



Maximum : 23°C
Minimum : 13°C
Humidity : 64%

SUNSET
Today 07:43 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:19 AM



WHY KASHMIR'S LEADERSHIP Has Abdicated At A Critical Time

ON May 25, senior National Conference (NC) leader Aga Ruhullah publicly expressed his resentment over his party's continued silence over the revocation of Article 370 of India's Constitution, which granted autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir. Ruhullah was angry over an article his colleague, Tanvir Sadiq, wrote in a local daily, urging New Delhi to let the local parties hold political activities. The article sought reconsideration of new domicile rules that for the first time have thrown open the citizenship of Jammu and Kashmir to outsiders, and restoration of high-speed mobile internet – the demands that represented a drastic climbdown from the party's opposition to the revocation of the autonomy. "Revisit domicile law? Lift curbs on Internet? 'LET' political process ... run? Is that all what you are looking for in this reconciliation? If I am not reading (it) wrong, you are basically asking for 4G (internet) and THEIR 'PERMISSION' to let us start the political process?.....

.....OPINION
P4

News Digest

Javed Wani Takes Oath As HC Judge

Srinagar: The bench strength of Jammu and Kashmir High Court rose to 13 as Justice Javed Iqbal Wani took oath on Friday. Reports said that Chief Justice Gita Mittal administered the oath of office to Justice Wani at Srinagar wing of the High Court at 11 a.m. On Tuesday last, President of India appointed Justice Wani as the Judge of the common High Court to J&K and Ladakh with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office. **● P-02**

124 More Test Covid-19 Positive InLadakh

Leh: The Union territory of Ladakh recorded the biggest spike in coronavirus cases as 124 people tested positive for the disease during the past two days, taking the total number of cases in the region to 239, officials said on Friday. While 20 fresh cases of COVID-19 were reported from the twin districts of Leh and Kargil on Thursday, 104 new cases were reported on Friday which is also the largest single day spike in the Union territory. **● P-02**

Lashkar Militant Held In Shopian: Police

Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba militant along with arms in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Zahir Ahmad Khan was arrested by police and army's 1RR after a cordon and search operation was launched in Khujpura village of Zainpora on the basis of credible information, a police spokesperson said. He said incriminating material including, arms and ammunition were recovered from his possession. As per police records he **● P-02**

DGP Promotes 28 Sub-Inspectors

Srinagar: Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh on Friday ordered promotion of 28 Sub-Inspectors to the rank of Inspectors. These officers of J&K Police Telecom have been promoted under PHQ order Number 1719 of 2020, an official spokesperson said.

Among the SIs promoted include, Gurpreet Singh, Shivender Singh, Avineet Sharma, Saadut Ali, Sunny Sharma, Ankush Sharma, AadilShafinNajar, HarinderJeet Singh, Karamdeep Singh, NaseerHussain, Samerejeet **● P-02**

JP Sharma Appointed VC SKUAST

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday appointed Dr. J.P. Sharma as Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu. Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu, who is also the Chancellor of SKUAST, ordered the appointment. Dr. Sharma, who was serving as Joint Director (Ext.) ICAR, New Delhi has been appointed as VC SKUAST, Jammu, under section 25(1) of the Sher-e-Kashmir **● P-02**

High Level Meet Reviews Military Preparedness In Ladakh



Soldiers patrolling an area in the mountainous Ladakh Union Territory. File Photo, AbidBhat

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday reviewed India's overall military preparedness in eastern Ladakh and several other areas along the Line of Actual Control in Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh even as Chinese and Indian armies

held another round of Major General-level talks on the current border standoff, official sources said.

The defence minister was given a detailed account on the overall situation in eastern Ladakh by Army Chief Gen MM Naravane at a high-level meeting which was also attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat,

Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, they said.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in an over-five-week standoff in Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie. The two sides have deployed additional troops along the LAC in North Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh. **● PAGE 02**

IN THE OVER FOUR-AND-HALF-HOUR DIALOGUE, the Indian delegation pressed for total restoration of status quo ante and immediate withdrawal of thousands of Chinese troops from the areas which India considers on its side of the LAC, the sources said.

Labourers Rushed In To Finish Strategic Road

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As the two nuclear countries remain locked in a tense stand-off, government is rushing labourers from Jharkhand to speed up construction work on the contentious Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO),

the all-weather road connecting Leh city to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, India Today reported Friday.

According to the report, China wants India to stop construction on the 255-km-long Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie road. However, India

has conveyed to China that the road construction activity in Ladakh is in Indian territory and will continue.

The 255-km DSDO road, the report says is the latest flash-point between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. This road connects Leh to the **● PAGE 02**

Cop Suspended For Delaying Chargesheet In Kashmiri Students Sedition Case

Agencies

KARNATAKA: A week after three students from Jammu and Kashmir, who were arrested on charges of sedition in Hubballi in Karnataka, were released on bail, the investigating officer in the case was suspended for a delay in filing the chargesheet against them.

Jackson D'Souza, the police inspector of Hubballi Rural police station, was suspended on Thursday, just days after the three students were released on bail. He cited the lockdown over the coronavirus outbreak for the failure to

file a chargesheet in the case.

Inspector-General of Police (Northern Range) Raghavendra Suhas issued the suspension orders after an enquiry was conducted probing the failure to file a chargesheet in the case.

The lawyers representing the student filed a bail petition in a magistrate court in Hubballi on June 1 but the chargesheet in the case was filed only on June 4. The lawyers stated that there is a stipulated time period in which the chargesheet has to be filed (60-90 days), and on the 91st day, the accused is entitled to bail. **● PAGE 02**

Rajouri Man Dies Of Covid-19, J&K Toll 53

SRINAGAR- A 65-year-old man from Rajouri district, who had tested positive for Covid-19, died at a hospital in Jammu on Friday, taking the number of coronavirus-related fatalities in Jammu and Kashmir to 53, officials said.

"A Covid-19 positive patient (65) from Salsui village of Rajouri's Kalakote Tehsil passed away today morning at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu," the officials said.

They said the sexagenarian man was admitted to the hospital on June 1 with head injuries after falling off from stairs. "He was shifted to isolation ward of the hospital after testing positive for Covid-19 on June 2," they added. With fresh fatality, the death toll due to the pathogen **● P-02**

156 More Test Covid-19 Positive

156 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of cases in J&K to 4,730, officials said. "156 new COVID-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 88 of them are from Jammu, 68 are from Kashmir," the officials said. Among fresh cases, 38 were reported from Shopian 26 from Kathua, 21 from Ramban, 14 from Samba, 12 from Poonch. **● P-02**

26 More Discharged On Recovery

26 COVID-19 patients were discharged today from SKIMS Hospital Bemina (JVC) after successful completion of treatment and testing negative before discharge. With this the number of COVID-19 recovered patients moves to 308 out of total COVID positive admitted patients numbering 415 till date. The recovery rate at present is more than 74% with two fatalities and the mortality rate is 0.48%. **● P-02**

LoC Flare-Up: Woman Killed, Two Injured In Uri

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A woman was killed and two other people injured on Friday as India and Pakistan troops traded heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of Baramulla district prompting district authorities to evacuate the villagers towards the safer places.

48-year-old Akhter Begum, wife of Zahoor Ahmad Chichi was killed after a shell landed near her house in Batgram village during cross-LoC shelling on Friday afternoon, Sub-District

Magistrate (SDM) Uri Riyaz Ahmad Malik told Kashmir Observer. Two more people, including a woman identified as Parveena Begum, wife of Shabir Ahmad Sheikh were injured in similar

circumstances in Nambra village of the border town.

He said that the injured people have been removed to the hospital for treatment, while the villagers have been **● PAGE 02**

Cross-LoC Shelling Rattles Poonch

India and Pakistan troops continued trading fire for the fifth consecutive day Friday along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, a day after a soldier was killed and a civilian hurt in Pakistan shelling in Rajouri district. Pakistani troops shelled forward posts and villages along the LoC in two sectors of Poonch in violation of the ceasefire agreement, officials said.

There have been unprovoked cross-border firing by **● P-02**

Bilal Lone Issues Statement, Wants End To 'Uncertainty'

SRINAGAR: Calling for intervention of international community to end "uncertainty and repression" in Kashmir, senior Hurriyat Conference (M) leader Bilal Ghani Lone on Friday demanded immediate release of the conglomerate's chairman and other prisoners detained since August 5, last year.

In a statement issued to the media, the Hurriyat executive member expressed grief over the loss of lives of young boys in encounters and border skirmishes between the two **● P-02**

Attacks On Professionals : J&K HC Gives Maha 'Last Opportunity'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has given "last opportunity" to Ministry of Home Affairs to submit a report regarding the details about the attacks on professionals including media persons, bankers, advocates, chartered accountants.

The details sought also include whether these professionals are seeking enactment of a separate legislation like healthcare workers.

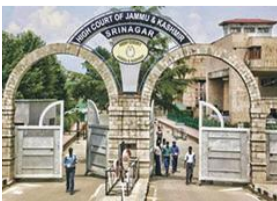
Hearing a batch of Public Interest Litigations including one on its own motion, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Ra-

jesh Oswal said that the court will compelled to take "strict view" in the matter if the report was not filed by June 25.

The directions followed submissions by Assistant Solicitor General of India Vishal Sharma that despite intimation, he has not received any response from the Ministry.

"We give him one last opportunity to file his response in terms of our previous orders failing which we will be compelled to take strict view in the matter," the court said.

The court had May 20 sought the report after ASGI Vishal Sharma submitted that MHA does not **● PAGE 02**



When Bus Became Basket: Kashmiri Driver's Survival Ride In Lockdown

Irfan Dar

SRINAGAR: Standing tall and tough near Srinagar's bunkered Barabashah bridge, Zahoor Ahmad, 47, was struggling to deal with the growing public curiosity towards his street-side unconventional cart on a sunny summer day.

The bus he used to drive till recent past to ferry passengers over the bridge has not only come to a grinding halt, but also become a fruit cart to passersby's wonder and awe.

"What else you would do when your kids are on the verge of starvation in a place like Kashmir, where lockdowns are jamming our wheel," Zahoor told Kashmir Observer in what appeared to be

a reluctant talk of a thoughtful headman who has hit the road for the sake of his family.

"For the fear of this corona, we can't let our kids die of hunger in our homes!"

Zahoor's tribe is one of the worst lockdown hit communities in Kashmir. Most of them are out of work since August 5, when the former state was plunged into the communication crisis. The subsequent relaxation period saw the driver community carefully going about their business usual.

In order to put food on the table of their families, these drivers are now taking loans, as per Zahoor, and increasingly coming out of their homes with fruit and vegetable carts. Some have also



become street-side grocers and hawkers in lockdown.

The driver disparity remains despite official and non-official wel-

fare bodies claiming to reach out with a helping hand to those who live hand to mouth in the valley.

For Zahoor, the tipping point

came a fortnight ago—when he couldn't take his children's struggle for basic food anymore.

"Every time I looked at their anxious faces, it would kill me," Zahoor said in a broken voice. "My three daughters and a son are my pride. I would do anything for them. I could've come earlier like last year, but the fear of this virus stopped me."

After political status and equations were altered in Kashmir last summer, Zahoor came out with a mobile tea stall and started selling steamy cups for survival outside the guarded gates of Srinagar's Central Jail.

Among his customers would be the distraught family members of the inmates — who **● PAGE 02**

From Front page...

J&K Bank Lowers Interest Rates On Loans, Assures Food Processing Units Of Maximum Support Extends electricity-bill submission date to last day of month in m-Pay

Srinagar: J&K Bank has lowered its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 0.05 percent for various tenors. Taken during the ongoing pandemic, the move to pass on the benefit of reducing cost of funds to the borrowers, is very much in line with the regulator's directions.

The bank after reviewing the MCLR lowered the rate in all the tenors including its benchmark one-year MCLR to 7.80 pc from 7.85 pc

effective from June 10, 2020. The marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) is the minimum interest rate that a bank can lend at and is a tenor-linked internal benchmark. Meanwhile, a delegation of representatives from food processing industry today called on the bank's Chairman & MD R K Chhibber here at the bank's corporate headquarters. Those present in the meeting included the bank's Vice-President Manzoor Hussain, Special Secy.

to CMD Karanjit Singh, AVPs Riyaz Ahmad Wani and Raja Zaffar Khan besides the representatives Shahjahan (Hyacinth Agri Product), Farooq Ahmad (Dara Agro Industries) and Tanveer-ul-Haq (Fruit Inn Agro). During the meeting, the delegation explained to the bank's leadership that the cherry crop, having a very short shelf-life, was specifically cultivated in the valley and needed to be procured and processed well in time to prolong its shelf-life and

benefit the growers. "It, they said, "would also help cherry-growers protect their huge crop production of the season."

"Since we have not realized the receipts even of our last-year production due to disturbed condition post August 219, we are not in a position to procure fruit for processing at our units, therefore, we request the bank to provide us with liberal and timely funding at concessional terms to enable us to meet our current business requirements", said the delegation. They asked for adequate liquidity support on easier terms for valley's cherry processing units so that they can procure the fruit and process it to sustain their business in the current distress due to the ongoing pandemic.

Giving a patient hearing to the delegation, the CMD assured the representatives of maximum support from the bank within the regulatory guidelines. "In this regard, we continue to encourage borrowers to avail our tailor-made product like Covid-19 Working-capital Demand Loan (CWDL) that envisages finance upto 10% of existing loan facility. Also, recently announced Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) scheme under Atmanirbhar Bharat - that allows 20% of total outstanding loans as on 29th February, 2020 for the eligible borrowers - has been devised to take care of the liquidity crunch

suffered by the businesses due to Covid-19", the CMD said. Notably, for the convenience of electricity consumers of the UT, the bank has extended the last date of electricity bill submission, in its Mobile-baking application m-Pay, from 25th to the last day of every month from July 2020 onwards. However, in case of the current month i.e. June 2020, the last day for the receipt of bills through M-pay would be June 29, 2020.

