



## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO RECOVER FROM COVID-19?

**R**ome: When Morena Colombi tested negative for the coronavirus March 16, the official tallies counted her among the COVID-19 recoveries, a success amid the tragedies overwhelming Italy. But she was nowhere near recovered, her cough and crippling fatigue nowhere near gone. Five weeks later, on April 21, she returned to her job developing colours for a cosmetics company, but with shortness of breath and aching muscles, she found herself unable to take even short walks. Another test confirmed that she was no longer infected. But 11 weeks after testing positive.....


.....LIFE & TIMES

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## News Digest

19<sup>TH</sup> RAMAZAN

|                | IFTAR TODAY | SEHRI TOMMOROW |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| FIQAH HANAFIYA | 07:26       | 03:55          |
| FIQAH JAFARIYA | 07:36       | 03:53          |



### 2 CRPF Officers Commit Suicide

Srinagar- Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officers committed suicide by shooting themselves dead with their service rifles in two separate incidents in Kashmir valley on Tuesday. A CRPF sub-inspector identified as GD Fateh Singh (851290185) S/o Eidan Singh of Jaisalmer Rajasthan committed suicide after shooting himself with his service rifle at Akrun Mattan area. **P-02**

### Police Claims 4 Militant Associates Arrested

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have busted a module of Jaish-e-Muhammad militant associates by arresting four of its members in Khrew area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. In a statement issued today, a police spokesperson said that four militant associates identified as Shabir Ahmad Parry, Sheeraz Ahmad Dar, Shafat Ahmad Mir and Ishfaq Ahmad Shah, all residents of Bathen area of Khrew were arrested. The accused, **P-02**

### 19 Lockdown Violators Held: Police

Srinagar: Police said on Tuesday that 19 people, including a dozen shopkeepers were arrested from Srinagar and Ganderbal districts of the Valley for defying government imposed orders aimed to contain spread of coronavirus pandemic in the Union Territory. In Srinagar, 12 shopkeepers were arrested from Jehlum Market in uptown Batamallu for defying government orders, a police spokesperson said. He said cases under relevant sections of law have been **P-02**

### Man Held For Raping Deaf And Dumb Woman

Jammu: A man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly raping a deaf and dumb woman after the victim delivered a baby at a hospital in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The man was arrested from a village in Mendhar sub-division and booked under rape charges, a police official said. He said police acted against the accused after the 20-year-old unmarried victim delivered a baby boy at the district hospital Poonch Monday evening."Further **P-02**

## PM Modi Says New Rules For Lockdown 4.0 Soon

Announces Rs 20 Lakh Crore Economic Package



**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday indicated that the nationwide lockdown to stop the spread of novel coronavirus will be extended but will have completely different contours and rules.

In a televised address to the nation, Prime Minister also announced a consolidated economic package of Rs 20 lakh crore to help

make India self-reliant in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Modi said that Lockdown 4.0 will be completely different from those seen yet in its guidelines and rules.

"Scientists say that COVID-19 will be a part of our lives for a very long time. But we can't let our lives remain confined around COVID-19. We will wear masks and maintain social distancing but we will not let it affect us. So, **PAGE 02**

## 55 More Test Covid Positive in J&K

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir crossed 900-mark after 55 fresh positive cases, highest ever spike since THE pandemic outbreak, were reported from the Union Territory on Tuesday.

"Fifty-five new cases have been reported from Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours," the officials said adding that twenty-eight more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals.

Of fresh cases, 42 were reported from Kashmir and 13 from Jammu division. In Kashmir, 27 cases were reported from Kulgam, 10 from Kupwara, 4 from Anantnag and 1 from Shopian district.

The total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir has now risen to 934.

Ten Kupwara cases are from Goni-pora Handwara include a 3-year-old and 6-year-old boys, 3 men—aged 26, 30 and 58 besides five women—aged 18, 20, 24, 26 and 45-years-old. One case from Shopian include 41-year-old male from Pandshan while one of the Anantnag cases who tested positive at SKIMS is a 40-year-old female from Bijbhera Anantnag.

Sources said that 35 persons mostly from Kulgam and Jammu division districts were confirmed last night and youngest **PAGE 02**

## Govt Extends High-Speed Internet Ban In J&K

Complete Ban On Internet To Continue In Pulwama, Shopian For Now



**SRINAGAR-** The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday extended ban on high-speed internet till May 27 even as 2G service shall remain suspended in Pulwama and Shopian district for now.

Among others, the government has cited use of high speed mobile internet for coordinating acts of militancy, both within and from across the border.

"Over the past two weeks, there has been a sharp increase in (militancy) related incidents, ranging from isolated attacks on civilians, hurling of grenades in public places, indiscriminate firing and attacks on the security forces' personnel deployed on Naka duties to enforce restrictions to contain COVID-19," it said, adding, "There has been) Increased presence of (militants) in the thickly populated areas and engagements with

Security Forces leading to killing of (militants and recovery of arms and ammunition," reads an order issued by the Home department.

The government said it has been reported that there have been concerted efforts by the "Pak handlers to cause incitement among the general public, particularly youth,

through circulation of varied nature of "propaganda audios, videos and photographs, while continuing with attempts to spread misinformation and fake news. Despite serious concerns related to spread of COVID-19, there have even been instances of stone pelting at militant encounter sites." **PAGE 02**

### GIVEN THE AVAILABILITY OF FIXED LINE INTERNET

connectivity without any speed related restrictions and taking cognizance of the fact that mobile internet connectivity at 2G speed does not cause any impediment in taking measures concerning control of COVID-19, it is considered appropriate that while the mobile internet is restored in the Kashmir Valley excluding Pulwama and the adjoining district of Shopian, it is restricted to 2G speed,"

## Kashmiri Girls In Bangladesh: 'We Fear Being Left Out'

Jyotsna Bharti

**NEW DELHI:** Alarm bells ring in pandemic when Srinagar-based newsrooms receive back-to-back SOS pleading evacuation. Senders of these disturbing dispatches are mostly Kashmiri students caught in the Covid crisis in some faraway land.

One such mail came from Bangladesh on the afternoon of May 11, 2020.

The sender was a medical student stranded along with her classmates in the country where the viral upsurge has unnerved all and sundry.

"With all the due respect," the mail read, "we the students of KUMUDINI WOMENS MEDICAL COLLEGE BANGLADESH would like to bring in your **PAGE 02**

### First Train With 1,000 Stranded Reaches Udhampur

A special train from Bengaluru carrying nearly 1,000 passengers reached Udhampur on Tuesday, marking the beginning of the return of Jammu and Kashmir residents stranded outside the Union Territory by rail. Earlier, 40,000 residents were transported by road via Lakhampur - the gateway to the UT bordering Punjab. The train reached Udhampur at 11.30 am after a **P-02**

## Former CIC Points Out Lapses In J&K Reorganisation Act

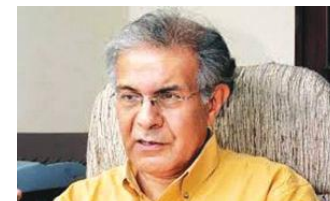
Urges President To Get Issue Examined By Legal Experts

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** Former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah has pointed out lapses in the enactment of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, saying that the BJP-led government has not included the Legislative Assembly of J&K in the Electoral College through which Presidential elections are held.

In a letter addressed to the President of India Ram Nath Kovind, Habibullah draws attention to what he describes as "significant constitutional lapse" that according to him has occurred in the course of enacting Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

"The J&K Reorganisation Act contains no provision to amend **PAGE 02**




### GNS Editor-In-Chief Passes Away

**SRINAGAR-** Tanveer-ul-Ahad, Editor-in-Chief of Srinagar based news wire 'Global News Service' and daily 'Kashmir Glory' newspaper passed away on Monday late night.

Tanveer breathed his last at SMHS hospital Srinagar on Monday late night after a brief spell of illness.

A resident of Muqam Shahwali area of Kupwara district, Tanveer is survived by wife and three minor kids.

Meanwhile, people **P-02**



**MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING,** a group of boys reading Holy Quran at a seminary in Srinagar on Monday. Pic Abid Bhat

## Tension Simmering In Eastern Ladakh; 'Chinese Helicopters Spotted'

**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI-** Tension is simmering along the India-China border with troops of the two countries maintaining a close watch on each other in the Pangong Tso lake area in Eastern Ladakh, days after nearly 250 soldiers from both sides were engaged in a violent face-off that left many of them injured, sources have confirmed.

At least a couple of Chinese military helicopters were spotted flying close to the un-demarcated Sino-India border in the area after the fierce face-off on May 5 following which a fleet of Sukhoi-30 jets of the Indian Air Force too carried out sorties there, the sources said.

The troops on both sides held on to their respective positions and even reinforcements were brought in an apprehension of further **PAGE 02**



## 4G Order: 'Umpire Asks Batsman To Decide Whether He's Out Or Not'

Swati Joshi

**H**OURS after the Supreme Court of India announced the much-awaited 4G order, a Kashmiri student preparing for competitive exams messaged Kanan Gopinath, the former IAS officer who last year resigned from the service to protest against New Delhi's decision to abrogate the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

"Supreme court was our last hope," the student told Gopinath according to his tweet. "But now it's broken."

The student who has completed his board exams complained of no support from mainstream media and political leaders. With two months remaining for the exams, the student requested the former IAS officer to raise the issue on national media.

On Monday, the Supreme Court of India declined the pleas for restoration of 4G internet services in the valley in its judgment. The top court taking cognizance of the "concerns" relating to Covid-19 and the "hardships" faced by people has ordered to set up a "special committee" comprising of Secretary of Ministry of Communications, Chief Secretary of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, headed by the Union Home Secretary.


The judgment by the apex court received a plethora of responses from netizens.

"Strange times," one netizen tweeted, reacting to the verdict, "Umpire asks batsman to decide whether he is out or not."

The special committee formed by the apex court would examine the "contentions of and the material placed" by both the petitioners and respondents. The top court directed the committee to scrutinize the alternatives suggested by petitioners regarding limiting of internet speed in certain areas and allowing 3G and 4G on a trial basis over certain "geographical areas".

Considering that high-speed internet was banned by the Bhatiya Janta Party-led central government, the judgment puts the ball back into the government's court.

"...For 4G in Kashmir SC ropes in Govt Agencies in decision **PAGE 02**



## Stone-Crushers To Start Operations In J&K

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration Tuesday allowed the operation of stone-crushers in the union territory after 50 days of closure due to coronavirus lockdown.

The Department of Industries and Commerce allowed the operation of stone-crushers with a view to ensure supply of construction material such as sand and stone aggregate, especially for ongoing development projects, an official spokesman said.

Brick kilns have already resumed their operations in the Union Territory from April 16.

The Government of J&K has allowed some select additional activities for resumption of construction activities during the lockdown period by the construction departments.

The representatives of Industry have highlighted the necessity of operation of Stone Crushers to meet the demand of sand and aggregate. Industries & Commerce Department examined the issues and allowed the Stone Crushers as covered under government order to operate subject to fulfillment of all requisite norms as prescribed by the Government of J&K for operation of Stone Crushers, the spokesman said.

He said Director Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Anoo Malhotra, and Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah, issued separate orders for operation of stone-crushers in their **PAGE 02**



# Govt Starts Web Portal, Helpline To Help Movement Of Stranded Persons

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Jammu & Kashmir Government has launched a web portal -- <http://jkmonitoring.nic.in/> to facilitate its residents stranded in other parts of the country. The portal enables giving updates to those registered and also allows a person to check his application status. The portal has been developed in a very short time frame by the NIC, J&K.

All those who have registered online using the links opened by the J&K Government earlier NEED NOT register again. The web portal has already been updated with the details of the persons who have already registered through [www.jktpo.in](http://www.jktpo.in). All those who have registered can track the progress of their application.

