

Maximum : 24°C  
Minimum : 13°C  
Humidity : 62%  
SUNSET  
Today 07:39 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:20 AMSOCIAL DISTANCING  
DELAY BY ONE DAY MAY LEAD  
TO VIRUS SPREADING FOR  
2.4 EXTRA DAYS

Every day a city delays in implementing social distancing measures after the appearance of its first case of coronavirus infection may add as much as 2.4 days to the duration of the outbreak, says an analysis of COVID-19 spread in 58 cities.

According to the study, published in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases, places that take longer to implement social distancing measures may spend more time with the virus rapidly spreading than those that act more quickly.

Researchers, including those from The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin), looked at data from cities throughout China and analysed when the first cases were detected, when social distancing measures were implemented, and when the outbreak was considered contained.

"Every day saves time, saves effort, saves people becoming infected and probably saves lives," said Lauren Ancel Meyers, a professor .....

## News Digest

Govt Undecided Over  
School Reopening

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir government said Wednesday that it has not taken any decision to re-open the schools on June 15 in Jammu and Kashmir. This was stated by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, KK Sharma, who is also in charge of School Education Department, an official spokesperson said. He, however, said that instructions have been issued to schools to ensure sanitization of school premises in view of Covid-19 across J&K.

SC Rejects Plea For  
Renaming India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday said the Centre should treat as a representation a plea which sought a direction to amend the Constitution and replace the word India with 'Bharat' or 'Hindustan'. The plea filed before the apex court by a Delhi-based man has claimed that such an amendment will "ensure the citizens of this country to get over the colonial past". It contended that replacing the word India ● P-02

Nine New Covid-19  
Cases In Ladakh

Jammu: Nine more persons tested positive for coronavirus in Ladakh, taking the total number of cases in the union territory to 90, officials said on Wednesday. All the new positive cases -- seven in Kargil and two in Leh districts -- have been shifted to an isolation ward from quarantine facilities and the contract tracing is under progress, health department officials said. They said one COVID-19 patient from Leh district was discharged from Mahabodhi hospital on Tuesday ● P-02

Explosives Recovered,  
4 Held: Police

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday arrested four people for allegedly possessing explosive material in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. In a handout issued this evening, a police spokesperson said that based on a credible information, police raided house of Adil Maqbool Wani in Nanil and recovered 24Kgs of explosive material concealed in nylon bags. During preliminary investigations, the police spokesperson said it was learnt that three other persons ● P-02

Tanker Overturns In  
Samba, One Killed

Jammu- A Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) gas tanker skidded off the road and fell into a 15-foot deep ditch in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, killing one person and injuring another, officials said. The tanker, which was on its way to Srinagar, turned turtle near Charawa village on the Samba-Majalta-Udhampur road. Immediately after the accident, rescue teams from the HPCL along with duty magistrates, police, Fire and Emergency Services and SDRF personnel reached the spot and evacuated residents from nearby houses as a precautionary ● P-02

Modi, Trump Discuss  
Sino-India Border  
Row In Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The border stand-off between India and China, the ongoing civil disturbances in the US and need for reforms in the WHO were among a host of issues that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump discussed during a telephonic talk on Tuesday.

In the conversation, President Trump extended an invitation to Modi to attend the next G-7 summit to be held in the US, the Ministry of External Affairs said. On Saturday, Trump pitched for expansion of the G7 comprising the world's most advanced economies by including India and three other countries.

"The two leaders also exchanged views on other topical issues, such

China Rejects Third  
Party Intervention

China on Wednesday emphasised that there was no need for the intervention of a "third party" to resolve its current standoff with India as the two neighbours have full-fledged border-related mechanisms and communication channels to ● P-02

as the COVID-19 situation in the two countries, the situation on the India-China border, and the need for reforms in the World Health Organisation," the MEA said.

The talks between the two leaders came days after India rejected Trump's offer of mediation to end the tense border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh. India had also rejected Trump's claim that he spoke to Modi on the eastern Ladakh standoff.

In the conversation, Modi expressed concern regarding the ongoing civil disturbances in the US, and conveyed his best wishes for an early resolution of the situation, the MEA said.

"President Trump spoke about the US Presidency of the Group of Seven, and conveyed his desire to expand the ambit of ● PAGE 02

THE TWO LEADERS ALSO EXCHANGED VIEWS ON OTHER topical issues, such as the COVID-19 situation in the two countries, the situation on the India-China border, and the need for reforms in the World Health Organisation,"

## Pattan Man Tests Covid-19 Positive 5 Days After Death

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR- Five days after his death and subsequent burial, swab samples of an 86-year-old man from Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district returned positive for the pathogen on Wednesday, taking the death toll due to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir to 34.

Official sources said that the octogenarian, a resident of Hamray Pattan Baramulla, died on May 29 and his sample was taken at the local Community Health Centre. The authorities had allowed the burial of the elderly as per covid-19 protocol after his family agreed to it. His sample report returned positive at CD hospital diagnostic laboratory today, reported news agency GNS.

With the latest fatality, the death toll due to the virus in J&K has gone upto 34. So far Srinagar

5 BSF Men, 26 Pregnant Women  
Among 139 Positive

Jammu and Kashmir recorded another spike in coronavirus cases on Wednesday as 139 more people tested positive for virus, including 26 pregnant women, and five Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, taking the number of ● P-02

## 12 Quarantine Staff Members Test Positive

After the arrival of returnees led to surge in number of positive cases in Pulwama, the COVID test of quarantine staff in Hamdard Grammar School has surfaced positive after administration adopts aggressive random sampling. All the officials associated with quarantine duties were ● P-02

district and Baramulla have reported highest number of the fatalities--7 each, followed by Anantnag five, Kulgam four, two

each from Shopian, Budgam and Jammu while one death each has been reported from Bandipora, Kupwara Doda and Udhampur.

Govt Revokes PSA  
Of Shah Faesal, 2  
PDP Leaders

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday revoked the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) against former IAS officer-turned-politician Shah Faesal and two PDP members, including the maternal uncle of former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, officials said.

According to separate orders issued by the Home Department of the Union Territory, the PSA against Faesal, who was a 2010-batch IAS officer, Sartaj Madani, uncle of Mufti, and Peer Mansoor, her political advisor during her tenure as chief minister, was revoked "with immediate effect".

While the PSA against Faesal was extended on May 14, it was also extended against Madani, who was lodged in an official bungalow, on May 5 and Mansoor, held up at MLA hostel, on May 15 for a period of three months.

After Wednesday's order, Mufti, whose official residence was designated into a sub-jail, National Conference (NC) general secretary Ali Mohammed Sagar, son of NC parliamentarian Akbar Lone, ● PAGE 02



Doctors stage a protest against the assault on their colleagues by state forces. File Pic Abid Bhat

Epidemiologist  
On Covid Duty  
'Thrashed' By CRPF

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A prominent epidemiologist and a frontline Covid-19 warrior on Wednesday was hospitalised after being allegedly beaten up by paramilitary CRPF personnel in central Kashmir's Budgam district

Dr Muzaffar Jan, a prominent epidemiologist was on way to Budgam to attend his duties when CRPF personnel intercepted him near Chadura market and thrashed him with batons, CMO Budgam, Dr Tajamul Hussain Khan told Kashmir Observer. The doctor, he said was beaten to pulp by paramilitary men despite him proving his identity, producing movement pass and explaining

his purpose of his journey.

"He was beaten so much that he couldn't walk properly. He has suffered muscle tear, soft tissue injury and he's experiencing problem in breathing, all because of the kicks and punches of the CRPF personnel," Khan said.

The senior epidemiologist, Khan said was let off by the CRPF men only after some passerby intervened and pleaded his release. He said due to the beating, Dr Jan was hospitalised at District Hospital Budgam.

"It is a shameful and condemnable act on the part of CRPF. We treat their jawans and they beat our colleagues. These barbaric acts are not acceptable," CMO Budgam said. ● PAGE 02

HE WAS BEATEN SO MUCH THAT he couldn't walk properly. He has suffered muscle tear, soft tissue injury and he's experiencing problem in breathing, all because of the kicks and punches of the CRPF personnel,"

Afghan War Veteran,  
Among 3 Militants Killed  
In Pulwama Encounter

An army convoy leaving a village in Pulwama after 3 militants were killed in a gunfight on Wednesday. Pic. Shah Junaid

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A militant who had fought in Afghanistan, was killed on Wednesday with two of his associates in a gunfight with government forces in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, barely a day after two militants were slain in a similar encounter in Tral.

Acting on inputs over the presence of militants, special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 55 RR and personnel of CRPF183 BN laid a siege around ● PAGE 02

India, Pak Troops  
Exchange Fire Along LoC

India and Pakistan troops on Wednesday continued exchanging heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan army continued its ceasefire violation by resorting to intense firing along the LoC in Poonch district ● P-02

Private Transporters Suspend  
Truck, Tanker Services In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Private transporters on Wednesday announced the suspension of tanker and truck services in Jammu and Kashmir but said their doors are open if the administration is interested in addressing their genuine demands through negotiations.

They also said that the government would be responsible for any shortage of essential commodities as most of these tankers and trucks are engaged in transportation of essential supplies.

The agitating transporters, who among other things are seeking an economic package for the industry

to overcome the coronavirus-driven crisis, also expressed displeasure over the government move to increase the road or token tax on the old vehicles registered before August 3, 2019 with the concerned transport authorities.

"Jammu and Kashmir has received a new gift in the shape of double token tax at a time of COVID crisis after the recent increase in rate of tax on sale of petrol and diesel, while no attention is paid on our genuine demands.

"As a mark of protest, we are stopping our tanker and truck service from tomorrow (Thursday). The government should be held responsible if there is ● PAGE 02

Govt Cautions Students Over  
'Unauthorised' Pak Kashmir Colleges

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Centre has advised students of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh against taking admissions in colleges or universities in Pakistan-controlled-Kashmir (PcK) as the educational institutions there were not recognised by India.

In a public notice, published in local dailies here, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) cautioned the students of J&K and Ladakh about "unapproved technical institutions" operating in PcK.

"Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) is an integral part of the Union of India and the educational institutions including universities, medical colleges, and techni-

cal educational institutions situated in PoJK are neither established by Government of India nor recognized by statutory authorities such as University Grants Commission (UGC), AICTE and Medical Council of India (MCI) etc," reads the notice issued by Member Secretary, AICTE.

The notice advises the students not to take admission in any college, university or technical institution for courses in engineering and technology, architecture, town planning, pharmacy, hotel management and catering technology, applied arts, crafts and design, management, computer applications and travel and tourism.

"... for which advisories are issued by various other ● PAGE 02

Sanika Athavale

Rushing to and fro urban and rural Kashmir every day, Naveed Bukhtiyar (24) has been trying to identify 'deserving' families while working as the state coordinator for Karwan-e-Mohabbat.

As soon as pandemic lockdown was enforced, his friends had become accustomed to waking up to the pictures of isolated human settlements he would post in the wee hours of the morning. The posts were pictures of four-wheeler trucks stocked with ration kits, the sight of broken roads, the elbow grease involved in packing essential items, among many others.

Just before the holy month of Ramzan had culminated, Naveed and his team of volunteers were able to help around 90 and 400 families in Sopore and Uri respectively. They undertook the painful yet requisite task of identifying the poorest of people in these settlements and prioritising the needs of some over the rest in this sub-group.

"We gave extra attention to the needs of widows, the physically-challenged, cancer patients, and senior citizens," Naveed said while speaking to the Kashmir Observer.

Uri tehsil in Baramulla district is



Pic By: Sanika Athavale

akin to an armed camp. Most times, especially during winters when the roads are blocked, the local residents look for soldiers to help them in their daily activities since infrastructure to empower the common citizen is absent.

"Villages along the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan have remained in the prisons of neglect and omission," Naveed said. "Garkote, Mothal, Sukhdar, Dachi, Bandi, Dudran, Sultan Daki, etc. are inhabited by the most impoverished Kashmiris and we have been able to achieve some success

in providing ration there."

Changemakers like Naveed have been carrying out relief-work along the LoC during heavy shelling between the armed forces of India and Pakistan.

Working in similar conditions, a duo from Sultan Daki, comprising a middle school teacher and a young college graduate, have helped 70 families in procuring essential supplies during the pandemic.

Speaking to the Kashmir Observer, Junaid Ahmad Mangral asserted that the biggest and only real victim of the lockdown is the labourer class.

"Kashmir is an expensive place to live," Junaid said. "They [labourers] were already in a precarious condition pre-lockdown, and now they are worse than ever."

Uri, he said, is populated by poor people, as 60-70 percent of its residents are below the poverty line (BPL).

The duo wanted to start relief work much earlier but during the early days of the pandemic, they feared that they might contract the virus in that process. It took some time, but they soon accepted COVID-19 as their new reality and began self-motivated volunteer work following their epiphany.

