the Kashmiri girl said. "We are helpless. We want to go home. We are suffering from mental agony here."

These girls accused the J&K government of being insensitive towards their plight.

"If other state governments can evacuate their people, why can't J&K administration do the same? How could they be so indifferent towards women?"

This is not the first video which has gone viral over the internet.

Hundreds of Kashmiri students and workers stranded in various parts of India are using social media to tell their agonies to the government and authorities. They plead for the immediate evacuation from their respective places.

"Almost all the district administrations have been very prompt and responsive in their actions and are making sure that all the issues are resolved on the war front," the official spokesman said earlier.

An SOS from Bhopal

"We don't know how long will this lockdown continue and we are about to suffer a mental breakdown," the students said. "Who will not get into panic in such a situation and far from home," he added.

Most of these stranded students in Bhopal are hailing from Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

When contacted District Development Commissioner Budgam, Tariq Ahmed Ganai said that they will decide about the matter and will try to bring these students back. "Authorities will think about the matter. There are other Kashmiris who are stuck as well in many parts," he said.

2 Militants Killed During Kidnap...

a brief shootout in which two militants were killed. Their identity was not immediately known," police said

However another reports said that the two slain youth had recently joined militancy and were affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit.

In the exchange of firing, a police man also sustained injury and was removed to nearby medical facility for treatment.

It may be recalled that earlier, a police man constable Sartaj Ahmed Itoo of Sheerpora area of Yaripora, Kulgam district of South Kashmir was abducted by the militants.

Hc Denies Interim Protection...

of the petitioner, counsel Salih Pirzada submitted that Cyber police station has no jurisdiction to register and investigate offences under the UA(P)A-1967.

"The respondent has no jurisdiction to investigate the offences beyond the purview of the Information Technology Act, 2000," the petition argued. "There is no genesis or manner of the commissions of alleged offences mentioned in the FIR, as such, the initiation of persecution being in abuse of the process of law can't be allowed to sustain."

Appearing on behalf of the government, additional advocate general BA Dar submitted that the Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, transferred the case to Police Station, Sadder, for investigation in terms of order, dated 22.04.2020.

"And therefore," he submitted before court, "the jurisdiction aspect of the matter is not available to the petitioner to seek quashment of FIR, which otherwise also, cannot be a ground for quashment of FIR."

Gowhar is a renowned journalist and author contributing to Deutsche Welle (Germany), The Federal, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and other media outlets.

The registration of FIRs against Gowhar, freelance photojournalist Masrat Zahra and summoning of The Hindu's special correspondent Peerzada Ashiq by police has evoked widespread criticism from different quarters.

The international bodies of Journalists like Reporters San Frontiers (RSF), Committee for Protection of Journalists (CPJ) and International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) have demanded withdrawal of charges against them. ONS

Kashmir Journalists Subjected to Heat

PCI said that "Events of the past week underline the fact that the new norm in Kashmir is for the police to call journalists to police stations in connection with their published reports, photographs, or their social media posts, and to file FIRs against journalists. A case under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been filed against a young photo-journalist."

"The correspondent of a prominent national daily has had a case registered against him for reporting that the police buried bodies of two men killed in an encounter when the family of at least one of them was ready to identify the alleged militant. Another journalist is being sought to be prosecuted for his social media output where he questions current methods against the media," PCI said.

PCI added that all this is very surprising. "Under the normal rules and practices of a democracy, perceived news errors are dealt with through official denials or writing a letter to the editor," PCI said.

PCI said the Cyber Police appear to be super-active in the Valley, parsing every word written and then summoning journalists to the police station. "Even in a conflict zone, where hostile intelligence operations may be ongoing, a democracy must preserve democratic norms. We demand that the Governor's administration devise open and transparent norms to address perceived questions relating to journalists' posts on social media. Currently, it is all too easy to treat a criticism as anti-national activity intended to comfort the enemy," PCI said.

"While the past week has seen a string of strong-arm methods being used, since the change of J&K's constitutional status last August, objective journalism in Kashmir has been sought to be suppressed. After the Internet lockdown ended (even now only slow-speed Internet operates), journalists of the local media have been subjected to heat by the administration," PCI said.

"In light of this background, the events of the past week appear designed to intimidate the media. Perhaps the effort is to convert the entire media into official media through arm-twisting, or to render them into a silent media," PCI said, adding that "we deplore this trend. We demand that the criminal cases registered against journalists be withdrawn right away. These bullying tactics are spreading a bad odour, nationally and internationally."

HC Dismisses Bail Plea By ...

in Jammu and Kashmir in January in connection with the alleged bank fraud of Rs 177 crore. The case was later handed over to the CBI.

On behalf of the CBI, senior advocate Monika Kohli contended before the court that there was no medical report from the jail authorities to substantiate the claims of the accused that he was facing any medical condition.

She argued that the condition of the accused is stable as per the reports and there is nothing on the record to suggest that the medical condition of the accused can worsen while in jail due to the jail conditions.

Objecting to the plea of the accused, Kohli also contended that his release would be detrimental to the ongoing probe in the case as he could tamper with the witness.

Kohli also strongly opposed the counsel for the accused that he is covered by the directions of the Supreme court issued in view of the spread of COVID-19 and the lock down which is in force and said in any case the charges in which the accused has been booked carry the punishment for more than seven years.

After hearing the arguments from both the sides, Justice Gupta told the lawyer of the accused that the application for interim bail has been rejected.

He said the court is of the view that the accused cannot take any leverage or benefit as the case of the accused is not covered by the directions of the Supreme Court keeping in view the fact that the accused faces charges which are of the "serious nature".

He said the court found no reason to grant bail to the accused on medical grounds as pleaded in the application.

On the argument of the counsel for the accused that he may get infection from other inmates of the jail due to the prevailing conditions, the court observed that it finds no material on record which substantiates the argument and the apprehension is "misplaced as of now".

"The jail authorities must be otherwise taking all the measures to keep all in hygienic conditions keeping in view the onslaught of COVID-19. The bail cannot be granted on mere assumption that the conditions in the jail are unhygienic and the accused will suffer for that reason," the court said while dismissing the application. ONS

JK Bank Guard Opens Fire ...

also questioned regarding the incident, the official said, adding that the situation had been brought under control. (GNS)

FIR Against IAS Officer Who Quit

On April 9, the Union Territory's administration had sent a communication to Gopinathan, asking him to join duty on the ground that his resignation had not been accepted yet.

Gopinathan termed the letter as an act of harassment and refused to join duty, saying he was ready to offer his services amid the COVID-19 crisis as a common citizen.

He had submitted resignation to the Union Home Ministry on August 21 following the imposition of restrictions in Jammu & Kashmir after the scrapping of its special status.

He was then serving as secretary, power department of the Union Territories of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

While refusing to join the duty, the 33-year-old bureaucrat said in his letter to the government earlier this month that he was ready to help people as a common citizen.

"But as I have already resigned from IAS, my services won't anymore require the tag of an IAS officer, or the perks and salary that it entails.

"I provide my service voluntarily as a free and responsible citizen of this country," the letter said.

JK Police Massively Engaged

District of South Kashmir.

Accompanied by IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, the DGP first visited CTC Lethpora and inspected a quarantine facility established at the Centre. The DGP was briefed by Principle CTC Tanveer Jeelani regarding the facilities and other arrangement made available in quarantine centre for police personnels. SSP Awantipora Shri Tahir Saleem Khan and Commandant IR 23rd Atul Sharma were present on the occasion.

At Anantnag, the DGP took stock of the prevailing status of Coronavirus and lockdown, besides reviewed the security scenario in an interaction with the officers at Anantnag.

While interacting, the DGP directed the officers that minimum public movement has to be ensured particularly in the areas declared as containment zones to prevent the spreading of the disease. He said that with the cooperation of cross section of the society, effective implementation of lockdown is being ensured and added. DGP asked the officers to maintain similar rapport with social and religious leaders

to observe same level of social distancing during the Holy month of Ramadan too so that there is no letup in the current level of precautions.

From Anantnag he along with IG Kashmir DIG SKR and SSP Anantnag participated in the VC by MOS PMO Dr Jatinder Singh who lauded the role of Jammu Kashmir Police and other security forces for an exemplary role in adopting different innovative Practices to ensure strict adherence to lockdown restrictions and an incident free enforcement and environment for civilian departments to perform their duties in a hassle free and smooth way. He also appreciated its human outreach to needy people even while being engaged in multifarious tasks of maintaining peaceful security environment and fight against the "Pak sponsored Terrorism".

Referring to the recent terror attacks, the DGP said that Pak sponsored militants are making attempts to disturb prevailing peace and people's life He said that despite our added commitments to contain the spread of COVID-19, all measures would continue to maintain peace. ONS

Religious Leaders Call For...

and forgiveness from the Almighty, he said.

Meanwhile, business associated with Ramzan has suffered badly in the Valley owing to the lockdown.

"Dates and fruits like watermelon used to be in high demand ahead of Ramzan. But this year, the business is not picking up," Abdul Rashid, a commissioning and forwarding agent at Fruit Mandi Parimpora, said.

As the majority of people in Kashmir have been badly hit by the lockdown, the sale of fruits cannot be expected to pick up during the fasting month, as was the trend in past years, Rashid said.

"Most of people in Kashmir are dependent on their daily earnings. All operations have come to stand still due to the pandemic. So sales will remain subdued this year," he added.

Army Soldier Killed In Kupwara

his service rifle. The injured soldier was immediately taken to a nearby health facility of army where from he was later referred military hospital Drugmulla in critical conditions, the officer said.

However, the doctors at military hospital Drugmulla declared him brought dead.

He said that police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated further investigations in this regard.

2 Held With Fake Currency Notes...

fake currency notes and seized counterfeit currency notes worth Rs. 10,000 of 500 denominations from their possession," the spokesman said.

They have been identified as Nisar Ahmad lone resident of Check Rashipora Bandipora and Abdul Rashid Akhoun resident of Gurez at present Sonarwani, Bandipora. They have been shifted to Police Station Bandipora where they remain in custody.

"A case FIR No. 40 /2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Bandipora and investigation into the matter has been initiated," the spokesman said.

