



Maximum : 26°C
Minum : 14°C
Humidity : 62%

SUNSET
Today 07:40 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:19 AM

OBSERVER

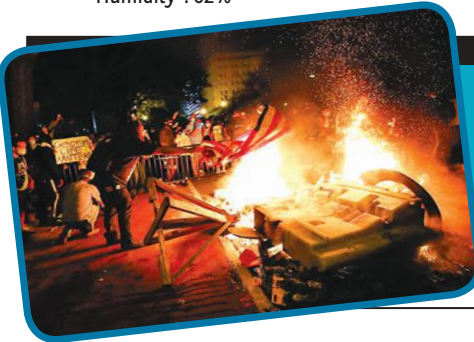
23rd year OF PUBLICATION

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TRUMP TAKES AMERICA TO THE BRINK

Last fall Bob Kroll, the head of the Minneapolis police union, appeared at a Trump rally, where he thanked the president for ending Barack Obama's "oppression of police" and letting cops "put the handcuffs on criminals instead of us." The events of the past week, in which the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody led to demonstrations against police brutality, and these demonstrations were met by more police brutality — including unprecedented violence against the news media — have made it clear what Kroll meant by taking the handcuffs off. And Donald Trump, far from trying to calm the nation, is pouring gasoline on the fire; he seems very close to trying to incite a civil war. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that America as we know it is on the brink. How did we get here? The core story of US politics over the past four decades is that wealthy elites weaponized white racism to gain political power.....

.....OPINION

P4

News Digest

AIIMS Entrance Exam On June11

Srinagar: In connection with the conduct of AIIMS entrance examination scheduled to be held on June 11, 2020 at designated centers of Srinagar for Kashmir based students, all the Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir division have been directed to ensure smooth conduct of the said examination. According to the communication from office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, all the

● P-02

Mantri Blames Nehru For Ladakh Crisis

Srinagar: Senior Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) leader and Union Minister Jitendra Singh shifted blame of Ladakh stand-off on India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru saying that the people are still paying the price of 1962 Himalayan tragedy, ANI reported Friday. Launching a scathing attack on Rahul Gandhi, who had questioned Modi government to confirm that no Chinese soldiers

● P-02

Illegal Bandsaw Seized In Kupwara

Kupwara- The Forest department of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday seized Illegal Bandsaw deployed for crushing illicit timber at Manigah area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district. According to a statement, the Officials of Kamraj Forest Division raided house of Moham-mad Ashraf Khan resident of Manigah Kupwara and seized illegal bandsaw from his house where it was deployed to crush illicit timber. "Information

● P-02

4 CRPF Personnel Injured In Mishap

Srinagar: At least four Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on Friday were injured in a road accident in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. A CRPF vehicle collided with a truck bearing registration number JK0CA-2760 near Gulab Bagh area of Qazigund in Anantnag today, resulting in injuries to four CRPF men, officials said. They said the injured identified as ASI Yeshpal Singh, HC Parmal Singh, Constable Suraj Singh

● P-02

RPG Shell Diffused In Anantnag

Srinagar: The government forces on Friday found a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG 7) shell at Hiller village of Kokarnag in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. The locals spotted the suspicious objects in the fields and informed police about it, officials said. "A police team and Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) reached the site soon after the information was provided," they said. A police officer said that Bomb Disposal Squad have destroyed the live shell in Hiller village and averted a major tragedy. (KNO)

...LADAKH STAND OFF

India, China Army Commanders To Meet Today



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Indian and Chinese armies will hold a Lt. General-level dialogue on Saturday in their first major attempt to resolve the month-long bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh even as both militaries maintained their aggressive posturing in the sensitive areas in the high-

altitude region.

The Indian delegation will be led by Lt General Harinder Singh, the general officer commanding of Leh-based 14 Corps, while the Chinese side will be headed by the Tibet Military District Commander at the talks in the Border Personnel Meeting Point at Maldo, official sources said. The two sides have already held at least 12 rounds

»PAGE 02

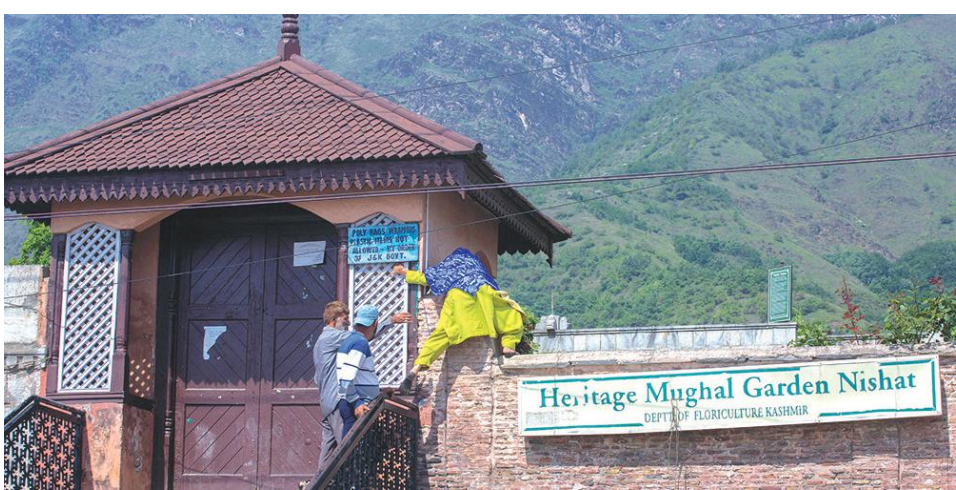
India, China Agree To Sort Differences Through Talks: MEA

India and China on Friday held diplomatic talks over their military standoff in eastern Ladakh and agreed to handle their "differences" through peaceful discussions while respecting each other's sensitivities, concerns and aspirations, and not allow them to become disputes. The talks through video conference were held

● P-02

China Names New Commander For Sino-India Border

China has appointed a new Army commander for its Western Theatre Command ground forces responsible for the Sino-India border, ahead of the key talks between senior Indian and Chinese military officials on Saturday to end the border standoff. ● P-02



A WOMAN SCALES WALL OF FAMED NISHAT MUGHAL GARDEN here on Friday, as the ban on public parks and gardens remains imposed. Pic Abid Bhat

Indian Soldier Killed In Cross LoC Firing

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An army man was killed in cross-border firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Sunderbani Sector of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Friday.

Pakistan troops on Thursday night opened fire upon Indian posts along the LoC in Sunderbani sector of the border district, they said. Indian troops guarding the border mounted a befitting retaliation to the unprovoked firing by Pakistan troops.

In the cross-LoC firing, a soldier identified as Havaladar Mathiazhang P was critically injured.

A resident of Sreerangai Kadu village in Tamil Nadu, the injured soldier was removed to the nearby army hospital for treatment, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Fear has heightened among villagers along the LoC in Rajouri, Poonch and Kupwara since three civilians were killed in April this year in shelling by Pakistan. There were a total of 646 incidents of ceasefire violation along the International Border (IB) as well as the LoC between January 1 and February 23 this year, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said in March. ● P-02

Govt Directs Employees To Attend Offices From Today

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday asked all the government employees to attend their offices regularly from tomorrow.

In an order issued today, the J&K government said that employees who are at higher risk i.e. older employees, pregnant employees and employees who have underlying medical conditions should take extra precautions and should preferably not be exposed to any front-line work requiring direct contact with the public and the office management would facilitate work from home wherever feasible, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the order further

File Pic



adds that routine issue of visitors/ temporary passes should be suspended and only those visitors with proper permission of the officer who they want to meet, should be allowed after being properly screened and all the measures prescribed in the SOPs

»PAGE 02

Govt Refers 7000 Class-IV Posts To JKSSB

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday referred over 7000 class-IV vacancies to the Services Selection Board (JKSSB) under provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Appointment to Class-IV (Special Recruitment) Rules, 2020.

As per a communiqué of GAD, Accelerated Recruitment Committee constituted by the government in May last month, has identified and forwarded 7052 vacancies of Class-IV posts of nineteen departments to General Administration Department for their further referral to J&K Services Selection Board ● P-02

Jammu Employees Protest 'Durbar' Shifting To Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu-based employees on Friday held a protest at the Civil Secretariat here against their shifting to Kashmir as part of the bi-annual 'Durbar Move' in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

The employees were demanding that they should be continued to be posted at the Civil Secretariat here on "as is where is basis" as they fear for their life in the Valley where many districts have been declared 'red zones'.

"It is requested to consider the continuation of the existing

arrangements of working as is where is basis so that employees of the both the provinces may be able to take care of their families and also their duties till the situation improves," demanded Sanjeev Sharma, vice president of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Employees Union.

The Durbar move offices were partially opened in Srinagar on May 4. The administration has ordered their full reopening from June 15.

Under the bi-annual Durbar move, the government of Jammu and Kashmir functions for six months each in Srinagar and Jammu.

CRPF In Kashmir Pledge To Boycott Chinese Products

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A paramilitary CRPF unit deployed in Kashmir Valley has pledged to boycott all the Chinese products, as the stand-off between the two nuclear countries continues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

In a video that has gone viral on social networking websites, like Facebook and Twitter, dozens of CRPF personnel of 177 battalion are seen taking oath to boycott all the Chinese products, including eatables, clothing and electronic equipment. »PAGE 02

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Amarnath Yatra: 'Pratham Pooja' Held In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The traditional 'Pratham Pooja' (first prayer) for the annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in South Kashmir Himalayas was held here on Friday, officials said.

Normally, the ceremony marks the start of the Amarnath Yatra which spans nearly two months. However, this year, according to sources, the yatra is likely to begin in the last week of July and its duration shortened to 15 days due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The 'Pratham Pooja' was conducted by principal secretary to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor and CEO of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) Bipul Pathak, and SASB Additional CEO A K Soni.

The first prayers were performed as is the annual practice. »PAGE 02

Shah Faesal, Madni Placed Under 'House Arrest'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: IAS officer-turned-politician Shah Faesal and two PDP members, including the maternal uncle of former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, who were released from detention under the PSA earlier this week have been "informally" told not to move out of their houses, informed sources said.

The three were shifted to their official residences on Wednesday after they were released following revocation of the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) against them by the home department of the union territory.

However, they were conveyed informally that they should not step out of their homes and a police guard has also been posted outside, the sources said.

When contacted, Sartaj Madani,



File Pic

uncle of Mehbooba Mufti, told PTI over phone that he was not sure whether he had been kept under house arrest but added that he was not allowed to go to his native village in Bijbehara of South Kashmir.

"I was told that I can go without assigning any reason," he said.

Efforts to seek a reaction from Peer Mansoor, political advisor during the tenure of Mehbooba Mufti as chief minister, and Faesal, a 2010 batch IAS officer did not fructify as their phones were not reachable. »PAGE 02

Gogoi Charged Under Sedition, Anti-Terror Law

GUWAHATI: Reading the 'Communist Manifesto', Lenin's works, Mao's life, calling friends 'Comrade' and greeting them with 'Lal Salaam' are among the reasons cited by the NIA for charging peasant leader and activist Akhil Gogoi under sedition and anti-terror laws.

The National Investigation Agency filed the charge sheet, a copy of which is with PTI, before the Special Judge, NIA, in Guwahati on May 29 under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity between two groups

on grounds of religion, race etc), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration) of the IPC.

Provisions of sections 18 and 39 of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, an anti-terror law, were also invoked against him and three others. If convicted, they may end up getting sentenced for life.

The special NIA court had granted bail to Gogoi on March 17 and subsequently to others after the investigating agency failed to file a charge sheet within the stipulated 90 days. The Gauhati High

Court later stayed the bail.

The NIA is investigating the alleged terror angle behind the violent protests against the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act across Assam in December last year. Gogoi and three other Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) leaders--Dhairirya Konwar, Bittu Sonowal and Manash Konwar--are accused in the case.

"During the investigation, incriminating documents, material objects, have been seized. Further, statements of witnesses in connection with the instant case have been recorded which reveal

the conspiracy of the accused," the charge sheet said.

The NIA claimed it seized a number of books on "communist ideology" such as 'Communist Manifesto' in Assamese, "Lenin's Selected Works" in English and a book on Mao Zedong in Assamese.

Besides, "Introduction to Socialism" and a number of other books on socialism and dialectical materialism were also seized, the anti-terror probe agency said, presenting a long list of such literature with the charge sheet and alleging that the accused followed the ideology of

"The Capitalists will sell us the rope with which we will hang them'," the charge sheet said.