While a large number of persons from nearby States have returned to J&K, there are many who are queued up for undertaking train journey. Arrangements are being made for trains from various stations across the country. Trains from different states and their cities - like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telengana, Andhra Pradesh, Assam (for entire NE), Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan and many places in Uttar Pradesh are being planned over the next few days.

More than one train is being scheduled from one station if the number of stranded persons is large, eg; Delhi, Bengaluru, Thane/ Mumbai, etc. As and when a person's turn comes to board the train, he/ she shall be notified by way of SMS which will have the details of train timings, departure station, etc. Everyone will get accommodated and therefore there is no need to panic.

In addition to the web portal, in order to assist the returnees and address their concerns, a dedicated 24X7 Covid-19 Helpline number - 0191-2466988 has been activated - they can obtain information of arrangements made for their movement and also get any other information.

In order to have regulated arrival to enable testing and to control the spread of COVID -19, the portal allows the government to issue authorization for travel to individuals/ groups as per the capacity. On approval of movement by the competent authority, i.e. the Nodal Officer, a SMS goes to the stranded person informing him of such authorization. This authorization is the consent of the Government of J&K to receive that person. This authorization can be downloaded or it can be kept in the electronic form on the mobile and has to be shown to the concerned District Magistrate for issuance of movement pass as per the SOP of the MHA in case of road journey. Such authorization, through the portal, has been given to all the stranded persons in Gujarat and Rajasthan in the past few hours. However, for those persons in these two states who want to take a train for return, coordination with the sending State and the Railways is under way.

If the returnee is part of a group, the registration of only the Group Head has been updated on the portal - this is sufficient for grant of authorization or notifying for train journey through the group head, enabling the entire group to travel as and when the arrangements are in place. The portal provides for editing and adding information of the group by uploading the list of group members.

The portal has received more than 2156 plus hits in a span of two hours - almost 50% are for downloading the authorization by the Government of J&K.

With the arrival of two trains - one each from Karnataka and Goa - the process has begun. Another Shramik Special train is scheduled to arrive from Delhi tomorrow morning, followed by second one from Goa in the evening

## PM Modi Says New Rules For Lockdown 4.0 Soon...

lockdown four will be in a new form with new rules," Modi said.

"Based on the suggestions by States, information related to lockdown four will be given to you before May 18. We will fight COVID-19. We will move forward," he added.

The Prime Minister on Monday held a video conference meeting with Chief Ministers of all states to discuss the road ahead in India's fight against COVID-19 and noted that he was of the firm view that measures needed during the third phase of lockdown will not be needed in the fourth phase. Phase three of the lockdown is coming to an end on May 17.

Economic package of Rs 20 lakh cr

While details of the economic package would be announced by the Finance Ministry over the next few days, beginning Wednesday, Modi said it would cover all sections of the society including corporates, cottage and small scale industries, MSMEs, labourers and the middle class.

The consolidated package of Rs 20 lakh crore would include measures already announced by the government and the RBI so far to tackle the COVID-19 crisis. However, there was no clarity on from where these funds would come and what impact it might have on the fiscal health of the country.

Among various measures, the Finance Ministry had earlier announced a Rs 1.7 lakh crore package, mainly for providing food grains and cash support to the poor.

Modi said the special economic package of Rs 20 lakh crore is equivalent to almost 10 per cent of India's GDP and it will provide a much needed boost for making India self-reliant. The package will also focus on land, labour, liquidity and laws, he said.

## 55 More Test Covid Positive in J&K...

among them include 3-year-old boy and 12-year-old girl from Khan Mohalla and 7-year-old from K B Pora Avil besides a 92-year-old man from Chhattabal. All of them have history of travel to New Delhi, Uttarakhand, Vijaypur, Bangalore.

The case which were confirmed at CD lab include 19-year-old woman from Sadora Kokernag, 18-year-old and 40-year-old women besides 40-year-old man from Kokernag while two cases from Reasi include 20-year-old and 26-year-old male while one case ins from Kathua-18-year-old man.

Of the total number of cases reported so far, 844 are from Kashmir and 90 from Jammu. Ten people (nine in Kashmir and one in Jammu) have died and 455 patients (400 from Kashmir and 55 from Jammu) have recovered. The number of active cases stands at 469 (435 in Kashmir and 34 in Jammu).

More than 98,000 people have been kept under surveillance including those who are either in government established quarantine facilities or in home isolation.

## Govt Extends High-Speed Internet Ban In J&K...

The government said that there are reports, indicating that high speed mobile internet is likely to be used for coordinating acts of militancy- both within and from across the border; and

In view of killing of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen chief Riyaz Naikoo and other militants in Pulwama district on May 6, the authorities said that they were "compelled to snap down mobile cellular services i.e. voice/sms as well as internet services, across the Kashmir valley to ensure maintenance of public order." "There are credible inputs from intelligence agencies that (militants) may make desperate attempts to avenge the reverses in the recent past," the order issued by Principal Secretary Home said.

On examining the reports of the field agencies and the prevailing security situation, the government said that there was apparent necessity to take suitable steps to prevent misuse of internet for incitement and propagation of militant activities. "Given the availability of fixed line internet connectivity without any speed related restrictions and taking cognizance of the fact that mobile internet connectivity at 2G speed does not cause any impediment in taking measures concerning control of COVID -19, it is considered appropriate that while the mobile internet is restored in the Kashmir Valley excluding Pulwama and the adjoining district of Shopian, it is restricted to 2G speed," it said.

The government said that the internet speed shall remain restricted to 2G only across the J&K excluding Pulwama and Shopian. The IsGP, Kashmir and Jammu have been asked to ensure communication of these directions to the service providers with immediate effect and ensure their implementation in letter and spirit.

"(These) directions shall be effective from 12.05.2020 and remain in force till 27.05.2020, unless modified earlier," the order added. (GNS)

## Kashmiri Girls In Bangladesh: ‘We Fear ...

kind notice that we have been keenly waiting for the name in the list for evacuation and keeping an eye on that but the second list for evacuation has also been updated and nobody among us is in that list."

These helpless students are stranded in a campus where Kashmiri girls are in majority.

"We fear being left out," the distressed medical student said. "Since already a number of colleges have been taken into the consideration, we all request you to please look into this matter as soon as possible. We would be highly grateful."

A quick follow-up by Kashmir Observer reveals that around 85 girl students are stranded in Bangladesh's Kumudini Women's Medical College.

"Since the time our college got shut on March 16, we've been

stuck here in the campus hostel," the college representative told KO over phone from Bangladesh.

"We've been left out even as other students were evacuated from this, and other colleges."

These distressed students had enrolled for the evacuation long back but never made it to the multiple lists.

"There were flights scheduled from here to Srinagar on May 8, 12, and 13, but none of our names figured in the lists," the college representative said.

When these stranded girls approached Indian officials regarding their names being missed from the evacuation lists, they were asked to "wait".

But as their wait lingers on, for over two months now, these girls are losing their "mental balance" to the Covid-19 trauma.

"Other than waiting for the fourth flight confirmation list, we can't do anything else right now," the student said.

"We feel so helpless and left out. We're getting paranoid, depressed here. Our parents back home are getting worried for our well-being. We're approaching you, so that the concerned authorities understand our precarious situation and bring us home."

Even as these distant cries for homecoming are shrilling at the moment, the twin authorities in Srinagar and New Delhi are maintaining an oft-repeated official line on the growing evacuation outcry: "The matter has been raised with the concerned authorities."

But as these Kashmiri girl students are endlessly suffering from pandemic problems away from home, the official response clearly looks far from 'concerned' and considerate.

## First Train With 1,000 Stranded Reaches Udhampur

delay of several hours and the passengers, including students and labourers, debarked as is per the guidelines and moved to an identified holding area before being sent to their home districts in buses.

The special train, which had left Chikkabanavara station in Bengaluru on Sunday afternoon, was the first passenger rail service in Jammu and Kashmir during the lockdown in effect since March 25.

Udhampur District Development Commissioner Piyush Singla said another train with 1,100 passengers is to reach here from Goa on Tuesday.

Singla, who received the passengers, said the district administration had deployed magistrates and other officials to receive the passengers at the platform and guide them for on-line registration through an app.

The returnees were provided packaged meals and water bottles for the journey to their home districts with police escort.

Officials said all the returnees have to be tested for COVID-19 and undergo administrative quarantine without exception. "Only if the tests come negative, can they be sent for home quarantine for 14 days, one of the officials said.

The J&K government has collected details of stranded persons who wish to return. Arrangements are being made for their arrival in an orderly manner, the officials said.

The stranded persons from the States and UTs of Haryana, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh and Delhi have also been permitted to return in a regulated manner, with effect from May 7 and this process will continue for a week, they said.

They said the evacuation was started after the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 29 allowed movement of stranded persons with certain conditions.

## Former CIC Points Out Lapses In J&K ...

Article 54 and 55 of the constitution of India for including the proposed legislature of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the Electoral College that will be constituted to elect your successor in July 2022. If this lacuna is not remedied, the people of J&K will be denied representation in this and successive elections," Habibullah writes in the letter, a copy of which is in the possession of Kashmir Observer.

This constitutional ambiguity, he writes has come to light by recent news reports of an intervention made by one Shubham Khatri, a student of Ashoka University, through the Right to Information Act, 2005. He has also enclosed media's comprehensive coverage of the issue in the letter.

The letter sent on May, 05 further informs the President that the Article 54 of the Constitution provides for the manner of election to the office of the President of India and that the members of Electoral College who are eligible to vote in the said election are listed therein.

"The procedure for such election is prescribed in Article 55 of the Constitution. Article 54 includes the Legislative Assemblies of the UTs of Delhi and Pondicherry (now Puducherry) in the said Electoral College, by way of an Explanation to that provision. This Explanation is applicable to Article 55 also. This Explanation was inserted through the Constitution (Seventieth) Amendment Act, 1992 operational since 01, June, 1995," Habibullah, who is the Chairperson of CHRI, India-EC writes.

He further writes that the Section 14 of the J&K Reorganisation Act provides for the establishment and the constitution of a 107-member Legislature for the UT of J&K.

"The UT of Ladakh has no legislature. To the best of our knowledge, nothing in Section 14 or other provisions of the J&K Reorganisation Act seeks to amend Article 54 and 55 of the Constitution to include the proposed Legislative Assembly of J&K in the Electoral College that must be constituted to elect the President of India, thus depriving millions of Indians of a day in this vital democratic exercise," he says.

Making a fervent appeal, Habibullah who previously served as Kashmir interlocutor, urges President Kovind to take immediate steps for inclusion of the Legislative Assembly of J&K in the said Electoral College through an appropriate legislative device, which is indispensable for removing all doubt about the participation of the elected representative of J&K in the process of electing your successors.

"For this, we urge you to have this crucial matter examined by legal experts in your government with the clear direction

that suitable remedial action be taken to ensure that the future members of the J&K Legislative Assembly, are not left out of the Electoral College that will be convened to elect your successors," he adds.

## Gns Editor-In-Chief Passes Away...

from all walks of life have expressed their grief over the demise of the talented journalist.

In a condolence message, Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family members.

National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said he stands in solidarity with Tanveer's family in this hour of mourning and unimaginable grief and prays to Almighty to give them strength to bear this inconsolable loss.

"He was a talented journalist and had made a mark in the field at a very young age. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace", he added.

JKPCC President G.A. Mir also conveyed deepest condolences to bereaved family.

PCC President termed the demise of Tanveer Ul Ahad as a great loss and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family. Mir also prayed for eternal peace to departed soul

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, PK Pole, Government spokesperson Rohit Kansal, Director Information Syed Sehrish Asghar also expressed grief over Tanveer's death.

Describing Tanveer as a journalist par excellence, his former colleague and editor-in-chief of monthly Payam-e-Talaba, Umar Sultan said that his death has created a void in Kashmir press.

"Tanveer was a humble human being, always available to help people in distress. He will be remembered for his incisive journalistic and management skills," said Sultan.

DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family.

Paying rich tributes to the deceased, Dr Nisar said his death is a great loss to the media fraternity and has resulted in an unbridgeable void in the field of journalism.

"By dint of his hard work, GNS in a short time became a household name in Kashmir valley," he said, adding "His contributions in the field of journalism will be remembered for a long time to come."

## Tension Simmering In Eastern Ladakh; ‘Chinese...

escalation in tension, the sources said when asked about the face-off.

They said tension was still prevailing in the area, though both sides agreed to disengage during a meeting of local commanders on May 6.

"The situation remains tense," said a source adding some troops are being kept by both sides in the area following the face-off.

When asked, an Army spokesperson said: "Incidents of face-off and aggressive behaviour occur on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Patrols disengage after local level interaction and dialogue. Temporary and short duration face-offs occur as boundary is not resolved."

"I clarify that there is no continuing face-off at the Pangong Tso lake. There is no build-up of armed troops in the area," he said.

The sources said the spotting of Chinese helicopters in the area was nothing unusual as India too flies a fleet of military choppers in the area from three bases in the region.

IAF sources said a range of its aircraft, which also comprises Sukhoi-30 jets, have been carrying out routine sorties in the region including on May 6, adding there was no violation of Indian airspace in the area by the Chinese side. The IAF conducts routine sorties in the region from Leh and Thoise air-bases.

On May 5, scores of Indian and Chinese army personnel clashed with iron rods, sticks, and even resorted to stone-pelting, sources said, adding a number of soldiers on both sides sustained injuries in the incident.

In a separate incident, nearly 150 Indian and Chinese military personnel were engaged in a face-off near Naku La Pass in the Sikkim sector of the Sino-India border on Saturday. At least 10 soldiers from both sides sustained injuries in the incident.

The troops of India and China were engaged in a 73-day stand-off in Doklam tri-junction in 2017 which even triggered fears of a war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control, the de-facto border between the two countries.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet while India contests it.

Both sides have been asserting that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their first informal summit in April 2018 in the Chinese city of Wuhan, months after the Doklam standoff.

In the summit, the two leaders decided to issue "strategic guidance" to their militaries to strengthen communications so that they can build trust and understanding.

Modi and Xi held their second informal summit in Mamallapuram near Chennai in October last year with a focus on further broadening bilateral ties.

## 4G Order: ‘Umpire Asks Batsman To Decide ...

making. Why not just hear GOI and decide? Scared. Or learning from Politicians?" asked one of the netizens.

Fast internet services in Kashmir were removed post the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5 last year. Since then people are finding it difficult to communicate with the outside world using 2G.

Journalists, doctors, students, businessmen have suffered because of the slow internet services in the valley. A person preparing for a competitive exam expressed his helplessness on social media. Acknowledging the fact that 4G services are working in rest of India sans J&K he feels he is already laid back in the competition.

"So technically its 2g vs 4g, and we all know who will win?" said the netizen.

A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising of Justices NV Ramana, R Subhash Reddy, and BR Gavai headed by Justice Ramana said "peculiar circumstances" in the Union Territory required "delicate balancing" of "national security concerns and human rights".

The petitioners Foundation for Media Professionals, Soayib Qureshi and Private Schools Association J&K had filed pleas for restoration of the 4G network in the valley on grounds such as the right to health, right to education, right to business, and right to freedom of speech and expression.

The petitioners also alleged that during the pandemic, "availability of effective and speedy internet in order to access medical services and information on containment strategies" is important.

Kashmir has reported 879 cases of coronavirus. People in Kashmir are not even able to search topics on Google properly, expressed a netizen's tweet.

While the rest of the world was celebrating International technology Day on Monday, Kashmir was waiting for the top court's decision on the restoration of 4G. Access to the internet is a very basic and essential technology especially during the pandemic, opined a netizen.

A majority of people cannot afford broadband and fiber connections, claimed one of the netizens. People in the valley are struggling to download the Arogya Setu app with 2G speed. The app is recommended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to check the spread of the virus.

The petitioners also contended that restriction of internet speed impacts the students of J&K to "exercise their right to education". The petitioners presented an affidavit of a journalist who collected testimonies of doctors, teachers, students, journalists, lawyers, and businesspersons from the Union Territory, and of technical expert narrating importance of 4G internet.

Many students preparing for the competitive exams are severely affected by the slow internet services in the valley. Even students returning to Kashmir from various states would be restrained from attending online classes due to poor connectivity. A netizen claimed that it takes 1 hour to properly see a video of 10 minutes using 2G.

While 4G restrictions in the valley continues, a netizen asked the administration for a better solution to handle security concerns rather than snapping the fast internet services. He complained of the difficulty in watching lectures using 2G and said that he doesn't have hawk eyes to see words clearly in "240 mp mode".

Emphasizing the need to find an urgent solution for the problem, the netizen claimed that stopping 4G "was never the permanent solution and it will never be".

## Stone-Crushers To Start Operations In J&K...

respective divisions subject to fulfilment prescribed norms.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, M K Dwivedi expressed hope that with the operation of stone-crushers, the supply chain of construction activities for development projects would be ensured.

He also emphasized the need for ensuring social distancing and safety measures on unit premises.

## 2 CRPF Officers Commit Suicide...

of South Kashmir's Anantnag district, said an official.

He said the officer was rushed to the nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

In a separate incident, an Assistant Sub-Inspector of CRPF Bangali Babu (921110873) aged about 47 Years of Madhya Pradesh of F/49 Battalion located at Neelam Cinema Karan Nagar also shot self to death, the official added.

He said the officer was shifted to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

## Police Claims 4 Militant Associates Arrested...

police spokesperson said have been operating in Khrew as well as the forest area of Tral.

"Incriminating material including explosive material and ammunition has been recovered from them in Bathen area. A case under FIR number 18/2020 has been registered against the arrested persons in Police Station Khrew under relevant sections of law," the police spokesperson added.

## 19 Lockdown Violators Held: Police...

registered at PS Shaheed Gunj and further investigation into the cases has been initiated.

In Ganderbal district, 7 drivers were arrested and 12 vehicles seized from Duderhama and Wahidpora areas of the district, police spokesperson said.

"Cases under relevant sections of law have been registered and further investigation into the cases has been initiated," he added.

## Man Held For Raping Deaf And Dumb Woman...

investigation into the matter is going on," the official said.



# Food Safety Deptt Junks "Plastic Egg" Rumours

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** Food safety department Kashmir Tuesday responded to rumours which claim the existence of "plastic eggs", saying that the information is false.

There were reports on social media that police has sealed egg shop at Bohri kadal in Srinagar after they found plastic yolks inside eggs.

Responding to the inaccurate information, the Food Safety Department asks people to not pay heed to rumours of plastic eggs. "Plastic eggs, plastic rice, Injected watermelon, steroid fed/injected chicken etc. These videos are prepared with ulterior motive. Sample reports received from lab of such commodities are testimony to this fact," Assistant Food Commissioner, Hilal Ahmad Mir told news agency.

The rumours, which came into circulation on social media feeds, has been hurting the poultry industry as it detests people from



consuming eggs.

Mir said that it is impossible to qualify a plastic egg as a natural egg. He appealed to the residents to eat eggs as it is the cheapest source of protein for everyone.

"The structure of an egg is complex and when a person breaks the shell, they can eas-

ily remove the shell membrane which looks like plastic, but it is not plastic. If the egg is stale, then the membrane is thicker and looks like plastic, but be assured that it is not plastic as it is not possible to make eggs from plastic," Mir told KINS.

He said they have been receiving a lot of complaints about plastic eggs. "The same issue had occurred few years ago and we had collected a lot of samples, but we could not find evidence of even a single plastic egg. It is wrong to misguide the people and agencies. There are no plastic eggs in the market" he maintained.

He said this time they have also lifted samples for testing.

He said many people are involved in the egg business and the rumours of plastic egg circulating on social media, has a direct impact on them.

The official also appealed to the police that while taking action against egg traders, they should think about the rumours.(KINS)

## Kargil Parties Seek Quick Evacuation Of Stranded Pilgrims

**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** The elected members of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil and several religious leaders and social activists on Tuesday sought early evacuation of the remaining pilgrims in Iran besides creation of Divisional Commissioner's office in the mountainous district, warning that any inaction by the government will spark public agitation.

A meeting of the elected representatives, heads of religious and political organisations besides Panchayat Coordination Committee Kargil was convened at the office of Chairman LAHDC, Kargil in which several resolutions were passed unanimously and the demands were sent to Lieutenant Governor Radha Krishna Mathur for quick perusal, reports said Tuesday.

The copies were also sent to External Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family welfare government of India, one member who attended the meeting told Kashmir Observer.

In the meeting, CEC said

that 316 people from Ladakh were still stranded in Iran after suspension of the flights. He said that during earlier meets with the Ministry of External Affairs it was assured that SOPs for keeping the pandemic in check with regards to the pilgrims would be followed.

"However, contrary to that, no tests as per SOP have been carried out by the concerned agencies for over 70 days," CEC said.

The meeting unanimously agreed that testing for Covid-19 as eligibility for evacuation/ discharge has been rendered redundant due to inaction for the past 70 days, reports said. The meeting called for screening of pilgrims at the airport, as is being done in the undergoing evacuation process.

"The pilgrims have been keeping exceptionally good health during this time. As per revised SOPs of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, all the confirmed Covid-19 pilgrims in Iran can be categorized as "mild/very mild/pre-symptomatic cases" for the last 70 days," the

participants said.

The meeting unanimously passed resolutions calling for "early evacuation of stranded pilgrims from Iran to Ladakh directly, failure of government in taking action in the last 70 days, and that any inaction on part of the government shall be responsible for any law and order situation that follows".

The ongoing evacuation process in the country was also discussed in the meeting wherein all the participants expressed their resentment with the undue hurdles that rise due to the wastage of precious time in the process for routing communications through Divisional Commissioner's office.

"It was noted that even for the permission of a single vehicle, the nod of the Divisional Commissioner presented an avoidable hurdle. With regards to the issue, the house discussed the provision of SRO 110 and SRO 120 of erstwhile state of J&K dated 08-02-2020 and 18-02-2020 that enabled the functioning of the office of the Divisional Commissioner," reads the resolution.

## LAWDA To Avail Services Of NGO To Clean Dal Lake ‘Move Appreciable: Dal Dwellers



**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** Lakes and Waterways Development Authority has roped in NGO's to clean Dal Lake here in Kashmir capital Srinagar.

At a time when thousands of tons of garbage, sewage and drainage find its way into the Dal, Non Government Organization's (NGO's) have come to the rescue of the lake. Sources said that LAWDA has decided to roped in NGO's that are run by Dal dwellers to clean the Dal Lake.

There are various NGO's that are being operated by those living in and around Dal Lake. Sources said that

LAWDA us issued tenders and the NGO with highest bid will be allotted the assignment of cleaning the Dal. "It is a good thing and a nice measure on part of LAWDA. There are various NGO's capable enough to clean and preserve the pristine glory of the Lake. We appreciate the LAWDA official for this decision.

The Dal dwellers will hopefully respond well to the garbage management process and they will cooperate," said a local.

Another local said the LAWDA should avail the services of all NGO's to remove the lily from water, clean channels and other stuff. (KNT)

## Better To Postpone Marriages Scheduled After Eid-Ul-Fitr: Div Com

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P K Pole Tuesday urged people of Kashmir to postpone the marriages scheduled after Eid-ul-Fitr stating that given the restrictions in place in the wake of Covid, people won't be able to celebrate marriages the way they used to earlier.

Pole said that it is better for the people to postpone the marriage ceremonies that at scheduled after Eid. "People won't be able to enjoy the marriages, due to the restrictions in place given the Covid pandemic.