Their village, Sultan Daki, had been declared a red zone, ● PAGE 02



# From Front page...

## Modi, Trump Discuss ...

the grouping beyond the existing membership, to include other important countries including India. In this context, he extended an invitation to Prime Minister Modi to attend the next G-7 Summit to be held in USA," it said. According to the ministry, Modi commended the US president for his creative and far-sighted approach, acknowledging the fact that such an expanded forum would be in keeping with the emerging realities of the post-COVID world. "The Prime Minister said that India would be happy to work with the US and other countries to ensure the success of the proposed summit," it said. In a tweet, Modi said, "Had a warm and productive conversation with my friend President @realDonaldTrump. We discussed his plans for the US Presidency of G-7, the COVID-19 pandemic, and many other issues." "The richness and depth of India-US consultations will remain an important pillar of the post-COVID global architecture," the prime minister added. In the statement, the MEA said Trump warmly recalled his visit to India in February this year. Modi said that the visit had been memorable and historic on many accounts, and had also added new dynamism to the bilateral relationship. "The exceptional warmth and candour of the conversation reflected the special nature of the Indo-US ties, as well as the friendship and mutual esteem between both leaders," the MEA said.

## China Rejects Third Party..

sort out their differences through dialogue. Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that China's position on the border issue with India was "consistent and clear" and both the countries have "earnestly" implemented the important consensus reached between their leaders. Zhao was replying to a question about the phone call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on Tuesday during which the two leaders also discussed the border standoff between India and China. "Now the situation there (at India-China border) is overall stable and controllable. China and India have full-fledged border-related mechanisms and communication channel. We have the capability to resolve the issue through dialogue and negotiation," Zhao said. "There is no need for the intervention of a third party," he emphasised, in what is Beijing's first official reaction to the discussion on the India-China border tensions between Modi and Trump. President Trump last week 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 last week. Both India and China have rejected Trump's offer of mediation. "China's position on the border issue is consistent and clear," Zhao said and reiterated that the two neighbours have "earnestly implemented the important consensus" reached between their leaders. The troops of India and China were engaged in a 73-day stand-off in Doklam tri-junction in 2017 which even triggered fears of a war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their first informal summit in April 2018 in the Chinese city of Wuhan, months after the Doklam standoff. In the summit, the two leaders decided to issue "strategic guidance" to their militaries to strengthen communications so that they can build trust and understanding. Modi and Xi held their second informal summit in Mamallapuram near Chennai in October last year with a focus on further broadening bilateral ties.

"We have strictly abided by the relevant treaty between China and India and committed to upholding national territorial and sovereignty and security as well as upholding peace and stability in the border region," Zhao said. His remarks came in the backdrop of the continuing standoff between the militaries of India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a bitter standoff in several areas along the Line of Actual Control in mountainous eastern Ladakh for close to four weeks. Both the countries are holding talks at military and diplomatic levels to resolve the dispute. 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.

## Govt Revokes PSA Of Shah

Hilal Lone and senior PDP leader Nayeem Akhthar continue to remain in detention. Faesal, who was under detention after scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, was booked under the PSA in February this year, with his detention being extended barely hours before it was to come to an end. The three were among a host of political leaders detained initially under preventive custody and later under the PSA in the aftermath of August 5 development when the Centre withdrew the special status of the erstwhile state and bifurcated it into two union territories -- Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir. Immediately as the news came out, former chief minister Omar Abdullah tweeted that he was happy at the release of the three leaders but expressed disappointment that "Mehbooba Mufti, Sagar and Hilal Lone continue to be detained. It's high time they are set free as well". He also sought to draw attention of the authorities at the "informal house arrest" of others and said "...it's time the rule of law is applied to all equally and these leaders are allowed to leave their homes without their 'guards' locking them inside without cause, justification or any detention order". He said that senior leaders including Nayeem Akhtar and Sagar too should be released without any further delay. "There is no justification for their continued detention," he said. The Twitter handle of Mufti, which is being operated by her daughter Iltija, said she was "relieved that arbitrary and illegal detention of Shah Faesal, Sartaj Madni and Peer Mansoor Hussain under PSA has finally been revoked." She said that political detainees including Sajad Lone, Ali Mohd Sagar, Hilal Lone, Nayeem Akhtar and Waheed Para, and civil society members such as Mian Qayoom and others are still imprisoned in and outside Jammu and Kashmir. "They must be released immediately," she said. She said that it was pertinent to mention that barring a few, most political leaders cutting across party lines continue being under house arrest. "Their unlawful detention is an aberration of the law."

## Epidemiologist On Covid...

He said he has apprised the district police and civil administration officials seeking strict action against the guilty paramilitary men. Pertinently, Dr Khan's video last month created a storm on social media after he was seen reprimanding policemen in north Kashmir's Bandipora after his official vehicle was stopped by the cops. The incident had sparked massive outrage among the healthcare workers across the Valley prompting Inspector General of police (IGP) Vijay Kumar to instruct uniformed men to facilitate smooth movement of doctors and other health workers. CRPF Spokesperson, Pankaj Singh told Kashmir Observer that the allegations of thrashing minor against his men were not true. However, he said it was a minor scuffle between the Doctor and CRPF personnel. "The doctor was trying to cross a containment zone during which a scuffle had happened. The issue was resolved amicably by the two sides. We are all Corona fighters. Our jawans are fighting corona on roads, doctors are fighting," Singh said.

## Afghan War Veteran...

Astan Mohalla village of the district in the wee hours today and started a search operation, reports said. When the search opera-

tion was in progress, a group of militants hiding in a residential house opened a volley of gunfire to stop state forces from advancing and to escape their dragnet.

However, the government forces encircled the holed up militants and engaged them in a firefight. The militants, reports said came out of the house took shelter in a cowshed and continued assaults on the state forces. In the exchange of gunfire that continued for several hours, three Jaish militant, including the outfit's top commander Abdul Rehman alias Fauji Bhai were killed while a soldier sustained injuries. Locals told Kashmir Observer that a cow was also killed in exchange of fire between the militants and the government forces. The house too suffered partial damages in the encounter, they said. "The killing of Abdul Rehman alias Fauji Bhai alias Fauji Baba, a Pakistani national, is a big success for forces as he was a master in assembling improvised explosive devices for JeM," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar told reporters here. Kumar said the slain Jaish militant was active in south Kashmir since 2017 and had taken part in armed action against the allied forces in violence-ridden Afghanistan in the past. The IGP claimed that Fauji Baba had managed to escape when state forces intercepted the IED laden car in Pulwama on May 28. "We had promised you that day we will get him soon. Today we did. Whether he was involved in 2019 car bombing attack on CRPF convoy, I cannot say for sure but he was active in Pulwama at that time," he said in response to a question. Asked if Fauji Baba was the nephew of Jaish chief Masood Azhar, Kumar said, "There is no confirmation of that. You are only running it (on TV channels)." He said there were at least two more IED experts among the Jaish ranks in Kashmir, Walid Bhai and Lambu Bhai, and the security forces were working to get them too. "We have had major successes this year as we have eliminated top commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen Reyaz Naikoo and poster boy Junaid Sehrai, Lashkar chief Haider in Handwara and now Fauji Baba," he added. Security officials said that the real name of Fauji Bhai was Ikram and he was a close confidant of top JeM commander Abdul Rouf Asghar, wanted in connection with the IC-814 hijacking case of an Indian Airlines plane in 1999. Asghar is younger brother of JeM supreme commander Maulana Masood Azhar, who was released in exchange by the then BJP-led government on December 31, 1999. "Fauji Bhai had infiltrated along with specially trained JeM militants to revive the outfit and initiate spectacular attacks on security apparatus." The group moved to South Kashmir and set up their bases in Tral, Rajpora and Khrew areas of Pulwama and intermingled with local JeM militants. The specialized attacks included massive IED attacks and M4 sniper shots. His movement was often reported from Cheva Kalan and Rajpora areas of Pulwama along Rumshi Naala and Chadoora area of Budgam and his pictures freely circulated. He was known to wield an AK rifle fitted with a UBGL and carried a satellite phone for communication. Kumar said efforts were on to identify the other two slain ultras. The "potential parents" of these militants have been called in for identification. "If they are identified, their family will be allowed to participate in the funeral at Baramulla. We are in the process of conducting the autopsy and collecting DNA samples in case they are not identified," he added. On Tuesday, two local militants of Jaish were killed in a gun-battle with government forces in Saimoh village of Tral. The locals had identified them as Maqbool Chopan and Aqib Ramzan. While Chopan was said to have joined militant ranks in April this year, Ramzan was reportedly active for a year. Meanwhile, clashes broke out between protesters and government forces after the encounter concluded. The government forces burst tear smoke shells and fired pellets to disperse scores of protesters who were seeking custody of the slain militants, witnesses told Kashmir Observer.

## India, Pak Troops...

prompting retaliation from the Indian Army, a defence spokesman said. "There was unprovoked firing from across the border in Kirmi sector that started around 1.45 pm," he said. The Indian Army replied to the Pakistan firing, the spokesman said. The exchange of fire between the two sides lasted for quite some time, he added. However, there was no report of any casualty or injury on the Indian side, the spokesman said.

## 5 BSF Men, 26 Pregnant...

infected people across the Union Territory to 2857. Among the fresh cases, 109 are from Kashmir division, 30 from Jammu division, they said. Moreover, 54 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals, 01 from Jammu Division and 53 from Kashmir Division, they added. 44 out of the cases include travels and 95 others, officials said. Regarding the district wise cases, they said, one was reported from Anantnag, Kulgam 2, Srinagar 14, Kupwara 10, Baramulla 27, Shopian 24, Bandipora 9, Budgam 6, Pulwama 13, Ganderbal 3, Jammu 10, Udhampur 3, Poonch 10, Samba 3 and Rajouri 4. Dr. Salim Khan, nodal officer for COVID-19 at the Government Medical College Srinagar said among the 67 cases were reported at CD hospital laboratory and include 26 pregnant women from Saipora, Devpora, tengpora areas of Shopian, Trehgam Kupwara besides Penzipora, Hathlangoo, Palhalan, Boma Sopore, Selo Sopore, Shiva, Budbug, Khajabagh in Bramulla district and Kagan Ganderbal. Regarding healthcare workers, he said, one each is from Pattan, Handwara and Gundpora while BSF men include 38-year-old from Jalgoan and four others from Trehgam Kupwara. The dialysis patient--50-year-old man from Tragpora Baramulla was scheduled to undergo surgery while the one on guard duty centre at Baramulla is a 35-year-old, a resident of Mendhar Poonch. At SKIMS viral diagnostic lab, 15 reports came out positive for coronavirus and include 10 from Srinagar, two from Budgam and one each from Budgam, Anantnag and Kulgam. According to the daily Media Bulletin on novel Coronavirus (Covid-19), out of 2857 positive cases, 1816 are Active Positive, 1007 have recovered and 34 have died--four in Jammu division and 30 in Kashmirit said that out of 189364 test results available, 186507 samples have been tested as negative till June 3. Additionally, till date 193145 travellers and persons in contact with suspected cases have been enlisted for surveillance which included 44389 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 45 in Hospital Quarantine, 1816 in hospital isolation and 53639 under home surveillance. Besides, 93222 persons have completed their surveillance period. (With GNS inputs)

## 12 Quarantine Staff Members

sampled which include team of Nodal Officer , Municipality Officials , Service Providers from PDD and PHE, Cooks besides ANCs , Elderly and people with compromised immunity levels. Hamdard Grammar School was designated as a quarantine Centre for returnees from various parts of the country, around 72 inmates were housed in the centre and were later on sampled for COVID-19. ADC Tral said that among the 58 samples taken from returnees, 20 tested positive and were put in isolation in Drug De-addiction Center Tral. He added that averting the chances of having contacts, Administration adopted timely measures of aggressive sampling of quarantine staff besides other service providers associated with the quarantine. Later on 12 members of quarantine staff were found positive for COVID-19 while 10 Staff members were already put in administrative quarantine. ADC Tral said that contact tracing in this regard has been almost completed as 44 primary and 73 secondary contacts have been traced and subsequently put in administrative quarantine at various facilities. He added that Authorities have already initiated aggressive sampling in red zones as per guidelines issued by the government time and again. ADC further added that the timely quarantining and sampling

of suspects have averted a looming potential surge in infection in the community.

## 7 Cops Put Under Quarantine

the accused was wanted in a stone pelting FIR and they had apprehensions that he might create any Law and order problem in the area.

"We detained him few days ago. He later developed cough and fever on Monday night after which his sample was taken and sent for COVID-19 test", Khan said, adding the result came positive.

The police official refuted the earlier reports that man was detained on the charges of domestic violence. Khan said they didn't receive any complaint regarding the same against the accused from anyone.

The patient's wife also told Kashmir Observer that she hasn't filed any complaint against her husband regarding domestic violence "We don't know why he was detained," she told Kashmir Observer.

## Private Transporters...

any shortage of the essential commodities," Chairman of All J&K Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA) T S Wazir told reporters here.

Wazir, who led a strong protest demonstration for the second straight day here, accused the administration of forcing them on the roads and said we have kept our doors open for negotiations .

Besides the relief package for the drivers, cleaners and other allied workers of the transport industry badly affected by the lockdown, the association is demanding among other things a revision in passenger fare, freight charges to the extent of at least 50 per cent, waiving interest of the loans taken by transporters for vehicles and waiving insurance and other fees during the lockdown period besides withdrawing of toll plazas in J&K. The Jammu and Kashmir government increased the rate of tax on sale of petrol and diesel in the Union Territory by Rs 2 per litre and Rs 1 per litre, respectively. The new rates came into effect from June 1.