Gogoi's stand against illegal foreigners has also found mention in the charge sheet.

"...we will not accept any foreigner either Hindu or Muslim. We will not accept, will not accept, and will not accept," the NIA said, referring to a video downloaded from Facebook where he addressed the media on April 1 this year.

The agency also made the peasant leader's call for an economic blockade by stopping transporta-

tion of "natural resources from here like...crude oil, coal, tea, limestone etc..." to accuse him of involvement in terror activities.

The NIA alleged that Gogoi had several secret meetings with members of the CPI(Maoist) and even sent around 15 cadres/members of KMSS in batches of five each to train in the camps of the underground ultra-Left outfit. "They were imparted with training in their ideology, handling of arms and explosives, tactics of mass mobilisation to carry seditious activities in grab of opposing lawfully established government," it added.

India, China Army...

of talks between local commanders and three rounds of talks between two major general-rank officials but no positive outcome came out from the discussions, they said.

In Saturday's meeting, the Indian side is expected to press for restoration of the status quo ante in at least Pangong Tso and Galwan Valley to gradually deescalate the tension removal of temporary camps erected by China after a violent face-off between the two sides on May 5.

The Indian delegation will also insist on implementation of the strategic guidelines issued by the two militaries in line with decisions taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in their first informal summit in April 2018 in Wuhan.

It is learnt that two sides are also engaged in diplomatic talks to find a solution to the face-off which is turning out to be the most serious military standoff between the two armies after the Doklam episode of 2017. Modi and Xi held their informal summit in Wuhan months after the Doklam standoff.

After the standoff began in early last month, Indian military leadership decided that Indian troops will adopt a firm approach in dealing with the aggressive posturing by the Chinese troops in all disputed areas of Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie.

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

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

China has also enhanced its presence in certain areas along the Line of Actual Control in Northern Sikkim and Uttarakhand following which India has also been its presence by sending additional troops, they said.

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

The road in the Finger area in Pangong Tso is considered crucial for India to carry out patrol. India has already decided not to stall any border infrastructure projects in eastern Ladakh in view of Chinese protests.

Government sources said military reinforcements including troops, vehicles and artillery guns were sent to eastern Ladakh by the Indian Army to shore up its presence in the areas where Chinese soldiers were resorting to aggressive posturing.

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

However, the standoff continued.

The incident in Pangong Tso was followed by a similar incident in north Sikkim on May 9.

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

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long LAC. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet while India contests it.

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

ers of the two countries, that peaceful, stable and balanced relations between India and China will be a positive factor for stability in the current global situation," the MEA said in a statement.

It said both sides agreed to resolve differences in accordance with guidance provided by leadership of two countries, in a reference to decisions taken at the two informal summits between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"Both sides agreed that in accordance with the guidance provided by the leadership, the two sides should handle their differences through peaceful discussion bearing in mind the importance of respecting each other's sensitivities, concerns and aspirations and not allow them to become disputes," the MEA said.

Troops of India and China are locked in a bitter military standoff in at least four areas in eastern Ladakh for a month

China Names New...

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Western Theatre Command, on its official website, announced that Lieutenant General Xu Qiling has been appointed as the new commander for its ground forces. Before this, he reportedly served in the Eastern Theatre Command.

The Western Theatre Command of the PLA guards the 3,488-km long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India.

The PLA's Western Theatre Command, which includes the ground force or Army, Air Force and Rocket Force, is headed by General Zhao Zongqi.

The new appointment comes at a time when the Chinese and Indian forces are locked in a border standoff since early last month. On Saturday, both the sides are expected to deliberate on the specific proposals to end the month-long standoff in eastern Ladakh during the first extensive talks between the Indian and Chinese military, led by lieutenant generals from both the armies.

The general officer commanding of Leh-based 14 Corps, Lt Gen Harinder Singh, is expected to represent India at the talks which is scheduled to be held at one of the border meeting points, the official sources in New Delhi said.

The two sides have already held at least 10 rounds of negotiations between local commanders as well as major general-rank officials of the two armies but the talks did not yield any positive result, they said.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long LAC. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet while India contests it.

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

Indian Soldier Killed...

Over 3,200 ceasefire violations by Pakistan's troops were recorded in 2019. There is a 198-km IB and over 510 km of LoC with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

5 Doctors, 7 Pregnant ...

out positive for coronavirus. Those include five doctors, including three from SMHS hospital here and seven pregnant women. SKIMS viral diagnostic lab reported 34 Covid-19 positive cases today. Among them 12 are from Kupwara, eight from Srinagar, four from Bandipora, two each from Shopian, Baramulla and Budgam besides one each from Anantnag, Shopian and Rajouri. 13 other cases of Covid19 were reported from SKIMS Bemina.

Woman Dies Of Covid-19...

She had many underlying ailments including pneumonia and died later," Dr Nazir Choudhary, Medical superintendent SMHS hospital.

Her samples, he said, returned positive for Covid-19 late last night. With the latest fatality, the death toll due to the virus in J&K has gone up to 36. So far Srinagar district with nine deaths due to the virus has the highest fatalities, followed by Baramulla seven, Anantnag five, Kulgam four, two each from Shopian, Budgam and

Jammu while one death each has been reported from Bandipora, Kupwara Doda and Udhampur. (GNS)

Govt Directs Employees...

on preventive measures to contain spread of COVID-19 in offices by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, shall be followed at all times besides the bio-metric attendance shall continue to be suspended until further orders.

"The order said that the Heads of the "Departments/Offices shall ensure strict compliance of the above instructions," the official spokesperson added.

Govt Refers 7000 Class-IV

under rule 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Appointment to Class-IV (Special Recruitment) Rules, 2020, an official spokesperson said today.

Giving more details, the official spokesperson said that 3475 belong to district cadre, 3142 belong to divisional cadre (Jammu 1619, Kashmir 1523) and UT cadre comprises 435 posts. Among the district cadre include Anantnag, 324; Bandipora, 113; Baramulla, 472; Budgam, 320; Doda, 221; Ganderbal, 61; Jammu, 224; Kathua, 290; Kishtwar, 85; Kulgam, 115; Kupwara, 211; Poonch, 50; Pulwama, 44; Rajouri, 213; Ramban, 106; Reasi, 80; Samba, 61; Shopian, 81; Srinagar, 236 and Udhampur, 168 vacancies.

"The vacancies with department-wise/cadre-wise/category-wise breakup are to be filled under provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Appointment to Class-IV (Special Recruitment) 2020," the spokesperson said.

CRPF In Kashmir Pledge...

The video was reportedly shot in Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In a viral video, the CRPF personnel in uniform could be heard taking a pledge to boycott "Made in China" products like eatables, clothing and electronic gadgets.

"I take pledge on June 2, 2020 that I will not use any product made in China like eatables, drinking, clothing, electronic gadgets and communication equipment etcetera," the CRPF personnel pledge in the 36-second long video.

CRPF spokesperson in Srinagar, Pankaj Singh, told Kashmir Observer that the pledge taken by the paramilitary men was not the version of the force but an emotional outburst of individual battalion.

"We are of the view of the same as of that of government of India. We have to make our country self-sufficient. We have to make our goods and products as competitive to any other country in the world," he said.

The paramilitary personnel taking pledge, Singh said were associated with 177 battalion in Kashmir off sector.

Amarnath Yatra...

This was done as per schedule, Pathak told reporters.

"The yatra will be conducted with social distancing measures and other SOPs in place," he said to a question about the commencement of the pilgrimage to the 3880-metre high cave shrine this year.

Pathak said the yatra may take place after taking into consideration all possibilities.

"There are some problems. There is a shortage of labourers due to lockdown and preparations are still on," he said.

According to the sources, helicopters are likely to be used for the yatra and it will conclude on August 3.

Earlier, the Amarnath Yatra was scheduled to begin from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on June 23. It would have concluded on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 3.

Shah Faesal, Madni Placed

The three were among a host of political leaders detained initially under preventive custody and later under the PSA in the aftermath of the 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.

AIIMS Entrance Exam ...

Deputy Commissioners have been asked to provide all necessary support to the students undergoing the entrance test at their respective districts, an official spokesperson said. The communication, he said further reads that the AIIMS entrance examination has to be considered as essential activity and accordingly admit cards of the said examination would be treated as equivalent to curfew pass for the movement of the purpose of examination on June 11, 2020.

"In addition, the district administrations will also ensure the movement of supervisory/observance staff and other concerned for the purpose of preparation and conduct of AIIMS entrance examination," the official spokesperson said.

"In view of evolving situation related to COVID-19 outbreak all advisories / guidelines of Govt. of India, regarding social distancing and sanitization will be followed at all examination centres," he added.

Mantri Blames Nehru ...

have entered India, the Union Minister said that the Congress leader was conveniently forgetting that problems with China are a "baggage left" by his great grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru.

Minister of State in PMO, said that mistakes had been made by Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, and the country is still paying for it, the report said.

"In the context of China they started finding fault without realising or conveniently forgetting that China is baggage left by Rahul Gandhi's great grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru who had walked the streets of Delhi with Zhou Enlai (then Chinese premier) where people around chanted Hindi Cheeni Bhai Bhai," Singh said.

"Whatever happened is history. The Himalayan tragedy of 1962 and we are still paying for it," he added.

Singh, who is Minister for Development of North Eastern Region also asked the Congress to clear its stand on the abrogation of Article 370.

"Unfortunately, of late, the criticism that comes from Congress is devoid of any evidence. Congress criticism is based on collaterals. Take any issue in the last seven-eight months beginning from constitutional changes that happened in the context of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Will they make their stand clear on abrogation of 370? Or will they make a public claim that if they come back to power which will not happen, they will restore 370? They will not do so because they know the will of people is in favour of what PM Modi is deciding," he added.

Illegal Bandsaw Seized...

regarding illegal deployment of Bandsaw/Plannar was received by DFO Kamraj Forest Division Zahid Moghul who organized raid to suspected place taking assistance from Deputy Director Forest Protection Force Sarwar Shah. During search operation, illegal bandsaw was found functional in the house of Mohammad Ashraf Khan which was seized onspot along with illicit timber deodar 9.1cft," the statement reads.

Forest department has registered FIR against this forest offence in Kupwara Police Station and further investigations have been taken up by the Police.

4 CRPF Personnel Injured

and J J Singh of 24 Bn CRPF were shifted to Emergency Hospital Qazigund for treatment.

Medical Superintendent (MS) Emergency Hospital Qazigund, Dr. Aasima Nazir said that the condition of all the four CRPF men is stable. (KNO)

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Address: Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal Tele No: 0194-2416058



NIT NO.19/2020-21

DATED 03.06.2020

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

S No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of Tender document	Earnest money	Time of completion	Class of contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Improvement/Upgradation of Khalmulla Baba Daryadin road b.w.o P/L 75mm thick compacted wet mix macadam in patches/stretches, 50mm thick compacted bituminous Macadam, 25mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick seal coat. (Machine Mix laid with paver) under NABARD.	Rs. 138.00 Lacs	2600/=	276000/=	15 cal days	AAY Class with HMPH/HMPH	NABARD
2	Improvement/Upgradation of Gutlibagh road incl. links (incl. link road from Hope Disability centre to Gutlibagh) b.w.o P/L, WBM G-2", P/L 75mm thick compacted wet mix macadam, 50mm thick compacted bituminous Macadam, 25mm thick Semidense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine Mix laid with paver) under NABARD.	Rs. 97.31 Lacs	1600/=	194620/=	15 Cal Days	AAY Class with HMPH/HMPH	NABARD

• **Position of AAA/TS : Accorded.**
 • **Position of Funds: Committed.**

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.iktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	03-06-2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-06-2020 at 4.00 P.M
3.	Bid Submission Start date	03-06-2020 From 4.30 A.M.
4.	Bid Submission End date	15-06-2020 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (online)	16-06-2020 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

19. All other terms, conditions are as per PWD Form-25 (Double agreement Form).

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

No:- 1421-30

Date:- 03-06-20

DIPK-1342/20

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA KMR.

SHORT QUOTATION

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory sealed quotations affixed with Revenue Stamp of Rs.5/- are invited from the registered Sumo Association for the providing One No: Sumo (on hire charges) for the use of quality control team.