If marriage dates are already fixed, people must get proper permission from the concerned district magistrates and follow Covid protocol," he said. The Divisional Commissioner said that not more than six people should attend marriage ceremonies and that there should be no extravaganza—(KNO)

## COVID-19 Lockdown: Prices Of Vegetables, Mutton, Fruit Sky-Rocket In Bandipora

**Agencies**

**BANDIPORA:** Taking advantage of lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic, shopkeepers and vendors selling essential commodities have hiked prices of vegetables and mutton across the Bandipora district in north Kashmir.

Consumers told news agency, that mutton is sold at Rs 650/ kg, chicken at Rs 190/kg and the rates of vegetables and fruits vary from shop to shop.

They said that shop-

keepers are taking the advantage of this ongoing Covid-19 lockdown and have increased rates on their own.

A consumer said there has been a sharp increase in prices of vegetables from past 20 days "but the concerned authorities have failed to check the same".

"There are no rate lists available with the vegetable sellers. They have also hiked the prices of locally grown vegetables like Collard Greens

(Known as Haakh in Kashmiri parlance), onions, potatoes etc. while the administration is watching as mute spectators," he said.

Salman Nazir a resident of Aragam said that shopkeepers like always are misusing the troubled situations and indulging in open loot and administration too has failed to keep a check on price hiking.

"Most of the shops don't display the rate-list. I made a phone call

to officials but no market checking has been conducted here as rates of essentials continue to sky-rocket," said Salman.

A senior official at the Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) told KNO that the price of vegetables has been fixed as per the market rate.

He said that joint teams have been formed to implement government rates and action was being taken against violators—(KNO)

## 2500 Tablets Distributed Among Students: Dr Samoon

**SRINAGAR:** "2500 tablets stand distributed among the students of 8th, 10th and 11th classes to help them to obtain the education through electronic mode" stated by the Principal Secretary Education, Dr Asgar Samoon while chairing a meeting, adding that distance education has emerged as an important mode of learning over the years.

This was stated by Dr Samoon while reviewing the functioning of education department at an officers meeting held here today.

The meeting was convened in view of the prevailing situation emerged due to

covid-19 pandemic that has affected the normal schooling and education system in J&K.

Speaking on the occasion the Principal Secretary said that the Government is contemplating to create State Centre for Education Research and Training Department on the pattern of NCERT. He said that the focus would be on the face-lifting of school buildings and related infrastructure besides improving the basic facilities like drinking water, washrooms and other allied facilities during the lockdown period. He appreciated the teachers for extending their volunteer services in teach-

ing the students during lockdown period.

The meeting was informed that the department had already distributed over 50 lakh text books among the students. It was also given out that 30% syllabus was already completed at the time of lockdown. The meeting was also told that the education is imparted to students through tele-classes while all available resources are being employed to cover students in remote areas.

The meeting was attended by Director School Education, Kashmir, Mohammad Yunus Malik and other officers of the department.

## LAWDA Demolishes 12 Illegal Constructions, Encroachments

**SRINAGAR:** A demolition drive was launched by the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority today under the supervision of Enforcement Officer in the area of Brein, Shalimar, Teilbal Wangut, Syed Colony Nishat, Lashkari Mohalla, Laam & Dhobi mohalla Shalimar in which 12 illegal constructions/structures were removed. Moreover, illegal earth filling which was dumped in order to build road near Dachigam was also removed and seized on the spot.

It is pertinent to mention here that amid Covid-19, when there is Lockdown everywhere the miscreants are taking undue advantage and indulging in illegal constructions but all such mis-



creants will not be allowed for any sort of violation and raising of illegal constructions/encroachments.

Moreover, all the public residing within the LDA jurisdiction are once again informed that not to go for any sort of illegal constructions / encroachments as the En-

forcement Wing will continue with demolition of illegal constructions. Moreover the Tripper/Load carrier owners are warned not to carry any type of illegal construction material in the prohibited area of Dal/ Nigeen Lake without proper permission from the concerned agencies.

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 535- St Agapitus I begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1110- Crusaders march into Beirut causing a bloodbath
- 1643- Battle of Grantham: English parliamentary armies beat royalists
- 1643- Heavy earthquake strikes Santiago Chile; kills 1/3 of population
- 1648- Construction of the Red Fort at Delhi is completed.
- 1779- War of Bavarian Succession ends
- 1830- Republic of Ecuador is founded, with Juan Jose Flores as president
- 1835- 1st foreign embassy in Hawaii forms
- 1846- US declares war on Mexico, 2 months after fighting begins
- 1861- Queen Victoria announces Britain's position of neutrality
- 1861- The Great Comet of 1861 is discovered by John Tebbutt of Windsor, New South Wales, Australia.
- 1865-Battle of Palmito Ranch, near Brownsville, Texas: final engagement of the American Civil War, Private John Jefferson Williams of B Company, 34th Regiment Indiana Infantry is last man killed
- 1884- Institute for Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE) forms in New York
- 1890- Lord Salisbury offers Helgoland to Germany in exchange for Zanzibar, Uganda & Equatoria
- 1913- 1st four-engined aircraft built and flown (Igor Sikorsky, Russia)
- 1915-US Secretary of State Bryan sends a note to Germany demanding that Germany disavow the attacks on the Lusitania and make immediate reparations; however, the note is written only to 'pacify exited public opinion', according to Bryan
- 1916- 1st observance of Indian (Native American) Day
- 1918- 1st US airmail stamps issued (24 cents)
- 1927 "Black Friday" on Berlin Stock Exchange
- 1934- -Great dustbowl storm sweeps across US prairies
- 1940 German breakthrough at Grebbelinie
- 1941-Martin Bormann is named head of Nazi Chancellery in Germany
- 1942- Helicopter makes its 1st cross-country flight
- 1943- German & Italian forces in Africa surrender
- 1943 -German occupiers confiscate all radios
- 1945-US troops conquer Dakeshi Okinawa
- 1949- 1st British-produced jet bomber, the Canberra, makes its 1st test flight
- 1950- Diner's Club issues its 1st credit cards
- 1952 -Pandit Nehru becomes premier of India
- 1952 The Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament of India, holds its first sitting.
- 1954- US performs atmospheric nuclear test at Enwetak
- 1958-French settlers riot against French army in Algeria
- 1958- Jordan & Iraq form Arab Federation
- 1960-1st launch of Delta satellite launching vehicle; it failed
- 1965 -Several Arab nations break ties with West Germany after it established diplomatic relations with Israel
- 1979- Shah of Iran & family sentenced to death in Teheran
- 1981-Pope John Paul II is shot and critically wounded by Turkish gunman Mehemet Ali Agca in St Peter's Square, Vatican City
- 1992 - 3 astronauts simultaneous walked in space for the 1st time
- 1996 - Severe thunderstorms and a tornado in Bangladesh kill 600 people.
- 1998 - Race riots break out in Jakarta, Indonesia, where shops owned by Indonesians of Chinese descent are looted and women raped
- 1998 - India carries out two nuclear tests at Pokhran, in addition to the three conducted on May 11. The United States and Japan impose economic sanctions on India.
- 1999 - Carlo Azeglio Ciampi is elected 10th President of Italy

HIJRI

CALENDAR

19

RAMAZAN

-UL-

MUBARAK

1441

PRAYERS

FAJR

3: 56

ZUHR

12: 27

ASR

5:21

MAGRIB

7:26

ISHA

8:59

From KO Archives

‘Settlement Nearer Than Ever Before’

Pak Renews Appeal For APHC Unity

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan today asked the moderate and the hardline factions of the Hurriyat Conference to unite saying that solution to the Kashmir issue was "nearer than ever before".

"It is very important that unity comes as soon as possible, Entire Hurriyat leadership is moving in that direction. Hope that Hurriyat will be united body as it was before," Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani told reporters here responding to a query about a meeting of Hurriyat factions in Srinagar to discuss the possibility of reunification.

"We believe that freedom struggle in held Kashmir has reached decisive state where a resolutions of Jammu and Kashmir is nearer than ever before," Jilani said.

Referring to differences over the peace process between moderate faction led by Mirwaz Umer Farooq and hardline faction by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, he said their disagreements were 'peripheral

(Kashmir Observer, 13 May, 2005)



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider

Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja

Switchboard: (0194) 2106304

Editorial: (0194) 2502327

Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsrver.net

## Corona Trade-Off

In his meeting with the Chief Ministers of the states and the heads of union territories, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked them for a blueprint for exiting the lockdown. The consensus that emerged from the meeting was that the time was still not ripe for lifting of the lockdown. The PM at the same time batted for the graded exit from the Coronavirus induced economy. So, he highlighted the significance of green zones in restarting economic activity. He also underlined that the full resumption of rail travel would not be possible, stressing at the same time, the use of technology in imparting education.

India, the PM added, faced two challenges: one, reducing the transmission rate of the coronavirus disease and resuming economic activity slowly. As regards the former, he emphasised that social distancing remained the "biggest weapon" against the virus till a vaccine was found.

Some states like Punjab and Assam echoed the PM's line on lockdown, seeking its extension, albeit in a slightly relaxed form, till the curve was flattened. The meeting lasted over six hours and all chief ministers got an opportunity to speak on the extension of the lockdown. A majority of the CMs urged continuation of the lockdown in containment zones while relaxing it elsewhere.

Meanwhile, Indian Railways has issued guidelines for passenger services that are resuming on Tuesday, asking those boarding the special trains to reach stations at least 90 minutes in advance while also advising them to carry their own food.

The number of cases in India has crossed 70,000 of which more than 22000 have recovered and around 2300 have died. This shows the challenge facing India is getting bigger, albeit the number of patients is still smaller given the size of the country's population.

Also, any decision to reopen the economy will require the government to ramp up testing and tracing protocols to avoid the proliferation of new Covid-19 clusters. Government will have to expand testing and also ensure there are no fresh outbreaks in major urban centres. And this is being done now. The testing capacity has been scaled up to 95000.

However, the upcoming week will be crucial in terms of the trajectory of pandemic in the country in the country. A diminishing number of cases will make it easier to plan an exit strategy. And in any case, the government can't ignore the growing urgency to reopen the economy. And to start with the best strategy would be to considerably ease the lockdown from the least affected areas of the country.

## OTHER OPINION

## Open Up After May 17

As India enters the final week of its extended lockdown, there is a paradox confronting policymakers, which was visible in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with chief ministers on Monday. The lockdown was imposed when the country had just over 500 cases. Today, India has over 70,000 cases. The lockdown has not flattened the curve, though it has slowed the spread of the infection. Is this, then, the right time to end the lockdown? The answer is yes — but with caveats.

Each phase of India's lockdown has looked different, with varying degree of relaxations introduced in red, orange and green zones since May 4. But given the intricate ways in which supply chains are tied together, urban spaces are organised, and the difficulties in implementation, it is clear that while sound in principle, this has been too complex and nuanced a policy framework to be implemented smoothly. It has also not led to the adequate opening of the economy. The government seems to recognise this, and has increasingly begun preparing citizens to learn to live with the virus. Opening up of rail travel, even if in a limited manner, is another hint at the resumption of activities. At the same time, as the PM indicated, the Centre wants to ensure a degree of control over activities to prevent an unmanageable spread of the disease. While opinion among the states is divided on the lockdown, there is a consensus on the need for more economic activities.

Given the economic distress, the fiscal pressure on the states, and the fact that the lockdown is yielding diminishing returns on the health front, the government now needs to open up India. This should be accompanied with five measures. One, give states the authority to declare red, orange and green zones and let them decide on the restrictions they may want, particularly in containment zones — even as the Centre provides them whatever support they need. Two, allow inter-state travel — but primarily by road, while keeping rail and air travel limited, meeting social distancing norms. Three, allow opening up of offices — but with an advisory, not a directive, that work from home should be preferred where possible. Four, keep educational institutions and recreational public places shut for another month. And five, each time a case is reported, institute a firm drill of testing, contact tracing, and isolation. It will be difficult, but India can't remain closed anymore.