Biker Dies On Srinagar-Jammu

FIR number 30/2020 US 279, 337, 304-A IPC was registered at Pampore Police Station," he said.

Man Electrocuted In Srinagar...

has registered a case in this regard.

Covid-19: Bandipora First District To Cross 100 Mark In Positive Cases

Agencies

Bandipora: The number of Covid-19 cases in Bandipora district continues to rise every day as nine more positive cases were reported on Friday, taking the toll number of cases in the district to 108.

According to district media Bulletin, nine more cases including three elderly men and two women were reported from Gund-Qaiser village on Friday.

"Total number of cases in the district now stands at 108 of which 85 are active while 22 patients have recovered so far. A patient has also died due to Covid-19 in Gund-Jahengeer village of



Hajin," he said. He said that out of the total 99 cases, 68 were reported from Hajin medical block and 40 from Bandipora block. He said that samples of 1048

persons have been collected so far out of which 108 cases have been found positive, 760 cases as negative while reports of rest of the cases are still awaited.

"Active screening by 25 dedicated teams of health experts in 12 Red Zones of Bandipora is underway and 30604 persons have been screened so far."

A health official said that the past four days have seen a significant spike in Covid-19 cases in Gund-Qaiser village emerging also as new hotspot in the district.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the increasing coronavirus cases in the district a massive sanitisation drive was launched in all red zone areas of Bandipora—(KNO)

PM Modi hails BDC Chairperson's role in containing spread of COVID-19 in Narwah Block

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, today lauded the efforts and proactive measures adopted by Block Development Council Chairperson, Block Narwah, Baramulla district, Mir Mohamad Iqbal, towards containing spread of Coronavirus pandemic.

The PM, during his interaction with the Sarpnchs from across the nation through video-conferencing as a part of Panchayati Raj Day observance, expressed satisfaction over the outstanding performance of Mir Mohamad Iqbal saying that this has become possible by the great synergy between the government, block administration and the public as well. He described Iqbal as a leader

of masses in true sense. "I congratulate all people of the block for cooperating in our fight against the virus. The block has done a commendable job and the mantra espoused by the BDC should be emulated across Jammu and Kashmir so that we defeat the Coronavirus as soon as possible," the PM said. He also said that "Do Gaz ki Doori" should be followed in letter and spirit all the time.

Block Development Council Chairperson informed the Prime Minister about the proactive measures taken up by the Panchayati Raj Institutions and the block administration of the UT which have helped the district to contain the spread of virus.

JK Has Emerged 'As Good As Kerala' In Fighting Coronavirus: Jitendra

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said Jammu and Kashmir has emerged "as good as Kerala" in fighting coronavirus and appreciated the medical fraternity for effectively dealing with the disease in the union territory.

He reviewed the preparedness of J-K in combating COVID-19 through video conferencing with senior J-K union territory officers, heads of government medical institutions and colleges, according to an official communique.

The Minister of State for Personnel complimented the medical fraternity of the union territory, especially the junior resident doctors and medical officers, who directly deal with patients for effectively fighting the coronavirus.

Singh said India has emerged as one of the frontline nations of the world to combat COVID 19.

"He said J-K has emerged as good as Kerala state in fighting

the pandemic," the Personnel Ministry statement quoting the minister said.

Singh also re-emphasised the use of Arogya Setu app in combating the COVID 19.

He said the government was very concerned for the safety of the medical and healthcare workers and for this reason, the ordinance for protection of health care workers has been implemented.

"On the UTs request for augmenting the availability of standardized Personal Protection Equipments (PPE) kits and other equipment, the minister said the UT will be getting regular supply of PPE and testing kits for coronavirus," the statement said.

Making a presentation on the preparedness of the UT, financial commissioner, department of health, Atal Dulloo informed that till date, there have been a total of 434 positive cases in the union territory.

Out of this, 57 are from Jammu and 377 from Kashmir, he said.

The minister was informed that J-K is second only to Delhi in the whole country in testing cases per million of population. The J-K is testing 818 persons per million population.

About 80 zones in Kashmir and 15 in Jammu have been declared as containment zones. Dulloo said dedicated hospitals have been set up in the UT to deal with all categories of cases.

Jammu and Kashmir has also re-employed 126 retired doctors, de-contamination tunnels are being set up in hospitals and walk-in sample collection booths have been set up, the statement said, adding that all frontier personnel have been provided with masks and safety kits.

The minister was informed that meetings have been held with religious leaders and videos are also being circulated, asking peo-

Move beyond claims on press freedom: KWJA

Srinagar: Kashmir Working Journalists Association (KWJA) has noted with dismay that despite pleas for an enabling environment for media, J&K Police has not withdrawn its latest cases against three journalists in Kashmir.

We strongly condemn and protest the continued harassment of journalists in Kashmir at the hands of police and reiterate our demand that cases against journalists Gowhar Geelani, Masrat Zehra and Peerzada Ashiq should be withdrawn immediately.

KWJA is also surprised at the laughable claims of respect for press freedom from some officials in the state where a

systemic repression of media houses and arm twisting of journalists has by now been entrenched as a governance policy to curtail the larger freedoms and rights of people.

It is ironical that such claims were made in the same statement that disdainfully referred to a well worked on news report as "fake news" and bragged about making some journalists apologize inside a police station.

The ugly pattern of summoning journalists to police stations, seeking explanations about their professional work and intimidating them with the first information reports (FIRs) is going on since August last year.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KULGAM
TENDER NOTICE
NIT Serial No: 05/2020-21/ (R & B)/ Kulgam/159-80 Dated 23-04-2020

For and On behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir U.T, I the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam, hereby invite sealed Tenders affixed with Revenue Stamp worth Rs.5/- (Rs. five only) from the approved/Registered/State PWD Contractors of the classes shown for the work as indicated here under which should reach the office of the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KULGAM on or before 04-05-2020 upto 02:00 PM. The tenders/bids will be opened on the same day or any other day convenient in presence of the contractors who may like to be present.

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (incl: Cost of Departmental Material) Rs.in Lacs	E/ Money (In Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time	Cost of TD	Head of Account	Position of funds
1	Restoration of Begam Pariwan road by way of providing/Laying of WBM Gr-III in Patches/stretches	0.65	1300	Dee	07 days	200/-	3054 M&R	Demanded
2	Clearance of slips on Yarikah Dadrn Ziyarath Sharief road	0.40	800	Dee	03 Days	200/-	3054 M&R	Demanded

2. Self Help Group of Engineers shall be entitled to execute the work of contracts only in the District in which it is registered. (vide Govt. Order No: 14-L&F of 2017 dated 20-02-2017)

Executive Engineer,
PWD R&B Division Kulgam

DIPK-313/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar
Tele fax 0194-2473956 E-mail, ID: - xenphemrd@gmail.com
E-NIT
NIT No: PHE/MRD/E-NIT-03 of 04/2020

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor of U T of J&K, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors/workshop holders registered for similar nature of works with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railway and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Name of the Water Supply Scheme	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees, as Try Challan)	Earnest Money (In rupees in the shape of FDR/CDR)	Time of Completion of the tender work	Position of funds as on date
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	Electrical works to be carried out	WSS Barsoo Shalappora.	0.439	200/-	878/-	03 days	M&R
B	Repairs to 20KVA 3 phase servo voltage stabilizer at	WSS Mominabad Khonmoh.	0.095	50/-	190/-		
C	Mechanical works	Ompora	0.070/-	50/-	140/-		
D	Replacement of damaged MCCB	Humhama Heights	0.285/-	200/-	570/-		
E	Repairs to 10 HP open well submersible pumping unit	Narbal.	0.123/-	100/-	246/-		
F	Repairs to 40 KVA 3Phase Voltage Stabilizer	Mazhama.	0.089/-	50/-	178/-		
G	Repairing of 10 HP Submersible motor	Juhama	0.085/-	50/-	170/-		

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, and 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:

Sl No	Publish Date	23-04-2020 (4.00 P.M.)
01	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23-04-2020 (4.00 P.M.)
02	Bid Submission Start Date	23-04-2020 (4.00 P.M.)
03	Bid Submission End Date	29-04-2020 (2.00 P.M.)
04	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	30-04-2020 (2.00 P.M.)

Note: - The tender document fee shall be deposited by the intending bidders in the Treasury favoring Ex. Engineer PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar, against this NIT, under major head MH-0215, which shall be clearly mentioned in the Treasury challan/receipt & same be uploaded with the technical bid. The CDR should be pledged to Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar and uploaded with the bids. Original CDR and Treasury Receipt have to be submitted by the lowest bidder prior to the placement of allotment order. All other details can be had from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
PHE Mechanical Rural Division
Srinagar

DIPK-318/20
No: -PHE/MRD/TS/e-tendering/84-86 DT: - 23-04-2020

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ELECTRIC DIVISION ANANTNAG (KPDC)
Cancellation of This Office
e-NIT No:53 of 2020
Dated: 17-3-2020

In view of Poor response and due to some system Error in downloading the said tender. This Office e-NIT:-
53 Of 2020 Dated:- 17-03-2020 is hereby cancelled .The Fresh NIT Shall be Issued Soon.