S No	Particulars	Quantity	Earnest Money	Rate to be quoted per day.
01	Sumo (on hire charges)	01 No	Rs. 1000/-	

The quotation along with Earnest Money (pledged to the undersigned) shall reach to the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama on or before 08-06-2020 upto 2 P.M and will be opened at the same day or any other date convenient to the undersigned.

The quotationer shall quote the rate including all charges (fuel charges etc). The successful quotationer shall have to provide sumo as and when required by this office.

The Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (undersigned) have right to reject the quotation without any reasons. The Payments shall be made soon after the funds are received.

NO: Q-I/EEP/738
DT: 01-06-2020

**Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Pulwama.**

DIPK-1320/20

OFFICE OF THE EXCISE AND TAXATION OFFICER

EXCISE RANGE ANTG-PUL-SPN-KUL. Near Carplaza KP Road Anantnag

Subject: - Tender notice for hiring of Laborers/ Transportation for the purpose of Cannabis Destruction during the year 2020-21

Sealed tenders affixed with Rs 5 revenue stamps are invited for carrying out Cannabis Destruction drives in different areas of South Kashmir during the year 2020-21 for below mentioned services, separately.

SNo	Description of Service	Rates	Requirement	C.D.R Amount	Eligibility
01	Laborers for cannabis destruction by using brush cutters	As approved by the Govt i.e. Rs 225/- per laborers per day	Required in the months from June to october during cannabis destruction drives.	Rs 10000/= (Refundable) Pledged to ETO excise Range Antg-Pul-Spn-Kul.	Contractor/supplier
02	Transportation Taveera/Tata sumo/Load Carrier	As approved by Govt i.e. Rs 1000 plus fuel per vehicle per day	Required in the months from June to october during cannabis destruction drives.	Rs5000/= (Refundable) Pledged to ETO excise Range Antg-Pul-Spn-Kul.	Taxi Stand/Registered Transporter.

Terms and Conditions

- The successful transport tenderer shall be solely responsible for any damage/accident, if occurs to the Tata Sumo/Taveera/etc while carrying men/machinery during hired hours.
- The successful labourer supplier shall provide the labourers which are trained in operating brush cutters and also shall be solely responsible for any injury if occurs to the labourers during the course of Poppy destruction operations
- The successful tenderers shall keep the transportation/labourers available at the disposal of the department as per poppy destruction Programmes as per requirement.
- The service providers shall obey all the directions of the excise officers on duty during the course of poppy destruction drives.
- The undersigned reserves right to accept or reject any tender or all the tenders in full or in part without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful Tenderer shall execute an agreement with the undersigned regarding terms and conditions.
- In case of any technical fault/ breakdown occurs to any vehicle during the course of duty hours,transporter has to provide a substitute vehicle.

The tenders should reach to the office of the undersigned through registered post/Couriers/Speed post or Personally/Through representative by or before 16-06 -2020 up to 12 Noon. The offers will be opened on the same day at 2 pm.

In case of Gazetted Holiday on the date fixed, the next working day will be date of receipts and opening of tenders.

Any enquiry regarding terms and conditions can be acquired from the office of the undersigned.

DIPK-1314/20

**SD/
Excise and Taxation Officer
Excise Range , Antg-Pul-Spn-Kul**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORK'S DIVISION

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Re-Tender

- Name of work : **Construction of Generator Room of size (16*12) (Hon'ble Mayor's Block D) SMC**
- Bid Identification No.(BIN) : e-NIT No. 25 of 2019-20
- Estimated Cost Put to Bid: Rs. 6.37 in lacs
- Period of completion : (10) Ten Days
- Availability of Bid document : 10/03/2020 from 04:00 pm
On e-Procurement portal
- Date and Time for submission : 11/03/2020 10:00 am to 15/06/2020 04:00pm
Of Bids Online
- Date and Time For Submission Of Hard Copy of Bids : 17/06/2020 up to 04:00 pm
- Time and Date of Bid Opening : 16/06/2020 at 02:00 pm
- Place of Opening of Bids &:Office of the Executive Engineer LRWD SMC.
Address of Communication : Old Fund Office opposite National School Karan Nagar Srinagar, J & K 190010
- Bid inviting officer (BIO) : Executive Engineer Left River Work's Division

NOTE:-

Rest all other terms and conditions as uploaded earlier shall remain same/unchanged.

Executive Engineer
Left River Works Division
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

SMC/EELRWD/205-213
Dated: 02/06/2020

DIPK-NB-513/20



Government of union territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION GANDERBAL.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

SHORT TERM E-NIT No. 6 of 2020-21 (E-Tendering)

For and on behalf of Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders are invited on Item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors/SHG's registered with J & K State Govt. for the following works.

S No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In lacs)	E/M (In Rs)	Class Of Contract	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Tender Receiving Authority	Head of A/C M-H	Position of Funds
1	CLEARANCE OF SUMPS OF DIFFERENT US OF IRRIGATION SUB-DIV.GANDERBAL. FRESH FOR ENIT NO 2 OF 2020-21, SERIAL NO 12	1.01	2020	DEE	300	2 DAYS	Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Division Ganderbal	4702 DESLTING	Awaited
2	CHECKING OF LEAKAGES BY WAY OF CEMENT CONCRETE JACKETING AND BED TREATMENT AND REPAIRS TO EXISTING OUTLETS AT DIFFERENT SPOTS OF DAB CANAL AT REPORA-A – FRESH FOR ENIT NO 3 OF 2020-21 SERIAL NO 8	4.615	9230	DEE	500	20 DAYS	Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Division Ganderbal	2702 M&R	Awaited
3	CLEARANCE OF SUPPLY CHANNEL,CLEARANCE OF SILT FROM RD0-800 & FROM RD 1100-1450MTRS AND FROM RD 3755 -4500MTRS OF YACHAMA BRANCH OF AKHAL NAJWAN CANAL. FRESH FOR NIT NO 3 OF 2020-21 SERIAL NO 10	1.788	3576	DEE	200	8 DAYS	Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Division Ganderbal	2702 M&R	Awaited
4	DESILTING OF 4 NOSUMPS ON GUTLIBAGH AND LAR CANAL & DESILTING FROM RD 6136 TO 6236 MTRS ON LAR CANAL FRESH FOR NIT NO 5 OF 2020-21 SERIAL NO 4	1.03	2060	DEE	100	3 DAYS	Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Division Ganderbal	MH 2702 M&R	Awaited
5	CONSTRUCTION OF LINING WALL ON R/S OF DRARIBAL CANAL NEAR THE LAND OF MUSHTAQ AH WANI AT KACHAN. FRESH FOR NIT NO 5 OF 2020-21 SERIAL NO 8	2.39	2390	SHG	300	15 DAYS	Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Division Ganderbal	2702- M&R	Awaited

(5 NO. OF WORKS)

01	Publishing Date	05-06-2020	9:00 A.M
02	Download Date 'Start	05-06-2020	10:00 A.M
03	Bid submission Date 'Start	05-06-2020	11:00 A.M
04	Bid submission Date 'End	10-06-2020	16:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	11-06-2020	11:30 A.M

- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in

No:- 611-50
Dt:- 4-06-2020

Executive Engineer
Irrigation and Flood Control
Division, Ganderbal.

DIPK-1306/20

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIO LIMITED

TOURIST RECEPTION CENTRE SRINAGAR.

E-tender notice-04 of 2020-21.

For and on behalf of the J&K Tourism Development Corporation Limited (JKTDC),e-Tenders are invited in single cover system on item rate basis from registered civil contractors of J&K for the following works.

E-NIT No.04 of JKTDC-2020-21 **Dated: 03 /06/2020**

S.No	Name of the Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.in lacs)	Earnest Money in Rs	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Cost of document	Major Head of Account
1.	Providing and fixing of parquet flooring to 4-No huts (Hut No.106,230,232 and 236) at T.E. Chashmashahi	2.58	5160	D-Class	12-Days	1200	CAPEX 2019-20


1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03.06.2020
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents	04/06/2020
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	04/06/2020 2:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	15/06/2020 3:00 PM
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Bids (Online) in the Office of the General Executive Engineer JKTDC ,TRC Srinagar,	16/06/2020 4:00 PM

DIPK-NB-487/20

**SD/-
Executive Engineer,
JKTDC, Sgr/Jammu.**

NO:JKTDC/M&W/EE/ 792-97
Dated:- 03/06/2020


DIAL-EMMA



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


AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311




RAILWAYS


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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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





HIJRI
CALENDAR
14 Shawwal
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 37
ZUHR	12: 28
ASR	5:26
Magrib	7:41
ISHA	9:20

This Day In History

- 1972 - Explosion at world's largest coal mine kills 427 (Wankie, Rhodesia)
- 1972 - US bombs Haiphong, North-Vietnam; 1000s killed
- 1975 - Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam established
- 1977 - Washington Post reports US has developed neutron bomb
- 1981 - A passenger train travelling between Mansi and Saharsa, India, jumps the tracks at a bridge crossing the Bagmati river, killing 268 officially with another 300 or more missing.
- 1983 - Nicaragua expels 3 US diplomats
- 1985 - Soyuz T-13 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 7 space station
- 1988 - George H. W. Bush makes campaign promise to support reparations for WW II to Japanese-American internees (promise broken, May 1989)
- 1990- 2nd International Rock Awards
- 1993 - Punsalmaagyn Otsirbat recognized as president of Mongolia
- 1993 - Ramiro de Leon Carpio elected President of Guatemala
- 1994 - Cricketer Brian Lara hits record 501 not out /390 runs in 1 day
- 1994 - Tupolev-154M crashes at Xian China, 160 killed
- 1999 - Largest jailbreak in Brazilian history at the Putim maximum security prison in Brazil, 345 prisoners run from the main gate. In the ensuing manhunt, two fugitives are killed and five innocent bystanders are accidentally jailed.
- 2002 - A near-Earth asteroid estimated at 10 metres diameter explodes over the Mediterranean Sea between Greece and Libya. Resulting explosion estimated to have a force of 26 kilotons, more powerful than the Nagasaki atomic bomb.
- 2004 - Tamil is established as a Classical language by the President of India, Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in a joint sitting of the two houses of the Indian Parliament.
- 2012 - Transit of Venus (between Earth & Sun) occurs - last transit of 21st century
- 2012 - The Solar Impulse completes the world's first intercontinental flight powered by the sun

From KO Archives

Faith moves mountains, stops rain in Kashmir

F Ahmad

SRINAGAR - Jabbar Mir 56, has walked barefoot with a pitcher full of water to the shrine of saint Sheikh Hamza Mukhdoom in Srinagar. It's an age old custom that he is sure will pull his village out of a "do or die situation".

Mir, a resident of Ganderbal, 22 km from Srinagar, has climbed the Koh-e-Maran hillock in the middle of the city with hundreds of villagers, all travelling on foot and carrying water filled earthen pitchers from various parts of the Kashmir valley.

They are seeking saint Mukhdoom's blessings so that the intermittent rains lashing the valley stop and the bright sunny days return.

"It's a do or die situation for us. Our paddy nurseries are turning yellow because of the cold and rain. Unless we have bright, warm sunshine there would be hardly any paddy saplings left to be transplanted into the rice fields," Mir said.

According to a local tradition, water collected from parts of the valley and brought here in earthen pitchers by barefooted devotees is poured into the large pond outside the saint's shrine so that saint Mukhdoom is pleased and blesses the people.

However, the devotees must walk all the distance from their homes to the shrine.

"This is a practice that the people have resorted to whenever excessive rains, floods and other natural calamities have visited Kashmir."

Asked if it works, Ghulam Nabi, 48 gives a stare.

"It is a heretic's question. The custom always works. It is my experience of over four decades that whenever Kashmiris visit the shrine, their prayers are answered," says Nabi, who has come from Anantnag district. 54 km away, Nabi's 20-year-old son is an epileptic whose seizures have become frequent in recent days.

"I won't say a doctor is not needed to cure my son. But finally it is somewhere else that the outcome of our efforts is decided. Whether a doctor succeeds or not in curing my son would be decided at the sheikh's shrine," Nabi says.

Mukhdoom who lived in the 15th century, is also revered as the saint who was instrumental in ending the "tyrannical" rule of local king Yusuf Shah Chak. Mukhdoom is believed to have written to Mughal king Akbar about the oppression of the people under Chak. This led to the invasion of Kashmir by the Mughals and the end of Chak's reign.

Visiting shrines and seeking the blessings of dead saints is an old practice in Kashmir.

A little away from saint Mukhdoom's shrine is the temple of Hindu deity Sharika Devi.

