



Maximum : 27°C
Minum : 14°C
Humidity : 58%

SUNSET
Today 07:41 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:19 AM

OBSERVER

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HUMANS, HISTORY, HEADMASTER:
KASHMIR
IN VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

A GROUP of young Kashmiris have found a voice online where they're humanizing the conflict-battered lives of commoners. The effort remains to highlight the shrugged off stories which don't find a mention in the full-of-happening news ecosystem of the valley. At about the same time, the effort is being made by a Kashmiri woman to take education to the grassroots for enlightening and empowering the unprivileged community. And then, there're some budding Kashmiris making history appealing for netizens. All this and more is happening on Instagram and getting eyeballs at a time when the perpetual dissension is once again hogging headlines. There're rags to rich stories, the inspiring accounts of underdogs making big in life, and the tales of those who never got their due in the society grappling with searing struggles and strife.....

.....PANORAMA
P5

News Digest

Passport Office To Reopen Monday

Srinagar: Passport Office Srinagar will start functioning from Monday, June 8 after remaining closed for over two months due to lockdown in wake of Covid-19 pandemic. Regional Passport Officer Kashmir, BB Nagar said that people are advised to book or reschedule their appointments as per the availability of appointments on their website www.passportindia.gov.in He further said that general public is also informed to adhere the multiple SOP's while visiting Passport Seva Kendra Srinagar on the date of appointment. These SOP's include download and install AarogyaSetu ● P-02

5 CRPF Men Injured After Gun Goes Off

Srinagar: At least five troopers were injured after a Pump Action Gun went off accidentally at a CRPF camp at Dignibal area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Dignibal area falls under the jurisdiction of police post Nagbal. Sources said that a Pump Action Gun fire accidentally went off at E-Coy 21 Battalion of CRPF at Dignibal in which 5 troopers were injured. The injured were immediately shifted to their main Battalion Headquarter located at Dalgate Srinagar. Sources identified the injured troopers as Head Constable Sanwar Mal and Constables Harendar Singh, Utpal Kant, Hanvipul Kumar and Amarjeet Singh. ● P-02

2 Burglars Held In Bandipora: Police

Srinagar: Police in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday apprehended two burglars in the middle of the night when they were planning to decamp with good from a shop. Police sources said that during the intervening night of June 5 and 6, a patrolling party of police station Bandipora noticed some suspicious movement near a shop in main market Bandipora. Police party immediately approached the shop and apprehended two thieves red handed while they were attempting to commit the offence. They were identified as Sameer Ahmad from Kaloosa and Mehjoor Majeed from Bagh Bandipora. "In this connection case vide ● P-02

Body Recovered in Rajouri

Srinagar: Police on Saturday recovered body of an unidentified man in Naushera area of Rajouri district. The body, believed to be of a man between 30 to 35 years, was found near Bagnoti nallah. A police party reached the spot and shifted it to SDH Naushera, they said. SDPO Naushera Zakir-Shaheen Mizra confirmed that an unidentified male body has been found. He said efforts were on to ascertain the identity. "Inquest proceeding under 174CrPc has been launched," he said

Ladakh Stand-Off India, China Hold Talks To Diffuse Tension



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Indian and Chinese armies on Saturday held Lieutenant General-level talks in their first major attempt to resolve the month-long border standoff in eastern Ladakh, official sources said.

The Indian delegation was led by Lt General Harinder Singh, the general officer commanding of Leh-based 14 Corps, while the Chinese side was headed by the Commander of the Tibet Military District, government sources said. The talks were held at the Border Personnel Meeting Point in Maldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh.

Without specifically mentioning the talks, an Indian Army spokesperson said: "Indian and Chinese officials continue to remain engaged through the established

military and diplomatic channels to address the current situation in the India-China border areas."

"At this stage therefore any speculative and unsubstantiated reporting about these engagements would not be helpful and the media is advised to refrain from such reporting," it said.

Saturday's meeting took place after 12 rounds of talks between local commanders of the two armies and three rounds of discussions at the level of major general-rank officials could not produce any tangible outcome, the sources said.

The high-level military dialogue took place a day after the two countries held diplomatic talks during which both sides agreed to handle their "differences" through peaceful discussions while respecting each other's sensitivities and concerns. Earlier, sources had ● P-02

AT THIS STAGE THEREFORE ANY speculative and unsubstantiated reporting about these engagements would not be helpful and the media is advised to refrain from such reporting."

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along LoC, IB

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: India and Pakistan troops Saturday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) and international border in Poonch and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

According to the officials, Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing on forward posts and villages along the LoC and IB in the twin districts of Poonch and Kathua.

Indian troops guarding the bor-

ders retaliated befittingly to silence the Pakistani guns and there was no report of any casualty on the Indian side, the officials said.

At about 8 pm, a defence spokesperson said Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along LoC in Kirni and Qasba sectors in Poonch district.

Indian army retaliated and the cross-border shelling was continuing when last reports were received, he said. ● P-02

Pak Army Says Indian Spy Drone Shot Down

The Pakistan Army on Saturday claimed to have shot down an "Indian spying quadcopter" allegedly intruding across the Line of Control (LoC). Military spokesman Major General Babar Iftikhar said that the mini copter violated the country's airspace in Khanjar sector of the LoC. "The quadcopter had intruded 500 metres on Pakistan's side of the LoC, he said in a statement. ● P-02

Youth Shot Dead In Sopore

SRINAGAR: A youth was shot dead on Saturday by unidentified gunmen in Bomai area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Unknown gunmen appeared in Edipora locality of Bomai Saturday evening and opened fire upon a youth identified as Danish Manzoor, son of Manzoor Ahmed of village Bomai, officials said. The ● P-02

Police 'Prevent' 3 Youth From Joining Militancy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have prevented three youth from south Kashmir's Pulwama district from joining militant ranks, while arresting two militant associates for luring the trio.

Police received information that some youths of Tiral area in south Kashmir, who had ● P-02

4 Die Of Covid-19 In A Day, J&K Toll Jumps To 40

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Four more COVID-19 deaths were reported in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the total number of fatalities due to the disease in the Union Territory to 40, reports and officials said.

While three deaths took place in the Kashmir Valley, another was recorded in the Jammu region, they said.

A 70-year-old man from Shopian district of south Kashmir died at Chest Diseases Hospital, which is a designated COVID-19 facility, here on Saturday, the officials said.

They said the patient was admitted to the hospital this morning with pneumonia.

He was shifted from Shopian hospital and had tested positive for COVID-19, they added.

Another 70-year- ● PAGE 02



File Pic

143 More Test Covid-19 Positive In J&K

Srinagar- 143 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the number of cases in J&K to 3,467, officials said.

"143 new COVID-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 100 of them are from Kashmir, 43 are from Jammu," the officials said. Among fresh cases, 64 cases were reported from Shopian, 14 from Bandipora, 11 from Kathua, 10 from Jammu, nine from Baramulla, six from Udhampur, four each from Budgam, ● P-02

Stranded Kashmiris In Dubai Pool Money To Take Flight Home

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Around 800 Kashmiris stranded in Dubai due to the COVID-19 outbreak have arranged two chartered flights for their return to the Valley and urged the Indian government to expedite the clearance for their landing in Srinagar.

They say they have been appealing to the Centre to evacuate them to the Valley as they were facing severe problems surviving there without jobs.

They say they are under distress with some of them facing



medical emergencies, visa issues and others running out of money and other means.

Sajad Ahmad, one of the stranded Kashmiris, said that so

far only one flight under the government's Vande Bharat Mission has been operated from Dubai.

The first flight under the mission was in May and ● PAGE 02

'Little Chance Of Haj 2020': Hajj Committee Offers 100% Refund

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Pilgrims who wish to cancel their Haj journey for 2020 amid the outbreak of coronavirus worldwide, will be given 100 per cent refund, Hajj Committee of India Chief Executive Officer Masood Ahmed Khan said on Saturday.

The Haj Committee of India is a statutory body under an Act of Parliament and functions as part of the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Mr Khan said only a few weeks are left for preparatory works, and there has been no communication from authorities in Saudi Arabia about the Haj pilgrimage.

"There is little chance of Haj 2020 taking place. Even those who do not apply for ● P-02

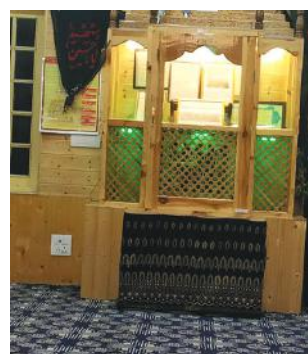
Chattabal Residents Foil Plot To Trigger Sectarian Rift

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Residents of Sajadabad locality in Chattabal quarter of the downtown Srinagar on Saturday foiled an attempt by an unidentified man to set afire a revered shrine aimed apparently at triggering a sectarian divide among two communities.

A masked man lobbed a petrol bomb at Astana Babul Hawaji, a shrine housing a rare manuscript of holy Quran handwritten by Imam Musa Kazim, 7th Imam and great grandson of Prophet of Islam (Pbuh), residents told Kashmir Observer.

The unidentified man, they said hurled the petrol bomb at around 12.45 in the night when most people in the locality were asleep.



"However, the bomb exploded in the compound causing no damage to the shrine. A motorbike parked there was damaged, they said. "I woke up after hearing the low intensity blast, said Sajad Ahmad Wani, an eyewitness who lives adjacent to the shrine. ● PAGE 02

Maulana Masroor Condemns Shrine Attack

Prominent Shia leader Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari has strongly condemned the petrol bomb attack on Astana Babul-Hawaji at Sajadabad locality in Chattabal area of old Srinagar by unknown persons. Babul-Hawaji which houses the manuscript of holy Quran handwritten by Imam Musa Kazim, the 7th Shia Imam and the great grandson of Prophet of Islam, was targeted during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday by unknown persons with a petrol bomb. The bomb however... ● Full Story On P3

Employees Term Govt's Decision To Open Offices As 'Suicide Mission'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The employees in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday expressed strong resentment against the government's decision to reopen the offices in the Union Territory in the midst of a pandemic and the lockdown imposed to combat the deadly disease.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, many government employees expressed serious reservations over the government's move with some even describing it as a 'suicide mission'. The employees questioned government's wisdom of asking over 4 lakh employees to resume their duties when covid-19 cases are rapidly shooting up and the public transport is off the roads.

"The government is risking lives of employees and their families with



Kashmir Observer

their decision. How will the employees reach office in absence of transport? And how will they ensure social distancing at their work places. It is a suicide mission," Riyaz Ahmad,

an employee said.

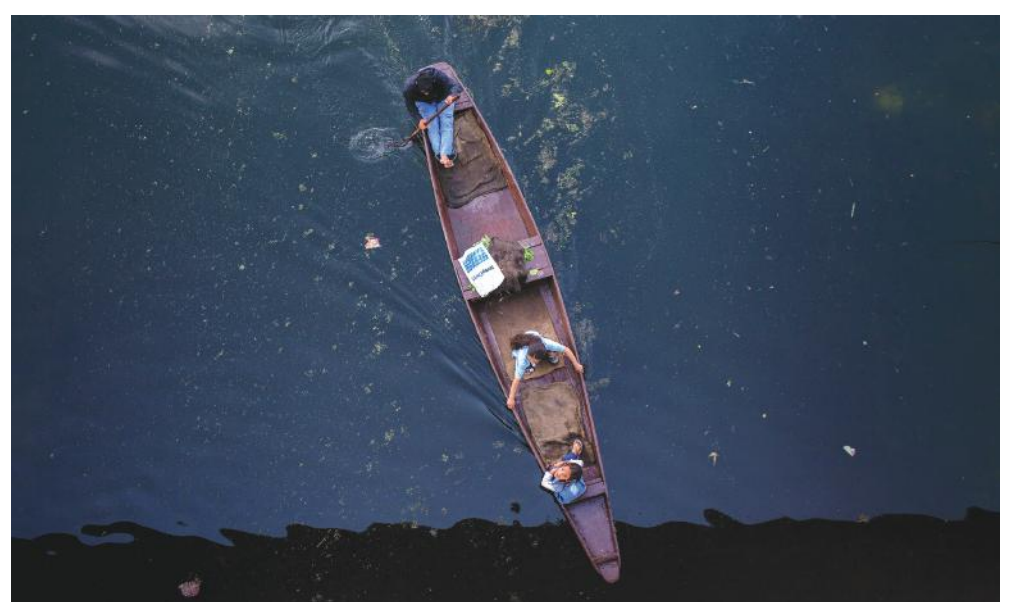
An instructor at the government's Industrial Training Institute (ITI) told Kashmir Observer that the government should first lift the lockdown

and allow public transport to ply on the roads if the government believes Covid-19 situation in the Union territory is under control.

