



Maximum : 29°C SUNSET
Today 07:46 PM
Minimum : 17°C SUNRISE
Humidity : 50% Tomorrow 05:21 AM



News Digest

3 Minors Among 5 Killed In Doda Accident

Bhadarwah- Five people, including three minor children, were killed when their car skidded off the road and rolled down into a 350-feet deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Friday, officials said. The car was on its way from Gool area of Ramban district to Thathri town of Doda district. The accident took place near Raggi Nallah around 10 am, they added. "Police party from nearby Assar police station immediately rushed to the spot and started rescue operation along with volunteers, but all the five passengers, including the driver, were declared dead on the spot," Mushtaq Ahmed, Station House Officer (SHO) Assar, said. "The deceased have been" **P-02**

Grenade Lobbed On Police Post

Srinagar: Suspected militants on Friday lobbed a grenade towards a police post in Quimoh area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Unidentified militants on Friday evening lobbed a grenade on the police post Qaimoh, however it missed the intended target, a senior police officer told news agency GNS. He said no loss of life or property was reported in the grenade attack. Soon after the incident, government forces launched manhunt to nab the attackers.

Medium Intensity Quake Hits Ladakh

New Delhi: A medium intensity earthquake of magnitude 4.5 hit Ladakh on Friday evening, the National Centre for Seismology said. The quake occurred at 8.15 pm at a depth of 25 kilometres, it added. The Himalaya region is highly prone to earthquakes.

Pak National Held By BSF In Gujarat

Ahmedabad: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday apprehended a Pakistan national from Kutch district in Gujarat for trying to enter India illegally, officials said. He was held while trying to enter Indian territory from Pillar Number 1082 in the Rann of Kutch, a BSF release said. Nothing suspicious has been found on him, it said, adding that a joint interrogation would be done by security agencies before he is handed over to the police. Pakistan nationals, mainly from Sindh province, routinely get caught while trying to sneak into India.

16 More Covid-19 Patients Cured

Srinagar: Sixteen more Covid-19 positive patients, including a pregnant woman on Friday were discharged from JLNH hospital Rainawari after fully recovering from the deadly disease. Nodal Officer for Coronavirus at JLNH Hospital, Dr Bilquees said that all these patients were asymptomatic. She said all patients were from Srinagar city. Most of these patients were discharged after 20-25 days. "The total discharged patients from Rainawari Hospital till now are 375 while total positive patients admitted in the hospital at present are 60 in general Isolation Wards and 8 positive pregnant patients in Gynae Isolation Ward," she added.

CIC Asks JK Govt To Register With Centre's RTI Portal

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Information Commission has suggested that the government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir register itself on the Central government's RTI portal to allow the general public to file their applications online. In a statement, the transparency panel said it has started the process of getting pending appeals and complaints from the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State Information Commission transferred to itself. The transfer had become a necessity after the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir state into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh -- last year. The Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act was replaced with

the central Right to Information Act, 2005 thus bringing all the pending appeals and complaints under the Central Information Commission. The Commission on Friday held an interaction with all the State Information Commissioners and Chief Information Commissioners through video conferencing, a statement issued by the panel said. The basic objective of the interaction chaired by Chief Information Commissioner Bimal Julka was to exchange ideas, methodology and approach to streamline the functioning of the Commission through the use of ham technological tools especially during the COVID-19 situation. "It was also brought out that consequent to the reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir Act, 2019 and transfer of pending" **PAGE 02**

LADAKH STAND-OFF

India Warns China Against Changing Status Quo

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: India on Friday warned China that trying to alter the status quo on the ground by resorting to force will not just damage the peace that existed on the border areas but can also have "ripples and repercussions" in the broader bilateral relationship, and demanded that Beijing stop its activities in eastern Ladakh.

The only way to resolve the current military standoff along the LAC in eastern Ladakh was for Beijing to realise that trying to "change the status quo by resorting to force or coercion, is not the right way forward, India's ambassador to China Vikram Misri said in a hard-hitting interview to PTI. Asserting that actions taken by the Chinese forces on the ground have damaged "considerable trust" in the bilateral relationship, the Indian ambassador added that it was entirely the responsibility of the Chinese side to take a careful view of the relations and to decide which direction the ties should move. Noting that maintenance of peace and tranquillity "on the border is sine qua non for progress in the rest of bilateral relationship between India and China", Misri said: "The resolution of this issue is quite straight forward from our perspective. The Chinese side needs to stop creating obstruction and hindrances in the normal patrolling patterns of" **PAGE 02**



US Shifting Military To Face Chinese Threat To India: Pompeo

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Thursday that the Chinese threat to India and Southeast Asian nations is one of the reasons America is reducing its troop presence in Europe and deploying them to other places.

Pompeo made the remarks in response to a question at the Brussels Forum that he had addressed virtually.

When asked why the US had reduced the number of troops in Germany, Pompeo said" **PAGE 02**

Army Chief Briefs Rajnath On Ladakh Situation

Army Chief Gen MM Naravane on Friday briefed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the overall situation in eastern Ladakh as well as India's military preparedness in the region where Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a bitter standoff, official sources said. The Army Chief was in Ladakh on a" **P-02**

Trump Opponent Seeks Restoration Of Peoples' Rights In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON- Democratic presidential nominee and former vice president Joe Biden wants India to take necessary steps to restore rights of all Kashmiris, and has expressed disappointment over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the implementation of the NRC in Assam.

These measures are inconsistent with the country's long tradition of secularism and with sustaining a multi-ethnic and multi-religious democracy, according to the policy paper -- Joe



Biden's agenda for Muslim American community" posted recently on his campaign website.

A group of Hindu Americans have reached out to the Biden campaign expressing their resentment to the language used" **PAGE 02**

Hindu Americans Upset With Biden's Views

Democratic presidential nominee and former vice president Joe Biden wants New Delhi to take necessary steps to restore rights of all Kashmiris and has expressed disappointment over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as well as the implementation of the National Register of Citizens in Assam. **P-02**

SC Seeks J&K Govt's Reply On Mian Qayoom's Detention

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Friday issued notice to Jammu and Kashmir administration on a plea filed by high court's bar leader Mian Abdul Qayoom challenging his detention under Public Safety Act since August 7 last year.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and B R Gavai issued notice to the Union Territory's administration and sought its reply by first week of the reopening of the top court.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave and advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for Qayoom, said that



they have challenged the order of the high Court which had upheld his detention under the J-K Public Safety Act.