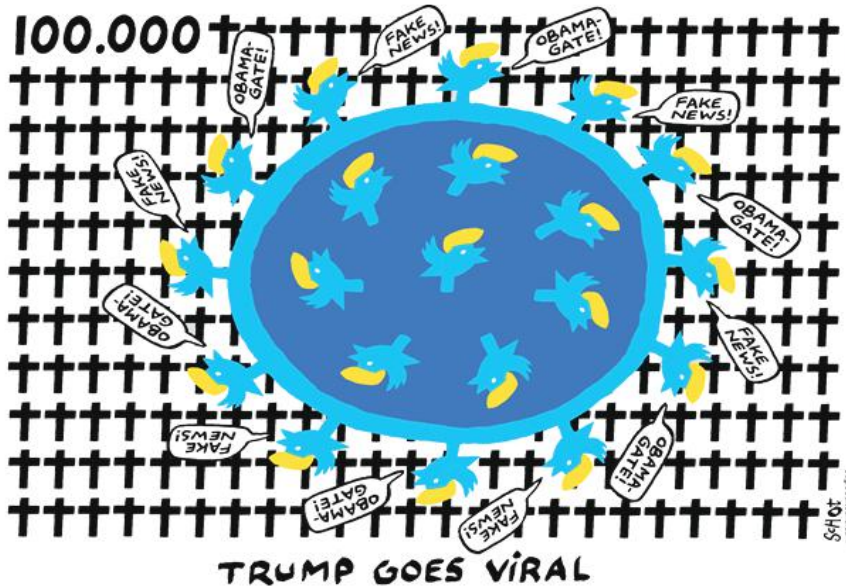
Before the migration of Kashmiri pandits following the insurgency in the valley, Muslims and Hindus could be seen buying flowers from the same vendors for their saints. There are very few visitors to the temple these days, yet a semblance of the eclectic Kashmiri culture is recreated "when the lone priest at the temple rings the bells - the' sound blends perfectly with the voice of the muezzin calling the faithful to prayer at Mukhdoom's shrine.

(Kashmir Observer, 06 June, 2005)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



The events of the past week, in which the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody led to demonstrations against police brutality, and these demonstrations were met by more police brutality — including unprecedented violence against the news media — have made it clear what Kroll meant by taking the handcuffs off.

Trump Takes America To The Brink

US president is now hinting at military solutions against protesters across the country

PAUL KRUGMAN | NEW YORK TIMES

Last fall Bob Kroll, the head of the Minneapolis police union, appeared at a Trump rally, where he thanked the president for ending Barack Obama's "oppression of police" and letting cops "put the handcuffs on criminals instead of us."

The events of the past week, in which the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody led to demonstrations against police brutality, and these demonstrations were met by more police brutality — including unprecedented violence against the news media — have made it clear what Kroll meant by taking the handcuffs off.

And Donald Trump, far from trying to calm the nation, is pouring gasoline on the fire; he seems very close to trying to incite a civil war.

Trump clearly sides with those who reject any notion that police officers — or any other authority figures — should be held accountable for abusive behaviour. He's used his authority to pardon members of the US military who were accused or convicted by their own services of committing war crimes

- Paul Krugman

I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that America as we know it is on the brink.

How did we get here? The core story of US politics over the past four decades is that wealthy elites weaponized white racism to gain political power, which they used to pursue policies that enriched the already wealthy at workers' expense.

Willful blindness

Until Trump's rise it was possible — barely — for people to deny this reality with a straight face. At this point, however, it requires wilful blindness not to see what's going on.

I still see occasional news reports that describe Trump as a "populist." But Trump's economic policies have been the opposite of populist: They have been relentlessly plutocratic, centred largely on a successful effort to ram through huge tax cuts for corporations and the rich, and a so far unsuccessful attempt to take health insurance away from poor and working-class families.

Nor have Trump's trade wars brought back the good jobs of yore. Even before the coronavirus plunged us into depression, Trump had failed to deliver major employment growth in coal mining or manufacturing. And farmers, who supported Trump by large margins in 2016, have suffered huge losses thanks to his trade wars.

So what has Trump really offered to the white working class that makes up most of his base? Basically, he has provided affirmation and cover for racial hostility.

And nowhere is this clearer than in his relationship with the police.

If economic self-interest were the only thing driving political orientation, you would expect police officers to favour Democrats. They are, after all, unionised public-sector employees — and Republicans are both anti-union and antigovernment.

Indeed, political contributions by public-sector unions overwhelmingly favour Democrats. And while many firefighters voted for Trump in 2016, the largest fire-



fighters' union has endorsed Joe Biden.

But many police officers and their unions remain staunch Trump supporters, and they have been pretty clear about why: They feel that Trump will back them even, or perhaps especially, if they engage in abusive behaviour toward racial minorities.

Just to be clear, many and probably most police officers have behaved well over the past week. In fact, in some cities the police have shown solidarity with protesters,

joining marches or taking a knee.

But Trump clearly sides with those who reject any notion that police officers — or any other authority figures — should be held accountable for abusive behaviour. Remember, he's used his authority to pardon members of the US military who were accused or convicted by their own services of committing war crimes.

No unifying role

In a call with governors, he showed no sign of recognising either that there might be some justification for widespread protests or that he should play some role in unifying the nation.

Instead, he told the governors that all the violence was coming from the "radical left," and he insisted that governors must get tougher: "You have to dominate or you'll look like a bunch of jerks; you have to arrest and try people."

Trump — who retreated to an underground bunker when protesters began demonstrating in front of the White House — also told the governors that "most of you are weak."

It was a terrifying performance.

Republicans have, as I said, spent decades exploiting racial hostility to win elections despite a policy agenda that hurts workers. But Trump is now pushing that cynical strategy toward a kind of apotheosis.

On one side, he's effectively inciting violence by his supporters. On the other, he's very close to calling for a military response to social protest. And at this point, nobody expects any significant pushback from other Republicans.

Now, I don't think Trump will actually succeed in provoking a race war in the near future, even though he's clearly itching for an excuse to use force. But the months ahead are still likely to be very, very ugly.

After all, if Trump is encouraging violence and talking about military solutions to overwhelmingly peaceful protests, what will he and his supporters do if he looks likely to lose November's election?

The Roots Of Turmoil

AMMAR ALI QURESHI

1979 was a seismic and seminal year for the Middle East and the Muslim world. It not only transformed the region, but its global repercussions are still being felt, four decades later. The year witnessed the fall of the Washington-backed Shah of Iran and Ayatollah Khomeini's return from exile to successfully lead the Iranian revolution, and the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Iran; the execution of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Pakistan; the signing of the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty at Camp David; the assumption of power by Saddam Hussein as president of Iraq; the takeover of Makkah's Grand Mosque by Saudi militants; the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran by Iranian students, leading to the hostage crisis that eventually brought Ronald Reagan to power in the US; and the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union.

Since that fateful year, the region has been convulsed by multiple wars, political turmoil, increasing sectarianism and terrorism, the rise of Al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the outbreak and subsequent failure of the Arab Spring and cultural changes brought by government-led Islamicisation drives. Kim Ghattas, a Dutch-Lebanese journalist based in the United States, tries to connect the dots in her elegantly written, insightful book *Black Wave: Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Rivalry that Unravelling the Middle East* by presenting a general history of the Middle East since 1979, and attributing most of these radical political and social changes and turn towards conservatism to the cold war between the two bastions of the Muslim world: Wahhabi Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shia Iran.

A former correspondent for the BBC and the Financial Times in the region for over two decades, Ghattas has travelled extensively across the Middle East, and seen these changes first-hand, starting from a cosmopolitan Beirut, where she grew up during the Lebanese civil war. Ghattas, now a non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, also covered former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton, accompanied her on various trips and wrote a best-selling account titled *The Secretary: A Journey with Hillary Clinton from Beirut to the Heart of American Power*.

Three events — the Iranian revolution, the takeover of Makkah's Grand Mosque and the invasion of Afghanistan — stand out for Ghattas as the key turning points. The Iranian revolution ushered in Islamic republicanism which was seen as a threat by the bloc of monarchies in the Persian Gulf led by Saudi Arabia — which became more conservative after Makkah's mosque was seized by Saudi militants. Both Tehran and Riyadh, before Khomeini's revolution, were close allies of Washington in its efforts to contain communism. Since 1979, Iran and Saudi Arabia have been locked in a rivalry for religious and cultural supremacy. This cold war has adversely impacted the culture, society, religion and politics of the Muslim world.

By bankrolling Jihad International against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia also got an outlet to export its militants — including Osama Bin

Laden — to a foreign country. But the move backfired as Saudi Arabia witnessed heightened attacks by local terrorists after 9/11, which had been masterminded by Al Qaeda and carried out by mostly Saudi hijackers. Riyadh, in an effort to counter the export of the Iranian revolution, has engaged in chequebook diplomacy, by financing proxies and/or promoting Wahabbism in many Muslim countries such as Pakistan, Egypt, Indonesia etc. Iran has responded by supporting its allies in, and exporting its revolutionary ideals to, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Syria and Palestine.

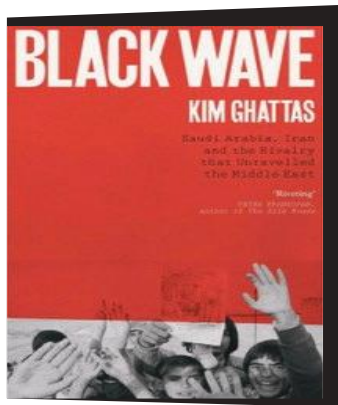
Former BBC and FT correspondent Kim Ghattas traces the current problems of the Middle East to three key events from 1979

In this book, which reads like a fast-paced novel, Ghattas also looks at Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Egypt. She pieces together four decades of history across these seven countries by narrating the tales of revolutionaries, clerics, intellectuals, novelists, Sufis, musicians, spymasters, journalists and leaders. She retraces the steps to a period before 1979, which was less violent or sectarian, in order to understand how we arrived at this juncture.

Her protagonists are individuals who have struggled against repressive regimes and intolerant thought-brigades. Her heroes and heroines range from a Pakistani television anchor who refused to obey a military dictator's orders to cover her head, to the Egyptian novelist who was incarcerated for indecent writings, to dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was brutally murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

Ghattas's story starts with her native Lebanon, torn by a civil war in 1977, where Iranian exiles collaborate with local Shia activists to record cassettes calling for the fall of the Shah of Iran. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia have played a role in the sectarian proxy war in Lebanon, and the author is no fan of Hezbollah or the Iranian revolution. But to be fair to her, Ghattas is an equal opportunity offender, being very critical also of Saudi Arabia's policies, both domestic and foreign.

Her main thesis — that most of the greater Middle East's current troubles can be traced to events in Iran and Saudi Arabia in 1979 — is quite appealing. It has many adherents among analysts and policymakers, and also among leaders such as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, who like to pin the blame on the Iranian revolution, which is branded as sectarian and reactionary. However, this simplistic explanation is, at best, only partially correct, as it ignores many nuances and factors. For example, the rebellion by Saudi militants at Makkah's Grand Mosque was a purely domestic issue and had nothing to do with the Iranian revolution. Moreover, Saudi Arabia, even before 1979,



Black Wave: Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Rivalry that Unravelling the Middle East
By Kim Ghattas
Wildfire, UK
ISBN: 978-1472271099
377pp.

was a conservative country, where promoting religious piety was part of government policy to counter threats of communism and pan-Arab socialism.

In this book, which reads like a fast-paced novel, Ghattas pieces together history by narrating the tales of revolutionaries, clerics, intellectuals, novelists, Sufis, musicians, spymasters, journalists and leaders.

Most importantly, however, the book airbrushes the role of Israel in the geo-politics of the Middle East, and downplays the significance of American foreign policy towards Iran — both before and after the Islamic revolution — and the Middle East in general. In order to understand the share the hostile and anti-Tehran foreign policy of Israel and the US had in determining the path-dependency of Iran's aggressive and militant posture towards the region, one has to turn towards Dilip Hiro's impressive and detailed Cold War in the Islamic World: Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Struggle for Supremacy.

Ghattas is a master storyteller and her most interesting chapters deal with Egypt and Pakistan. Since 1979, both countries have seen long spells of military dictatorship supported by Riyadh and Washington. Both succumbed to "Saudisation" under military dictators who exploited Islam and were financially helped by Riyadh in exchange for allowing Saudi influence to increase. In Egypt, six percent of books published in 1985 were religious but, because of Saudi influence, this number touched 85 percent by 1995. In the 1970s, 30 percent of Egyptian women wore the headscarf; by the mid-1990s, under Hosni Mubarak, that had risen to 65 percent.

