

Maximum : 20°C
Minimum : 13°C
Humidity : 83%
SUNSET
Today 07:36 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:21 AMHOW BOOKS CAN LIBERATE
YOU FROM PANDEMIC
DISTRESS

BOOKS play a significant role in our life. They say that "When you open a book, you open a new world". I believe that everyone would agree with this statement as books have always been inseparable part of the civilised world. For the majority of people, books are part of their everyday life. A book is like a best friend who never walks away from you. Books are packed with knowledge, gives one insight into life, teaches one to love and over come fear besides helpful advice at the time of need. One can read anything under the sun. Books have been here from ages and without them we would not be knowing of our past, ancestors, cultures and civilizations. Have you ever thought what would have happened if intellectuals never documented their times? A book communicates knowledge and not only knowledge but transmits wisdom from one generation to other.

.....PANORAMA
P5

News Digest

Petrol, Diesel To Get
Costlier From June 01

Srinagar: The petrol as well as the diesel is set to become costlier in Jammu and Kashmir as the government on Friday announced new tax besides surcharge of Rs five per litre on petrol and Rs 1.5 on diesel from June 01, 2020. "In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 and 3A of the Jammu and Kashmir Motor Spirit and

P-02

Edu Institutions To
Remain Shut Till June 15

Srinagar- The government on Friday ordered that all educational institutions and training institutions in the Jammu and Kashmir shall remain closed till June 15. The educational institutions were closed in March in wake of Coronavirus outbreak in Jammu and Kashmir that has claimed 28 lives and infected over 2000 people across the J&K so far.

Highway Shut After
LPG Cylinders Explode

Srinagar: The strategic Srinagar-Jammu highway on Friday was temporarily closed for vehicular traffic after a truck carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders caught fire and triggered huge explosions near Udhampur. A truck carrying hundreds of LPG cylinders caught fire in Tikri area

P-02

Fire Sparks Landmine
Blasts Along LoC

Jammu- A fire that engulfed a large forest area along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district triggered several landmine blasts on Friday, officials said. The fire broke out across the LoC and spread to this side of the border in the Balakote sector, resulting in mine blasts early Friday, they said. Landmines are planted by the security forces to prevent infiltration from across the border. However, there was no loss of life or damage to any

P-02

Minor Girl Drowns
In Sopore

Srinagar: A minor girl died of drowning on Friday in Rafiabad area of Sopore in Baramulla district. Five-year-old Adiya Hameed, daughter of Abdul Hameed slipped into a ditch while her family was busy at their orchard in Behrampora village of Rafiabad this evening, reports said. Her family evacuated her and removed her to the Sub District Hospital (SDH)

P-02

4 Booked For Violating
Quarantine Rules

Jammu: Four persons were booked for violation of quarantine rules in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Thursday night, police officials said. All the four persons were checked at Lakanpur corridor on May 26 by concerned authorities and were asked to report at the administrative quarantine centre in Thandi Khui, Vijaypur, they said.

P-02

China Rejects Trump's Mediation
Offer On Ladakh Face-Off

File Pic: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING- China on Friday rejected US President Donald Trump's offer to mediate between India and China to end their current border standoff.

In a surprise move, Trump on Wednesday offered to "mediate or arbitrate" the raging border dispute between India and China, saying he was "ready, willing and able" to ease the tensions, amid the continuing standoff between the armies of the two Asian giants.

Reacting for the first time to the US president's offer, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said, the two countries

PAGE 02

India Gives Lie To Trump Claim On Ladakh Row

Top government sources on Friday virtually contradicted US President Donald Trump's claim of a conversation between him and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on India's ongoing military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

There has been no recent contact between Prime Minister Modi and President Trump, the sources said.

The clarification came hours after Trump said in Washington

P-02

Trump Says, PM Modi 'Not In A Good Mood'



Reiterating his offer to mediate on the border dispute between India and China, US President Donald Trump has said that he spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is not in a "good mood" over the "big conflict" between the two countries. Interacting with journalists in the Oval Office of the White House on Thursday, Trump said

P-02

WE ARE CAPABLE OF PROPERLY RESOLVING THE ISSUES between us through dialogue and consultation. We do not need the intervention of the third party, he said.

Army Top Brass Discusses Ladakh Stand-Off, J&K Situation

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The apex leadership of the Indian Army deliberated on various aspects related to existing and developing security challenges, the Army said on Friday at the end of a three-day conference of its top commanders here.

Issuing a brief statement, the Army did not mention the specific issues discussed at the biannual event.

However, official sources said review of the situation in eastern Ladakh where Indian and Chinese troops are engaged in a tense standoff was a major focus area of the discussion.



File Pic: Abid Bhat

The conference also extensively deliberated on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after its

PAGE 02

Kashmiri Students At AMU
Booked For 'Pro-Pakistan Post'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Police in Uttar Pradesh state has booked two Kashmiri students of the Aligarh Muslim University under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for allegedly posting pro-Pakistan and anti-India messages on social media.

The two Kashmiri students Saqib Rasool Bhat and Sheikh Arafat were booked by UP police on the basis of a complaint lodged by a Hindu right-wing leader Deepak Sharma Aazad claiming that the two students had posted 'inappropriate'



content on social media expressing their love for the "enemy nation", reports said. The complainant had further alleged that the two were propagating Kashmir's merger with Pakistan and desired to celebrate Eid in accordance

PAGE 02

Police Officer Detained
In Wife's Dowry Death Case

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Friday took into custody a Jammu and Kashmir Police officer after filing a charge sheet against him in a Jammu court for the alleged murder of his wife over an unfulfilled dowry demand, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir Police Inspector Vivek Bassan's wife Neha Kumari was found dead on February 26, 2018, with a gunshot injury from the service pistol of her husband, they said.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court had handed over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which took over the probe into the case on March 26, 2019, the officials said.

During the investigation, the CBI also found that a station house officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and a ballistic expert had a role in allegedly concealing the role of Bassan and giving the crime the colour of suicide, regarding which probe is going on, they said.

"During the investigation, an alleged conspiracy was also revealed to manipulate evidence so as to reflect the incident as a suicide," CBI Spokesperson RK Gaur said.

PAGE 02

India Or Bharat? SC To
Hear Plea On June 2

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court will hear on June 2 a plea which has sought a direction to the Centre to amend the Constitution and replace the word India with 'Bharat' or 'Hindustan', claiming it will "instil a sense of pride in our own nationality."

The plea has sought a direction to the government to take appropriate steps to bring amendment in Article 1 of the Constitution, which deals with name and territory of the Union, to the effect that "the same refers to the country as Bharat/Hindustan, to the exclusion of India".

The petition was listed for hearing on Friday before the apex court but it got deleted from the list as Chief Justice of India (CJI) S A Bobde was not available.

As per a notice uploaded on the top court website, this matter would be listed for hearing on June 2 before a bench headed by the CJI.

The plea, filed by a Delhi-based man, has claimed that such an amendment will "ensure the citizens of this country to get over the colonial past".

PAGE 02

Wife Challenges Soz's
Detention In SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The wife of Jammu and Kashmir Congress leader Saifuddin Soz has moved the Supreme Court challenging his house arrest since August 5, 2019.

The plea filed by Mumtazunnisa Soz, spouse of the octogenarian Congress leader, said that despite the arrest having been made ten months ago she has not been told about the reasons for the move.

The plea was filed through advocate Sunil Fernandes.

Various political leaders including former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were arrested and put under house detention in August last year.

The Centre had abrogated certain provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution granting special status Jammu and Kashmir and the detentions were made purportedly to ensure peace in the valley.



File Pic: Abid Bhat

Man Tests Covid-19 Positive
After Death, J&K Toll At 28

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- A day after his death, swab samples of a 70-year-old man from south Kashmir's Shopian district came out to be positive for the novel coronavirus, taking the death count due to the deadly disease in Jammu and Kashmir to 28, officials said.

Dr. Salim Khan, nodal officer for COVID-19 at the Government Medical College Srinagar, said that the septuagenarian from Alipora, Bagander Shopian was admitted to SMHS hospital on May 27 as "pneumonia patient with underlying hypertension and diabetes mellitus."

The patient died on Thursday evening and his sample was taken for COVID-19 test, he said, adding that his report came positive on Friday.

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128 More Test Positive For Covid-19

128 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of cases in J&K to 2164, officials said. "128 new COVID-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 92 of them are from Kashmir, 36 are from Jammu," the officials said. Among fresh cases, 27 cases were reported from Srinagar, 19 from Kulgam, 18 from Kupwara, 14 from Poonch, 13 from Pulwama, eight from Baramulla, seven from Jammu, six each from Anantnag, Rajouri & Kathua, two from Samba and one each from Shopian & Udhampur.

P-02

NC Says It Won't Be Part Of
Delimitation Commission

‘Unwilling To Accept Events Of August 5’

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The National Conference on Friday rejected the process of setting up of a Delimitation Commission by the Centre for redrawing parliamentary and assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, saying its MPs will not participate in the exercise as the party is unwilling to accept the events of last year's August 5.

It said the delimitation commission is a product of the J&K Reorganization Act 2019, which the party is challenging in and outside the Supreme Court.

"With reference to the recently announced Delimitation Commission by the government of India, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference today rejects this process



and its three members of Parliament will not participate in the said commission," the NC said in a statement issued here.

"Participating in this Delimitation Commission will be tantamount to accepting the events of 5th August 2019 which the NC is unwilling to do," the party said, referring to the nullification of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into union territories by the Centre.

According to the Constitution of J and K, the NC said, the constituencies of the erstwhile

PAGE 02

Migrants On Move: Desperate Bids And Bumpy Ride On J&K's Horror Highway

Swati Joshi

IN the wee hours of May 17, 2020, Suresh Kumar finally managed to embark on a desperate home journey to Uttar Pradesh.

The 35-year-old house painter had earlier come out thrice, but cops enforcing COVID lockdown had derailed the same and sent him packing to his rented room in Srinagar.

That day, as he finally succeeded, it appeared a much-relieved drive, until it became a nightmarish journey on the horror highway — the only surface link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the world.

In the 40-kilometer long Ram-

ban-Ramsoo stretch of the nearly 300-kilometre long Srinagar-Jammu highway, he had to wait for the road clearance, as two workers were killed and 7 others injured that day.

Notorious for erosion and shooting stones, the uncertain thoroughfare was hit by a massive landslide burying nine vehicles on May 17.

The incident is believed to have happened due to the negligence of the contractor company, CCPV, carrying out excavation work from Nashri to Banihal.

By the time, Suresh reached Seeri Ramban, the erosion spot, a rescue operation was already underway.

"Even as the vehicular traffic was moving ahead," Suresh said, "the



Image for representation

battered highway scenes made it a scary site. In panic, I even told the driver, 'Bhaya, let's go back to Kashmir.' But then, he said, 'Take it easy.

It's a usual journey for us on this road.' Throughout our journey to Jammu, I kept praying for our safety."

The hazardous drive only made his homecoming as a harrowing experience.

But what Suresh experienced has been a lingering gripe of Kashmiris since 1947—when their sole surface communication became this erstwhile pony track used by Jammu-based Dogra Maharajas.

The fair-weather highway not only holds life in Kashmir hostage, but also sends body bags to the valley. It's said that the hostile highway has consumed more lives, than the raging strife in the backyards of Kashmiris.

At about the same when Suresh

was following the footsteps of his troubled tribe heading home in hordes from cities and countryside, Saleem Ahmad, a barber from Bihar, began his home journey.

As part of the pandemic-induced workforce exodus, Saleem witnessed desperate homecoming bids and bumpy ride on the highway.

"Unlike other places, we weren't starving in the valley," the fresh-faced barber, who would earn around Rs 1500 during the pandemic lockdown in Srinagar, said.

"But since we were told it's a long haul, most of us got desperate to join our families back home."

Both Suresh and Saleem arrive with a workforce influx in the re-

gion every year. Being a good wage provider, Jammu and Kashmir is home to many migrant workers. From construction to smalltime industries, these migrant workers play an important role in various spheres of life in the erstwhile state.

According to Indian Wage Report 2018, regular wages in urban areas are highest in Haryana—followed by Assam, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and Karnataka.

In rural areas, J&K rank second, amongst states with the highest wages.