The bench also passed an interim direction for providing some daily essentials to him while in detention at Tihar Jail. **PAGE 02**

6 Paramilitary Men, 3 Cops Among 213 Fresh Covid Positives

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 213 more Covid-19 cases on Friday, including six paramilitary personnel and three cops, taking the number of cases in J&K to 6,762, officials said.

"213 new Covid-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 155 of them are from Kashmir, 58 are from Jammu," the officials said.

Among fresh cases, 63 cases were reported from Baramulla followed by 40 from Udhampur, 23 from Pulwama, 18 from Shopian, 17 from Kupwara, 11 from Budgam, 10 from Srinagar. **P-02**

Teen Injured In Cross -LoC Firing In Poonch

JAMMU: A 17-year-old girl was injured on Friday after India and Pakistan troops exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, officials said.

Nazia Kouser was grazing cattle ahead of the border fencing along the LoC in the Challerri area of Shahpur sector when the Pakistan army violated ceasefire and fired at her around 6 pm, they said.

She was initially treated at a hospital in Poonch and later referred to Jammu for specialised treatment, the officials said.

District Development Commissioner, Poonch, Rahul Yadav confirmed the incident and said an immediate assistance of Rs 10,000 has been given to the girl's family.

On Thursday, Indian and Pakistan troops had traded gunfire in Macchil sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. **PAGE 02**

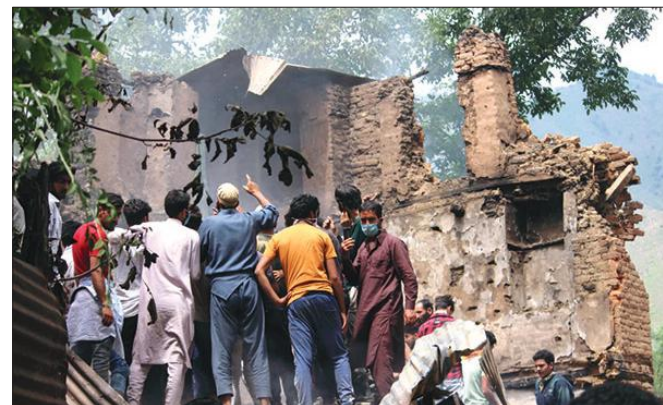
Army Intensifies Vigil Along LoC

JAMMU: With intelligence inputs of a large number of militants waiting on launching pads along the LoC to infiltrate into India taking the cover of ceasefire violations, the Army has put its troops on alert and intensified vigilance along the Indo-Pak border, officials said on Friday.

The Army and police have also created an anti-infiltration obstacle setup on infiltration routes along the Line of Control.

The militants belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Al-Badr and Hizbul Mujahideen have been staged in 23 launching pads along the LoC, mostly opposite to Rajouri-Poonch" **PAGE 02**

3 Militants Killed In Overnight Gunfight In Tral



VILLAGERS WATCHING the house damaged in an encounter in Chewa Ular area of Tral on Friday. Pic by Shah Junaid

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three militants, including a B.Tech dropout were killed Friday in an overnight gunfight with government forces in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 42 RR and CRPF laid a cordon around Chewa Ular of Tral around 5pm on Thursday on the basis of an input suggesting presence of militants in the village, eyewitnesses told Kashmir Observer. The militants hiding in the vil-

lage fired upon the search team in a bid to break the cordon.

"When the state forces returned the fire, the militants entered the four storey house of Gulam Mohammad Wani and engaged them in a firefight. Soon, the exchange of fire intensified between the two sides," Shabir Ahmad, an eyewitness told Kashmir Observer.

He said that the state forces also sent two villagers to the house to see if the house owner and his family were trapped. The forces, Ahmad said also maintained the cordon throughout the" **PAGE 02**

CRPF Constable, 8 Yr Old Boy Killed In Bijbehara Attack

A CRPF personal and a minor boy were killed after militants attacked paramilitary forces in Bijbehara area in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday afternoon, police said. Around 12:10 pm, militants fired at a road opening party of 90 Battalion CRPF near the Padshahi Bagh bridge in Bijbehara, a police official said. He said a CRPF personnel and an eight-year-old boy were injured in the attack. The injured were taken to a hospital in Bijbehara where" **P-02**

IAS Officer Becomes First 'Outsider' To Get J&K Domicile Certificate

25,000 Certificates Issued Across Union Territory So Far

Agencies

JAMMU: An Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer on Friday became the first among the civil servants from outside to get the domicile certificate in Jammu and Kashmir.

The domicile certificate issued by Tehsildar of the Jammu's Bahu area, Rohit Sharma says, "This is to certify that Shri Navin K. Choudhary, son of Shri Deokant

Choudhary, resident of at present Gandhi Nagar, Jammu is a domicile of UT of J&K.

"The applicant is eligible in terms of the following clause of rule 5 of the Jammu and Kashmir grant domicile certificate (Production) rules 2020".

According to this rule, those living in J&K for more than 15 years can apply for the certificate.

Navin Choudhary is an IAS officer of the J&K cadre, 1994" **PAGE 02**

Law Aimed To Change J-K's Muslim-Majority Character: PDP

The Peoples Democratic Party on Friday voiced its "stern opposition" to the new domicile rules for Jammu and Kashmir, saying the Centre through "such underhand means" intends "demographic flooding" in the union territory while "plundering" the people **P-02**

Shabir Shah Seeks Separate Cell In Tihar Jail

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Freedom Party leader Shabir Shah, arrested in two separate cases of alleged militant financing, Friday moved a Delhi court seeking a separate cell in Tihar central jail where he is lodged since 2017.

In an application that is likely to come up for hearing on Saturday, advocate Qausar Khan submitted that Shah is suffering from various ailments that puts him in danger in case he is found COVID-19 positive.

Looking at the recent occurrences of COVID-19 in the central jail and the health condition of the accused, his life would be in

danger if he comes in contact with the virus. Therefore, direct the jail authorities to put him in a separate cell, the application filed on behalf of the separatist leader said.

The first case against him was registered in 2007 for the alleged money laundering committed in 2005 for the purpose of militant financing. He was arrested by ED on July 25, 2017.

The case is connected to one in which the Special Cell of Delhi Police had arrested Mohammad Aslam Wani, an alleged hawala dealer.

ED had said that Rs 63 lakh was recovered from Wani, out of which Rs 52 lakh was allegedly to" **PAGE 02**

J&K Govt Rejigs Admin, 9 Officers Shifted

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered transfer of nine Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officers in the interest of the administration.