(Hindustan Times)

# Why Another Global Conflict Is Unlikely Soon

Landscape Of 2020S Is Volatile, Fast-Moving And Could Change Significantly In Short Order

Andrew Hammond,  
Special to Gulf News

The Sino-US tensions underline that the world of today does have some parallels with the first half of the 20th century. Once again, there is a significant movement in global power taking place. Today, power is shifting to key developing countries with Asian states, especially China, being the primary beneficiaries so far. This contrasts with the first half of the 20th century when the US, especially, but also other nations at various times, including Russia and Germany, were the key 'rising nations'.



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump meets with China's President Xi Jinping.

Friday marked the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day), a momentous occasion in the Second World War, which remains the largest armed conflict in human history. Three quarters of a century on, while another great-power conflict cannot be ruled out, the odds are currently lower than during the first half of the 20th century, despite the deep decay of the post-1945 order.

For amid this year's coronavirus-restricted celebrations of V-E Day, and the later ones in August for Victory in the Pacific Day, there are growing geopolitical tensions, not least between China and the United States. These have spiked recently over what United States President Donald Trump continues to assert is Beijing's cover up of the pandemic in Wuhan which he claims was man-made and originated in a Chinese laboratory, despite failing to disclose evidence to support this jaw-dropping claim.

'Rising nations' The Sino-US tensions underline that the world of today does have some parallels with the first half of the 20th century. Once again, there is a significant movement in global power taking place.

Today, power is shifting to key developing countries with Asian states, especially China, being the primary beneficiaries so far. This contrasts with the first half of the 20th century when the US, especially, but also other nations at various times, including Russia and Germany, were the key 'rising nations'.

And as 100 years ago, geopolitical tensions are mounting as 'revisionist nations' challenge key elements of the US-led international order. This is partly driven by rising economic power resurrecting nationalism and claims for resources, as witnessed by disputes in the South China Sea for instance.

Recent years have also seen Russia's annexation of Ukraine. Yet, it is

perhaps Asia where most tension and insecurity lie in terms of potential for a great-power war. China's remarkable rise is unsettling the region, and indeed much of the world beyond. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is just one of the leading politicians who has drawn parallels between the geopolitical landscape in Asia today and Europe in the first half of the 20th century.

Scrapping US involvement Yet, the irony is that it is the US itself that, under the Trump administration, is also hastening the collapse of the post-war order created after the allied victory over the axis powers. Trump, unlike all his post-war predecessors in the White House, has disowned much of the system of US-led institutions and alliances, promising instead an America-first platform that had the potential to reshape US foreign and trade policy more radically than at any point since the beginning of the Cold War.

Trump, for instance, has shifted away from this post-war orthodoxy — pursued by both Democratic and Republican presidents — by scrapping US involvement in the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal with key allies in Asia-Pacific and the Americas; withdrawing from the Paris climate change deal agreed by over 170 nations; and threatening the future of the World Trade Organisation and World Health Organisation. He has also re-negotiated other international and regional deals including the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Key differences So these risks are real, significant, and could yet grow substantially in the 2020s. However, as of May 2020, there are also some key differences with the world of the first half of the 20th century which, in the absence of catastrophic miscalculation, makes a major power war unlikely for the foreseeable future.

This is not least because memories of not just the Second World War, but

also the First World War linger powerfully today. Aside from the many millions who died in both conflicts, these wars set in chain several developments which blighted the world for decades to come. These include the emergence of Communism in Russia and — as numerous historians assert — the rise of Nazi Germany and the seeds of the Second World War which led on, in turn, to the Cold War.

Brake on major-power conflict Another major difference between now and most of the first half of the 20th century, before the atomic age began in 1945 with the detonation of the first nuclear bomb, is the presence of nuclear weapons which, as during the Cold War, generally serve as a brake on major-power conflict. It is noteworthy here that both revisionist nations, as well as 'status-quo powers' in the West, possess atomic arsenals.

Yet another key change is that, unlike much of the first half of the 20th century, one of the key legacies of the Second World War is a dense web of post-war international institutions, especially the United Nations, which continue to have significant resilience and legitimacy decades after their creation. While these bodies are imperfect, and in need of reform, the fact remains that they have generally enabled international security, especially with five of the key powers on the UN Security Council.

Erosion of 1945 post-war settlement Taken overall, the prospect of a major-power conflict for the foreseeable future is therefore not as high as in the first half of the 20th century. Yet, the landscape of the 2020s is also volatile, fast-moving and could yet change significantly in relatively short order, especially if erosion of the 1945 post-war settlement continues apace.

Andrew Hammond is an Associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics.



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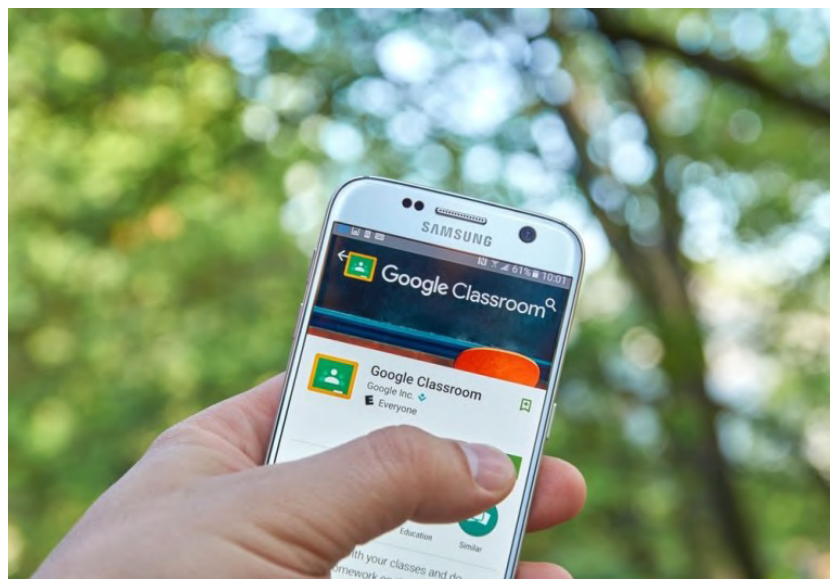
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## Reality Of Google Classroom's In Kashmir

Pandemic COVID-19 has invaded almost all countries and mortality rate has reached to 285K and no one knows where this pandemic will stop. Till date, no vaccine has been made that will provide a sigh of relief to humanity, although, there are claims that many are under trial and may hit the market by the end of September, 2020. However, as per the statements of WHO chief Dr Tedros Adhanom, COVID 19 will remain with us for long.

Apart from number of casualties, it has crippled the economy of almost every country and every individual all over the globe is worst hit directly and indirectly. Student community by and large is the soft victims of this pandemic, especially in regions where smart classes is a dream or where it is dead letters on white pages. Further, in regions where this technology has been introduced by chance not by



choice is just like "the position of a person who is blindfolded and is com-

pelled to read and write".

Most of my friends who somehow are delivering smart classes may not agree with me as they have to prove that they are the followers of this system. They don't want to tarnish their image at the cost of student's career. After all they are all in this system and need not to bother about the students who are from the families who hardly manage a meal in these times. How can they afford the smart phones to join the Google Class Room, if there is any. In addition to that there are hundreds of students who are not exposed to this system and it will take months to teach them, to use this technology for their study purposes. Further, a group of students who are reluctant and have many other ways of entertainment will hardly bother about this system. The challenge with the speed of internet in Kashmir also keeps students away from the Google Class Rooms.



# A Transition From Pessimism To Optimism

Dr. Javid Ahmad Mallah

Though COVID-19 is an inherently negative experience, we cannot change its nature but we can change our approach to it and make sense of it. There are many ways to find or assign meaning to our present circumstances.

It cannot be denied that the post-modern humans are living today in an unsatisfactory human condition after the horror of the novel COVID-19. This critical situation reminds me, Karl Jaspers's idea of the "boundary situation". The boundary situation is generally different from other situations. In the sense, it undermines humans' sense of security and threatens its entire being. One can imagine of boundary situation when one's life is shattered by extreme circumstances that seem difficult to overcome. A situation becomes a boundary situation 'when it succeeds in awakening the individual self to its existential content. As we observe today the atmosphere of anxiety and dread of death spreading throughout the world. The phenomenon of fear prominently the nosophobia and hypochondria not only generates psychological instability and existential anxiety in the people but also sharpens individuals' consciousness of the final call (death) that is not less threatening. The idea of boundary situations is structurally associated with an individual's acute existential awareness and its manifold sufferings. The term 'boundary situation' is used as a metaphor that signifies a critical threshold, not as a barrier to individual achievement. Thus, it is important to see whether the general features of the boundary situation apply to the horror of COVID-19? Since each situation is unique so it cannot be applied to all cases universally but any situation that affects deeply the very structure of the individual being is a boundary situation. In this connection COVID-19 is relevant in the sense; it sharply recalls mankind its true ontological picture i-e "individual finitude". More importantly, it highlights the significance of individual attitude towards boundary situations in life. Hence, how to deal with the horror of COVID-19 becomes an important question?

Since there are pre-given options available to the general public such as quarantine, social distancing, even nine minutes lightning added in the list. No matter what you believe but it is necessary to keep oneself as well others safe by acting rationally and responsibly. Moreover, I think a positive attitude and mindset is equally required to face the horror of the COVID-19. Taking the sufferings of this pandemic positively and assigning meaning to it would be a profoundly significant task that can help people to confront it in a meaningful way with courage and dignity. There are both positive and negative ways of assigning meaning to this life-threatening pandemic. But one must adopt a positive attitude; a negative attitude means resigning oneself to it. Broadly speaking the whole world as of now is facing this traumatic wave that has brought extreme suffering to the entire humanity. A positive attitude gives us hope and makes us feel at ease.

There is no permanent state of human life. An Individual's life is constantly moving into different spheres of pain and pleasure. No matter if pain outweighs pleasure life, however, should be accepted with all sufferings and hardships. The hard realities of life should be admitted with the hope that it is not going to stay forever. As stated in the Quran "surely with every hardship there is ease". This approach neither changes the nature of the suffering nor demystifies it rather it prepares the human person to accept it and confront it with courage.

No doubt present situations are critical in terms of human suffering. But humanity's suffering is not new rather it is as old as humanity. One can recall historical events like world wars, natural disorders, diseases that have caused huge damage and destruction to human life. We know that humans experienced misery and

suffering since the first man Adam came to the world and human suffering will exist as long as humans exist. Thus human existence and suffering are ontologically linked together. In this connection, one should take the adversities, difficulties, and strivings as a lot of human life. But at the same time, it is equally important to know that humans alone have the propensity to deliver its suffering and making sense of it. Therefore, we must see the present situation as a new phase of human suffering. In this situation also life cannot be lived without struggle and suffering. Thus, it shows that suffering, struggle, and death are inevitable human conditions and the best way of dealing with it is admitting it and confronting it instead of evading it.

Though COVID-19 is an inherently negative experience, we cannot change its nature but we can change our approach to it and make sense of it. There are many ways to find or assign meaning to our present circumstances. Each human person can see this pandemic from a diverse point of view. Some take it as a response from nature/ planet earth to which we rational beings seem more damaging than any disease or virus. As it's observed that human's unethical and irresponsible approach to nature has brought the whole world to the greater threat of global warming. An American philosopher Noam Chomsky also reveals in his recent interview that the two great threats are approaching the world, 'global warming' and 'nuclear war'. As of now, the whole world is overwhelmed by the horror of Coronavirus. I came across one of the speakers saying nature too experiments and "what if this Coronavirus is nature's way of eliminating the human virus". It sounds high and reminds rational species (humans) to correct themselves and act responsibly for the benefit of the whole. Otherwise, nature may discard human species too as it discarded other species like dinosaurs, ramapithecus and so on. Finding any meaning with a positive attitude can make the present suffering easy to face and probably inculcates a sense that stops us from being cruel, selfish and irresponsible to nature.