Lately, these migrant labourers started hitting the highway after Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that coronavirus is here

PAGE 02

Recruitment Scheme Announced By Jk Admin To Fast Track Implementation Of New Domicile Regime: NC

Srinagar: The National Conference on Friday described the "accelerated recruitment" scheme announced by the Jammu and Kashmir administration to fill up 10,000 vacancies at different levels as "more of a design to fast track" the implementation of the new domicile regime than to provide any relief to the unemployed youth of the union territory.

It said the people have no reason to welcome the recruitment drive as 10,000 identified vacancies to be filled up exclusively by

the state subjects of Jammu and Kashmir would now be thrown open to thousands of non-state subjects claiming domicile status under "vague, open-ended and ambiguous provisions of the order and procedure made under a law of questioned validity".

"The domicile regime therefore would not only prejudicially affect the employment rights of local unemployed youth but result in upswing in the unemployment graph in Jammu and Kashmir. The promise to extend benefit under 'accelerated

recruitment' to some weaker sections in absence of constitutional and statutory backing will remain to be fulfilled," NC MP Justice (retd) HsnainMasoodi said in a statement.

He said the "accelerated recruitment" scheme is "more of a design to fast track" the implementation of the new domicile regime than to provide any relief to thousands of unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Masoodi said, "The J&K Reorganization Act 2019, whereby the state of Jammu and Kashmir

with Constitution of its own has been fragmented and downgraded, is unconstitutional for the reasons time and again spelt out and also agitated before the apex court."

"So, the domicile regime comprising of J&K Reorganization (Adaptation of State Laws) Order 2020, J&K Civil Service (Decentralization And Recruitment) 2020 and J&K Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules 2020, framed under the Act is unconstitutional and so are all the consequential steps taken in

furtherance of the regime," the NC leader said.

He said the central government and the J and K administration are, in terms of the constitutional scheme and out of deference to the top constitutional court, required to desist from implementing a "constitutionally suspect law, under judicial scrutiny".

"It is stated that exercising powers under a law facing serious constitutional challenge would amount to an effort to pre-empt the final outcome of

the proceedings," the Member of Parliament from south Kashmir's Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency said.

Masoodi asked the J-K administration to regularise the most deserving amongst the 60,000 daily-rated, consolidated and contractual employees instead of implementing a "constitutionally suspect law" facing a serious challenge before the Supreme Court.

He also asked the Centre to "take cognisance of the ground situation and undo the 5th August (last year) decision that

events have proven neither to be in the interest of Jammu and Kashmir nor the country".

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has notified over 10,000 posts for accelerated recruitment at all levels -- doctors, vets, panchayat accounts assistants and Class-IV employees.

The accelerated recruitment process shall be started with Class IV vacancies and it has already identified 7,052 Class-IV vacant posts at the UT, divisional and district cadre levels in various departments of the government.

Trai Moots 'o' Prefix For All Fixed-To-Mobile Calls To Create Sufficient Numbering Space

NEW DELHI: Regulator Trai on Friday said migration to a unified numbering scheme for fixed line and mobile services is not required for now and that sufficient numbering space can be created by various methods, including prefixing '0' for all fixed-to-mobile calls.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) while releasing its recommendations on

"ensuring adequate numbering resources for fixed line and mobile services" however felt that there needs to be no change in dialling plan for fixed-to-fixed, mobile-to-fixed, and mobile-to-mobile calls.

"The authority recommends that the following scheme should be adapted for creation of sufficient numbering space... dial all fixed to mobile calls with

the prefix '0.'" Trai said adding that time of one month should be given to all the operators to implement the scheme.

A Trai official explained that even in the current scheme of things, '0' is prefixed for calls made from fixed lines to mobiles in another service area, and that the regulator has recommended the same practice be followed within a service area too for creating additional numbering space.

Moreover, this route can be opted after exhausting other alternate methods that it has prescribed.

It has also recommended that a revised and new National Numbering Plan (NNP) should be issued at the earliest, and has made suggestions on ways to free up unutilised capacities, to create space for mobiles services.

China Rejects Trump's...

did not want the "intervention" from a third party to resolve the current military standoff.

Between China and India we have existing border-related mechanisms and communication channels. Zhao told a media briefing here when asked about Trump's offer.

We are capable of properly resolving the issues between us through dialogue and consultation. We do not need the intervention of the third party , he said.

Several areas along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh and North Sikkim have witnessed major military build-up by both the Indian and Chinese armies recently, in a clear signal of escalating tension and hardening of respective positions by the two sides even two weeks after they were engaged in two separate face-offs.

India has said the Chinese military was hindering normal patrolling by its troops along the LAC in Ladakh and Sikkim and strongly refuted Beijing's contention that the escalating tension between the two armies was triggered by trespassing of Indian forces across the Chinese side.

The Ministry of External Affairs said all Indian activities were carried out on its side of the border, asserting that India has always taken a very responsible approach towards border management. At the same time, it said, India was deeply committed to protect its sovereignty and security.

India Gives Lie To Trump...

that he had spoken to Modi and that the Indian prime minister is not in a "good mood" over the "big conflict" between India and China.

The sources said the last conversation between the two leaders was on April 4 on the issue of hydroxychloroquine.

They said the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday made it clear that India was directly in touch with China through established mechanisms and diplomatic contacts to resolve the border row in eastern Ladakh.

Troops of India and China were engaged in a major standoff for over three weeks in Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie in eastern Ladakh, in what is turning out to be the biggest confrontation between the two countries after the Doklam episode in 2017.

The trigger for the face-off was China's stiff opposition to India laying a key road in the Finger area around the Pangong Tso Lake besides construction of another road connecting the Darbuk-Shayok-Daulat Beg Oldie road in Galwan Valley.

In the midst of the flare-ups between Indian and Chinese armies, Trump on Wednesday said he was "ready, willing and able to mediate" between the two countries.

In its reaction, India on Thursday said it was engaged with China to peacefully resolve the border row, signalling that it was not open to accept the offer of mediation by the US president.

On Thursday, Trump reiterated his offer to mediate between India and China, and said that he spoke to Modi, who is not in a "good mood" over the "big conflict".

"I can tell you; I did speak to Prime Minister Modi. He is not in a good mood about what is going on with China," the US president said during an interaction with journalists in the White House.

Trump previously offered to mediate between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue but New Delhi rejected the proposal.

MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava on Thursday said India was engaged with China at military and diplomatic levels to resolve the ongoing standoff with China, but at the same time asserted that the country is "firm" in its resolve to protect its sovereignty and national security.

The situation in eastern Ladakh deteriorated after around 250 Chinese and Indian soldiers were engaged in a violent face-off on the evening of May 5 which spilled over to the next day before the two sides agreed to "disengage" following a meeting at the level of local commanders.

Over 100 Indian and Chinese soldiers were injured in the violence. The incident in Pangong Tso was followed by a similar incident in North Sikkim on May 9.

On May 5, the Indian and the Chinese army personnel clashed with iron rods, sticks, and even resorted to stone-pelting in the Pangong Tso lake area in which soldiers on both sides sustained injuries.

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 on May 9. At least 10 soldiers from both sides sustained injuries.

The troops of India and China were engaged in a 73-day standoff 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. 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 tranquillity in the border areas.

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A day earlier, the president offered to mediate between India and China.

Trump on Wednesday said in a tweet that he was "ready, willing and able to mediate" between the two countries.

Responding to a question on his tweet, Trump reiterated his offer, saying if called for help, "I would do that (mediate). If they thought it would help" about "mediate or arbitrate, I would do that," he said.

India on Wednesday said it was engaged with China to peacefully resolve the border row, in a carefully crafted reaction to Trump's offer to arbitrate between the two Asian giants to settle their decades-old dispute.

"We are engaged with the Chinese side to peacefully resolve it," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, replying to a volley of questions at an online media briefing.

"The two sides have established mechanisms both at military and diplomatic levels to resolve situations which may arise in border areas peacefully through dialogue and continue to remain engaged through these channels," he said.

While the Chinese Foreign Ministry is yet to react to Trump's tweet which appears to have caught Beijing by surprise, an op-ed in the state-run Global Times said both countries did not need such help from the US president.

"The latest dispute can be solved bilaterally by China and India. The two countries should keep alert on the US, which exploits every chance to create waves that jeopardise regional peace and order," it said.

Trump's unexpected offer came on a day when China took an apparently conciliatory tone by saying that the situation at the border with India is "overall stable and controllable."

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said on Wednesday that both China and India have proper mechanisms and communication channels to resolve the issues through dialogue and consultations.

Trump previously offered to mediate between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, a proposal that was rejected by New Delhi.

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

Army Top Brass Discusses

special powers were withdrawn and the state was bifurcated into two union territories, they said.

"Over three days, the Indian Army's apex leadership deliberated upon various aspects related to existing and developing security challenges," the Army said.

The sources said the leadership of the Indian Army decided that Indian troops will continue to maintain their aggressive posturing in all disputed areas like Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie in eastern Ladakh and will not wilt under any Chinese pressure.

They said India was ready for a long-haul in the sensitive areas and will press for restoration of the status quo along the Line of Actual Control, the de-facto border between the two countries.

The Chinese army is learnt to have deployed around 2,500 troops in Pangong Tso and Galwan Valley besides gradually enhancing temporary infrastructure and weaponry.

Official sources said satellite images have captured significant ramping up of defence infrastructure by China on its side of the de-facto border including construction activities at a military airbase around 180 km from the Pangong Tso area.

India has also been bolstering its presence by sending additional troops and artillery guns, they said.

The Army said other issues discussed at the three-day conference included human resource management issues, studies pertaining to ammunition management, merger of co-located training establishments and merger of Military Training Directorate with headquarters of Army Training Command.

The commanders' conference was originally scheduled to be held from April 13-18, but it was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The biannual army commanders conference

is held in April and October every year.

The second phase of the conference will take place from June 24-27 and will focus on ambitious reform measures and administrative issues.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat are likely to address the conference.

India Or Bharat?...

"The removal of the English name though appears symbolic, will instill a sense of pride in our own nationality, especially for the future generations to come. Infact, the word India being replaced with Bharat would justify the hard fought freedom by our ancestors," the plea claimed.

Referring to the 1948 Constituent assembly debate on Article 1 of the then draft constitution, the plea said even at that time there was a "strong wave" in favour of naming the country as 'Bharat' or 'Hindustan'.

"However, now the time is ripe to recognize the country by its original and authentic name i.e. Bharat especially when our cities have been renamed to identify with the Indian ethos," it said.

128 More Test Positive ...

they said.

They said 94 persons who tested positive are travellers. The number of confirmed cases has now reached 2,164, out of which 1,728 are in Kashmir, while 436 are in Jammu, the officials said.

There are 1261 active cases of the coronavirus disease in J&K – 929 in Kashmir and 332 in Jammu – and 875 (774 from Kashmir and 101 from Jammu) patients have recovered, according to officials.

The J&K has witnessed 28 COVID-19 (25 from Kashmir, 3 from Jammu) deaths so far, including the one that took place on Friday.

NC Says It Won't Be Part...

state were to be delimited in 2026 with the rest of the country.

"The constituencies in the state were last delimited in 1990s. Thereafter an amendment was made in the Constitution of J&K unanimously passed in the state Assembly in which all the regional parties, Congress and BJP, voted for this amendment to go with the delimitation with the rest of the country in 2026. Therefore, the constitution of the delimitation commission is unwarranted," the party said in the statement.

All five Lok Sabha MPs from Jammu and Kashmir – three from the NC and two from BJP – have been nominated as "associate members" of the Delimitation Commission to assist the panel in redrawing parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the newly-created union territory.

On May 26, the Lok Sabha Speaker nominated the members on the panel from the two parties.

Abdullah, who represents Srinagar in the Lok Sabha, was released from over seven months of detention in March. His colleagues, Anantnag MP Hsnain Masoodi and Baramulla MP Akbar Lone, are the other two NC leaders on the panel.

Union minister and Udhampur MP Jitendra Singh and Jammu-Poonch MP Jugal Kishore Sharma are the two BJP leaders on the panel.

Kashmiri Students At AMU

with Pakistan.

On the basis of the complaint, police station Atrauli filed a case against them under sections 53-A, 153- B, 66-D IT Act of the Indian Penal Code, The Times of India reported on Friday.

The report quoted University spokesperson Shafey Kidwai saying that strict action will be taken against the two students.