Influential journalists in Cairo on the Saudi payroll wrote laudatory articles. Prominent Egyptian actresses — known for their beauty in films — suddenly started wearing the niqab and abaya, the veil and the long, black, Saudi style robe, sometimes after visiting Saudi Arabia. Ghattas, a witty raconteur, narrates that the popular joke in Cairo was that the second-richest women in Egypt were belly dancers who were slipped money under their skirts by rich Saudi men who watched them dance; the richest Egyptian women were the belly dancers/actresses who had converted and donned the veil, because rich Saudi men deposited money directly in their bank accounts!

Ghattas has visited Pakistan and witnessed the social and cultural transformation which began under military dictator Gen Ziaul Haq, who took pride in the fact that he introduced strict allegedly Islamic Sharia laws in Pakistan a day before Khomeini assumed power in Tehran. These punitive Islamic laws, as Ghattas details, were drafted by Maarouf al Dawalibi, a former Syrian prime minister exiled to Saudi Arabia in 1964, and dispatched to Islamabad by Riyadh at Gen Zia's request, to assist the Council of Islamic Ideology in his 'Islamisation' drive.

Pakistan saw a mushrooming of Deobandi/Wahabi mosques, as the Saudi footprint increased massively during the Afghan 'Jihad' in the 1980s. Pakistan became an active battleground for the Saudi-Iran proxy war, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives in the last three decades from sectarian violence and targeted killings, mostly of Shias. This deadly process kicked off under Gen Zia in 1987, when one sectarian militia was pitted against the other in a two-week battle in the Kurram district, near the Afghanistan border — 52 Shias and 120 Sunnis were killed and 14 villages were completely or partially destroyed. As Ghattas poignantly observes, it was the first premeditated, state-sponsored attack by one sectarian militia against another sect, the first such killing that the Muslim world had witnessed in modern times.

The author also illustrates the lives of audacious Pakistan men and women who opposed military dictatorship — television anchor Mehtab Rashdi who defied Gen Zia's orders to cover her head, for example — or lost their lives while resisting intolerant ideologies — for example, Punjab Governor Salman Taseer, who was assassinated for speaking up in defence of a Christian woman.

But the book suffers from a few mistakes: Taseer was not Faiz Ahmad Faiz's nephew, but his wife Alys Faiz's. Irani revolutionary ideologue Ali Shariati was in his mid-40s, not early 30s, when he mysteriously died in London in 1977; and Pakistan, not Syria, was the first country to officially recognise the Iranian revolution in 1979. Despite these minor drawbacks, *Black Wave* is a valuable and entertaining book which should be read for its elegant prose, impressive research and engrossing story.

The reviewer is an independent researcher and consultant in Islamabad
...Dawn

Meet 5 Contemporary Kashmiri Poets Who Put Emotion into Measure

RAKSHANDA AFRIN

WHEN Agha Shahid Ali's 'A Country Without a Post Office' got published in 1997, Kashmir suddenly became the poet's muse and memory for the world to see and explore. The celebrated anthology, for the first time, attempted to globalize the conflict-torn region's localized agonies through the creative expression of the son of the soil, who went on to inspire a generation of poets in the valley.

Before Shahid, however, the battered landscape had witnessed the rise of many rhymesters who would measure emotions and treacheries of the times with a knack of some iconic literary giants of the world.

In fact, poetry and poets had been an inevitable part of the valley since several generations. Be it the works of classical Kashmiri poets like Lal Ded, Habba Khatoon, Arnimal, or modern literary heavyweights like Amin Kamil, Dinanath Nadim or Rehman Rahi, the poetic voice and its narrators have always canvassed times and lived experiences in the volatile region.

And in the process, they've only enriched the coffer of Kashmiri literature.

Shahnaz Rashid



When his '*Doad Khatith Guldanan Manz*' (Pain concealed in flower vases) was published in 2006, it caused such a stir that even legendary poet Rehman Rahi had to comment, "At the time of my sunset, it seems sunrise has happened in the shape of Shahnaz Rashid."

It wasn't a work of an established poet but rather an aspiring one.

Since then, Rashid, an orchardist and trader by profession, has swept praises for his experiments in

prose, form, and metaphors. All these literary devices were missing in modern Kashmiri literature for some time, before Rashid introduced them with new creative touches.

Born in Apple Town, Sopore, Rashid was drawn to poetry after frequenting a local literary organization—which would later influence him to take up Kashmiri as his medium of expression.

His second collection of poems, '*Door Pahan Dewaran Manz*' (In distant walls) came nearly a decade after his first anthology. It only cemented his place as one of the boldest poetic voices of modern Kashmir.

Nighat Sahiba



Born in Anantnag, Nighat chose Kashmiri and Urdu as her medium of expression to challenge the established orders.

Carving her place in the multitude of modern day poets, Nighat's poems have been published in many renowned prestigious literary magazines.

Her verses reflect pain and agonies of living in a patriarchal world; they challenge the belief system and express ire towards the establishment.

One of her verses powerfully pictures the perpetual pain of enforced disappearances in Kashmir:

*Goliv Yim Niy Tim Qabran Maenz Moujoodei
Maajan Yeim Aeis Lari Tal Sawith Tim Koat Gayi*
(Bullets took them away, graves devoured them; ones who lay sleeping beside mothers, where did they go.)

Emerging as a popular literary icon in the valley, Nighat was awarded the Akbar Jaipuri Memorial Award for her contribution to Urdu poetry. Her Kashmiri poetry collection, '*Zard Paniek Daer*' (Pile of Pallid leaves) received Sahitya Academy Yuva Puraskar in 2017.

Rumuz

Engineer by profession, the poet goes by her penname Rumuz-e-Bekhudi. She's one of the strongest, active voices from the valley's literary world.

The versifier started her poetic career by translating Kashmiri poetry of Habba Khatoon, Amin Kamil, Shaad Ramzan and Rehman Rahi into English.

As soon as she devoted herself to poetry writing, her verses reflect self-reliance, empowerment, and struggle amidst the valley's strife backdrop.

As evident in her verses, her thoughts reflect a strong poetic vision:

*Saanay Kasheeray Hind Posh Baagas
Maraan Pholnai Golaab Kaetya
Darbaar Chanay Gardan Jhukaevith
Faqeer Kam Kam Nawaab Kaetya*
(In the gardens of our Kashmir

How many roses die without blossoming
In Your darbar, with their heads bowed
So few fakirs; how many Nawabs.)

As a 'fresh poetic' voice from the Kashmir Valley, Rumuz has already inspired many young poets.

Uzma Falak



A native of Srinagar, Uzma Falak is a doctoral fellow at Heidelberg, Germany. Through her poems and essays, she explores the narrative and metaphors of peoples' history in the valley.

Be it expression of solidarity and pain, remembrance and lamentation, conflict-torn lives and military operations, Uzma has penned down her voice in several Kashmiri-based as well as International publications.

Uzma's ethnographic poem, 'Point of Departure,' won an Honourable Mention in the Society for Humanistic Anthropology's 2017 Ethnographic Poetry Award.

As a trained journalist, she first rose to prominence with her in-depth human interest stories for an online news portal. As part of the post-2010 creative boom in the valley, her powerful social media poetry feeds would paint the painful plight of Kashmir's unending tryst with the drawn-out discord.

Some of her remarkable poems beautifully capture the pervasive mood in the valley:

*Nameless trees stand intimately,
rooted but almost paralytic, embracing each other
in all seasons
waiting for the bugle
for a final march against tyranny of time
a grand march for flow.
Flowing, flow, flowed.*

Syed Zeeshan Jaipuri



A young poet from Kashmir, Syed Zeeshan Jaipuri recites poetry to represent the interests of the native youth.

Grandson of the renowned Urdu poet, Syed Akbar Jaipuri, also known as Mujahid-e-Urdu, Zeeshan inherited love for the language from an early age.

During his school days, massive protests and curfews in the valley, made him engrossed in poetry.

His inclination towards the art form had been heavily influenced by prominent poets like Faiz Ahmed Faiz, and the progressive writers' movement and their ethos.

In the literary circle, Syed Zeeshan is famous for reciting his Urdu Ghazals and poems.

He believes art is the reflection of society and through his Nazm and poems, he pays tribute to his homeland.

Mrs Serial Killer Movie Review An Awful Comedy Rather Than A Thriller

ARBEENA & ASIF KHAN

The plot is poorly written and one would bear it till the end only to figure out the reason behind the murder of six unmarried pregnant girls by the doctor (Manoj Bajpayee). But don't think that you are going to get an answer for it. The movie disappoints with the climax as it's unable to provide a convincing reason for the crime.

Starring Jacqueline Fernandez in a lead role, Mrs. Serial Killer is a latest Hindi Netflix crime thriller film written and directed by Shirish Kunder. The cast of the movie includes Manoj Bajpayee (Dr. Mrityunjay Mukherjee), Mohit Raina (Inspector Imran Shahid), Darshan Jariwala (Brij Rastogi), and Zayn Marie Khan (Anushka Tiwari).

Set in Nainital, this 106-minutes long movie is based on a story of a wife (Jacqueline Fernandez) who opts to mimic the enormity of a serial killer in order to prove her husband's (Manoj Bajpayee) innocence in the court of law.

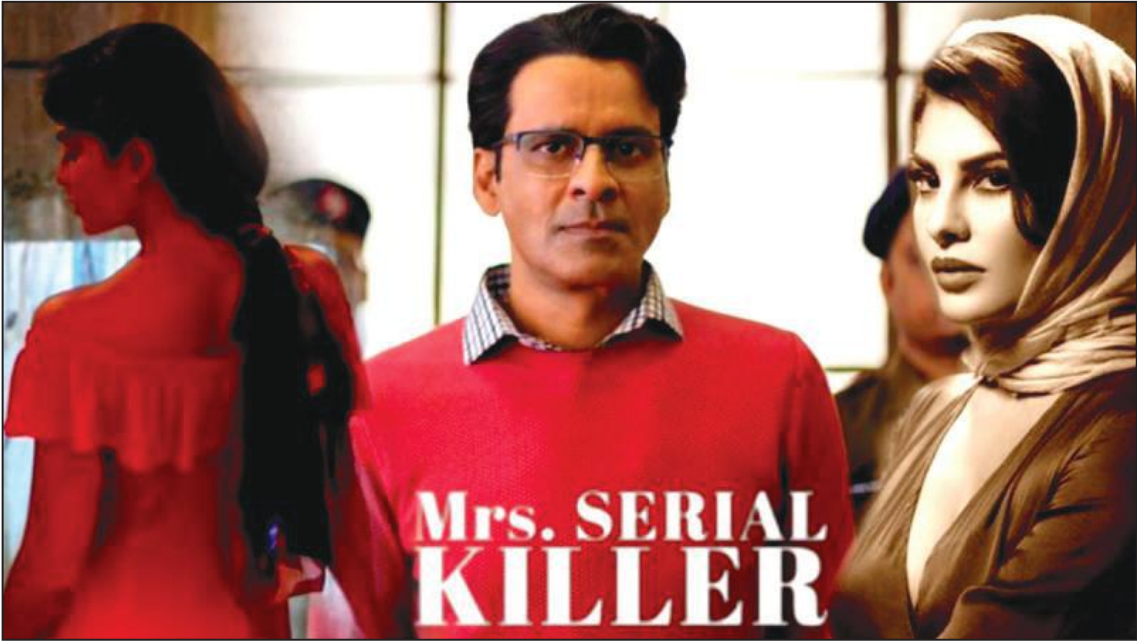
Shirish Kunder is an Indian filmmaker, writer, producer, editor, and composer. The movies written and directed by him include Jaan-e-Maan (2006), Joker (2012), and Kriti (2016). Besides, he has edited several movies such as Champion, Yeh Raaste Hain Pyar Ke, Aankhen, Om Shanti Om, Tees Maar Khan respectively.

The title of the movie definitely catches the attention, and may convince the audience to spare some time on it. However, the hilarious & pathetic thing about the movie is that Sona Mukherjee (Jacqueline) turns out a bad serial killer and she doesn't kill anyone throughout! Instead, the girl (Zayn Marie) she plans to murder hits her back like a wonder woman at several instances whereas Sona appears frightened and helpless. Hence, the title of the movie, undoubtedly, misleads the viewer.