High Level Meet Reviews...

Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh following the standoff. It is understood that Singh told the top military brass to continue to deal with the situation in eastern Ladakh and other areas with "firmness". "The defence minister carried out a comprehensive review of the situation in eastern Ladakh," said a senior official on condition of anonymity. Military sources said the two armies held another round of Major General-level talks on Friday to find a way out to defuse tension in eastern Ladakh. India on Thursday said it is maintaining military and diplomatic engagements with China to peacefully resolve the row at the "earliest". In their first serious efforts to end the row, Lt General Harinder Singh, the general officer commanding of Leh-based 14 Corps, and Commander of the Tibet Military District Maj Gen Liu Lin held a nearly seven-hour meeting on June 6. In the next one week, the field commanders of the two sides are slated to hold a series of meetings to discuss specific measures to defuse the tension. On Wednesday, the two sides held Major General-level talks in an positive atmosphere with an aim to end the bitter tussle. In the over four-and-half-hour dialogue, the Indian delegation pressed for total restoration of status quo ante and immediate withdrawal of thousands of Chinese troops from the areas which India considers on its side of the LAC, the sources said. In Friday's meeting too, India reiterated its demand, they added. After the standoff began in early last month, Indian military leadership decided that Indian troops will adopt a firm approach in dealing with the aggressive posturing by the Chinese troops in all disputed areas of Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie. The Chinese Army has been gradually ramping up its strategic reserves in its rear bases near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by rushing in artillery guns, infantry combat vehicles and heavy military equipment, the sources 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 the area 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 India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long LAC. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet while India contests it. Both sides have been asserting that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas

Labourers Rushed In To ...

furthestmost outpost in Ladakh at the Daulat Beg Oldie, barely 10 km from Karakoram pass. The report says that Daulat Beg Oldie is a strategically located Brigade Headquarters of the army close to Aksai Chin. In October 2019, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 500-metre-long Col Chewang Rinchen Bridge on the road and the 255-km stretch will have over 35 bridges to make it all-weather road. "What's being tried out by China is posturing. And posturing to divert attention. It is not going to affect road construction. It is not going to affect the way we are deployed. It is not going to affect anything at all. VK Singh, Minister of State, roads, transport and highways told India Today. The report further said that additional labour is being rushed in from Jharkhand to Udhampur for the onward journey to Ladakh to speed up the road construction project. According to another report, seven special trains have been sent to Jharkhand to transfer labourers hailing from Santal Pargana division of the state to Udhampur. While six of the trains will depart from Dumka station, the last one will bring labourers from Deoghar station. "The labourers have already started arriving at the station. The first train carrying labourers will leave for Udhampur from Dumka station. All arrangements are in place at the railway stations," Hindi news portal Jagran reported.

Kashmir House Delhi Split...

along with adjacent Block-A (with 10 rooms and 4 suites), old Block-B (with 14 rooms and 3 suites), 16 type-B staff quarters and 8 Type C-staff quarters. It also states that the second entrance will remain with UT of Jammu and Kashmir along with adjacent New Block-B (with 24 rooms), Block-C (with 21 rooms and 7 suites), and 10 Type-A staff quarters. The letter also reveals that differences of opinion have emerged between the newly carved out UTs on an interim recommendation submitted by the panel over apportionment of the asset. The interim report submitted by the panel was shared by the MHA with both the UTs for their comments. The arrangement will remain in place till a final decision is taken on the final recommendations of the high-level committee set-up by the MHA last year. Headed by former defence secretary Sanjay Mitra, the panel comprises Arun Goyal (retired IAS officer) and Giriraj Prasad Gupta (retired Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer). Under section 85 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Central government has established the panel for the apportionment of the assets, rights and liabilities of the companies and corporations constituted for the existing State of J&K between UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh. It is worthwhile to mention here that the erstwhile state of J&K has prized properties worth hundreds of crores outside the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh and Kolkata. In New Delhi, J&K has properties at Prithivi Raj road, Chankyapuri and Rajaji Marg - (KNO)

Srinagar Markets, Offices ...

for COVID-19 containment.

"Suggestions and recommendations in this regard were also obtained from SKIMS, GMC Srinagar, SKIMS H&MC Bemina and Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and sector-specific SOPs have been devised taking into account such recommendations and standard protocols as notified by the competent authority," the official spokesperson said. He said that the schedule issued under the provisions as contained in the Disaster Management Act 2005, Section 144 of the CrPC and the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897, is in line with the J&K State Executive Committee (SEC) notification with guidelines issued vide Order No. 61-JK(DMRRR) of 2020 dated 07-June-2020 which gives guidelines about permissible activities and allows opening of 50 percent shops. The official spokesperson said that the notified schedule allows shops including book-shops, stationeries, chemists, medical product shops, grocery, fruit and vegetable shops, milk & milk products, meat/poultry, farming products (agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, etc.), repair work-shops, e-commerce & courier, hotels/ restaurants for home-delivery/take-away, bakery, and other essential products to open full day on weekdays from Monday to Saturday. "Business establishments dealing in readymade garments, cloth, cosmetics, footwear, electronics & electrical equipment, jewellery, and tailors/designers/boutiques to open from 11 am to 5.30 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays," the official spokesperson said.

The schedule, he said also allows shops and businesses dealing in handicrafts, handlooms, hardware, building material, furniture, furnishing, automobiles, services stations, saloons/barbers/beauty parlours and all other sectors to open from 11 am to 5.30 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. "The order states that this permission shall be subject to conditions and mandatory adherence to guidelines and provisions as notified thereunder - including that in the notified containment zones only the essential service establishments can operate and that the J&K SEC guidelines must be strictly adhered to," the official spokesperson said. Giving further details of conditions, the official spokesperson said that the issued schedule for opening of shops and business establishments is subject to it states that the SOPs as contained in the J&K Government Order No. 62-JK(DMRRR) of 2020 dated 07-June-2020 for hotels and restaurants, shopping malls and salons/barbershops etc shall have to be complied with in letter and spirit. It states that concerned market associations shall be responsible for ensuring total observance of all SOPs in all markets. "The order states that wearing face masks and observance of physical distancing shall be mandatory and violations will attract strict action. It instructs that equidistant circles in paint indicating mandatory distance (of 1 meter) be marked outside every shop/establishment. It directs that no business shall operate in absence of compliance with these mandatory guidelines, particularly that of wearing of face masks and observance of physical distancing," the official spokesperson said.

The order also directs that every shop or business establishment shall be properly sanitized before being made operational and that hand sanitiser/handwash/soap shall also be compulsorily made available at every establishments. Besides it, trade associations have also been asked to display IEC material about do's and don'ts as formulated by the DDMA Srinagar in collaboration with the Department of SPM GMC Srinagar or such as approved by competent organisations at all shops and establishments in their respective markets. "The order states that the permission to open 50 percent shops is also applicable to shopping malls and complexes. It instructs all shopping malls to prepare and ensure strict adherence to roster of operations as prescribed in the SEC notification as quoted above. It also strongly advises that all shopkeepers - in and outside shopping malls - should download the Aarghya Setu application on their mobile phones," the official spokesperson said. However, the ban on car parking on roads in compliance with the High Court directions and the SEC guidelines will remain in place. "It should be noted that nighttime restrictions on movement and all kinds of activities from 8 pm to 5 am as ordered last month shall remain valid till further orders," the official spokesperson said. Meanwhile the district administration has deployed magistrates on duty to ensure enforcement of and compliance with these conditions. While all trade associations and business bodies have assured of adherence to norms as laid down and SOPs as devised in the interest of public health, executive magistrates and SHO's concerned shall ensure strict enforcement. The magistrates have been directed to take strict action in case of violations, the official spokesperson said "It should be noted that the segregation of trades as notified in this order has been made for maintaining the prescribed 50 percent shops allowed to open. The local market committees shall ensure that in no case the prescribed number limit is violated. The administration has put in place a mechanism for regular inspections to avoid violations," he added. The order, the official spokesperson said also states that all guidelines and SOPs as issued from time to time by the government are only indicative and all shopkeepers and business establishments shall in the interest of public health ensure that every required measure is taken to prevent spread of COVID-19. "The DM has ordered that any violation of these orders/SOPs/instructions as notified by the J&KSEC or DDMA Srinagar shall attract action under Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act 2005, Section 188 IPC and Section 03 of the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 apart from other laws applicable," the official spokesperson said. He added that the DM has directed that all trade and business organisations shall make all efforts to put in place required measures and ensure total observance of all notified SOPs in markets as has been undertaken by them in during the week-long consultation process the administration held with them. According to the official spokesperson, Choudhary said that the administration was holding regular periodic reviews of the prevailing situation due to COVID-19 in the district adding this arrangement as notified in this order will be modified or amended as and when due based on assessment of the situation. "He made clear though that in the notified containment zones of the district only the essential services and such establishments shall be allowed to operate," the official spokesperson added.

LoC Flare-Up: Woman Killed.

evacuated and shifted to the NHPC building at Bandi.

"We are also evacuating people from other affected villages. Around eight villages are bearing brunt of shelling. Intermittent exchange of fire between two sides is going on," Malik added. He identified the affected villages as Batgran, Charunda, Hath-langa, Soura, Namba, Mothal, Silikote and Thajal. "We are keeping a watch on the situation. If need be, we will shift other villagers to the boys higher secondary school," Malik said. Sarpanch Charunda, Lal-Din Mohammad told Kashmir Observer that the intermittent exchange of firing between the two sides started around 8 am. In the afternoon, he said the exchange of fire intensified triggering panic and fear among the villagers. "Akhter Begum was rushing towards her house when a shell exploded near the veranda of her house. The splinter ripped her abdomen killing her on the spot," he said. "Scores of shells landed in Charunda villages damaging over a dozen odd houses. The villagers are reeling under fear due to the flare-up between India and Pakistan armies," he added. Meanwhile, Army's Srinagar based spokesperson Colonel Rajesh Kalia in a statement issued here said that Pakistan troops violated ceasefire in the early hours today in Rampur sector by firing mortars and other weapons. "Befitting response is being given," he added. Pertinently, two months earlier on this day, three civilians, including a minor, were killed while four others were injured in cross-LoC shelling in Keran sector of Kupwara district.

Cross-LoC Shelling Rattles...

Pakistani troops along the LoC for the fifth consecutive day, they said. "At about 1615 hours today, Pak army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along LoC in Kirni and Qasba sectors in district Poonch," a defence PRO said. The Indian Army is retaliating befittingly, he said. On Thursday, a soldier was killed and a civilian injured when Pakistani troops heavily shelled villages and forward posts along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch district. Several houses were damaged in intense firing and mortar shelling by Pakistani troops on Wednesday.

Cop Suspended For ...

The students were released on June 6, more than three months after their arrest.

The suspension of the investigating officer in the case also comes a day after Amulya Leona, a Bengaluru-based student was granted bail in Bengaluru under similar circumstances. She was charged with sedition in March for shouting 'Pakistan Zindabad' during an anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protest. The students from Jammu and Kashmir - Talib Majeed, Basit Asif Sofi and Amir Mohiuddin Wahi - studying in Hubballi's KLE Institute of Technology were arrested in February after a video of them allegedly speaking in favour of Pakistan was shared widely. The video showed the three students shouting "Azaadi", "Pakistan" and "Zindabad" while a song played in the background. The song was purportedly used by the Pakistan military's media wing. The students were arrested and charged under section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code. They were briefly released after the execution of a personal bond under section 169 of the CrPC (Release of accused when evidence deficient) but after protests by right-wing activists of the the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Bajrang Dal, they were re-arrested by the police. Their time in custody was fraught with tension after the Hubballi Bar Association passed a resolution in February that its members would not represent the students following which the Karnataka High Court reprimanded the Hubballi Bar Association and stated that its resolution went against the principles of natural justice and the rights of the accused of obtaining a defence.

Despite this, lawyers representing the students were heckled when they arrived in the Principal District Session Court in Dharwad to file the bail petition. Their bail petition was transferred to the Fifth Additional District and Sessions Court in Hubballi and it was rejected on March 9. But the students found some respite when the Karnataka High Court observed that no prima facie case of sedition was made out against them on April 20. Despite the court's observation, their bail plea was not accepted and the students remained in jail till their release last week.

Alongside the sedition cases against Amulya Leona and the students from Jammu and Kashmir, another sedition case was filed against the mother of a 11-year-old student and a teacher at a school in Bidar over a play staged by primary section students in January. The mother and teacher were released after spending two weeks in jail while the district and sessions court in Bidar ruled that the contents of the play did not prima facie amount to sedition.

Rajouri Man Dies Of ...

has risen in Jammu and Kashmir to 53- 47 in Valley and 6 in Jammu division. So far Srinagar district with twelve deaths due to the virus has the highest fatalities, followed by ten in Baramulla, eight in Kulgam, five in Anantnag, four in Shopian, three in Kupwara & Jammu, two each in Budgam & Pulwama while one death each has been reported in Bandipora, Doda, Rajouri & Udhampur.