In his Facebook post, Bhat had written that "Eid means happiness and happiness is Pak.". Replying to his post, Arafat had written "Pakistan hamara hai, hum Pakistani hai."

This is not the first time any Kashmiri student has been booked by police on the complaint of right-wing activists.

In February this year, at least 22 Kashmiri students of AMU were booked by police for instigating and participating in anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests in the Aligarh city, Hindustan Times had reported.

A year earlier in 2019, another AMU student Basim Hilal, a native of south Kashmir's Pulwama district was slapped under Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code (promoting enmity) & Section 67A of the Information Technology Act over his Facebook post on Pulwama attack. He was also suspended by the AMU authorities.

Police Officer Detained ...

The agency, after taking over the probe, used its sophisticated forensic expertise and reconstructed the crime scene, which brought out a chilling murder, the officials said.

The CBI has further alleged that the deceased was being subjected to cruelty in relation to demand for dowry and was murdered by her husband by using his service pistol.

"On the basis of evidence gathered during investigation, the

CBI arrested the accused on May 29, 2020. The accused was produced before CJM, Jammu, and remanded to judicial custody," Gaur said.

Migrants On Move:...

to stay, and that people should learn to live with it.

With no source of earning in the unending lockdown, the main question stuck in every migrant workers' mind is about their survival.

As they struggle to sustain a livelihood during this crisis, many videos that went viral on social media depict their traumatic plight and unsettling home journey.

"The main reason for their migration is uncertainty of essentials," Javeed Ahmad, whose CHINAR International NGO currently works for the welfare of migrant labourers, told Kashmir Observer.

"But fewer workers are migrating from Srinagar and other parts of the valley because many NGOs are covering their needs and delivering essentials at their doorsteps."

Chinar International focuses on the empowerment of orphans, vulnerable children and marginalized youth through education and socio-economic initiatives.

"During this pandemic," Ahmad continued, "we're also working to provide personal hygiene products for women and children."

Even then, the lockdown distress is triggering a panic flight of migrants from the region.

As of May 27, J&K administration had sent 26564 outbound migrant workers stranded in different parts of the region through 16 Shramik special trains from Katra.

Though the facilities of the train are available, but some desperate migrant workers, oblivious of the highway status, are covering their home journey on foot.

Lately, a group of 25 labourers walked around 100kms of distance overnight from Shopian to Surankote, where they were stopped by the district administration and put under necessary quarantine to prevent the spread of the virus.

"When the sole purpose of leaving home for a better life is not getting fulfilled," said Suresh, the house painter, "people like us are left with no other choice, than to return to our home, where we may at least grow some food and survive."

Petrol, Diesel To Get ...

Diesel Oil (Taxation of Sale) Act Samvat 2005 and in supersession of all the previous notifications on the subject, the government hereby direct that tax and surcharge on sale of Motor Sprit (petrol) and Diesel oil shall be levied at rate ----petrol tax: 24% minus Rs 0.50/litre and surcharge petrol: Rs 5/litre; Diesel--rate of tax 16% and surcharge 1.5/litre," reads a notification issued by Arun Kumar Mehta, Financial Commissioner of Finance Department.

Highway Shut After LPG...

of Udhampur this afternoon prompting the officials to suspend the movement of traffic on the 270-km long Srinagar-Jammu highway, reports said. The LPG cylinders, reports said exploded with a bang triggering panic in the area.

According to the reports, the LPG laden truck was parked on the roadside on the busy highway when the flames emerged from it before the blasts occurred. The truck, reports said was completely gutted due to the fire and subsequent explosions.

Fire Sparks Landmine...

forward defence locations in the fire, the officials said.

They said the fire was brought under control by the personnel of the Forest Department and the Army.

Minor Girl Drowns In Sopore

Sopore where doctor declared her brought dead.

Meanwhile, police has taken cognizance of the incident (KNO)

4 Booked For Violating...

All of them violated the quarantine rules by not reporting at their designated quarantine centre, the police added.

Among them two are residents of Moga, Punjab, currently employees of IGC of SIDCO at Samba. They were booked at the police station in Samba for violating and disobeying quarantine rules, they added.

Another person from Vijaypur was booked at the police station there, they said.

The fourth person from Kartholi, Bari Brahmana was booked at police station at Bari Brahmana, they said.

The officials said the delinquent persons deliberately disobeyed the quarantine rules and put the lives of others at risk. All the four persons have been traced and sent to the administrative quarantine centre at Thandi Khui, Vijaypur immediately with the help of health department, they said.

District Police, Samba appealed to residents to cooperate with the administration and not violate quarantine rules.

Govt. to restart developmental works in Srinagar from June 1

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, MAY 28: The administration in Srinagar has permitted restarting execution of developmental works put on hold since late March after outbreak of COVID-19 and the subsequent restrictions enforced in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary has directed all concerned departments and agencies to restart execution on all infrastructure-based developmental works forthwith.

Instructions in this regard were issued in a meeting of senior officers of concerned departments convened here under the chairmanship of the DC.

Permission and instructions for immediate restarting of execution of work was given for over 260 works which include various important and major developmental projects.

These include 64 works of R&B, 50 of SMC Drainage, 49 of



RDD, 28 of KPDC, 16 of PHE and 11 of LAUDA which make the most of these works. Together these 218 works are under execution at an estimated cost of 585.5 crore rupees.

The remaining 46 works also include various major developmental projects of crucial importance. Under execution at a huge 720.5 crore rupees in aggregate these include 8 works

each of ERA and JKPC, 6 of JKPCD, 4 of SKUAST, 3 each of SKIMS Soura, SKIMS Bema and I&FC, 2 each of PWD, PMGSY and Wakf Board, and 1 each of Housing Board, NBCC, Sports Council and SICOP.

Put together these 264 works involve and are under execution at an estimated cost of over 1300 crore rupees.

These works include a

host of crucial infrastructural projects in various sectors ranging from health to roads and bridges to drainage to power and water to lake and environment conservation and beautification.

The crucial project of strengthening of fire services apparatus of Srinagar city approved under the Smart City project is included in

these works.

The concerned departments have been asked to restart work on all these projects beginning June 1.

Speaking in the meeting the DC said that it is time that developmental works put on hold due to COVID-19 are restarted adding that all important requisites and precautions that need following have been taken care of and will be followed.

He said all concerned departments and agencies have been sensitised about the kinds of precautions that their workforce need to follow adding that all support as might be needed will be provided to all the concerned for as long as required.

Dr Shahid said the government is aware of risks and challenges that COVID-19 poses and that the decision to restart development works has been taken after weighing them and putting in place a mechanism of precautions to ensure it is all a safe and successful exercise.

DAK meets IGP Kashmir, Integration and harmony between frontline departments imperative

Srinagar: A delegation of Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) led by its president Dr Suhail Naik on Friday met Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar in connection with the recent incidents of violence against doctors.

After the meeting, President DAK, Dr Suhail Naik said in a statement issued to CNS that integration and harmony between departments is very imperative to fight, mitigate and contain COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Naik thanked IGP for their love by way of distributing flowers and sweets to health care workers across the valley saying that such gestures should reflect on the roads.

The DAK president said that the police

department has to see itself as a major player in disaster management and it will continue to play as first responder role given to its proximity and relationship with the general public.

According to CNS The meeting was attended by General Secretary Medical Faculty Association SKIMS Soura Dr Sameer Nakash, Jammu and Kashmir Doctors Coordination Committee (JKDCC) Chairman, Dr Yousuf Tak, Dr Arshid Trag and executive member DAK, Dr. Krishanjeet.

DAK said that IGP assured that health related ordinances passed by Government of India will be followed in letter and spirit by all the police stations and a reminder in this regard will be issued to all immediately.

Police seal Dara area after Govt declares it red zone

Srinagar: Dara area of Harwan here in Srinagar outskirts has been completely sealed after authorities declare it red zone. The area has its shutters down and notices were pasted on the wall.

A couple of patients were declared positive for Covid-19 in the area. Police were seen making announcements today asking people to stay indoors.

Witnesses told news agency that the

area was eerily quiet. All shops and business establishments are shut while police have created barricades to restrict the movement of the people.

Authorities have already eased restrictions in different parts of Srinagar city while several areas including Jawahar Nagar and Natiopora that were earlier declared red zones have now been categorized as buffer zones. (KNT)

Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDC, ED-Rajbagh, Srinagar

Email ID : xened2nd@gmail.com , Tel/Fax No. 0194-2311374

e-NIT No. ED-II/03 of 2020-21

Dated: 28/05/20

Notice Inviting e-Tender

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of J&K, e-bids (in 2 cover system) are invited from Registered Class-'A' Electrical Contractors for "Augmentation of 250 kVA Sub-Station to 400 kVA for Firdousabad Lane No.5, Batamalo near FEETO" in the jurisdiction of Sub-Division Chanapora of KPDC, ED-Rajbagh, Srinagar

1	Name of Work	Augmentation of 250 kVA Sub-Station to 400 kVA for Firdousabad Lane No.5, Batamalo near FEETO
2	Administrative Approval	Accorded
3	Position of Funds	Demand
4	Period for Completion of Work	15 days
5	Estimated Cost	Rs 7.00 Lacs (Rupees Seven Lacs Only)

The tender documents are available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view/download the e-Bidding document, seek clarification and submit their Bid online upto date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 01/06/20 11:30 AM
B	Clarifications Start Date	02/06/20 10:00 AM
C	Clarifications End Date	02/06/20 04:00 PM
D	e-Bid Submission (Start) Date & Time (Submission of tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	02/06/20 04:05 PM
E	e-Bid Submission (End) Date & Time (Submission of tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	16/06/20 04:00 PM
F	Online Bid Opening Date & Time	19/06/20 11:00 AM
G	Venue of Opening of Technical & Financial Bids	Office of Executive Engineer, KPDC, ED-Rajbagh
H	Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) (Non-Refundable)
I	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 14,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Thousand Only)

Documents uploaded on the website shall be treated as final. 10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

DIPK-NB-428/20

No: ED-II/302-306/TS
Dated: 28/05/20

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
KPDC, ED-Rajbagh

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No: 1st SULIMAN COMPLEX DALGATE SRINAGAR

Notice Inviting e-Tendering

GIST of e-NIT No: 01 of 2020-21

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, U.T of J&K e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt, and other State / Central Government for the following work:-
Position Of Funds : Demanded

S. No	Name of work	Est. cost (Rs. In lacs) Including Departmental Supply	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Cost of T/ doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion In days	Class of contract
1	Construction of House Connection / chambers at spots for Pilot Sewerage Scheme Khushalsar	183.93	367860	3000/=	6 Months	"AAV"

IMPORTANT DATES

1	Date of publishing	28/05/2020
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28/05/2020 to 19/06/2020 up-to 4:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	28/05/2020 from 4:00 PM
4	Bid submission End Date	19/06/2020 up-to 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	20/06/2020 at 11:00 AM or any other convenient date

Tender Receiving Authority :

Superintending Engineer UEED Circle 2nd Sulaiman Complex Dalgate Srinagar

No: SDDI/CC/30-41
Dated: 28/05/2020

DIPK-1082/20

Executive Engineer
S&D Division 1st Srinagar

Office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short Term Fresh (NIT NO.05) OF 2020-21 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, e-Tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and Eligible Contractors/SHG's registered with J&K Govt. for the following works.