"My place of posting is roughly 30 kms from my residence. How will I attend my duties when I can't see a single bus or a cab plying on the road?" she asked.

President, Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam told Kashmir Observer that the government should have sanitized all the offices and made other necessary arrangements before asking the employees to attend their duties.

"And above all, the government should have thought how will the employees commute when the Valley is under lockdown. Even some employees from the middle class down have own transport. ● PAGE 02



A MAN ferries two young girls in his boat in Nigeen Lake of Srinagar on Saturday. Pic Abid Bhat

COVID-19: Four Metros Account For Half Of All Cases; Nationwide Tally Nears 2.4 Lakh

New Delhi: India's top four metropolitan clusters -- Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai -- account for nearly half of the nationwide COVID-19 tally, which saw a record surge of almost 10,000 on Saturday. These four have a similar share in the death toll, which is fast approaching the 7,000-mark.

After including three other major urban clusters hit by the COVID-19 pandemic -- Ahmedabad, Indore and Pune -- the seven of them together account for 60 per cent of overall confirmed cases and more than 80 per cent of the deaths across India, as per the latest data disclosed by various states and union territories.

In its last update, the Union Health Ministry said the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in India rose to 2,36,657 with a record single-day spike of 9,887 cases in 24 hours since Friday 8 AM, while the death toll also rose by a record 294 to 6,642.

However, a PTI tally of figures announced by different states and UTs, as of 9.15 PM, put the nationwide count of confirmed COVID-19 cases higher at 2,37,867 and the death toll at 6,858.

However, a real-time worldwide COVID-19 tracker of Johns Hopkins University showed

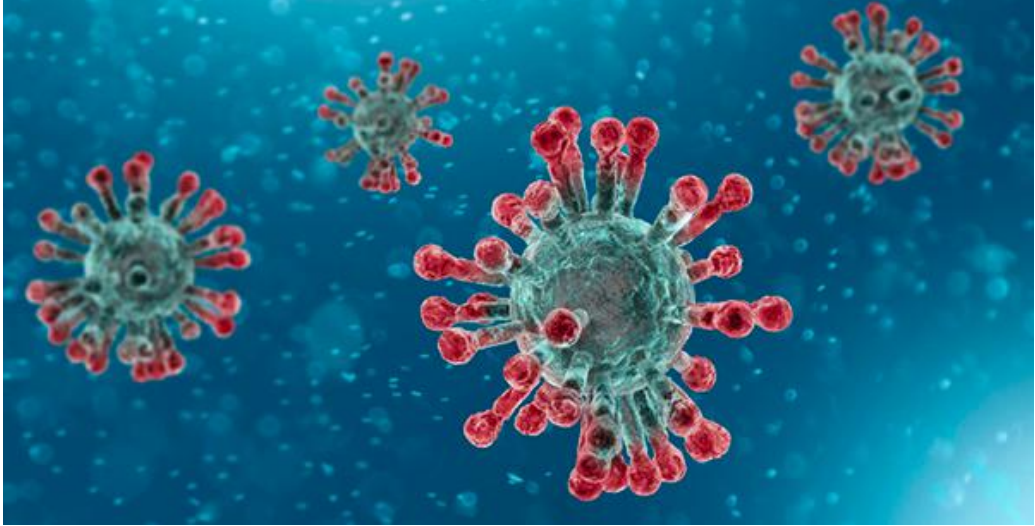
India's tally having risen to 2,45,670 as of 11.15 PM, making it the fifth worst hit nation after the US, Brazil, Russia and the UK. It also showed a higher death toll for India at 6,913 -- the 12th highest globally.

However, India has also seen close to 1.15 COVID-19 patients having recovered, which is also among the 10 highest in the world.

An analysis of the numbers announced by various states and UTs showed that the total number of confirmed cases across the four main metropolitan regions of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai has risen to close to 1.14 lakh -- accounting for nearly 48 per cent of the nationwide tally. Their collective count of fatalities has also neared 3,150, which is more than 46 per cent of the nationwide death count.

The numbers would get much higher if the areas from adjoining districts get added to the tallies of these top metro cities. In case of Delhi, some of the areas of the so-called national capital region fall in neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

While Mumbai is the worst-hit city in the country, Delhi and Chennai have also been hit hard. Other major urban clusters affected by the deadly virus out-



break include Ahmebdbad in Gujarat, Pune in Maharashtra and Indore in Madhya Pradesh. Kolkata has relatively lower numbers, but cases have been rising there in the recent past.

Together, these seven major urban clusters have reported close to 1.4 lakh confirmed cases and at least 5,665 deaths -- accounting for 59 per cent of the nationwide tally of positive cases and the death toll, respectively.

Maharashtra, the worst-hit state, reported 120 deaths, including 58 in Mumbai, on Sat-

urday, taking the state's overall number of fatalities to 2,969. The number of confirmed coronavirus cases spiked by 2,739 in the state to 82,968, according to the state's health bulletin.

Of the 120 deaths recorded on Saturday, 90 were from the MMR (Mumbai Metropolitan Region) area including 58 in Mumbai, it said.

Of the total, as many as 62,615 cases have been reported from Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) which includes 47,354 cases in Mumbai city alone. The region has reported 1,993 fatali-

ties, including 1,577 from Mumbai city alone.

In the state, Pune city has reported 8,049 cases and 372 fatalities so far, while the figures for the entire Pune district are even higher.

Gujarat reported 498 new coronavirus positive cases and 29 deaths, including 26 in Ahmedabad district, taking the total case count to 19,617 and fatalities to 1,219, the state health department said.

Ahmedabad reported 289 new cases, followed by 92 in Surat, another badly hit urban cluster.

While the total cases in Ahmedabad rose to 13,968, the number of cases in Surat went up to 2,033 and 1,258 in Vadodara.

Ahmedabad city has so far reported deaths of 994 coronavirus patients, followed by 25 in Surat and 23 in Vadodara.

In Tamil Nadu, 19 more people died while 1,498 new cases were detected. The state's overall tally rose to 30,152, while its death toll has mounted to 251.

Chennai, the worst-hit district in the state, saw its tally rising by 1,146 to 20,993, while its death toll also rose to 197.

West Bengal reported 17 more COVID-19 deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 311 while the state also registered its highest single-day spike in cases with 435 new patients, pushing the virus count to 7,738, a health department bulletin said on Saturday.

Kolkata now has 2,684 cases, while it has reported 195 COVID-19 deaths so far and 52 more people have lost their lives due to comorbidities, a term generally used for other serious medical complications along with the novel coronavirus infection.

In the national capital, 1,320 new cases were detected to take its tally to 27,654, while the death toll rose to 761.

According to a Delhi government order, all asymptomatic COVID-19 patients and those having mild symptoms need to be discharged from hospitals within 24 hours of admission. All hospitals have been asked to strictly comply with the directions, officials said. Delhi Chief Minister ArvindKejriwal also warned of strong action against the private hospitals refusing admission to COVID-19 patients and those involving in "black-marketing" of beds. Besides, a five-member panel constituted by the Delhi government has suggested that the health infrastructure of the city should be used only for treating residents of the national capital, in view of the raging COVID-19 crisis, sources said. In Madhya Pradesh, the number of COVID-19 cases in Indore district grew to 3,722 after 35 more people tested coronavirus positive in last 24 hours. The virus also claimed four more lives in the last four days, taking the death toll in the district to 153.

Among other states and UTs, Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry, Assam, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Kerala, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Odisha, Mizoram and Uttar Pradesh also reported new cases.

India, China Hold Talks To Diffuse Tension

said the Indian delegation at the military talks will press for restoration of status quo ante in Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso and Gogra in eastern Ladakh, oppose huge build up of Chinese troops in the region and ask China not to resist development of infrastructure by India on its side of the de-facto border.

After the standoff began 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.

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

The Chinese Army has been gradually ramping up its strategic reserves in its rear bases near the LAC by rushing in artillery guns, infantry combat vehicles and heavy military equipment, they said.

China has also enhanced its presence in certain areas along the LAC in Northern Sikkim and Uttarakhand following which India has also been increasing 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.

The situation in eastern Ladakh deteriorated after around 250 Chinese and Indian soldiers were engaged in a violent face-off on May 5 and 6. The incident in Pangong Tso was followed by a similar incident in north Sikkim on May 9.

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.

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India, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along LoC, IB

Earlier, Pakistani rangers resorted to firing from across the border in Karol Matrai and Chandwa along the IB in Kathua district started around 12.45 am, drawing effective retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF), the officials said.

They said the exchange of firing between the two sides continued till 3 am.

The Pakistani firing caused panic among the border residents who were forced to spend the night in the underground bunkers for their safety, the officials said.

Pak Army Says Indian Spy Drone Shot Down

The spokesman claimed that it was the eighth Indian quadcopter to be shot down by the Pakistan Army troops this year.

Last month, two such quadcopters were downed, the first on May 27 and the second on May 29 after they allegedly intruded deep inside the Pakistani territory, he said.

India has dismissed previous such claims by the Pakistan Army.

Youth Shot Dead In Sopore

injured youth was removed to the Sub District Hospital Sopore where the doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Soon after the shootout, a posse of policemen and central forces reached the spot.

Police ‘Prevent’ 3 Youth From Joining Militancy

been influenced and motivated by a false narrative, were likely to join the militant ranks, a police spokesperson said.

The three were identified as Ilyas Amin Waini and Abrar Ahmad Reshi -- residents of Mandoora Tral, and Ubaid Ahmad Shah -- resident of Shaldraman Tral.

The spokesperson said the youths were taken to a police station where they were counselled in presence of their family members

including parents and later handed over to them.

During the course of investigation, the spokesperson said, it surfaced that the trio had come into contact with active militants with the help of two militant associates, linked to Lashkar-e-Toiba and Hizbul Mujahideen outfits.

Both of them were arrested and have been identified as Rizwan Ahmad Wani and Rayees Ahmad Chopan -- residents of Mandoorra Tral, he said.

Besides motivating youngsters to join militancy, they were involved in providing logistics, shelter and other kinds of support to militant organisations operating in the areas of Panner, Mandoor, Chankitir and Ratsuna Tral, the spokesperson said.

He said a case has been registered and further investigation into the matter has been initiated.

4 Die Of Covid-19 In A Day, J&K Toll Jumps To 40

old man, a resident of Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, died at SMHS hospital here this morning and his sample returned positive for the coronavirus in the evening, the officials said.

He was brought to the hospital around 2:30 to 3 am on Saturday and died within an hour after admission, they said.

The officials said the man had multiple problems and died of bi-lateral pneumonia.

The third casualty was reported from JLNH hospital Rainawari this evening.

"The 70-year-old patient from Baghat Barzaulla died at the hospital four days after he was admitted. His reports came positive for coronavirus two days ago," JLNH Medical Superintendent, Dr Roshan Din Kasana told GNS. "He had comorbidities," he added.

A 62-year-old woman died at a hospital in Jammu earlier in the day.

The woman, a resident of Miran Sahib area, was admitted to the Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu last month in a critical condition. She had tested positive for COVID-19 on May 25, the officials said.

With the latest fatalities, the death toll due to the virus in J&K has gone up to 40- 35 in Kashmir and five in Jammu.

So far Srinagar district with ten deaths due to the virus has the highest fatalities, followed by seven in Baramulla, five in Anantnag, four each in Kulgam & Shopian, three in Jammu, two each in Budgam & Kupwara while one death each has been reported in Bandipora, Doda & Udhampur.

143 More Test Covid-19 Positive In J&K

Rajouri & Ramban, three each from Anantnag, Srinagar, Kulgam & Poonch, two each from Samba & Reasi and one from Doda, they said.

They said that 40 patients recovered and were discharged from different hospitals.

The number of confirmed cases has now reached 3,467, out of which 2,615 are in Kashmir, while 852 are in Jammu, the officials said.

There are 2,302 active cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in J&K -- 1,646 in Kashmir and 656 in Jammu -- and 833 (743 from Kashmir and 90 from Jammu) patients have recovered, according to officials.

The J&K has witnessed 40 COVID-19 (35 from Kashmir, 5 from Jammu) deaths so far, including the four deaths that took place on Saturday.

Stranded Kashmiris In Dubai Pool Money To Take Flight Home

another is scheduled for June 11 in which about 150 of them are being brought back, he said.

"My visa has been cancelled by the company because of coronavirus. It has been three months without any salary. Now I do not have any money left," he said.

Another Kashmiri, who did not wish to be identified, said most of them have no sources of income and they depend on some well-to-do Kashmiri families there who are providing them food.