156 More Test Covid-19...

eight from Jammu, seven from Baramulla, six from Budgam, five each from Kupwara & Srinagar, four from Pulwama, three from Doda, two each from Kulgam & Rajouri and one each from Anantnag, Reasi & Kishtwar, they said. They said that 266 more patients recovered and were discharged from different hospitals. The number of confirmed cases has now reached 4,730 out of which 3,633 are in Kashmir, while 1,097 are in Jammu, the officials said. There are 2,591 active cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in J&K - 1,853 in Kashmir and 738 in Jammu - and 2,086 (1,733 from Kashmir and 353 from Jammu) patients have recovered, according to officials. The J&K has witnessed 53 COVID-19 deaths so far (47 from Kashmir, 6 from Jammu), including the one that took place on Friday.

26 More Discharged On ...

The treated patients include COVID positive patients admitted for maternity care wherein till date 15 normal deliveries of COVID positive pregnant ladies and 13 major surgeries (LSCS) for child birth have been done. Besides this, the COVID Testing Lab at SKIMS Medical College Hospital, Bemina is conducting more than 500 Tests daily.

Bilal Lone Issues Statement.

nuclear countries. Lone, the statement said made fervent appeal to all rights bodies in India and the international community to prevail and resolve the Kashmir issue and put an end to "uncertainty and repression". Lashing out at the government over the continued detention of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Lone said that the Hurriyat Chairman has been arbitrarily and causally placed under house arrest for the past 10 months with police vehicles deployed outside his house to curtail his movement. "Mirwaiz has for the past two decades been repeatedly put under arbitrary house arrest by authorities but this time for the longest period. Authorities should revoke his arbitrary house arrest immediately and set the Mirwaiz free. His civil rights and liberties should be restored," Lone said. He also sought release of thousands prisoners, including political leaders languishing in various jails in J&K and outside since last three decades "By putting Hurriyat leadership and activists in jails for their ideology and political beliefs is inhuman, as freedom of dissent and difference of opinion is a fundamental human right," the senior Hurriyat leader said. Lone also criticised the new media policy announced by the authorities to restrict press freedom in the name of so called "fake news and misinformation" and demanded its rollback. He appealed international human rights and media organisations to take note of this 'draconian censorship law' and raise their voice against it.

When Bus Became Basket...

would be asked to wait before allowed to meet their captive kin. "This time around when this virus is triggering new fears in our society, who would stop at my stall for a cup of tea," Zahoor said. "So, therefore, I decided to do something [come out with a mobile fruit cart] which would ensure the safety of my family as well as my community." Lockdown had threatened to starve Zahoor's family before he came out on a different ride Zahoor lives in Srinagar's Rainawari. Every morning, he loads his bus with fresh fruits and takes his son - a Class 6 student along - for the survival ride. While father acts as a brooding driver, the son styles as a silent conductor. At twilight, the father-son duo often

takes a ride to Fruit Mandi for fresh stockpiling. Back home, Zahoor's three daughters - Class 10, 9 and 8 students - are burning midnight oil to become the support and pride of their family tomorrow. "Every evening when I return home these days, I could see some relief on the faces of my daughters and wife," Zahoor said. "It warms my heart. They definitely deserve a better life, but given the situation we all are in, most of us suffer in silence." And what's equally compounding this 'silent suffering' that Zahoor talked about is the unforthcoming nature of these families for help. "We would better prefer to die in silence than spread our hands before anyone," Zahoor said. "It's not arrogance. Most of us are like that in Kashmir. We're proud workmen and we raise our families with our blood and sweat. But sadly, most of us are unable to do our normal work due to these frequent lockdowns in Kashmir now." Zahoor's schoolboy son is among hundreds of students who are becoming helping hands for their family during lockdown At his bus cart, Zahoor was still unable to make sense of the passersby's growing curiosity. It was a different rush he was dealing with, unlike the one he would ferry in his bus. Even as his altered drive was forcing some passersby to curse the curbs for changing his identity, he stood tall, for he was finally able to restore some calm and order in his home. "Life in Kashmir is getting tougher day by day," Zahoor said. "But as long as we've a will, we'll keep fighting our odds. Good thing is, neither is this situation new, nor our fight back. We've seen the worst times in last thirty years in Kashmir. We battled the bad times then, and we'll continue to battle them now."

Attacks On Professionals...

support the draft Legislation by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, titled "Health Service Personnel and Clinical Establishments (Prohibition of violence and damage to property) Act, 2019" to address the issue of assault on health care service personnel and clinical establishments. Among the main reasons, he had said, enacting a separate legislation for prohibiting violence against doctors and other health care professional would give rise to similar demands from other categories of professionals like media persons, advocates, bankers, chartered accountants, etc. "The State is duty bound to protect life and property of all its citizens including professionals like media persons, doctors, engineers, advocates, bankers, etc," he had said. After his submissions, the division bench had said that it would be useful to have report from the Government of India regarding receipt of complaints from any category of professionals, other than the health care service personnel, including media persons, Bankers, Advocates, Chartered Accountants, etc. making a grievance that they were suffering violence and seeking enactment of legislation on the same. "A report in this regard shall be filed by Vishal Sharma, ASGI before us," the court had added. The court also asked administration in Ladakh to submit a fresh report regarding need for a separate legislation in the newly carved out UT. The directions followed perusal of a report submitted by ASGI T. M. Shamshi on behalf of the administration. "We find that all that is mentioned regarding the issue under consideration is that there has been no instance of violence against healthcare professionals or property. In our present consideration, we have not asked for this report but were concerned with the need for legislation on the subject," the court said and asked the ASGI to file a report on the issue "which is under the consideration." Meanwhile, the court has directed BSNL to examine status of those locations in J&K which are without any kind of connectivity. The direction followed submission by Shahzad Azim, Registrar (IT) HC who drew court's attention to his report wherein he has listed certain inaccessible areas of Jammu and Kashmir which are without any kind of connectivity. "The BSNL shall examine the status of these locations and place on record the manner in which connectivity can be provided to the residents of these areas," the court said, adding, "Connectivity could be by way of internet facility or telephone facility. In case there is any other mode which can be utilised for ensuring and improving the accessibilities of these areas, the BSNL shall detail it in its report." In this regard, the court said that a report on this aspect shall be positively filed before the next date of hearing. While issue pertaining report from MHA has been listed on June 25, the issue regarding the connectivity would be considered by the court on June 16. (GNS)

Justice Wani Takes Oath ...

His recommendation, made by the Supreme Court Collegium, was pending with the government of India for the past few months. After he took the oath, the bench strength of the High Court increased to 13 against the total strengthen of 17 judges include the Chief Justice. Advocate Iqbal Wani is the gold medallist in Law from Kashmir University and had started practice in 1990. He had been practising in Jammu and Srinagar Wings of High Court. He had also served as Additional Advocate General from February 2019 to December 2019 and had also represented army in many cases including the Pathribal fake encounter one.

124 More Test Covid-19 ...

since the outbreak of the infection in March, the officials said. Of the 104 cases, 69 persons tested positive in Kargil and 36 others in Leh district, the officials said while adding that Leh district had also witnessed 20 new cases on Thursday. One person had died of coronavirus in Leh, while 62 others were cured and subsequently discharged from the hospitals. The number of active cases in the region stands at 176 - 102 in Kargil and 74 in Leh -- and the condition of all of them is stable', the officials said.

Lashkar Militant Held...

was linked with LeT.Case FIR No. 60/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Zainapora and further investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson added.

DGP Promotes 28 ...

Singh, Raghuraj Singh, GulAdil, ShamasulZahoor, Abdul Aleem, Vikram Singh Choudhary, Ather Muzaffar Masoodi, Irfan Nazeer, Basharat Ahmad Sheikh, MuneemParvez, SiddharathMahajan, Parmest Singh, RustamRasheed, ZakirHussain, Gh. Hassan, Gh. Mohd, Om Prakash and Rajinder Kumar.

JP Sharma Appointed VC...

University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Act, 1982, for a period of 03 years or until he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, with effect from the date on which he takes over charge, on the terms and conditions which are being notified separately, reads the order.

PAPSK accuse private schools of threatening to stop online classes over tuition fee issue

Hold silent protest in Srinagar, seek government intervention

Agencies

Srinagar: Parents Association of Private Schools Kashmir (PAPSK) Friday said some private schools were threatening the students of stopping online classes if they failed to submit tuition fee of closed months amid Coronavirus crisis.

PAPSK held a silent protest here at a park in Karanagar area against the alleged harassment of private schools.

PAPSK General Secretary, Imtiyaz Ahmad told news service, that protest was organized against the lackadaisical attitude of the administration for issuing anti-parents' order regarding paying of tuition fee during this Pandemic.

The association urged the concerned authorities and lieutenant Governor G C Murmu to intervene and understand the hardships of the parents who are finding it difficult to feed their families during these crisis.

"Since August 2019 schools have remained closed barring a few days in the March, however, parents have been paying all charges since then until the month of March," Ahmad said.

PAPSK alleged that the private schools management have also charged admission



fee this year as well which is against the judgment of Supreme Court and the Fee Fixation Committee (FFC) "The salaries of the staff is always taken as an excuse by various private schools and they blackmail government emotionally," they said.

They said that in the year 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2019 parents have paid entire

school fee irrespective of the fact that the schools remained closed for long, however, this time situation is entirely different.

"Various private schools are continuously texting and calling the parents to deposit the fee. Some schools have even threatened to stop the online classes if the fee is not paid," they said—(KNO)

Gulmarg Land Scam Special Judge Anti-Corruption directs further investigation in 4 months

Baramulla: Special Judge Anti-Corruption North Kashmir Naseer Ahmad Dar has issued directions to the Anti-Corruption Bureau to further investigate the infamous 'Gulmarg Land Scam.'

This scam surfaced in 2009 while a formal case vide number 8/2009 stands registered in this regard at Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Special Judge Anti-Corruption according to news agency KNT directed ACB Srinagar to submit the supplementary charge sheet before the Court within a period of four months from the date of receipt of the order.

Public Notice

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK05C-5655 somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Firdous Ahmad Mir
S/O Ghulam Mhammad Mir R/O
Kurhama Lar Lar, Jammu & Kashmir
Ganderbal

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
21 Shawwal
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 34
ZUHR	12: 30
ASR	5:30
Magrib	7:45
ISHA	9:27

This Day In History

- 1932 - Great Britain and France sign peace treaty
- 1937 - Stalin executes Russian officers Tuchachevski, Jakir, Putna and Uberevitch
- 1940 - Paris evacuates before German advance
- 1942 - 1st V-2 rocket launch, Peenemunde, Germany; reached 1.3 km
- 1942 - Germany lands 4 saboteurs on Long Island
- 1942 - US Office of Strategic Services (OSS) formed
- 1942 - The United States opens its Office of War Information, with Elmer Davis as head
- 1944 - German counter attack on Villers-Bocage, Normandy
- 1944 - Nazi Germany begins V-1 (Fieseler Fi-103) flying bomb (doodle-bugs) attacks
- 1946 - 1st transcontinental round-trip flight in 1-day, California-Maryland
- 1951 - UN arm forces reach Pyongyang Korea
- 1965 - Vietnam War: Battle of Dong Xoai ends in a Viet Cong victory
- 1966 - US Supreme Court's Miranda decision; suspects must be informed of rights
- 1971 - "The New York Times" begins publishing excerpts from the Pentagon Papers, classified documents on the long history of the U.S. in Vietnam
- 1971 - In defiance of a government ban, members of the Orange Order march through the mainly Catholic town of Dungiven, County Londonderry, causing a riot
- 1972 - The Irish Republican Army invites British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Willie Whitelaw to 'Free Derry'; Whitelaw rejects offer and reaffirms his policy to not 'let part of the United Kingdom... default from the rule of law'
- 1974 - IMF establishes its "oil facility", a special fund for loans to nations whose balance of payments have been severely affected by high oil prices.
- 1977 - Convicted Martin Luther King assassin James Earl Ray recaptured
- 1978 - Israeli Defense Forces withdraw from Lebanon.

From KO Archives

Hurriyat Being Roped In For Mid-Term Polls: Omar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - National Conference president, Omar Abdullah, today said that the state was moving towards mid-term polls in view of the rap-idly changing political situation. He said that efforts were on to rope in the leadership of the Hurriyat Conference for the election which, according to him could be held either at the end of this year or the start of the next.

The NC chief attacked the PDP, describing it as a "branch of the Congress with headquar-ters in New Delhi" and held die present coalition government responsible for the death of Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah.

"The Assembly elections in the state would be announced anytime as the political situa-tion is witnessing a rapid change. We might have to plunge in the electoral battle anytime," Omar told party workers at session held in NC headquarters in memory of Mirza Muhammad Afzal Begig and Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah.

He said that efforts were be-ing made to persuade the Hurriyat leadership and other separatist groups to take part in the polls.

The N C president also launched a scathing attack on the moderate Hurriyat and other separatist leaders who are currently on a visit to Pakistan and Pakistan-controlled Kash-mir (PcK) for their "conflicting statements." Omar said after becoming a Union Minister, he had advised the Centre to allow the Hurriyat leaders to visit Pa-kistan to enable them to prevail upon the militant leadership there to stop bloodshed and help put an end to use of the gun in the state.

"In the Muzaffarabad as-sembly, the Hurriyat leaders talked of silencing the guns, but in a secret meeting with Syed Salahuddin, they advised the continuation of the role of the gun," the KNS quoted him as having said "They (Hurriyat leaders) have misled the Kashmiri people."

"What was the point in meeting Syed Salahuddin in se-cret when they had publicly an-nounced that they were going to talk to the militant leadership?" he asked.

"No political party, includ-ing the National Conference can claim to be the sole repre-sentative of the state," Omar said "The participa-tion of all political parties is essential in any negotiations aimed at resolving the Kashmir issue."