Executive Engineer
Electric Division Anantnag

NO:-133-143/EDA
Dated:-23-4-2020

DIPK-NB-115/20

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
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
01 Ramazan
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 18
ZUHR	12: 29
ASR	5:14
Magrib	7:13
ISHA	8:40

This Day In History

- 1185 - Sea battle at Dan-no-ura: Minamoto Yoritomo beats Taira family
- 1507 - German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller first to use the name America on his world map "Universalis Cosmographia"
- 1607 - Battle at Gibraltar: Dutch fleet beats Spanish/Portuguese fleet
- 1626 - Battle at the Dessau bridge: Albrecht von Wallenstein beats Ernst von Mansfeld
- 1678 - French troops conquer Ypres
- 1684 - Patent granted for thimble
- 1684 - Patent granted for thimble
- 1707 - Battle of Almansa: Franco-Spanish forces defeat British and Portuguese
- 1861 - Battle of Lavaca, Texas (US Civil War)
- 1846 - Thornton Affair: Open conflict begins over the disputed border of Texas, triggering the Mexican-American War.
- 1859 - Ground broken for Suez Canal
- 1861 - Battle of Lavaca, Texas (US Civil War)
- 1898 - Spanish-American War: The United States declares state of war on Spain effective from 21st April.
- 1905 - Whites win right to vote in South Africa
- 1914 - US President Woodrow Wilson is persuaded by Argentina, Brazil, and Chile to accept mediation in the conflict with Mexico
- 1926 - Persian Cossack officer Reza Khan crowns himself Shah Palawi
- 1927 - Spain routes 20,000 soldiers to Morocco (uprising Rifkabyen)
- 1941 - Operation Merkur: Hitler orders conquest of Kreta
- 1945 - Allied air raid on Surabaya, Java
- 1945 - British troops reach Grebbe line Neth
- 1945 - Red army completely surrounds Berlin
- 1945 - Last Boeing B-17 attack against Nazi Germany
- 1957 - 1st experimental sodium nuclear reactor operated
- 1957 - Ibrahim Hashim forms Jordanian government
- 1959 - Then-bishop Karol Wojtyla's celebrates newly completed Nowa Huta, Poland's first ever Mass at midnight of Christmas morning
- 1960 - 1st submerged circumnavigation of Earth completed (Triton)
- 1962 - US Ranger spacecraft crash lands on Moon
- 1972 - Hans-Werner Grosse glides 9077 miles (1,461 km) in an AS-W-12
- 1976 - Elections in Vietnam for a National Assembly to reunite the country
- 1983 - France performs nuclear test at Mururoa Island
- 1983 - NASA space probe Pioneer 10 travels beyond Pluto's orbit.
- 1990 - Hubble space telescope is placed into orbit by shuttle Discovery
- 1991 - Iraq expects to resume crude oil and product exports by July
- 1994 - Bomb attack on taxi stand in Johannesburg, 10 killed
- 1994 - King Azlan Shah of Malaysia resigns
- 2005 - Bulgaria and Romania sign accession treaties to join the European Union
- 2005 - 107 die in Amagasaki rail crash in Japan
- 2011 - At least 300 people killed in deadliest tornado outbreak in the Southern United States since the 1974 Super Outbreak.
- 2012 - The United Kingdom dips back into recession after the economy shrank 0.2% in the first quarter of 2012.
- 2013 - 38 people are killed in a psychiatric hospital fire in Ramensky, Russia
- 2015 - 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli Peninsula landings in Turkey by ANZAC forces during WWI
- 2015 - 7.8-magnitude earthquake near Kathmandu in Nepal, killing 8000, leaving over 100,000 homeless, destroying many historic sites
- 2018 - Indian religious leader Asaram Babu is sentenced to life for raping a 16-year old girl

From KO Archives

Hizb ready for conditional talks with Delhi

SRINAGAR - Pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen on Sunday said it would consider entering into a dialogue with the Centre provided their conditions, including stopping of military operations in Jammu and Kashmir were accepted. They also demanded that Pakistan and Kashmiri political leadership must sit together with them for talks.

"We will join the talks only when the Kashmiri political leadership and Pakistan deems it necessary that militant leadership should share the table with them," Supreme Commander of the outfit, Syed Salahuddin, told a local news agency.

However, he said, "This will be done only when India accepts Kashmir as a disputed territory, respects wishes of Kashmiris, withdraw troops to barracks and release all detainees and stop all operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Acceptance of our conditions will encourage us to enter into dialogue and demonstrate that India was sincere and serious for resolution of Kashmir issue," Salahuddin said.

About Kashmiri political leadership, he said he has full faith and trust on Syed Ali Shah Geelani, chairman of hard-line faction of Hurriyat Conference.

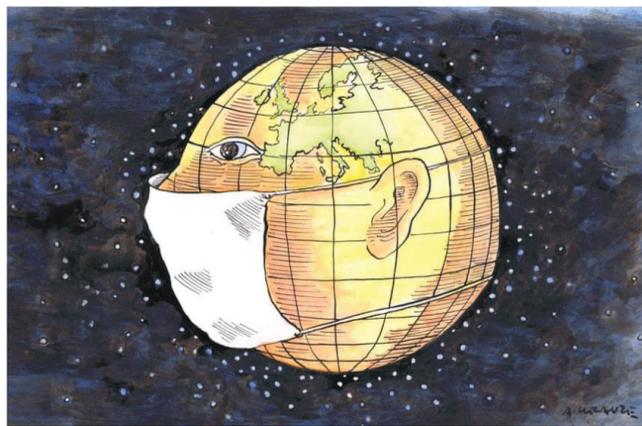
Without referring to the Prime Minister's statement that he was ready for talks with-terrorists provided they lay down arms, Salahuddin said, "We are being asked to surrender arms, which we will not till the last Indian soldier was in Kashmir." (Agencies).

(Kashmir Observer, 25 April, 2005)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



“In our view, the worst oppressor is the sufferer who isn't able to empathize with the pain of others. Especially if one has suffered, he should not turn blind to the sufferings of others. We want to congratulate the filmmaker for at least showing the half picture.”

Right to Dignity and Dignified Burial During and After Corona

ALI MALIK

The archeological finds at Burzahom show that the dead have been buried with proper ritual as early as 3500 BC like the ancient Egyptian and Harappan/ Indus Valley civilisations. It is difficult to establish the exact nature of space that the dead held among the living during those days but a study of recent/ modern history of Kashmir reveals how we have given the saints of yesteryears a special position in our socio-cultural life. Not only the saints, in our cultural value system those who die just shift their residence to the nearby cemetery but continue to thrive in our consciousness as before as if walking the nearby streets.

As humanity is collectively fighting the Coronavirus pandemic, it is confronted with critical ethical and moral issues that it has to address as never before and address fast. It isn't the first time that humanity has been put to test and won't be the last.

With each calamity that has befallen the human race, it has come up with a response. The casualties and the cruelties of the two world wars, particularly those that befell the Jews in the second, forced humanity to respond with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It isn't that human rights didn't exist earlier and that such rights didn't evolve during peace times, but it was for the first time that almost the whole global population came up with a consensus for a detailed set of basic and essential human rights. The fundamental theme was that human dignity is paramount and people shall not be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. All this was in response to a situation where the calamity and the cruelty was imposed by visible human agency. Today the situation is equally dangerous except that the enemy/ agency is invisible and our ethics, morality and human values are being tested in novel ways.

Protection and safeguard of basic human rights is as tough a challenge as the fight against this global epidemic. The events of the past few months have shown that the entire global community had not anticipated a catastrophe of this proportion and was completely caught off guard. It was ill equipped mentally as well as in terms of logistics. We can see it as the tragedy is unfolding in all cor-



ners of the globe. While we are working hard on the logistics side, we are confronted with ethical and moral issues of equal proportions.

One of the greatest dilemmas that we are facing, in particular the developing world, is whether to shield the entire population by enforcing complete lockdowns to stop the spread of the disease to save people but that may lead to deaths by starvation and the resultant commotion/ anarchy (that may in turn again lead to more intermingling and faster spread of the virus).

Again while enforcing a lock down shall we thrash those who break it with thick bamboo sticks or make them crawl or give them some other corporal punishment on the spot without any trial or opportunity to explain. We have already witnessed such punishments at different places. Are we not thereby compromis-

ing on human dignity?

Another moral dilemma is that in case the doctors and the nursing staff refuse to attend the corona patients in view of the increasing number of infections among them, shall we force them to work, some sort of conscription that we may have to resort to if the numbers of positive cases increases to an extent where we don't have adequate medical staff to attend the patients.

Another moral dilemma is that in case the doctors and the nursing staff refuse to attend the corona patients in view of the increasing number of infections among them, shall we force them to work, some sort of conscription that we may have to resort to if the numbers of positive cases increases to an extent where we don't have adequate medical staff to attend the patients. And if we don't resort to such "conscription" we may have to leave pa-

tients in distress unattended.

Similarly how do we deal with the people who are Corona positive but we feel or know with some degree of certainty that they have further spread it to others, whether innocently or through negligence. Shall we sympathise with them or vilify them? We have already failed this ethical/ moral test by vilifying various groups and, at places, those who have attended and treated Corona patients. Shall we be phobic enough to repeat it? Or shall we be brave enough to treat all these people with empathy and dignity?

Right to a decent burial

Every human being has this inalienable right that after his death his body be treated with dignity and be given a graceful farewell. While videos on social media showing mass burials of body bags may be and are most probably fake, we still have to come up with an idea as to what could be a dignified burial that can be given to people who die of this virus and how far her/ his religious beliefs as to burial can be allowed to be performed?

While I have absolutely no doubt that humans shall overcome this cruelty, the question remains whether we shall come up with another charter, a more humane one that we shall follow in letter and spirit willingly and without any coercion. We have no choice except to keep the fine print of our next set of moral and ethical standards ready.

...
Author is an astute Kashmir observer with an interest in and stamina to correct the wrongs of the history.

WITH his recent release, SHIKARA, Vidhu Vinod Chopra tries to revisit his motherland through the love saga of a Kashmiri Pandit couple during the migration of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s. Earlier Vidhu Vinod Chopra had won the best director's award for his film Mission Kashmir (a film again based on Kashmir). He has also bagged the best screenplay award for Lage Raho Munnabhai and 3 Idiots respectively. So, he and his marvellous work clearly needs no introduction.

Muslims, especially Kashmiris, have for long been yearning for fair representation in the Indian cinema. But the glamorous state of Bollywood has always given them a deaf ear and a myopic eye. The consequence being; rise in Islamophobia. The Indian film industry has for long been auctioning Islamophobia and the trend is just increasing day by day.

Many Bollywood films carve out the enemy from Muslims and their treatment towards Kashmiri Muslims is no exception. They tend to present another side as either victims or heroes. The filmmakers have always showcased Kashmir as an appealing place that signifies glory, love, and romance. They leave no stone unturned to work on different camera angles to capture it flawlessly. But the depiction of its people by the same camera lenses is seen wobbling. Their lights turn dim and lenses blur when focusing on its people. The research and representation of its Muslim community look as erroneous and distorted as their flawless camera work. The movies like Roja, Mission Kashmir, Fanaa, Lamha, Yahaan, all have been guilty of narrowing the spectrum of representation of Kashmiri Muslims. A piece of art and fiction on Kashmir has always portrayed them as dangerous, violent, and a threat to the state.