In a handout issued today, a government spokesperson said that Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, KAS, Director, Sericulture, J&K, is transferred and posted as Regional Director, Survey and Land Records (ex-officio Settlement Officer), Rajouri, relieving Sher Singh, KAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri of the additional charge of the post.

Nazir Ahmad Baba, KAS Additional Commissioner (Central) in the office of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K, is transferred and posted as Regional Director," **PAGE 02**

IGP Rath Alleges Life Threat From Kashmir Police Chief

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A letter, purportedly written by senior IPS officer Basant Rath expressing apprehension about his safety due to "certain activities" of the Jammu and Kashmir Police chief, has gone viral on the social media, triggering a controversy.

The June 25 letter, addressed to the Gandhinagar police station SHO, does not seek registration of an FIR, but wants it to be made "a part of daily diary".

Gandhinagar police station SHO Gurnam Choudhary, however, denied having received any such letter.

"I'm writing you to take note of my genuine apprehensions about my safety and reputation. I am doing it as a private citizen of the country. In my personal capacity,



Not as a civil servant. Not as a policeman," states the letter, purportedly written by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Rath.

"I am not asking you to lodge an FIR against the person mentioned above. I am just asking you to make this letter a part of the daily diary in your police station...." **PAGE 02**



Image for representation

J&K Power Department Comes Under Cyber Attack, 4 Servers Hit

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A cyberattack was launched on the servers of the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (JKPDD) but the threat has been contained, an official said on Friday.

A cyber threat was detected at 4:42 AM on June 24 on four (04) servers out of 103 servers installed across JKPDD at Data Center (DC) and Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), Chief Engineer, Distribution, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), who is a nodal officer RAPDRP Part-A IT of JKPDD, said here.

He said the servers and out loca-

tion hardware installed across 60 billing sub-division offices and 40 other

offices were immediately isolated from intranet on JKPDD" **PAGE 02**

India warns China Against...

the Indian troops, he said. He also rubbished China's claim of sovereignty over Galwan Valley in Ladakh as "completely untenable , and asserted that these kinds of exaggerated claims are not going to help the situation.

Whatever activities we may be carrying on have always been on our side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), so the Chinese need to stop activities to alter the status quo. It is very surprising that they should attempt to do so in a sector which has never before been a sector of concern, he said.

Emphasising that India is "very aware and very clear about the alignment of the LAC in the Galwan Valley," he said our troops have been patrolling up to these areas without any difficulty for a very very long period of time.

Misri's strong comments came in response to the recent claims by the Chinese military and the foreign ministry of sovereignty over Galwan Valley.

On the Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong's assertion on Thursday that the onus is on India to deescalate tensions, Misri said, I think we have been very clear, and very consistent in pointing out that it has been Chinese actions over an extended period of time, that are responsible for the current situation .

In fact beginning with the time frame of April and May, I would say there were a number of Chinese actions along the LAC in the Ladakh sector in the western sector that interfered with and hindered with the normal patrolling activities of our troops in that sector. This led obviously to a few face-off situations," he said.

During an interview with PTI, Sun refused to reply to questions about China's transgressions of the LAC. He was asked why China has not been allowing Indian patrols from Finger 4 to Finger 8 areas in Pangong Tso even though the areas belonged in the Indian side of LAC. He was also asked why China has resorted to massive build up of troops in almost all areas of the 3500 km LAC. But Sun sidestepped the questions and remained mum. Misri said he "would underline the remarks of our External Affairs Minister (S Jaishankar) when he spoke to Foreign Minister Wang Yi that these developments cannot but have an impact on the bilateral relationship."

"The bilateral relationship is of great value to the two countries. It is important not just for us but also regionally important , he said.

So I think there should be a realisation on the Chinese side that there is no gain in trying to alter the status quo on the ground especially by resorting to force ... that will not just damage the peace and tranquillity that existed on the border but it can have ripples and repercussions in the broader bilateral relationship, Misri said.

We have no wish and desire for that. Therefore, it is entirely the responsibility of the Chinese side to take a careful view of our bilateral relations and to decide which direction the bilateral relationship to move forward , he said.

To my mind there is only one answer, I do very much hope that the Chinese side will also see it in that way , he added. Noting that in the Galwan Valley especially there has never been any difference as to where the LAC lay, the Indian envoy said : "It is very surpring that they should have chosen to, in the context of these recent developments, to do this kind of thing in a sector which has never before been a sector of concern."

So for China to now voice these kinds of claims is completely untenable. These kinds of exaggerated claims are not going to help the situation. The kind of language that has been used is not helpful to the resolution of this situation, he said.

In the ongoing meetings including at the military level that are going on "we hope that the Chinese side will realise its responsibility in de-escalation and disengagement", he said. "That would be a true resolution of this issue , he said.

Misri's comments came a day after the external affairs ministry said China has been amassing a large contingent of troops and armaments along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since early May, and warned that continuation of the current situation would only vitiate the atmosphere for the development of the

US Shifting Military To Face

that if US troops were no longer there, it was because they were being moved to other places.

He said the actions of the ruling Chinese Communist Party meant there were "threats to India, threats to Vietnam, threats to Malaysia, Indonesia and the South China Sea challenge." We are going to make sure the US military is postured appropriately to meet the challenges," he said.

Last week Pompeo criticised the Chinese Army for 'escalating' the border tension with India and militarising the strategic South China Sea. He also described the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) as a 'rogue actor'. In a scathing attack on the Chinese government, Pompeo said that the Communist Party of China wants to undo all the progress the free world has made through institutions like the NATO and adopt a new set of rules and norms that accommodate Beijing.

"The PLA (People's Liberation Army) has escalated border tensions with India, the world's most populous democracy. It's militarising the South China Sea and illegally claiming more territory there, threatening vital sea lanes," Pompeo said, a day after he expressed deep condolences to India on the death of 20 soldiers in violent clashes with the PLA troops at the Galwan Valley in Ladakh on June 15.

Earlier this month, Pompeo has that China's actions, be it on the India border, or in Hong Kong or in the South China Sea, have been part of the behaviour of the ruling Communist Party in Beijing in the recent past.

China has been fast expanding military and economic influence in the Indo-Pacific region, triggering concern in various countries of the region and beyond.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. Beijing has built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region. Both areas are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources and are vital to global trade.

Army Chief Briefs Rajnath

two-day visit from June 23 to take stock of the situation.

"The Chief of the Army Staff apprised the defence minister about the situation in eastern Ladakh," said a military source.

Singh was on a three-day visit to Russia from June 22-24.