"When the Centre bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs, an assurance was given that all the benefits under UT status will be given but unfortunately nothing of the sort had happened so far. The other UT does not pay passenger tax and there were also no toll plaza's. We are being strangled here," Wazir said.

The association went on a chain hunger strike near Tawi bridge here on Tuesday but were physically lifted by police citing violation of lockdown guidelines.

We do not want any law and order problem or confrontation with the administration which is pushing us towards the wall. If our demands are not met, we will bring all our vehicles on the roads and start torching them one by one as a mark of protest after the expiry of three days' deadline," Wazir said.

## Govt Cautions Students...

regulatory bodies under government of India in the territory under illegal occupation of Pakistan including the so-called Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit and Baltistan, which are currently not recognized in India," reads the notice.

## Changemakers Of Uri...

causing them problems in executing relief operations. "We decided to begin with Sarai Bandi which is inhabited by 10-12 families, because movement in our village was restricted," Junaid said. Starting from Sarai Bandi, they then shifted their focus to Dachi village's Sokhi Dhani area - where out of the 30 families that live there, 20-25 are currently unemployed and in desperate need of help. "Our way of providing relief was donating ration kits worth Rs 1000, constituting supplies which were sufficient to alleviate hunger for a family of four for 20 days," Junaid informed. Soon, when the word that two Sultan Daki residents were helping the needy spread, Junaid and Abid Mir received a call from a village called Navarunda which is inhabited by 20-25 families. As they were fully aware that they might not be able to handle another operation by themselves, they contacted Karwan-e-Mohabbat's Naveed Bukhtiyar, who had grown himself a reputation while carrying out relief operations. Shortly after, the three came together to work in the villages surrounding Dachi and Sultan Daki. With the monetary resources pooled through crowd-funding by Karwan-e-Mohabbat, Junaid, Abid, and Naveed were able to provide ration kits which included: ten kilograms of atta; two litres of cooking oil; two kilograms of chole and rajma each; half a kilogram of salt, red chilli powder, turmeric, and tea powder each; and lastly a box of dates for Eid-ul-Fitr which was imminent then. Even as this team amongst many other Samaritans has tirelessly worked to help their brethren in distress, the large number of communities left out of these efforts have proved that the world is not a small place after all. Eighteen-year-old Mohammed Sayyid from Kamalkote village of Uri has not seen any help come his way so far. Kamalkote is a border village near Kundi Bar Bjala, 20-25 km away from Uri main town.

This lockdown has troubled Sayyid and his family to a point of hopelessness. He has been in the wait for his rightful monthly wages that haven't been paid to him by his previous employer, since March. An amount of Rs 9000 is due but he has no inkling about when his hard earned money will be paid to him.

"I live with my family of ten and I haven't earned a single paisa since the lockdown. The money for the manual labour my family members and I did before the lockdown hasn't been paid to any of us. We are barely managing to eat and by some miracle are still breathing," he told the Kashmir Observer in a voice that was arguably alive. Sayyid used to mainly engage in construction labour and is currently managing his daily meals through what he calls 'food loans'. "Labourers like us," he said, "are able to eat the amount we earn per day. If we aren't earning, then we aren't eating as well. I have been loaning vegetables from the shopkeepers and have a large sum of debt building on my chest." Mohammed Saleem (45) from the same village faces a labyrinth of sick complications in this pandemic along with the same hunger-related problems. He belongs to the rare group of Kashmiris who live in makeshift huts and don't own a house of their own. Saleem's house was destroyed by the forces of nature during the earthquake that hit Uri in 2005. A government scheme promised the victims a new house, but 15 years since he has only spent his pennies on three rounds of applications that have amounted to nothing.

If this wasn't enough of a depressant, he has an approximate of Rs 60,000 outstanding from the centrally-sponsored scheme, MGN-REGA since 2017. He still travels pillar to post with his receipt for the payment but everytime the authorities conjure a different excuse to deny and delay his wages. "Sometimes it is inflation, sometimes they say they just don't have it, sometimes they claim that increasing material costs ate into my wages, etc. This past Eid I could not give my children a new pair of chappals even. How can I, when I have no money to eat?" he asked piercingly. He has been keeping his family alive through financial and food loans which have now grown into a sum of Rs 60,000. He owes Rs 10,000 to someone, Rs 15,000 to another and just like that with multiple loans, he owes Rs 60,000 - the same amount that he owed to him by the government.

In order to lessen the terrifying impact of the lockdown, he made an uber stressful sale of his cow so that he could afford a handful of foodgrains.

Syed Murtaza, a law student at Kashmir University, helped us at the Kashmir Observer reach Sayyid and Saleem. Murtaza has been helping other troubled neighbours during this pandemic. He also lives with Sayyid and Saleem in the same village where a lot of shelling has taken place recently. "There

has been a lot of property damage during the cross border shelling and since ours is a pahari area, life is managed with a lot of difficulty," he said. Zaffar Iqbal, a journalist working along the border told us that there are at least 40 villages near the LoC that are mostly populated by the labourer class. "The 2.5 month-long lockdown has rendered them completely jobless," he said. One of the main reasons why no aid has reached these distant corners is the fact that one has to obtain permission from the Indian armed forces to even step foot in these villages. Chrunda, Hathlanga, Sourha and Silikot are the names of some of these villages which are facing a major shortage of essential goods. "Regular supply has also been handicapped due to the lack of proper road and connectivity," Zaffar Iqbal added. Hence, knowing this, the pressure of providing and helping is very strongly felt by these activists. However, even for them, supplying clean and safe drinking water has remained a conundrum unsolved.

Junaid Mangral's village relies on water collected from the springs in Sultan Daki. Years ago, the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department had laid pipelines to help water reach the villagers. But the result was achieved through such shoddy workmanship that every time the rains befell, the pipes were broken and water supply was disrupted for the next seven days. The recent rains in Junaid's village culminated with broken water pipes, and the labourers were left with dry throats in addition to their roaring stomachs. Today, Naveed Bukhtiyar worries what will happen to the families he helped after the Karwan-e-Mohabbat-provided ration kits are consumed. Understanding that state-owned resources need to be directed towards helping unemployed labourers, the law graduate filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the J&K High Court, asking the judiciary to pressurise NGOs in the region to help the underprivileged.

"In Kashmir, we have places with no roads, extremely poor mobile networks, and negligible electricity supply, and it is absolutely essential that relief reaches people in these locations," he asserted.

He expects the court to order NGOs to work in Kashmir's rural areas as "a lot of relief work has already been carried out in urban pockets". However, in an unfortunate turn of events, the High Court informed him that their offices have misplaced the filed copy of his PIL and postponed the hearing of the same to June 3. "After 20 days, what will become of those families?" Naveed wondered with a sense of foreboding. In a premise where jockeying between formidable enmities is a way of life, a new enemy unheard of has scared these paharis into accepting self-punishing poverty as their new normal. Naveed observed during his relief operations that apart from food supplies the most pressing need of the people was access to healthcare. The far flung rural villages have little or no healthcare facilities as per him.

Kidney patients are undertaking the painful and arduous journey from their pahari villages to Srinagar for dialysis, cancer patients are struggling to procure their special medicines, starving pregnant women are fearful of delivering malnourished babies, and other innumerable medical problems are haunting villagers. Rural-based Kashmiris, whose woes have been ignored for far too long sit hungry, thirsty, poor, and neglected during the Covid-19 lockdown. Nevertheless, "people in these villages have also been helping each other before any relief came to them. They did their bit quietly without any social media posturing or publicity," Naveed remarked. Admirably, these changemakers have also assured that the distribution of ration kits takes place while maintaining the norms of social distancing. They have credited the villagers for their awareness and cooperation in the process.

"We have so much more to cover and so many people to reach but we lack the monetary and human resources. The court order will be imperative in improving the situation, if it ever comes - the way we expect it," a hopeful Naveed concluded.

## SC Rejects Plea For...

with 'Bharat' or 'Hindustan' will "instill a sense of pride in our own nationality." However, a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, which heard the matter through video-conferencing, told the counsel appearing for the petitioner that India is already called 'Bharat' in the Constitution itself. "Why have you come here?," the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy, asked the petitioner's counsel.

The counsel said that the plea has sought to amend Article 1 of the Constitution, which deals with name and territory of the Union.

The petitioner's counsel said that he should be allowed to make a representation in this regard to the concerned authority.

The apex court, after hearing the submissions, said that the petition should be treated as a representation by the concerned authority.

The plea has sought to amend Article 1 of the Constitution to the effect that the same refers to the country as Bharat/Hindustan, to the exclusion of India".

"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 has claimed.

Referring to the 1948 Constituent assembly debate on Article 1 of the then draft constitution, the plea has 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.

## Nine New Covid-19 Cases...

after the second negative report of the patient was received by the health department, raising the number of those who were cured of the disease to 48.

The condition of the rest 41 active cases -- 33 in Kargil and eight in Leh district -- is "stable", the officials said.

Ladakh has so far reported one coronavirus-related death. Meanwhile, the Army announced the postponement of recruitment rallies planned from June 12 to June 27 at various locations in the union territory due to the spike in COVID-19 cases. "Keeping in view the present COVID-19 situation and a large number of positive cases being coming up, the recruitment rallies planned from June 12 to 27 at various locations of UT, Ladakh, have been postponed," an Army official said. He said fresh dates would be announced later.

## Explosives Recovered...

were also involved. The police spokesperson identified the accused as Mohammad ShahidPadder of Hutmara, Faizan Ahmad of Nanil and Adnan Ahmad of ChandporaBijbehara.

"All the four accused persons have been arrested and shifted to PS Mattan where they remain in custody. Case FIR No. 51/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Mattan and further investigation is going on," he added.

## Tanker Overturns In Samba,

measure. Two persons, including the driver of the tanker, were rescued in an injured condition and rushed to a hospital where one of them was declared brought dead, they said, adding the condition of the driver was stated to be stable .



# CUS Issues Calendar For Academic Activities Exams Through Online Mode

SRINAGAR: The Cluster University Srinagar (CUS) has issued calendar to carry out the academic activities and conduct of examinations of the current session.

In this connection, all the students of various semesters of PG/IG/UG of the college are hereby informed that their examinations shall be conducted in their respective Google classes/online mode with immediate effect.

For further queries related to classes and examination, the student may contact their respective teachers and/or heads of departments for the same through their Google classes and other online means of communication.

The examinations for the end term semesters (PG 4th semester and IG/UG 6th semester) are to be concluded before 15th June, 2020 and in this regard, the outgoing students of these batches shall ensure their presence in the Google classes for further necessary instructions so that they shall appear in their respective examinations.

However, the students of various semesters of PG/IG/UG who have not enrolled in the Google classes so far are directed to do the same on an immediate basis failing which they shall not be considered for the continuous assessment or the internal assessments.

The Google class-code for the various subjects/papers is available on the college website.

For filling the examination forms and other allied activities, the students may contact the examination wing of the SP College on the following numbers: Prof. M. Ashraf Wani (Coordinator Examinations): 9419056698; 9797821492, Arshid: 9622043860, M Ayoub: 6005779048 and M. Younis: 9469055551.

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 10 /MDB/570-90 of 2020-21 DATED: 02.06.2020

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs)	E/M (In Rs.)	Time	Class	MH of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Improvements of link road taking off from Budgam Shogapora road near Girls Hr. Secondary School Budgam by way of GSB coarse and WBM G-II	1.35 Lacs	200/-	2700/-	10 days	DEE	3054- M&R
2	Improvements of Inner links at Khumani Chowk taking off from Bemina Budgam road by way of P/L of stone soling and WBM G-II.	2.60 Lacs	200/-	5200/-	15 days	DEE	3054- M&R
3	Improvements of link road by way of GSB coarse and P/L of WBM G-II and cross drainage pipes at Makdam Mohalla Imambada Karipora upto Railway approach.	0.95 Lacs	200/-	1900/-	10 days	DEE	3054- M&R

(i) Position of AAA: - U/S

(ii) Position of funds: Demand

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02.06.2020 4.00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02.06.2020 from 4.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	02.06.2020 from 4.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	15.06.2020 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16.06.2020 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam

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

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).

3. The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

Muffasil (R&B) Division, Budgam.