The 120-minutes long movie, Shikara, based on the love story of a Kashmiri Pandit couple, Shiv Kumar Dhar (Aadil Khan) and Shanti Dhar (Sadia), amidst the chaos of the 1990s in Kashmir valley, is no exception. There married life turns upside down as they are forced to leave their home and made to live as refugees in Jammu. But Shikara is tricky, emotional and has this quality of almost looking balanced.

The romance between the main protagonists is shot in a poetic way. However, the movie walks through the same lane as other films in the past by falling for over glorification of the valley. A.R Rehman has once again shown his class by marrying his soul-stirring compositions to the stellar words of renowned lyricist, Irshad Kamil. Rangarajan Ramabadrans' cinematography is worth praising and can be considered as one of his best works. The debutants, Aadil and Sadia, hold the attention of the audience till the end with their powerful acting. While Adil brings intensity by his confident performance, Sadia has ful-

Shikara Movie Review Heart-Wrenching, Yet Aesthetic Propaganda

ASIF KHAN & ARBEENA

ly managed to adapt to a Kashmiri Pandit's character. It may be because their roots are in Kashmir.

*Aey Vaadiye Shehzaadi bolo kaisi ho,
Bin tere khaali hun main, Kya tum bhi waisi ho?*

Shiv Kumar Dhar narrates this poem in the interior monologue to us, feeling nostalgic on his way to his homeland along with his wife in 2008. This sobbing question from the main protagonist to his homeland without a doubt is legitimate. It is able to generate empathy among the audience as the narration is strong and austere. Shiv's poetry complements the story till the end and leaves a lasting impression on the mind.

Shikara is, moreover, an idealistic love story providing love and hope as the solution to every problem in life. However, the movie may fall short on the expectations of Kashmiri Pandits. They may voice for a dishonest treatment in the movie, and love being given precedence over the horrors of immigration. Shikara prioritizes love over hate and hopes to end the cycle of hatred which has existed ever since their migration. Although the story beautifully justifies the title, Shikara, its tagline, "The Untold Story of Kashmiri Pandits," is misleading since any viewer would assume that the movie will provide a deeper insight into the sufferings of the Pandit community. However, the sufferings are shown in the backdrop of the love story and not at the forefront. The compromise in the movie of forming home anywhere is again bleak and unrealistic.

The film has almost been kept away from politics surrounding the immigration. But certain scenes like that of the telecast of a short clip of Benazir Bhutto's speech, are guilty of satisfying the popular notions of the people living in India. The usage of that clip attributes the chaos in the valley totally to Pakistan, thereby, giving out a wrong message.

*"Aey zalimoun aey kafiroun
Kashmir humara chod do!"*

Such slogans raised in the film were basically

against the oppression of the state rather than the Pandit community. However, the movie portrays it in a way as if they were raised against the Pandits.

Lateef, Shiv's best friend since childhood, is shown as a cricket fanatic but as his father is killed, he is shown picking up arms in an abrupt manner. The failure of the system which isn't able to impart justice to the families of those who get killed isn't given a space in the movie as is the scenario in Kashmir. Not every Kashmiri picks up a gun on losing a loved one.

The film remains numb towards Kashmiri Muslims but sensitive to Pandit community. While none suffered independently, the pain of both communities was entwined. The film may look to give love more space but has drawn a line between Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits.

The film depicts Kashmiris as if they were living happily after the immigration of Pandits but the barbarity which Kashmiris had to face before, during, or even after their immigration hasn't been touched. Also, the role of the state in the migration of the Pandit community isn't given heed. Even the then-controversial governor, Jagmohan Malhotra's role isn't shown anywhere in the movie. How can Vidhu Vinod Chopra forget the Gaw Kadal massacre which took place two days after Jagmohan took over as the governor of the state? Kashmiris were killed, but why would the film depict that? After all, it is the story of Pandits, not Kashmiri Muslims. The film remains numb towards Kashmiri Muslims but sensitive to Pandit community. While none suffered independently, the pain of both communities was entwined. The film may look to give love more space but has drawn a line between Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits.

But all this doesn't license us to overlook the sufferings and pain of our Pandit brethren. In our view, the worst oppressor is the sufferer who isn't able to empathize with the pain of others. Especially if one has suffered, he should not turn blind to the sufferings of others. We want to congratulate the filmmaker for at least showing the half picture. But as far as

Kashmiri Muslims are considered, their pain cannot be screened in any cinema of the world. No matter how emotional film you make, the sufferings of Kashmiri Muslims is beyond any imagination.

In our view, the worst oppressor is the sufferer who isn't able to empathize with the pain of others. Especially if one has suffered, he should not turn blind to the sufferings of others. We want to congratulate the filmmaker for at least showing the half picture.

Kashmiri Muslims were the recipients of brutal oppression even under Dogra rule and the saga of pain and suffering for them seems never-ending. The film stirs the emotions as it is masterly crafted and hence, makes up aesthetic propaganda. We say this because the film is propagating certain notions behind a love story. The more you tend to like this love story, deeper your hate for Kashmiri Muslims will grow.

Filmmakers at different instances are seen modifying sections of their movies fearing public backlash. Be it Panipat or Padmavat, many big films had to amend changes in order to respect public sentiments. But when Kashmiri Muslims are to be focused upon, filmmakers have nothing to worry about as they represent the conflict-torn population the way they want. They go to any extent even moulding the historical characters in a way that is hurtful to Muslims and profitable to filmmakers. Somehow, the audience entering cinema halls tends to like anything which is anti-Muslim.

Kashmiri actors who surface in films like Shikara need also to think before acting in such films. Though, they may not be briefed about the story, it is their responsibility to choose and act morally at a time when they are misrepresented.

We want this movie to be watched by everyone and surely is a must watch for all. The moon of Kashmiri Pandits surely has blood clots on it but that of Kashmiri Muslims is drenched in blood. We by this don't mean that their clots are less painful than others, all we want that Bollywood must empathize with Muslims especially Kashmiri Muslims.

Shikara's release date is also controversial. At a time when Muslims in India are facing a severe existential threat especially after CAA and NRC, should the release date have been postponed?

Also, the turmoil surrounding abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir should have been enough for the postponement of such a release. But let the filmmaker tell his story. We want to write this to him as his main protagonist in the movie does, expecting no response.

Authors are students of Mass Communication & Journalism at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

Indiscriminate Use Of Pesticides Is Threatening Our Ecology

BILAL BASHIR BHAT

Pesticide is a general term used for a chemical designed to kill target pests such as insects (insecticide), mites (miticide), weeds (herbicide) and organisms which cause plant diseases such as bacteria (bactericide) and fungi (fungicide). To reduce loss due to pest attacks and diseases, the fruit growers use almost every types of pesticides namely; synthetic Pyrethroids, Endosulphan, Chloropyrephos, Carbaryl, Demicron, Quinalphos, Monocrotophos etc and fungicides namely; Dithane, Mencozeb, Carboxin, Captan etc often these are sprayed without proper care. Pesticides and fungicides have unintended fall out on the natural insect and birds population which plays an important role in pollination process.

NATURE provides a multitude of benefits to humans such as control of crop pests by their natural enemies or crop pollination by animals. These functions are known as ecosystem services and are of crucial importance for agricultural and horticultural production. Since the agricultural intensification has successfully increased food production, following the steadily increasing demand due to population growth. However, the intensification of agricultural production in recent decades has led to a decline and loss of biodiversity due to increasing use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides & fungicides.

Jammu and Kashmir is well known for its agriculture and horticultural produce both in India and abroad. The state offers good scope for cultivation of horticultural crops, covering a variety of temperate fruits like apple, pear, peach, plum, apricot, almond, cherry etc. Apart from this, well known spices like saffron and black cumin (zeera) are also cultivated in some pockets of Kashmir. There are around 7 lakh families comprising of about 33 lakh people which are directly or indirectly associated with horticulture. All these crops are dependent on pollination by insects for good fruit quality and production.

Indiscriminate use of pesticides in modern agriculture has disturbed the ecological inter-relationship by large scale killing of farmer friendly insects along with detrimental insects.

Apple is highly dependent on bee pollination like other fruit crops. Throughout the world there is a serious deficit of pollinators and its impact is also being felt in our Valley. Low percentage of farming community in Kashmir understand the process of pollination and its importance. It is essential to upscale the capacity of various stakeholders concerned with crop production in Kashmir.

Pesticide is a general term used for a chemical designed to kill target pests such as insects (insecticide), mites (miticide), weeds (herbicide) and organisms which cause plant diseases such as bacteria (bactericide) and fungi (fungicide). To reduce loss due to pest attacks and diseases, the fruit growers use almost every types of pesticides namely; synthetic Pyrethroids, Endosulphan, Chloropyrephos, Carbaryl, Demicron, Quinalphos, Monocrotophos etc and fungicides namely; Dithane, Mencozeb, Carboxin, Captan etc often these are sprayed without proper care. Pesticides and fungicides have unintended fall out on the natural insect and birds population which plays an important role in pollination process.

Over the years the use of pesticides in Jammu and Kashmir is increasing tremendously. People are using these pesticides to kill the pests and increase their production. Indiscriminate use of pesticides in modern agriculture has disturbed the ecological inter-relationship by massive killing of farmer friendly insects along with detrimental insects. The culling of the pollinizer varieties and monoculturing of only Red Delicious cultivators further adds to the pollination problem in Kashmir. In a season a single farmer uses 8-9 pesticide/fungicide sprays in his orchard and there are thousands of such farmers in J&K, so think how many pesticide sprays are used by these farmers. During cultivation and after spending lakhs of rupees, the production and quality is not so much as expected. The reason is only that proper pollination does not occur during blossom period due to the lack of pollinators.