The NC Chief said the party leadership — Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Mirza Mohamad Afzal Beigh had given a roadmap about 60 years ago to resolve the Kashmir issue.

The ongoing peace talks be-tween India and Pakistan and the dialogue initiated by the two countries is part of that roadmap, he added.

"We had always urged the Indian and Pakistani leadership to resolve, the Kashmir issue through talks which also include the people of the state. Had they accepted our proposal, there would have been no violence and no bloodshed," Omar said.

"We would not have lost hundreds of youths and seen this beautiful place being destroyed. The two countries would have shown tremendous progress both socially and economically had they not been embroiled in the dispute," he added.

The NC President said his party had always favoured opening of all road links between the divided Kashmiris to enable the people to meet each other.

(Kashmir Observer, 13 June, 2005)

Email ID: dpmusgr@gmail.com Tel: 0194-2452498

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Srinagar
Convener District Health Society, Srinagar
Address: Block-A 3rd Floor Old Secretariat, Srinagar

PROVISIONAL SELECTION NOTIFICATION

Provisional Selection List of the candidates who had appeared for the posts of **ISM Pharmacist (NHM)** under the ambit of National Health Mission for District Srinagar vide this office interview notification No: CMO/NHM/SGR/20-21/341 Dated 04/06/2020.

S.No.	Name	Parentage/ Spouse	Address	Remarks
1	Syed Mubashir Aalam	Syed Manzoor-ul-Aalam	Rashan Har Nawakadal	Selected

Terms & Conditions :-

1. The selected candidates shall report to CMO Office Srinagar for joining along with all the documents in original within seven working days from the date of publication of this notification failing which the next candidate in the waiting list would be called for joining.
2. No separate call letters shall be issued to the candidates for the purpose.
3. The hiring/engagement is purely on contractual basis and shall have no claim for regularization.
4. The Candidates may note that if at any stage of the verification of their documents, it is found that he/she has submitted invalid/forged documents or have misrepresented information; he/she shall have no claim for the post, he/she have been selected.

No: CMO/NHM/SGR/20-21/379
Dated: 09-06-2020

Chief Medical Officer
Convener
District Health Society, Srinagar

DIPK-1633/20

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)
Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001

Advt. No. 01/2020

CSIR is looking for outstanding R&D professionals to head its prestigious national institutes

CSIR invites applications/nominations for the positions of **DIRECTOR of CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), Mysore, CSIR-Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI), Kolkata and CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune** in Level 15 of pay-matrix (Rs.1,82,200-2,24,100) plus allowances as applicable in CSIR.

For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed/complete advertisement No. 01/2020 on CSIR website www.csir.res.in. Applications/nominations may be sent alongwith complete bio-data and list of publications/patents etc. through email/by post to Director Recruitment Cell, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001 on or before **30.06.2020**. Email : drc@csir.res.in.

DAVP/ 36202/11/0003/2021

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR,
NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGAR)
Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub:- "Overhauling of 10 cusec VT pumping unit at Lift Irrigation Scheme Gundirosan".

Ref:- 1. This office extension notice 5 issued vide No. MIDS/Ts/490-94, Dated:-04-06-2020.
2. This office extension notice 4 issued vide No. MIDS/Ts/345-49, Dated:-28-05-2020.
3. This office extension notice 3 issued vide No. MIDS/Ts/269-73, Dated:-16-05-2020.
4. This office extension notice 2 issued vide No. MIDS/Ts/221-23, Dated:-09-05-2020.
5. This office extension notice 1 issued vide No. MIDS/Ts/158-61, Dated:- 28-04-2020.
6. This office Fresh Short term e-NIT No. 01 of 2020-21 to Short term e-NIT No. 33 of 2019-20.

EXTENSION NOTICE - 6

Once again due to no response to this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under:-

Clarification end Date	16/06/2020 at 14:00 hrs
Document down load / sale end Date	16 /06/2020 at 15:00 hrs
Bid submission end Date	16/06/2020 at 17:00 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	17/06/2020 at 14:00 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No. MIDS/Ts/ 597-601

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar
DIPK-1643/20

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR,
NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGAR)
Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub:- "Providing of Transformer Oil for Lift Irrigation Schemes".

Ref:- This office Short Term e-NIT No. 22 OF 2020-21, Dated:- 04-06-2020.

EXTENSION NOTICE - 1

Due to poor response to this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under:-

Clarification end Date	16/06/2020 at 15:00 hrs
Document down load / sale end Date	16 /06/2020 at 16:00 hrs
Bid submission end Date	16/06/2020 at 17:00 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	17/06/2020 at 14:00 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No. MIDS/Ts/ 602-06

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar
DIPK-1582/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Anantnag.
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

E-NIT NO: 01/EE/PMGSY/ANG OF 2020-21 dated 09/06/2020

Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Anantnag on behalf of Lt. Governor UT of J&K, invites **Item rate bids** in electronic tendering system for construction of road under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S. No	Name of Work with Package No. and Name of Division	Tendered Cost including GST Mand draft(Rs in lacs.)			Cost of document (Rs in lacs.)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.)	Time of completion	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid)	Class of contractor
		Construction Part	Maintenance Part	Total cost of work						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Restoration of road by way of providing and laying of 25 mm thick Semi Dense Bituminous Macadam on the following over DLP roads 1. Dathnag to Bochan (REW)(JK01-04) 2. Alhan Bala Km 9" RD 500 L046 to Jangdi (JK01-32) 3. Magam to Takia Magam (JK01-69) 4. Halikah to Choonthal (JK01-85) 5. Guridraman to Pannard (JK01-138) 6. L034 Soigund to Padden (JK01-217)	89.34	0.00	89.34	0.06	1.79	45 days	3rd	25-06-2020 At 10:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments/Plaint Holder

1. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersik.gov.in> from **11-06-2020 (10:00 AM) to 24-06-2020 upto (4:00 PM)**.
2. The Bids shall be deposited in **electronic format** on the website <http://pmgsytendersik.gov.in> from **11-06-2020 (10:00 AM) to 24-06-2020 upto 4:00 PM**. The bids uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened online on **25-06-2020 at 10:30 AM** in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The complete bidding process will be on line.
4. The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding GST. GST @12% shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issue of allotment.
5. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on **19-06-2020 at 11:00 AM** in the Office of Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Anantnag at K.P road near Masjidnoor Anantnag to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. **The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site of conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.**
6. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgsytenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in."
7. Bids must be accompanied by **cost of document** as mentioned in column 6 of above table and should be in the form of **Demand draft .The bid security should be in the form of CDR/FDR/BG from scheduled commercial as mentioned in Column 7 of above table and be pledged to the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Anantnag payable at Anantnag** and shall be valid at least for **90 days** from the date of opening of Technical bid.
8. **The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://pmgsytendersik.gov.in>.** This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly on line on same Web Site at the Office of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Anantnag, K.P road near Masjidnoor Anantnag, Kashmir.
10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Note:- The intending bidders are advised to study the entire bidding document before preparation and submission of their bids. This includes clause 3 (Eligible Bidders), 4 (Qualification of Bidders) of ITB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.

No: - EE/PMGSY/ANG/e-Tendering/134-67

Sd.
Executive Engineer
PMGSY (JKRRDA) Anantnag

Dated: 09 -06-2020

DIPK-1590/20

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



This state of affairs has inherently hobbled establishment politics in Kashmir, divesting it of any conviction or an ideological steadfastness. Its practitioners can't be outrightly supportive of the popular sentiment in Kashmir and nor can they stand forcefully for Kashmir's place within India. They have to constantly negotiate this divergence, winding up, as a result, neither here nor there.

Why Kashmir's Leadership has Abdicated at a Critical Time

RIYAZ WANI

Unionist parties held their last meeting on the eve of August 5, 2019 at senior Abdullah's Gupkar residence.

ON May 25, senior National Conference (NC) leader Aga Ruhullah publicly expressed his resentment over his party's continued silence over the revocation of Article 370 of India's Constitution, which granted autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir.

Ruhullah was angry over an article his colleague, Tanvir Sadiq, wrote in a local daily, urging New Delhi to let the local parties hold political activities. The article sought reconsideration of new domicile rules that for the first time have thrown open the citizenship of Jammu and Kashmir to outsiders, and restoration of high-speed mobile internet – the demands that represented a drastic climb-down from the party's opposition to the revocation of the autonomy.

"Revisit domicile law? Lift curbs on Internet? 'LET' political process ... run? Is that all what you are looking for in this reconciliation? If I am not reading (it) wrong, you are basically asking for 4G (internet) and THEIR 'PERMISSION' to let us start the political process? & then all is well?" Mehdi wrote on Twitter criticising Sadiq.

Establishment politics in Kashmir is no site for principles and ideology. It is no place for struggle and sacrifice. People don't join it for conviction or a cause"

Though the NC vice president Omar Abdullah later termed Sadiq's piece as his personal opinion, and reiterated his party's stand on Article 370, he stayed well short of spelling out a political course of action to resist the move, something a majority of people in the region want.

Omar was released from nearly eight months of detention on March 24, and that of his father, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, on March 13, the duo has been confronted with a mounting public pressure – mostly expressed through social media – to speak their minds about the withdrawal of the region's autonomy and lead a public resistance to it. But, in response, the father



and son have been meaningfully silent.

They have so far fended off the pressure by citing the urgent need to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. This excuse did work, but only until the Centre slipped in the domicile law opening the door to citizenship for outsiders in Jammu and Kashmir. This is when people began expecting them to respond. Though Omar and his party did slam the move, the phrasing of the response was seen as mild compared to the far-reaching implications of the domicile order.

Similarly, the rival Peoples Democratic Party, led by Mehbooba Mufti, and the other parties have come out with stock criticism of the move. To understand the muted response of the establishment parties to New Delhi's withdrawal of the region's autonomy, one needs to be aware of the contours of socio-political space in which they operate. Ever since the outbreak of the armed separatist movement in the region in 1989, the pro-establishment politics has been precariously caught between nodding to an endemic anti-India public sentiment and the need to owe allegiance to New Delhi.

This has created its own dilemmas for the politicians in the region – comic, if their fallout was not so messy. The more a political party tries to play to the sentiment in Kashmir, the more it is read as an unwelcome drift towards separatism in

New Delhi. And as a corollary, the more a party plays to New Delhi's expectations, the more it is inferred as a political compromise in Kashmir. So, it should be no surprise if some Kashmiri mainstream politicians talk autonomy and self-rule in Kashmir, governance in Jammu and rail against Pakistan in New Delhi.

This state of affairs has inherently hobbled establishment politics in Kashmir, divesting it of any conviction or an ideological steadfastness. Its practitioners can't be outrightly supportive of the popular sentiment in Kashmir and nor can they stand forcefully for Kashmir's place within India. They have to constantly negotiate this divergence, winding up, as a result, neither here nor there.

In comparison, separatist politics is uncomplicated – albeit, it exposes its adherents to harsh retribution from the state. In its existing practice, the separatism involves little negotiation or compromise. It enjoys a whole-hearted support from a predominant majority of people. People are ready to throw everything on the line for an apparently hopeless pursuit of its goal.

Mainstream politics, on the contrary, has a little more than an ad-hoc, utilitarian value. The people are not ideologically invested in it but engage with it as they need a political system that looks to day to day problems. Often, its practitioners

are seen as the betrayers of the local sentiment and the cause. As a result, they are exposed to grave personal risks. Several major politicians and numerous political workers have been killed by militants over the past three decades. And unlike separatist leaders or activists, whose suffering commands social respectability and their killing is uncritically elevated to martyrdom, when the adherents of establishment politics are attacked, that is viewed as a deserved comeuppance.

Establishment politics is thus no site for principles and ideology. It is no place for struggle and sacrifice. People don't join it for conviction or a cause. Their reasons to join are generally self-serving in nature: to enjoy a good life and some petty power. Such political parties may model themselves as a movement for a larger good, but, in practice, they are not fully in control of even the delivery of basic governance, their primary job. A significant proportion of the people who man these political outfits are opportunists. Their words are posturing, their deeds are phony. As for the high-sounding agendas of the parties, they are more of an electoral necessity than a political ideology. The self-rule and the autonomy – formulae of the PDP and the NC respectively for the Kashmir settlement – are the slogans that are used to pander to the Valley's predominantly separatist constituency when the two parties maintain an adversarial stance towards New Delhi.

This politics, as a result, doesn't lend itself to a fight for a larger cause. It offers deep structural impediments for such a pursuit: For its survival, it has to run with its local constituency and hunt with New Delhi. This has created a breed of leaders who defer to New Delhi's conditions and have, in turn, been shaped by these conditions. Facing a predicament like the one Kashmir is saddled with now, they would thus prefer silence over talk, and compromise over confrontation.

This is perhaps why, at a time when Kashmir more than ever needs a leadership, nobody is ready to step up to the plate.

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Riyaz Wani is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer.

How COVID-19 locked down kids' growth

LALIT RAIZADA | GULF NEWS

Someone would surreptitiously come, ring our doorbell, and then vanish. This would happen at any time of the day. I would go out to see the 'visitor' but there was none.

Like anybody else in my area, we are also locked down in our house now for more than two months due to the coronavirus pandemic. It was intriguing that even in the curfew-like atmosphere; somebody was playing mischief with us. It became irritating when the bell rang six-seven times in a day, often at odd hours. I decided to catch the culprit red-handed. And I did.

However, I was shocked to find that it was a little chap from my neighbourhood, eight-year-old Ricky. I could not believe it because he was known to be a much-disciplined boy of simple nature. How come this little boy had turned into a brat? I did not scold him rather I assured that I would not tell his parents. I made friends with him to find out what had transformed the otherwise quiet lad into a nuisance.