S. NO.	Name of work	Adv. Cost In Lakhs	Time	Cost of T/ Doc. In Rs.	E/M in. Rs.	Class	Head of Account
1	Improvements/ Construction Of Sluice Gate On Right Side Of River Jhelum At Lethpora Near Hajibal-Bridge Rd	0.58 Lacs	07 days	50/-	1160.00	DEE	M&R
2	Repairs Of Batyrbal Flood Gate Behind Tehsil Office At Village Awantipora	0.24 lacs	07 days	50/-	480.00	DEE	M&R
3	Closure Of Bhutkhun Sluice Gate By Way Of Providing Wooden Chairs On R/S Of Aripal Nallah.	0.393 Lacs	07 days	50/-	786.00	DEE	M&R

Position of Funds: - Committed/ Incorporated in current years Works Programme
No of works Advertised: - (03) No)

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

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	29-05-2020 (1.00 pm)
02	Date of start of downloading.	29-05-2020 (01.00 pm)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	29-05-2020 (02.00 am)
04	Bid submission end date.	09-06-2020 (06.00 pm)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	11-06-2020 (11.00 am)

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

No.: FCDK/Camp/402-24
Date: 28-05-2020

DIPK-1094/20

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Flood Control Division Kakapora

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI

CALENDAR

07 Shawwal
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 40

ZUHR 12: 28

ASR 5:26

Magrib 7:39

ISHA 9:17

This Day In History

- 1959 - Iraq terminates milit assistance pact with US due to neutrality
- 1959 - World's 1st hovercraft (SR-N1) tested at Cowes, England
- 1966 - US launches Surveyor 1 to Moon
- 1967 - Biafra declares independence from Nigeria
- 1967 - King Hussein of Jordan visits Cairo
- 1971 - US Mariner 9 1st satellite to orbit Mars launched
- 1982 - Spain becomes 16th member of NATO
- 1990 - 135 die in a (6.4) earthquake in Peru
- 1990 - Earthquake hit Peru, killing 135
- 1992 - UN votes for sanctions against Serb-led Yugoslavia to halt fighting
- 1998 - A magnitude 6.6 earthquake hits northern Afghanistan, killing up to 5,000.
- 2012 - A number of nations including Germany, Turkey and Canada, expel Syrian diplomats following the Houla massacre
- 2012 - Vishwanathan Anand wins his fifth World Chess Championship
- 2014 - Former military chief al-Sisi wins 93 percent of the vote in Egypt's presidential election
- 2015 - Alistair Cook becomes

From KO Archives

Musharraf For Int'l Guarantees On JK

Kashmir Solution In 12 Months, Hurriyat True Representative Of Kashmiri People , Pak To Facilitate APHC-New Delhi talks

ISLAMABAD - Adding a new dimension to the peace process on Kashmir, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has said he would prefer some kind of "international guarantees" for implementation of any pact reached with India on the issue, which he wants to be settled in a year's time.

He don't know. I haven't thought of this point: but maybe the peace process should be guaranteed by the international community. I think if we reach an agreement there should be something other than just bilateral guarantees.

"I think the international community should play a role in the guarantees. And this is a new tiling that I am saying," he said in an interview to a Pakistani daily.

The President had last week said a solution to the Kashmir issue cannot be on "any religious basis" and has to be found within India's stand of no redrawing of borders, Pakistan's stand on LoC cannot be a permanent border and boundaries becoming irrelevant.

Elaborating the new element, Musharraf said in the interview "we are talking of 'guarantees which go beyond us. If we reach an agreement and we are reasonably sure that it will be followed, there is no harm why we should be so stuck up.. I think we will have better permanence if the international community is involved, finally in the guarantee." 'Daily Times' newspaper quoted him as saying.

Musharraf believes 12 months is good enough to reach an agreement as the new timeline ensures that it could be reached within the tenures of his and that of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Answering a question about where he sees the peace process heading in the next one year Musharraf said: "If we move forward, which we can. if we have the courage I am very sure this (Kashmir) whole issue can be put behind in 12 months."

Musharraf said the process may take better shape within a year's time.

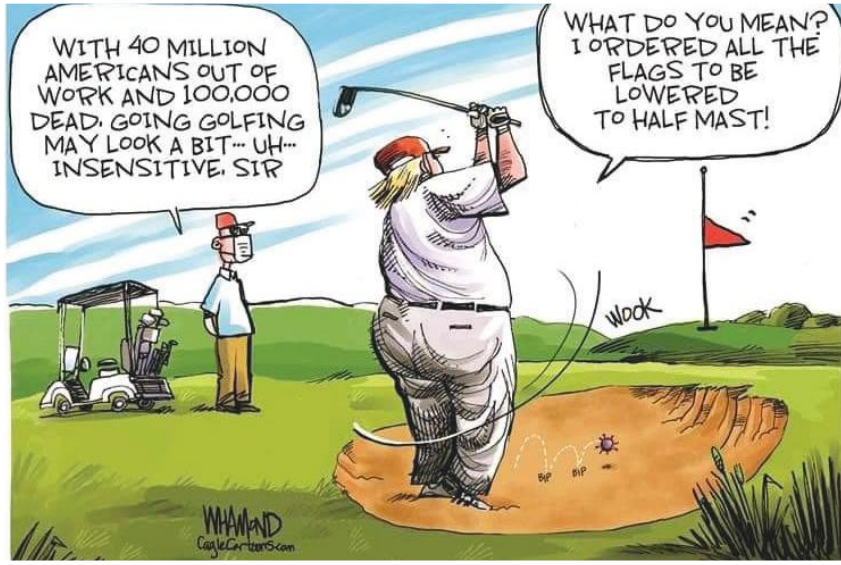
"I see them looking much better. My-only hope is Prime Minister Manmohan Singh stays and is allowed to move forward. I am very glad to say that my interaction with BJP leaders Advani and Vajpayee, has been very good. The only, thing that I said was please don't oppose it because you are in the opposition.

(Kashmir Observer, 30 May, 2005)

KASHMIR
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NO HOLDS BARRED



Fixed internet line was restored first for essential services and hospitals. Access to social media was first denied but later on it was reinstated but the speed was restricted to 2G and continues like that till now. Read full judgment of January 10 2020 in Anuradha Bhasin verses union of India.

How Covid-19 Could Re-Shape Our World

The myth of global village has given way to a new face-off between the great-power blocs

YANIS VAROUFAKIS

To exorcise my worst fears about the coming decade, I chose to write a bleak chronicle of it. If, by December 2030, developments have invalidated it, I hope such dreary prognoses will have played a part by spurring us to appropriate action.

Before our pandemic-induced lockdowns, politics seemed to be a game. Political parties behaved like sports teams having good or bad days, scoring points that propelled them up a league table that, at season's end, determined who would form a government and then do next to nothing.

Then, the COVID-19 pandemic stripped away the veneer of indifference. By June 2020, as lockdowns began to ease, left-wing optimism that the pandemic would revive state power on behalf of the powerless remained, leading friends to fantasise about a renaissance of the commons and a capacious definition of public goods.

Margaret Thatcher, I would remind them, left the British state larger, more powerful, and more concentrated than she had found it. A strong state was necessary to support markets controlled by corporations and banks.

As a result of COVID-19, the grim reaper almost claimed both the British prime minister and the Prince of Wales, and even Hollywood's nicest star. But it was the poorer and the browner that the reaper actually did claim. They were easy pickings.

It's not hard to understand why. Disempowerment breeds poverty, which ages people faster and, ultimately, readies them for the cull. In the shadow of falling prices, wages, and interest rates, it was not likely that the spirit of solidarity, which soothed our souls during lockdowns, would continue forever.

Wall Street bankers assuaged their



Instead of strengthening voices calling for international cooperation, China and the United States bolstered nationalism. Elsewhere, too, nationalist leaders stoked xenophobia and offered demoralised citizens a simple trade: personal pride and national greatness in exchange for powers to protect them from lethal viruses, cunning foreigners, and scheming dissidents.

guilt, lingering since 2008, by letting middle-class customers fight over the scraps.

Plans for the green transition, which young climate activists had put on the agenda before 2020, were given only lip service as Western governments buckled under towering mountains of debt. Precautionary saving by the many reinforced the economic depression, yielding industrial-scale discontent on a browning planet.

The disconnect between the financial world and the real world, in which billions struggled, inevitably widened. And with it grew the discontent.

As in the 1930s, in the souls of many, the grapes of wrath were growing heavy for a new, bitter vintage. In place of the 1930s soapboxes from which demagogues promised to restore dignity to the disgruntled masses, Big Tech provided apps and social networks perfectly suited for the task.

Once communities surrendered to the fear of infection, human rights seemed an unaffordable luxury. Big Tech developed biometric bracelets to monitor our vital data around the clock.

They combined the output with geo-location data, fed it all into algorithms, and ensured that the population received helpful text messages informing them what to do or where to go to stop new outbreaks in their tracks.

But a system that monitors our coughs could also monitor our laughs. It could know how our blood pressure responds to the boss's pep talk. The KGB and Cambridge Analytica suddenly seemed Neolithic.

National Greatness

Instead of strengthening voices calling for international cooperation, China and the United States bolstered nationalism. Elsewhere, too, nationalist

leaders stoked xenophobia and offered demoralised citizens a simple trade: personal pride and national greatness in exchange for powers to protect them from lethal viruses, cunning foreigners, and scheming dissidents.

Just as cathedrals were the Middle Ages' architectural legacy, the 2020s left us tall walls, electrified fences, and flocks of surveillance drones.

The nation-state's revival made the world less open, less prosperous, and less free precisely for those who had always found it hard to travel, to make ends meet, and to speak their minds.

For the oligarchs and functionaries of Big Tech, Big Pharma, and other megafirms, globalisation proceeded apace.

The myth of the global village gave way to an equilibrium between great-power blocs, each sporting burgeoning militaries, separate supply chains, and class divisions reinforced by new forms of nativism. The new socioeconomic cleavages threw the prevailing features of each country's politics into sharp relief.

Like people who become caricatures of themselves in a crisis, whole countries focused on their collective illusions, exaggerating and cementing pre-existing prejudices.

The great strength of the new fascists during the twenties was that, unlike their political forebears, they did not even have to enter government to gain power.

Liberal and social-democratic parties began to fall over one another to embrace xenophobia-lite, then authoritarianism-lite, then totalitarianism-lite. So, here we are, at the end of the decade. Where are we?

Yanis Varoufakis, a former finance minister of Greece, is leader of the MeRA25 party and Professor of Economics at the University of Athens.

Yanis Varoufakis is the former finance minister of Greece. By arrangement with the Project Syndicate, 2020.

Honey, I am (always) home

Distancing has become the byword during these unprecedented times

PRANITHA MENON

Lockdown had got the husband and me to realise that distance had been our secret to staying on the road of marital bliss.

The geographical separation during his business trips gave us the space to appreciate each other better and the children to believe that the role of a father was to engage weekend evenings in movies or games, ensure they get their weekly supply of takeaway and throw in a timely dose of wisdom their mother's way when she intends to give them a piece of her mind.

Then came the Pandemic that first put a cap on his travel plans and then blurred the boundaries between workplace and home.

On the other side of a dozen phone calls, he brought home mostly everything that was not on the list. There were cucumbers but his eyes had refused to see the spinach that usually sits beside it.

His travels were suddenly reduced between the dining table and study that occasionally threw in the excitement of stepping on a squeaky toy. We saw each other for breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner. When we met at the water cooler during water breaks, something had to be done.

Modern-day Hakawati

With the door to the outside shut, we opened a window. A modern-day Hakawati that spun stories in the languages of the world, streamed with subtitles.

This time machine took us back to the nomads of Anatolia, the struggles and victories of Ertugrul; the chronicles of Columbian drug lords; a gang of bank robbers, a heist and a mastermind — the Professor, among many others.

Happy couples thrive on space. We had the space, a laptop and Netflix.

We also began reading an Indian Mythology series.

Healthier topics

Watching and reading the same series ensured the silly thrill of keeping up — he leads in viewing and I am ahead in reading, and unintentionally throwing spoilers. We had healthier topics to discuss other than the virus.

We were into so many stories that even our domestic dilemmas often entwined with one and there was the advantage of the husband assuaging his guilt that follows a binge-watch with offers to help.

Last weekend, post a marathon-viewing while I busied in the real world, he offered to do the grocery run. On the other side of a dozen phone calls, he brought home mostly everything that was not on the list. There were cucumbers but his eyes had refused to see the spinach that usually sits beside it.

He assured me that the packets of crisps, fizzy drinks and the bags of carrots were on offer. The following week we had carrots at every meal, even with crisps, until the children complained they saw orange.

He pretended not to hear me explain that if we bought carrots, we had to learn to eat it too!

He has also been on the tolerant end of some of my blunders.

Luckily, we are under the constant scrutiny of two little pairs of eyes and ears that keep our behaviour in check and remind us that we have no one but each other to face at every turn inside our home.

We even keep in mind our friend, whose wife could not make it back on time, who spent lockdown with only Alexa for company and swears that Alexa knows it all but listens a bit too much and speaks too less.

We are individuals first and bow at Cupid's alter next, but the beauty of relationships is in accepting the other's imperfections. If you catch yourself spiralling into arguments about the falling economy to bags of carrots, just pick up the newspaper and read the heart-wrenching stories of losses that the people of our world have endured.