The plot is poorly written and one would bear it till the end only to figure out the reason behind the murder of six unmarried pregnant girls by the doctor (Manoj Bajpayee). But don't think that you are going to get an answer for it. The movie disappoints with the climax as it's unable to provide a convincing reason for the crime.

Though Sona, played by Jacqueline, is pressurized to marry Dr. Mrityunjay (Manoj Bajpayee), yet the movie shows Sona as a wife who loves her husband deeply. The movie hasn't bothered to portray the scenes which show love growing in between the couple. With that being said, it ultimately leads to a failed attempt of justifying Sona's decision of going to the harm's way to save her husband.

Jacqueline's bad acting and foreign Hindi accent doesn't make her fit for the role. As such, the viewer won't be able to connect with her character. Being the recipient of National and Filmfare awards, Manoj Bajpayee has brought disappointment to his fans through his silly acting and ill-suited role in this movie. His acting looks mute, mockery, and bland in the movie. For instance, Manoj Bajpayee is seen dancing in the operation theatre before conducting the surgery of a pregnant woman towards the end of the movie. That



looks funny rather than scary.

Darshan Jariwala (Brij Rastogi), playing the role of a senior criminal lawyer, is more like an underworld don than a lawyer. His home looks somewhat like a Disney castle. His support for the criminal doctor remains unclear in the movie.

Mohit Raina (Imran) is an indecent cop who after failing to find the real evidence against the doctor manipulates the proofs, in order to take revenge from him. Zayn Marie Khan (Anushka), the debutant, is an easygoing chatty girl with colorful hair who doesn't get scared after being kidnapped and imprisoned inside the hospital room. As such, all the characters are not able to convince the viewer through their acting.

The movie falls short of logic at several places, like in the scene where Dr. Mrityunjay stabs Sona's hand with the scalpel and she still sits as if unhurt. The presence of tons of glucose bags hung inside the operation theatre remains a mystery. The film maker looks in no mood to reveal the reason for their existence.

The movie isn't outstanding in the technical aspects as well. The camera work is below par and obscure at times. The maternity hospital of Dr. Mrityunjay, through long shot, appears as some haunted building located in the outskirts. However, inside, it looks totally different through different camera angles, thereby drawing a sharp contrast between the interi-

ors and exteriors of the building. That is confusing and the viewer may not be able to relate the two faces of the same maternity hospital.

The movie is not so well written, edited, and executed. This is Shirish Kunder's worst shade as far as his other works are concerned (already mentioned above). With unconvincing dialogues, zero songs, and bad background music; it appears to be the work of an immature and inexperienced person. The lighting and cinematography isn't up to the mark and many fighting scenes look unrealistic. Especially, the one in that unknown floral place where Sona and Anushka are seen exchanging blows totally looks artificial. The soil used during this scene looks more like sparkling magic flakes.

This so called thriller movie is full of flaws, and isn't able to do justice to the genre it claims to belong. There is nothing thrilling about the story, thereby, takes the shape of an awful comedy. To conclude, Mrs. Serial Killer doesn't have what platforms like Netflix demand. The movie is dull, unexciting, nonsensical, flimsy, and definitely not worth watching.

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Critiques are the students of Mass Communication & Journalism from the University of Kashmir, Srinagar and can be reached at: arbeena96@gmail.com, prolfickhan121@gmail.com

TEMPERAMENT CAN LEAD CHILDREN To Develop Unhealthy Eating Habits



IT IS IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH good eating habits during childhood because we often bring these habits with us into our teens and adulthood. Good eating habits are important for having a good relationship with food and eating, and to avoid overweight,"

Agencies

WASHINGTON - Children who are temperamental, which is often equated with characteristics like frustration and mood swings are more vulnerable in developing an unhealthy relationship with food and eating habits, according to a recent study.

The study was conducted by researchers from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

Temperament is often equated with anger, but it embraces much more. Temperament is the child's fundamental way of dealing with his environment and himself. It can be regarded as a precursor to what is called personality in adults.

A new study shows that the child's own characteristics also play a role in the development of eating habits. Researchers investigated the topic as part of the Trondheim Early Secure

Study (TESS) project, which is based at NTNU.

When the approximately 800 children were 4, 6, 8, and 10 years old, the researchers asked parents about their children's eating habits and temperament and examined whether temperament could predict how eating habits evolved.

Their findings show that children who are what we often think of as temperamental (e.g., getting frustrated quickly, be-

ing more prone to fluctuating moods than others), are particularly vulnerable to developing eating habits that can lead to unhealthy weight gain and difficulties with food and eating.

They resort to emotional eating more over time, are more likely to eat because food is available, even though they may be satiated, and they become pickier eaters over time. Children with this temperament also showed greater emotional undereating

later - that is, they were more likely to eat less when they were sad, restless, scared, or angry.

"It is important to establish good eating habits during childhood because we often bring these habits with us into our teens and adulthood. Good eating habits are important for having a good relationship with food and eating, and to avoid overweight," said the researchers.

Are you picky or do you love all kinds of food? Do you eat

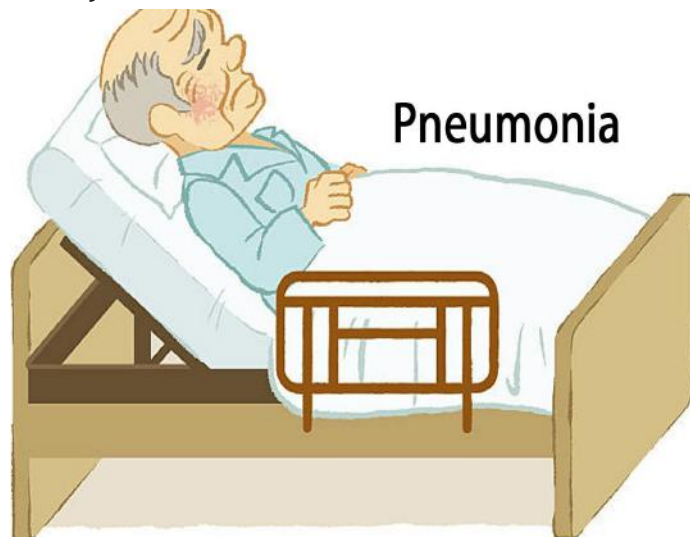
slowly or fast? Do you eat until your plate is empty even though you're actually full? Do you use food as comfort? These are characteristics of our eating habits that affect what and how much we eat, and therefore also our weight.

Given that temperamental children are extra vulnerable to developing unhealthy eating habits, it is even more important than the parents of these children to pay particular attention

to supporting healthy eating.

This can be extra challenging for parents of children who have greater mood swings than others. Parents of temperamental children more often have to deal with negative emotions than parents of children who don't easily become frustrated or angry. It's not surprising that parents of temperamental children more often resort to strategies that may not be less than optimal.

Osteoporosis Medicines May Lower Pneumonia Risk



Agencies

HONG KONG - The nitrogen containing bisphosphonates (N-BPs) medications such as alendronate widely used to treat postmenopausal osteoporosis are linked with lower risks of pneumonia and of dying from pneumonia, say researchers.

Osteoporosis is a medical condition in which the bones become brittle and fragile from loss of tissue, typically as a result of hormonal changes, or deficiency of calcium or vitamin D.

"The objective of this work was to study the risk of pneumonia and pneumonia mortality among patients receiving N-BPs medications, non-N-BP medications, and no anti-osteoporosis medications after hip fracture," the study authors from the University of Hong Kong wrote.

Results from previous animal studies indicate that N-BP treatment leads to a high concentration of N-BPs in the respiratory tract.

For the current findings, published in the Journal of Bone and

Mineral Research, the research team included 4,041 patients with hip fractures who received N-BPs and 11,802 who did not.

Over a median follow-up time of 2.7 years, the findings showed that N-BPs was associated with a 24 per cent lower risk of pneumonia compared with no treatment (69 versus 90 cases per 1,000 people per year).

A similar association was observed with pneumonia mortality, with a 35 per cent lower risk associated with N-BPs (23 versus 35 per 1,000 patients per year for the N-BP and non-N-BP groups, respectively), the researchers said.

Together with its anti-inflammatory and immune-modulatory properties, this may explain why N-BPs were associated with reduced risk of pneumonia, as revealed in our study," said study senior author Ching-Lung Cheung from the University of Hong Kong.

He added that studying the potential of N-BPs for treating symptoms of COVID-19 may be warranted.

Can Someone Get Covid-19 Through Eyes Or Ears?

Agencies

It's possible through the eyes, but not likely through the ears.

As with the nose and mouth, doctors say the eyes may be a route of infection if someone with the virus coughs or sneezes nearby. Infection is also possible when rubbing your eyes with hands that have been exposed to the virus.

Tears from an infected person could also spread the virus.

Frequent hand washing, social distancing and the use of facial coverings in public are ways to keep the virus from spreading, including through the eyes.

Glasses may also offer added protection, according to the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Health care workers are advised to use safety goggles when treating potentially infected patients.

Ears, on the other hand, are not believed to be a route of COVID-19 infection, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The skin in the outer ear canal is more like regular skin, unlike the tissue in the mouth, nose and sinuses.

That creates a barrier that makes it difficult for the virus to enter, according to Dr. Benjamin Bleier at Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston.



Here's How Lifestyle Changes Cut Bad Cholesterol Level In Kids

Agencies

An individualised and family-based physical activity and dietary intervention may reduce the plasma LDL cholesterol concentration of primary school children, say researchers.

The study, published in the European Journal of Nutrition, explored the effects of an individualised and family-based physical activity and dietary intervention on the plasma lipids of more than 500 Finnish children aged between 6 and 8 years at baseline.

The researchers were also interested in which components of the lifestyle intervention had the greatest impact of plasma lipids.

"The LDL cholesterol concentration of children from families who participated in the lifestyle intervention was slightly reduced during the two-year follow-up, whereas



no similar change was observed in children in the control group," said study researcher Aino-Majja Eloranta from the University of Eastern Finland. "The lifestyle intervention did not have an impact on other plasma lipids," Eloranta added. During the two-year follow-up, families participated in six individualised dietary and physical activity counselling sessions. The sessions were individually tailored to each family and they focused on improving the quality of the family's diet, increasing physical activity and reducing screen time.

In addition, children were encouraged to participate in

weekly after-school exercise clubs. Children's plasma lipids were analysed at the beginning and at the end of the study. The study showed that increasing the consumption of high-fat vegetable oil-based spreads and decreasing the consumption of butter-based spreads played the most important role in decreasing the LDL cholesterol concentration. Replacing high-fat milk with low-fat milk, and doing more physical activity, also explained some of the decreases in the LDL cholesterol concentration. Having an elevated LDL cholesterol concentration in childhood may predict artery wall thickening in adulthood, the researchers said. The results of the findings thus suggest that a family-based dietary and physical activity intervention may prevent the development of atherosclerosis in adulthood.

Researchers Find New Way To Detect Blood Clots

Agencies

TEXAS - Researchers in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Texas A and M University are working on an entirely new way to detect blood clots, especially in pediatric patients.

The study was recently published in Nature's Scientific Reports journal.

Unlike what a biology textbook may show, blood vessels are not straight cylinders. They are tortuous, meaning they have complex curves, spirals and bends.

When the blood reaches

these curves, it makes changes to its fluid mechanics and interactions with the vessel wall. In a healthy person, these changes are in harmony with the tortuous microenvironment, but when diseased, these environments could lead to very complex flow conditions that activate proteins and cells that eventually lead to blood clots.

Dr. Abhishek Jain, assistant professor, said a big challenge in medicine is the medical devices used to detect clots and assess anti-blood-clotting drug effects are entirely chemistry-based.

"They do not incorporate the flow through the naturally

turning and twisting blood vessels, which are physical regulators of blood clotting," Jain said.

"Therefore, the readouts from these current static systems are not highly predictive, and often result in false positives or false negatives," added Jain.

To approach the problem from a new angle, researchers in Jain's lab at Texas A and M designed a microdevice that mimics tortuous blood vessels and created a diseased microenvironment in which blood may rapidly clot underflow.

They showed this biomimetic blood clotting device could be used to design and monitor drugs



that are given to patients who suffer from clotting disorders.

Jain said he can see several applications for the device, including critical care units and military trauma care units.