While a lockdown and social distancing have become a necessity, the fact remains that the confinement of not only youngsters but also elders is adversely affecting their well-being both mentally and physically.

It turned out that the severe restrictions imposed under the lockdown had virtually crippled an otherwise active boy. And he was not alone. The same was true of other lads in the vicinity. Ricky, along with his friends, used to go to the park for outdoor games.

All this has become a thing of the past. The lush green park has become a deserted place. The grass is hardly green and the main gate is locked with a chain. We do not hear the loud giggles, shouting and heated arguments among these young players anymore. As a matter of fact, the clampdown has forced people of all ages, the regular strollers, particularly, boys and girls, of recreation, the physical exercises so vital for health and growth.

Today, Ricky and his ilk cannot come out of their house without wearing a proper face mask and gloves for the fear of getting hauled up by the vigilant policemen patrolling the area and a reprimand for their parents. "So where do we go?" asked the exasperated boy.

No activity makes Ricky a dull boy

Ricky cribbed that going without any physical activity and confinement at home had turned him into a dull boy. He said he missed making mischief and that ringing doorbell was just giving him some fun.

We both stood at a distance from each other in the gallery outside my house chatting for quite some time. He asked something that took me by surprise, "Uncle, what did you do in your childhood when you had a long vacation like this?"

"In our time, we had three months long summer holidays," I said naughtily and his jaws dropped. "And how did you kill time?" he asked.

"We did not 'kill' time. We invested it to read a lot of comics, participated in kitchen activities like making pickles, sherbets and squashes, made a lot of drawings, climbed trees to pluck mangoes and played outdoors", I informed him. "Unlike you, we had no access to modern technology, no internet, no computers, no TVs or air conditioning, no mobile phones but we played with real friends, not the ones from the internet."

"Wow, what a unique generation you were," he said, wide-eyed.

I replied with a smile, "True, and a limited edition, too."

He ran back to his house as his mother came looking for him. But this got me thinking.

While a lockdown and social distancing have become a necessity, the fact remains that the confinement of not only youngsters but also elders is adversely affecting their well-being both mentally and physically. It is stunting the growth of the young ones at the age when they should have been bubbling with energy.

Today, they dread hauling up by 'police uncle' who are undoubtedly doing a nice job. Both sides have their own compulsions. The law enforcers' own kids are also craving for freedom of movement in the open as before. However, duty does not allow them to do what their kids want.

The Shape of Asia's New Cold War

YOON YOUNG-KWAN

In retrospect, the decision by the Communist Party of China (CPC) to impose a new security law on Hong Kong seems to have been preordained. Historically, rising powers always try to expand their spheres of geopolitical influence once they pass a certain stage of economic development. It was only a matter of time before China would do away with the "one country, two systems" arrangement and impose its laws and norms on Hong Kong – a territory that it considers integral to the motherland.

From China's perspective, America's decadence and decline over the last 12 years – from the 2008 financial crisis to Donald Trump's presidency – have given it an open invitation to accelerate its strategic expansion. Though Chinese President Xi Jinping has long assured the world that the Pacific Ocean is big enough to accommodate both China and the United States, his actual policies have often suggested otherwise. In addition to militarizing the South China Sea, his signature Belt and Road Initiative aims to make China the nodal point for the entire Eurasian landmass.

Now that Xi has decided to accept nothing less than Hong Kong's full subservience, he will likely also challenge the status quo with respect to Taiwan, trusting that an isolationist, distracted Trump administration will do nothing. But the US has taken note of Xi's aggressiveness. After two decades of hoping that China would become a responsible stakeholder in the world economy, US policy-

makers have finally decided that this will not happen. Since the CPC's March 2018 decision to abolish presidential term limits, the US foreign-policy establishment has abandoned any expectation of normative convergence between Xi's China and the West.

Meanwhile, with Trump's trade war having already inaugurated a new, increasingly antagonistic phase in Sino-American relations, the COVID-19 pandemic has lent additional momentum to a more confrontational US policy toward China. Thus, a strategic consensus has emerged across Asia that the region will be the central "battlefield" in a new cold war that has already begun.

To understand the nature of the coming conflict, Asian leaders – along with the rest of the world – should focus on three different but interrelated domains of the Sino-American rivalry: politico-military, economic, and ideological.

At the politico-military level, the key question is whether China will seek to expel the US from Asia, thereby becoming the region's unchallenged hegemon. Short of that, China will try to weaken US security commitments in South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, and within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

But if the CPC's aggressive approach mounts, it might impel neighboring countries to form a new anti-China coalition, aligned in some way with the US. Should that happen, it would become extremely difficult for China to establish peaceful coexistence with the US. Worse, Asia's new cold war would be at risk of degenerating into an unintended hot war.

The second area of concern is economic. Any confrontation at the politi-

co-military level is bound to accelerate a decoupling process, transforming the region's positive-sum economy into a negative-sum one. Many Asian countries have benefited economically from deeper ties with China, even as they continue to depend on the US for their security. For these countries, a full-fledged break from China would be especially costly, complicated, and dangerous. That will make them likely to resist US efforts to hasten a comprehensive decoupling, in favor of a more limited approach that targets sensitive security-related and high-tech industries.

Uncertainty about the US position doesn't help matters. Asian policymakers have been left wondering when the US will share a clear, comprehensive vision of the post-decoupling era that it seeks. The Trump administration has indicated that it wants to create a new "Economic Prosperity Network" in the region. But it remains to be seen if this arrangement would be governed by the same unilateral, transactional, "America First" approach that has defined all other US policies under Trump.

If so, Asian governments will be less inclined to sign up. By squandering much of Asia's goodwill toward America over the past three years, Trump has significantly reduced the scope for a meeting of minds on security issues.

While the politico-military dimension is the new cold war's determining factor, and economics the dependent factor, the ideological confrontation will play a reinforcing role. Again, the key question is how far China will go in promoting its model of "authoritarian capitalism" as a "superior" alternative to lib-

eral democracy.

If China pushes its model as aggressively as the Soviet Union once did, the new cold war will have all the ingredients – and all the myriad tensions – of the original Cold War. The more assertive China is in selling its own model, the more likely democratic countries will be to unite against it in the name of their own ideological system.

To be sure, the world's leading democracies have not acquitted themselves well in the current crisis. But democratic principles – such as a respect for human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law – are universal values that still attract broad-based support among Asians, particularly when compared to authoritarianism. China's inherently extractive state will struggle to create the conditions in which individuals can realize their full potential, and that structural limitation will stand in the way of its aspiration to supersede the US as the world's most advanced economy.

It remains to be seen precisely how the three dimensions of the conflict will interact. Asia's leaders will need to be prudent, recognize that the situation is fluid, and plan for different scenarios. And it certainly wouldn't hurt the US or China to show a bit more humility. That character trait, sadly, does not come to mind when one thinks of Trump or Xi. But it will be absolutely essential for avoiding an accidental catastrophe.

Project Syndicate.

Yoon Young-kwan, a former minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Korea, is Professor Emeritus of International Relations at Seoul National University.

Protecting Midwives and Mothers During the Pandemic

SALLY PAIRMAN AND ROOPA DHATT

There also is mounting evidence that the over-medicalization of childbirth has increased during the pandemic. The World Health Organization recommends that caesarean sections be performed only when medically justified, but there is growing concern from health-care professionals and the wider global health community about the number of unnecessary and inappropriate procedures. This troubling pattern suggests a weakening of women's right to make informed decisions regarding childbirth and their overall health.

As the world struggles to control COVID-19, the global health workforce is under increasing strain – and woman-centered, midwife-led care is more at risk than ever.

The current crisis is stretching health-care facilities to the limit, as shortages of both staff and resources place intense pressure on services. Harrowing accounts from midwives on the front line highlight human-rights concerns, the over-medicalization of birth, and growing distress among them and pregnant women alike. In the battle to contain COVID-19, care for mothers-to-be has become a low priority.

Midwives are vital to the health and protection of women in childbirth. In 2017, an estimated 295,000 women worldwide died from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth – the vast majority of them in low-income and lower-middle-income countries. Most of these deaths were preventable. Throughout this health emergency, we must ensure that midwife-led care is maintained as far as possible.

As it stands, midwives in all regions are facing acute shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other infection-control supplies, including hand sanitizer, which means they must face painful and traumatic decisions. Should they risk their own families' health in order to care for women in childbirth? How should they provide assistance without PPE, given that they are unable to maintain a safe distance from the women in their care? Is it better to provide normal care anyway, even at the risk of infecting their patients?

There also is mounting evidence that the over-medicalization of childbirth has increased during the pandemic. The World Health Organization recommends that caesarean sections be performed only when medically justified, but there is growing concern from health-care professionals and the wider global health community about the number of unnecessary and inappropriate procedures. This troubling pattern suggests a weakening of women's right to make informed decisions regarding childbirth and their overall health.

Where women are given the space to decide, they are increasingly choosing to give birth at home with the support of a midwife, or in a midwife-led unit, rather than in a hospital. This shift reflects not only fear of COVID-19, but also many women's realization that they can opt for more decentralized services that cater to their needs. In the case of low-risk pregnancies, national governments should support this decision.

But decentralizing childbirth poses its own challenges. In particular, we must provide adequate resources to support it, and respect and recognize the work carried out in homes to ensure the safety of pregnant women. Increased pandemic-related concerns regarding pregnancy have made the midwife's role in providing antenatal care even more important. In many cases, however, home services are unrecognized and unpaid, and continue even during PPE shortages, putting both midwives and patients at risk.

Many have been shocked by our health-care sys-



tems' lack of basic resources and inadequate capacity in the face of a global pandemic. But such shortcomings should come as no surprise. Health-care staff are overworked and underpaid, have inadequate training opportunities, and are subject to restrictive policies. For example, midwives often are not recognized as frontline health-care workers.

These problems are still more acute in midwifery, which, even before the pandemic, had long struggled to gain recognition as an autonomous profession – and to secure access to the funding, resources, and training that goes with it. And now the failure to invest in maternal health services, and to pay women fairly for their contributions to the health sector, has weakened the global response to COVID-19 and put women at greater risk of infection, especially in lower-middle-income countries. There, traditional birth attendants are trained and have basic equipment, but are not considered part of the paid health workforce. As a result, they neither receive adequate PPE nor can afford to stop working during the pandemic.

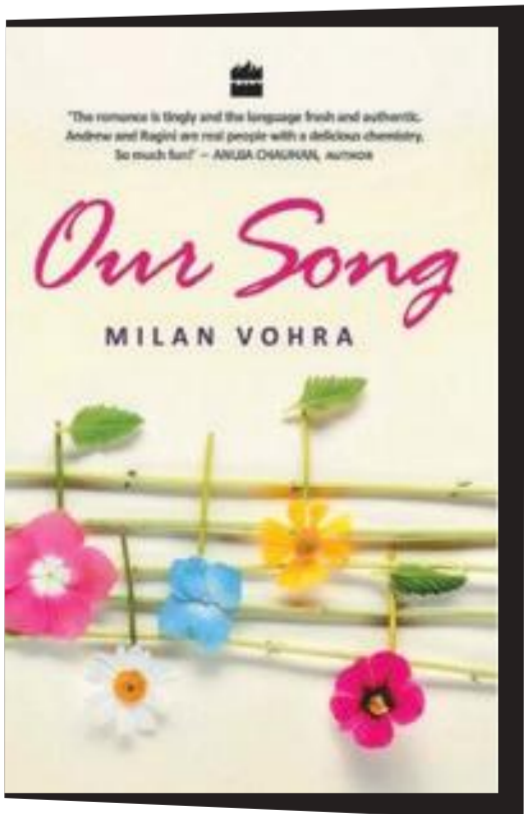
To keep midwives safe and enable them to provide women-centered care, governments, international donor agencies, and philanthropic organizations must make funding for maternal health services a high priority. That includes supporting community-based care, which is crucial at a time when facility-based services are declining. Without such assistance, midwives will struggle to reach the most vulnerable.

The international community must support the female health workforce and allocate funds directly to organizations that represent midwives as front-line maternal health-care providers. We must trust women at the center of health-service delivery to use funding as they see fit, and to invest in the protection and resources they need to ensure the continued safety of our communities. (Project Syndicate)

Sally Pairman is Chief Executive of the International Confederation of Midwives. Roopa Dhatt is Founder of Women in Global Health.

FICTION: Song Of Love

NAWAL AAMIR KHANJUNE



Our Song
By Milin Vohra
HarperCollins, India
ISBN: 978-9353572754
240pp.

Romance is probably the hardest genre to write (and for some, to read). The average reader of romance is discerning, and not easily impressed. This audience expects several things in order to be fully satisfied with the story, including realistic characters, reasonable backdrops, rational plotline and, of course, a happy ending. It is quite rare to find a love story which ticks all the boxes, or even half of them, but Milan Vohra — India's "first Mills and Boon writer" and author of *The Love Asana* and *Tick-Tock, We're 30* — manages a fair number of ticks with *Our Song*. As a South Asian, I, quite frankly, was not very sure about an Indian romance novel (Bollywood is to be blamed), but this book defied many, if not all, of my presumptions.

The story swirls around struggling music composer Ragini, and Andrew, head of a big pharmaceutical company. Ragini is a charming and vivacious girl who can also, at times, be imprudent and rash. Despite being described as a stereotypical "creative type", she comes across as unique, yet relatable in her own way. Her relationship with music is the highlight of the whole book and her creative process — she breaks into a beat whenever or wherever it dawns upon her, writes notations on scraps of tissue paper, clacks spoons and sings out loud — is endearing.