On Thursday, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastaba said the conduct of the Chinese forces in the region is in "complete disregard" of all mutually agreed norms, and warned that "continuation of the current situation would only vitiate the atmosphere for the development of the relationship" between India and China.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last six weeks, and the tension escalated manifold after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a violent clash in Galwan Valley on June 15. Senior military commanders of the two armies on Monday held a nearly 11-hour meeting during which they arrived at a "mutual consensus" to "disengage" from all the friction points in eastern Ladakh in a gradual manner.

The two sides on Wednesday held diplomatic talks under the framework of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Co-ordination on India-China Border Affairs.

In the diplomatic talks, both sides agreed to ensure expeditious implementation of the understanding on disengagement of troops from eastern Ladakh as decided in a meeting of senior military commanders on June 6.

Following the Galwan Vally clashes, the Army has sent thousands of additional troops to forward locations along the Line of Actual Control in various sectors including in Arunachal

Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

The IAF has also moved a sizeable number of its frontline Sukhoi 30 MKI, Jaguar, Mirage 2000 aircraft and Apache attack helicopters to several key air bases including Leh and Srinagar following the clashes.

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

Prior to the clashes, both sides had been asserting that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it was necessary to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

Teen Injured In Cross-LoC ...

There has been a sharp increase in cross-LoC shelling in Jammu and Kashmir past two weeks.

Last week, five civilians, including two minors were injured in cross-LoC shelling in Uri sector of Baramulla district. A few unexploded shells were diffused a day after the two armies traded gunfire

Army Intensifies Vigil...

border districts, and are ready to infiltrate into the Union territory, they said.

"The troops have been put on alert and vigilance through manual and electronic surveillance equipment has been intensified," an officer said.

The Army and police have identified 19 infiltration routes along the LoC in Baramulla, Kupwara, Poonch, Rajouri and Bandipora districts of J&K, they said.

All police stations and posts have been alerted to keep a tab on suspected movement in the border areas apart from activation of Village Defence Committees in border belts, they said.

There have been several times increase in the ceasefire violations along the LoC in Baramulla, Poonch and Kupwara districts in the past one month, they said.

3 Militants Killed In...

night to ensure the holed-up militants don't escape.

"The intermittent exchange of fire continued till 6:30 am before the guns fell silent. All night, we could hear deafening sounds of blasts," he added.

A police spokesperson here said that the militants refused surrender offer and fire upon the search team indiscriminately.

"In the ensuing encounter, 3 militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. The identification and affiliation of the militants is being ascertained," the police spokesperson said.

The bodies, he said have been sent to Handwara for their last rites after conducting medico-legal formalities, including collection of their DNA.

"In case any family claims the killed militants to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for their identification and participation in last rites at Handwara," the police spokesperson said.

"2 AK rifles with six magazines and 5 rounds, 01 Pistol with a magazine and 4 rounds and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of encounter," he added.

The police spokesperson further said that all the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their role and complicity in other crimes.

"In this connection a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Tral and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," the police spokesperson added.

The Inspector General of Kashmir Vijay Kumar claimed that Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, considered to be the indigenous militant outfit, has been wiped out in Tral for the first time since the inception of the militancy in 1989.

Meanwhile, a local news agency KNO identified the three militants as Muhammad Qasim Shah alias Jugnu of Midoora, Basit Ahmad Parray of Laribal and Haris Manzoor Bhat, a resident of Koil, Shikargah.

Shah, according to the report was son of Hurriyat Conference (G) activist Ghulam Muhammad Shah. He had joined militant ranks in 2017, leaving his B.Tech degree in Chandigarh midway.

CRPF Constable, 8 Yr Old...

both of them succumbed, the official said.

The CRPF personnel has been identified as constable Shamal Kumar, while the boy has been identified as Nihan Yawar, a resident of Yaripora area of the neighbouring Kulgam district, he said.

He said the state forces have cordoned off the area and a hunt has been launched to nab the attackers.

Trump Opponent Seeks ...

against India and have urged them to reconsider their views. The group has also sought a similar policy paper on Hindu Americans.

The Biden campaign did not respond to questions in this regard. Observing that Biden understands the pain Muslim-Americans feel towards what is happening in Muslim-majority countries and countries with significant Muslim populations, the policy paper clubbed together Kashmir and Assam in India with the forced detention of over a million Uyghur Muslims in western China, and discrimination and atrocities against Burma's Rohingya Muslim minority.

In Kashmir, the Indian government should take all necessary steps to restore rights of all the people of Kashmir. Restrictions on dissent, such as preventing peaceful protests or shutting or slowing down the Internet, weakens democracy, said the policy paper on Muslim Americans.

Joe Biden has been disappointed by the measures that the government of India has taken with the implementation and aftermath of the National Register of Citizens in Assam and the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act into law, it said. Biden as United States Senator for decades and as vice president under President Barack Obama for eight years has been known as one of the best friends of India and Indian-Americans, it said. He played a key role in the passage of the India-US civilian nuclear deal, and as vice president, he advocated increasing the bilateral trade to USD500 billion per annum. Well connected with the Indian Americans, Biden regularly hosted Diwali at his vice-presidential residence, it said.

Hindu Americans Upset...

"These measures are inconsistent with the country's long tradition of secularism and with sustaining a multi-ethnic and multi-religious democracy," stated the policy paper, Joe Biden's agenda for Muslim American community, posted recently on his campaign website.

A group of Hindu Americans have reached out to the Biden campaign expressing their resentment to the language used against India and have urged it to reconsider the views. The group has also sought a similar policy paper on Hindu Americans.

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"He played a key role in the passage of the India-US civilian nuclear deal, and as vice president, he advocated increasing the bilateral trade to \$500 billion per annum. Well connected with the Indian-Americans, Biden regularly hosted Diwali at his vice-presidential residence," it said.

"Biden understands the issues impacting India, issues of cross-border terrorism, influx of terrorism across borders in Kashmir, issue of Hindu minorities sufferings in Kashmir, issues in Indo-Pacific region with China, and the rising role of India as stronger US ally in all areas including economic growth, counter-terrorism, fight for human rights, climate change and global security," Biden supporter Ajay Jain Bhutoria told PTI.

"There are groups within various elected officials' groups in US pushing language and agendas highlighting misinformation and damaging facts on how India handled its own internal matter on Kashmir, Ladakh or immigration reforms related to NRC," rued Bhutoria, who is also on the National Finance Committee for Biden.