"There are many medical emergencies including pregnant women. Many people have lost jobs, some have visit visas and we have no sources of survival left now," he said, appealing for help.

They said they have now arranged two chartered flights from Dubai to Srinagar and want the government to expedite the procedure for approving their landings at the airport here.

"We have somehow managed, by pooling money, to arrange and then secure an approval for non-stop chartered flights to be operated by Fly Dubai on June 9 and 10. The dates are pending approval by the authorities in Dubai and Srinagar airports. All other formalities have been completed," Aamir Rafiq, who is among those stranded in Dubai, claimed.

Officials at the Srinagar airport also said the airport authorities have been approached regarding the chartered flights.

However, a decision on them has to be taken by the ministries of external affairs, defence, civil aviation, the Directorate General of

Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Airports Authority of India in consultation with the civil administration here, they said.

"This is not something directly under the authority of Srinagar airport. For any international flight, the approval of the MEA is a must. Then, since this airport is a defence airfield, the approval of MoD (Ministry of Defence) is also required," an official at the airport said.

He said the permission of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the DGCA is also required for such a flight to land at any airport in the country.

"After securing the permission from these four, it goes to an apex team which includes AAI and Air Force for slot availability. Then, the civil administration is required to approve the flight landing because it is COVID time and it has to be checked whether they can handle the flight on a given day and time or not," he said.

The official said the Srinagar airport has no problem in permitting the flights to land once the required approvals are secured.

‘Little Chance Of Haj 2020’: Hajj Committee Offers 100% Refund

cancellation will get full refund," Mr Khan said, speaking to PTI. As per data with the Haj Committee, almost 2 lakh people go to Saudi Arabia for Haj from India.

Govt Okays 250 Kanal Land To High Court In Srinagar

Infrastructure on land aggregating to 500 Kanals at Rakh-i-Gund Akshan is expected to meet twin objectives of decongesting the Srinagar city while strengthening the Judicial Infrastructure which will house diverse ancillary legal facilities at one place," the official spokesperson said.

As per the requisition by the department, the official spokesperson said, the additional land is needed not only for the construction of High Court Complex but also to develop allied infrastructure like mediation centre, arbitration centre, litigant's facility, food court, police and security infrastructure, staff accommodation for judicial administration, utility buildings, convention facilities, parking spaces and spaces for fire station.

Chattabal Residents Foil Plot To Trigger Sectarian Rift

"I saw the man climbing the gate of the shrine after hurling the bomb. But he hastily retreated after I raised an alarm", Wani said. "It was a miracle. If the shrine had caught fire, dozens of houses adjacent to it would have been reduced to ashes. And more so, when majority of the people in the locality were asleep," Wani added.

Another resident, who insisted not to be named, said that it was a sinister design aimed at creating a sectarian divide. He said that the masked man may have carried a recce before executing the attack. "This is a first such incident in our locality when someone tried to fan sectarian divide. We have always had a cordial relationship with members of majority community. We have laughed and cried together in good and bad times," he added.

This morning, scores of people from the majority community and various social, religious delegations visited the spot and condemned the act.

The delegations expressed solidarity with the people of Chattabal and urged them to stay alert. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Dr Haseeb Mughal also visited Sajadabad and assured the residents that police will track down the miscreant responsible for the act.

The CCTV footage of the incident, residents said has recorded the whole incident and the footage has been handed over to the police. Police has also registered a case and started investigations. Pertinently, this was the third attack on a religious place of a particular community in over a month. Earlier in a similar incident Masjid Ali was targeted with a petrol bomb in Bota Kadal locality of Srinagar last month. Many socio-religious groups have called for extra vigil to 'defeat the nefarious design' of anti-Kashmiri people.

Maulana Masroor Condemns Shrine Attack

caused little damage, residents said.

Top officials visited the area today and police said it has launched investigations. CCTV footage which has recorded the incident too has been handed over to the police, the residents said.

Condemning the act, Ittehadul Muslimeen president Maulana Masroor called it a vicious attempt to fan the flames of hatred and create a sectarian discord.

In a statement he said that the satisfactory situation in Kashmir valley over the past several years so far as unity & brotherhood is

concerned has rattled vested interests and perhaps an agency has been reactivated to disrupt this atmosphere of amity in Kashmir.

"First they attacked a temple, then a mosque at Alipora followed by an Islamic centre at Habbakadal with petrol bombs now they targeted the shrine at Chattabal. So this pattern makes it clear that attempts to divide the people and to sow seeds of discord among the religious communities in Kashmir has already been started", he alleged.

"These incidents are executed to spread sectarian divisions & to divert the attention of Kashmiris from the real issues", he said adding JKIM demands that immediate legal action be taken against those involved in this heinous act.

Maulana appealed public to remain cautious & stay united against communal forces in order to expose their nefarious designs.

Employees Term Govt’s Decision To Open Offices As ‘Suicide Mission’

not to talk of Class-IV employees," he said.

He said till the situation improves and public transport gets back on the roads, the employees should be allowed to work within their districts, as has been done in the case of Darbar Move employees.

"An employee from north or south Kashmir can't attend his duty in Srinagar when transport isn't available. And same is the case with employee from Srinagar posted in other districts of the Valley. The government needs to sort out this issue," he added.

President, Urban Local Bodies Employees United Forum (ULBEUF), Manzoor Ahmad Pampori told Kashmir Observer that the employees will face a lot of difficulties in attending their duties in absence of transport facilities. He said the reopening of offices in one go will make social distancing norms ineffective.

"When staff attendance at the offices will be cent percent, how will social distancing be possible? And also, it is known fact that the cases surge tremendously when large groups of people assemble at any place," he said, while raising eyebrows over the decision.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir PK Pole declined phone call by Kashmir Observer. However, he asked the reason for calling through text message. He did not reply to the text message about the issues raised by the employees

Passport Office To Reopen Monday

app as per the notifications issued from Government of India from time to time, compulsory wearing of face masks, wearing of hand gloves, keeping hand sanitizer along while visiting PSK Srinagar, maintaining physical and social distance while entering the office and applicants whose appointments are booked will only be allowed to enter the premises of PSK Srinagar.

"The general public is requested not to visit Passport Office Srinagar for any inquiry related to Passport or any miscellaneous services," the Passport officer said adding that in case of any inquiry people may contact on 0194-2500375 and 2500374.

Srinagar: Passport Office Srinagar will start functioning from Monday, June 8 after remaining closed for over two months due to lockdown in wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

Regional Passport Officer Kashmir, BB Nagar said that people are advised to book or reschedule their appointments as per the availability of appointments on their website www.passportindia.gov.in

He further said that general public is also informed to adhere the multiple SOP's while visiting Passport Seva Kendra Srinagar on the date of appointment.

These SOP's include download and install AarogyaSetu app as per the notifications issued from Government of India from time to time, compulsory wearing of face masks, wearing of hand gloves, keeping hand sanitizer along while visiting PSK Srinagar, maintaining physical and social distance while entering the office and applicants whose appointments are booked will only be allowed to enter the premises of PSK Srinagar.

"The general public is requested not to visit Passport Office Srinagar for any inquiry related to Passport or any miscellaneous services," the Passport officer said adding that in case of any inquiry people may contact on 0194-2500375 and 2500374.

5 CRPF Men Injured After Gun Goes Off

CRPF Spokesperson Pankajh Singh feigned ignorance about the incident. "I have not knowledge about the incident. It may have happened but I don't know anything," Singh told KNT.

2 Burglars Held In Bandipora: Police

FIR number 60/2020, under section 457, 380/511 has been registered at police station Bandipora and further investigation taken up. A bike was also seized from the spot.

Maulana Masroor Condemns Petrol Bomb Attack on Downtown Shrine

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Prominent Shia leader Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari has strongly condemned the petrol bomb attack on Astana Babul-Hawajj at Sajadabad locality in Chattabal area of old Srinagar by unknown persons.

Babul-Hawajj which houses the manuscript of holy Qur'an handwritten by Imam Musa Kazim, the 7th Shia Imam and the great grandson of Prophet of Islam, was targeted during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday by unknown persons with a petrol bomb. The bomb however caused little damage, residents said.

Top officials visited the area today and police said it has launched investigations. CCTV footage which has recorded the incident too has been handed over to the police, the residents said.

Place where copy of the rare Quranic manuscript is placed

Condemning the act, Ittehadul Muslimen president Maulana Masroor called



Babul-Hawajj houses the manuscript of holy Qur'an handwritten by Imam Musa Kazim the great grandson of Prophet of Islam (Pbuh) - Photo Credits Sajid Rizvi

it a vicious attempt to fan the flames of hatred and create a sectarian discord.

In a statement he said that the satisfactory situation in Kashmir valley over the past several years so far as unity & brotherhood is concerned has rattled vested interests and perhaps an agency has been reactivated to disrupt this atmosphere of amity in Kashmir.

"First they attacked a temple, then a mosque at Alipora followed by an Islamic centre at Habbakadal with petrol bombs now they targeted the shrine at Chattabal. So this pattern makes it clear that attempts to divide the people and to sow seeds of discord among the religious communities in Kashmir has already been started", he alleged.

"These incidents are executed to spread sectarian divisions & to divert the attention of Kashmiris from the real issues", he said adding JKIM demands that immediate legal action be taken against those involved in this heinous act.

Maulana appealed public to remain cautious & stay united against communal forces in order to expose their nefarious designs.

Promote Students as Per UGC Guidelines, associations urge Govt

Srinagar:- Expressing deep concern over the plight of the students, J&K Students Association, J&K Gujjar Bakerwal Youth Welfare Conference & J&K Students Movement here on today in a Joint Statement urged Govt to Promote Students as Per UGC guidelines by holding internal assessment examination.

In their Joint Appeal, they said that Govt should promote students in their present semesters on the basis of their internal assessments in order to give them a clear way ahead and hold offline classes for upcoming semesters whenever situation will normalize. They demand that UG and PG students across all semesters be promoted on the basis of internal assessment and that online exams should not be held as many may not have access to the internet.

J&K Students Association Spokesperson Nasir Khuehami said that Due to Continuous Ban on high internet Connectivity (4G Services) Kashmiri students can't attend their online exams. He said that, the unavailability of high speed internet Connectivity has hampered and halted the Process of online Classes of

Students. Education sector has been the worst victim in Kashmir Valley, and with internet services snapped, the students have no source to study at home and clear their concepts.

"The Amount of Academic loss since 5th August 2019 is unbearable & Irreparable. We demand that College's and Universities should Promote Students on the internal assignment reports and their previous semester grades," said J&K Students Association Joint Secretary Khadim Khan.

President J&KSM Gazi Muzamil said Kashmiri students have already suffered a lot. To save the precious time of students, let all the universities & colleges follow UGC guidelines and promote Kashmiri Students to next semesters according to the protocol. He also lashed out at some Colleges & universities for showing biased approach by promoting students of only specific departments. There are clear cut UGC guidelines which state that the intermediate semester students should be promoted based on their previous record and assignments, Gazi added.

Trade representatives meet J&K Bank CMD, discuss business concerns

Srinagar, Jun 6: A delegation of various trade bodies' representatives on Saturday called J&K Bank Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) R K Chhibber here at the bank's corporate headquarters.

The delegation-comprising of representatives of handicraft and import/export sector Mushtaq Ahmad Wani, Javid Tenga, Fayaz Ahmad Punjabi, Muzaffar Majid and Sheikh Feroz; CA stores (Aghlar Industrial Estate Shopian) Ashfaq Shangloo; tourism Faiz Ahmed Bakshi; general trade Altaf Ahmed Trambo; Hajj and Umrah operators Umar Nazir Tibet Baqal; and IT Sector Tausif Ahmed - discussed various issues concerning the business community, putting forth valuable suggestions and significant feedback.

During the interaction, the representatives highlighted the need to provide financial support to small businesses of the UT that have taken a serious hit due to the Covid-19 pandemic and requested the management to consider increasing the quantum of finance in case of Dastkar Finance scheme to help revive the handicrafts and thereby artisans. Moreover, they requested the CMD to address the issues concerning the tourism and transport sector and formulate out-of-the-box solutions to kick-start the start-ups whose operations have come to a grinding halt owing



to the nation-wide lockdown aimed at controlling the pandemic.

Putting forth their requirements, the representatives of Hajj and Umrah operators and CA store owners expressed concerns over the dearth of liquidity and underscored the need of a temporary finance facility to help run their businesses smoothly.