No:570-90

Date:02.06.2020

DIPK-1292/20

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

12 Shawwal 1441

PRAYERS

FAJR

3: 37

ZUHR

12: 29

ASR

5:28

Magrib

7:41

ISHA

9:21

This Day In History

- 1920- Peace of Trianon between Allies & Hungary
- 1928- President of the Republic of China Zhang Zuolin is assassinated by Japanese agents.
- 1940- British complete the "miracle of Dunkirk" by evacuating 300,000 allied troops from France
- 1944- 5th Army enters & liberates Rome from Mussolini's Fascist armies
- 1945- US, Russia, Britain & France agree to split occupied Germany
- 1946- Largest solar prominence (300,000 mi/500,000 km) observed
- 1954- France grants Vietnam independence inside French Union
- 1957- 1st commercial coal pipeline placed in operation
- 1970- Tonga (formerly Friendly Islands) declares independence from UK
- 1973- A patent for the ATM is granted to Don Wetzel, Tom Barnes and George Chastain.
- 1974- Saudi Arabia announces that it will increase its participation in Aramco to 60 percent
- 1975- Oldest animal fossils in US discovered in NC
- 1982- Israel attacks targets in south Lebanon
- 1984- DNA is successfully cloned from an extinct animal
- 1985- STS 51-L vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1989- Beijing policeman shoots & wounds Chinese premier Li Ping
- 1989- Tiananmen Square Massacre: Chinese troops clear the square of student protesters, unofficial figures place death toll near 1,000.

From KO Archives

Valley Leaders Vent Feelings In M'abad

MUZAFFARABAD - Visiting Kashmiri separatist leaders began their political mission to Pakistan today with some forceful speeches and in one case sharply critical words for the leadership here for "romanticising" militancy.

Address to a joint session of the two Houses of the 'Azad Kashmir' legislature was the high point of the first full day here for Hurriyat Conference leaders as well as for JKLF chairman Yasin Malik, who all crossed the LoC to come to Muzaffarabad from Srinagar Thursday.

Support for the peace process, demand for participation of Kashmiri representatives in the Indo-Pak dialogue and an end to violence was the central theme of their speeches, a day ahead of their visit to Islamabad where they will meet President. Pervez Musharraf and other Pakistani leaders.

In an emotional charged speech, Malik said that a "romantic aura" created by the Azad Kashmir leadership about militancy had attracted very talented Kashmiri youth who later lost their lives. He cited 'examples of a cement factory owner and a pilot who were killed in the course of the militancy

"Responsibility lies on Azad Kashmir for the one lac people who have been killed in Kashmir" Malik said

As an embarrassed Azad Kashmir Minister Sardar Sikan-der Hayat Khan watched, one his ministers sought permission to respond to Malik's comments but did not have his way.

The speeches were broadcast live from Muzaffarabad on Pakistan state and private television channels.

Malik warned against India, Pakistan or any power trying to promote their own preferred; Kashmiris as leaders of the people. "Kashmiris have never accepted those who were imposed, foreign sponsored." Malik said in Urdu, before switching to English to underline his message. "So I hope' this favouritism will be adopted"

"We had welcomed every peace initialises between India and Pakistan but have the two countries ever taken am Kashmiri leader into confidence. What are Kashmiri leaders so excited about," an aggressive Malik said in an oblique reference to his companion travellers from the moderate faction of Hurriyat.

Prof Abdul Ghani Bhat, Hurriyat's spokesman, gave the most emphatic call for an end to a conflict that has cost over tens of thousands of lives since the uprising began in 1989

"We want an end, end to violence, We want an end, end to insecurity, we want an end.

end to indignity, we want an end, end to humiliation, we want an end, end to submission." Bhat said in a speech delivered in English

"Let us give peace a chance" he said, echoing the John Lennon anthem.

He however said, Kashmir issue cannot be resolved by merely repeating the "Kashmir is a dispute" mantra. Acknowledging that India was a major power, the philosophical Abdul Ghani said that Kashmiris need to use their wisdom in these circumstances.

Former Chairman of the conglomerate Moulvi Abbas Ansari said in his speech the greatest Jihad was persuasion by words and that was exactly what he and his colleagues were doing

He said when Hurriyat entered into talks with New Delhi there was lot of hue and cry and now suddenly everyone has found virtue in the talks process.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who heads the delegation told the legislators, Kashmiris will have to decide whether they want a lasting peace or the peace of the graveyard

Umar said the peace process was "not irreversible" if the basic issue was ignored.

"We have a few solid proposals, we would want to share them here with the Azad Kashmir leadership and with the leadership of Pakistan."

He said though "Kashmiris have a just cause, mere justness of it is not enough and time has come to evolve consensus among themselves

(Kashmir Observer, 04 June, 2005)

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- A scheme of Rs. 20,000 crore has been approved
- The Scheme will benefit nearly 2 lakh MSMEs

Rs 50,000 crore Fund of Funds approved for Equity in MSMEs

- Approval of Equity to put an end to challenges faced by MSMEs in their development
- It will be a joint fund from the Government and Private Sector

PM launches MSME Ministry's portal: [www.champions.gov.in](http://www.champions.gov.in), a one-stop shop

- MSMEs can register their complaints here

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- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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## Life and livelihood

**K**ashmir has been witnessing a steady rise in the cases of Coronavirus over the past week. The number has crossed past 2800. With the daily growth of new cases going upwards of hundred, the number is set to rise further. As it is, the number looks unlikely to flatten anytime soon. Surprisingly the new cases include a senior IAS officer. Following this, officers from the top rungs of the bureaucracy and civil administration, including some from the core teams of the J&K administration's Coronavirus response force, were quarantined immediately. Incidentally this officer is alleged to have been in a recent meeting with the chief secretary and other senior officers at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu. What is more, a frontline doctor Dr Navid Nazir Shah, the head of the Chest Diseases hospital has also tested positive. The contagion is thus affecting even the people who should otherwise be taking most precautions.

This sudden surge in the numbers has raised the fear of the community transmission in the region.

However, a large number of the new cases are travelers, something that should be a source of some satisfaction. In recent past, the J&K administration has evacuated about 102,972 residents of the Union Territory, who were stranded in other parts of the country due to Covid lockdown. They were brought back through special trains and buses in accordance with guidelines and standard operating procedures.

Going forward the situation doesn't give confidence. At this current rate, the number of cases are going to be far too many in near future to be handled by our existing health infrastructure. More so, when the healthcare professionals are also now indicating that the community transmission might have already set in. The situation can only aggravate as the government takes steps to open up the economy. And which is also important. It is not possible for people to remain in a perpetual state of lockdown. This has already wrought havoc with the economy. More so, in Kashmir which has already been under lockdown for the past ten months. This has led to a loss of employment for thousands of people. The vital sectors of our economy like tourism, horticulture, handicrafts have been hit hard. So, perpetuating the lockdown is not an option. What the administration can do and which is eminently possible is to create more awareness about social distancing norms and take action against the people and the businessmen who violate it. It is time people are made responsible for their own health. This way, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, both life and livelihood can be saved.

### OTHER OPINION

## The slowdown

**I**n November 2017, Moody's Investors Service had upgraded India's rating to Baa2 on expectations that the then progress on reforms would, over time, enhance India's growth potential. It had believed that the "implementation of key reforms would strengthen the sovereign's credit profile through a gradual but persistent improvement in economic, institutional and fiscal strength". However, as the country's economic data indicates, these expectations have since been belied, as the implementation of the reforms has been "relatively weak". Acknowledging this, on Monday, the rating agency downgraded India's foreign-currency and local-currency long-term issuer ratings to Baa3 from Baa2. While the markets may well have factored in this move — Moody's rating is now in line with that of both Standard & Poor's and Fitch — the downgrade, nonetheless, underlines the grim economic reality.

The rating agency cited multiple reasons to justify its action: Challenges in the implementation of policies to help offset the risks of low growth, deterioration in the general government fiscal position, and stress in the financial sector. It also emphasised that the decision to downgrade India was not driven by the impact of the COVID pandemic. Rather, the pandemic, and the national lockdown to contain its spread, have exacerbated the economy's vulnerabilities, which had been building up prior to the virus shock. This view is in line with what the recent economic data indicates. Economic activity in India has been on a steady decline over the past few years — slowing down from 7.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2018-19 to 3.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2019-20. These headline numbers mask the underlying weakness as growth is currently being driven only by agriculture and government spending. The situation is likely to have worsened in the first quarter of the current financial year when the full effects of the national lockdown played out.

As is evident, the lockdown is also going to take a toll on government finances. Moody's expects the general government (Centre and states) debt to rise from 72 per cent of GDP in 2019 to around 84 per cent in 2020. What is especially worrying is that the rating agency believes that the economy will struggle to recover, and that depressed nominal growth will in turn affect the government's ability to lower its debt burden — it notes that India's debt burden could rise well beyond 85 per cent of GDP. This is a worrying prognosis. The decision to retain the negative outlook does leave the door open for further rating action down the line. It is also conceivable that other rating agencies will follow suit.

*The Indian Express*

# Indo-Nepal—Strained Ties

ASAD MIRZA

**T**HE SEESAW like relations between India and Nepal, have taken a nosedive for the worse, during the last fortnight. The immediate provocation is the long-standing territorial issue surrounding Kalapani, a patch of land near the India-Nepal border, close to the Lipulekh Pass on the India-China border.

However, the underlying reasons are far more complex. Yet, Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli's exploitation of the matter, by raising the banner of Nepali nationalism and painting India as a hegemon, is part of a frequent pattern that indicates that relations between the two countries need a fresh start

### Boundary Dispute

The boundary dispute between the two neighbours escalated since Nepal released a new political and administrative map depicting Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh, the territories that India also claims as its own, within Nepal's borders.

The map was issued in response to the Indian inauguration of a road that passes via Lipulekh to connect Kailash-Mansarovar in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. The road-link was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali had immediately summoned the Indian Ambassador to Nepal, VM Kwatra and handed over a diplomatic note to protest against India inaugurating the key road. On May 9, India stated that both sides will sit for talks, once two societies and governments have successfully dealt with the challenge of Covid-19 emergency.

But Nepal rejected the offer and said that it wants immediate talks with India and unilateral action in the disputed area should be halted. Later the situation turned more serious after Indian army chief MM Naravane pointed out third-party instigation and the Indian media squarely blamed China for the dispute.

In a conciliatory tone, New Delhi on Thursday last, responded to Kathmandu's calls for dialogue to settle the boundary row, reiterating that India attaches great importance to its friendly relations with Nepal.

By altering the country's maps to show these three areas that lie in Pithoragarh district of the Indian state of Uttarakhand, as Nepal's territory, Kathmandu has adopted a stand from which a climb-down may leave it embarrassed.

Nepal, under Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, who is considered to be China's acolyte, has hardened its stance on its demand for 335 square kilometres of land covering Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura that lies beyond its extreme northwestern border.

The popular perception is that PM Oli took a strongly nationalistic stance in order to stave off a serious challenge to his position from powerful rivals within his own Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) and to divert attention from his mishan-



**The relations between India and Nepal, have taken a nosedive for the worse, during the last fortnight. The immediate provocation is the long-standing territorial issue surrounding Kalapani, a patch of land close to the Lipulekh Pass on the India-China border**

dling of the Corona pandemic.

### Genesis of the Dispute

Nepal's problem with India's control over Kalapani is not new — it was first raised when Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral visited Nepal in 1997.

During his stint as foreign minister under Deve Gowda, Gujral had come up with what is called the 'Gujral Doctrine', an ingenuous and altruistic set of principles to guide India's relations with its immediate neighbours.

One of the salient features of this 'doctrine' was unnecessary and damaging (for India) beneficence to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Gujral proposed that, India should accommodate all demands of its smaller neighbours and give with an open hand without asking for or expecting any reciprocity, like a Big Brother.

Nepal took full advantage of Gujral's misplaced altruism and raised the demand for Lipulekh and Kalapani. Instead of telling the then Nepalese government squarely that the demand is unjustified, Gujral accepted Nepal's contention that the area is disputed and agreed to refer the issue to a joint technical-level boundary committee headed by the surveyor generals of the two countries.

A joint statement issued at the end of Gujral's visit included Nepal's demand for Kalapani and Lipulekh to be examined by the boundary committee and a mutually acceptable solution found. This was considered a huge blunder in the diplomatic circles.

Nepal is now citing the same joint statement to assert that Kalapani has been a disputed territory and it should be resolved by the boundary committee, as it has been part of the bilateral agenda on border demarcation for more than two decades.

The Kalapani area has an added strategic im-

portance for India due to its height and proximity to China. India maintains several border posts in Kalapani to monitor the region. The Kalapani issue has been on the bilateral agenda since 2014 but has remained on the back burner despite Kathmandu's expressed desire for talks.

Meanwhile, adopting a tough stand on the issue, the Nepalese government on Sunday (31 May) tabled a Constitution amendment bill in parliament aimed at altering the country's map. The bill seeks to amend the political map of Nepal included in Schedule 3 of the Constitution. The new map will be used in all official documents including the coat of arms after the amendment bill is endorsed through parliament. After its endorsement by both the Houses of parliament, the President will order issuance of the bill.

In a politically astute move, the Oli government has been able to garner the support of the main Opposition party Nepali Congress (NC) on the Bill. The central committee of the NC on Saturday decided to back the bill. Last week, the proposed bill was removed from the business schedule of parliament at the last minute at the request of Minister K P Sharma Oli.

In the present circumstances it would be in both country's interest to pause the rhetoric and instead focus on an early dialogue, based on the 'special relationship' between the two Himalayan neighbours, though in this too India should and could not act as a generous big brother.