"It can be used in the de-

tection of clotting disorders and used in precision medicine where you would want to monitor pro-thrombotic or anti-thrombotic therapies and optimize the therapeutic approach," Jain said.

Facebook Labels State-Controlled Media Posts

Agencies

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook on Thursday began labelling media organizations whose editorial calls may be under the influence of governments and said ads from those outlets would be blocked later this year.

The social network is following through on a previously announced plan to label state-controlled news publishers, according to Facebook head of cybersecurity policy Nathaniel Gleicher.

"We believe people should know if the news they read is coming from a publication that may be under the influence of a government," Gleicher said in a blog post.

Facebook later this year will begin adding similar labels

to ads by such news outlets, blocking them entirely ahead of the US presidential election in November "to provide an extra layer of protection against various types of foreign influence in the public debate," according to Gleicher.

Facebook's definition of state-controlled media includes influence over editorial content as well as financial backing of outlets, he explained.

Labels will appear globally in Facebook's advertising library and on pages.

In the US, labels will also appear on posts in News Feeds at the leading social network, according to Gleicher.

"If we determine that there are enough protections in place to ensure editorial independence, we will not apply the label," Gleicher said.

Twitter disables Trump video tribute to Floyd over copyright complaint

Agencies

Los Angeles: Twitter Inc has disabled US President Donald Trump's campaign tribute video to George Floyd on its platform, citing a copyright complaint.

The clip, which is a collation of photos and videos of protest marches and instances of violence in the aftermath of Floyd's death, has Trump speaking in the background.

Floyd's death last week after a fatal encounter with a police officer has led to nationwide protests. In widely circulated video footage, a white officer was seen kneeling on Floyd's neck as Floyd gasped for air and repeatedly groaned, "I can't breathe," before passing out.

Twitter said the video on the president's campaign account was affected by its copyright policy.

"We respond to valid copyright complaints sent to us by a copyright owner or their authorized representatives," a Twitter representative said.

The three-minute 45-second video uploaded on Trump's YouTube channel was tweeted by his campaign on June 3.

Public Notice

I have lost my Driving License bearing DL No:JK0120180002805 while travelling from Ishber to Nishat. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of RTO Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: RAHMAT UL HAQUE
Father's Name: SHEIKH NOOR MOHAMMAD
Date of Birth: 11-10-1969
Present Address: DEWAN COLONY ISHBER NISHAT

Hackers From Iran, China Access Campaigns Of Trump And Biden

Agencies

Tehran: Google has said that hackers from China and Iran have tried to break into accounts of the campaigns of Joe Biden and US President Donald Trump.

According to the tech company, the hackers have targeted staffers working on the US presidential campaign of Democrat Joe Biden. A senior Google official said that Iranian hackers had recently targeted email accounts belonging to President Donald Trump's campaign staff.

The announcement was made on Twitter by the head of Google's Threat Analysis Group, Shane Huntley. It is the latest indication of the digital spying routinely aimed at top politicians.

Such attempts usually involve forged emails with links designed to procure passwords or infect devices with malware.

Huntley added that there was "no sign of compromise" of either campaign. Details, beyond those mentioned in Huntley's tweets, weren't shared.

It is unusual for a com-



We have known from the beginning of our campaign that we would be subject to such attacks and we are prepared for them

pany like Google to publicly reveal information of this nature—this is a sign of how sensitive Americans have become to digital espionage efforts aimed at political campaigns.

Allegations by US intelligence that Russia helped swing the 2016 US election to ensure a victory for Trump led to investigations being initiated by former special counsel for the US department of justice Robert Muel-

ler, which revealed how the president's aides used hacking as a means to gain access to Trump's opponent Hillary Clinton's emails and used them to sabotage her campaign. Ever since then, hacking to interfere in elections has become a concern for governments.

Iranian attempts to break into Trump campaign officials' emails have been documented before. "We sent the

targeted users our standard government-backed attack warning and we referred this information to federal law enforcement," a Google representative said.

Iranian hackers tried gaining access to Trump's emails related to campaigns last year too. It was done by the same group that did the hacking this time—called Phosphorous, APT 35, or Charming Kitten—at the time, the group was unsuccessful.

A Biden campaign spokesman said, "We have known from the beginning of our campaign that we would be subject to such attacks and we are prepared for them."

The Trump campaign, the Chinese Embassy in Washington and the Iranian mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Charming Kitten, the group identified by Google as being responsible for the targeting of the Trump campaign, had also recently hit the headlines over other exploits, including the targeting of the pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences Inc.

Indians on H-1B visa with US-born kids feel left out, plead for help



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Many Indians who hold the H-1B visa and have children born in the US have appealed Indian government to relax foreign travel rules so that families can unite in the coronavirus pandemic.

The Vande Bharat mission, launched last month, is the Indian government's largest-ever exercise to repatriate its nationals stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown. Over 1.07 lakh people have so far returned to the country under the programme.

Anguraj Kailasam, who is now out of status in the US as her work visa has expired, requested the Indian

government to allow minors of Indians with visas to travel in the Vande Bharat mission as well. The US laws expect her to leave the country as soon as possible, but the current Indian law would not allow her with her US-born daughter.

"She (daughter) has an entry and emergency visa, but due to the current travel visa restrictions, we cannot go back to India since all visas are suspended by the government of India," Anguraj said.

The Indian consulate considered my request for an emergency visa and they approved it last week, but even with that I cannot travel unless visa restrictions are relaxed for categories like emergency/

entry visa, she said.

Gopinath Nagarajan said that his mother is in coma in India. The doctor said that it's better I have to be there immediately as her life is at risk and she is breathing her last days, he told PTI.

"I am planning to visit India as soon as possible, but I have a US-born infant of four months (Prakruthi Gopinath). Myself and my wife are Indian passport holders," he said.

Jincy Mathew said we are in a situation that we cannot be a part of repatriation flights as my baby (six months old) doesn't have an Indian visa or Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card. We have a valid reason to fly back to India but we cannot because our minor baby cannot be left alone in the US. The student visa of Jincy is to expire soon.

"I have registered with the Indian mission San Francisco and tried to apply for an emergency visa for my baby but the mission in San Francisco is not accepting any applications. We are really stranded here with no food and money."

J&K Cable Car Corporation Limited

(A J&K Government Undertaking)

Head Office: Batmaloo Qamarwari Road near Bemina Woollen Mills, Bemina

e-mail: cablecar@rediffmail.com

Regional Office: Mini TRC Building, Peerkho, Jammu Phone: 0191-2562880

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT NO. 04 of 2020

Dated: 04-06-2020

For and on behalf of the J&K Cable Car Corporation Srinagar (JKCCC), e-tenders are invited by J&K Cable Car Corporation Srinagar (JKCCC) by e-tendering mode on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc In Rs.	Earnest Money In Rs.	Date of Completion	Class of Contract or	Major Head of Account
1.	Execution of Civil Items for installation of Vertical Lift/Elevator at Corporate office Building of JKCCC at Bemina Srinagar.	7.30	500	14600	25 Days	"D"	Major Ropeway Project

Position of AAA/TS: Submitted

Position of Funds: Demanded

1. The Bidding Documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from <https://jktenders.gov.in> as per schedule of dates given below: -

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-06-2020
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents	04-06-2020
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	04-06-2020 From 04:00 P.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	23-06-2020 Upto 04:00 P.M
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Bids (Online) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, JKCCC, Batmaloo Qamarwari Road near Bemina Woollen Mills	24-06-2020 at 10.00 A.M or any other convenient date

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
J&K Cable Car Corporation

DIPK-NB-516/20

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bandipora

FAX: 01957-225533.

e-mail: ee_rnb_bandipora@yahoo.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No: (10) of 2020-21 DATED:-03-06-2020.

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

S.No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of Tender document (IN Rs.)	Earnest money (IN Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Completion of Newly tehsil Office Building Bandipora by way of Finishing items.	7.19	800 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	14400+(Addl .Security if applicable)	15 days	12-06-2020 at 10.30 A.M	CEE/DEE

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 as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	03-06-2020.
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 03-06-2020.06:00 P.M.
3.	Bid Submission Start date	03-06-2020.From 06:00 P.M.
4.	Bid Submission End date	11-06-2020 upto 04.00 P.M.
5.	Last Date for receiving the hard copy (Original DD & EMD)	Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the Bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) at the time of opening of Tenders. The cost of tender documents will be collected through e-challan / Receipt. However the successful bidders will submit the same separately after the opening of bids online. NOTE: The bidders whose bid is greater than 15% below the Adv.Cost must upload Addl.Security performance in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora, besides Earnest Money (CDR/FDR).
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (online)	12-06-2020 at 10.30 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora.

Note: The Bidder will mention the Contact No. and Bidder Name in the BoQ

DIPK-1358/20

Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Bandipora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

DIVISION SHOPIAN

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No:- 16 / 964-72 /SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2020-21

Dated:- 04-06-2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Government, CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion In days	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)
1	Construction of crate protection work on Zainpora Aglar road	3054 M&R	6.00	SHG	10 working days	300/-	6000/-
2	Completion of balance work of Health Sub Centre at Pahnoo by way of Plinth protection and allied works	4210-Medical	0.30	SHG	03 working days	200/-	300/-
3	Construction of footpath including surface drain in front of R&B Division Shopian	3054 M&R	2.50	SHG	07 working days	200/-	2500/-

Position of AAA/TS: Accorded

Position of funds : Available

Note:- The work shall be completed during the current financial year 2020-21, no such claim shall be entertained on account of said work unless until the work is completed in all respects. Otherwise the contract shall get cancelled automatically

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 as per schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-06-2020
2	Document downloading Start Date.	05-06-2020 From 10.00 A.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	11-06-2020 upto 4.00 P.M
4	Bid submission Start Date.	05-06-2020 From 10.00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	11-06-2020 upto 4.00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	12-06-2020 at 11.00 A.M

NOTE:- All terms and Conditions can be had from Detailed NIT No.1 of 2020-21 uploaded on Departmental Website (www.jktenders.gov.in)

No. :- NIT/e-Tendering/NIT/ 973-77
Dated:- 04-06/2020

DIPK-1388/20

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Division Shopian

You Have 15 Days To Send Home Guest Workers: Supreme Court To States, Centre

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Friday said it intends to give 15 days to the Centre and states for transporting all stranded migrant workers to their native places, commencing hearing on their plight during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, SK Kaul and MR Shah was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that till June 3, over 4,200 'Shramik Special' trains have been deployed to transport migrant workers

tinations and most of the trains ended up in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

He said state governments can tell as to how many more migrant workers need to be shifted and how many trains are required for that purpose.

The hearing in the case, which has been taken cognizance on its own by the top court, is underway.

On May 28, the top court had directed that the migrant workers wanting to return to their home states



to their native places.

Mehta said that till now over one crore migrant workers have been transported to their des-

Tirumala Temple To Reopen For Worship From June 8



After a two-month Covid-19 lockdown ban on devotees' entry, darshan at the famous hill shrine of deity Venkateswara at Tirumala will begin again from June 8, with a trial run for the first three days.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), which manages the affairs of the world's richest temple, announced on Friday that only its employees will be allowed to have darshan on June 8 and 9 while local devotees will be permitted on June 10.

The temple will be thrown open for darshan by other devotees on June 11 but with a number of restrictions to avoid overcrowding and ensure social distancing to check the spread of coronavirus.

TTD Trust Board chairman Y. V. Subba Reddy told a news conference that initially only 6,000 to 7,000 devotees would be allowed per day against 60,000 to 70,000 who throng the hill shrine on normal days. About 500 devotees will be accommodated per hour.

He announced that darshan will commence at 6.30am and end at 7.30pm.

People above 65 years and children below 10 years will not be allowed into Tirupati Balaji, as the temple is popularly called.

There will also be no entry for people coming from containment zones.

TTD executive officer A. K. Singhal said 3,000 darshan tickets will be sold online every day. Such devotees will be screened at Alipiri, the starting point of the hill route. Online tickets for the

entire month of June will be sold on June 8.

Another 3,000 offline tickets will be issued at the counters at Alipiri check point every day.

The official said every devotee will be subjected to thermal checking and some would be picked for random Covid-19 tests. It is mandatory for all devotees to wear face masks and maintain six feet physical distance from each other. IP darshan will be allowed from June 11 for one hour from 6.30am to 7.30am.

Vehicles will be sanitised at Alipiri check point before being allowed on to the hill while barricades to maintain queues will be sanitised once every two hours.