It will help you drink from the well of tolerance to remember that sowing the seeds of any new 'real' relationship outside of our homes is still a vaccine away.

As for us, we are too caught up in a web of heists, wars, triumphs and disasters of our protagonists that busting cabin fever is just a window away!

Pranitha Menon is a freelance writer based in Dubai. Twitter: @MenonPranitha

Judicial Order And Executive Committee

YOUNIS AHAD

The Supreme Court on May 11 2020 refused to determine the constructional validity of the restriction, and found it inappropriate but did not issue any order for restoration of the high speed internet. Instead doing so it set up a committee consisting of a group of bureaucrats to examine the content of petitioners. The Court did not specify the time in which the court has to report back. It is sad to say that court has handed sacrosanct power to executive committee.

The maxim "ubi jus ibi Remedium" which means where there is right there is remedy. It is originally a common law maxim and has a foundational principle in India. We have rights as well as remedies in case of any infringement of the former. Our democratic constitution guarantees all the basic rights in fact contains a full chapter of fundamental rights and authorises to knock the door higher courts if same is denied.

Under Article 32 of the constitution, Supreme Court can grant set of prerogative writs to enforce the fundamental rights guaranteed by the legal document. The constitution framers had fashioned and enlightened the constitution in such a way, it set an example of freedom and liberty and many states across the world are moved by it. It is worth saying that over the past few decades the idea of remedies moving in parallel with rights has come to wither.

Court's history is littered with the cases where the violation right is found but the remedy has not forth coming. Needless to mention, I have come across people who often asked me about the slow working of courts, excoriated justice delivery system of courts, recently a Facebook user questioned me why there are corers of cases pending? Why courts are not remedying at appropriate time? Really these questions pose a challenge to judicially system.

On August 05 2019 all the means of communication where snapped in Kashmir by the governor administration in anticipation of the constitutional changes, fearing law and order prob-

lems. The communication lockdown was imposed under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules (Suspension of Rules) which enables the central or state government to suspend telecom services when there is a risk to public safety. The suspension rules indeed provide a mechanism for solitary review of suspension orders. While in the midst of communication blockade, the matter was ultimately dragged to court on January 10, the court in its decision found suspension orders where not valid. The court replaced the solitary review with periodic review and found the orders against principle of proportionality and directed the government to review the suspension after every seven days. But the court didn't set aside the order. After the intervention of court gradual access to all communication was permitted.

Fixed internet line was restored first for essential services and hospitals. Access to social media was first denied but later on it was reinstated but the speed was restricted to 2G and continues like that till now. Read full judgment of January 10 2020 in Anuradha Bhasin verses union of India.

When COVID 19 broke-out we were all forced to stay indoors. All quarters in Kashmir demanded restoration of 4G services but Government turned deaf ears. This issue was brought to Supreme Court of India. The petitioner echoed the inner voice of Kashmir, argued that restriction was hindering doctors and general public from accessing information on COVID 19 and students from accessing education material. He underlined the importance of national security.

And the court in the Foundation for Media Professionals vs. Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir observed that we have to ensure the national security and human rights can be reasonably balanced.

The Supreme Court on May 11 2020 refused to determine the constructional validity of the restriction, and found it inappropriate but did not issue any order for restoration of the high speed internet. Instead doing so it set up a committee consisting of a group of bureaucrats to examine the content of petitioners. The Court did not specify the time in which the court has to report back. It is sad to say that court has handed sacrosanct power to executive committee. By doing so it has abdicated its obligation as a separate organ. Combination of executive cliques is of great concern. The court must have appointed independent judicial officers in this committee. The court has also violated natural principle i, e no one can be judge in his own case. How Government can be judged in its own case? CONCLUSION

It is not the question of speed but the access. The top court's attitude particularly in this case should concern all the legal luminaries. Every legal expert must stand up for the sake of independence of judiciary. To me every person associated with the profession of law must come forward as it is time to restore the credibility of judiciary among common masses. We have to make them believe that judiciary is independent in letter and spirit.

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How Books Can Liberate You From Pandemic Distress

AANIQA QAYOOM

A book communicates knowledge and not only knowledge but transmits wisdom from one generation to other. They say that “The more you read, the more well-read you are”. In simple terms what this means is that the more you read the more exposed you are to new realities. Your attitudes change and your ideas and imagination widens. I believe that one’s personality and behaviour are all reflection of the books he or she reads. Nothing can add to our intellect more than reading a book.

It Requires Wisdom to Acquire Wisdom

*“I’ve traveled the world twice over,
Met the famous; saints and sinners,
Poets and artists, kings and queens,
Old stars and hopeful beginners,
I’ve been where no-one’s been before,
Learned secrets from writers and cooks
All with one library ticket
To the wonderful world of books.” –Janice James*

BOOKS play a significant role in our life. They say that “When you open a book, you open a new world”. I believe that everyone would agree with this statement as books have always been inseparable part of the civilised world. For the majority of people, books are part of their everyday life. A book is like a best friend who never walks away from you.

Books are packed with knowledge, gives one insight into life, teaches one to love and over come fear besides helpful advice at the time of need. One can read about anything under the sun. Books have been here from ages and without them we would not be knowing of our past, ancestors, cultures and civilizations. Have you ever thought what would have happened if intellectuals never documented their times?

A book communicates knowledge and not only knowledge but transmits wisdom from one generation to other. They say that “The more you read, the more well-read you are”. In simple terms what this means is that the more you read the more exposed you are to new realities. Your attitudes change and your ideas and imagination widens. I believe that one’s personality and behaviour are all reflection of the books he or she reads. Nothing can add to our intellect more than reading a book.

As aptly said –“Learning gives creativity, and creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge, knowledge makes you great.” Reading a book seems like a pretty straightforward task, doesn’t it? And in some cases, it is. If you’re reading purely for entertainment or leisure, it certainly can be that easy. There’s another kind of reading, though, in which we at least attempt to glean something of value from the book in our hands (whether in paper or tablet form). In that instance, you might be surprised to learn that it’s not as simple as opening the book and reading the words. I believe that, it requires wisdom to acquire wisdom.

It’s a frightening time. We’re in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, with cities and even entire countries shut. Some of us are in areas that have already been affected by coronavirus. Others are bracing for what may come. And all of us are watching the headlines and wondering, “What is going to happen next?”

All of us are going to need reassurance, advice, or a sympathetic ear during this difficult time. But be careful who you choose as a sounding board. The coronavirus is not the only thing that’s contagious. So are emotions! Avoid talking about the virus with people who



tend to be negative or who reinforce and ramp up your fears. Turn to the people in your life who are thoughtful, level-headed, and good listeners. If you don’t have someone you trust to turn to, trust a book, it is here that books can act as saviours.

The COVID-19 pandemic represents a massive global health crisis. Because the crisis requires large-scale behavioural change and places significant psychological burdens on individuals, insights from the social and behavioural sciences can be used to help align human behaviour with the recommendations of epidemiologists and public health experts. That gruesome time when the sun only pops round to see you off to work and leaves before you can cancel your dinner plans. It has always been a ghastly time. When the clocks go back on that insignificant day and the night crawls in much earlier, the woeful and dampening spirit takes hold. Blues really aren’t so blue: grey is a much more apt color for the mood. This is where books levitate your soul raise your hope.

No tapping, no switching apps and no swiping – yet so engaging! This is the magic of books. Stress can be released or reduced in various ways such as going for a jog, listening to your favourite songs, and even by cooking and cleaning. But few people know that reading books can just be magical. Whenever you feel low, depressed or stressed, just open a book and let yourself lose free in the words. Stories and words particularly hold a great deal of power to read and heal the human mind.

When you read stories, you tend to relate to the

traits of characters as your own or start looking for similarities between them and yourself. This makes you feel as if you are similar to a person who does not even exist. Despite the character’s non-existence, you still understand them and root every bit for them. This teaches the human emotion of empathy. When you meet people who are somewhat similar to the characters you have known through books, you start to understand them and empathise with them.

Reading helps to contain every anxiety-provoking thought in mind and has a soothing effect on the brain. As you move ahead in the story through characters, your thoughts and inhibitions travel with you. It’s true what people say – when you have a book, you have a friend. Reading reduces feelings of alienation and loneliness. A reduction in these traits can help treat many mental health problems such as anxiety and depression.

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors and the most patient of teachers. Books have the power to transport us to new worlds and different times, but they can also take us back to the important moments in our own lives.

Thus its important to understand the concept of tradeoff, whereupon you can make a wise exchange between stress on one side and relief on another. For this nothing is a better way out than a book. As already stated that it requires wisdom to acquire wisdom.

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This Is How Everyone Will Start Wearing Masks

There are three things nations must do to get people wearing masks during coronavirus

ANGELA DUCKWORTH, LYLE UNGAR
AND EZEKIEL J. EMANUEL

Hong Kong has so far reported a grand total of four coronavirus-related deaths, while New York City has reported over 20,000.

Here’s another striking comparison: Close to 99 per cent of Hong Kong residents have been wearing masks, to prevent the wearer from spreading the virus, since early February.

According to a mid-April Gallup poll, only a third of Americans say they always wear a mask or cloth face covering outside the home. Another third of us sometimes wear a mask in public, and a third never do.

Universal face mask adoption isn’t the only difference between Hong Kong and the United States, and it’s not a substitute for physical-distancing, hand-washing and other preventive practices.

But masks — even just a scarf, bandanna or an old T-shirt and two rubber bands — are widely viewed as critical to stopping the transmission of the novel coronavirus.

Nevertheless, face-mask compliance has been uneven. This is especially worrisome in closed, crowded spaces like subways and buses, grocery stores and offices where it’s not easy to maintain a distance of six feet from other people and avoid spontaneous coughs and sneezes.

The most obvious path to universal masking is to pass laws and punish infractions. But enforcing legal edicts to wear masks in public can be difficult and costly, and amid widespread ambivalence can lead to backlash and even violence. So edicts are not a complete solution.

As experts in public health and human behaviour, we propose a complementary approach: Make wearing a mask easy, understood and expected.

From effortful to easy:

Where can you get face masks? You can search for them online, you can now buy them in drugstores and yes, you can make them yourself. But none of these options are effortless.

Imagine if every city and town in this country had an Adrian Cheng, the real estate developer in Hong Kong who had a manufacturing line set up in one of his empty properties and made the masks available free to the needy in vending machines devised specifically for the purpose.



It is human nature to adhere to social norms. When uncertain about what to do, people tend to look around and copy what other people are doing. For instance, if you were in Hong Kong right now, even if you weren’t up to date on the public health imperative, you’d very likely follow the lead of everyone around you and put one on.

Not long after, the Hong Kong government set up a website where any household can register to have reusable masks delivered free. Or consider Utah, where residents can likewise register online and receive a free fabric face mask by mail.

The cheaper and more ubiquitous face masks are, the easier it will be for Americans to get our hands on them, and the more likely we’ll do so and wear them.

From unclear to understood:

Not long ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the surgeon general in the US were lecturing the public on why they wear face masks.

That recommendation flipped once it became clear that people infected with the coronavirus can

spread it before they know they have it and, therefore, everyone should wear a mask to reduce the chances of infecting others.

Since it’s hard for people to update their beliefs once a message has been received, it’s no surprise that misinformation and outdated news continue to ricochet in the echo chambers of social media.

Unfortunately, it is often easier to dig our heels in than to change our minds, defending our original position and discounting new information to justify our behaviour. Therefore, it can be helpful to supply people with a rationale to change their behaviour without looking like a hypocrite.

For example, officials can emphasise that at the start of this crisis, nobody could have known how

important it is to wear a mask when you have no symptoms, and that day by day, new scientific evidence is demonstrating the efficacy of masks in the fight against the coronavirus

From unconventional to expected:

It is human nature to adhere to social norms. When uncertain about what to do, people tend to look around and copy what other people are doing. For instance, if you were in Hong Kong right now, even if you weren’t up to date on the public health imperative, you’d very likely follow the lead of everyone around you and put one on.

How do we create a social norm of mask-wearing when, in fact, so many are doing exactly the opposite? One common mistake is drawing attention to the lack of compliance.

For instance, highlighting littering as a commonplace problem can inadvertently lead to more littering because it strengthens the perception that littering is the norm. Instead, in press releases and public service announcements, officials should emphasise that the clear trend is toward universal mask-wearing.