*Asad Mirza is a senior journalist based in New Delhi. In his career spanning more than 20 years, he was associated with the BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs and interfaith issues. Email: asad.mirza.nd@gmail.com.*

# Covid-19: This is how we can edit our lives

Essentialism is an art that enables us to hear the silent whispers coming from our hearts

DHIREN HARCHANDANI  
Gulf News

**W**e live in a mad, mad world. A world that gets madder when we accommodate anxiety, that strange beast, and its close cousin, panic. The crazy rush to get toiletries and other supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic, paints a picture of what happens when we fail to commit ourselves to the practice of essentialism.

Every time a disaster strikes, people begin to act like it is the end of the world, taking specific drastic measures ranging from inconsequential to potentially harmful. Amid the storms of life, there is always a voice that tugs at our minds, trying to pull us to find the essential path.

Many a time, we fail to yield to this voice, continuing in a predictable unproductive loop. Whether we choose to quiet this voice and do things on a whim like the rest of the world largely depends upon us.

Making order out of chaos is a behaviour you can learn today to help you thrive — and not merely survive, during chaotic times as this. Combining these many beneficial practices can completely transform our lives

### Essentialism

Essentialism is an art that enables us to hear the silent whispers coming from our hearts of hearts over the deafening external noise of our environment.

essentialism is more than a time management list: it's a mindset — a way of life. In times of adversity, we come to learn of the ephemerality of things we give our attention to, and that in the end, it's the joy that stems from the prac-

tice of essentialism that endures.

While everything else has gone for a toss, it is time to fall back upon the essential things in life — meditation, sleep, fitness, nutrition, spending time with family and loved ones.

Life presents us with yet another chance to regain lost ground. By seizing the opportunity inherent in self-isolation to begin a journey of self-discovery, we can become infinitely more at ease with nature.

### Can Essentialism Combat Anxiety?

The practice of essentialism makes us feel more in control of our lives and the things happening around us. In essence, we can connect with our deepest selves and better think things through.

Since anxiety is associated with a perceived lack of control, we can simply add back to our lives the things that we do feel in control of.

Choosing to do the essential things helps us to "editing our lives" and bring back a sense of empowerment and control. Here are 6 essential things you can do to get you right on track!

### 1. Keep A Journal

Journaling is a habit that brings clarity to your life. In fact, the success of forming almost any habit revolves around the art of journaling. Keeping a journal continually reminds you of why you're doing what you do. The benefits of journaling are genuinely overwhelming.

Going through this exercise daily, exponentially increases your ability to visualise and think in retrospect. You can start the period of journaling by practising the art of gratitude.

### 2. Start a Meditation Practice

There are limitless potentials to the power of meditation. With

meditation, you have access to an intelligence far higher than what an untrained mind can conceive. Often, one can access solutions to problems by harnessing the powers of a serene mind. The practise of meditation doesn't have to be scary.

Creating a very simple daily practise of meditating at specific periods each day (usually in the morning) should go a long way in helping out. It is beneficial to choose a space that you associate with safety, serenity, health, and healing.

### 3. Keep Your Devices Away

Never forget that your gadgets are not your best friends. Constant use of entertainment devices does not only sap up your will power but also steals precious golden moments from you, such as real quality time with family and friends.

Just some free advice — your gadgets should not be the first thing you look at in the morning or that last thing you see before you go to bed. It is crucial to make an effort to get off devices and spend some time with the people you care about.

Engaging in some indoor games such as chess, monopoly, scrabble, hide-and-seek, backyard soccer, and lots more will help you form an unbelievably strong bond with your loved ones.

### 4. Get Sweaty — It's Great!

There's something about the difference exercise makes — that rush of oxygen into the system and lungs. It's like inhaling the spirit of confidence and exhaling the spirit of doubt. The benefits of exercise are genuinely unimaginably great.

When the body moves, the mind moves also — and so does your inner world. While you exercise, your mind automatically begins to become or-

ganised. The sooner you realised that the mind and the body are connected, the better.

Never miss out on an opportunity to get your body moving around like a merry plaything while oxygenating your spirit in the process! The endorphins released during an exercise is excellent, but more importantly, you regain a sense of control over your life, beginning from your own body.

### 5. Don't Forget to Have a Good Sleep

There are many problems with being sleep-deprived. One such problem is the compromise of our precious ability to prioritise. Sleep enhances our ability to explore and make connections, thereby boosting productivity throughout the waking hours.

Rest is also a period necessary for one's body to recover, making it very vital for the mind, body, and mental clarity. Getting at least 6-8 hours of deep sleep will do you some remarkable wonders.

### 6. A Healthy Nutrition

What has diet got to do with essentialism, you may ask? The answer? Everything! Nutrition is one of the vital elements for perfect health.

Proper nutrition provides your body and brain with all the minerals and vitamins necessary for seamless functioning. Always remember that a weak body cannot carry a strong spirit.

Whole plant foods contain the powerhouse of nutrients that gives you a supercharged immune system and an improved ability to focus.

Making order out of chaos is a behaviour you can learn today to help you thrive — and not merely survive, during chaotic times as this. Combining these many beneficial practices can completely transform our lives.



# 4 June: International Day of Pains of Innocent Children

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

On 19 August 1982, in a special session on the question of Palestine, the United Nations General Assembly decided on 4 June of each year to celebrate "the International Day of the Suffering of Innocent Children", the day aimed at acknowledging the pain suffered by children worldwide.

International days are opportunities to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilise political will and resources to address global problems, to celebrate and strengthen humanity's achievements. The existence of international days precedes the founding of the United Nations, but the United Nations has adopted them as a powerful advocacy tool.

On 19 August 1982, in a special session on the question of Palestine, the United Nations General Assembly decided on 4 June of each year to celebrate "the International Day of the Suffering of Innocent Children", the day aimed at acknowledging the pain suffered by children worldwide. Those who are victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse. The day reaffirms the commitment of the United Nations to protect the rights of children. Its work is directed at child rights.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides us with a universal masterplan to secure a better future for children. The new agenda includes for the first time a specific goal to end all forms of violence against children, and mainstream several other violence-related goals to end abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children.

In view of the increase in the cases of child abuse related crimes even after the introduction of POCSO in India in the year 2012, the provision of capital punishment in such crimes have been made in the year 2019 along with many other amendments in the POCSO Act. Under the recent amendments made in the Act, special attention has been paid to measures related to crime prevention along with stringent punishment provisions. Through this amendment, to make the children aware of personal safety, mental health and sexual offenses, etc. with the help of government and other stakeholders to prevent cases of child abuse and awareness of the complaint and legal process related to these crimes To promote.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act - POCSO) is an abbreviation. The Act was enacted in 2012 to protect children from sexual offenses, sexual harassment, and pornography, taking care of the interests and safety of children. The Act defines 'child' as a person under the age of 18 years and it seeks to ensure the best interests and welfare of the child by giving every stage more important to



ensure the physical, emotional, intellectual, and social development of the child. Respects There is no gender discrimination in this act. 'It is known that last year, the Madras High Court suggested that sexual, physical relations or other such acts should be excluded from the purview of the POSCO Act after 16 years of age.

Under the Child Sexual Offences Protection Rules, 2020 awareness and capacity building, the Central and State Governments have been asked to prepare age-appropriate educational materials and curricula for children, making them aware of various aspects of personal safety. Could. Under this amendment, the prevention and protection of sexual offences with children through educational material and to make complaints about such cases, through child helpline number 1098 is also to be conveyed. Personal safety includes the physical safety of children as well as safety measures related to their identity on online forums, emotional and mental health.

The amendment also hardened the provisions related to child pornogra-

phy. According to the new rules, if any person receives a file related to child pornography or knows of any other person who has such a file or is sending or sending it to others, in relation to that Special Juvenile Police Unit or Cyber-crime Unit should be reported. According to the rule, in such cases the detailed information of the device (mobile, computer, etc.) in which the pornographic file is kept, the device from which it was obtained and the online platform, which is displayed on it, will be given. Under the rules, state governments have been directed to formulate a 'child protection policy' against child abuse based on the principle of "zero tolerance".

The Central and State Governments are regularly aware of child safety and protection and their responsibility to all those working with children from time to time (teachers, bus drivers, assistants, etc., whether regular or contracted). Will provide training to educate. In the amendment, it has also been suggested to organize training programs related to capacity development for police personnel and forensic experts working on child abuse cases

from time to time. Any such institution where children live or visit, such as school, infant home, sports academy, etc., will have to conduct police verification and background check of all their employees regularly.

The Special Court may order interim compensation for relief or rehabilitation of the victim at any time in the case or at the discretion of the victim after the FIR has been lodged in the sexual harassment case. Compensation will be paid to the victim by the state government within 30 days of the passing of such order. The Child Welfare Committee has been empowered that the committee may, in its discretion, order to provide special assistance to the victim for food, clothing, transportation, or other incidental needs. Such a contingency amount will be paid to the victim within one week of the receipt of the order.

The 'Protection of Child Sexual Offences Rules, 2020' has come into force from March 9, 2020, across the country. Through the Child Sexual Offences Protection Act, 'penetrative sexual assault', sexual assault, and sexual harassment were defined for the first time. In this Act, offences are considered more serious in such situations if the offence is committed by an administrative officer, police, army, etc. Under the Act, with the prevention of sexual offences involving children, the judicial process in such cases shall be Special arrangements have been made to provide special support at the level. Along with this, arrangements have also been made to provide compensation to the victim for medical aid and rehabilitation.

In the year 2019, through the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019, the provision of the death penalty in the case of 'severe penetrative sexual harassment' was made. In recent years, in many conflict zones, the number of violations against children has increased. More efforts are needed to protect 250 million children living in conflict-affected countries and regions. More should be done to protect children from being targeted by violent extremists and to promote international humanitarian and human rights legislation and to ensure accountability for children's rights violations.

—Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science at the University of Delhi and can be reached at: satyavansaurabh333@gmail.com

## In Spring Fields And Summer Hedgerows

There is beauty all around us if we only open our eyes while we can

MICK O'REILLY

On a ruined stone wall, where brambles and branches lazily dropped on the country lane, I could just about make out its shape. But its bright eyes watched my every move. A rabbit nibbling on greens and enjoying its youthful freedom this afternoon hour.

And in a second another followed. They hopped a bit and used their paws as they nibbled and twitched a bit.

I stood as still as I could, taking in this rare moment where, less than two metres away, they cared not for human threats.

One disappeared into the brambles and reappeared moments later, checking me out, happy I was no predator. It was a beautiful May day, one where the sun wasn't too bright, the clouds not too dark, the sea not unsettled by breeze nor boats.

Where the marshes meet the rivers and estuaries, swans smoothly glide with their mottled cygnets, curlews nod and flutter over the small stones and shells on shores, and jackdaws and crows caw in a common parliament of their feathered friends

There is a whole world alive in these Wexford hedgerows, where tilled fields and burgeoning crops begin their reach to the clouds.

In hawthorn trees and on spiny branches, occasional robins warble and whistle their territorial tunes to warn off the unwary of young and nests and a new generation of birds not yet on the wing.

In nearby fields, February lambs frolic with adolescent abandonment beside woolly ewes that await a shearer's date.

### Seasonal winterers

Over a marsh, a pair of grey herons loop leggedly into an uneasy flight before settling to earth again on a shore where oyster-catchers make space.

The slobes are uncrowded now, the geese gone in formation to the north and west, out over the Atlantic, towards the west coast of Scotland, on to the Faroes, to Iceland and beyond, to Greenland and the High Arctic tundra. They are seasonal winterers here and won't be seen until the darkening days of



October turn towards November.

This spring, the hedgerows have filled with buds turn to great greenness and flowery hues — the violet hue, the bluebells, the wild leek that bow and bend in gentle breezes.

Where the marshes meet the rivers and estuaries, swans smoothly glide with their mottled cygnets, curlews nod and flutter over the small stones and shells on shores, and jackdaws and crows caw in a common parliament of their feathered friends.

### Bounty will come

Magpies in ones and twos dip across small country lines or wait for tractors to spill seeds or straw. It is too early yet for the brambles to produce fruit — that bounty will come in the fullness of time and sunshine.

In the polytunnels and under the glass, strawberries are ready to be picked and packed. The new potatoes lying under rolls of plastic sheeting covering furrows won't be too far behind.

Then will come the summer barley, the harvesting and bailing in preparation for the winter to come. Silage will be cut and stored too while the cat-

tle fatten on grass where bees and butterflies flutter.

The occasional flash of a pheasant appears in the fields too. For now, they are safe, not so when the days lessen and the nights lengthen and grow colder. There will be pots and pies to be filled, ovens to feed. So too for the rabbits, the cattle and the lambs.

This is the cycle of life. Spring arrives with joy and turns playful with the summer. The optimism of August turns to harvest in September. November and December, January and February are cold with the dearth and death of the depth of winter.

Spring marches on again. The hedgerows spring to life, the bramble ramble and the rabbits appear and witness a world of wonder from their small wide eyes.

We are all just walking our country lanes now, playing our bit part in the cycle of life.

Gulf News

The slobes are uncrowded now, the geese gone in formation to the north and west, out over the Atlantic, towards the west coast of Scotland, on to the Faroes, to Iceland and beyond, to Greenland and the High Arctic tundra. They are seasonal winterers here and won't be seen until the darkening days of October turn towards November.