With her unfettered curly hair, mismatched colourful clothes and jaunty, unpretentious personality, Ragini does not care the least bit what people think of her and is not afraid to speak her mind. However, attractive and amiable as she is, her recklessness often lands her in trouble. She is in strained financial circumstances and carries the baggage of a perilous past, but maintains her exuberance and is never seen brooding. She talks about her past in a manner which does not only evoke sympathy, but also implies that she emerged from it all a stronger person. Even in her most vulnerable moments, Ragini affirms that, in spite of her imprudence, she is wise enough to steer herself out of the dark and make reasonable choices for herself.

In character development, Ragini's character is almost flawless in its clarity. The same, however, cannot be said for Andrew. He

is a cold, "typical corporate type" with strong work ethics, is highly conscientious and belongs to the love-makes-you-weak lot — we are reminded of this several times. Andrew is (conveniently) half-British, hence the blue eyes, black curls and — as Vohra mentions in her acknowledgements — bears a strong resemblance to a young Robert Downey Jr., except that Andrew is six feet tall.

It seems as if Vohra is trying to infuse various contrasting traits in his personality to make him more likeable and not the standard apathetic, rich and handsome hero of generic romances. Thus, he is domineering, rude, stubborn, unreasonable, utterly unsentimental and yet, at the same time, caring, empathetic, gentle, generous, inspiring and

hopelessly in love. It could be assumed that the character is heavily layered, but the problem is that these traits don't blend together very well and Andrew is almost unrecognisable at various points in the story.

A desi romance novel almost manages to pull off a genre most South Asian writers do not venture into

Ragini and Andrew's first meeting is nothing short of melodramatic: she is running late for her interview at Livin'On, a big pharma company that needs a song composed for its anniversary celebrations. Stuck in Bangalore traffic, she decides to leave her taxi and walk and, as a result, one of her sandals breaks. Hopeless and exasperated, she ventures too close to the road and is pulled back by a man who rebukes her for — as he assumes — trying to kill herself.

This man is, of course, our hero Andrew. A baffled Ragini demands Andrew put her down, only to realise that the man is actually "Andy Zot", a popular senior at a school she attended for a short while. After a long, absurd argument, Ragini gets on his bike to be dropped off at Livin'On — although it's unclear why this supposedly rich man rides a bike.

At the company office, she learns that the

owner, Anand Arya, who was supposed to interview her, has left. This infuriates her further and, after a series of thoughtless actions, she discovers that Andrew is Anand's son. His behaviour, meanwhile, undergoes a dramatic change, from concerned to cold, in complete contrast to what was witnessed earlier, enraging Ragini to the extent that she storms out of his office, dumping his business card in the bin and vowing never to return again.

But, as anticipated, Ragini returns because she needs the money. She is offered the project on the condition that she spends two months observing the staff of the company, whom Andrew seems to hold extremely dear. It is a strange, perplexing condition, but Ragini accepts. This subsequently takes our

protagonists to the breathtaking landscapes of Simla and Kasauli, where romance sparks between our two protagonists so vastly different from each other.

Ragini's music, woven so deeply into her personality, is perhaps the most enchanting aspect of the story. Through her constant mention of the numerous ragas and melodies roving in and out of her mind, even a musically illiterate person such as myself can gain an insight into the wondrous minds of composers and songwriters. She spreads hope with her song — also titled 'Hope' — and, clichéd as this sounds, enchants Andrew to the extent that he starts viewing life and love in a different way.

South Asian writers have always written beautifully in most genres, but lighter ones — such as modern romance and comedy — are not produced as much as the others. It is refreshing to see authors such as Vohra bringing in much more diversity to our literature, reaching out to the younger generation. For someone fond of a good rom-com, this book is certainly one to pick.

The reviewer is a student and freelance writer

Dawn

UNCERTAINTY OF PANDEMIC Can Make People Feel Paranoid: Study



Agencies

NEW YORK: In times of unexpected uncertainty, such as the sudden appearance of a global pandemic like Covid-19, people may be more prone to paranoia, warn researchers.

Paranoia is a key symptom of serious mental illness, marked by the belief that other people have malicious intentions. But it also manifests in varying degrees in the general population.

"When our world changes unexpectedly, we want to blame that volatility on somebody, to make sense of it, and perhaps neutralize it," study senior author Philip Corlett from the Yale University (US), said in a paper published in the journal eLife.

"Historically in times of upheaval, such as the great fire of ancient Rome in 64 C.E. or the 9/11 terrorist attacks, paranoia and conspiratorial thinking increased," Corlett added.

The prevailing theory is that paranoia stems from an inability to accurately assess social threats.

But the research team hypothesized that paranoia is instead rooted in a more basic learning mechanism that is triggered by uncertainty, even in the absence of social threat.

"We think of the brain as a prediction machine; unexpected change, whether social or not, may constitute a type of threat -- it limits the brain's ability to make predictions," said study researcher Erin Reed.

"Paranoia may be a response to uncertainty in general, and social interactions can be particularly complex and difficult to predict," Reed added.

In a series of experiments, the research team asked participants with different degrees of paranoia to play a card game in which the best choices for success were changed secretly.

People with little or no paranoia were slow to assume that the best choice had changed.

However, those with paranoia expected even more volatility in the game. They changed their choices capriciously -- even after a win.

The researchers then increased the

levels of uncertainty by changing the chances of winning halfway through the game without telling the participants.

This sudden change made even the low-paranoia participants behave like those with paranoia, learning less from the consequences of their choices.

In a related experiment, the research team trained rats, a relatively asocial species, to complete a similar task where the best choices of success changed.

Rats who were administered methamphetamine -- known to induce paranoia in humans -- behaved just like paranoid humans.

They, too, anticipated high volatility and relied more on their expectations than learning from the task.

The research team then used a mathematical model to compare choices made by rats and humans while performing these similar tasks.

The results from the rats that received methamphetamine resembled those of humans with paranoia, researchers found.

■ WHEN OUR WORLD CHANGES UNEXPECTEDLY, we want to blame that volatility on somebody, to make sense of it, and perhaps neutralize it,"

Remdesivir, Tocilizumab Considered For 'Restricted Use' On Severely-Ill Covid-19 Patients

Press Trust Of India

Anti-viral drug remdesivir and tocilizumab, an immunomodulator, are being considered for "restricted use" on severely ill COVID-19 patients on "emergency and compassionate grounds", according to revised clinical management guidelines to be released soon.

The much-touted anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine will continue to be used while azithromycin may be dropped from the treatment protocol, sources in the know of the developments told PTL.

A clinical management guideline issued on March 31 had recommended the use of hydroxychloroquine in combination with azithromycin on

COVID-19 patients who require ICU management.

"Since COVID-19 is a new disease and there is no drug or vaccine for it as of now, treatment protocols are being revised from time to time based on emerging evidences," a source said.

Tocilizumab, an immunomodulatory drug that modifies the immune system or its functioning, will be used on an experimental basis. Based on evidence, some more drugs to be used in combination with hydroxychloroquine may be added to the protocol, but no consensus has been reached regarding them as yet, the source said.

The new clinical management guidelines for COVID-19 is in the process of being finalised by the experts of the National



Task Force on COVID-19, which last held its meeting on Sunday.

India's drug regulator had last week granted US pharma giant Gilead Sciences the marketing authorisation for its drug remdesivir for "restricted emergency use" on hospitalised COVID-19 in the country, sources said.

The approval process for remdesivir was accelerated in view of the emergency situation and the unmet need for medicines in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

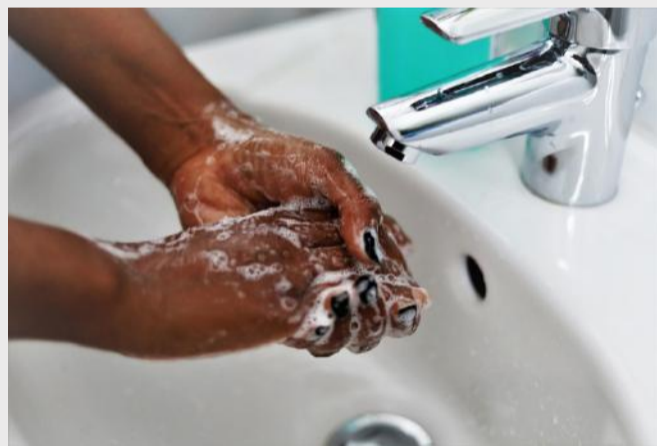
"This medicine, which is administered in the form of an injection, has been approved to be sold by retail on the pre-

scription of specialists for use in a hospital or in institutional set-up only. It has been approved for use for a maximum of five days," a source said.

India currently does not manufacture remdesivir. The four companies -- Hetero, Jubilant Life Sciences, Cipla and Mylan NV -- with which Gilead Sciences Inc have entered into non-exclusive licensing agreements are still awaiting permission from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for manufacturing and distribution remdesivir in the country.

Remdesivir has been issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19 illness.

Study Finds Flame Retardants Another Reason To Wash Hands



Agencies

ONTARIO: Harmful flame retardants may be lurking on your hands and cell phone, according to a recent study. Published in Environmental Science & Technology Letters, the researchers found that halogenated flame retardants added to plastic TV cases can move from the TV to indoor air and dust, to hands, and then to cell phones and other hand-held electronic devices.

Once on your cell phone, that surface provides an ongoing source of exposure to these chemicals each time you touch your cell phone. "It's well-known that viruses are transferred between surfaces and hands," said co-author Miriam Diamond, a Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Toronto.

"Our study shows that toxic chemicals like flame retardants do the same. That's another reason we should all wash our hands often and well," the professor added. Halogenated flame retardants, such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers, are known to pose a health risk to children. Previous studies have found that exposure to these chemicals can cause lower IQ in children and behavioural problems. The authors were surprised to find higher levels of almost all halogenated flame retardants, all organophosphate flame retardants, and phthalate

plasticizers on the surfaces of cell phones and other hand-held electronic devices like tablets, compared to non-hand-held devices like desktop computers.

This included finding higher levels of long-banned polybrominated diphenyl ethers on new cell phones than on the surfaces of older desktop computers. The researchers suggest that these old chemicals got to the new phones by transfer from hands. Why are TVs a source of flame retardants? The answer lies in the odd story of old "instant-on" cathode ray tube TVs manufactured in the 1970s.

This technology, which involved warming the cathode ray tube so that the TV would immediately project an image when turned on, resulted in several hundred TV fires in the 1970s. The response was to recommend flammability standards that led to large amounts of flame retardants added to the outside casings of the TVs.

However, those same levels of flame retardants continued to be used -- as much as a quarter of the weight of the plastic case -- even after the industry moved to current TVs that pose a minimal fire risk. Thus, recently manufactured TVs contain high levels of unnecessary and harmful flame retardants. We are exposed because the flame retardants are not bonded to the cases, but escape over time to contaminate our indoor environments.

'Kidneys Deteriorate With Age, Regardless Of Health'

Agencies

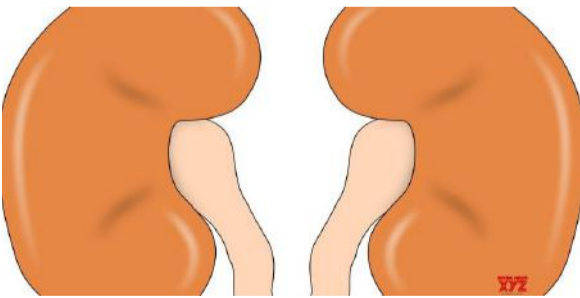
LONDON: Our kidney function deteriorates with age, even if people do not have any other diseases, say researchers.

Loss of kidney function is something that happens to all humans and is, thus, a way to determine ageing in general.

For the findings, published in the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology (JASN), the research team picked nearly 3,000 people in Norway, Germany and Iceland.

They examined the kidney function of a group of people between the ages of 50 and 70, and two groups of people between the ages of 70 to 95, to discover how the kidney function develops.

"What we see is that what happens in our kidneys when we age is representative of all the other things that happen in our bodies. The kidney function deteriorates, not because we get ill, but as part of age-



ing," said study author Bjorn Odvar Eriksen from UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

The research team examined many factors that can play a part as to why some of us experience larger loss of kidney function than others.

One of the groups that have participated in the study consists of over 1600 people and stems from The Tromso Study, which is Norway's most comprehensive and best participated population study throughout 40 years.

This group has been through the different examinations three times; between 2007 to 2009, 2013 to 2015, and 2018 to 2020.

The researchers used a precise method of measuring kidney function.

They injected a substance into the blood veins that only separates into the kidneys, and let a few hours pass before they measure how much of the substance remains in the blood.

According to the researchers, this gives a measure of the kidney's ability to remove toxins and waste products.

Eriksen explained that more people may experience loss of kidney function as it becomes more common to survive diseases like cancer and heart and vascular diseases.

Drinking Fruit Juice Can Have Long Term Dietary Benefits, Says Study

Agencies

NEW YORK- Drinking 100 per cent fruit juice early in life was associated with healthier dietary patterns in later childhood without adversely impacting weight gain, say researchers.

The study, published in the BMC Nutrition, found that consumption of 100 per cent fruit juice was associated with higher intakes of whole fruit and total fruit as well as better diet quality through childhood and into middle adolescence.

"This research showed that children who consumed about 1.5 cups of fruit juice per day during the pre-school years tended to maintain healthier diets into adolescence than children who drank less than half cup per day," said study researcher Lynn L Moore from the Boston University, US.

"In addition, over 10 years of follow-up, juice consumption within the range typically consumed by these children (one-two cups per day), was not associated with excess weight gain during childhood," Moore added.