The economic survey report of 2015-16 notes that the consumption of pesticides and fungicides has increased manifold. In J&K, pesticides coupled with other input technologies have resulted in enormous



increase in the agricultural productivity over the years. However, indiscriminate use of these chemical pesticides has increased not only the cost of production but also many human health hazards and environmental contaminations.

Jammu & Kashmir tops in the intensity of pesticides application with an average level of 2.337 kg/ha, followed by Punjab (1.377kg/ha) and Haryana (1.151 kg/ha) (2013). For the year 2016 around 146.59 mt per year of pesticides were used in J&K.

The excessive use of pesticides in apple orchards is posing a serious threat to the lives of people. Human beings are not only suffering from various ailments due to use of pesticides but the animals too are at risk. The fodder obtained from apple orchards has lot of pesticides in it as the chemical sprays done on trees falls on the ground thus contaminating the green fodder. Even the milk produced from cows is infected with pesticides. Earlier apple growers used to spray chemical pesticides twice or thrice a year, now 12 to 13 such sprays are being done on the apple trees.

Unfortunately, many agricultural pesticides may be toxic to pollinators like bees, insects, wasps etc besides humans. Each year many honey bee colonies and other insect populations are damaged or destroyed by pesticides, primarily insecticides. Such losses have a devastating impact on the pollination process and in-turn the fruit production which automatically impacts the lives of people who are directly or indirectly involved with this sector. Growers of most insect-pollinated crops (apples, pear, almonds and many others) experience lower yields, and ultimately the consumer ends up paying higher food prices. During the past two decades, there has been a substantial increase in the use of pesticides in terms both of volume and value. Most pollinators killing occurs when pesticides are applied or allowed to drift on to flowering crops or weeds.

Pollination is an essential ecosystem service which involves symbiosis between cultivar, pollinizer and the pollinator. Effective pollination results in increased quality fruit production. Pollinators are

animals that mediate the exchange of pollen between flowers, facilitating fruit and seed production in roughly 88% of flowering plants. While a broad range of animal taxa can function as pollinators, bees, wasps, and other insects are uniquely specialized for pollen transport and account for the bulk of pollination services in both wild and cultivated plants, complemented principally by other insect pollinators.

Approximately 90 percent of all flowering plants require pollinators to survive. The Rs 4,000 crore apple industry in Kashmir is the worst hit. Contact pesticides are usually sprayed on plants and can kill bees and other insects when they crawl over sprayed surfaces of plants or other areas around it. Some years back whenever I visited apple orchards during blossom period I would see thousands of house bees and other insects in these orchards and now I hardly see any insect in these orchards during blossom period. The result of decreasing of these colonies are only due to the indiscriminate use of pesticides especially the insecticides used for increasing crop production.

Now people are spending thousands of rupees on artificial pollination process like using of plant growth hormones during blossom periods for better yields but the results are devastating. To safeguard the apple industry and other fruits crops in J&K the role of these pollinators are very crucial and conservation of these is of utmost importance.

Researchers, scientists, planners, etc should join their hands with farmers regarding how to tackle these problems. They should make an effort collectively with farmers how to reduce environmental pollution and how to minimise the use of chemicals in their farming system. The indiscriminate use of pesticides in our orchards are warning signals that we should reduce the chemical use and adopt biological and organic methods for controlling agricultural enemies, which are not only safe for these pollinators, the environment but for humans too.

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Explainer: All About Vaccines

G. N BHAT | DR. NAWAB JOHN DAR

Vaccines are the biological agents which elicit an immune action in response to an antigen derived from an infectious disease. It trains the body's immune system so that it can fight a disease that it has not encountered before. First vaccine was developed by Edward Jenner (1796), when he was using cowpox virus (Vaccinia) to inoculate and confer protection against Small-pox in humans. Vaccination is one of the great achievements reducing morbidity and mortality against life threatening diseases like measles, polio, tetanus, diphtheria, tetanus meningitis, influenza and typhoid. Vaccines are often confused with anti-serum, where preformed antibodies taken from another organism to be injected into the blood stream offering temporary protection in a passive manner. However, vaccines provide active immunity where body is prepared to be ready with fighters in a memory induced way and the immune system remembers the first vaccine as imitating infectious agent and remains ready if the pathogen enters in the body in future.

Vaccine Development and Clinical Trials

Vaccine development takes place in two phases, preclinical and clinical setting. Preclinical studies again are conducted in two different paradigms what we call as in vitro and in vivo models. These preclinical studies conducted in laboratory directly using appropriate animal model (in-vivo approach) or human cells (in-vitro approach) are directed to estab-



lish the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the candidate vaccine. These studies may also provide us clues about the possible risks of vaccine and its evaluation in terms of efficacy and safety. However, here we need to keep in mind that all the results we establish from these models does not necessary translate in a similar fashion, when tested in humans, that's the main reason why most of the drugs/vaccines fail in clinical trials. Next step is clinical research and development of the vaccine which includes three Phases (Phase I, Phase II, Phase III). Phase I of clinical studies includes initial testing of the vaccine on a smaller number of individuals of about 20-30 healthy adults. Phase I studies are primarily concerned with safe-

ty and tolerability and other pharmacological parameters of the vaccine. Phase II studies are used to obtain the preliminary information about the vaccines ability to produce the immune response called as immunogenicity in the target population and general safety of the vaccine candidate. The vaccine is tested on that group of population whose age and health is similar to the people for whom the vaccine is intended to use and produce the immune response, so that the immunised persons may be monitored to see the response of defence system of the body with respect to the vaccine. The phase III clinical trial is the important one to study where sufficient data have to be obtained to demonstrate that the new product is safe and ef-

fective for the desired purpose. The testing of the vaccine may include non-human primates like monkeys because of relative evolutionary closeness to humans and this is possible only if an appropriate disease model is available. The immune response data obtained from the animal model studies can help to select the doses, schedules and routes of administration which are to be evaluated in clinical trials.

Vaccine for COVID-19

Multiple strategies for vaccine development across the globe are progressing rapidly to combat COVID-19. Numerous biological approaches have been in use and some have shown very promising results in pre-clinical studies. Based on these pre-clinical results several companies along with National Institute of Health (NIH), USA have started phase I clinical trials, but so far, there is no vaccine available in market for human use.

The first clinical trial started by USA is a phase I, open-label, dose ranging clinical trial in males and non-pregnant females, 18 to 55 years of age. This clinical trial is designed to assess the safety, reactivity and immunogenicity of mRNA-1273 manufactured by ModernaTX, Inc. mRNA-1273 is a novel lipid nanoparticle (LNP)-encapsulated mRNA-based vaccine that encodes for a full-length, prefusion stabilized spike (S) protein of SARS-CoV-2. This study started on March 3, 2020 and the expected end date is June 1, 2021 where 45 participants will be tested. Another hopeful study is going on at University of Oxford, which is based on a chimpanzee adenovirus vaccine vector called ChAdOx1. This study is recruiting up to 510 healthy

adult volunteers aged 18-55 years.

Experts have estimated that it will take 12-18 months to develop a new vaccine at high speed. Similarly, China is doing a Phase-I clinical trial, which is based on a recombinant novel coronavirus vaccine that incorporates the adenovirus type 5 vector (Ad5). There are 108 participants between 18 and 60 years old who will receive low, medium, and high doses of Ad5-nCoV. The study is due to complete December 2021. There are several other similar studies based on different biological approaches which are being approved and are actively recruiting participants for the study. We are thankful all those scientists who are working actively and turning every stone to make it possible but at the same time we need to understand and remind ourselves individually and collectively that "There is currently no vaccine in the market and even if the one is developed it will reach us at least after a year". The better approach to save our lives at the moment is to follow the precautionary measures and cooperate at every level to restrain the spread of this virus.

The basic principles for the production and control of vaccines and up to date methods for standardisation of assays for vaccine development are described in Technical Report Series (TRS) of World Health Organisation (WHO).

G. N Bhat is associated with School Education Department, J&K while Dr. Nawab John Dar is a Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Medicine, UT Health, San Antonio, USA. The authors have started their scientific career together and are passionate about writing for general public interest.

Divorce: A Decadence And Acrimonious Parting



Dr. Sheikh Arshid

Marriage may be seen as a contract, a status, or a combination of two opposite sexes. In matrimonial contract, if a spouse refuses or shows inability to perform the obligations stipulated in the contract may constitute a ground for divorce of a spouse. Divorce, is the end of legal marital contract or it is the process of terminating a marriage mutually or forcibly. Divorce usually entails the canceling or winding up the legal responsibilities of marriage, thus dissolving the bonds of matrimony between a married couple under the Islamic rule of law or law of the particular country or state. Divorce requires the sanction of a court or other authority in a legal process, which may involve issues of distribution of property, child custody, alimony (spousal support), child visitation / access, parenting time, child support and division of debt.

A divorce happens after a husband and wife decide not to live together any more and they no longer want to be married to each other. They agree to sign legal papers that make them each single again and allow them to marry other if they want so. Divorce is hard for everyone it sounds simple but it is every one to end the marriage contract. Often they have spent long time to solve problems before deciding to go for divorce. But some times they cant fix the problems and decide to go for divorce. Sometimes in divorce one parent wants to end marriage but other doesnt want but usually it brings disappointment for both the partners. Sometimes it hurts the kids feelings when one parent leaves the house where they live especially when their mother leaves the house. Divorce happens between two parents but it effects the whole family even it remarks its effects on the community also. Many kids dont want to end their parents marriage because they have close attachment with parents but it happens when their parents are often fighting or involved in conflicts then their kids want divorce of the married couple and kids get relieved from tension and conflicts. Divorce declares that the marriage is treated as null and void with both the partners have to stop cohabiting.

Divorce activity vary from country to country, reflecting differing legal, cultural and religious traditions.