The CMD said, "We also devised the means to support the businesses so that people are able to deal better with the pandemic induced crisis. Within weeks of the lockdown, we offered a 10 pc additional facility in Working Capital limit at a very low interest rate to help the MSMEs and small traders wade out of the difficulty. Right from the start bank has been proactive in gathering feedback from different sectors to arrive at tailor

made sector wise schemes to help the businesses. Even now the bank is open to feedback and in case need be the schemes could be further fine tuned within the regulatory guidelines to cater to the requirements."

He further added, "To fall in line with Government's recently announced 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' economic package for pandemic-hit businesses, J&K Bank announced the launch of Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) for all COVID-19 affected eligible Business Enterprises / Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers, including interested PMMY borrowers. The GECL shall be backed by NCGTC's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) and as such shall be a Collateral free loan."

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GULMARG DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, TANGMARG NOTICE INVITING TENDERS								
NIT No: 13 /GDA OF 2020-2021				DATED: 04-06-2020				
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-								
S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1.	Supply of Machinery equipments Items for Golf Course Gulmarg part Ist.	6.24	300/=	12480/= +Addl. Security (if applicable	20 days	15-06-2020	Registered Dealer	TSM Plan
Position of AAA/ TS		Under submission						
Position of Funds		Demanded						
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:-								
1.5 All terms and conditions shall remain same as published in NIT 1 st of GDA of 2020-21.								
S. No.	Date of issue of tender Notice							
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	03/06/2020						
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04/06/2020 A.M to 13/06/2020 4.00 P.M						
3	Bid submission start date	04/06/2020 from 10.00 AM						
4	Bid submission end date	13/06/2020 upto 4.00 P.M						
5	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	15/06/2020 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer GDA Tangmarg						
20. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).								
22. In case any new circular / instructions / order is issued by the competent authorities during the current financial year, the same shall be implemented / treated in force on all the tenders floated from time to time.								
No:- GDA/Divn./213-18 Dated: 04/06/2020				Sd/- Executive Engineer Gulmarg Development Authority, Tangmarg				
DIPK-NB-529/20								

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B SUB-DIVISION MAGAM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS NIT No: - 18/ R&B of 2020-21 DATED: - 04/06/2020.								
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-								
S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	E/M (inRs.)	Time	T&D of Opening of Bid	Class	MH of Account
1.	Restoration of Chandiloora Treran Shrai Langliwara and Treran Ferozpora by way of Supply/ filling of Nallah muck, G-II in patches / stretches and P/L of RCC pipes	2.00	200/-	4000/- + (Addl. Security if days applicable)	20	17/06/2020	DEE	M&R
2	Balance work of plinth protection, drain and plaster to plinth incl. painting of plinth to Govt. Degree College Chandiloora Tangmarg.	7.50	300/-	15000/- + (Addl. Security if days applicable)	25	17/06/2020	D/C	Education
3	Repairs / renovation of Sub-Divisional Office at Magam	1.30	200/-	1300/- + (Addl. Security if days applicable)	20	17/06/2020	SHG	2216- Housing
Position of AAA/TS Submitted		Position of funds Assured						
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								
S. No.	Date of issue of tender Notice							
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	04/06/2020						
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 05/06/2020 A.M to 16/06/2020 4.00 P.M						
3	Bid submission start date	05/06/2020 from 10.00 AM						
4	Bid submission end date	16/06/2020 upto 4.00 P.M						
5	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	17/06/2020 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam						
20. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).								
22. In case any new circular / instructions / order is issued by the competent authorities during the current financial year, the same shall be implemented / treated in force on all the tenders floated from time to time.								
No:-R&B/762-82 Dated: 04-06-2020				Sd/- Executive Engineer, R&B Sub-Division Magam				
DIPK-1380/20								

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
15 Shawwal 1441

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 36
ZUHR	12: 28
ASR	5:27
Magrib	7:42
ISHA	9:21

This Day In History

- 1099- 1st Crusaders arrive in Jerusalem
- 1494- Treaty of Tordesillas, Spain & Portugal divide America
- 1546- England signs Peace of Andres with Scotland/Ireland
- 1557- England declares war on France.
- 1832- Asian cholera reaches Quebec, brought by Irish immigrants, and kills about 6,000 people in Lower Canada.
- 1839- Hawaiian Declaration of Rights is signed
- 1862- The United States and Britain agree to suppress the slave trade.
- 1863- Mexico City captured by French troops
- 1864- Abraham Lincoln renominated for US President by Republican Party
- 1893- Gandhi's first act of civil disobedience.
- 1905- Norway dissolves union with Sweden (in effect since 1814)
- 1912- US army tests 1st machine gun mounted on a plane
- 1929- Vatican City becomes a sovereign state
- 1938- Boeing 314 Clipper flying boat 1st flown (Eddie Allen)
- 1938- The Douglas DC-4E makes its first test flight.
- 1941- Chemists Archer John Porter Martin and Richard L. M. Synge give the first demonstration of partition chromatography (separation of mixtures) at a meeting of the Biochemical Society held at the National Institute for Medical Research, Hampstead
- 1942-Battle of Midway ends: Adm Nimitz wins 1st WW II naval defeat of Japan
- 1954-1st microbiology laboratory dedicated (New Brunswick NJ)
- 1955-India premier Nehru visit USSR
- 1958- Battles between Turkish & Greeks Cypriots break out
- 1965- Gemini 4 completes 62 orbits
- 1971- Soviet Soyuz 11 crew completes 1st transfer to orbiting Salyut
- 1975- Sri Lanka's 1st one-day international, v WI Cricket World Cup
- 1975- Sony introduces the Betamax videocassette recorder for sale to the public.
- 1979- Bhaskara 1, Indian Earth resources/meteorology satellite, launched
- 1981- Israeli F-15/F-16 destroys alleged Iraqi plutonium production facility
- 1995- The long range Boeing 777 enters service with United Airlines
- 1997- Cosmos 2344 Proton-K Launch (Russia), Failed
- 2012- 16th century archaeology remains of the Curtain Theatre, where some of Shakespeare's plays were first performed, were found under a pub in London
- 2015- 841st G7 summit

From KO Archives Militant Escape Case Police hunting for ex-MLA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - A National Conference leader and former legislator allegedly involved in facilitating a militant commander in crossing the international border to Pakistan, is absconding.

The police have conducted raids at several places to seek the ex-MLA. Gul Rafiqi, who represented the Hom-Shalibug constituency, but have failed to trace him.

The raids were conducted at Rafiqi's residence as well as at the homes of some of his relatives, the KNS said.

Policemen in plain clothes scoured the MLA hostels in Jammu as well as Srinagar, but failed to turn up any clues about the ex-legislators whereabouts. Rafiqi's mobile phone, too is not functioning for the past three days.

According to sources Rafiqi may be trying to obtain anticipatory bail.

He has disappeared despite being informed that he should present himself before the police, which is now raiding his habitual haunts and using its network of informers to track him down.

A senior police officer told the KNS that a high level investigation was on in the matter of the escape of a divisional commander of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen from the valley.

Three persons, including the Ex-MLA's then secretary, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, personal Security Officer Kewal Singh and driver Shyam are already in custody.

Rafiqi allegedly, helped the Hizb divisional commander, Mhhammad Amin Baba, escape from the Valley by taking him, to Amritsar in his own official vehicle accompanied by two personal security officers.

Baba, who had reportedly managed to get a passport on fictitious Srinagar address, was allegedly escorted to Wagah border on May 2 this year where from he crossed over to Pakistan

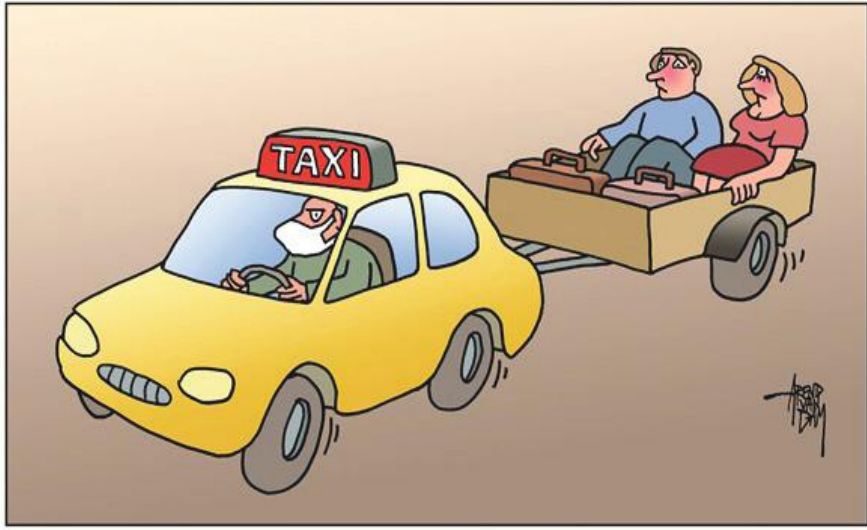
Sources said the case cae to light when the police were investigating a mine-blast in Anantnag and arrested a suspect Javaid Ahmad. Hizb commander Baba was also a suspect and when the police questioned Javaid about him they learnt that Baba had recently crossed over to Pakistan via Amritsar. When asked about the allegations against Rafiqi, National Conference President Omar Abdullah was quoted by news agencies as having said "if there is anything against him (Rafiqi), the law will take its course. We want an impartial probe in the matter." He however said that the Mufti Saaved government had done nothing when militants were arrested from a minister's house. "He still remains minister. Where is the justice," he questioned.

(Kashmir Observer, 07 June, 2005)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



During pandemic parenting, we've grown more comfortable taking risks that make an impact. By my kids' standards, "making an impact" is anything fun and engaging. So far, this has gotten us a small explosion, a black eye and plenty of crying — but also several repeatable, impactful ideas. "Edible crayons" have entertained my youngest son for a solid week. That's a strong ROI by any measure.

Dangerous Delusions — Ertugrul Mania

Faked history fuels revivalist dreams, creates false hopes, & suggests the way forward is through the sword.

PERVEZ HOODBHOY

A TURKISH drama series brimming with tribal intrigues, blood, murder, and conquest — all wrapped in pious religious idiom — has taken Pakistan by storm. Filmed in Anatolia, Dirilis: Ertugrul is a 150-episode fictional account of Ertugrul Ghazi, father of the Ottoman Empire's founder. As of yesterday (Friday), the YouTube count for the 30th Urdu-dubbed episode had already clocked up 5.5 million views on Pakistan Television.

Even those who made Dirilis are astonished — and hugely pleased — at its tumultuous welcome. Tribal Turkmen fighting for a homeland can't be expected to capture the imagination of millions in some far-off country. But Pakistan is different. Transfixed, entire families are spending evenings watching it together. They think it is wholesome entertainment and genuine Islamic history.

What history? This is a free-wheeling caricature of 13th-century Anatolia of which we know next to nothing. Facts are not important, says Mehmet Bozdogan, the man who wrote and produced the series. To quote: "There is very little information about the period we are presenting — not exceeding 4-5 pages. Even the names are different in every source. The first works written about the establishment of the Ottoman State were about 100-150 years later. There is no certainty in this historical data... we are shaping a story by dreaming."

That this serial is frankly propagandistic and ideologically motivated is beyond doubt. It has been manufactured for a purpose. But what purpose?

Faked history fuels revivalist dreams, creates false hopes, & suggests the way forward is through the sword.

If it seeks to project Islam as a religion of peace and to counter Islamophobia, then the very opposite is achieved. The first scene of the first episode begins with sword-making and sword-sharpening in the background of nomadic tents. The tribe's adversaries are Christians and Byzantines whose bloodied bodies lie scattered here and there after every fight. The hero, Ertugrul Ghazi, not only beheads several Knight Templars but also former associates from his tribe, such as Kurdoglu Bey, who he suspects of disloyalty.

Should we be surprised if IS-like organisations find this inspirational? Is glorifying the sword glorifying Islam? Islam can surely be represented in ways more positive than putting a spotlight on power struggles within a tribal society. Far better, for example, would be to build upon Turkish scholars like Ali Qushgi, Taqi-al-Din, or Al-Jazari. Without Islam's early scholars the colorful tapestry of Muslim culture — and Turkish culture as well — would have been far poorer, its claim to being a great

How should one look at ancient invasions and imperial conquests? To laud or vilify them is equally irrational. India is a stunningly clear example of just how much a society can degenerate if it does that. Hindu revivalism is fixated upon the wicked foreign invader who shattered the seraphic heaven of Mother India. Suddenly all Muslims and Christians became unwelcome.

world civilisation weak and unconvincing.

I suspect Dirilis's real goal is less about Islam and more to vent Turkish nostalgia for a long-lost empire. Production demanded massive funding by the Turkish state. A horse farm was created, together with a special zoo-like area for the sheep, goats, nightingales and partridges that appear on the show. A Hollywood stunt team was hired to train actors for the movie's staged fights. Erdogan and his family have repeatedly visited the filming site.