Any meaning that can be assigned to our present human condition depends on what perspective we behold. I think any attempt to examine the offshoot of individual actions is the beginning of the change. The present circumstances seem to offer the opportunity to each individual to revisit his/her stock of merit and demerit (karmas) and try to rectify them. Human actions from a moral and religious point of view are supposed to minimize pain, maximize general happiness, promote well-being and justice in all spheres of life but on the contrary, the condition of humans in the world today is seriously different. The beliefs of capitalism and fascism have changed human's moral and social order. Do we ever bother to examine our endeavors and stand accountable?

Have we ever thought that the wrong use of power has certainly enhanced human agony and suffering? Humanity throughout the world experiences lockdown and restrictions. Maybe this experience will remind them of life in Kashmir, Syria, and Palestine. Maybe they will rethink the extreme sufferings, exploitation, and killings of innocent people. How can we forget a Syrian, bleeding kid saying "I swear to God we do not have anything to eat and drink" because they have been bobbied, killed and their houses destroyed in the Syrian crisis. I watched him narrating his malice and atrocities. He seems expecting nothing from the world but his statement "I am going to tell Allah everything" sounded very high. How can we avoid such striking experiences? The story is not confined to one child there is much more to the

story of human suffering. Doesn't it open new avenues of thought? Maybe the idea of hereafter where justice in terms of reward and punishment is promised. Doesn't it create a sense that God has to respond because justice could not prevail in the human kingdom? And what if the present situation is just the beginning of the wrath of God?

Today's condition of the world is getting worst day by day. We observe sudden imprisonment, world-wide lockdown; cessation of all human activity. In this time disintegration and separation have become prevention, romance, hugs, and kisses become weapons. The fear of death has forgotten the fashion of atheism. Dread, forlornness, and chaos make people feel that no human power is that valuable or wealth that powerful to release mankind the clutches of agony and suffering. Thus, in the present boundary situation, people seem not craving for material things not desiring for worldly pursuits. At the moment, people sincerely approaching God for their ontological exigency except for those whose eyes, ears and hearts are sealed. In a pragmatic sense, this belief is true because it has utility and it affects people at the larger level, changing their attitudes, releasing their fears, gives them hope and healing in their difficult situations. Thus approaching the present situation from the religious standpoint also makes it easy and tolerable.

The interesting aspect of the present boundary situation is its awakening call that reminds the human person its "existential finite" and brought major human activity on the moral paradigm. One can find a tremendous change in human behavior in real-life situations. Thus, the pandemic despite being panic brought an apparent change in the people. The sudden move from ordinary lifestyle to moral and religious spheres shows a major fall in immoral practices and wrongdoings of people excluding practices of the priests of hatred and violence. This expected change may liberate the world from overloaded impurity, hatred, violence and so on and bring peace, love, goodness, and justice into the world. At least one must assume that the present situation wants us to correct ourselves, correct our roles as rational and moral beings, and correct our relationship with nature, with fellow beings, and with God. The present circumstances are hard but it gives ample opportunity to add a deeper meaning to one's lives.

In the end, no matter what the situation is each individual being have the potential to confront and strive against the difficulties of life. At this time an individual should rationalize his/her present condition in the world its sufferings. Some people in the present situation are scared some are terrifying and anxious. Some are thinking about the horrifying end of life. Some say lives are being lost and livelihood ravaged. Nonetheless, the present situation made human life uncomfortable in the presence of widespread disease. The anxiety of self-annihilation is necessary to overcome. All these are real feelings of being-in-the-world. But we know that we are mortal. We must accept our finitude as an inescapable fact and welcome it when we find it knocking; our dignity consists in this thought. Our death will open the gates of the new world and take us to the realm where justice, eternal happiness, and beauty are promised.

Author teaches Philosophy at Govt Degree College, Kulgam, Kashmir.

Riyaz Ahmad Dar

We used to put on different faces just to fake around but now things have become so strange and suspicious that even our hypocrisies are concealed by the masks which has become a new norm and necessity. With each heavy breath we take underneath, let's awake our conscience and sanitise our thoughts. Let's subdue the scandalous Kurdugulo in us through restrain and fear for Allah.

THE BLESSED month of Ramazan is here again to give us opportunity for seeking Allah's mercy. On it's arrival, there is a spiritual feeling of freshness which envelopes us. We try to detoxify our souls through prayers and body by fasting. We repent for our sins and reflect on our shortcomings. From dawn to dusk, we remain steadfast.

This was the time when we would increase our attendance across the mosques. Mosques everywhere used to be jam-packed with 'Ramazan Nimazies'. We saw unusual rush and enthusiasm among the people. Sahar Khan's beating the drums and calling out Waqt-e-Sahar at the top of their lungs. At the time of breaking our fast at Iftar, we used to offer one another dates, juices, fruits and ferrini packets. Ramazan would bring us together with food and friends making it a special occasion to rekindle the past memories and revive the beauty of togetherness. But this year's Mah-e-Ramzan is going to be all together different and difficult due to the fear of coronavirus.

From Kaaba to Karbala, Mashhad to Medina, all holy places are closed. There will be no religious gatherings. People cannot be put at the risk. Mosques are closed all over the world to prevent the spread of pandemic. There are no Taravah prayers, no Iftar parties, no daily Quranic majalis. We are caught in a grave situation but we cannot give up our hopes on the mercy of Allah. Things won't be the same the way they used to be but we should capitalise on the opportunity that Allah SWT has given us. Here we've one more Ramazan to observe and seek His forgiveness. Let's see the brighter side of this terrible situation. In every adversity there lies an opportunity. Cannot it be a blessing in disguise, as the lockdown means ample time for us to have a thorough observance to all the details and duties enjoined upon us.

Let's grab this opportunity and stay focused on the path which leads to the salvation. Thankfully, there will

## Ramazan In The Time Of Pandemic



be no cacophony of noise in these pandemic times. It is the right time for us to reflect on and discover the nature, discipline and develop our inner selves. We have to evaluate each and every aspect of life very minutely to get the best out of the situation otherwise the same daily routine will follow and that would certainly make us sick and sluggish. The situation might be desperate and disheartening but it is slowing us down perhaps for our good. It's also teaching us how to be patient, the most important lesson of Ramazan. We can set back our selves on the path of almighty through purification of soul and the struggle against self.

LET me share with you few personal experiences which might help us to correlate certain things with the present situation. A lot of work needs to be done for our self improvement. Our time is

very precious lets look at all those opportunities that are still there for us.

To fight the Covid spread, it has been repeatedly conveyed to us that personal hygiene is the key to remain safe. We Muslims believe that cleanliness is half of the faith. Let's look into its deeper meaning and realise whether it should matter for us or not.

Few years back, on a pleasant Friday morning I was at Masjid-e-Zahra in Sharjah for Fajr prayers followed by congregational recitation of Dua-e-Nudbah. Post our prayers, an Iranian worshiper praying with us asked a Kashmiri youth who was shabbily dressed about his profession. The youth replied that he was working as Customer Care Representative at a bank. What Iranian told him surprised all those present nearby. He tersely asked the boy whether he meets his boss and customers in the same attire?

He had a valid point when he said that isn't Allah SWT Master of Masters and should not we be prepared in proper attire before visiting Him as well. If we look around our masjids, we won't be surprised to find many people taking their personal hygiene for granted while they mingle with other worshippers. Many least bother about personal hygiene as we all have met people with bad breath and stinking socks to say the least. Isn't it necessary to pray in neat and clean attire? Why only office spaces, isn't it mandatory to visit mosques well dressed and well groomed? Don't we need to make our visits to places of worship a pleasant affair? It is a healthy pursuit to keep the diseases at bay and also it speaks about our upbringing.

The best thing about spending Ramazan in UAE was the office timings which used to be 10 A -M 2 PM, so that em-

ployees could get enough time to relax and pray. There is not much work pressure. People can pray at ease. Everyday in Ramazan, many local Arabs pray and also recite Dua-e-Joshan Kabeer taught by Imam Ali (AS) at crack of dawn.

Due to lockdown we don't have to attend to our work. The women of our household have always been toiling hard to keep the bits and pieces together. From cooking to cleaning they are doing it for us selflessly with utmost devotion. In this month, doesn't they deserve our special attention by helping them in daily chores. The present crises can cause price spike and scarcity of food items due to the logistic barriers. Therefore the need of the hour is to create kitchen gardens. Remember, facilitating household responsibilities along with the women folk is nothing less than worship.

Our tongue is the main culprit for many sins that we commit. Hazrati Ali (AS) once said "One who talks too much makes the most mistakes". Back biting will always have adverse consequences and wrath from Allah SWT. In the confines of our humble abode, with social distancing, maintain social decency as well. Quarantine your heart and mind in the solitudes of Allah's Zikr.

We used to put on different faces just to fake around but now things have become so strange and suspicious that even our hypocrisies are concealed by the masks which has become a new norm and necessity. With each heavy breath we take underneath, let's awake our conscience and sanitise our thoughts. Let's subdue the scandalous Kurdugulo" in us through restrain and fear for Allah.

### Bottomline

We have the time and choice to establish a deeper connection with Allah. Let's nourish our souls with the spiritual diet of cleanliness, charity, compassion and character. This pandemic has shown us how fragile is our existence. We can achieve holistic growth and peace only when we suppress and control our Nafse Amara. Our success lies in the deeds which will assure us the right place that we deserve in the hereafter.

Author is a columnist and can be reached at: riyazahm72@gmail.com



# How Long Does It Take To Recover From COVID-19?

## Surviving The Coronavirus May Not Feel Like Recovery For Some

Jason Horowitz/ New York Times

Rome: When Morena Colombi tested negative for the coronavirus March 16, the official tallies counted her among the COVID-19 recoveries, a success amid the tragedies overwhelming Italy. But she was nowhere near recovered, her cough and crippling fatigue nowhere near gone.

Five weeks later, on April 21, she returned to her job developing colours for a cosmetics company, but with shortness of breath and aching muscles, she found herself unable to take even short walks. Another test confirmed that she was no longer infected. But 11 weeks after testing positive, on the same day that Italy first quarantined towns, she is still not back to normal.

"It takes a long time," said Colombi, 59, who lives in Truccazzano, outside the northern city of Milan. "I can't get back into my natural rhythms."

Italy was the first European country to be hit hard by the pandemic - its intensive care units inundated and its elderly dying in droves before the tsunami reached Spain, France, the United States or Britain. And so Italy is also ahead in coming to grips with the long duration of the illness and the lasting consequences for some survivors.

Many Italians have grown

painfully familiar with the way the infection can hang on for weeks, the symptoms can linger for weeks more and full recovery can take longer still - if it ever arrives. Of the more than 218,000 people in Italy who have tested positive, more than 30,000 have died and the government lists more than 103,000 as recovered.

**Physical and financial uncertainty**

The stubbornness of the virus and the length of the convalescence have become topics of conversation in northern Italy, where some of the longest-suffering Italians are finding themselves in physical and financial uncertainty, unable to shake sickness and fatigue and get back to work.

Their experience may also be instructive to other nations struggling to get their economies moving again.

"We have seen many cases in which people take a long, long time to recover," said Alessandro Venturi, director of the San Matteo hospital in the Lombardy town of Pavia, adding that the discomfort often seems to last even longer for people with lighter symptoms.

"It's not the sickness that lasts for 60 days; it is the convalescence," he said. "It's a very long convalescence."

Most people who catch the virus have few symptoms or none, but some get very sick, most of-



ten with pneumonia. Any pneumonia damages the lungs, which can take months to heal, and doctors warn that the harm might not be completely reversible.

**Damage to organs**

Studies also point to kidney, heart, liver and neurological damage, often from secondary infections, and no one knows what the long-term prospects are for those patients.