According to a recent Qualtrics study, a majority of surveyed now say they won’t return to the office unless their company makes wearing face masks mandatory. And in just one week in April, the percentage of Americans who said they wore a mask outside the home increased by more than half.

Norms are also established by high-status role models. Celebrities and professional athletes can do their part by posting photos about wearing face masks in public. And to counter the politicised nature of the issue, let’s all applaud mask-wearing leaders on both the right and the left.

Hurrah for Melania Trump posting a photo of herself in a mask, and hurrah, too, for Nancy Pelosi wearing a scarf on the House floor.

The story of face masks is still being written. We may lack the wisdom Hong Kong earned weathering prior epidemics, but it’s not too late to apply three basic principles from behavioural science: make it easy, understood and expected, and we’ll soon see face masks everywhere, saving lives.

Angela Duckworth, Lyle Ungar and
Ezekiel J. Emanuel are noted academics

New York Times

54% INDIANS EXPECT REDUCED INCOME, But Still Intend To Spend More On Health Products

AS PER THE REPORT, 43 PER CENT consumers anticipate a decrease in overall spend in the next six months, and purchase triggers are expected to become more functional.

Press Trust Of India

Even though a large section of people in India expect their household income to reduce in the next six months, many are looking at higher spends on health and hygiene products in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, a report by Facebook and BCG said on Thursday.

These factors, along with social distancing, are accelerating trends like e-commerce adoption and purchase triggers being more functional, the report said.

The report found 54 per cent

respondents saying they expect their overall household income to reduce in the next six months.

About 49 per cent said they intend to buy more vitamins, herbs and supplements in the coming times. "We are experiencing unprecedented shifts in consumer attitudes and behaviours - over 80 per cent consumers will continue to practice social distancing and are bringing the outside inside, over 40 per cent of consumers are dialling up on health and wellness spends, e-commerce adoption has already advanced by 2-3 years - to name

a few," Nimisha Jain, Managing Director and Partner at Boston Consulting Group, said.

She added that these aren't just temporary surges, and many will last longer and become more defining traits.

"Our analysis reveals that only 1 in 6 companies emerged stronger in past crises - players who show the agility to reinvent their value propositions, go-to-market plans and business models to address these demand shifts will be the ones that set themselves apart from the pack," she said.

The report titled "Turn the

Tide' focused on how COVID-19 has changed consumer behaviour and altered the path-to-purchase. It is based on insights from primary and secondary research covering the top 100 cities in India (SEC A and B) and was done in three phases.

As per the report, 43 per cent consumers anticipate a decrease in overall spend in the next six months, and purchase triggers are expected to become more functional.

Also, consumers are focusing on the origin of the product and brand's response to the crisis

with 63 per cent consumers saying they are paying more attention to the origin of the product.

While 43 per cent are expecting to reduce overall spends in the next six months, more than half of those who reduce spends will still buy a cheaper brand/variant.

This period has also accelerated digital adoption. About 51 per cent consumers said they saw an increase in payment via digital wallets, while about 50 per cent said they expect to increase e-commerce spend in the next month.

The report said India has seen

a 1.3-1.7X increase in the number of online shoppers for essentials, and the surge in preference for the online channel is sharper in India than in China, Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines.

"As business after business joins the dots to understand consumer shifts in both mindsets and behaviours as a result of COVID-19, we have invested in studying the new paths to purchase in continuing our commitment to enabling growth for businesses both large and small. The report outlines the opportunities that businesses need to

embrace in the context of new consumer journeys and category needs," Facebook India Director and Head (Global Marketing Solutions) Sandeep Bhushan said.

He added that in response to consumers embracing the digital medium, brands need to focus on solutions that are relevant for the new normal such as hyper-localisation, creating virtual experiences, re-looking at the media-mix to build efficiency, or building messaging around new habits such as do-it-yourself (DIY) and the increased focus on health and hygiene.

Here's How Coronavirus Enters Cells By Evading Immune System, May Help Develop New Drugs

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have identified features of the novel coronavirus which enable it to efficiently enter cells, while stealthily evading surveillance by the host immune system, findings that may lead to novel drug targets against COVID-19. According to the researchers, including those from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in the US, understanding how the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, enters cells, and comparing it to other coronaviruses, is key to identifying treatments against COVID-19. In the new study, published in the journal PNAS, the scientists assessed how SARS-CoV-2, and the closely related SARS-CoV virus behind the 2002-03 pandemic, use the human ACE2 receptor proteins as entry gates into cells.



By conducting lab tests to understand how synthetic versions of the novel coronavirus and SARS-CoV enter cells, the researchers identified key mechanisms by which SARS-CoV-2 evades the host immune system, and enters cells.

They said the spike protein on the surface of SARS-CoV-2 binds to the host cell receptor ACE2

through a portion on its surface called the receptor-binding domain, or RBD. The RBD, the scientists said, is activated by biological molecules in humans called proteases. According to the study, the SARS-CoV-2 RBD has higher ACE2 binding affinity than that of the 2002-03 SARS virus, supporting a more efficient cell entry in the new virus. However, the researchers said

the ACE2 binding affinity of the entire SARS-CoV-2 spike is comparable to, or lower than that of SARS-CoV spike. "Despite the potency of its RBD's binding to hACE2, the entire SARS-CoV-2 spike does not bind to hACE2 any more strongly than SARS-CoV spike does," the scientists wrote in the study.

Based on this observation, they suggested that SARS-CoV-2 RBD, albeit more potent, is less exposed than SARS-CoV RBD. The hidden RBD in the novel coronavirus, according to the researchers, can evade the host immune system, potentially leading to insufficient immune responses and prolonged recovery time.

The scientists also found that unlike SARS-CoV, cell entry of SARS-CoV-2 is preactivated by a molecule called proprotein convertase furin. To maintain its high infectiv-

ity while keeping its RBD less accessible, the study noted that the novel coronavirus relies on host protease activation. Host protease activation is a significant determinant of coronavirus infection, and a significant target for host immune surveillance and human intervention strategies, the researchers said. "The high ACE2 binding affinity of the RBD, furin preactivation of the spike, and hidden RBD in the spike potentially allow SARS-CoV-2 to maintain efficient cell entry while evading immune surveillance," the researchers wrote in the study. According to the scientists, these features of the novel coronavirus may contribute to the wide spread of COVID-19. "Successful intervention strategies must target both the potency of SARS-CoV-2 and its evasiveness," they concluded.

Smart E-Glasses To Monitor Health, Control Video Games

Agencies

Seoul: Researchers have developed smart electronic glasses (e-glasses) that not only monitor a person's brain waves and body movements but also function as sunglasses and allow users to control a video game with eye motions.

Devices that measure electrical signals from the brain or eyes can help diagnose conditions like epilepsy and sleep disorders, as well as control computers in human-machine interfaces.

But obtaining these measurements requires a steady physical contact between skin and sensor, which is difficult with rigid devices.

The research team from Korea University wanted to integrate soft, conductive electrodes into e-glasses that could wirelessly monitor brain and eye signals, UV intensity, and body move-



ments or postures, while also acting as a human-machine interface.

According to the findings, published in the journal ACS Applied Materials Interfaces, the researchers built the glasses' frame with a 3D printer and then added flexible electrodes near the ears (EEG sensor) and eyes (EOG sensor).

They also added a wireless circuit for motion/UV sensing on the side of the glasses and a UV-responsive, colour-adjustable gel inside the lenses.

When the sensor detected UV rays of a certain intensity, the lenses changed colour and became sunglasses.

The motion detector allowed the researchers to track the posture and gait of the wearer, as well as to detect when they fell.

Study Reveals Artificial Intelligence Can Make Personality Judgements Based On Our Photographs

Agencies

MOSCOW: Russian researchers have demonstrated that artificial intelligence is able to infer people's personality from 'selfie' photographs better than human raters do.

Conscientiousness emerged to be more easily recognisable than the other four traits. Personality predictions based on female faces appeared to be more reliable than those for male faces.

The technology can be used to find the 'best matches' in customer service, dating or online tutoring. The article 'Assessing the Big Five personality traits using real-life static facial images' has been published in the journal Scientific Reports. The research was conducted by



researchers from HSE University and Open University for the Humanities.

Physiognomists from Ancient Greece to Cesare Lombroso have tried to link facial appearance to personality, but the majority of their ideas failed to withstand the scrutiny by modern science. The few established associations of specific facial features, such as facial width-to-height ratio, with personality traits are quite weak. Studies asking human raters to make personality judgments

based on photographs have produced inconsistent results, suggesting that our judgments are too unreliable to be of any practical importance.

Nevertheless, there are strong theoretical and evolutionary arguments to suggest that some information about personality characteristics, particularly, those essential for social communication, might be conveyed by the human face. After all, face and behaviour are both shaped by genes and hormones, and social experiences resulting from one's appearance may affect one's personality development. However, the recent evidence from neuroscience suggests that instead of looking at specific facial features, the human brain processes images of faces in a holistic manner.

Symptomless Covid-19 Infection May Be More Prevalent Than Thought: Study

Press Trust Of India

The prevalence of 'silent' symptomless Covid-19 infection may be much higher than thought, according to a study which assessed cruise ship passengers under isolation during the current pandemic.

Researchers, including those from Macquarie University in Australia, noted that the study offers the first analysis of complete Covid-19 testing of all passengers and crew on an isolated cruise ship during the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the findings, published in the journal Thorax, more than four out of five of passengers and crew who tested positive for the infection had no symptoms.

Based on the results, the scientists believe that the prevalence of Covid-19 on affected cruise ships is likely to be significantly underestimated.

They said strategies are needed to assess and monitor all passengers to prevent community transmission after disembarkation.

The researchers also noted that there is a pressing need for accurate global data on how many people have been infected so far.

In the current study, they assessed the Covid-19 test results of 217 passengers and crew aboard an expedition cruise ship which departed from Ushuaia, Argentina, for a planned 21 day cruise of the Antarctic.

The scientists said the ship set sail in mid-March after the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared Covid-19 a global pandemic.

They said people who in the previous three weeks had passed through countries where Covid-19 infection rates were already high, were not allowed to board, adding that everyone's temperature was taken before embarkation.

To reduce chances of the passengers contracting the virus, the researchers said, hand sanitising stations were plentiful aboard the ship, particularly in the dining room.

However, of the 217 passengers and crew on board, 128 tested positive for Covid-19, the study noted.

Nearly a fifth of those who tested positive were symptomatic, the scientists said, adding that more

than 6 per cent of the 128 passengers required medical evacuation.

They said about 3 per cent of those who showed symptoms were intubated and ventilated, and one person died.

One of the most important findings of the study, the researchers said was that the majority of Covid-19-positive patients, about 80 per cent, did not exhibit any symptoms.

The first case of fever, according to the study, was reported on day 8, prompting the immediate adoption of infection control measures.



This included confining passengers to their cabins, stopping daily servicing, apart from the delivery of meals, and the wearing of personal protective equipment for any crew member in contact with sick passengers, they said.

Since Argentina had closed its borders, the study said the ship sailed to Uruguay, arriving on day 13.

At this point, the scientists said eight passengers and crew eventually required medical evacuation to hospital for respiratory failure.

On day 20, all the remaining 217 passengers and crew were swab tested for coronavirus with more than half of them testing positive, the study noted.

In 10 instances, two passengers sharing the same cabin didn't have the same test result, the researchers said.

This could be because the current swab test returns a substantial number of false negative results, the authors noted in the study.

Of those testing positive, they said, 24 had symptoms, but 108 didn't. According to the authors of the study, the prevalence of Covid-19 infection on cruise ships is likely to be "significantly underestimated."

Based on the potentially high rate of false negative results obtained with the current swab tests, they suggested that secondary testing is warranted.

Chinese Media Reacts To Trump's Mediation Offer On Border Row With India

Agencies

Beijing: China and India do not need help from the US to resolve their current round frictions at the border, China's state-run media said on Thursday in response to President Donald Trump's offer to mediate, pointing out that the leadership of the two countries successfully solved the Doklam standoff in 2017 with "concerted efforts and wisdom."

While the Chinese Foreign Ministry is yet to react to Trump's tweet which appears to have caught Beijing by surprise, an op-ed article in the state-run Global Times said both countries don't need such a help from President Trump.