Understandably, from within the bastions of Sunni Islam the reaction to this blockbuster has been fiercely negative. Both the UAE and Saudi Arabia have condemned and banned the series, and Egyptian authorities have issued a fatwa decrying this "insidious attempt to re-impose Turkish tutelage" over Arab countries formerly under Ottoman rule. Currently, Saudi Arabia is reportedly funding a \$40m counter series called Malik-e-Nar of which trailers have already been produced. Though inadequate it does make the point: Arabs cannot celebrate Turkish imperialism.

Most peoples don't like invaders, but Pakistan's psyche is somehow special. Perhaps overwhelmed by Erdogan's aggressive style, Prime Minister Khan proudly tweeted that Turks had ruled India for 600 years. Historians will raise their eyebrows — this is between quarter-true to half-true only. But it must be rare

for a prime minister to hail imperial rule over his land.

Khan is not alone. Pakistan celebrates all post-eighteenth century invasions beginning with Mohammed bin Qasim's conquest of Sindh in 712 AD. Urdu novelist Nasim Hijazi's books, devoured by millions, are an ode to the Arab conquest of India. Like filmmaker Mehmet Bozdogan, Hijazi's strength lay in creating imagery unconstrained by facts.

How should one look at ancient invasions and imperial conquests? To laud or vilify them is equally irrational. India is a stunningly clear example of just how much a society can degenerate if it does that. Hindu revivalism is fixated upon the wicked foreign invader who shattered the seraphic heaven of Mother India. Suddenly all Muslims and Christians became unwelcome. As Narendra Modi's right-hand man recently declared, foreigners are termites infesting a poor man's grain store.

But do Hindutva's mindless ideologues not know that all human civilisation began in Africa and there is no such thing as son of Indian soil? That every single human society on earth today is the result of countless conflicts, wars, and foreign invasions over tens of thousands of years? That even precision DNA tests cannot tell the difference between Hindus and Muslims? These basic lessons are for all, not just Pakistan's rulers.

A mature attitude towards ancient foreign invasions would be to simply accept them clinically as facts of history. They should be investigated and absorbed without either glorification or condemnation. Doing otherwise is utterly pointless. No one living today can be held responsible for the actions, good or bad, of his or her ancestors. Moreover the mists of time have forever hidden true facts from view.

The creators of Dirilis: Ertugrul want us to wallow in the past glories of others and celebrate imperialism. Hook, line and sinker, we are mindlessly swallowing their proffered bait. This poisonous substance can only reinforce the dangerous delusion that going forward actually means going backward.

Instead, the way forward is to ask that Pakistanis spring from Pakistan's native soil. It must be rooted in the diversity of all our peoples and historically formed cultures. The year 1971 showed decisively the limits of pan-Islamism. Aping Saudi culture failed to create a viable Pakistani identity; aping Turkey won't get us much further. Instead a strong national identity can emerge only if Pakistan embraces pluralism, accepts that Punjab is just another Pakistani province, and helps all citizens achieve a sense of belonging based upon a commitment to equality and justice.

...
Dawn

Why I Want My Morning Alarms Back

The 'fear of missing out' is becoming 'fear of losing out' for many

FAJR SHORA | GULF NEWS

My routine had a sequence of alarm sounds lined up in my "clock" application, to wake me for a tiring day ahead, while I ignored the piercing sound and slept for another 10 minutes, which undoubtedly used to be the best few minutes of my snooze cycle.

Getting ready in the morning, rushing to work, walking by the mirror to gaze at the perfect reflection and a nice flick to my hair was how it would start every day.

My day would start with organising welcome letters, followed by a series of emails, organising work for the day, logging into Airbnb, interacting with guests and sorting prices. Oh, I forgot to mention, I work for "Short term rentals". Well, that's my profession.

As everyone around me was trying to keep calm and think positively, I followed suit. Everything around me, however, was changing so abruptly. It was a complete revelation, no office, no task lists, nothing to look forward to but hope of a start over.

My idea of fun during the day was looking forward to my lunch break, blathering in the pantry, trying to sneak around and get some more minutes off from work.

Life was going as it was planned, well almost there.

But alas, all of the above vanished in thin air, as the news about Covid-19 hit UAE among the other countries in the world.

The fact that I work for a rental company made the pandemic lockdown even more upsetting and unsettling.

The sole purpose of the company is to host guests that come on a vacation. As everything came to a standstill, the very nature of my job haunted me.

Everything started to collapse in front of my eyes. All the bookings getting cancelled, flights delayed, fear, refunds, calls, clarifications. I was going through an absolute nightmare. It was like biting the bullet.

Truth is, I didn't want to let the guests refund. But it was something that was inevitable. Every refund, however, was continuously striking a thought in my mind, "Am I going to lose my job?"

An arduous task

Well, it's an arduous task to survive if you don't have a job.

But as everyone around me was trying to keep



calm and think positively, I followed suit. Everything around me, however, was changing so abruptly. It was a complete revelation, no office, no task lists, nothing to look forward to but hope of a start over.

Suddenly, I didn't require "a series" of alarm sounds to wake me up; the stress didn't let me sleep either.

It's funny how I used to despise replying to emails, as it would give me headaches. I would just ignore them sometimes but trust me, once they stop ringing into your email, it hits you.

These days, when I wake up now in the morning, if I don't get an email or I have nothing to work for, it gets me worried. And I have questions lined up in my mind, like, what am I going to do afterwards?

Suddenly, I'm ready to even have extra work. Due to Covid-19, FOMO, or the fear of missing out, has become FOLO, the fear of losing out, for me.

And why shouldn't I fear? Everyone is asking me to be positive, I ask how? It's this despicable virus that should be blamed for everything, including my dark circles.

"Realisation", a word that makes sense to me now more than ever. Like how we tend to stress ourselves for little things that we can easily ignore and concentrate on keeping sanity intact.

Now that a pandemic so brutal has hit us, all of those problems have started to shrink and we have started to realise that there are far greater ones ready to infest upon us.

Well, I have missed out on a lot of stuff while I had a chance but I would not have realised it unless I got this as a wake-up call.

I want to have an alarm wake me up again, to get ready, skip my breakfast, run for work, make mistakes, meet deadlines and be busy again.

With the economy opening up, there is finally a silver lining I had been yearning for.

Fajr Shora is a freelance writer based in Dubai

What It Is Like Parenting Through A Pandemic

This is what a CEO learnt while working from home during COVID-19

WILL JOHNSON

A month ago, I would have made an important call behind a closed door to create some sacred business-doing space. But the other day, I was in the kitchen, prepping lunch while holding a video chat with a colleague, as my 6-year-old, Teddy, glided into view, iPad in hand, telling me his battery was low. I paused my call to get him a charger.

During that moment, I assured Teddy that I was there for him. When I returned to my call, my colleague (also a father) appreciated my work-family blending. His peek inside my life brought us closer, and it seemed, in the days that passed, our work went more smoothly because of it.

We want the things that make for real self-esteem: earned accomplishment and contributing to a worthwhile endeavour. Our job as parents and business leaders is creating that environment. The better we do at that, the easier our jobs become.

As the pandemic requires the hundreds of folks who work for my company to redefine how they do their jobs, we're noticing an unexpected rise in morale. After more than six weeks of working from home, we've shared life-management tips, successes and the inevitable failures.

My workday now includes new direct reports — ages 3 and 6. Absurd demands that we'd never consider in normal times are daily negotiations.

Add managing a new home schooling routine, and the struggle for balance can exhaust and discourage. Buried in this moment is clarity — my kids upend my old ways and show me how to be a better CEO.

While I didn't welcome working from home, it's taught me some lessons.

— Managing risk

During pandemic parenting, we've grown more comfortable taking risks that make an impact. By my kids' standards, "making an impact" is anything fun and engaging. So far, this has gotten us a small explosion, a black eye and plenty of crying — but also several repeatable, impactful ideas. "Edible crayons" have entertained my youngest son for a solid week. That's a strong ROI by any measure.

— Incentives

I've been re-examining incentive structures. In a stressful environment, incentives for good performance are particularly essential. And while I've always known this as a leader, seeing it play out first-hand with my kids has reminded me just how personal incentives are.

For my 3-year-old, doughnuts get the toys put away. For my older son, it's flight simulator time on the iPad. As both kids remind us every hour, attention is love. And, yes, we crave it in our work lives, too.

— The value of patience

A "sense of urgency" that has always dominated work is now what my kids demand. My boys want everything this minute. The challenge is balancing their

drive for instant gratification with the proper order of things.

I now see that when I expect my work team to deliver on every goal by an arbitrary time, I'm acting a bit like my children. Better to be clear, patient and fair in my expectations. When giving feedback, I also need to focus on the positives as I explain what needs improvement.

— The limits of frameworks

In my field, we love frameworks and philosophies. But when they become stifling, you need to drop them and find some comfort with chaos and uncertainty.

My wife and I are both Type A, so this is especially hard. We want to measure, plan, anticipate and, above all, control. Good luck doing that consistently in business — and just forget about it in parenting.

— Relinquishing control

You become flexible or you break. And sometimes you only become flexible after you break. Parenting is the ultimate slow-motion illustration of this lesson. You lose control almost from the first day. So you control what you can and let go when you have to.

With luck — and effort — you've built the kind of connections that endure even as the power structures fade. And at the end of the day, that's what will drive behaviour. At home it's love. In the office it's loyalty or respect, but still a personal bond.

One benefit of the pandemic workplace, where our personal lives are often on display, is that opportunities for forming these

Washington Post

Humans, History, Headmaster Kashmir in Virtual Classroom

JYOTSNA BHARTI

“A Kashmiri folksinger, Aabha Hanjura, seems on a trail of letting the world know the beauty and serendipity of Kashmiri language through her stage performances. After leaving her corporate job for a full-time folk-singing passion, she became an internet

A GROUP of young Kashmiris have found a voice online where they’re humanizing the conflict-battered lives of commoners. The effort remains to highlight the shrugged off stories which don’t find a mention in the full-of-happening news ecosystem of the valley.

At about the same time, the effort is being made by a Kashmiri woman to take education to the grassroots for enlightening and empowering the unprivileged community. And then, there’re some budding Kashmiris making history appealing for netizens.

All this and more is happening on Instagram and getting eyeballs at a time when the perpetual dissension is once again hogging headlines.

Humanising Valley

There’re rags to rich stories, the inspiring accounts of underdogs making big in life, and the tales of those who never got their due in the society grappling with searing struggles and strife.

All these stories have found home in the Instagram handle, called Humans of Kashmir.

It acts as a conveyor belt of many inspiring stories, which in the larger happenings of Vale often get sidelined.

Popularising Kashmiri

If you’ve a huge appetite for Kashmiri language, then you’re going to love the Instagram handle of Kashmiri Dictionary.

It comes up with the most beautiful and crafted words of Kashmiri language every day with the explanation of the word too.

They also teach proverbs and sayings, making the entire process of language learning during quarantine period a meaningful engagement.

Hearty Headmaster

She first rose to prominence when her decision to serve the downtrodden over pursuing her promising career made headlines.

After inspiring all and sundry, Sabbah Haji of Doda has come of age, while leading the education mission from the front.

As someone who calls spade a spade, the headmaster—who’s owner and founder of the iconic Haji Public School—has shown what nurturing is all about.

Her Instagram handle makes her a well-articulated and well-versed person.

The Songbird

A Kashmiri folksinger, Aabha Hanjura, seems on a trail of letting the world know the beauty and



From avant-garde historians to a bunch of boys humanizing the Kashmir story, off-center events are making Instagram a must-visit social media platform these days to know some interesting valley-based facts and features.

serendipity of Kashmiri language through her stage performances.

After leaving her corporate job for a full-time folk-singing passion, she became an internet sensation.

not only presents Kashmiri folk flare, but also represents her identity by donning traditional Kashmiri attire on stage.

Know Kashmir

The effort to project Kashmir beyond its striking countenance is being made by some Kashmir-based instagrammer these days.

This Instagram handle is making Know Kashmir learning process easy for people by sharing historical facts.

The effort seems to tell the Kashmir story beyond the studio shrill and the dominant discourse.

Interview: Sonam Wangchuk on LAC Standoff — ‘It’s Chinese Aggression’

AUQIB JAVEED

DOING terse talking on the Sino-India standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the man — whose life inspired the Bollywood blockbuster: 3 Idiots — wants New Delhi to confront Beijing’s military might with an economic offensive.

He’s raising his “Boycott China” pitch, when the cold desert’s captured pastures have threatened to become frontlines following New Delhi’s Bofors stockpiling against Beijing’s sabre-rattling.