The walkway to the hill shrine will remain closed for some days. The officials requested devotees not to touch the Hundis (boxes for offerings). Herbal sanitisers will be provided to the devotees near the Hundis. The Anna Prasad (food) section will have a limited number of devotees. Only two persons will be permitted to stay in each guest house. Private hotels have not been allowed to reopen in Tirumala. Authorities have suspended some rituals in view of the apprehension that they may lead to spread of Covid-19.

However, no decision has been taken on the tonsuring facility. Most of the devotees visiting Tirumala hill shrine tonsure their heads. Two days ago the Andhra Pradesh government had given its nod to the TTD to conduct a trial run for darshan with TTD employees and local people.



No New Government Schemes For A Year, Centre Cuts Back Amid COVID-19 Crisis

NEW DELHI: The finance ministry has asked all ministries and departments not to initiate any new scheme in the current financial year and said that there is a need to use resources prudently in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

However, funds for schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package, the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package and any other special package or announcement would be allocated, according to an office memorandum by the Department of Expenditure, which comes under the finan

Also, schemes that are already approved for the current financial year will remain suspended till March

31 next year or further orders. This would also include those schemes for which in-principle approval has been given by the department.

"It may be appreciated that in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an unprecedented demand on public financial resources and a need to use resources prudently in accordance with emerging and changing priorities," the expenditure department said adding that it has been receiving many new proposals for in-principle approval from various ministries or departments.

"No new proposals for a scheme/sub-scheme should be initiated this year (2020-21) except the proposals announced under the Pradhan

Mantri Garib Kalyan Package, the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package and any other special package/announcement," it said.

With regard to the existing ongoing schemes, the department said it has already given an interim extension till March 31, 2021, or till the date the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission come into effect, whichever is earlier.

"No funds may be released for schemes that are not in strict conformity to the instructions nor should budgetary provisions be made available by re-appropriation to such schemes," it said adding any exceptions to these guidelines would require approval of the expenditure department.

Coronavirus: India Issues Guidelines For Reopening Of Hotels, Malls And Places Of Worship

With malls being allowed to open from next week, the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry on Thursday issued the SOP on preventive measures there to contain spread of Covid-19, saying only asymptomatic customers will be allowed with masks and entrances will have sanitiser dispensers and thermal screening.

Noting shopping malls get frequented by a large number of people for shopping, entertainment and food, it said: "To prevent the spread of Covid-19 infection, it is important that required social distancing and other preventive measures are followed."

Shopping malls in containment zones will remain closed, and only those outside containment zones will be allowed to open up.

According to the ministry, the generic measures include simple public health measures that are to be followed to reduce the risk of Covid-19 and these "need to be observed by all (workers and visitors) in these places at all times".

Physical distancing of at least 6 feet, use of face covers and masks and frequent hand washing and use of Aarogya Setu app was advised to all.

Spitting will be strictly prohibited, the guidelines said.

"All employees who are at a higher risk -- older, pregnant and employees who have underlying medical conditions, to take extra precautions. They should preferably not be exposed to any front-line work requiring direct contact with the public."

The Ministry said the shopping mall management must facilitate work from home wherever feasible.

It said preferably separate entry and exits for visitors, workers and goods/supplies should be organised.



"The staff for home deliveries shall be screened thermally by the shopping mall authorities prior to allowing home delivery."

Also, the number of people in the elevators should be restricted, while "Use of escalators with one person on alternate steps may be encouraged".

The guidelines also bar large gatherings or congregations, gaming arcades and Children Play areas along with cinema halls inside the malls.

"Persons above 65 years of age, with comorbidities, pregnant women and children below the age of 10 years are advised to stay at home, except for essential and health purposes," they said.

Places of worship to have separate exits, no prasad offerings: SOPs

Places of worship, set to open from June 8 outside containment zones, will not allow entry of senior citizens and other high-risk categories, are urged to have separate entry and exits and touching of idols or holy books will not be allowed, as per the Standard Operating Procedures issued by the government on Thursday.

In a detailed note for places of worship and religious places, the

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Thursday said that all such places will ensure the protocol of social distancing and face masks will be mandatory for gaining entrance.

In its guidelines, the ministry said: "Religious places/places of worship for public in containment zones shall remain closed. Only those outside containment zones will be allowed to open up." As a generic preventive measure, it said that the people above 65 years of age, persons with comorbidities, pregnant woman and children below the age of 10 years are advised to stay at home.

The government, in its 'unlockdown' plan issued on May 30, mentioned that the religious places and places of worship will open from June 8 across the country, after being closed down during the nationwide lockdown to combat the spread of Covid-19.

The Health Ministry said that the religious places were asked to have mandatory hand sanitisation and thermal screening process for the visitors and only allow asymptomatic persons. People with no face masks and face covers should not be allowed entry inside the premises.

Civil Services Preliminary Exam On October 4: UPSC

NEW DELHI: The civil services preliminary examination 2020, postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, will be held on October 4, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced on Friday.

It said the personality test of the candidates selected through the last year's civil services preliminary and main examinations will resume from July 20.

This year's preliminary test was originally scheduled to be held on May 31, but was deferred due to the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said the announcement of fresh date for the civil services preliminary exam would allay apprehensions in some quarters of it being cancelled.

"It would also allay apprehension from the minds of some quarters who thought that they would become overage by the next year in case the exam was postponed. Candidates need not worry. The examination will be held as per the UPSC's schedule," he told PTI.

The civil services examination is conducted annually in three stages—prelims, main and interview—by the UPSC to select officers for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

Lakhs of aspirants take the examination every year to be part of the country's coveted civil services.

The decision on announcement of fresh date was taken in a meeting held by the Commission to re-

view the prevailing situation due to COVID-19 lockdown.

"Taking note of the opening of lockdown and progressive relaxations being announced by the Central government and various states, the Commission decided to issue a revised schedule of examination/recruitment tests," the UPSC said in a statement.

According to the revised calendar, the civil services preliminary examination 2020 will be held on October 4 (Sunday). The main examination 2020 will begin from January 8, 2021 (Friday) for five days, it said.

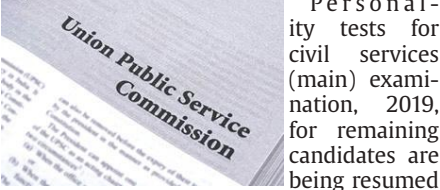
"The dates of notification, commencement and duration of examinations/recruitment tests are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant," the Commission said.

Personal-ity tests for civil services (main) examination, 2019, for remaining candidates are being resumed from July 20, it said, adding "candidates will be informed individually."

A common examination for both NDA& NA Exam (I) and NDA&NA Exam (II), 2020 will be held on September 6, 2020, the UPSC said.

The recruitment test for the posts of Enforcement Officer/Accounts Officer in the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), earlier scheduled to be held on October 4, 2020, has been deferred, it said.

"New date for conduct of this recruitment test will be published on the website of the Commission at the time of issue of calendar of examinations/recruitment tests for 2021," the Commission added. PTI



Lockdown Flattened GDP Curve, Not COVID-19: Rajiv Bajaj

NEW DELHI: India implemented a "draconian" lockdown that was porous and ended up with the "worst of both worlds" as it resulted in decimating its economy and flattening the GDP curve instead of that of the coronavirus infections, industrialist Rajiv Bajaj said on Thursday.

During a video interaction with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Bajaj also said that opening up the economy would be a Herculean task, and asserted that none other than the Prime Minister should purge people's mind of fear through a "very clear and aligned narrative".

"The way India has been locked down is draconian. We tried to implement a hard lockdown which was porous. So I think we have ended up with the worst of both worlds," the 53-year-old businessman said.

Noting that "we are not seeing a smooth, concerted, rhythmic movement towards unlocking", the managing director of Bajaj Auto said, "you have definitely decimated the economy. You flattened the wrong curve. It is not the infection curve that you flattened, it is the GDP curve. This is what we have ended up with the worst of both worlds."

The BJP downplayed Bajaj's remarks with party's

spokesperson on economic affairs Gopal Krishna Agarwal saying that Gandhi used the businessman as a "bouncing wall" for his ideas during the conversation in which the opposition leader did "most" of the talking.

"Everybody has a right to have an opinion but Rajiv Bajaj is not an expert on COVID-19 and how to deal with it," he said. Taking a dig at the industrialist, BJP's Amit Malviya said Bajaj "hailed" Sweden's strategy of not imposing a lockdown to deal with the pandemic, even as the country's chief epidemiologist has admitted that this approach was a mistake, causing a high rate of fatality. During the virtual interaction, Bajaj also wondered why India looked to the west and not the east to draft its pandemic response. "Unfortunately India not only looked west, it went to the wild west. I think we stayed more towards the impervious side", Bajaj said, adding that being an Asian country, Italy, France, Spain, UK and the US were not really the right benchmark for India in any sense.



NEWS MAKER

Last Three COVID-19 Patients In China's Wuhan Discharged From Hospital

BEIJING: The last three coronavirus patients in Wuhan, the first epicentre of the COVID-19, have been discharged and the central Chinese city has recorded zero cases of the virus after mass testing of about 10 million people, state-media reported on Friday.

According to the China's National Health Commission (NHC), five imported cases, including four in Shanghai and one in Sichuan Province, were reported in China on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, three new asymptomatic cases were reported taking the total of such cases under medical observation to 297, the NHC said.

As of Thursday, the overall confirmed cases on the mainland have reached 83,027, in-



cluding 66 patients who were still being treated, and 78,327 people who had been discharged after recovery. Altogether 4,634 people have died of the disease, the NHC said.

The last three COVID-19 patients in Wuhan, capital of the Hubei Province, have recovered and been discharged from a hospital, state-run People's Daily reported on Friday. They were discharged on Thursday after they tested negative for two nucleic acid tests within 24 hours, their temperatures fell to normal

levels and their symptoms disappeared, according to the report.

By Thursday, all COVID-19 patients in Hubei, the province most affected by the COVID-19 epidemic in China, have been discharged from the hospitals. In total, the province reported 68,135 cases, with 63,623 recovered and discharged. In all 4,512 people died due to coronavirus in the province. As of Wednesday, Wuhan still has 245 people with asymptomatic symptoms were under quarantine.

Asymptomatic cases also known as silent spreaders, pose a problem as the patients are tested COVID-19 positive but develop no symptoms such as fever,

cough or sore throat. However, they pose a risk of spreading the disease to others.

Hubei has accomplished seven zeros by Thursday: zero new COVID-19 cases, zero new suspected cases, zero new deaths, zero silent carriers, zero imported cases, zero existing confirmed cases and zero existing suspected cases, state-run Global Times reported.

All districts in Wuhan, about 10 million have been tested and are now assessed to be low risk for the coronavirus infection. Dongxihu district, the last medium-risk district in the city, reported zero new cases for 14 consecutive days to June 1 and its risk level was adjusted to low on June 2, the report said.

Atlas Cycles Now Only A Childhood Memory As Factory Shuts Operations

NEW DELHI: Atlas Cycles - a name that became a synonym for bicycles in India - has shut its last manufacturing unit in Sahibabad, just outside the national capital, citing lack of funds to run the factory.

Its CEO N P Singh Rana, however, insists the shutdown is only temporary, and the company will resume operations once it is able to raise around Rs 50 crore by selling surplus land.

The company shut the factory on June 3, which ironically was also happened to be the World Bicycle Day. It laid off 431 remaining employees, though Rana insists they continue to be on the roll of the company and will be paid "lay-off wages" upon marking

attendance daily.

While he did not elaborate on the payment to employees, "lay-off wages" typically equal to 50 per cent of basic salary and dearness allowance.

The plant, the biggest in the country, started in 1989. It was the last operational plant of the Atlas cycle with a monthly production of over two lakh bicycles. Employees claimed the unit was shut without notice.

On Wednesday, a notice was pasted on the factory gates that read: "the company had been passing through a financial crisis for several years and had exhausted all its funds to keep the factory afloat. But now, there are no funds left. We are facing difficulty in ar-



anging funds for our day-to-day operations. We are also unable to buy raw materials. In these conditions, the management is not in a position to operate the factory."

However, the laid off employees have been asked to mark attendance except on holidays, failing which they

would not be entitled to any lay-off entitlements.

The company started making losses in 2014 and its first plant in Malanpur was shut down in December 2014. The losses continued to mar the growth and its second plant in Sonapat, Haryana was also closed in February 2018.