Bhutoria said the US recently updated its immigration policy to block the H-1B and other visas for rest of the year to safeguard its own workers, which is completely questionable and will hurt the economy.

India too has a right to define its own Immigration policy to support its population and economy, he said.

"I grew up in Guwahati, Assam, and I have seen the influx of people across the border and taking away important jobs, resources from local people in northeastern states," he said.

"The immigration reforms and NRC are welcome steps. Execution of these reforms and strategies need to be improved and India needs to do better in change management and rolling out of reforms," Bhutoria said.

IAS Officer Becomes First...

batch. He hails from Bihar.

In addition to Kumar, authorities said domicile certificates have so far been issued in favour of 25,000 while the number of applications received so far is 33,157.

After the abrogation of Article 370, the permanent resident law was abolished and it was replaced by the new domicile law which entitles all those holding the erstwhile permanent resident certificates, those serving or engaged in other vocations in J&K for over 15 years and children of outside parents who pass their 10th and 12th class exam from a recognised educational institution of J&K, to obtain the domicile certificates.

Law Aimed To Change...

of their identity and constitutional guarantees.

It alleged that the objective of "population replacement" in J-K is to change the Muslim-majority character of the erstwhile state at a time when "everything in the country is viewed through the prism of religion".

"As the agenda unfolds, it becomes clear that along with the intended demographic change, the target is also the jobs, natural resources, cultural identity and everything that the people of Kashmir had tried to save by acceding to India with firm constitutional guarantees," a PDP spokesman said in a statement issued here.

"The PDP voices its stern opposition to the new domicile rules for Jammu and Kashmir. Through such underhand means, the Centre intends demographic flooding in the union territory while plundering the people of their identity and constitutional guarantees," he said. The spokesman said the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was a matter of life and death for its people and "no one had the authority to challenge the very identity of the people of the state in any court across the world".

"The scrapping of Article 370 was a constitutional fraud which disregarded even larger national interest for the communal agenda of the ruling party, as is now becoming evident by events in and around J-K and Ladakh," he said.

He said it is time that the Centre recognises the "fallacy of its actions" in J-K and reverses its "communally driven agenda" and sees the pain that it has caused to the people here "as it threatens to hurtle the entire region into an era of unending instability"

J&K Govt Rejigs Admin...

Survey and Land Records (ex-officio Settlement Officer), Baramulla, vice Khurshid Ahmad Sanai, KAS, who shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Imam Din, KAS, Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, J&K, is transferred and posted as Regional Director, Survey and Land Records (exofficio Settlement Officer), Doda, against an available vacancy.

Nawab Din, KAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ramban, is transferred and posted as Regional Director, Survey and Land Records (ex-officio Settlement Officer), Udhampur, relieving Ashok Kumar, KAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Udhampur of the additional charge of the post.

Devinder Singh Bhau, KAS, Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Urban Development Agency, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Relief Organization (Migrants), Jammu.

Deepika Rana, KAS, Deputy Commissioner, Relief Organization (Migrants), Jammu, is transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Urban Development Agency.

Anil Sharma, KAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Kishtwar, is transferred and posted as Secretary, J&K Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission .

Pawan Kumar, KAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, shall hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Kishtwar, in addition to his own duties, till further orders and Rakesh Dubey, KAS, Secretary, J&K Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission, is transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Shabir Shah Seeks Separate

be delivered to Shah.

The money was received from "enemy countries" like Pakistan to promote militancy in India, the ED had alleged.

In the second case, the NIA in June 2019, took Shah in its custody in connection with its probe into a separate funding case involving Jama'at-ud-Da'wah (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, the alleged mastermind of 2008 Mumbai attack.

Shah is currently in judicial custody in both the cases.

6 Paramilitary Men, 3 Cops...

seven from Kulgam & Rajouri, five from Anantnag & Kathua,three from Reasi, two from Poonch and one each from Bandipora & Samba, they said.

Among the new cases reported today are 3 cops from District Police Lines (DPL) Pulwama and six paramilitary personnel. Five of them are Border Security Force (BSF) Men from 102 Battalion Trehgam Kupwara, while another is a CRPF man from 45 battalion Sempora.

Officials said that 113 more patients recovered and were discharged from different hospitals.

The number of confirmed cases has now reached 6,762 out of which 5,266 are in Kashmir, while 1,496 are in Jammu, the officials said.

There are 2,591 active cases of the coronavirus disease in J&K – 2,098 in Kashmir and 493 in Jammu – and 4,080 (3,088 from Kashmir and 992 from Jammu) patients have recovered, according to officials.

The J&K has witnessed 91 Covid-19 (80 from Kashmir, 11 from Jammu) deaths so far.

SC Seeks J&K Govt's Reply...

In his appeal, Qayoom said that he has challenged the May 28 order of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court rejecting his plea against his prolonged illegal detention under the PSA in jails outside the UT.

He said that he is a Senior Advocate with more than 40 years' standing at the Bar and has served as President of the J&K High Court Bar Association for many terms, including from 2014 till the present day.

Qayoom said he was detained on the intervening night of August 4th and 5th, 2019, under the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Code of Criminal Procedure and thereafter, an order of detention under the PSA was passed against him on August 7, 2019.

He said that on August 8 he was taken to Central Jail, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, without any prior notice of intimation, where he was kept in solitary confinement.

He said that the high court's May 28 order is ex facie unsustainable in law as it is premised on "stale, irrelevant, remote, vague, imprecise and deficient" grounds of detention.

The impugned judgment and order concluded that most of the grounds in the detention order are somewhat clumsy which implies that the High Court too found them wanting. Placing reliance on the doctrine of severability as enunciated by this Hon'ble Court in Gautam Jain v Union of India...the High Court then proceeds to uphold the detention order solely on one ground, his appeal said.

He said the high court makes it abundantly clear that the detention order has been upheld solely on one ground - the four FIRs dating back to 2008 and 2010, as enumerated in the detention order.

These FIRs are stale, irrelevant and have no proximate, pertinent or live link to the present, and are thus superfluous and extraneous to the satisfaction required in law qua the tendency or propensity to act in a manner prejudicial to public order. Pertinently, even in the said decade old 4 FIRs, the Petitioner was neither arrested, nor any charge sheet ever filed by the police against the Petitioner, he added in his plea.

Qayoom said he had already been detained in 2010 on the basis of the said FIRs under the PSA, and the said detention was subsequently revoked.

Thus, the same FIRs cannot be used to pass another order of detention under the PSA, as held by this Hon'ble Court , his plea said.