But with strategic Fingers already Dragonised, as some Indian military veterans put it, Sonam Wangchuk is fast becoming a default spokesperson of the arid region bordering China.

The ‘out of the box’ engineer has already become an apparent poster boy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘vocal for local’ dogma.

But as standoff suspense continues, Kashmir Observer’s Special Correspondent gets into conversation with the outspoken Ladakhi self-starter, to understand the ground mood shadowed by the menacing dragon.

What’s going on in Ladakh?

Well, Chinese troops have taken the Indian territory in kilometres, and have occupied our grazing lands.

One isn’t, however, sure how far they’ve come, as nobody is allowed to visit the faceoff point.

What we do know is that Chinese troops have occupied places which never belonged to them.

Even many nomads we talked to told us the same thing. They’re very angry with the government for not doing enough to protect their land. Do you feel the same?

I don’t see it that way. I want to see what can be done, rather what hasn’t been done. I want China to be surprised.

But how would you do that when China isn’t lowering its guards? Where should India draw the line now?

First of all, India is not just the government in New Delhi. It’s the whole population who live in it.

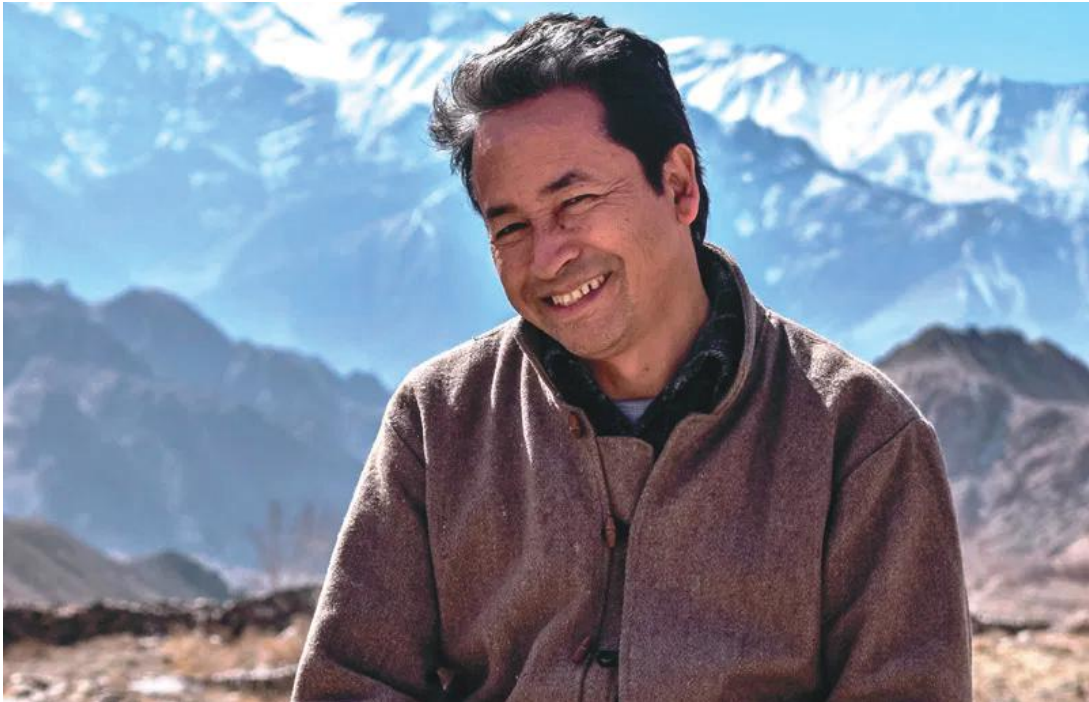
Second, as someone who’s keenly watching the government response on this faceoff, I believe we should not leave it to just military line.

What about Ladakhis? How’re they seeing this standoff in their backyards?

Since we’re in pandemic lockdown for two months now, I don’t know what they think about this in their homes.

But on social media, I see a sense of rage.

There’s a lot of anger among people. And why not, they’ve lost their grazing lands. It’s a serious concern.



“I think the problem this time is not about the routine Chinese incursions. This time, it’s because of China’s own internal problem. It can’t be a coincidence that amid this global pandemic when everybody is worried about the virus, China has started the aggression with India on borders. No country would do that at this time. Thing is, China has so many issues; its economy is under lot of pressure. After COVID-19 gripped China so badly and ended up creating unemployment, people are angry with their government.

But how different is this current situation from earlier incursions?

Chinese troops who used to enter earlier as well have now taken a large portion of land in the eastern Ladakh. Since borders are inaccessible, one can’t tell what’s actually happening.

What according to you is the final solution of this standoff?

Before talking of any solution, we’ve to understand the problem.

I think the problem this time is not about the routine Chinese incursions. This time, it’s because of China’s own internal problem.

It can’t be a coincidence that amid this global pandemic when everybody is worried about the vi-

rus, China has started the aggression with India on borders.

No country would do that at this time. Thing is, China has so many issues; its economy is under lot of pressure. After COVID-19 gripped China so badly and ended up creating unemployment, people are angry with their government.

Fearing uprising, Beijing diverted the attention of masses by resorting to military muscle to deal with its neighbours like Taiwan, Vietnam and India.

While a biting military response should be there, I believe an economic retort is what is bothering China today.

Violation of our sovereignty through incursions and doing business as usual with us should not happen. Let’s not forget that in business, China will be a

bigger loser because of its huge deficit.

If every Indian says no to Made in China, and yes to Made in India, Made in Taiwan, Made in Korea, and why not, Made in Pakistan, too. They’re all our neighbours and democratic countries.

This will force China to come on a dialogue table, and, who knows, it might face an uprising within too.

But do you think running a campaign by urging Indians to uninstall Chinese Apps in their mobile phones will force Beijing to scale down the LAC stance?

Yes, if uninstalled in large numbers, then definitely China will be cornered. Imagine China without the global patronage to its businesses!

And if people will send a strong message by uninstalling the Chinese Apps in their mobile phones, Chinese orders and goods will lose their market. It will force China to step back.

I don’t know how people will take it, but in the long run, it’ll do a lot of good and send a strong message across.

Such steps will help us to develop our local industries and factories, and generate employment for our people.

But isn’t that too much for people to do? Are Ladakhis doing it?

Well, it’s happening. I’ve seen people posting videos after uninstalling Chinese Apps.

I don’t think, however, we should’ve any problem with Apple. Within a year, Apple and other companies will bring out their factories out of China if more and more people will say we won’t buy any Made in China product.

You know customers are kings. They don’t depend on business; business depends on their mood.

But when diplomatic channels have failed to yield any results on the faceoff, do you think such response will deter a super power like China?

Well, all of us know how Arab Spring spread in times of internet.

So who knows when frustration against China will spread. Once it does, it would be China’s nightmare. Such a response will be our greater deterrent than gun.

But then, there’re some who believe that New Delhi is diverting the attention of masses by using this LAC faceoff to cover up its own failures. What do you think?

This could be true as well, because governments often do such things. But this time around, it’s not the case. Being in Ladakh, I know, it’s a Chinese aggression, nothing else.

One needs to check, where China drew the Actual Line of Control in 1962, and where they’re standing now. It’ll be a big surprise, because they’ve already eaten away a huge portion of Indian land.



WEARABLE SENSOR May Help To Assess Stress In Healthcare Workers

Agencies

LONDON- professionals fighting Covid-19 from the frontlines spending many hours to tackle the situation and putting themselves at mental health risk, now a new study suggests that a wearable biosensor may help monitor stress experienced by healthcare

workers.

Previous studies have found a high prevalence of stress and burnout has been reported among healthcare professionals. The current, findings, published in the Physiological Reports, aimed to assess the validity of a wearable biosensor to monitor and manage stress experienced

by healthcare professionals.

"The current tools utilised to quantify such metrics like smartwatches or questionnaires are not in keeping with doctors' busy lifestyles and do not comply with infection prevention policies," said study senior author Damian M. Bailey from the University of South Wales in the UK.

For the results, the research team picked 12 healthy male volunteers and they completed an incremental exercise protocol to volitional exhaustion, which aimed to induce physiological stress in a graded manner.

A wearable consumer-grade biosensor called the "VitalScout," was used to measure stress, energy expenditure, respiration

rate, and activity throughout the exercise protocol.

In the study, a wearable biosensor that is placed on the chest provided an accurate assessment of physiological parameters--heart rate and respiration rate--that are used to calculate stress.

Furthermore, the biosensor's metrics correlated strongly to those obtained using breathing analyses, and they could discriminate changes associated with stress from changes related to increased physical activity.

"Given that increased stress can subsequently impact both the healthcare profession and the

patient in care, we believe the wearable biosensor used in this study is a useful tool to monitor and manage stress experienced by healthcare professionals," Bailey said.

Biosensors have the potential to measure stress and deserve further research in the pre-hospital environment, the study noted.

Air Pollution Can Pose Serious Threat To Brain Health: Study



Agencies

NEW YORK- Although the impact of inhaling polluted air on the lungs is well known, now the researchers have revealed that it can pose a serious threat to brain health as well.

The study, published in the journal Chemical iamp; Engineering News, details how researchers are connecting air pollution to dementia, autism and other neurological diseases.

Air pollution has become a fact of modern life, with a majority of the global population facing chronic exposure and scientists at American Chemical Society in the US are now beginning to understand how it affects the brain.

Arising from vehicle emissions, power plants and factories, air pollution is a complex soup of gases, metals, organic contaminants and other materials.

"Over 90 per cent of the world's population is continually exposed to particulate matter

(PM) pollution, which is known to penetrate deep into the lungs, at levels above the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines," Contributing Editor Janet Pelley, wrote.

"Inhaling these substances causes inflammation, which is the body's healthy response to injury or infection, but over time chronic inflammation can damage healthy tissues," Pelley added.

Although the correlation between PM and lung damage is clear, scientists believe that these harmful particles can also impact the brain, either directly or indirectly.

In a recent study, infant mice exposed to air pollution showed altered social behaviours similar to those of autistic children.

Postmortem observations revealed inflammation and other abnormalities in the mice's brains resembling changes seen in children with autism.

Researchers suspect that iron

particles in PM could play a role, as they are known to cause cell death in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.

In mice, inflammation caused by breathing polluted air also appears to boost the production of amyloid plaques, the sticky protein fragments associated with neurological diseases like Alzheimer's.

While the evidence is mounting that air pollution can pose a serious threat to brain health, scientists emphasize that their research must coincide with policy changes to reduce pollution worldwide.

Last month, another study, presented at the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) Virtual Congress, revealed that air pollution could be a risk factor for the development of multiple sclerosis (MS) among people residing in urbanised areas.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disease in which the immune system eats away at the protective covering of nerves.

Heart Health Of Indians Improved During Lockdown: Fitbit Data

Agencies

NEW DELHI- Even as physical activities declined during Covid-19 lockdown, resting heart rate of Indians improved, a key metric that can be an important indicator of fitness level and overall heart health, according to new data from Fitbit users.

On an average, resting heart rate dropped by 2.56 beats per minute in female users aged 18-29 and 2.35 beats per minute in male users aged 18-29, showed the data from January-April.

Resting heart rate is the number of times your heart beats per minute when still at rest.

Not only can it be used to track fitness level, but it can also alert about potential health issues such as illness, high stress levels, sleep deprivation, dehydration,



overtraining, and underlying medical conditions.

While Fitbit saw a decline in physical activity, like average step count, as people got stuck indoors, it saw the opposite ef-

fect of improved heart health.

Decline in physical activity is generally associated with rise in resting heart rate.

Fitbit said two factors could be responsible for drop in resting

heart rate of Indians despite reduced average step count.

These two factors are increased sleep time and decreased bedtime variability.

The average sleep duration in India increased by 13.81 minutes, Fitbit said, adding that not getting enough sleep can have a negative impact on resting heart rate.

Moreover, bedtime variability among Indian reduced by 7.7 minutes during January-April, showed the data.

Reduced bedtime variability means more consistent bedtime.

The Fitbit data showed that younger users from many countries experienced the largest decline in resting heart rate and, across age groups, India, Spain, Mexico, France, and Singapore saw the biggest improvements.

Study Reveals How Vision Loss Influences Perception Of Sound

Agencies

LONDON- Researchers, including one of Indian-origin, have revealed that people with severe vision loss can less accurately judge the distance of nearby sounds, potentially putting them more at risk of injury.

The research from Anglia Ruskin University's Vision and Eye Research Institute (VERI) in the UK tested participants with different levels of vision loss, presenting them with speech, music and noise stimuli, and different levels of reverberation (echoes).