In most jurisdictions, a divorce must be certified (or ordered by a Judge) by a court of law to come into effect. The terms of the divorce are usually determined by the courts, though they may take into account prenuptial agreements or post-nuptial agreements. In some other parts of world when the spouses agree to divorce and to the terms of the divorce, it can be certified by a non-judiciary administrative entity. The effect of a divorce is that both parties are free to marry again if a filing in an appellate court does not overturn the decision. In early times some countries that permitted divorce required proof by only one party that the other party had committed an act incompatible to the marriage and was the only way to terminate a marriage. Most jurisdictions around the world still require a solid proof from both parties. This evaluation of divorce may involve allegations or collisions from both sides proved these divorces can be very expensive, and not usually practical as eventually most divorces are granted. It is estimated that most of divorces are uncontested because the two parties are able to come to an agreement without any mediator or counsel or lawyer to make an end to their marriage and also about the property, children, and issues. When the parties can agree and present the court with a fair and equitable agreement, approval of the divorce is almost guaranteed. If the two parties cannot come to an agreement, they may ask the court to decide how to split property and deal with the custody of their children. Though this may be necessary, the courts would prefer parties come to an agreement prior to entering court. Where the issues are not complex and the parties are cooperative, a settlement often can be directly negotiated between them. If a divorce is carried out through the mediation then the mediator facilitates the discussion between the two parties by assisting with communication and providing information and suggestions to help them to resolve differences. At the end of the mediation process, the separating parties have typically developed a tailored divorce agreement that can be submitted to the court.

Effects of Divorce:
Some of the effects associated with divorce included:
1. Effect on parent-child relationship:
Divorce which is experienced by a couple can have a negative effect on the parent-child relationship, the children lost parental attachment, suffer bitterly, have less parental care, these children

have minimal life stability and support and at times when they reach at adulthood stage they are involved in delinquencies. Girls and boys deal with divorce differently. For instance, girls who initially show signs of adapting well, later suffer from anxiety in romantic relationships with men. Studies also showed that girls who were separated from their fathers at a younger age tended to be more angry toward the situation as they aged. Anger and sadness were also observed a common feeling in adolescents who had experienced parental divorce. Like wise same consequences are observed among boys after divorce.

2. Children lack financial support:
Divorce can lead the children towards financial instability and can have bad consequences on their life. These children when they reach to adulthood stage they can be involved in child labour in order to support their life in future.

3. Educationally children remain backward:
Studies have also shown that divorce has direct effect on education of children, every one has desire of education but lack of parental and financial support do not allow them to have taste of gift of education. So these children remain educationally backward and have permanent effect on their life. In a review of family and school factors related to adolescents' academic performance, it is noted that children from a divorced family are two times more likely to drop out of high school than children from a non-divorced family. These children from divorced families may also be less likely to attend college, resulting in the discontinuation of their academic career. Many times academic problems are associated with those children



from single-parent families. Studies have shown that this issue may be directly related to the economical influence of divorce. A divorce may result in the parent and children moving to an area with a higher poverty rate and a poor education system all due to the financial struggles of a single parent.

4. Behavioural change among children:
After divorce the children have huge behavioural change as they dont remain under proper surveillance of parents and they can be involved in different antisocial and subversive activities. These imply negative effects on these children, such as they do not feel a sense of emotional and guiding support. Exposure to marital conflict and instability, most often has negative consequences for children. First, observing over conflict between parents is a direct stressor for children. Observational studies reveal that children react to inter-parental conflict with fear, anger, or the inhibition of normal behavior. Preschool children who tend to be egocentric may blame themselves for marital conflict, resulting in feelings of guilt and lowered self-esteem and thus show negative behavioural change among children.

5. Psychological disturbance among children:
Divorce is associated with diminished psychological well-being in children and adult offspring of divorced parents, including greater unhappiness, less satisfaction with life, weaker sense of personal control, anxiety, depression, and less use of mental health services.

6. Health issues among children:
A study says that the children living with just one parent after divorce suffer from more problems such as headaches, stomach

aches, feelings of tension, sadness and other related health issues.

7. Developing quarrelsome atmosphere:
Children involved in high-conflict divorce or custody cases can experience varying forms of parental alienation, which courts often consider to be a form of child abuse. Specific examples of parental alienation include brainwashing the child to cease their relationship with the other parent, telling the child that the other parent does not love them, teaching the child to call another adult by a parental name in effort to replace the other parent, limiting communication between the child and the other parent, and limiting quality time between the child and the other parent. If evidence reveals that a parent is actively alienating the child from their other parent, their case for custody can be severely damaged and an atmosphere of quarrelsome develops between two parents and even families of both are involved in scuffle.

How to avoid divorce:
1. Idea of Divorce comes from mind, think positively:
Thinking about the divorce can put a major strain on the relationship and can cause a major break in your motivation to make the marriage better. To combat this risk to your marriage, decide ahead of time that divorce is not an option. Making this commitment will help you to focus on how you can make the marriage better and stronger, rather than thinking about what life might be like outside the marriage.

2. Always appreciate your partner:
One should remind that he has married with a wonderful partner, always think about the qualities of your partner and even make a list of best qualities. This exercise will help you to think that you have married to

appropriate woman. It also helps to vocalize how much you appreciate your partner's quirks and eccentricities.

3. Bridge positive communication with the partner:
Communicate with your partner openly about your life, interests, dreams, frustrations and feelings is an important way to foster intimacy in a relationship. Likewise, it's crucial that you listen to your partner's voice his or her thoughts, too. Sometimes it's helpful to set fixed time each day without interruptions where you can talk without any distractions.

4. Share Financial Expectations:
Many marriages are full of distraught with disagreements over finances. Often couples bring different expectations about money to a relationship and find it difficult to see the other person's perspective. Coming to an agreement on how to handle money together is a critical component of successful marriages. Agree on a budget and an approach to debt and then live within your limits. For some, it's important to differentiate between a need and a want. While both are legitimate, couples face problems if they try to fulfill all their wants without considering their budget. Likewise, it's important to incorporate some flexibility in your budget to allow for entertainment, gifts, vacations, and other activities that help strengthen the marriage.

5. Respect each others idea:
One of the hardest things to balance in a marriage is the accepting each other's ideas and more important accepting them as positive ideas. So, when your partner expresses ideas over any issue other partner needs to give them space without taking them in negative sense so that both the partners will live happily.

6. Help in each others casual affairs:
It's easy to indulge in each others routine and casual affairs and other minor activities to clear them on the spot without waiting for other partner so this way may rekindle romance and love in you then you will look more attractive and energized than ever.

7. Forgive and forget quickly with spirit:
Often marriages begin to fall apart when one person holds a grudge. In fact, research has shown that feeling contempt toward your partner almost always festers and can lead to divorce if it's never resolved. As a result, try to forgive your partner as quickly as possible and forget the past complaints and unacceptable situation because holding a grudge takes up mental and emotional space and almost always impacts your health and stress levels. Opt for a forgiving spirit and reap the positive benefits, which range

from better sleep to stress relief.

8. Try to collaborate over decisions of Your Partner:
Give your spouse room to be the person he or she is and learn to collaborate on partners decisions. In healthy marriages, both partners have mutual respect for one another and don't demand their own way. They also give their spouse the freedom to come and go without having to ask permission. They don't monitor or control one another. Be sure you're collaborating with your partner on any big decision, from spending money to raising children.

9. Try to negotiate effectively:
One of the biggest challenges you'll face while going through a divorce is making sure you get what you want, need and deserve. In order to prevent divorce, it takes both partners to do the work and put in the time. And while the goal is to save the relationship, ultimately, you have to decide if staying together is the right choice for you. If you're unsure what to do, talk to loved ones or a therapist who can help you better understand your situation.

10. Release emotions which can hurt you:
When we get emotionally hurt, our natural reaction is to get angry. In a divorce, these feelings are perfectly normal and may come from betrayal of trust, broken promises, rejection or fear of an uncertain future. And while anger has its place and can even be healthy, when it gets out of hand, it can cause considerable damage in divorce proceedings. Using the legal process to retaliate against your spouse will invariably leave you and the family resources depleted and will hurt you and your children emotionally and financially. That's why it's critical to not let the toxic emotions of divorce cloud your judgment and the ability to make sound decisions necessary to safeguard your financial well-being.

11. Separate Money from emotions:
There's an inherent danger in taking an emotionally charged topic like money and combining it with an emotionally charged process like divorce. If you're not careful with how you go about reconciling the two, you can find yourself bankrupt financially and emotionally. By choosing to separate the money from the emotions, you can objectively examine the reasons behind those things you are seeking so you can focus your efforts on getting what's truly most important to you.

Thus the marriage is intended to be bound on love and spiritual attachment between the spouses and important decisions concerning should be made by mutual consent and try to negotiate all complaints and conflicts on spot without fuelling them more and more.

Low Blood Pressure: Know Why It Is Harmful

Agencies

NEW DELHI- Low blood pressure or hypotension can be a matter of concern, if not tackled at the right time.

"Low blood pressure can be described as blood pressure that is low enough that the flow of the blood to one's body organs is inadequate, and one may exhibit symptoms such as dizziness, light-headedness, and even fainting, increased thirst, shallow breathing, tiredness, chest pain, and nausea. The causes for it is reduced blood volume, heart disease and medications. You will be shocked to know that improper blood flow to the organs of the body can invite strokes, heart attacks, kidney failure and even shock." Dr Nimit Shah, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist at Sir H N Reliance hospital told news gathering agency

It is essential to follow some vital tips such as having an adequate amount of salt, drinking a lot of fluids, and taking medications recommended by your doctor. The senior doctor shares these suggestions to manage low blood pressure.

Opt for a well-balanced diet
Did you know that having low levels of vitamin B-12, folic acid, and iron can invite anaemia? It can occur when the body cannot make enough blood. Not only this, but anaemia can also lower one's blood pressure. It is important to eat fresh fruit and vegeta-



bles. Limit your carb intake and eat smaller meals to prevent that sudden drop in blood pressure.

Eat adequate salt
Yes, you heard it right. Sodium content in salt can help you raise your blood pressure. So, just consult your doctor about the foods you must include and exclude in the diet, and amount the right amount of salt intake.

How to manage your medications
Do not self-medicate as it can be risky. Patients with heart disease and hypertension, might need to alter their medication if their blood pressure remains low. Few of the heart medications can cause low BP. If you are a heart patient and especially with weak

heart (heart failure) and develop diarrhoea and/or vomiting, consult your doctor soon, as s/he might consider reducing your water pills or blood pressure medications.