But even some of the infected who have avoided pneumonia

describe a maddeningly persistent and unpredictable illness, with unexpected symptoms. Bones feel broken. The senses dull. Stomachs are constantly upset. There are good days and then bad days without apparent rhyme nor reason.

The afflicted find the simplest tasks taxing. Testing is still mostly reserved for the hospitalised, and so people suffering less severe but stubborn symptoms are trailed by doubt about whether

they have the virus.

Dr Annalisa Malara, an intensive care physician in Codogno, southeast of Milan, who diagnosed Italy's first case of the outbreak in February, said there was still no clear understanding of why the virus and its effects lingered so long.

"Lack of energy and the sensation of broken bones" are common, she said, adding that fatigue often lingered "even after the more intense symptoms are gone."

**'It never finishes'**

In the north of Italy, the epicentre of the contagion in that country, a partial lifting of the lockdown this month has allowed more family and friends to compare notes on their experiences.

"It never finishes," said Martina Sorlini, a 29-year-old math and physics high school teacher who has been running a low-grade fever since the beginning of March.

She said that the cough and sore throat eventually went away, and that after three weeks she got her sense of taste and smell back, and even found enough energy to run and tend vegetables in her garden.

Then came stomach aches, fatigue and the return of fever. And it hasn't left, making it extremely tiring to teach her online high school classes.

"I was convinced that I was better. They don't know what happened," Sorlini said. "They are seeing everything for the first time too."

**Imperfect testing**

Testing has been imperfect, and not everyone has access to it. Ingrid Magni, 44, got fever and chills March 21.

"It never left me," she said, adding that she started suffering intense headaches after about three weeks.

Doctors could only recommend over-the-counter painkillers and bed rest. She got winded

just making her bed.

"I had to sit down," she said. "I was too tired."

Without the eligibility to receive a swab test, which is usually reserved for hospital patients, she told her boss at a chemical plant that she would get an antibody test, which could be used to trigger an official swab test for the virus itself if antibodies are detected.

But the results have not come back. She is eager to get back to work by the middle of the month and is not sure how many more sick days the doctor will sign off on.

Others just want to feel better. Albertina Bonetti, 77, from Tre-score Balneario, near Bergamo, developed nausea and fever March 7, followed by dry heaves and diarrhea. After 10 days of fever, her legs began hurting so much that she could not put her feet on the ground.

She needed an oxygen tank from March 20 to the end of April, but when she went to a hospital, the staff refused to admit her - so she, too, remained untested.

Bonetti said that she still had shortness of breath and fatigue and that her senses remained out of whack. She misses normal life and the taste of her latte in the morning.

"It leaves something inside you," she said of the virus. "And you never go back the way you were before."

## People Worried More About Health Of Loved Ones: Study



Press Trust Of India

Amid the COVID-19 outbreak, most of the people are more concerned about the health of their near and dear ones than their own well-being, says a study conducted by a leading business school in Goa.

People are now more conscious about any bodily changes, and even mild cold, cough and sneezing, it says.

The study, on public's reaction towards COVID-19 outbreak by gauging their psychological response in terms of anxiety and their coping behaviour, was conducted by the Goa Institute of Management's Dr Divya Singhal and Prof Padhmanabhan Vijayaraghavan.

It took into account inputs from 231 respondents residing in various parts of the country.

"Nearly 82.25 per cent of the respondents were more worried about the health of their loved ones than their own well-being," Singhal said.

"Majority of the respondents have become conscious of any bodily changes, sensations, a mild cold, cough, sneezing and experience concern, and attribute those changes to the symptoms of COVID-19," she said.

Besides, more than 50 per cent of the respondents said their social media usage has gone up as well as their time

spent on watching movies and shows through online medium, the official said.

The respondents agreed that their technology usage to connect with friends and relatives has gone up, she said.

The study also indicated that a large group of respondents found it "depressing" to read forwarded messages on the deadly disease.

"An overwhelming majority of the respondents agreed that they discourage unverified forwarded messages about COVID-19 on social media," says the study.

It also found that 41 per cent of the respondents were not doing any physical activity, like yoga, during the lockdown period, while another 19 per cent were not sure about engaging themselves in physical activities.

Besides, 57 per cent of the respondents were not engaged in any mind-calming practices like meditation, and 18 per cent were not sure about taking up meditative practices, the study said.

The respondents included 145 men and 86 women, aged 18 and above, with nearly 60 per cent of them residing in non-metro cities and rest from metros.

About 47.62 per cent of the respondents were employed in private or government sectors, and the remaining included students, retired persons and homemakers.

## 'Even Animals May Resort To Physical Distancing To Prevent Microbes'

Press Trust Of India

Scientists say they have uncovered evidence in animals about the importance of maintaining physical distance to minimise the spread of certain microbes among individuals.

The study, published in the journal Animal Behaviour, observed monkeys in the wild to understand what role genetics, diet, social groupings and distance in a social network play when it comes to the microbes found inside an animal's gut.

"Social microbial transmission among monkeys can help inform us about how diseases spread," said Eva Wikberg, an assistant professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) in the US.

"This has parallels to our current situation in which we are trying to understand how social distancing during the COVID 19 pandemic and future disease outbreaks may influence disease transmission," Wikberg said.

The gut microbiome refers to all the microorganisms inhabiting the digestive tract, starting with the stomach and ending with the colon.

The researchers noted that over the past decade the microbiome has come under more scientific focus because it's believed that an unhealthy gut microbiome can lead to obesity, impaired immune function, weakened parasite resistance and even behavioural changes.

They studied the faecal matter of 45 female colobus



monkeys that congregated in eight different social groups in a small forest by the villages of Boabeng and Fiema in Ghana. The scientists saw major differences among social groups' gut microbiomes. However, individuals from different groups that were more closely connected in the

population's social network had more similar gut microbiomes, the researchers said.

This discovery indicates that microbes may be transmitted during occasional encounters with members of other social groups. A similar setting may be when people come into one-metre proximity of each

other at a store, they said.

Being in close proximity or accidentally brushing up against someone else may be all it takes to transmit certain microbes, the researchers said.

They suggest that microbes transmitted this way help the colobus monkeys digest the leaves in their diet.

However, the team said further research is needed to investigate whether this type of transmission yields health benefits, which could explain why different social groups occasionally have friendly between-group encounters.

"Studies of wild animals can teach us a lot about the importance of using interventions, such as social distancing, to ensure a safer community during this pandemic," said Wikberg.

## Women Depend On Online Pharmacies, Googled Guides As Abortion Clinics Stay Shut In US

Agencies

**WASHINGTON:** One week after Sally realised she was pregnant, her home state Texas temporarily banned abortions, deeming them unnecessary elective procedures that were suspended because of the coronavirus crisis.

So, the 34-year-old, whose name has been changed for this story to protect her privacy, took matters into her own hands—something she never would have considered in the past.

Having split with her boyfriend, she decided to buy pills on the internet, and perform her own abortion at home.

It's illegal, and certainly stressful, but more and more women—faced with difficult decisions during a time of national crisis—are going that route.

"It came in a little Manila envelope. And it was just a five-pack of pills. No instructions—nothing," Sally told AFP from her home in Dallas.

Getting the pills was not easy. The first two sites she consulted were out of stock. After sending \$250 to a third site and enduring several long days of waiting, the envelope arrived.

By then, it had been 10 weeks since her last period—



the absolute limit in the United States for a medical abortion. "I was so terrified," she said.

She googled online to figure out how to use the pills for what is called a "self-managed" abortion.

She took the first pill—mifepristone, commonly known in the US as RU-486, which is used to stop the development of the pregnancy.

The four other pills were misoprostol, which triggers the actual abortion. And then Sally took painkillers.

After a night of "really bad" cramps, and bleeding that "shocked" her, everything went as expected. Sally went back to work the following day, "relieved" that the pills worked properly.

"I would have rather had medical supervision, for sure," she says without hesitation.

Beyond the legal ramifications, how does one find websites where the pills are sold? How do you make sure you get them quickly?

Dozens of women like Sally are exchanging advice, tips and notes about their experiences in the abortion forum on the popular social network Reddit.

**Soaring sales**

A woman's right to have an abortion is protected by the landmark US Supreme Court decision in Roe v Wade.

Even in normal times, that right has come under threat in some conservative-leaning US states. But several states sought to capitalize on the virus crisis to advance their campaigns.

There are also natural impediments to getting an abortion in a time of national crisis: the fear of getting infected at a clinic, the inability to leave home to get the procedure, or even financial distress due to sudden unemployment.

To help women buy their own pills online, the Plan C site lists eight online vendors, and ranks them in terms of price and speed of shipment.

The pills sold by those vendors have been tested and declared reliable in 2018.

One online retailer who asked not to be identified told AFP that sales in the US "increased by 150 percent in April compared to March."

Visits to the Plan C website had doubled by late April as compared with a month before.

## Some Useful Office Tips To Avoid Covid-19 Spread At Home



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** In a bid to stop the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) at the workplace, FMCG major ITC has shared some key tips for working professionals to avoid the spread of the deadly virus at office as well as home.

According to the advisory, wearing a mask at all times, practising social distancing, sanitise hand on touching any surface and frequently washing hands for at least 20 seconds, are four important rules if you are stepping out for work.

When you reach the office, prefer stairways and if you are taking lifts, maintain distance, use elbows/arms to open doors, and ensure office space, desktop surfaces etc., are sanitized.

When you're in the office, prefer e-meetings, attend conference room meetings with minimum people and follow strict distancing.

In the office, sanitize/ wash your hands with soap and water after the use of equipment like a photocopier, refrigerator, shredder, water dispenser, etc, bring lunch from home and eat strictly in your space.

According to the advisory, people in office should avoid going in and out of office premises, enter and exit once.

After leaving the office, keep masks on, ask family members to keep the door open, leave shoes outside home and bags at the entry.

Wash hands, disinfect bag, shoes, wash clothes and mask your worn and take shower, the advisory said.



## Boris Johnson Releases 50-Page Plan To Ease Lockdown, Mask-Use Advised

The latest document setting out the UK government's guidelines for the modest easing of lockdown measures in place to curb the spread of coronavirus from Monday has added advice for people to use face coverings on public transport.

While the devolved administration of Scotland already recommends the use of face masks in public, this is the first time that the UK government has made it a part of its set of guidelines for the conditional plan announced by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday night to track and trace the deadly virus.

As more people return to work, there will be more movement outside people's immediate household,"

notes the advice within a 50-page document setting out details of a planned timetable for lifting COVID-19 restrictions.

"This increased mobility means the government is now advising that people should aim to wear a face-covering in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not always possible and they come into contact with others that they do not normally meet, for example on public transport or in some shops," it reads.

As Johnson sets out in his weekend speech and a Parliament statement on Monday, the government is proposing a three-step plan.

In step one, starting on Wednesday, workers who cannot work from home should travel to work if their workplace is open, and workplaces should follow new "COVID-19 Secure" guidelines.

The government is also urging

more vulnerable children, who are already able to attend school, to do so.

In step two, which will begin no earlier than June 1, nurseries and primary schools will begin a phased return.

At first, this will only involve early years, reception, and years one and six.

But the government's ambition is that all primary school children in England should return to school for a month before the summer.

Some businesses will be able to reopen and sporting events will be able to take place behind closed doors - but not hairdressers or beauty salons.

The government is seeking advice on allowing people to expand their household group and examining how small weddings can be better facilitated.

In step three, which will start no



earlier than July 4, more businesses will be able to open—although some, which are crowded by design, will not be able

to open.

Under Johnson's conditional plan, all these dates could be delayed if not enough progress is made in tackling the virus, with restrictions reintroduced to prevent a so-called second peak of the virus.

In further guidance, the document says it is likely that the government will continue to advise people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to continue to shield beyond June.

The government has faced criticism over the latest set of guidelines, which have been branded as vague.

Opposition Labour Leader Keir Starmer said the UK PM's new guidelines were "unravelling" and "a bit all over the place".