"Vision loss means people rely more on their hearing for awareness and safety, communication and interaction, but it was not known how hearing is affected by the severity of partial vision loss," said study researcher Shahina Pardhan, Director of VERI.

For the findings, published in the journal Scientific Reports,

participants were asked to judge the distance of the different sounds, as well as the size of the room. The study showed that people with severe visual loss judged closer sounds more inaccurately compared to those whose vision loss is less severe, who in turn, were less accurate when compared to people with normal sight. For more distant sounds, people with severe visual loss judged these to be twice as far away when compared to normally sighted individuals.

According to the researchers, participants with severe sight loss also judged the rooms to be three times larger than the control group of normally sighted individuals.

"The results demonstrate that full blindness is not necessary for judged auditory distance and room size to be affected by visual loss and that changes in auditory perception are systematic and related to the severity of a visual loss," Pardhan said.

Covid-19: Controversial Study Linking Hydroxychloroquine With Higher Death Risk Retracted

Press Trust Of India

BOSTON- The authors of the research linking the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine and increased death risk during Covid-19 treatment have retracted the Lancet study as they were unable to share the full dataset for an independent peer-review.

"Several concerns were raised with respect to the veracity of the data and analyses conducted by Surgisphere Corporation and its founder and our co-author, Sapan Desai, in our publication," the authors of the study wrote in the retraction statement published in The Lancet journal.

When an independent third-party peer review of Surgisphere was initiated with the consent of the co-authors of the study to evaluate the origination of the database, and to rep-



licate the analyses presented in the paper, the peer reviewers noted that Surgisphere would not transfer the full dataset.

They were also unable to obtain details on client contracts to their servers for analysis since such transfer would violate client agreements with the company and confidentiality requirements.

"Based on this development, we can no longer vouch for the veracity of the primary data sources. Due to this unfortunate development, the authors request that the paper be retracted," the retraction statement noted.

Beijing Relaxes COVID-19 Curbs; Zero Cases In China's Wuhan

Wuhan recorded zero cases of the virus following testing of 10 million people.

Press Trust Of India

Beijing/Wuhan: Beijing on Friday decided to lower its COVID-19 emergency response, marking the return of normalcy in China's capital following the coronavirus outbreak, while the central city of Wuhan, the origin point of the pandemic, cleared all its confirmed cases.

Wuhan recorded zero cases of the virus following testing of 10 million people.

Beijing city will lower its emergency response to the novel coronavirus epidemic from the second level to the third level starting Saturday, a local official announced on Friday.

On May 17, the Beijing Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said it was not necessary to wear masks.

On Friday, the Beijing municipal government said the city will lift purchasing restrictions on plane and train tickets for people from the central province of Hubei province including those from the

Bei, deputy secretary-general of the Beijing municipal government told the media.

In the tourism sector, Beijing will allow domestic group tours under proper conditions, except those from medium- and high-risk areas.

Inbound and outbound group tours will remain suspended. Parks, tourist sites and public indoor venues will allow more visitors under strict prevention and control measures.

Some events, such as conferences, exhibitions, sports matches and entertainment shows, can be held under some restrictions, according to the municipal government.

Schools can resume classes in an orderly manner and masks will not be required for outdoor activities.

Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province, has cleared all its confirmed COVID-19 cases on Thursday, the provincial health commission said Friday.

As of Thursday, the last three COVID-19 patients in



provincial capital Wuhan, except those from medium- and high-risk areas.

The residential compounds in Beijing will no longer need to take people's temperatures, although registration is still needed, Chen

the province had been cured, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

No new asymptomatic cases were reported on Thursday, while, 217 asymptomatic cases were still under medical observation, it said.



US Demonstrators Vow To Sustain Momentum Until Change

Agencies

WASHINGTON: Protesters stirred by the death of George Floyd vowed on June 5 to turn an extraordinary outpouring of grief into a sustained movement as demonstrations shifted to a calmer, but no less determined focus on addressing racial injustice.

In Minneapolis, where Floyd died in police custody, the city agreed to ban police chokeholds and require officers to intervene any time they see unauthorized force by another officer. The changes are part of a stipulation between the city and state officials who launched a civil rights investigation into Floyd's death. The City Council was expected to approve the agreement, which will be enforceable in court.

The country's most significant demonstrations in a half-century- rivaling those during the civil rights and Vietnam War eras- resumed for an 11th day nationwide with continued momentum as the mood largely shifted from explosive anger to more peaceful calls for change. Formal and impromptu memorials to Floyd stretched from Minneapolis to North Carolina, where family members will gather Saturday

to mourn him, and beyond.

Josiah Roebuck, a university student who used social media to help gather 100 people to demonstrate Friday in an Atlanta suburb, is confident the momentum will last.

"Once you start, you're going to see this every day," said Roebuck, who has attended multiple protests. "I just want minorities to be represented properly."

Protests across the country had initially been marred by the setting of fires and smashing of windows, but Friday marked the third day of more subdued demonstrations.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who eulogized Floyd at a heartfelt tribute in Minneapolis on Thursday, said Friday that plans are in the works for a commemorative march on Washington on Aug. 28, the anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Sharpton said the event would be a way to maintain momentum as the legal cases of the four officers charged in Floyd's death move forward.

Floyd's body was being taken to North Carolina, the state where he was born 46 years ago, for a public viewing and private service for fam-

ily Saturday. Then in Texas, where Floyd lived most of his life, services culminating in a private burial will take place Monday and Tuesday.

In Washington, city workers and volunteers painted "Black Lives Matter" in enormous yellow letters on the street leading to the White House on Friday in a sign of local leaders' embrace of the protest movement. The mural stretched across 16th Street for two blocks, ending just before the church where President Donald Trump staged a photo earlier this week after federal officers forcibly cleared a peaceful demonstration to make way for the president and his entourage.

"The section of 16th Street in front of the White House is now officially 'Black Lives Matter Plaza,'" Mayor Muriel Bowser said in a tweet shortly after the mural was completed.

The project follows Bowser's verbal clashes with the Trump administration over the response to protests over Floyd's killing. Still, the local chapter of Black Lives Matter took a swipe at Bowser on Twitter by saying the project distracts from their efforts to shift funds from local police to community investment.

"Stand Up To Trump": Canada Protesters As Justin Trudeau Kneels At Rally

Agencies

Ottawa: Canadian protesters chanted "Stand up to Trump!" to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as he joined thousands at an anti-racism rally on Friday and took a knee alongside protesters.

Trudeau, wearing a black mask and surrounded by bodyguards, made a surprise appearance at the "No justice = No peace" rally in front of Parliament. His appearance came a day after police shot and killed an indigenous woman during a wellness check in eastern Canada.

Demonstrations were held in other Canadian cities on Friday, including Toronto, where hundreds walked downtown in protests sparked by the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, while in

police custody in Minnesota.

Trudeau three times took a knee alongside other protesters, a gesture used to protest against police brutality and the treatment of African-Americans by police. Afterward, several people thanked Trudeau for kneeling.

On Monday, police tear-gassed peaceful protesters outside the White House to make way for President Donald Trump to have his picture taken holding a Bible while standing in front of a church.

Trudeau 'salutes' peaceful anti-racism, anti-brutality protesters

Gradual progress on reducing systemic racism isn't enough, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Friday, but committed only to working on how to speed up improvements so

that every Canadian can call the police without worrying they might make a probl...

Asked to comment on Trump's idea of using soldiers against protesters on Tuesday, the Liberal prime minister paused for more than 20 seconds before he said that Canadians were watching the United States with "horror and consternation."

Trudeau did not speak at the rally Friday and left as the protesters began a march to the U.S. Embassy, near the Parliament building.

"What needs to happen is long-term change," said Sisi Akhigbe, 24, who raised more than C\$9,000 online to provide drinks and snacks for the protesters in Ottawa. "We've been treated unfairly and we're tired."

Trump decides to withdraw thousands of US troops from Germany

Press Trust Of India

Washington: President Donald Trump has decided to withdraw thousands of US troops from Germany, multiple media reports said.

There has been American presence in the European nation from the post-World War II era and currently, about 34,500 US troops are stationed there.

According to The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post, the decision would cap US troops in Germany to 25,000.

A senior US official said the administration has been discussing the move since September and that it is not linked to German Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision not to attend a G-7 meeting Trump was to

shocking that Defense Secretary Mark Esper, Joint Chiefs chair General Mark Milley, and others are staying silent as the president pushes through this reckless decision without input from senior officials or experts, he said.

In response, I will be working with my colleagues in the Congress, on both sides of the aisle, to see what can be done to reverse the decision, Engel said.

The Pentagon and the White House's National Security Council was not immediately available for comment.

"We always knew Trump would lash out when he is under pressure domestically, but we thought he would first pull out of Afghanistan," an unnamed official was quoted



host in Washington in the end of June, according to The Wall Street Journal.

The Trump administration ordered the change in a memorandum signed recently by White House national security adviser Robert O'Brien, officials said on Friday.

Congressman Eliot Engel, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, described the decision as reckless. "Vladimir Putin (Russian president) must be delighted that the American president is gutting our own deterrent against Russian aggression in Europe," he said in a statement.

"And the president's (Trump) insulting dismissal of one of our most important relationships because of a personal vendetta confirms that he lacks moral leadership, respect for our allies, and understanding of our national security interests," Engel said.

But it is legitimately

as saying by The Wall Street Journal.

"This move will not help friends of the US in Germany who are working hard to preserve the trans-Atlantic relationship, but it will boost the anti-American sentiment that has been spreading here," the official said.

The Washington Post reported that Germany was not informed about the decision as of Friday.

The reduction plan, it said, was pushed by US Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell, who has also served for the past several months as acting director of national intelligence.

"It's another favour to Putin and another leadership failure by this administration that further strains relations with our allies," said Senator Jack Reed, ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee. He called the decision as petty and preposterous. PTI

Indian-origin pharma boss banned in Britain

Press Trust Of India

London: An Indian-origin pharmaceutical industry chief has signed undertakings that ban him from holding a director role at any UK company for the next five years, in connection with his role in companies that were allegedly involved in illegal arrangements such as price-fixing of drugs.

Amit Patel, a former director at pharmaceutical companies Auden McKenzie and Amilco, was the subject of a UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) investigation, which concluded with the ban on Thursday.

"Company directors have a responsibility to make sure their companies comply with competition law. And the CMA is determined to protect the public from directors who fail to do so," said Michael Grenfell, the CMA's Executive Director of Enforcement.

From September 2014 to May 2015, when Patel was director at Auden McKenzie, the CMA found that Auden McKenzie and King Pharmaceuticals Ltd agreed that King would supply only 25mg tablets and Auden McKenzie only 10mg tablets and they also agreed to fix quantities and prices to the wholesaler. — PTI

NEWS MAKERS

Can't you just fire me? Man paid to do nothing wanted \$2 million

An executive who was paid about \$18,000 a month by LafargeHolcim Ltd. to do nothing failed in his suit to force the cement maker to fire him with a payout worth more than \$2 million. Timing was his undoing.

When his employer Lafarge SA announced in 2015 a staff-buyout program as part of its merger with Holcim Ltd., Antoine Zenone hoped he could get a golden handshake. But the company told him he wasn't eligible and French judges have said "non" — three times in a row.

The Paris appeals court ruled that Zenone couldn't benefit from the plan because he'd already agreed to an expatriate position in Singapore. That suspended his

French employment contract and excluded him from buy-out offers made to Lafarge's domestic staff.

Zenone was seeking about 2.1 million euros (\$2.3 million) and until recently had been paid 16,195 euros gross a month by Lafarge without having to provide any work, according to last week's ruling.

The world's two largest cement makers combined in 2015 to cut costs and boost value as demand for building materials eroded. But LafargeHolcim shares slid in subsequent years on a loss of investor confidence and a scandal over operations in war-torn Syria.

Chief Executive

When Zenone came back from his posting as chief executive officer of Lafarge's

branch in Singapore two years ago, Lafarge offered him a project manager position but he didn't take the role. He states on his LinkedIn profile that he started a new job at a plastic pipe maker last month.

LafargeHolcim said in a statement it doesn't comment on personnel matters. Zenone didn't respond to requests for comment on the lawsuit.

As part of the tie-up, Lafarge told staff representatives in May 2015 that about 380 jobs would be cut throughout the world, in part through a voluntary program.

Just two days earlier, he had written an email cited in the court case that he agreed to take the Singapore position. "I look forward to starting," he said.

Joe Biden Wins Democratic Nomination To Challenge Trump In November Polls



at the Democratic National Convention in Wisconsin in August.

In the presidential elections to be held on November 3, Joe Biden will challenge Republican incumbent Trump, 73, who is seeking re-election.