Qayoom said he is suffering from serious health ailments and is at a high-risk vulnerability for COVID-19 due to his co-morbid conditions.

The Petitioner has numerous serious medical conditions for which he has been receiving treatment for the last 25 years under the care and supervision of his doctors in Srinagar, Kashmir. The Petitioner is also dependent on his family for ensuring the regular and daily intake of medicines and regular injections, he added.

His plea said that the impugned judgment and order is also unsustainable in law as it relies on material presented for the first time in appellate proceedings to justify the validity of the detention order.

It is a matter of record that this new material was not relied upon by the Detaining Authority and it is undisputed that the same was not supplied to the detenu, he said, adding that the detention order passed against him was also vitiated, as materials relied upon were not provided to him.

As an interim prayer, he sought his transfer to Central Jail, Srinagar, during the pendency of the present petition, ensuring that all necessary medical precautions are taken qua COVID-19.

CIC Asks JK Govt To Register

complaint & second appeal cases under RTI Act to Central Information Commission, New Delhi, the Commission had initiated the process to get the cases transferred," it said.

The Commission has started hearing cases from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh with effect from May 15, 2020, it said.

"It was also suggested to UT Jammu and Kashmir to register itself with the RTI portal of DoPT so as to facilitate the general public to file online RTI applications and first appeal. Efforts are also being made to facilitate training and familiarisation exercise of the Central Public Information Offices and First Appellate Authorities of J & K and Ladakh Administrations through webinars etc," it said.

J&K Power Department...

WAN and internet.

A preliminary scan was initiated on database servers to assess the intrusion of malware, the official said.

He said the JKPPD is currently in the process of conducting a deep scan of all servers installed at DC and DRC and 542 other workstations across locations to assess the malware intrusion in order to avoid any further occurrence of such incidents.

The threat has been contained and billing and payment data of consumers is secure. Since all bills for previous month (May 2020 payable in June 2020) stand generated and distributed, consumers are requested to pay the same at J-K Bank counters and through JK Bank Mpay application in order to avoid late payment surcharge, he said.

The official said the JKPPD is currently employing best resources available in the present COVID-19 situation to restore the system to the normal at an earliest.

The data centre is otherwise robust and shall get fully operational soon with all SOPs/requisite firewall in place, he added.

IGP Rath Alleges Life Threat

In case something bad happens to me, you should know whose number you should dial. With due respect," adds the letter, in whose subject line the name of the Jammu and Kashmir Police chief is handwritten.

The letter, which has gone viral on the social media, has triggered a controversy in the Union Territory.

3 Minors Among 5 Killed...

identified as Tasleema Begum, 35, and three minor children from Thathri, while the fifth person, who was driving the car and also died in the accident, was identified as Mohd Asif, 32, of Sangaldan-Gool," he said.

All the bodies will be shifted to the Primary Health Centre Assar for completion of legal formalities, the SHO added.

Breaking chain of drug trafficking lies on shoulders of teachers, parents: Dr Samoon

SRINAGAR, JUNE 26: Directorate of School Education Kashmir today observed International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Online discussions and webinars were organized in all districts in which more than 1.5 lakh students and 30 thousand teachers were connected online across Kashmir division.

On this occasion, Principal Secretary School Education and Skill Development, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon gave away prizes to the students toppers who participated in online Essay writing and Painting competitions organized by the Directorate of School Education Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary emphasized on the need of taking effective measures so that school going children are kept aware about the ill effects of drugs. Dr Samoon said that the



responsibility of breaking the chain of drug trafficking equally lies on the shoulders of teachers and parents.

Earlier, Director School Education Kashmir Mohammad Younis Malik gave a detailed presentation on the scenario of substance abuse at global,

country and UT level.

He gave an overview of the efforts made by the Directorate in this regard in past one year. He said that the Directorate has teacher counsellors in Higher Secondary Schools who have been trained by IMHANS and the Psychiatry Department of GMC Srinagar.

OFFICE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOURISM (M&W) SRINAGAR

e-mail: ddtmandw1@yahoo.com

Sub:- Purchase of lawn mowers/ Brush Cutters.

e-QUOTATION

DT/MandW/K/Quotation-1 of 2020-21 dated: 25.06.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of U.T of J&K, online quotations are invited from registered dealers/suppliers for supply of following garden equipments to this office:-

S.No.	Name of item	Qty
1	Lawn mower Honda GXV 160 petrol operated with cutting width 12" inch, cutting height 3" and adjustable forwarded speed	3 Nos
2	4 - stroke brush cutter (Honda Engine) petrol operated, four point anti-vibration system.	3 Nos

Terms and conditions

- The bidders will provide email ID and complete postal address including cell numbers.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Website in o/o Dy. Director Tourism, (M&W) Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening.
- The intending agency shall upload documents in pdf form copies of valid registration of the agency, GST/PAN card in the name of the agency, Treasury receipt for an amount of Rs.200/- as document cost (under 1452-Tsm Revenue Head) and CDR for an amount of Rs.3000/- pledged to the Deputy Director Tourism, M&W, Srinagar.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.
- The intending quotationers shall quote rates in the BOQ, uploaded.
- The last date for submission of the online bids is 04.07.2020 upto 2.00 p.m. and the same shall be opened on next working day.
- The successful bidder shall submit original Treasury Receipt for Rs.200/- /CDR for Rs.3000/- and copies of Registration Certificate and PAN/GST No. in person within two days from the opening of the bids failing which proceeding as warranted under rules shall be initiated in the matter. No Demand Drafts shall be entertained.
- The under signed reserves the right to accept or reject any Quotation or Quotationer without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms & conditions shall remain same as in PWD form 25 Double leaf.

DIPK-2170/20

Dy. Director Tourism
(M&W) Srinagar.

No. DT/MandW/K/Quotation-1/80-85

Dated: 25.06.2020

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

NOTICE

Where a application has been recieved from one.

Shri : Irfan Ahmad Dar
S/O: Gh Mohammad Dar
R/o: Bul Bul Bagh Barzulla
for issuance of duplicate driving license.
D.L. No 1163/MVD/BUD

Dated:19-09-2008

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the issue of duplicate driving license in respect of D.L No 1163/MVD/BUD Shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this news. No submission /request shall be entertained after the expiry of stipulated period of time.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1070
Dated 26-06-2020



CLUSTER UNIVERSITY SRINAGAR

Gogji-Bagh Campus Srinagar, 190008

Website: www.cusrinagar.edu.in

Contact No: 0194-231

Selection Notification No.13

(Online Admission)

Candidates whose Entrance Test Roll No's are mentioned below are provisionally selected for Admission in below mentioned 5-Year Integrated programmes, on the basis of counseling and merit obtained in the Entrance Test held by the University in February 2020.