For the findings, the research team tracked diet records as well as the height and weight data, from a group of 100 children (age 3-6) and



followed them for a decade.

Whole and total fruit consumption was assessed using recommendations from Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) at early age. The researcher found that pre-schoolers with higher intakes of 100 per cent fruit juice (one cup/day) had significantly higher intakes of whole fruit and total fruit at 14-17 years of age than those children who consumed little juice less than half cup per day. Pre-schoolers who drank 100 per cent fruit juice were nearly four times as likely to meet current 'Dietary Guideline' recommendations for whole and total fruit intake during adolescence than those pre-schoolers with low intakes. The study showed that those children with higher fruit juice intake during pre-school years had significantly higher diet quality scores than those children with lower juice intake at all ages.

Twitter Removes China, Russia And Turkey “State-Linked” Accounts

Agencies

Hong Kong, China: Twitter on Friday said it had removed tens of thousands of “state linked” accounts used by China, Russia and Turkey to push their own propaganda, sow misinformation or attack critics.

By far the biggest network uncovered was linked to China, the US social media giant said, comprised of a “highly engaged core” of 23,750 accounts that was boosted by a further 150,000 “amplifier” accounts.

The Turkish network was made up of 7,340 accounts while the Russian group was 1,152 strong.

All accounts and their content have been removed from Twitter but have been placed on an archive database for researchers.

Twitter said the Chinese network was detected with the help of systems it used to previously delete state-linked accounts last August at the height of huge and often violent pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

The current network had “failed to achieve considerable traction” but was “involved in a range of manipulative and coordinated activities”.

“They were tweeting predominantly in Chinese languages and spreading geopolitical narratives favorable to the Communist Party of China, while continuing to push

deceptive narratives about the political dynamics in Hong Kong,” Twitter wrote in its analysis.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) -- a Canberra based think-tank -- analysed the dataset ahead of the announcement and said the network was primarily looking to sway views within the global Chinese diaspora.

As well as pushing Beijing’s narrative on the Hong Kong protests, the network did the same for the coronavirus pandemic and criticising Taiwan.

Some of the group also later “pivoted” to the US government’s response to seething racial injustice protests “to create the perception of moral equivalence with the suppression of protest in Hong Kong,” ASPI wrote.

“While the Chinese Communist Party won’t allow the Chinese people to use Twitter, our analysis shows it is happy to use it to sow propaganda and disinformation internationally,” Fergus Hanson, director of ASPI’s cyber centre, wrote.

Twitter -- along with YouTube, Google and Facebook -- is banned in China, which uses a “Great Firewall” to scrub its internet and censor negative information.

In recent years Beijing has pushed to be much more visible on such companies with state media and ambassadors embracing platforms that regular Chinese citizens cannot access.



Not set in stone: Statues fall as Europe reexamines its past

Agencies

London: From Confederate monuments in the United States to statues of British slave traders, memorials erected in honour of historical figures have become a focus of protests around the world.

The death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers has sparked a reexamination of rigid injustices and inequalities underpinning many countries’ histories that often were exalted in stone or bronze.

A look at some contested monuments across Europe:

BRITAIN

EDWARD COLSTON — The toppling of a statue of the 17th-century slave trader in the port city of Bristol on Sunday reignited debate in Britain about who deserves a permanent public memorial. Colston built a fortune transporting more than 80,000 enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean before leaving his money to charity. His name adorns streets and buildings in Bristol, which was once the U.K.’s biggest port for slave ships. The statue has been pulled out of the harbour where protesters dumped it and will be placed in a museum.

CECIL RHODES -- The

Victorian imperialist served as prime minister of the Cape Colony in southern Africa and made a fortune from gold and diamond mines where miners laboured in brutal conditions. He was an education benefactor whose legacy includes Oxford University’s Rhodes scholarships for international students. His statue was removed from the University of Cape Town in South Africa in 2015 after students led a “Rhodes Must Fall” campaign. A similar campaign is seeking to remove a statue of Rhodes from Oxford’s Oriel College.

HENRY DUNDAS -- The late 18th-century Scottish politician was responsible for delaying Britain’s abolition of the slave trade by 15 years until 1807. During that time, more than half a million enslaved Africans were trafficked across the Atlantic. Campaigners want his statue removed from atop its column in Edinburgh’s St. Andrew Square. There are also calls to rename Dundas Street, a major thoroughfare in the Canadian city of Toronto.

ROBERT MILLIGAN -- Authorities in London this week removed a statue of Milligan, an 18th-century merchant, who owned two sugar plantations in Jamaica with more than 500 slaves, from its perch

in the city’s docklands.

ROBERT BADEN-POWELL — Officials plan to remove a statue of the founder of the Scouts movement from the quayside in Poole, southern England, out of concern it may be a target for protesters. Like many Englishmen of his time, Baden-Powell held racist views. He also expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler.

Authorities in London and many other U.K. cities have announced plans to review all statues, street names and other monuments to see whether they reflect modern values and the country’s current diversity. This is sure to lead to fiery debate. Some have called for the removal of statues of WILLIAM GLADSTONE, the reforming 19th-century prime minister whose father was one of the biggest slave-owners in the British West Indies. Gladstone defended slave owners and sought compensation for them when slavery was abolished.

Even national hero WINSTON CHURCHILL is a contentious figure. Britain’s wartime prime minister is revered by many in the U.K. as the man who led the country to victory against Nazi Germany. But he was also a staunch defender of the British Empire and expressed racist views.

Pandemic Risks Pushing Millions More Into Child Labour: UN

Agencies

Geneva, Switzerland: Millions of children could be pushed into work by the coronavirus crisis, the UN said Friday as it braced for the first rise in child labour in two decades.

In a joint brief, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, the UN children’s agency, noted that the number of children locked in child labour had declined by 94 million since 2000.

But the UN agencies warned that “the COVID-19 pandemic poses very real risks of backtracking.”

Friday’s report pointed out that the crisis would likely cause a significant rise in poverty.

According to the World Bank, the number of people in extreme poverty could po-

tentially skyrocket by up to 60 million this year alone.

“As the pandemic wreaks havoc on family incomes, without support, many could resort to child labour,” ILO chief Guy Ryder said in a statement.

The relation between swelling poverty and a surge in child labour appears clear, the report said, pointing to studies from some countries indicating that a one-percent increase in poverty leads to at least a 0.7-percent rise in child labour.

The report also stressed that the crisis could push children already working to put in longer hours under worsening conditions.

Others could be forced into the worst forms of labour, seriously threatening their health and safety, it said.

‘Coping mechanism’

The brief pointed out that children who lose one or both parents during the coronavirus crisis could be forced to step in as breadwinners or find themselves more vulnerable to exploitation.

Girls, it warned, were particularly vulnerable to exploitation in agriculture and domestic work.

“In times of crisis, child labour becomes a coping mechanism for many families,” UNICEF chief Henrietta Fore said in the statement.

The agencies voiced alarm at mounting evidence that child labour has risen as schools have closed during the pandemic.

They noted that temporary school closures were now affecting more than one billion pupils in over 130 countries.

Malaysia pulls out of Haj due to pandemic

Agencies

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia on Thursday pulled out of Hajj over coronavirus fears days after neighbouring Indonesia, the world’s biggest Muslim-majority nation, also withdrew.

Millions travel from around the world to Saudi Arabia every year to perform the haj, a ritual that every Muslim must do once in their lives if able.

The virus pandemic, which has killed more than 400,000 people worldwide, has thrown the end-of-July celebration into doubt, although Riyadh is yet to announce a decision on whether it will proceed.

Religious Affairs Minister Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri said it was not safe for the 31,600 pilgrims from Malaysia who had been due to go this year to take part due to the virus.

“This was a heavy decision to make,” he said, adding that those affected would be able to go on the hajj next year instead.

In Malaysia, a country of 32 million where about 60 per cent are Muslims, the devout typically wait for years for the opportunity to perform the hajj.

Jakarta’s decision last

week to withdraw removed the largest contingent of pilgrims, more than 220,000 Indonesians had been due to take part. Malaysia’s virus outbreak has

“The virus pandemic, which has killed more than 400,000 people worldwide, has thrown the end-of-July celebration into doubt, although Riyadh is yet to announce a decision on whether it will proceed.”

been relatively mild, with authorities reporting more than 8,000 cases and 118 deaths.

In contrast, Saudi Arabia has seen over 112,000 infections and 819 deaths, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally.

It has already suspended the year-round “umrah” pilgrimage to Islam’s holiest cities, Makkah and Madina.

Trump Considering Suspending H-1B Visas Amid Massive Unemployment

Agencies

Washington: US President Donald Trump is considering suspending a number of employment visas including the H-1B, most sought-after among Indian IT professionals, in view of the massive unemployment in America due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a media report.

number of Indians on the H-1B visas have lost their jobs and are headed back home during the coronavirus pandemic.

The White House, however, said that no final decision has been made and the administration is considering various proposals.

“The administration is currently evaluating a wide range of options, formulated by career experts, to protect



The proposed suspension could extend into the government’s new fiscal year beginning October 1, when many new visas are issued. The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday, quoting unnamed administration officials.

“That could bar any new H-1B holder outside the country from coming to work until the suspension is lifted, though visa holders already in the country are unlikely to be affected,” the daily reported.

H-1B is the most coveted foreign work visas for technology professionals from India.

Such a decision by the Trump administration is likely to have an adverse impact on thousands of Indian IT professionals. Already a large

American workers and job seekers especially disadvantaged and underserved citizens - but no decisions of any kind have been made,” White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said in a statement.

In addition to the H-1B visas, the suspension could apply to the H-2B visa for short-term seasonal workers, the J-1 visa for short-term workers including camp counselors and au pairs and the L-1 visa for internal company transfers, the financial daily reported.

Meanwhile, the US Chambers of Commerce CEO Thomas Donohue on Thursday wrote a letter to Trump, expressing concern over his reported move on temporary work visas.

NEWS MAKERS

“Go Back To Your Bunker”: Seattle Mayor Hits Back At Trump

Seattle, United States: Seattle’s mayor told Donald Trump to “Go back to your bunker” Thursday, escalating a spat after the president threatened to intervene over a police-free autonomous zone protesters have set up in the western US city.

The reference to a “bunker” was a nod to reports Trump was rushed by Secret Service agents to a secure area in the White House as demonstrations against racism and police brutality sparked by the death of George Floyd reached the president’s residence.

Trump sparked the spat when he threatened to intervene in the neighborhood in Seattle dubbed “Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone,” or CHAZ, which was agreed upon by demonstrators and the city’s



police department.

“Take back your city NOW. If you don’t do it, I will,” Trump warned mayor Jenny Durkan and Washington state governor Jay Inslee -- both Democrats -- in a tweet late Wednesday, calling the protesters “domestic terrorists” who have taken over Seattle.

“This is not a game. These ugly Anarchists must be stooped (sic) IMMEDIATELY. MOVE FAST,” he continued in another tweet.

Mayor Jenny Durkan replied, urging Trump to “make

us all safe. Go back to your bunker”, with Inslee joining in the Twitter mockery of Trump.

“A man who is totally incapable of governing should stay out of Washington state’s business. ‘Stoop’ tweeting,” Inslee wrote.

Protests have taken place across the country following the death of Floyd, an unarmed black man killed in police custody in Minneapolis on May 25.

Officials in Seattle have denied reports that left-wing activists are behind the setting up of the autonomous zone.

‘Peaceful as hell’

In the CHAZ area Thursday there were tents with supplies for volunteer medics as well as free gourmet food donated by local restaurants, along with fruit, snacks, and water bottles for the taking.

Pakistan’s PTV News fires 2 journalists for showing Kashmir as part of India

Pakistan’s state-run PTV News has fired two journalists for airing an “incorrect map” of the country in which Kashmir was shown as a part of India.

The incident, which occurred on June 6, was raised in Parliament on June 8 after which Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani referred the issue to the Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting to take action.

The Pakistan Television (PTV) management on June 7 said on social media that it was probing the issue and actions would be taken against those responsible for the blunder.

The hammer fell on June 10 after it sacked two employees.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Ltd
Office of the Executive Engineer

Transmission Line Maintenance Division-I (TLMD-I), Bemina, Srinagar

Ph. No. 0194-2492427, Email: xen-tlmd1@jk.gov.in/ xentlmd1psd@gmail.com/ tlmd1tech@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE

Due to poor response, the last date of sale/download, receipt/submission and the bid-opening of below mentioned NIT is extended as under:

- i. Last Date of sale/downloading & receipt/submission of e-Bid Document of the below mentioned tender (Extended) : **18.06.2020 upto 04:00 PM**
- ii. Last Date for submission of Hard copy of Technical and Commercial Bid documents (complete) along with original instruments of EMD and cost of Bid Document (Extended): **19.06.2020 upto 04:00 PM**

		Description of Material	
	2020_PDD_97112.1	Supply and delivery of electrical spares and minor store items/hardware items from the original equipment authorized dealers / representatives or local SSI unit holders or registered firms/Registered Self Groups /suppliers already in the trade	20.06.2020 (02:00 PM)

The complete NIT/Tender Documents/BOQ can be downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in. All other terms and conditions as stipulated in the original NIT shall remain same.

No.: TLMD-I/193-95
Dated: 10.06.2020

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
TLMD-I, Bemina, Sgr

DIPK-NB-635/20

Don't Make Soldiers Unhappy During War: SC On Non-Payment Of Salaries To Doctors

NEW DELHI: Taking serious note of non-payment of salaries and lack of proper accommodation for doctors and medical workers amid COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to address their concerns at the earliest.