“WE NEED CONCRETE PLANS FOR WHEN and how to respond to rising cases to prevent unnecessarily long and costly restrictions,”

## SOCIAL DISTANCING DELAY BY ONE DAY May Lead To Virus Spreading For 2.4 Extra Days

Press Trust Of India

Every day a city delays in implementing social distancing measures after the appearance of its first case of coronavirus infection may add as much as 2.4 days to the duration of the outbreak, says an analysis of COVID-19 spread in 58 cities.

According to the study, published in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases, places that take longer to implement social distancing measures may spend more time with the virus rap-

idly spreading than those that act more quickly.

Researchers, including those from The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin), looked at data from cities throughout China and analysed when the first cases were detected, when social distancing measures were implemented, and when the outbreak was considered contained.

“Every day saves time, saves effort, saves people becoming infected and probably saves lives,” said Lauren Ancel Meyers, a professor of integrative biology who

leads the UT Austin COVID-19 Modeling Consortium. This is particularly important as we think about the coming weeks and months, Meyers said.

The scientists believe the findings are applicable both to communities experiencing their first outbreaks and those that may see a resurgence in the coming months.

According to the analysis, waiting for a week after early signs of resurgence of the virus might require about 17 more days of social distancing to slow the spread

of the pandemic.

It will be difficult to consider strict interventions again, but acting early upon signs of resurgence will mean fewer days of social distancing orders, said Spencer Fox, study co-author from UT Austin.

“Our findings have implications for the timing of interventions in U.S. cities,” Meyers said. The scientists said the impact of delays may be particularly important for communities that are prone to rapid transmission, such as nursing homes, colleges,

schools, and jails.

“We need concrete plans for when and how to respond to rising cases to prevent unnecessarily long and costly restrictions,” Meyers added.

To determine when an outbreak had been contained, the researchers looked at case counts and determined the reproduction number -- a measurement that shows how many people will be infected by one infectious person. The study noted that if the reproduction number drops below one, scientists consider the

outbreak contained.

In their analysis, the researchers looked at previous studies on the impact of delaying social distancing measures to estimate a link between the time of measures being taken and the effect on outbreaks.

They used on-the-ground data to determine the link between cities taking measures to contain the virus and rates of its spread.

While the analysis was not able to determine which social distancing measures were most effective, it showed that the timing

of the first measure, regardless of the type, had a big impact.

“We provide direct, data-driven evidence that the timing of interventions has a substantial impact on how long an outbreak lasts, how effective our interventions are and, ultimately, how many people might be infected and die from the virus,” Meyers said.

Although the study looked at cities experiencing the earliest days of an outbreak, the scientists believe these findings are also relevant for cities in the middle of an outbreak.

## COVID-19 Patients Who Undergo Surgery At Increased Death Risk: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

Patients undergoing surgery after contracting the novel coronavirus are at an increased risk of postoperative death, according to a new study published in The Lancet journal which may lead to better treatment guidelines for COVID-19.

In the study, the scientists, including those from the University of Birmingham in the UK, examined data from 1,128 patients from 235 hospitals from a total of 24 countries.

Among COVID-19 patients who underwent surgery, they said the death rates approach those of the sickest patients admitted to intensive care after contracting the virus.

The scientists noted that SARS-CoV-2 infected patients who undergo surgery, experience substantially worse postoperative outcomes than would be expected for similar patients who do not have the infection.

According to the study, the 30-day mortality among these patients was nearly 24 per cent.

The researchers noted that mortality was disproportionately high across all subgroups, including those who underwent elective surgery (18.9 per cent), and emergency surgery (25.6 per cent).

Those who underwent minor surgery, such as appendectomy or hernia repair (16.3 per cent), and major surgery such as hip surgery or for colon cancer also had higher mortality rates (26.9 per cent), the study said.

According to the study, the mortality rates were higher in men versus women, and in patients aged 70 years or over versus those aged under 70 years.

The scientists said in addition to age and sex, risk factors for



postoperative death also included having severe pre-existing medical problems, undergoing cancer surgery, undergoing major procedures, and undergoing emergency surgery.

“We would normally expect mortality for patients having minor or elective surgery to be under 1 per cent, but our study suggests that in SARS-CoV-2 patients these mortality rates are much higher in both minor surgery (16.3%) and elective surgery (18.9%),” said study co-author Aneel Bhangu from the University of Birmingham.

Bhangu said these mortality rates are greater than those reported for even the highest-risk patients before the pandemic.

Citing an example from the 2019 UK National Emergency Laparotomy Audit report, he said the 30-day mortality was 16.9 per cent in the highest-risk patients.

Based on an earlier study across 58 countries, Bhangu said the 30-day mortality was 14.9 per cent in patients undergoing high-risk emergency surgery.

“We recommend that thresholds for surgery during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic should be raised com-

pared to normal practice,” he said.

“For example, men aged 70 years and over undergoing emergency surgery are at particularly high risk of mortality, so these patients may benefit from their procedures being postponed,” Bhangu added.

The study also noted that patients undergoing surgery are a vulnerable group at risk of SARS-CoV-2 exposure in hospital.

It noted that the patients may also be particularly susceptible to subsequent pulmonary complications, due to inflammatory and immunosuppressive responses to surgery and mechanical ventilation.

The scientists found that overall in the 30 days following surgery 51 per cent of patients developed a pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, or required unexpected ventilation.

Nearly 82 per cent of the patients who died had experienced pulmonary complications, the researchers said.

“Worldwide an estimated 28.4 million elective operations were cancelled due to disruption caused by COVID-19,” said co-author Dmitri Nepogodiev from the University of Birmingham.

## Playing Video Games Linked To Poor Eating Habits In Male College Students

Agencies

**NEW YORK-** Male college students who play video games tend to exercise less and have poorer eating habits compared to non-gamers, warn researchers.

Nearly 70 per cent of men included in the study reported playing at least some video games.

“It’s important to understand that video games are a risk factor for poor lifestyle habits that may contribute to poor health,” said study researcher Dustin Moore from the University of New Hampshire in the US.

For the findings, the research team used information collected from over 1,000 male college students aged between 18 and 24 at the University of New Hampshire as a part of the ongoing College Health and Nutrition Assessment Survey (CHANAS) study.

Students reported daily video



game time in an online survey and provided diet information by recording the food they ate over two weekdays and one non-consecutive weekend day.

Physical activity was based on the average steps taken per day as tracked with a pedometer.

The survey revealed that just over 40 per cent of college men play video games at least five hours per week.

The researchers found that

those who played video games consumed more saturated fat and sodium than non-users, which suggests they are eating more salty snacks.

Gamers also consumed fewer fruits and vegetables and engaged in less physical activity than non-users.

The researchers did not observe any differences in weight for those who gamed but note that the poor lifestyle habits

observed could contribute to excess weight gain and chronic disease later in life.

“If the findings of our study are indicative of general population, increases in video game usage could translate to increases in overweight/obesity and chronic disease in the general population, which is already a big issue,” Moore said.

The researchers said that more studies are needed to better understand how various factors, such as video game advertisements or the gaming media used, contributed to the findings.

The findings could help colleges and universities to more effectively educate students who play video games about diet and exercise.

The study was scheduled to be presented at ‘NUTRITION 2020 LIVE ONLINE’, a virtual conference hosted by the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) this week.

## Children Reporting Less Sports Fractures, Injuries: Study

Agencies

**NEW DELHI-** COVID-19 social distancing measures, including the closure of schools and parks and the indefinite cancellation of team sports, has led to nearly 60 per cent decrease in overall in pediatric fractures, according to a new study?

The study also revealed an increase in the proportion of fractures sustained by children at home. Researchers at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) found that although the overall rate of fractures is down significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the

proportion due to bicycle and trampoline injuries has gone up substantially?

The findings, published in the ‘Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics’, suggest a need for increased awareness of at-home safety measures.

“It is important to remind parents about the importance of basic safety precautions with bicycles and trampolines, as many children are substituting these activities in place of organised sports and school activities,” said Apurva Shah, MD, MBA, an orthopaedic surgeon in CHOP’s Division of Orthopaedics and senior author of the study.



The research team gathered data on 1,735 patients who presented at CHOP with acute fractures between March 15 and April 15 and compared that information with patients who presented with fractures during the same timeframe in 2018 and 2019. The researchers found a nearly 2.5-fold decrease in the daily incidence of fracture cases during the pan-

demie compared to the pre-pandemic period.

Sports-related fractures saw a particularly dramatic decline, accounting for only 7.2 percent of fracture cases during the pandemic versus 26 percent of all fracture cases in the same month in 2018 and 2019.

Despite these significant declines, the researchers found an increase of more than 25 percent in fractures occurring at home, which was accompanied by a 12 percent increase in fractures caused by high-energy falls, like those resulting from trampoline injuries, and bicycle injuries.



**DISTRICT POLICE HQRS GANDERBAL.**

Behama 191201, Ganderbal, Fax 0194-2416443, dpoganderbal-jk@nic.in

**e-NIT No:-01 of 2020  
Dated:- 01-06-2020**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tentders are invited from manufacturers, authorized dealers, registered firms / suppliers for the supply stationery items / computers items for DPO Ganderbal affixed with Rs. 10/- revenue stamps as per details shown in tender documents for the current financial year 2020-21. The tenders should be accompanied with CDR pledged to Accounts Officer DPO Ganderbal worth Rs. 100000 /- (One lakh only).

2. The cost of tender documents is Rs. 2000/- to be deposited in the shape of crossed demand draft in favour of Accounts Officer DPO Ganderbal.

3. The tender documents can be accessed / downloaded from 07-06-2020 (5.00 PM) to 22-06-2020 (2.00 PM) from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The list of items comprising of all specifications, terms and conditions (items wise) can be accessed / downloaded as per schedule given above from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

4. The tenders shall be submitted in electronic format on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 08-06-2020 (10.00 AM) upto 22-06-2020 (4.00 PM) only.

5. The cost of tender document (in shape of demand draft) in favour of Accounts Officer DPO Ganderbal and Earnest Money (in shape of CDR) in original favour of Accounts Officer DPO Ganderbal along-with duly packed samples for every quoted item and requisite documents. Dealership / Authorization certificate / Tin Number/ PAN Card (self-attested).

6. The uploaded tenders on the website will be opened on 23-06-2020 (11.00 AM) in the meeting hall of DPO Ganderbal in presence of bidders who wish to attend. In case of holiday on the date of opening of tenders, the same shall be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The rates quoted by the tenderer(s) shall remain effective up-to 31.03.2021 from the date of finalization of rates. The tenderers should also furnish the certificate to the effect that they are personally responsible for the reasonability and genuineness of the rates quoted by them.

8. The tenderer shall not quote more than one rate for each item. Besides in no case shall the tenderer quote those items, the specification / brand of which has not been asked for in this NIT, otherwise such offers are liable to be rejected straight away by the TEC, as such offers create confusion while approving the items.

9 ) The tenderers shall furnish samples in quadruple for every quoted items, which should conform the standards / specification / brand name as asked for and be submitted properly in sealed cover and signed with complete details recorded on it, as specified above. The Department shall in no case pay any charges / cost for submission of samples items (to be submitted with the tenders). The un-approved samples and those not considered for competition shall however be returnable to the tenderer(s) after finalization / acceptance of tender in favour of successful tenderer. However, the unsuccessful tenderer shall without any notice ensure to lift the samples within one month from the date of finalization of tenders, failing which the tenderer(s) shall forfeit his / their claim for the same.

10. I he undersigned / tender evaluation committee, if feel necessary may not approve all items of the NIT and may reject any or ail tenders or any part thereof without assigning any reason thereto. Further the requirement being tentative, the Department shall not be bound to place orders for all approved items.

11. Any change in Government taxes shall be applicable under rules.

12. The conditional tender of tenders not adhering to any of the terms of the NIT and annexure thereto or vague, shall not be entertained,

13. The tenderer(s) while quoting rate of the item must mention specifically the quality, manufacturers name, trade mark etc. The rate should be quoted inclusive of all taxes / freight payable within the State or outside for DPO Ganderbal as the case may be.

14. The tender must contain the details like name of manufacturer / authorized dealer, registration of the firm giving therein location, registration number CST/GST/ TAN number, name of signatory, his status in the company / firm, whether registered under Sales Tax Act. The tenders without CST/GST/TAN number are liable to be rejected.

13. Principal Manufacturer (Companies) can directly participate or through their properly authorized dealers. However, in case of successful tenderer, the supply order shall be placed with the Principal Company directly.

16. The CDR of un-successful tenderer(s) may be released after the allotment of contract in favour of successful tenderer(s).

17. The successful tenderer(s) shall have to execute an agreement with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT through the undersigned relating to the detailed terms and conditions of the contract before placement / issue of supply order. In case the successful tenderer(s) fails to execute the agreement within the stipulated period, his offer shall be deemed to have been cancelled and security deposit forfeited in favour of the Government and the authorities shall be free to make such orders / arrangements as deemed proper. The terms and conditions of the tender shall form as part of the terms and conditions of supply order and agreement.