Drink a lot of water
If you are not drinking enough water, then you are doing it all wrong. Dehydration can lead to low blood pressure. So, up your fluid intake right away. Recommendation is to drink at least three litres of water per day if you do not have a weak heart or kidney disease.

Get moving
Do light exercises that do not strain your body and enhance the blood circulation. Walking or yoga can be helpful.

Combination Of Food Items May Up Or Lower Dementia Risk

Agencies

It's no secret that a healthy diet benefits the brain and now, researchers say that what foods people eat together may be associated with developing the risk of dementia.

The study looked at "food networks" and found that people whose diets consisted mostly of highly-processed meats, starchy foods like potatoes, and snacks like cookies and cakes, were more likely to have dementia years later than people who ate a wider variety of healthy foods.

"There is a complex interconnectedness of foods in a person's diet, and it is important to understand how these different connections, or food networks, may affect the brain because diet could be a promising way to prevent dementia," said study author Cecilia Samieri from the University of Bordeaux in France.

A number of studies have shown that eating a healthier diet, for example, a diet rich in green leafy vegetables, berries, nuts, whole

grains and fish, may lower a person's risk of dementia. Many of those studies focused on the quantity and frequency of foods.

"Our study went one step further to look at food networks and found important differences in the ways in which food items were co-consumed in people who went on to develop dementia and those who did not," Samieri added.

The study, published in the journal *Neurology*, involved 209 people with an average age of 78 who had dementia and 418 people, matched for age, sex and educational level, who did not have dementia.

Participants had completed a food questionnaire five years previously describing what types of food they ate over the year, and how frequently, from less than once a month to more than four times a day.

Researchers used the data from the food questionnaire to compare what foods were often eaten together with the patients with and without dementia.

The study found while



there were few differences in the amount of individual foods that people ate, overall food groups or networks differed substantially between people who had dementia and those who did not have dementia.

According to the researchers, people who developed dementia were more likely to combine highly processed meats such as sausages, cured meats and pates with starchy foods like potatoes, alcohol, and snacks like cookies and cakes.

This may suggest that frequency with which processed meat is combined with other unhealthy foods, rather than average quantity, may be important for dementia risk.

"We found that more diversity in diet, and greater inclusion of a variety of healthy foods, is related to less dementia, in fact, we found differences in food networks that could be seen years before people with dementia were diagnosed," Samieri noted.

Iran Receives Signals From Military Satellite, Vows New Surprises

Agencies

Tehran: The Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Division has said that the country is receiving signals from its recently launched Noor satellite and that it plans to launch a future satellite in higher orbit.



Speaking on Thursday, Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh said that Iran had received the satellite's signals from stations near the capital Tehran and the southeastern cities of Zahedan and Chahabhar following its launch.

"We received the latest signal last night," he added, explaining that the satellite orbits the earth every 90 minutes.

"The satellite's configurations will be fully set in a few days allowing the satellite to attain its full operational capacity," he added.

Iran's first military satellite, dubbed Noor-1 (Light 1), was launched into orbit some 425 kilometers above the Earth's surface on Wednesday.

Also in his remarks, Hajizadeh stressed the importance of space technologies in

addressing Iran's civilian and military needs.

He added that the development of the satellite was a "super project" made possible by undertaking major leaps in the technology field.

The general added that the IRGC seeks to launch a future satellite "in a higher orbit and with better performance" in the "near future".

Explaining that Noor's satellite carrier - dubbed Qased (Messenger) - used a missile engine from Iran's existing missile arsenal operating on liquid fuel, the general said that future motors will be upgraded to work with solid fuel.

Solid fuel will allow for the production of smaller satellite carriers, he said.

Hajizadeh added that the Qased's structure had also been made of composite material, a "complex" and "state-of-the-art" feature decreasing the weight of the missile.

The general also noted that the Noor satellite's communication and telecommunication systems had been fully designed and manufactured inside the country.

Satellite launch 'caught western intelligence by surprise' Also in his remarks, Hajizadeh said that the satellite launch had "caught western intelligence agencies by surprise".

"It is natural for them to be frustrated by what we've done," he added, stressing that the force will continue with its space operations "with force" to protect the country.



Ramazan 2020: Muslims Begin Marking A Subdued Ramazan Under Virus Closures

Agencies

Jakarta: Ramazan is usually a festive season, with the daylong fast followed by lavish meals and evening get-togethers. But this year many are confined to their homes, travel is heavily restricted and public venues like parks, malls and even mosques are shuttered.

Ramazan is usually a festive season, with the daylong fast followed by lavish meals and evening get-togethers. But this year many are confined to their homes, travel is heavily restricted and public venues like parks, malls and even mosques are shuttered.

Muslims worldwide began Ramadan on Friday with dawn-to-dusk fasting, but many will have to forgo the communal prayers and family gatherings that make the holy month special, as authorities maintain lockdowns aimed at slowing the coronavirus pandemic.

Ramadan is usually a festive season, with the daylong fast followed by lavish meals and evening get-togethers. But this year many are confined to their homes, travel is heavily restricted and public venues like parks, malls and even mosques are shuttered.

Many are also weighed down by anxiety about the pandemic and widespread job losses resulting from the worldwide shutdowns.

"This is too sad to be remembered in history," said Belm Febriansyah, a resident in the capital of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Jakarta is the epicenter of the outbreak in the country, which has reported more than 8,200 infections and 689 deaths. Passenger flights and rail services have been suspended, and private cars are banned from leaving the city.

The virus causes mild to moderate symptoms in most

people, who recover within a few weeks. But it is highly contagious and can cause severe illness or death, particularly in older patients or those with underlying health problems.

Muslim-majority countries began imposing widespread restrictions in mid-March, with many cancelling Friday prayers and shuttering holy sites. Saudi Arabia has largely locked down Mecca and Medina and halted the year-round umrah pilgrimage.

On Friday, the Saudi-led coalition said it would extend a cease-fire with Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels through Ramadan. Fighting has continued, with each side blaming the other.

Muslim-majority Malaysia extended its own lockdown by two more weeks to May 12, although its daily virus cases have dropped significantly in the past week. The country now has 5,603 cases, including 95 deaths.

Pak govt using ISI's system to track suspected COVID-19 cases: Imran Khan

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan disclosed on Thursday that his government was using a system, originally meant to track down terrorists by the spy agency ISI, to trace the suspected coronavirus cases in the country, as the number of the COVID-19 patients rose to 10,927.

"It (tracking system) was originally (meant to trace) terrorists but we're using it to tackle corona," Khan said during the live Ehsaas Telethon to raise funds to support the people worst hit by the pandemic.

He said that "tracking and testing is the only way to reopen businesses".

The Inter-Services Intelli-

gence (ISI) is Pakistan's powerful spy agency. In 1950, it was officially given the task of safeguarding Pakistani interests and national security, inside and outside the country.

Khan said efficient tracking and testing of coronavirus infected persons was the only way to reopen the closed businesses in the country.

Responding to various questions, Khan said that a lockdown for indefinite period was not an option and any de-

cision about the shut down should be for "all Pakistanis and not just the elite".

"The government is looking at the option of smart lockdown to wisely provide relief to the people badly hit by the closure of the country," he said.

He said that "even countries like the US are thinking to relax the restrictions on the people" and added that every country was making adjustments according to the local situation.

Khan also warned the people to take the threat of virus seriously and do not believe in false notions that some of them have strong immunity.

He said his government was giving cash support without thinking of political affiliations of the people and without any



kind of political interference. He said majority of people benefiting from the cash distribution were in Sindh province where "we don't have government".

Khan said police and federal investigation agency (FIA) officials were being used to ensure transparency in the Ehsaas cash disbursement program.

"This will be the most transparent program in the country's history," he said, adding that Rs 12,000 were being given to 12 million families.

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Antwerp port trials wristbands for social distancing

Agencies

ANTWERP: Workers in the port of Antwerp will next month begin testing wristbands developed by a Belgian technology company that could help guarantee the social distancing required during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rombit, also Antwerp-based, already supplies wearables resembling sports watch that can warn workers if vehicles are approaching, provide an alert if someone falls into the water or control who uses what equipment or enters specific zones.

New software recently installed could help workers keep a required distance apart by giving warning signals if

they come for example within five feet of each other.

The developers believe it also could offer contact tracing if someone becomes infected with the coronavirus. The company or health officials can then establish with whom the person was in contact at work in the preceding weeks.

The port of Antwerp, where some 60,000 people work, was already conducting a trial with the wearables before the coronavirus outbreak and will expand the exercise to include the social distancing function in early May. The first workers to use it will be at a lock and a control tower and it could then be expanded to tug boats.

Oxford University pushing science to the limit in vaccine hunt

Agencies

London: Oxford University is launching a human trial of a potential coronavirus vaccine, with the daunting aim of making a successful jab available to the public later this year.

Of the more than 100 research projects around the world to find a vaccine—described by the United Nations as the only route back to "normality"—seven are currently in clinical trials, according to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Such trials are already underway in China and the United States and are due to begin at the end of this month in Germany, where the federal vaccine authority gave the green light on Wednesday.

The British government strongly supports Oxford University's work, and the first human trials were to start on Thursday, Health Minister Matt Hancock said.

He hailed the "promising development", pointing out that it would normally take "years" to reach such a stage of vaccine development.

In its first phase, half of 1,112 volunteers will receive the potential vaccine against COVID-19, the other half a control vaccine to test its safety and efficacy.

The volunteers are aged between 18 and 55, are in good health, have not tested positive for COVID-19 and are not pregnant or breastfeeding.

Ten participants will receive two doses of the experimental vaccine, four weeks apart.

Professor Sarah Gilbert's team hopes for an 80 per cent success rate, and plans to produce one million doses by September, with the aim of making it widely available by the autumn if successful.



Millions of Americans join unemployed ranks as coronavirus ravages economy

Agencies

Washington: A stunning 26.5 million Americans have sought unemployment benefits over the last five weeks, confirming that all the jobs gained during the longest employment boom in U.S. history have been wiped out as the novel coronavirus savages the economy.

The labor market slaughter added to collapsing oil prices, retail sales, manufacturing production, homebuilding and home sales in reinforcing economists' contention that the economy entered recession in March.