Chemistry (5- Year Integrated)

Open Merit	204933, 203217
Res. Category	RBA-204874, OBC-202013

IMBA (5- Year Integrated)

Open Merit	206118, 206245
Res. Category	RBA- 206158, 205877, 205923

History (5- Year Integrated)

Open Merit	204160, 206695
Res. Category	RBA- 205539, 207372, 207416

Information Technology (5- Year Integrated)

Open Merit	207005, 207098, 207067
Res. Category	RBA- 206937, 206491

Commerce (5- Year Integrated)

Open Merit	205954, 205811, 206103
Res. Category	RBA- 207190, Sports- 206104

Political Science (5- Year Integrated)

Open Merit	205702, 205411, 205401
Res. Category	RBA- 205174, ST- 205378

In view of the advisories issued by various Government Agencies amid Coronavirus pandemic, the Admission process shall be completed through ONLINE-MODE only for the

Session-2020 of the selected candidates. This will enable the selected candidates to attend Online Classes already started in the constituent colleges of the university. In this regard, the above selected candidates are directed to visit the University website cusrinagar.edu.in for completion of admission formalities via Student Login (Using Form No.and DOB Credentials).

Students are required to upload scanned copies of DOB, Provisional, Character certificates, 12th (PG for B.Ed+M.Ed) Marks Card and Reserved Category Certificate (if selected under a reserved category) for verification of the credentials. Candidates have to deposit the prescribed Annual Fee once the verification of the uploaded documents is completed.

Admission shall be completely provisional and is subject to the final verification of copies of the original documents at the time of opening of the University.

Submission/uploading of any wrong information by the candidate will lead to disqualification/cancellation of the admission of the candidate.

In case of any shortfall, the candidates from the waiting list shall be informed regarding their selection telephonically. No further notification shall be issued through print media.

The last date for completing admission formalities is 30th June, 2020.

DIPK-NB-982/20

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar
(Coordinator Admission)

No. - CUS/Adm/ 2307-17/2020

Dated: - 25-06-2020

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

05 Zu al-Qa'dah
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 36

ZUHR 12: 33

ASR 5:33

Magrib 7:50

ISHA 9:31

This Day In History

- 1709 - Peter the Great of Russia defeats Charles XII of Sweden at the Battle of Poltava.
- 1862 - Battle at Garnett's/Golding's Farms, Virginia
- 1864 - Atlanta Campaign: Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia
- 1940 - Soviet Army attacks Romania
- 1940 - USSR returns to Gregorian calendar
- 1950 - North Korean troops reach Seoul, UN asks members to aid South Korea, Harry Truman orders US Air Force & Navy into Korean conflict
- 1957 - The British Medical Research Council publishes a report suggesting a direct link between smoking and lung cancer.
- 1960 - British Somaliland becomes part of Somalia
- 1961 - Ghana imposes a total ban on exports to South Africa and South West Africa
- 1962 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A. Walker takes X-15 to 6,606 kph, 37,700 m
- 1962 - Ross Perot begins Electronic Data Systems
- 1962 - In South Africa, the General Law Amendment Act (Sabotage Act) No 76 commences, increasing the state president's power to declare organisations unlawful and to add further restrictions to banning orders
- 1973 - Uruguayan president dissolves parliament and heads a coup d'état
- 1976 - Air France Airbus hijacked in Germany to Uganda
- 1978 - Soyuz 30 carries 2 cosmonauts (1 Polish) to Salyut 6 space station
- 1978 - US Seasat 1, 1st oceanographic satellite, launched into polar orbit
- 1979 - Heavyweight Muhammad Ali confirms that his 3rd retirement is final (it isn't)
- 1980 - Italian plane crashes into Tyrnheense Sea, kills 81
- 1982 - STS-4, 4th NASA Space Shuttle mission, launches
- 1983 - NASA launches space vehicle S-205
- 1983 - Soyuz T-9 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 7 space station
- 1994 - Aerosmith become first major band to let fans download a full new track free from the internet
- 1995 - Space shuttle STS-71 (Atlantis 14), launches
- 2001 - The International Court of Justice finds against the United States in its judgement in the LaGrand Case.
- 2007 - The Brazilian Military Police invades the favelas of Complexo do Alemão in an episode which is remembered as the Complexo do Alemão massacre.
- 2007 - Gordon Brown becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

From KO Archives

Shabir, Yasin Geelani Likely To Fall In Line

'Formula for Ceasefire worked out'

Arif Jamal

Islamabad- An imminent reunification of the Hurriyat Conference and the inclusion of groups hitherto outside its ambit are likely to be followed by an announcement of a ceasefire in Kashmir as the Hurriyat leaders seem to have obtained a broad agreement with Islamabad during their visit to Pakistan.

The Hurriyat Conference (Ansari group) has finally won back recognition from Pakistan during its visit to Pakistan. In return the Hurriyat Conference leaders have also accepted to forget all their past grievances against Pakistan. "Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has been recognized as the chairman of the (United) Hurriyat Conference," an upbeat Abdul Ghani Bhat told a select gathering of Kashmiris after his arrival from Muzaffarabad.

His declaration followed the change in the policy of Pakistan Television (PTV) which started describing Syed Ali Shah Geelani as the buzurg leader instead of the chairman of the Hurriyat Conference. The PTV reflects Pakistan's policy on the Kashmiri leaders in a large measure. With each passing day, the visiting Hurriyat Conference leaders showered more and more praises on General Musharraf and Pakistan in their public speeches.

The Hurriyat had been distancing itself from Pakistan and Pakisian-based militants since 2000. The final rupture came in September 2003 when Pakistan encouraged some of the hardliners to split the conglomerate of anti-Indian political groups in the Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir and form a new alliance under the leadership of Syed Ali Shah Geelani. Pakistan instantly recognized the breakaway faction as the real Hurriyat Conference and the names of the Hurriyat Conference (Ansari) leaders disappeared from the official and pro-jihad press in Pakistan. The failure of the Geelani group forced Pakistan to look back to the Ansari group which had found itself in the political wilderness without Pakistani support. The two once again contracted a marriage of convenience. Pakistan apparently jettisoned the excess baggage of the Geelani group. The visiting Hurriyat leaders and Pakistan appear to have agreed to reunite the shattered APHC even if Geelani does not agree to press India include the representatives of the people of Kashmir in the ongoing peace process and resolve the Kashmir dispute, according to several Hurriyat leaders. A Hurriyat leader told this correspondent that the prospects for the reunification of the Hurriyat Conference were never brighter than today ever since its breakup two years ago. (Kashmir Observer, 27 June, 2005)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION TRAL

Email id: xenirridivtral@gmail.com

Phone: 09133251200

FINAL NOTICE

M/S: Asian Group of Engineers (SHG)

No: IDT/1001-04

G/L: Waheed Ahmad Naik

R/O: Tral-i-Payeen

: 24/06/2020

Reg. No.9893/KMR/2016

Subject: Final Notice for starting the execution/ resumption of the works viz.