18. The successful tenderer(s) before entering into an agreement with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT through the undersigned shall have to deposit security equivalent to five percent of the estimated value of the ordered quantity. However, earnest money of the successful tenderer(s) shall be adjusted against the security deposit

19. The contract of supply can be repudiated at any time of the supplies if not made to the satisfaction/ specification of the department.

20. The quantity shown against each item to this tender notice is subject to actual requirement and available for proper packing, so as to avoid damage under transport and delivery of the items in good condition to the consignee at destination. In the event of any loss, damage, breakage or any other shortage found at the time of delivery / inspection of items by the Survey Committee, no cost on such account shall be paid by the department. The undersigned shall in no case place orders without the availability of funds sanction from the competent authority and fulfillment of all coda! formalities, besides satisfaction of the quality and rates.

21. payment shall be released for the ordered quantity on the report of the Survey Committee if certifying that the items received are according to the approved specification mentioned in the supply order / NIT and in good working condition for which the survey committee may get the supplies checked / verified from the experts.

22. The security deposit of the successful tenderer(s) shall be released at the close of the financial year by the undersigned after the completion of the contract and after production of the following certificates from the concerned;

a) Sales tax / GST/CST clearance certificate which shall be put to scrutiny, verification etc. of the sales tax clearance is furnished by the successful tenderers.

b) Latest income tax returns certificate.

c) Successful Completion of the Contract.

23. If any dispute, doubt, question or difference concerning the constitution, effect or meaning of any clause of the tender notice of the respective rights of liabilities of the parties hereunder shall any time hereafter arise, then every such dispute, doubt, question or difference shall be referred to such officer of Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT for arbitration under the J&K Arbitration Act as may be nominated by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT. The decision of the Arbitrator shall be final, conclusive and binding on both the parties.

24. The contractor shall not assign or sublet his contract or any part thereof to any other agency.

25. The approved supplier shall be deemed to have carefully examined the conditions, specifications, size and make etc. of the goods to be supplied. If he shall have any doubt as to the meaning of any portion of these conditions or of the specification etc. He shall before signing the contract refer to the Office In-Charge and get clarification whatever required.

26. All legal proceedings if unavoidable to arise and to institute by either of the parties to the contract, the same shall have to be lodged in courts situated at Srinagar.

27. All other terms / conditions shall remain same as laid down in F-25 of J&K PWD Code.

(Khalil Ahmed Poswal)-JKPS  
Senior Superintendent of Police,  
Ganderbal

No:-Acctts/NIT-1/20/17250-52  
DIPK-1260/20

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER JKPC UNIT 8th, BARAMULLA.**

Jammu &amp; Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

NITNo. 06 /e-tendering of 2020-21/DGM/8th/Bla/JKPC/ Dated: 01-06-2020

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, J&KPC Ltd. e-tenders (in Double Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.) Non-refundable	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
01	Window shutters of academic block, Professor qtrs., Associate and Assistant professor qtrs. Of Medical college Baramulla	110.00	5000	2.20	60 days	A / Registered SSI Unit Holders

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01/06/2020
2.	Date of publication of NIT online	02-06-2020 from 5:00 PM
3.	Period of downloading of bidding documents.	03-06-2020 from 10.00 A.M.
4.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	05/06/2020 at 11:00 A.M in the office of Managing Director JK PCC Ltd. Jammu
5.	Bid submission Start Date	07/06/2020 From 10:00 A.M
6.	Bid Submission End Date	20/06/2020 up to 4:00 P.M
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	22/06/2020 at 13:00 Noon in the Office of Managing Director, JKPC Ltd.
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation.

DIPK-NB-477/20

-sd-  
General Manager,  
J&KPC Ltd. Unit-8th, Baramulla



**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
**AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.**  
Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: [www.islamicuniversity.edu.in](http://www.islamicuniversity.edu.in).

**Empanelment of Architect/Consultant**

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K, Empanelment of Architect/Consultant are invited from the interested resourceful consultants registered with the Indian Council of Architects New Delhi, having sufficient experience in the field of Architecture to offering their services for project consultancy of 3rd phase of proposed projects at IUST campus as per terms and conditions of the Tender document available at website ([www.islamicuniversity.edu.in](http://www.islamicuniversity.edu.in)).

Last date of submission of Documents: **10<sup>th</sup> June 2020, before 1400 hours.**

(Note: The documents can also be send through email addressed to: [xen@islamicuniversity.edu.in](mailto:xen@islamicuniversity.edu.in)). For any clarification please contact the office of the undersigned on: 9419006043, 7889668828.

No: IUST/EW/CVL/20/118

Dated: 02-06-2020

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir**  
**Office of the Deputy Director (HQ), I/C SHTO**  
**Bemina, Srinagar.**

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No. DD/SHTO/NIT/07/ARC for R&M of MUL make Ambulances and Vehicles;  
Dated: 02.06.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders (on percentage discount on Spares and Labour Charges) are invited from the Jammu and Kashmir based authorized Dealers/Service Centers of Maruti Udyog Ltd Ambulance/Vehicle manufacturers & OEM's having valid GST registration for spares and repair labour charges on rate contract basis to the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir through State Health Transport Organization for in two (02) cover system:-

Name of Work	Cost of Tender Document (In INR)	Earnest Money (In INR)
1	2	3
Annual Rate Contract for Repair & Maintenance of Maruti Udyog Ltd make Ambulances and Vehicles of Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir.	1000/=	20000/=

1. The Tender document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 02-06-2020 (14.00Hrs).
2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 02-06-2020 (14.00 Hrs) to 01-07-2020 (15.00 Hrs) in two covers.
3. The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened online on 03-07-2020 (14.00 Hrs) in the Office of the Dy. Director (HQ), I/C SHTO, Bemina Srinagar .

Deputy Director (HQ)  
I/C SHTO, Bemina, Srinagar.

No: DD/SHTO/NIT/07/361-62

Dated: 01/06/2020.

DIPK-1276/20



**CLUSTER UNIVERSITY OF SRINAGAR**  
Gogji-Bagh, Srinagar-190008

Website: [www.cusrinagar.edu.in](http://www.cusrinagar.edu.in)E-mail: [info@cusrinagar.edu.in](mailto:info@cusrinagar.edu.in)

Sub: - Advertisement Notice for the posts of Assistant Professors.

Advertisement Notification No. 04 -CUS of 2020

Dated: 22 -05-2020

In supersession to all earlier notifications and in accordance with the guidelines of the MHRD/UGC issued in pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding the reservation policy, applications on the prescribed form are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the posts of Assistant Professors in the following Departments of the University:-

S.No	Post-ID	Subject	No. of Posts	Category
1	PG-ARB	Arabic	01	UR
2	PG-BIOC	Bio-Chemistry	01	UR
3	PG-BIOT	Bio-Technology	01	UR
4	PG-BOT	Botany	01	OBC
5	PG-CHM	Chemistry	02	UR
6	PG-DM	Disaster Management	01	SC
7	PG-ECO	Economics	01	OBC
8	PG-EDU	Education	01	UR
9	PG-ENG	English	01	UR
10	PG-HIS	History	01	UR
11	PG-KMR	Kashmiri	01	OBC
12	PG-PHY	Physics	02	UR - 01 ST - 01
13	PG-PSC	Political Science	01	SC
14	PG-RENG	Renewable Energy	01	OBC
15	PG-SOC	Sociology	01	UR
16	PG-THM	Tourism & Heritage Management	01	UR
17	PG-URD	Urdu	01	OBC
18	PG - ZOL	Zoology	01	SC
		Total	20	

UR = Un-reserved; OBC = Other Backward Class;  
ST = Schedule Tribe; SC = Schedule Caste

A) PAY BAND &amp; AGP OF THE POSTS:

Post	Pay Band & Academic Grade Pay
Assistant Professor	Pay Matrix Academic Level – 10 of 7 <sup>th</sup> CPC Rs. 57,700-182,400

B) IMPORTANT DATES:

I	Submission of Online Forms	From 27.05.2020
II	Last date for submission of Online Forms	24.06.2020
III	Last date for submission of Hard copy	30.06.2020

Note:

The detailed notification & procedure for submission of online form is available on the University Website:- [www.cusrinagar.edu.in](http://www.cusrinagar.edu.in)

No: CUS/Adv.AP/106/1155-1168/2020

Dated: 01 -06- 2020

Registrar  
Cluster University Srinagar

DIPK-1249/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT.  
**Office of the Executive Engineer,**  
**PHE Division Chadoora.**

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tenders

e-NIT NO:-06/PHEDC OF 06/2020 (2020-21)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, Executive Engineer PHE Division Chadoora invites tenders by e-tendering mode in single cover system from Contractors/firms/J&K UT PWD/MES/Railways for the works detailed below.

S. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Doc	Head of Account	Class
01.	Providing and laying/ fitting of DI/ GI pipes from Hajibagh SR to Dalwan for village Noor-Abad including extension of sub mains and distribution system Charisharief Town etc for WSS Charisharief Town Phase 2 <sup>nd</sup> "JKIDFC".	Rs. 43.58 lacs	Rs. 87160.00	Rs. 32000/=	Under JKIDFC	30 days BEE/AAY

website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) wherein all the terms and conditions are highlighted in details.

**Important Dates.**

Date of Publishing.	02-06-2020 4.00 P.M
Date of downloading the bidding documents.	03- 06-2020 to 15-06-2020 upto 4:00 P.M
Date of submission of bid online.	03- 06-2020 to 15-06-2020 upto 4:00 P.M
Date of opening.	16-06-2020 2:00 P.M

All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD Form 25-double.

No:-PHEDC/674-89  
Dated: - 01-06-2020

s/d  
Executive Engineer,  
PHE Division  
Chadoora.

DIPK-1245/20

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**(R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL**

Address: Opposite Qamaria Park tele No: 0194-2416058

Fresh Quotation

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Sealed quotations affixed with revenue stamps worth Rs.6/- (Rupees Six) only are invited from the approved Stationary dealers/suppliers of J&K State for supply of printed/stationary items for the year 2020-21, required by the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal. The quotations must reach to the office of the undersigned by or before 08-06 -2020 upto 2:00 PM through registered post/insured post in person which will be opened on the same day or any other convenient day in presence of the quotationer's who may like to be present.

The quotationer's are required to deposit the Earnest money of Rs. 30000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only) for each I/e Stationary/Printing in the shape of CDR from a scheduled Bank pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal. The CDR shall be appended with the quotations, without which the quotation shall not be accepted at all.

The quotationer's must quote their rates including loading, unloading & carriage upto the divisional office Ganderbal. The rates should be quoted inclusive of all taxes as admissible under rules.

The supply of printed items should be made from time to time during the financial year 2020-21

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
(R&B) Division  
Ganderbal

No:-EE/R&amp;B/Gbl/1215-24

Dtd:01-06-2020

DIPK-1220/20



## Can Government Confirm No Chinese Soldier Has Entered India, Asks Rahul Gandhi

**NEW DELHI:** Amid a border standoff with China, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday asked the government to make it clear whether or not Chinese soldiers have entered India.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had on Tuesday said that a "sizeable number" of Chinese troops have moved into eastern Ladakh and India too has taken all necessary steps to deal with the situation.

Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday took to Twitter to ask, "Can GOI (Government of India) please confirm that no Chinese soldiers have entered India (sic)."

He also shared a report about India and China holding a top-level military meet



on June 6 in a bid to resolve the troops standoff in eastern Ladakh.

Gandhi asked the 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 earlier.

The Congress has asked the government to come clean on the border standoff and take all political parties and the country into confidence over restoration of the status quo ante on the border with China.

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

## China Warns Britain Interfering In Hong Kong Will "Backfire"

**HONG KONG:** China warned Britain on Wednesday that interfering in Hong Kong will backfire, after the former colonial power vowed to give sanctuary to locals who may flee the city if a controversial security law is passed.

The United States and Britain have enraged Beijing with their criticism of planned national security legislation that critics fear would destroy the semi-autonomous city's limited freedoms.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has further angered Beijing by suggesting that it had time to "reconsider" the plan, which could soon be enacted after the proposal was endorsed by China's rubber-stamp parliament last week.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, meanwhile, said London would not "walk away" from Hong Kongers worried by Beijing's control over the international business hub.

Johnson wrote in a column for The Times newspaper and the South China Morning Post that he would offer millions of Hong Kongers visas and a possible route to UK citizenship if China persists with its national security law.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Beijing had lodged "serious representations" with London over Raab's remarks, which "grossly interfered" in

Hong Kong's affairs.

"We advise the UK to step back from the brink, abandon their Cold War mentality and colonial mindset, and recognise and respect the fact that Hong Kong has returned" to China, Zhao said at a regular briefing.

Zhao said London must "immediately stop interfering in Hong Kong's affairs and China's internal affairs, or this will definitely backfire."

Hong Kong has been rocked by months of huge and often violent pro-democracy protests over the past year.