"The latest dispute can be solved bilaterally by China and India. The two countries should keep alert on the US, which exploits every chance to create waves that jeopardize regional peace and order," it said.

"China and India successfully solved their Doklam faceoff with concerted efforts and wisdom. The two informal summits between the leadership of the two sides, one in the Chinese city of Wu-

han in 2018 and the other in the Indian city of Chennai in 2019, set the tone to maintain peace and tranquility along the border," it said.

"Indian experts also believe that the special representatives' talks on the boundary question between India and China constitute an important channel of communication, and should continue in order to mitigate border standoffs and other hot issues," it said.

In the midst of latest flare-ups between Indian and Chinese armies, Trump on Wednesday said he was "ready, willing and able to mediate" between the two countries.

"We have informed both India and China that the United States is ready, willing and able to mediate or arbitrate their now raging border dispute," Trump said in a tweet on Wednesday.

In New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday that India was engaged with China to resolve the border issue, in a carefully crafted reaction seen as virtual rejection of President Trump's offer.



Coronavirus Pandemic Could Cause \$8.5 Trillion Loss In Global Output: UN Chief

Agencies

United Nations: UN chief Antonio Guterres has warned that the COVID-19 pandemic will cause unimaginable devastation, usher in hunger and famine of historic proportions, and lead to a loss of USD 8.5 trillion in global output -- the sharpest contraction since the Great Depression -- if nations did not respond with unity and solidarity.

"We must avoid it. The pandemic has demonstrated our fragility. Despite all the technological and scientific advances of recent decades, we are in an unprecedented human crisis, because of a microscopic virus," the UN Secretary-General said on Thursday to the high-level event on Financing For Development.

He underlined the need for the world to respond to the unprecedented crisis with unity and solidarity.

"Unless we act now, the COVID-19 pandemic will cause unimaginable devastation and suffering around the world. Hunger and famine of historic proportions. Sixty million more people pushed into extreme poverty. Up to half the global workforce - 1.6 billion people - without livelihoods,"

Antonio Guterres said.

He said the pandemic could usher in a loss of USD 8.5 trillion in global output - the sharpest contraction since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Globally, coronavirus has infected 5,813,997 people and killed 360,397, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Later addressing a virtual press conference along with Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness and Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, Antonio Guterres said the world is afflicted by enormous fragilities: weak health systems; runaway climate change; unsustainable levels of inequality.

"We see other signs of this fragility everywhere, from the increasing risk of nuclear proliferation to the lawlessness of cyberspace. Ignoring these warning signs is senseless arrogance. Existential threats demand humility, unity and solidarity," he said adding that the world cannot contemplate a return to the same failed priorities and systems.

"We must invest in a sustainable and inclusive recovery." When asked at the press conference why did the US and China not speak at the high-level event in which over 50 Heads of State and Government and

international organisations spoke, Antonio Guterres said "both US and China participated in our work."

Of course, this was decided because of the very high participation that it could be only at the level of heads of state and government and both countries, for reasons of agenda, could not do that at that level, but they would be ready to participate at other levels.

The US and China are currently engaged in a war of words over a range of issues, including on trade, the origins of the coronavirus epidemic, and Hong Kong.

"But they will be engaged in the Working Group. So, there is a commitment both from the United States and China to be involved in this process, which we very much welcome."

Antonio Guterres told the high-level meeting that the UN is asking for immediate, collective action in six critically important areas to deal with the crisis.

Beginning with the global liquidity crisis, he said that this was where the health and economic crises meet; "a dangerous nexus that could prolong and deepen both," calling for extending Special Drawing Rights to supplement public spending reserves.

US Might Throw Out Thousands Of Chinese Graduate Students

Agencies

Washington: The United States will take action to prevent alleged espionage by Chinese students, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday, ahead of an expected announcement by President Donald Trump.

Trump earlier said that he will hold a press conference Friday about China amid soaring tensions between the two powers, including over the status of Hong Kong and the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Asked about a report in The New York Times that Trump was considering throwing out thousands of graduate students, Pompeo said that Chinese students "shouldn't be here in our schools spying."

"We know we have this challenge. President Trump, I am confident, is going to take that on," Pompeo told Fox News, while declining to say if an action would be announced on Friday.

"We have an obligation -- a duty -- to make sure that students that are coming here to study... aren't acting on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party," Pompeo said.

The New York Times said that the Trump administration was considering annulling visas for thousands of graduate students linked to China's military.

The move would be certain to draw criticism from universities, which rely increasingly

on tuition from foreign students -- of which China and India are the largest sources -- and have already been hit hard by the CO-



VID-19 shutdown.

Asian American activists have long voiced concern that the targeting of Chinese students impacts their own community, with US citizens of Asian ancestry coming under unjustified suspicion.

"This isn't a red scare, this isn't racist. Chinese people are a great people," Pompeo said when asked about the concerns. "This is like the days of the Soviet Union. This is a communist, tyrannical regime that poses real risk to the United States," he said.

Trump, in remarks to reporters, declined to preview the press conference on Friday but said, "We're not happy with China."

Investigators Find Rs 30 Million In Wreckage Of Crashed Pakistan Aircraft



Agencies

Karachi: Investigators and rescue officials have found around Rs 30 million in cash in the wreckage of the Pakistan International Airlines' aircraft that crashed with 99 people on board, killing 97 people, including nine children.

Flight PK-8303 from Lahore to Karachi crashed in a residential area near Karachi International Airport on Friday, with only two passengers miraculously surviving the crash.

Investigators and rescue officials have found currencies of different countries and denominations worth around Rs 30 million from the aircraft's wreckage, an official said on Thursday. Search teams on Thursday recovered the cockpit voice recorder from the wreckage of a Pakistani airliner that crashed last week, a spokesman for the airline said.

"An investigation has been ordered into how such a huge amount of cash got through airport security and baggage scanners and found its way into the ill-fated flight," the official said.

He said that the amount was recovered from two bags in the wreckage.

"The process of identifying the bodies and their luggage which will be handed over to their families and relatives is going on," he said.

A total of 97 people including the aircraft crew died in the crash, one of the most catastrophic aviation disasters in Pakistan's history.

A government official said on Thursday that the identification of 47 bodies had been completed, while 43 bodies were handed over for burial.

Friday's accident was the first major aircraft crash in Pakistan after December 7, 2016 when a PIA ATR-42 aircraft from Chitral to Islamabad crashed midway. The crash claimed the lives of all 48 passengers and crew, including singer-cum-evangelist Junaid Jamshed.

Trump warns of military action as protests against George Floyd's killing continue

Agencies

Washington: United States President Donald Trump on Friday warned that he would "send in the National Guard and get the job done right" if protests in Minnesota were not curbed.

He was referring to ongoing demonstrations against the killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man who died after Minneapolis police arrested him on Monday on suspicion of using a counterfeit banknote. Police handcuffed him and held him to the ground, with a bystander video showing an officer pressing his knee on Floyd's neck.

The videos showed Floyd saying that he couldn't breathe until he went silent and limp.

He was later declared dead.

In a two-part tweet, Trump blamed Minneapolis "very weak Radical Left" mayor, Jacob Frey, for failing to control the protests that had grown violent in some parts of the city. The US president further said that he had told Minnesota's Governor Tim Walz that the "military is with him all the way" and went on to warn that law enforcement will resort to shooting if violent protests did not stop.

"These THUGS are dishonoring the memory of George Floyd, and I won't let that happen," Trump tweeted. "Just spoke to Governor Tim Walz and told him that the Military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the loot-

ing starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!"

President Trump's second tweet was flagged by Twitter for violating the platform's rules regarding "glorifying violence". It was not taken down, however.

A police precinct in Minnesota went up in flames late on Thursday in the third day of demonstrations as the so-called Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul seethed over the shocking police killing of a handcuffed black man.

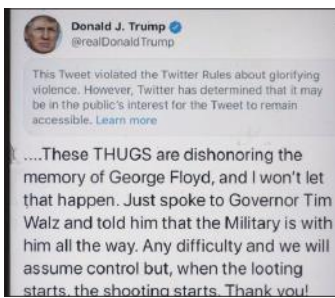
The precinct, which police had abandoned, burned after a group of protesters pushed through barriers around the building, breaking windows and chanting slogans. A much larger crowd demonstrated as the building went up in flames.

Twitter flags Trump's tweet again; this time for 'glorifying violence'

Washington: A defiant Twitter on Friday flagged a fresh tweet from Donald Trump for violating its rules about "glorifying violence", hours after the US president signed an executive order aimed at stripping social media giants like Twitter and Facebook of legal immunity for the content posted by third-party users.

The move came after Trump tweeted that "when the looting starts, the shooting starts" in reference to the ongoing unrest in Minneapolis following the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed African American man who pleaded for air as a white police officer knelt on his neck.

Twitter had earlier added fact-check links to two of Trump's



tweets, enraging Trump. "These thugs are dishonoring the memory of George Floyd, and I won't let that happen. Just spoke to Governor Tim Walz and told him that the Military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!" Trump tweeted.

Twitter flagged the tweet, which is now only visible if one clicks on Twitter's flag.

"This Tweet violated the Twitter rules about glorifying violence. However, Twitter has determined that it may be in the public's interest for the Tweet to remain accessible," the social media company said.

Floyd was seen pinned down in a video by a white police officer and later died.

He could be heard screaming, "I can't breathe," on the video of the incident. The video of Floyd's death has now caused outrage in the city of Minneapolis and all over the country. Residents of the city have been protesting his death since Tuesday.

According to Twitter, it generally takes action on tweets that violate its rules.

"Corona Is Like Your Wife": Anger Over Indonesia Minister's Sexist Remark

Jakarta: An Indonesian minister is under fire after he compared coronavirus to rebellious wives, in remarks aimed at soothing public fears about easing COVID-19 restrictions across the Southeast Asian archipelago.

Women's groups and social media users slammed the apparent joke by security minister Mohammad Mahfud MD, who made the comments during an online address to a local university earlier this week.

"Are we going to be holed up forever? We can adjust to the situation while still paying attention to our health," the minister said on Tuesday.

"The other day I got a meme from my colleague... that says: Corona is like your wife. Initially you tried to control it, then you realise that you can't. Then you learn to live with it."

Critics panned the remarks as sexist

and said it underscored Jakarta's weak response to the virus outbreak.

"This statement not only reflects the superficial power of the government to solve the Covid-19 pandemic problem, but also shows the sexist and misogynistic mindset of public officials," Women's Solidarity group chief executive Dinda Nisa Yura said in a statement.

Mahfud's office did not respond to a request for comment Friday.

Indonesia is deploying some 340,000 troops to clamp down on rampant social distancing violations as coronavirus infections surge in the world's fourth-most populous country.

The move comes as the government eyes a reopening of shuttered businesses next week, fearing a collapse in Southeast Asia's biggest economy.

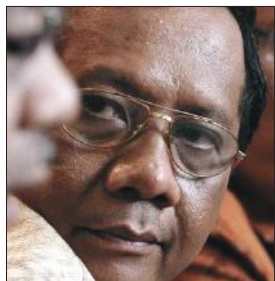
Malaysia's ruling party dumps Mahathir, dissenters

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's ruling party on Thursday terminated the membership of his predecessor Mahathir Mohamad, a move widely seen as an attempt to consolidate power as he faces a possible challenge to his nascent premiership.

Mahathir, 94, had said he would seek to oust Muhyiddin from office for making a "backdoor arrangement" that brought back into power a graft-tainted party rejected by voters in an election in 2018.

In a letter circulated widely on social media, the party stated that Mahathir automatically ceased to be a member after he made a show of rejecting Muhyiddin's leadership as prime minister and party president by sitting with the opposition when parliament met last week.

NEWS MAKERS



Govt's Silence On China Border Issue Fuelling Speculation: Rahul



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday asked the Narendra Modi government to come clean on the border standoff with China and tell the country what exactly is happening as its silence is fuelling speculation and uncertainty.

"The government's silence about the border situation with China is fuelling massive speculation and uncertainty at a time of crisis," he said on Twitter.

"The government of India must come clean and tell India exactly what's happening," Rahul added.

There has been a standoff between Indian and Chinese troops at the border in Ladakh from early this month. The situation in eastern

Ladakh deteriorated after around 250 Chinese and Indian soldiers were engaged in a violent face-off on the evening of May 5, which spilled over to the next day before the two sides agreed to "disengage" following a meeting at the level of local commanders.