In his remarks after winning a majority of delegates in

the Democratic presidential primary, Joe Biden said this is a difficult time in America's history and Trump's angry, divisive politics is no answer.

"The country is crying out for leadership. Leadership that can unite us. Leadership that can bring us together," he said.

"We need an economy that

works for everyone - now. We need jobs that bring dignity - now. We need equal justice - and equal opportunities - for every American now. We need a president who cares about helping us heal - now," Joe Biden said.

Joe Biden has been consistently supportive of the India-US relations. In 2008 as a Senator, he had voted to approve the landmark civilian nuclear deal between the two countries.

During his visit to India in 2013, Joe Biden had said: "We want to deepen our strategic partnership on regional as well as global issues. The United States is elevating our engagement in the Asia-Pacific region. We refer to it as rebalance."

Restaurateurs Say Centre's New SOPs Will Make Business "Unviable"

NEW DELHI: The government, in a long anticipated move, has given restaurants the nod to open their doors but many owners say the cap on the number of customers will make their operations unviable and it may be better to stay closed.

Indicating that dining out might still be some distance away and home deliveries will continue to be the order of the day, restaurateurs said the Health Ministry's standard operating procedures (SOPs) don't make economic sense as the cash strapped industry ventures out of the extended lockdown and plans its future.

The Health Ministry issued a set of SOPs on Thursday, curtailing the seating capacity to 50 per cent when restaurants open next week in



accordance with an earlier order of the Home Ministry.

Citing social distancing norms, the SOPs also mandate a distance of at least six feet in queues and inside restaurants.

Asking restaurants to encourage takeaways instead of dine-ins, it says only asymptomatic staff are allowed to work and entrances to all properties must have sanitiser dispensers and thermal screening provisions.

Accepting the need for most of the other restrictions, industry insiders said halving the seating capacity is just not feasible.

The SOPs are even more

detrimental than the extended lockdown, which started on March 25, said Priyank Sukhija, the owner of restaurant chains such as Plum By Bent Chair, Lord of the Drinks and Tamasha in Delhi and Mumbai.

"With a 50 per cent seating limit, about 80 per cent of restaurants will not make money even when they open up later because managing rental costs, staff salaries and electricity bills won't be possible," Mr Sukhija told PTI, adding that he is glad his restaurants will remain closed.

He pays an average rent of Rs 12 lakh a month for each of his large-scale restaurants.

Mr Sukhija said the Delhi government, like in Gurgaon, should allow them to use their terraces and open spaces.

"If you want 50 per cent



Wear Masks In Public, Says WHO In New Coronavirus Advice

Geneva, Switzerland: The World Health Organization Friday changed its advice on face masks amid the coronavirus pandemic, saying they should be worn in places where the virus is widespread and physical distancing is difficult.

The use of masks has been a hot topic ever since the pandemic first emerged in China in December.

"In light of evolving evidence, WHO advises that governments should encourage the general public to wear masks where there is widespread transmission and physical distancing is difficult," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

In areas with community-level virus transmission, "we advise that people aged 60 years or over, or those with underlying conditions, should wear a medical mask in situations where physical distancing is not possible", he added.

But the UN health agency stressed that facemasks alone "will not protect you from COVID-19" -- and people suffering with the virus should not be out in public if they can avoid it.

The WHO maintained its recom-

mendation that people who are sick with COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and if it is absolutely necessary for them or their contacts to leave home, they should wear a medical mask.

As before, those caring for an infected person at home should wear a medical mask when in the same room; and health workers should wear medical masks plus protective equipment when dealing with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.

But in an update affecting healthcare workers, the WHO now recommends that in areas with widespread virus transmission, all people working in clinical sections of a health facility should wear medical masks -- not just those dealing with patients with COVID-19.

Three-layer facemask

The WHO also issued new guidance on the composition of non-medical fabric masks for the general public, advising that they should consist of at least three layers of different material.

The inner layer should be made of a water-absorbent material such as cotton, the middle layer -- which

acts as a filter -- from a material like non-woven polypropylene, while the outer layer should be a water-resistant material such as polyester.

The WHO's emergencies director Michael Ryan stressed that putting on a fabric mask is primarily about preventing the wearer from possibly infecting others, rather than self-protection.

"It's an altruistic act," he said.

And Tedros stressed that masks were only one part of an effective strategy to suppress the virus -- and should not lure people into a false sense of security.

He said they were not a replacement for physical distancing and hand hygiene.

"Find, isolate, test and care for every case, and to trace and quarantine every contact. That is what we know works. That is every country's best defence against COVID-19."

The novel coronavirus has infected at least 6.7 million people and killed more than 390,000 since the outbreak first emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

Trial Of Clothes Banned At Malls, No "Prasad" At Religious Places In Punjab

CHANDIGARH: No trial of clothing shall be allowed in shopping malls, while places of worship will be barred from distributing "prasad" when they reopen from June 8, according to the guidelines issued by the Punjab government on Saturday.

The fresh guidelines also provide for a token-based entry to malls.

Religious places shall remain open between 5 am and 8 pm, the guidelines said.

Besides, there shall be no distribution of prasad, food or serving "langar" at the places of worship, according to the guidelines issued by the Punjab government for shopping malls, restaurants, hotels and places of worship which have been allowed to open from June 8.

Mall visitors are required

visitor, it said.

"The maximum capacity of persons allowed in each shop in the mall shall be fixed on the basis of maintenance of six-feet distance," it added.

With the management being responsible for ensuring maximum capacity of the mall, not more than 50 per cent of the maximum capacity shall, at any point of time, enter the mall, the guidelines said.

Each shop shall have markers to indicate social distancing while lift shall not be used except in case of differently-abled person or medical emergency.

"Trial of clothing/accessories shall not be permitted," according to the guidelines for shopping malls.

Restaurants or food courts shall not operate in any of



to have COVA app on their mobile phones.

However, a family can be allowed to enter a mall even if one of the members has COVA app installed in his/her phone, the guidelines said.

COVA Punjab (Corona Virus Alert) App has been developed by the state government to provide people with preventive care information and other government advisories.

The new guidelines forbid loitering in malls. A token system for entry to the malls will be introduced and there will be a provision for maximum time limit for a mall

the malls except take away or home delivery, it said.

In case of hotels and other hospitality units, hotel restaurants shall remain closed and food shall be served only in the rooms of guests.

The management of hotels shall make adequate arrangements to ensure social distancing, wearing of masks and hand hygiene.

In case of religious places, the maximum number of persons at the time of worship shall not exceed 20 with due distancing.

"The worship time should stagger in smaller groups," according to the guidelines.

India May Suffer Devastating Climate Change Impact In 80 Years: Study

NEW DELHI: India may face devastating climate change effects, including killer heat waves and severe floods, in the next 80 years, says a study that calls for urgent steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avert associated risks to the country's population, ecosystems and economy.

Annual mean temperatures across India are likely to increase by 4.2 degrees Celsius under a high emission scenario by the end of the 21st century, the researchers, led by Professor Mansour Almazroui from the King Abdulaziz University in Saudi Arabia, said.

"India is the most densely populated region in the world, with relatively high sensitivity and low resilience to changes in its climate, all of which makes it very exposed and vulnerable to any changes that may occur during the rest of the 21st century," Mr Almazroui told news agency Press Trust of India.

"A large part of India's population, ecosystems, and economy are all exposed to high risk in the face of future climate change," he said.

The study, published in the journal 'Earth Systems and



Environment' last month, suggests that northwestern India is at "particularly high risk" to flooding from snow and glacier melt caused by temperatures projected to rise by the end of the 21st century.

The researchers also forecast killer heat waves over the plains, adding that severe flooding is likely to take place with annual rainfall over India projected to increase under all emission scenarios in the 21st century.

Using a supercomputer to analyse global climate models, the research team observed a potentially large increase of more than 6 degrees Celsius under a high emission scenario over northwestern India, comprising the complex Karako-

rum and Himalayan mountain ranges.

"The enhanced warming is likely to further accelerate the snow and glacier melt over this region, with a consequent increase in flooding. This could have serious implications for crops, ecosystems, and populations living downstream," Mr Almazroui said.

"Moreover, the rise in temperature is likely to increase the frequency of killer heat waves over the country's plains," he added.


The study analysed the latest generation of models to project more warming - 1 to 3 degrees Celsius - over the irrigated plains of the Ganges, which according to the researchers, may have serious repercussions for agriculture and livelihoods.

The models project higher warming over the Indian subcontinent in the winter season than in the summer, which may disrupt snow or ice accumulations and affect winter cropping patterns, the researchers said.

While the projected rise in the average temperature in winter is up to 4.7 degrees Celsius, the estimated warming for summers is up to 3.6 degrees Celsius, they said.

The study also projected a higher increase in rainfall over northwestern India, including Gujarat and Rajasthan, while the winter rainfall also shows a larger increase over Gujarat and adjacent states under all future scenarios. Under the high emission scenario, the summer monsoon rainfall averaged over India, particularly in the western side of the country that expands to Western Ghats and Kerala, is projected to increase by the end of the 21st century, the researchers said.

The increase in summer rainfall, together with increased water in rivers due to glacier melt in summer, may cause severe summer flooding in the future, they said.



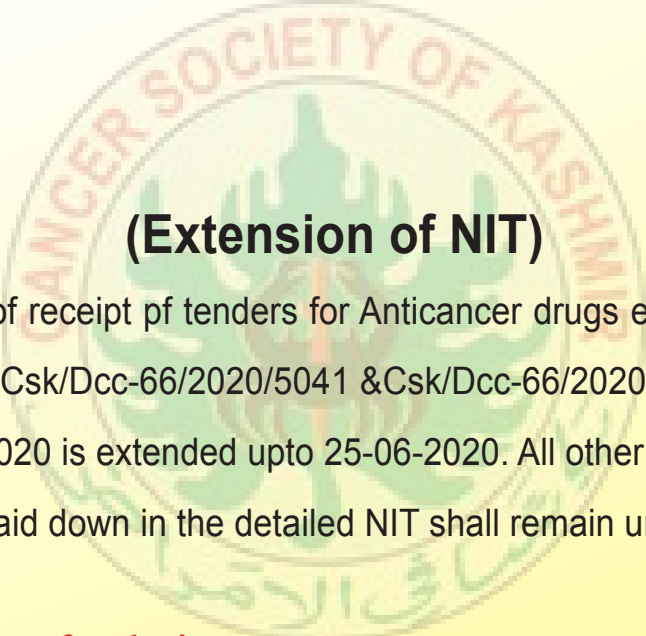
CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

Ref. No. CSK/DCC-66/2020/5380

Dated: 06-JUN-2020

Subject: - Notice inviting tenders for Anticancer drugs & other related supportive items.



(Extension of NIT)

The last date of receipt pf tenders for Anticancer drugs etc. invited vide society's No: - Csk/Dcc-66/2020/5041 &Csk/Dcc-66/2020/5166-70

Dated 03-03-2020 is extended upto 25-06-2020. All other terms & conditions as laid down in the detailed NIT shall remain unchanged.

For Cancer Society of Kashmir.

4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar 190 015TeleFax 0194-2441899/2430899

Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

NEWS MAKER

Amul Twitter Account Briefly Blocked After Tweet Targeted China

The Twitter account of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, owner of the Amul brand, was blocked briefly after it posted a cartoon apparently calling for a boycott of Chinese products. GCMMF Managing Director R S Sodhi said that Twitter blocked its handle @Amul_Coop after its advertising agency posted a cartoon featuring its mascot "Amul girl" with the caption "Exit the Dragon?" on Thursday night.

In the bottom right corner, the advertisement had the words "Amul Made in India". The cartoon appeared to support the new policy of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" enun-

ciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as a call for a boycott of Chinese products on Indian social media against the backdrop of a stand-off between the two countries in eastern Ladakh.

Amul's Twitter handle could be accessed when checked on Saturday afternoon and the post containing the cartoon was also visible. "We do not know why the account was blocked as we have not received any official statement from Twitter....Amul has not run any campaign against anybody," Sodhi said.

"Amul girl campaign is on since last 55 years, and our



mascot generally talks about topical subjects, reflecting the mood of the nation in a funny way," Sodhi said.

"When our advertising agency shared this ad on the night of June 4, they learnt through a forward that our Twitter account was blocked. When we requested Twitter for re-activation, the account was restored," he said.

"When we learnt about this, we asked for clarification. We do not know why this disruption occurred. We have not yet received any official message from Twitter on this," he said.

Meanwhile, #Amul began to trend on Twitter with thousands of users coming out in the company's support and accusing the microblogging platform of a bias against India.