As the economic slump deepens protests have risen

against nationwide lockdowns to control the spread of COVID-19, the potentially lethal respiratory illness caused by the virus. President Donald Trump, who is seeking a second term in the White House in November's general election, has been anxious to restart the paralyzed economy.

Trump on Wednesday applauded steps taken by a handful of Republican-led states to begin reopening their economies, despite warnings from health experts of a potential new surge in infections.

"Today's report shows the labor market is almost certainly pushing into new territory, jolting the unem-

ployment rate up above the Great Recession's 10% peak and wiping out more jobs than we've gained in the recovery," said Daniel Zhao, senior economist at Glassdoor, a website recruitment firm.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 810,000 to a seasonally adjusted 4.427 million for the week ended April 18, the government said. Data for the prior week was revised to show 8,000 fewer applications received than previously reported, reducing the count for that period to 5.237 million. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast claims falling to 4.2 million in the latest week.

NEWS MAKERS

Experts shocked as Trump suggests injecting disinfectants to kill coronavirus

Washington: President Donald Trump has suggested the possibility of studying injecting disinfectants into Covid-19 patients or bringing UV light "inside" their bodies to kill the deadly virus, drawing immediate flak from American health experts who urged people not to listen to such "dangerous" advice.

Launching a new scientific study conducted by his department, Homeland Security for Science and Technology Under Secretary Bill Bryan on Thursday said the coronavirus dies at a much more rapid pace when exposed to



sunlight and humidity.

"The virus dies the quickest in direct sunlight. Isopropyl alcohol will kill the virus in 30 seconds," he told White House reporters in the

presence of President Trump at his daily briefing on the Covid-19 situation in the country.

Bryan's remarks left Trump wondering if there was a possibility of injecting the chemical into a person infected with Covid-19 as a deterrent to the virus.

"I see the disinfectant that knocks it out in a minute, one minute... And is there a way we can do something like that by injection inside, or almost a cleaning? Because you see it gets inside the lungs and it does a tremendous number on the lungs, so it would be interesting to check that," the US President told reporters at the press briefing.

Canada's premier wishes Muslims 'a blessed Ramazan'

ANKARA: Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday extended greetings to Muslims around the globe on the start of Ramazan, the holy month of fasting.

"Wishing a blessed Ramazan to Muslims observing the month at home this year. By coming together virtually, we'll be able to



stay connected and still honour the values at the heart of Islam - compassion, peace, and service to others. Ramazan Mubarak!" Justin Trudeau said in a tweet along with a video message. Ramazan starts amid unprecedented lockdown restrictions including Mecca, Medina

In the video, Trudeau said the "month-long spiritual journey of fasting and prayer" is traditionally a time of "collective gathering" but will "look different" this year as the country continues its fight against Covid-19.

"During this crisis, the values at the heart of Islam - compassion, gratitude, and generosity - resonate more than ever, as we see Muslim Canadians helping their neighbours," he said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD SPILL CHANNEL DIVISION NARBAL

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Email: exenfscdnarbal@fckashmir.com

floodspillcahnelnarbal@gmail.com

Notice inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No: - FSCDN/02 of 2020-21

Dated: - 24/04/2020

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors for the following works to be received by the Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal;

S No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs. in lakh)	E/M (in Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Class of contract	MH of Account
01	Stacking/ filling of sand/stone dust in empty cement bags and laying at designated sites/ locations in the jurisdiction of Flood Spill Channel Sub-Division Chadoora as flood precautionary measure.	3.68	7360/-	200/-	10 days	DEE	2711-M&R
02	Stacking/ filling of sand/ stone dust in empty cement bags and laying at designated sites/ locations in the jurisdiction of Flood Spill Channel Sub-Division Narbal as flood precautionary measure.	5.215	10430/-	300/-	10 days	DEE	2711-M&R
03	Stacking/ filling of sand/stone dust in empty cement bags and laying at designated sites/ locations in the jurisdiction of Flood Spill Channel Sub-Division Rambagh as flood precautionary measure.	2.90	5800/-	200/-	10 days	DEE	2711-M&R
04	Stacking/ filling of sand/stone dust in empty cement bags and laying at designated sites/ locations in the jurisdiction of Flood Spill Channel Sub-Division Shariefabad as flood precautionary measure.	2.13	4260/-	200/-	10 days	DEE	2711-M&R
05	Stacking/ filling of sand/stone dust in empty cement bags and laying at designated sites/ locations in the jurisdiction of Flood Spill Channel Sub-Division Singhpora as flood precautionary measure.	1.55	3100/-	200/-	10 days	DEE	2711-M&R

Position of funds: -Demanded

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	24-04-2020
02	Date of start of downloading	24-04-2020 from 1500 Hrs
03	Bid submission start Date Technical/Financial	24-04-2020 from 1500 Hrs.
04	Bid Submission end date	09-05-2020 up to 1600 Hrs.
05	Date & Time of opening of price bids (online)	11-05-2020 at 10:30 AM

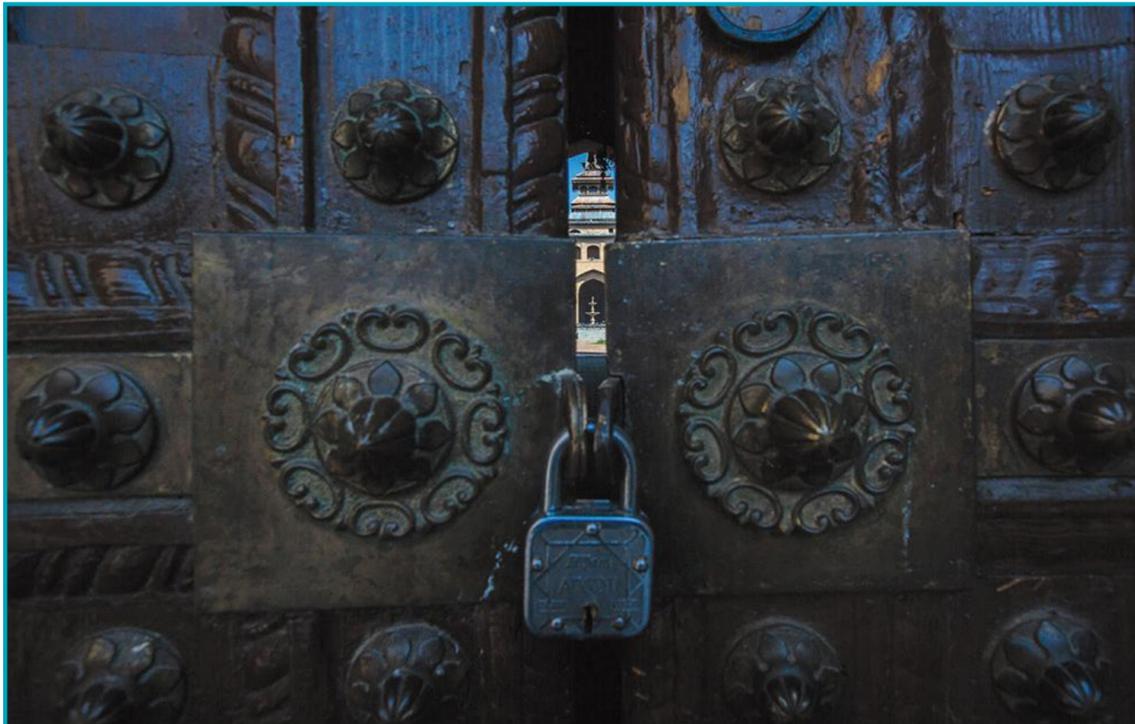
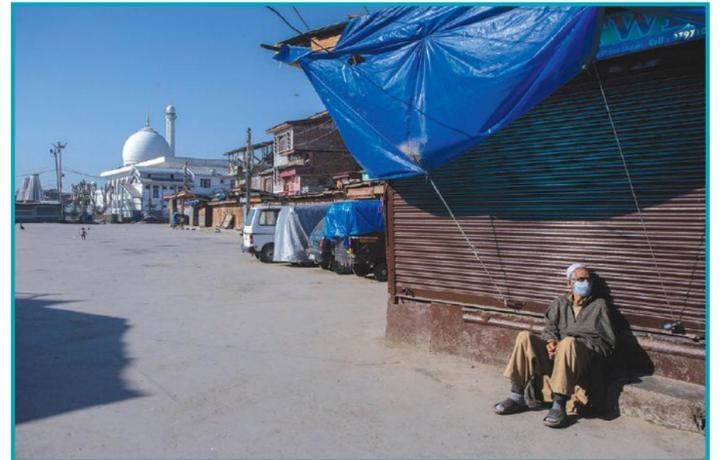
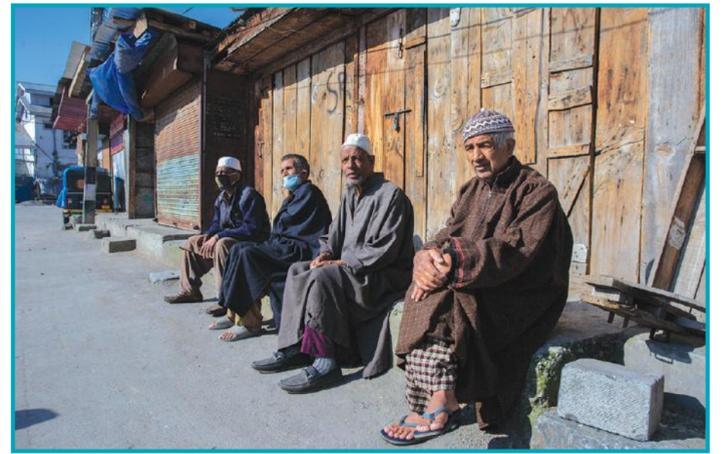
All other terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

No. FSCDN/CS/138-62
Dated: 24/04/2020.

DIPK-350/20

Sd/-
(R. M. Mustahsan Sahaf)
Executive Engineer
Flood Spill Channel Division
Narbal.

Srinagar On The Eve Of Ramazan Which Begins Amid Pandemic And Lockdown Today



Photos By Abid Bhat

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