Rahul had referred to the border issue earlier this week also. Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Rahul had asked the government to be more transparent on the issue. "I think, on the India-China issue, we would like to see some more transparency on what is going on. It becomes very difficult for us to have a position without understanding the facts," Rahul told reporters when asked about the China border issue.

"The government should make it clear to the people of India, what exactly is happening on the border. We are hearing different stories so, I don't want to go into conjecture, but it is important that the government of India makes it clear, what is happening on the border so that people can understand and have a proper position," Rahul argued.

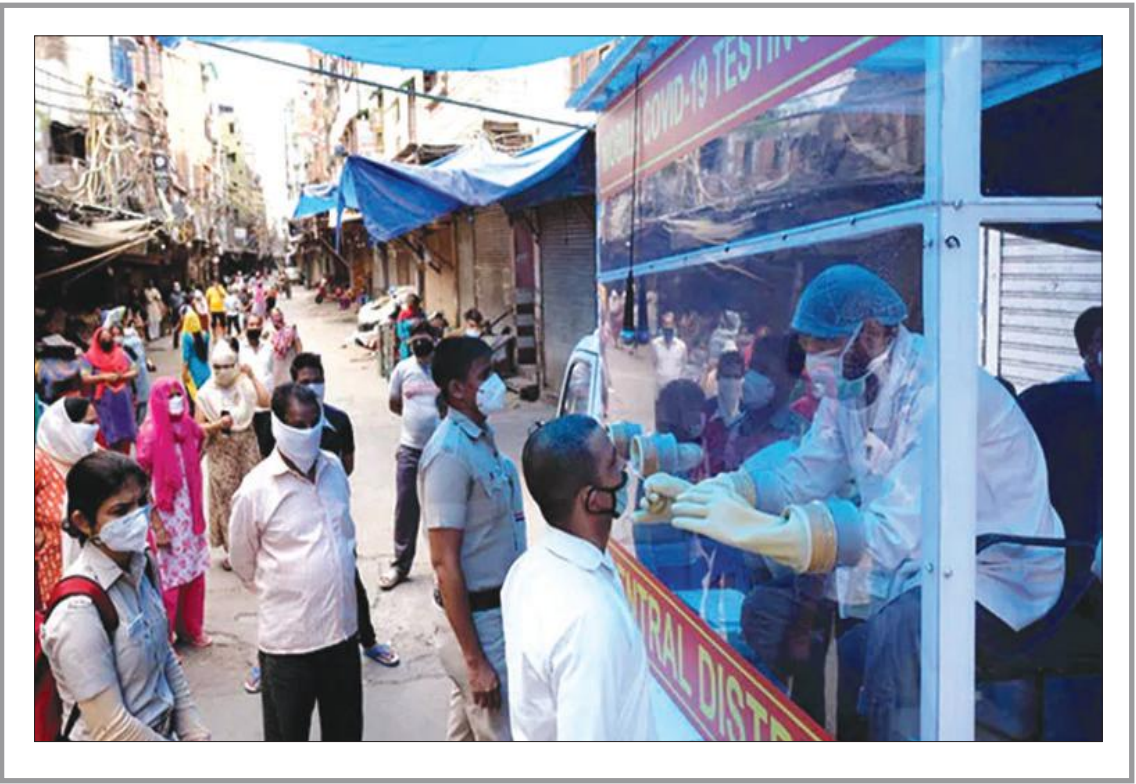
UN Agency Expects Locusts To Reach As Far As Bihar, Odisha But Not South India

NEW DELHI: Swarms of locusts are expected to reach as far as Bihar and Odisha in July but there are less chances of migratory pests reaching south India, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

In the past few days, there have been movements of adult groups of locusts in India, Oman, the UAE, and Uganda. Swarms are forming in the spring breeding areas and migrating east to the Indo-Pakistan border ahead of the monsoon rains, it said. In its latest update, the FAO said locust swarms have moved into northern India. Spring-bred immature adult groups of locust and swarms that arrived in Rajasthan from the west continued to move east in the eastern portion of the state and to the central states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.



Much of these movements were associated with strong westerly winds from Cyclone Amphan in the Bay of Bengal, the FAO said and added the control operations are underway. The FAO warned that "several successive waves of invasions can be expected until July in Rajasthan with eastward surges across northern India as far as Bihar and Orissa followed by westward movements and a return to Rajasthan on the changing winds associated with the monsoon." These movements will cease as swarms begin to breed and become less mobile, it said.



India Now Has More Virus Deaths Than China Where Pandemic Started

India is the latest country whose coronavirus death count has topped the number of lives lost in China, where the pandemic started, as hot spots shift to developing countries ill-equipped to contain its spread.

The South Asian nation's death count hit 4,695 on Thursday, climbing past the 4,638 fatalities from Covid-19 in China. The nation of 1.3 billion people now has the highest number of fatalities in Asia, excluding Iran, despite the largest lockdown in the world.

The country's death count quadrupled in less than a month, accelerating by more than 1,000 over the past week, while infections have been soaring at a similar pace. Government experts have begun to acknowledge the outbreak won't peak until June or July.

The total number of cases in India is already about twice the level in China, and also surpasses those in Iran. Infections rose to 165,069 on Thursday, the ninth highest globally, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

"The hope was the lockdown will

be able to prevent transmission, but clearly that did not happen," said Vivekanand Jha, executive director of the George Institute of Global Health, India.

While still far behind the number of cases and deaths seen in places like the U.S., Spain and Italy, the rapid growth of India's virus burden comes as the pace of new infections starts to plateau or decline in many of the wealthier countries where the pandemic first struck, and explode across the developing world.

In recent weeks, Brazil's epidemic has quickly grown to be the largest in the world behind only the U.S., while Peru, Mexico and Chile are all rapidly developing into problem spots.

Health experts warned earlier this year of the dangers the coronavirus presents to developing nations such as India, which possess fewer strategies to contain the disease's spread than wealthier countries. Lockdowns can't be maintained for as long in poorer countries where many people depend on daily wages to survive, crowded slum areas make social dis-

tancing impossible, and health-care systems are under-resourced even during the best of times.

"The health-care systems of these countries will be tested really badly, and it is quite likely that in many instances they will just not be able to meet with the need," Jha said. "If that's the case, unfortunately, we'll see a huge amount of suffering."

India's coronavirus infections are escalating at the fastest pace in Asia as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been forced to start gradually relaxing the country's nationwide lockdown to boost economic activity and ease the pain of what's set to be the economy's first annual contraction in 40 years.

The lockdown -- which began on March 25 and is set to end on May 31 -- was partly aimed at giving the country more time to build up its health-care system. The government has been scaling up its testing to identify new cases, but India's huge population means its efforts still only cover a relatively small portion of the citizenry.

INDIA'S CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS ARE ESCALATING AT THE FASTEST PACE in Asia as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been forced to start gradually relaxing the country's nationwide lockdown to boost economic activity and ease the pain of what's set to be the economy's first annual contraction in 40 years.

16 Passengers Of IndiGo, 2 Other Carriers Test Positive For Coronavirus



NEW DELHI / BENGALURU: 16 asymptomatic passengers on seven different flights, including 13 who travelled by IndiGo, have tested positive for COVID-19 since the resumption of domestic air services on Monday, according to airlines data.

Two of the three asymptomatic passengers who tested positive for the infection had travelled by SpiceJet while one took a flight of the Air India subsidiary Alliance Air.

The Karnataka government, meanwhile, said on Thursday it has requested the Civil Aviation ministry to reduce the number of flights originating from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in view of the high number of COVID-19 cases in the state, hours after a minister said it has "suspended" air travel from these states.

Seeking to clarify his statement, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy maintained that Karnataka has not sought a ban on flights from the five states as reported in some sections of the media.

Karnataka has appealed to the Civil Aviation Ministry to take steps to lessen the air traffic to the state, with the "sacred intention" that there may not be adequate quarantine facilities, if there is a huge turnout in a short span of time, he said in a press release issued by the state information department.

West Bengal, which allowed resumption of domestic air services from Thursday, and Maharashtra are among the states who

have requested the centre for limited flight operations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three passengers who travelled on Delhi-Jammu flight on Tuesday, six passengers on Bengaluru-Coimbatore flight, two passengers on Delhi-Coimbatore flight and one passenger on Bengaluru-Madurai flight, all on Wednesday, tested positive for coronavirus, the airline said.

On Tuesday, IndiGo had said that a passenger who travelled from Chennai to Coimbatore on Monday evening tested positive for COVID-19. The passenger was the first to have tested positive after the domestic flight operations resumed in the country.

All the passengers who tested positive had observed all precautionary measures, including wearing face mask, face shield and gloves, like other travellers on the aircraft, it said.

"All our aircraft are being regularly sanitized as a standard operating procedure, and the aircraft operating these flights were immediately disinfected as per protocol," the airline added.

SpiceJet said on Wednesday that two of its passengers who travelled from Ahmedabad to Guwahati via Delhi on Monday tested positive for coronavirus.

Air India had also said on Wednesday that a passenger who was on an Alliance Air flight from Delhi to Ludhiana tested positive and 41 people, including five crew members, had been quarantined.

Health Ministry Refuses To Reveal Amount Spent On Covid-19 Equipment

NEW DELHI: The Health Ministry has refused to share the amount of money spent on equipment purchase to handle the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, stating that such data does not come under the definition of "information" to be provided under the Right to Information Act.

According to Section 2(f) of the RTI Act, "information" which can be accessed by a citizen under the transparency law means "any material in any form, including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models, data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law for the time being in force."



Mumbai-based RTI activist Anil Galgali had filed an online application on the central government's portal seeking to know steps taken by it to control the spread of COVID-19, name of equipment and material purchased for the purpose and the amount spent on them.

The application was allotted to a Central Public Information Officer in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

After 22 days of filing the RTI application, Mr Galgali received a response stating that the CPIO deals with matters related to HLL Lifecare Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Health and Fam-

ily Welfare. "The Central Public Information Officer is not required to furnish information which requires drawing of inference and/or making of assumption, or to interpret information, or to solve the problem raised by the applicant, or to furnish replies to hypothetical questions. The Information sought does not come under the definition of information as defined in Section 2(f) of RTI Act, 2005. The CPIO has no specific information to provide (sic)," it said.

According to the RTI Act, if the information is not held by a CPIO, the officer should transfer it under Section 6(3) to his colleague who is supposed to have it within five days of receiving the plea. Galgali said it was an "unprofessional" approach on the part of the CPIO. And if it was so, why it took 22 days to deny the information, he asked.

NOT STAYING AT HOME IS IRRESPONSIBLE. IGNORING THE PLIGHT OF THOSE WHO CAN'T IS INHUMAN.

Millions in West Bengal and Odisha are battling the devastation of a cyclone and the threat of COVID-19. Please donate. Help them overcome this double disaster.

West Bengal State Disaster Management Authority, ICICI Bank, Acc No. 628001041066, IFSC ICIC0006280
Odisha Chief Minister's Relief Fund, State Bank of India, Acc No. 11109339165, IFSC SBIN00110236

NEWS MAKER

Refused Phone For Children's Online Classes, Woman Commits Suicide: Cops

NEW DELHI: A 29-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide by setting herself on fire in Maidan Garhi area of the national capital after her husband refused to buy a smartphone for the online classes being conducted by the school of their children, the police said.

The woman allegedly set herself on fire on May 27 around 8 am. Soon af-

ter receiving the information, the police reached the spot and rushed the woman to Safdarjung Hospital. The doctors informed that Jyoti sustained 90 per cent burn injuries and was declared dead.

According to the police statement given by her husband, the couple got married 7-year ago and they have two children.

He said his wife was insisting on buying a smartphone but he told her that he will buy one after the lockdown.

A police investigation into the case is underway. (If you need support or know someone who does, please reach out to your nearest mental health specialist.)

Helplines:
AASRA: 91-22-27546669

(24 hours)
Sneha Foundation: 91-44-24640050 (24 hours)
Vandrevalla Foundation for Mental Health: 1860-2662-345 and 1800-2333-330 (24 hours)
iCall: 022-25521111 (Available from Monday to Saturday: 8:00am to 10:00pm)
Connecting NGO: 18002094353 (Available from 12 pm - 8 pm)