## Children Face Greater Risk From COVID-19 Than Previously Thought: Study



**NEW YORK:** Children, teens, and young adults are at greater risk for severe complications from COVID-19 than previously thought, according to a study which says those with underlying health conditions are at even greater risk.

"The idea that COVID-19 is sparing of young people is just false," said study co-author Lawrence Kleinman from Rutgers University in the US.

According to the study, published in JAMA Pediatrics, children are more likely to get very sick if they have other chronic conditions like obesity.

"It is also important to note that children without chronic illness are also at risk. Parents need to continue to take the virus seriously," Kleinman cautioned.

The study, published in JAMA Pediatrics, is the first to describe the characteristics of seriously ill paediatric COVID-19 patients in North America.

In the research, the scientists assessed 48 children and young adults—from newborns to 21 years old—who were admitted to paediatric intensive care units (PICUs) in the US and Canada for COVID-19 in March and April.

The study noted that more than 80 per cent of the children had chronic underlying conditions, such as immune suppression, obesity, diabetes, seizures, or chronic lung disease.

Of these children, 40 per cent depended on technological support due to developmental delays or genetic anomalies, the researchers said.

More than 20 per cent experienced failure of two or more organ systems due to COVID-19, they said, adding that nearly 40 per cent required a breathing tube and ventilator.

At the end of the follow-up period, about 33 per cent of the children were still hospitalised due to COVID-19, the scientists reported in the study.



**A BABY IS TAKEN AWAY** by ambulance after gunmen attacked a maternity hospital, in Kabul, Afghanistan [Rahmat Gul/AP Photo]

## Babies Among 14 Killed As ISIS Attacks Maternity Ward In Kabul

Gunmen stormed a maternity hospital in the western part of Kabul, setting off an hours-long shootout with the police and killing 14 people, including two newborn babies, their mothers and an unspecified number of nurses.

At least 14 people were killed in the morning assault on the Barchi Hospital, officials said on Tuesday.

Security forces earlier cordoned off the area as they evacuated more than 80 women and infants from the hospital, where medical charity Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF) runs a maternity clinic.

The interior ministry spokesman, Tareq Arian, said 15 others, including women, men and children were wounded in the attack.

Three foreign nationals were among those safely evacuated, he said, without elaborating. It was unclear why the maternity hospital in Dashti Barchi, a 100-bed facility, was targeted - an attack Arian said was an "act against humanity and a war crime".

At least three attackers wearing police uniforms entered the hospital located in the Dashti Barchi neighbourhood of Kabul, throwing grenades and shooting, officials said.

A paediatrician who fled the

hospital told AFP news agency he heard a loud explosion at the entrance of the building in Dashti Barchi, a mostly Shia neighbourhood that has seen past attacks by the ISIL (ISIS) armed group.

"The hospital was full of patients and doctors, there was total panic inside," the doctor said, asking not to be named.

The 100-bed government-run facility is supported by MSF, said Wahidullah Mayar, a spokesman for the ministry of public health.

In the evening hours, husbands, fathers and family members of the hospital's patients gathered around the hospital, desperate for news of their loved ones.

A man read out the names of those who had been evacuated to other hospitals.

**Deadly bombing**

In the suicide bombing in the eastern Nangarhar province, the attacker targeted the funeral in Khewa district of a local pro-government militia commander and former warlord who had died of a heart attack on Monday night, said Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the provincial governor.

The interior ministry said the final casualty toll included 24 killed and 68 wounded. The wounded were brought to the Nangarhar provincial hospital, said hospital

spokesman Gulzada Sangar.

Khogyani added the dead included Abdullah Lala Jan, a provincial council member, while his father Noor Agha, a politician, was wounded in the attack.

According to Zabihullah Zemarai, another provincial council member, dozens of people, including, politicians, provincial council members and locals had gathered for the funeral of Shaikh Akram, the militia commander.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid tweeted the Taliban was not involved in the attack.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack in Khost, which killed a child and wounded 10 people.

The bomb was placed in a cart at a local market and remotely detonated, said Adil Haidari, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

The ISIL, meanwhile, said it was behind a spate of attacks on Monday in Kabul when four bombs, one placed under a garbage bin and the other three by the roadside, went off in the northern part of the city, wounding four civilians, including a child.

The Afghan intelligence service said in a statement late Monday the agency arrested an ISIL leader in the region, Zia-ul Haq, also known as Shaikh Abu Omer al-Khorasani.

## Afghanistan: Deadly Suicide Attack Targets Funeral In Nangarhar

At least 24 people have been killed and dozens more wounded in a suicide blast at a funeral in eastern Afghanistan, according to the local government, in one of two attacks to hit the country.

The attacker detonated his explosives in the middle of the funeral ceremony in Kuz Kunar district on Tuesday, Atahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province, said.

Mourners had gathered for the funeral of the commander of the district's police force, Shaykh Akram, who died of a heart attack on Monday night, when the bomber struck, Khogyani said.

According to a provincial council member, dozens of people, including politicians, provincial council members and locals had gathered for the funeral of Shaikh Akram, the militia commander.

The Taliban denied responsibility for the attack.

Battle-weary Nangarhar near the Pakistan border has long been a stronghold for both ISIL (ISIS) and the Taliban and has witnessed some of



the hardest fighting in recent years.

Separately, attackers stormed a maternity hospital in the western part of the Afghan capital on Tuesday, setting off a gun battle with police, officials said.

Afghan forces carried out newborn babies and their mothers as they evacuated the hospital. At least four people were reported wounded.

The violence comes just a day after four roadside bombs exploded in a northern district of Kabul, wounding four civilians including a child.

The bombings were later claimed by ISIL, according to the SITE intelligence group.

In March, at least 25 people were killed by a gunman at a Sikh temple in Kabul, which was later claimed by the group.

In recent months, the armed group has suffered mounting setbacks after being hunted by US and Afghan forces as well as Taliban offensives targeting their fighters, but it still retains the ability to launch major assaults on urban centres.

## Oxfam Says Coronavirus Ceasefire Efforts 'Catastrophic Failure'

The international community's attempts to forge a global ceasefire to help curb the spread of the coronavirus have been a "catastrophic failure", Oxfam International said in a new report published on Tuesday.

Oxfam said fighting continues across many conflict-torn countries despite a March appeal from United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for warring sides to lay down their weapons.

The problem was compounded by a diplomatic failure at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), years of weak investment in peace-building efforts and arms continuing to flow into conflict zones, Oxfam said in the report: Conflict in the time of Coronavirus.

"We expected leadership from the Council as well as many of those countries who say they support a ceasefire, but who nevertheless remain active participants in conflicts around the world, conducting military operations, selling arms and supporting third parties," said Oxfam Interim Executive Director Jose Maria Vera.

curity "potentially leading to an increase in social unrest and violence that would greatly undermine our ability to fight the disease".

Guterres, who called for a ceasefire in all global conflicts on March 23, said the pandemic had hindered all regional, national and international conflict resolution efforts "exactly when they are needed most".

**Investing in 'peace efforts'**  
Oxfam said two billion people living in fragile and conflict-affected states were now at heightened risk from the illness, including in areas where health systems are crippled and hospitals bombed, forcing them to flee into crowded camps.

In the last year alone, the international community spent more than \$1.9 trillion on their militaries. This would have paid for the UN's coronavirus appeal more than 280 times, according to Oxfam.

"Arms exporting countries must stop fuelling conflict and instead make every effort to pressure warring parties to agree to a global ceasefire and invest in peace efforts that can bring a meaningful end to



On May 8, the United States, one of the five permanent members of the UNSC, refused to vote on a UN resolution for a global ceasefire. Oxfam said this was merely the latest in a series of failures that are sustaining conflicts at a time when peace and international cooperation are needed.

The report argues that only a halt in violence would allow an effective response to COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus.

Last month, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned the UNSC that the coronavirus pandemic was a threat to international peace and se-

conflict," Vera said.

The report highlights the situation in the Central African Republic, where the UN announced a suspension of its humanitarian response in areas where armed groups have broken ceasefires; in Myanmar, where the army has rejected domestic and international calls for a comprehensive ceasefire; and in Yemen, where parties involved in the conflict continue fighting despite a unilateral truce.

The WHO on Monday ordered its staff in Houthi-led areas to stop work, citing "credible risks and perceived risks" to their security.

## Overloaded Ventilator Fire Kills 5 Coronavirus Patients In Russia



**MOSCOW:** A fire apparently started by an overloaded ventilator killed five novel coronavirus patients in an intensive care unit in a Russian hospital on Tuesday, news agencies reported.

Russia's emergency ministry confirmed the death of intensive care patients in a hospital in the city of St. Petersburg but did not say how many people had been killed.

"Ventilators are at their limit. According to preliminary data, there was an overload and the machine ignited, which caused the fire," one

source told the Interfax news agency. The emergency ministry said 150 people had been evacuated from the hospital.

The number of new cases of the coronavirus in Russia rose by 11,656, as of Monday, a record daily increase, bringing the official total to 221,344.

Only Britain, Spain and the United States have recorded more cases.

On Saturday, one person was killed after a fire broke out at a Moscow hospital treating patients infected with the coronavirus. — Reuters

### NEWS MAKERS

## Pick A Wife's Name Out Of A Hat: Fatwa On Kuwaiti Polygamist Households Under Covid-19 Curfew

**ABU DHABI:** While the general public is busy taking precautions against the coronavirus and abiding by the requirements of the curfew, there is a segment of polygamist men who have fallen into the clutches of another emerging dilemma - sleeping arrangement for their co-wives.

Men in plural marriage are now confused as they go about their life under curfew and decide with which wife they will spend this period. Though it makes sense that a husband under curfew may opt for living with the one he loves most, there

is a religious duty that he must achieve justice among his wives.

**No strain**  
After all, they should try to make sure that their time is divided equally to avoid jealousy among their wives, so that COVI-19 will not strain their relationship.

With Kuwait enforcing a total curfew running until May 30, Al Rai newspaper took a look at what it's really like to live in a polygamist family during these difficult times and the fatwa (Islamic edict) about the sleeping arrangements in plural marriage under curfew.

Dr. Ahmad Al Hajji Al Kurdi,

member of the Fatwa Committee, an expert in jurisprudence, said that justice in plural marriage is in alimony and good treatment and not in sexual relations and love.

He pointed out that the polygamist husband who had to stay at one of his wife's place because of the total curfew should give the other wives the freedom to choose between acceptance or divorce.

Prof. Mohammad Abdul Gafar Al Sharif, former dean of the Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies, said according to the Maliki school of jurisprudence

it is permissible that the polygamist husband or either of his wives buy time from the affected wife or wives.

Preacher Hai Al Hai, said it is obligatory for the husband in a plural marriage to stay equal time with each wife.

"However, there may be circumstances of fear, travel, or illness, so the husband will have to sleep with one of his wives, and the second, third, or fourth wife must understand the situation of the husband so that he does not suffer harm, disease, or so," Al Hai said.

## 'Go Ask China': Trump Ends Press Conference On A Contentious Note

US President Donald Trump abruptly ended his White House news conference Monday following combative exchanges with reporters Weijia Jiang of CBS News and Kaitlan Collins of CNN. Jiang asked Trump why he was putting so much emphasis on the amount of coronavirus tests that have been conducted in the United States. Why does that matter? Jiang asked.

"Why is this a global competition to you if everyday Americans are still losing their lives and we're still seeing more



cases every day?"

Trump replied that they're losing lives everywhere in the world. "And maybe that's a question you should ask China. Don't ask me. Ask China that question," he said.

Sir, why are you saying that to me, specifically? Jiang asked. Jiang, who has worked for CBS News since 2015, was born in Xiamen, China, and emigrated to the United States with her family at age 2.

Trump said he would say that to anyone who asks a nasty question.

With that, Trump called an end to the news conference and walked away.



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