In response Beijing has announced plans to introduce a sweeping national security law covering secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and foreign interference. China says the law -- which will bypass Hong Kong's legislature -- is needed to tackle "terrorism" and "separatism" in a restless city it now regards as a direct national security threat. But opponents, including many Western nations, fear it will bring mainland-style political oppression to a business hub that was supposedly guaranteed freedoms and autonomy for 50 years after its 1997 handover to China from Britain. In parliament on Tuesday, Raab said he had reached out to Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Canada about contingency plans if the law creates a deluge of Hong Kongers looking to leave.



## Us Protests Defy Curfews As Trump Faces Backlash For Violent Crackdown

**WASHINGTON:** Protesters defied curfews across the United States Tuesday as leaders scrambled to stem anger over police racism while President Donald Trump rejected criticism over his use of force to break up a peaceful rally.

Standoffs between police and demonstrators stretched into the night in cities from New York to Los Angeles over the death of George Floyd, an unarmed African-American man whose killing has brought once-in-a-generation protests to the nation for the past week.

But there were fewer reports of the looting and violence that had soured street demonstrations in previous nights.

Tens of thousands gathered earlier in Houston to pay a hometown tribute to Floyd, who grew up in the Texas city and is to be buried there next week.

"Today is... about George Floyd's family -- we want them to know that George did not die in vain," Mayor Sylvester Turner told an estimated 60,000 people.

A tearful Roxie Washington, the mother of Floyd's six-year-old daughter, told a news conference she wanted "justice for him because he was good."

"No matter what anybody thinks, he was good."

In New York, which on Tuesday prolonged its first curfew since World War II for the full week, AFP reporters saw hundreds refusing to go home after the 8:00 pm cutoff, instead chanting slogans and peacefully walking the streets in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Protesters attempting to cross the Manhattan bridge were pinned there for an extended period by police on both sides, but were finally allowed to return to Brooklyn, according to a New York Times reporter on the scene.

Mayor Bill de Blasio told CNN it had been "much calmer" a day after several Manhattan luxury stores were looted, praising an increased and "vast presence" of police on the streets.

Minnesota took one of the first concrete actions to address the grievances behind the uprising, which began after Floyd's death on May 25 in the state's largest city Minneapolis.

The state launched a civil rights investigation of the Minneapolis Police Department, looking at possible "systemic discriminatory practices" going back 10 years, Governor Tim Walz tweeted.

Former president George W. Bush called on the US to examine its "tragic failures" and to "listen to the voices of so many who are hurting and grieving."

And in Los Angeles, one of dozens

of cities hit by unrest, police officers and Mayor Eric Garcetti dropped to their knees in a symbolic act of solidarity as they met marchers led by African-American Christian groups.

"A black face should not be a sentenced to die, nor to be homeless, nor to be sick, nor to be underemployed, nor to be under-educated," Garcetti told them, inviting the leaders into City Hall for a discussion about the issues.

But protesters gathered outside Garcetti's residence late into the evening. An AFP reporter witnessed a group of at least 200 refusing to disperse and subsequently arrested.

"People liked my walk"

In Washington DC, thousands returned to the streets Tuesday for a peaceful "Black Lives Matter" march.

Hours after the 7:00 pm curfew protesters could be heard chanting, as National Guard troops stood on the streets near the White House and helicopters hovered above. Broadcast footage showed police firing tear gas shortly after midnight, but the situation appeared to be calm overall.

"I'm just tired, essentially, of being scared of police, of not getting justice," said Jada Wallace, an 18-year-old protester outside the White House earlier who said she was ready to risk arrest.

## Trains Rescheduled, Thousands Evacuated In Mumbai As Cyclone Nisarga Makes Landfall

**M**umbai and neighbouring areas on Wednesday braced for Cyclone Nisarga as it slammed the coast with wind speeds of up to 120 kmph after tens of thousands of people in its path were evacuated, trains rescheduled, flights cancelled, fishermen ordered out of the seas and rescue workers put on standby.

Nisarga blew in from the Arabian Sea, making landfall at the coastal town Alibaug at around 12.30 pm and the process will finish by 4 pm, officials said. Already down on its knees from the raging COVID-19 pandemic, Mumabi will be hit by a cyclone for the first time in 72 years, Adam Soebel, a professor of atmospheric science at Columbia University in New York, tweeted.

Earlier, Soebel had said the last severe cyclone to hit Mumbai was 1891 but on Wednesday corrected to say the city was hit by a cyclone in 1948.

"It is likely to cross with an intensity of a severe cyclonic storm close to south of Alibaug," India Meteorological Department (IMD) Mumbai's

deputy director general of meteorology K S Hosalikar said.

"At that time, its speed is likely to be 100 kmph to 110 kmph, he added.

Steeped in colonial history, Alibaug is a quaint little town located about 110 km from Mumbai, and is dotted with sandy beaches, unpolluted air and several forts and temples. A speedboat from Mumbai to Mandwa jetty near Alibaug takes 20 minutes and is an easy option for those wishing to avoid the arduous road journey. It is also home to many Bollywood stars and other rich people.

Nisarga, which is also expected to pummel the coastline of Gujarat besides Maharashtra, comes a week after Cyclone Amphan wreaked havoc in West Bengal.

Hosalikar said Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Palghar will be hit with winds of up to 100 kmph to 110 kmph. The IMD said the storm may also gust to 120 kmph. The winds will be accompanied by heavy to very heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of the state.

The department has forecast the

storm will have an impact on areas in North Maharashtra, Pune, Ahmednagar.

The department has said kuchcha houses, trees, electric poles may fall as they may not be able to withstand the speed of the storm. Pune-based Sucheta Nadkarny, 81, who lived in Mumbai suburb Vile Parle in 1948 said, "I remember huge trees in our area were uprooted and plants in our garden destroyed. I was 10 years old then and remember this because my mother was heartbroken as the plants she had lovingly nurtured were destroyed," Nadkarny told PTI. The state government authorities have already asked people in vulnerable areas to shift to safer places. Bracing for the impact of what is being billed as the most severe cyclone to hit Mumbai, the Central Railway (CR) rescheduled special trains and many airlines also cancelled their Mumbai operations. The CR has rescheduled, diverted and regulated some trains on Wednesday, an official said. These include five special trains departing from Mumbai. Three special trains will be either diverted or regulated enroute, he added.

## 'I Can't Breathe' Word Of All Nations Oppressed By US: Ayatollah Khamenei

**TEHRAN:** Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei delivered a live speech to the Iranian nation on Wednesday morning.

The address came on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the demise of Islamic Revolution founder Imam Khomeini. Due to the coronavirus, people will not gather in the Mausoleum of Imam Khomeini in Tehran as the focus has been diverted to social media.

In his speech, Leader said that Imam Khomeini had the spirit of asking for change, noting that the late Imam enjoyed multiple characteristics.

Imam created big change among the Iranian nation after Revolution, said the leader, describing what Imam Khomeini did as creating a big wave in an ocean.

The Iranian nation never thought about standing against world superpowers and used to consider big powers' arrogance as a natural issue before the Islamic Revolution, said the Leader.

Imam Khomeini created self-esteem in Iranian people, said the Leader, noting that Imam succeeded in preparing the grounds for

nerable and can be defeated, highlighted the Leader, pointing to US officials' remarks who admitted that Imam had humiliated them.

Iran enjoys powerful deterrent defensive capabilities today, he stressed.

He went to say that he expects Iranian youths and elites to bring change to the country. Pahlavi regime failed to create transformation in Iran through the co-called modernity, Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader went on to name some areas that need a transformation in the country, such as cutting dependency on oil revenues and making education in schools more practical.

One of the main features in introducing transformation is that one should not fear enemies and criticism, he said, noting that there is an extensive front established by foreign enemies that try to stop any positive transformation in the country by using massive propaganda.

**On nationwide protests in US**

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution then pointed to the recent developments and nationwide protests in the United States which



the establishment of Islamic civilization in the country.

Imam managed to incorporate Islamic Jurisprudence in running the country's affairs, added Ayatollah Khamenei.

The Leader went on to say that one of the features of Imam was that he trusted the youth as one could see heads of IRGC at the time of its establishment were in their 20s or 30s. "He created a big change in how to look upon the younger generation."

Imam Khomeini proved that superpowers are vul-

erupted after the brutal murder of a African American by a white US police officer last week.

"What is seen today is the appearance of truth that was always hidden... this is the sludge remained in the depth of pool that is now surfacing."

He went on to say that the US police's brutal act is an instance of American characteristics and nature. "This is what Americans have done to countries that they have entered to like Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, and Vietnam."

## Google Takes Down Popular Indian App That Removed Chinese Apps

**NEW DELHI:** Alphabet Inc's Google has taken down an Indian mobile application from its app store that allowed users to remove other Chinese apps from their phones as it violated certain company policies, a spokesman said on Wednesday.

The app, "Remove China Apps", had become top trending free app on Google's mobile app store in India with more than five million downloads since late May. Its popularity rose amid calls for a boycott of Chinese mobile apps in India during a Himalayan border dispute between the two nations.

A Google spokesman confirmed to Reuters the app had been removed due to violation of app store policies, but gave no further details.



A person familiar with the matter said the software violated Google's policies prohibiting apps that mislead users into removing or disabling third-party apps or modifying device settings or features.

Remove China Apps scanned users' phones for apps such as ByteDance's TikTok and Alibaba's UC Browser. Once deleted, a message popped up saying "You are awesome, no China app found." OneTouch AppLabs, which developed the app, did not respond to a request for comment. On its website it confirmed the app had been removed and thanked users for their support.

### NEWS MAKER

## "Could Have Done Better, Clearly," Says Man Behind Sweden's COVID-19 Plan

**STOCKHOLM:** Sweden should have done more to combat the coronavirus, the epidemiologist behind a national strategy that avoided the strict lockdowns seen in many other countries said on Wednesday.

Anders Tegnell's comments followed mounting criticism of the government's handling of the crisis and a policy that has relied largely on voluntary action, social distancing and common-sense hygiene advice but has failed to prevent the virus spreading.

Sweden has a lower COVID-19 mortality rate than European countries such as Britain, Spain and Italy which

enforced stringent lockdowns.

But, with 443 deaths per million people, it has the eighth highest number of coronavirus-related deaths per capita in the world, and had the highest COVID-19 mortality rate in Europe for parts of May. According to research group Ourworldindata.org, "Yes, I think we could have done better in what we did in Sweden, clearly," Tegnell, the chief epidemiologist at the Public Health Agency, told Swedish radio.

"If we were to run into the same disease, knowing exactly what we know about it today, I think we would end up doing something in between what

Sweden did and what the rest of the world has done," he said.

Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, who has promised an enquiry into the handling of the pandemic, did not immediately respond to a request for comment but Health and Social Affairs Minister Lena Hallengren hit back. "The government has been, at all times, prepared to introduce wider, further measures recommended by the expert authority," Hallengren said in a written response to Reuters.

Lofven told the Aftonbladet daily that the overall strategy of limiting the disease while also protecting workers and companies had been the right one.

## Donald Trump Gets Sued

**NEW YORK:** A tech-focused civil liberties group on Tuesday sued to block President Donald Trump's executive order that seeks to regulate social media, saying it violates the First Amendment and puts curbs on free speech.

Trump's order, signed last week, could allow more lawsuits against internet companies like Twitter and Facebook for what their users post, tweet and stream. The order was more political than substantive, with many experts questioning whether it was constitutional. The president aimed to rally his supporters after Twitter put fact checks on



two of his tweets. Trump, without evidence, has long accused tech companies of being biased against conservatives. The order targets current law -- you may have heard recent references to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act -- that protects internet companies from lawsuits. They can't be sued for hosting videos and posts from users, or for moderating their services, with some exceptions.

## TikTok Meets Its Arab Spring Moment Amid US Race Protests

Just a few months ago, 17-year-old Taylor Cassidy was spending hours flailing her arms in an attempt to pick up the latest dance move the "Renegade."

That all changed as Cassidy watched videos by Black Lives Matter (BLM) and eventually began creating video skits on TikTok to illustrate the racial injustice she and her friends face on a daily basis. "Because the BLM movement has been present in society for such a long time, my generation has been able to use TikTok to spread awareness through the lens of a young person's mindset," Cassidy, who is black, told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday. Cassidy, who has amassed 1.6 million followers

on TikTok since joining last November, is among the millions of users who are helping to turn the go-to destination for short-form viral music videos and pranks into a first stop for youth activism as protests against police brutality spread across America. "The movement will be shaped to not only spread awareness about the injustice in society, but it will go further, teaching about the importance of voice and calls to action to stop the brutality," Cassidy said.

The hashtag #blacklivesmatter has shot up TikTok's trending list with 3 billion views as of Tuesday morning. TikTok superstars like Charli D'Amelio, whose 60 million followers is nearly twice the number of HBO's U.S. subscribers,

hit pause on showing off dance moves to discuss George Floyd, a black man in Minnesota whose death as a white police officer knelt on his neck has sparked a national debate on race and power.

"I will continue to spread these messages and be an ally," said D'Amelio, who is white, in a post which garnered more than 47.7 million views and 12 million likes over the weekend. TikTok's emergence as a platform for political discourse for teens follow a tradition of media platforms evolving beyond their founders' initial designs such as Twitter's role in the Arab Spring protests in 2011 and the MTV cable TV network's role galvanizing young voters in the early 1990s.