"In a war, you do not make soldiers unhappy. Travel an extra mile and channel some extra money to address their grievances. The country cannot afford to have dissatisfied soldiers in this war against Corona," a Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who represented the Centre.

While hearing a petition by Doctor Arushi Jain, the Bench said courts should not be involved in issues like non-payment of salary to health workers and government should sort it out.

Jain alleged that frontline healthcare workers were not being paid salaries or their salaries had been reduced or delayed. She also questioned the Centre's new SOP mak-



Standoff Over Mahatma Gandhi's Statue In UK City Of Leicester

LONDON: A former British Indian MP on Thursday launched an impassioned campaign to defend a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the British city of Leicester after an online petition calling for its removal attracted over 4,000 signatures.

Keith Vaz, who was the longest-serving member of Parliament from Leicester until last year, called for the petition to be withdrawn or for its organisers to face a police inquiry for inciting racial hatred as he declared that he would personally defend the sculpture if anyone tried to remove it.

"Gandhi's statues in Leicester and London are an inspiration for peace, harmony and non-violence. He was one of the greatest peacemakers in history," said Vaz, who was present when the statue was unveiled in Leicester 11 years ago by then Home Secretary Alan Johnson.

"This is a dreadful petition that seeks to divide communities in Leicester and in the country... If this is not withdrawn I will certainly refer it to the police to consider whether it incites racial hatred," he said.

"We have come a long way in 33 years on racial equality but clearly there is a long way to go. If there is any attempt to remove it, I will be there to defend it personally," Vaz added.

The petition entitled 'Remove the Gandhi Statue in Leicester' alleges Mahatma Gandhi was a "facist, racist and sexual predator" and that the sculpture should, therefore, be removed.

The bronze statue, which captures Gandhi in his walk-



ing stride by Kolkata artist Gautam Pal, had attracted some opposition even at the time of its unveiling in 2006 because many felt Gandhi did not share strong links with the eastern England city with a large Indian expatriates population.

However, Leicester City Council had approved the application by Indian charity Samanwaya Pariwar, which had raised the funds for the memorial.

Leicester City Council said the petition will be considered as part of a wider review of the city's statues, street and building names, which follows similar initiatives being undertaken by local authorities around the UK in the wake of anti-racism Black Lives Matter protests targeting statues with a dubious slave trade history.

"Although this petition has not yet been submitted to us, these representations will be considered as part of a wider conversation about the context, relevance and appropriateness of street names, statues and monuments in the city," a city council spokesperson said.



1 Indian Killed, 2 Injured In Firing By Nepal Police After Fight

SITAMARHI: The Nepalese border guarding force on Friday opened fire on a crowd killing a 22-year-old Indian man and injuring two others following an altercation, sparking tension on the Indo-Nepal Border along Bihar's Sitamarhi district.

The border guarding force - Nepalese Armed Police Force - has also detained a person identified as 45-year-old Lagan Yadav after the incident, Indian officials said.

The incident comes in the midst of a raging boundary row between the two countries with India sternly asking Nepal not to resort to any "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims after Kathmandu released a new political map laying claim over Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura.

New Delhi maintains that these were part of Uttarakhand while Kathmandu, in its recent map, had shown them as part of Western Nepal.

Giving details about the incident at Sitamarhi district, 134 kms from Patna, Kumar Rajesh Chandra, Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal, a force looking after the 1,751 km India-Nepal frontier, said the incident took place around 8:40 AM "deep inside Nepalese territory".

The situation is normal now and local commanders of both sides got in touch immediately, Mr Chandra

told PTI in New Delhi.

"We have submitted a report to the MHA on the basis of preliminary findings and our nearest border post, that is about 1.5 km from the incident site, is keeping an eye on the matter," the SSB DG said.

Inspector General (IG) of the SSB looking after the Patna Frontier, Sanjay Kumar, told PTI over phone that the incident took place between locals and the Armed Police Force (APF) of Nepal.

One person was killed and two others injured in the firing, the IG said.

Giving details, the officials said Vikesh Yadav (22), who suffered a bullet injury in the abdomen area, has died while Uday Thakur (24) and Umesh Ram (18) are injured and admitted to a private hospital in Sitamarhi, they said.

Officials said, as per preliminary reports obtained from locals, there were protests after the APF troops had objected to the presence of Indians in their area in violation of the lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The bordering districts on both sides of the border maintain contacts and in the absence of any fence, people move around to meet their family members, they said.

The objection raised by the APF resulted in a heated argument and it is alleged that the Indian people called other villagers and indulged in stone throwing on Nepalese APF.

APF Additional Inspector General of Police Narayan Babu Thapa told PTI in Kathmandu that the incident occurred when a group of 25-30 Indian nationals were trying to enter Nepal and they attacked the Nepalese security personnel at Narayanpur area of Parsa Rural Municipality in Sarlahi district in southern Nepal.

"After they were stopped at the border area by forward base of APF who were deployed to enforce lockdown in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, dozens of people joined the Indian group and threw stones on the security personnel.

"They even snatched weapons from one of our security men. After firing ten rounds of bullets in the air, our personnel had to open fire for self-defence in which one person was killed and two others were injured," the APF officer said.

The incident took place some 75 metres inside the Nepalese territory from the no-man's land, he added.

Senior officials of the local police, administration and the SSB are at the spot and a flag meeting is expected latest by Saturday, the officials said.

SC Asks Centre To Discuss Ticket Price Refund Issue With Airlines

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre and the airline companies to discuss modalities for full refund of tickets for domestic and international flights which were cancelled following the Covid-19 lockdown.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, SK Kaul and MR Shah asked the Centre to take a stand on the issue and work out ways for full refund.

A plea was also raised that airlines across the world are facing tough time due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and they too be heard as parties to the plea filed by one NGO, Pravasi Legal Cell.

The top court has now fixed the plea for further hearing after three weeks.

It had on Monday sought responses from the Centre and the DGCA on the plea seeking directions to airlines operating domestic and international flights in India to refund full amount collected for tickets due to cancellation of flights in wake of the lockdown.

The plea urged the court to declare the alleged action of airlines of not refunding entire value of cancelled air tickets as violative of the civil aviation requirement issued by the authority.

"It is submitted that the airlines



instead of providing the full refund of the amount collected for the tickets due to cancellation, are providing a credit shell, valid up to one year, which is clear in violation of the Civil Aviation Requirement of May 2008 issued by the DGCA which clearly states that 'the option of holding the refund amount in credit shell by the airlines shall be the prerogative of the passenger and not a default practice of the airline,' said the plea.

Referring to the prevalent practice,

it has said in case of credit card payments, refund shall be made by the airlines within seven days of the cancellation to account of the credit-card holder and in case of a cash transaction, the refund shall be "made immediately" by the airline office from where the ticket was purchased.

The Civil Aviation Requirement of May 2008 sets a limit of 30 working days for airlines to complete the refund process for tickets booked through travel agents/ portals, the plea has said.

"Hoping For Best, Ready For Worst": Doctors Fear COVID-19 Crisis Has Only Begun

NEW DELHI: Doctors in one of India's top private hospitals shuffle through the intensive care unit wearing full protective suits. Every bed is occupied by coronavirus patients, and fear is building that the worst is still to come.

"We don't know when this is going to peak," Dr Deven Juneja told AFP during a pause from his rounds at the Max Smart Super Specialty Hospital in New Delhi, as heart monitors beeped throughout the ward.

"All of us are hoping for the best, but we are mentally and physically prepared for the worst."

Authorities have in recent days been loosening their months-long lockdown on people movement that had been aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

However, they were forced into the easing for economic reasons and, while people across the country of 1.3 billion resume more normal travel, the number of infections is soaring.

There are almost 10,000 new confirmed cases every day and declared infections are now over 275,000 -- the fifth highest in the world.

Newspapers carry stories of patients dying after being denied care. The government is turning cricket sta-



diums into field hospitals. Crematoriums are struggling to cope.

In New Delhi, the situation is particularly dire with the Aam Aadmi Party government this week predicting the caseload will balloon 20-fold to more than half a million by the end of July, which the health care system appears woefully ill-prepared for.

Ambulances arrive constantly at the Max hospital, which like other private facilities in the teeming city of 20 million people has been ordered by the government to set aside 20 percent of its beds for coronavirus patients.

With families not allowed to see virus patients, Dr Juneja has to double up as a caregiver, although he is unable to even hold his patients' hands.

"All of us are trying to keep our morale up in these difficult times," he said.

"We have to keep ourselves motivated and keep going every day."

Dr Juneja said the surge had started to be felt over the past few days, with an increase in the number of people looking for a bed. "That has definitely increased the load on us. We want to get our patients well as soon as possible and try to create more beds for our patients," he said.

CBI Files Cases Against 3 Firms For Defrauding PNB Of Over Rs 125 Crore

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at multiple locations in the country after registering three separate cases against two Nagpur-based companies and a Bhubaneswar-based firm pertaining to loan frauds in the Punjab National Bank totalling over Rs 125 crore, officials said.

The agency has booked Nagpur-based Linkson Ispat and Energies Pvt Ltd, its Chairman-cum-Managing Director Yashwant Sangla, and Linkson International Ltd in which he is a director, in two separate cases for alleged cumulative fraud of around Rs 93 crore through diversion of loan funds and cheating, they said.

The case against Linkson International Ltd pertains to loss of Rs 62 crore, while that of Linkson Ispat and Energies Pvt Ltd to the tune of Rs 31 crore.

In connection with these two cases, the CBI carried out searches at four locations in Nagpur at the residential and official premises of the accused from where the probe agency recovered financial documents related to loan, company's financial health, electronic evidence like hard drives among others, officials said. The bank has alleged that the companies trading in coal allegedly availed the facilities on the basis of forged documents and diverted the loan funds to companies having common directors.

The bank noted that the chartered accountant who was signing the financial records of the accused company was clearing the financial documents of companies suspected to be receiving funds from them.

In an unrelated case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) booked a Bhubaneswar-based company-Global Trading Solutions Ltd--and its Managing Director Abinash Mohanty along with three other former and sitting directors, besides three senior PNB officials in a case of cheating the public sector bank of around Rs 32 crore, they said.

The CBI carried out searches at official and residential premises of Punjab National Bank (PNB) officials and the company executives in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Kolkata (West Bengal), Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Bhubaneswar and Cuttack (both in Odisha), the CBI said in a statement.

"It was alleged that the said PNB officials had entered into a conspiracy with the Bhubaneswar-based private firm through its said Director(s) in the matter relating to fraud perpetrated in processing, sanctioning and disbursing CC facility, bill discounting and issuing Letters of Credit to the Bhubaneswar firm during 2010-15," CBI spokesperson R K Gaur said in a statement.

NEWS MAKERS

'Why ban Coca Cola, Thums Up?': SC Slaps Rs 5 Lakh Fine On Petitioner

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday imposed an exemplary cost of Rs 5 lakh on a social worker who filed a plea seeking ban on sale and use of Coca Cola and Thums Up, claiming these soft beverages are hazardous to health.

The court noted that it is unclear why two specific brands were targeted in the petition.

Umedish P. Chavda had moved the top court seeking directions to prohibit the sale and use of Coca Cola, Thums Up beverages and also issuing notification apprising people at large not to drink and use it, as the same is detrimental to the cause of health.

A bench headed by Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising



Justices Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi said: "We accordingly dismiss the petition and impose costs quantified at Rs 5,00,000 on the petitioner. The costs imposed shall be deposited in the Registry within one month and shall be disbursed to the Supreme Court Advocates-on Record Association. In default of compliance, the Registry shall place

an Office Report for directions."

The top court observed that the affidavit in support of the petition states that the contents of the petition are true to the knowledge and belief of the petitioner and the petition has been filed without the petitioner having any technical knowledge on the subject.

"The source of his assertions has not been substantiated. No justification or explanation is forthcoming during the submissions of S.P. Singh, senior counsel (for the petitioner) on why two specific brands in particular are chosen to be the target of the proceedings. The petition has been filed for extraneous reasons.

Girl Facing Sedition Over Slogan Granted Bail

BENGALURU: Amulya Leona (19), arrested in February on sedition charges for allegedly raising pro-Pakistan slogans at an anti-CAA protest site, has been granted default bail by the magistrate court after the police failed to file the chargesheet within the stipulated 90 day period.

The college student is likely to be released after being behind bars for over three months.

"The 90 days period for filing the chargesheet lapsed on May 20. We had soon after moved the court seeking default bail. However, since



the trial courts were closed due to the lockdown the matter was not taken up. On June 2, we again preferred the application and an order was passed on June 10, the same day when Amulya's regular bail application came to be rejected by the sessions court," said her counsel.

The order of the magistrate is yet to be made available on the court website.

The Sessions Court, rejecting her application for regular bail, had observed: "The I.O. has not completed the investigation and has not filed the charge sheet. If the petitioner is released on bail, she may abscond or she may be involved in similar offence which affects the peace at large."

U For 'Ugly': 2 Teachers Suspended In West Bengal

KOLKATA: The West Bengal government has suspended two women teachers in East Burdwan district on the charge of teaching pre-primary students from an English alphabet book consisting of a portion derogatory to the people with a dark complexion.

While presenting the alphabets with corresponding words and images, the book says U is for "Ugly". The illustration printed beside the letter is that of a boy with a dark complexion.

"The book is not part of the textbooks referred by the education department. It was introduced by the school. We have zero tolerance for acts which instil prejudices into the minds of students," Education Minister Partha Chatterjee told reporters here on Thursday. He said the two teachers of a local municipality-run school had been placed under suspension with immediate effect based on a preliminary investigation and stricter action would be taken against them later.