Construction of platform, concrete cutting and providing cement concrete lining on 3rd stage Canal of Tral LIS from RD 9875-10140 mts

Regarding the subject it is to convey as under:

Whereas the above cited work was allotted to you vide this office allotment order No: 25 of 07/2018 dated 19/07/2018 issued vide No.: IDT/1450-53 Dt: 19/07/2018.

Whereas you were served notices by Assistant Ex. Engineer Irrigation Sub Division Tral II to start the execution of the work vide No. : ISDT/II/120-22 Dt: 10/06/2020 and subsequently by this Office vide No: IDT/919-20 Dt: 15/06/2020

Whereas you were asked to start the execution of the work within three (03) days from the date of issuance of the notices which you have failed to do so till date.

Whereas under such circumstances you are now finally asked to start the work within 07 days positively after publication of the notice in the Daily Newspaper, in case you fail to start the work within the stipulated time, your Allotment will get cancelled and the work would be executed by some other agency at your risk and cost with the recommendation to Higher authorities for blacklisting/cancellation of your card which may be noted. Besides the CDR shall be forfeited.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Tral.

DIPK-2155/20

Government of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez. FRESH Tender Notice NO.(33)for the year 2020-21 Dtd:-23-06-2020

Tender are invited for and on behalf of the lieutenant Governor the Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez tenders affixed with Rs.4/ revenue stamps from the registre PWD Contractors of UT J&K,, whose registration cards are valid for current financial year in terms of standing rules for the work.

The tenders should reach to the office of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez by or before up to 2.00 P.M. The tenders will be opened on the same date or any other date convenient to the opening authority in presence of the contractors who may like to be present. In case the last date of receipt of tenders is holiday, the tenders will be received on the next Working day up to 2.00 P.M. The contractors should not in any e quote more than one rate. Payment to the contractors will be made as and when funds are available to the department.

The tender document will be issued by Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez on production of registration cards and GST No against cash payment as shown against each work up to office hours. The detailed terms and conditions forming annexure the NIT shall be binding in to works advertised during 2020

Name of the work						
Restoration of Badugam Khul by way of slit / slip clearance and other necessary						
Restoration of Buglinder Khul L/R Branch by way of slit /slip clearance.						
Restoration of Burnai Khul by way of head work construction and repairs to damage QCC pipes line at spots.						

No:-EE/SSDG/ 1093-1102
Dt: 23-06-2020

DIPK-2150/20

Head Draftman

Executive Engineer,
Special Sub Division Gurez

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



“In India, the major backdrop through the history of preventive detention falls at the beginning of the British guideline when under the Bengal Regulation III of 1818 the legislature was enabled to keep anyone on minor doubt.”

Article 370 And Islamabad

While Islamabad may contend that the people of Kashmir are under ‘occupation’ the UNSC, UN and the global community don’t think so

NEELOFAR QURESHI

“New Delhi continues to maintain a discreet silence, knowing very well that by allowing the Chinese to undertake developmental activities in PaK, Islamabad is destroying its own case of Kashmir being “disputed territory.”

After Islamabad’s contention that since J&K is “disputed territory,” New Delhi’s decision to abrogate Article 370 of its constitution that provided ‘special status’ to citizens of J&K was “illegal” didn’t find favour with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), one had thought that Pakistan would reorient its diplomatic approach on the ‘K’ issue. However, the Foreign Office has now disclosed that Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mahmood Qureshi has written letters to the UN Security Council President and the UN Secretary General to protest against India’s new J&K domicile laws (“Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Order 2020” and “Jammu & Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate Rules 2020”). Qureshi has informed UNSC that this law would facilitate demographic changes and by paving the way for non-Kashmiris to acquire permanent residence, result in the Muslim majority here being reduced to a minority.

The problem with Islamabad is its obduracy due to which it refuses to learn lessons from past setbacks. Qureshi may have forgotten how he embarrassed the people of Kashmir last year by saying that we were living in a “fool’s paradise,” but we haven’t. We also remember his “they (UNSC members) are not waiting for you with garlands in their hands” remarks. And that is the reason why he needs to explain the wisdom of repeating last year’s unsuccessful post Article 370 ab-

rogation strategy by once again bringing up the demography issue. Last year he was teaching us that “giving vent to emotions is easy and raising objections is much easier. However, it is difficult to understand the issue and move forward.” Well, if this was the lesson that he learnt last year, then what has changed so drastically since then that makes him optimistic that the UNSC will accept Islamabad’s same complaint this time?

The handout released by the Foreign Office mentions that “since India’s illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, the Jammu & Kashmir dispute has been taken up in the Security Council on three different occasions.” Since it’s the end results and not the number of attempts that count, what is the point of boasting of having taken up the ‘K’ issue thrice in the last one year, when the UNSC hasn’t even chided, let alone asked New Delhi to reinstitute Articles 370 and 35A? Why is Islamabad so keen on broadcasting its own failures? The FO release also mentions that besides drawing attention of the UNSC president and UN Secretary General to the demographic change issue, the new laws also “underscored that these actions are illegal and in violation of the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions and international law, in particular the 4th Geneva Convention.”

Even though the UNSC didn’t agree with Islamabad’s contention that any revocation of existing laws in J&K by New Delhi was “illegal and in violation

of the UNSC resolutions” Qureshi has once again applied the same logic for the new domicile laws with one small addition. He has stated that this move by New Delhi is illegal as it violates the 4th Geneva Convention “in particular.” Even though I’m not an expert on international law, I can still say with confidence that the Pakistani FM’s bid to cite Geneva Conventions in order to get a favourable response from UNSC is unlikely to succeed. Article 4 of Geneva Convention (as explained in Wikipedia) “defines who is protected person: Persons protected by the Convention are those who, at a given moment and in any manner whatsoever, find themselves, in case of a conflict or occupation, in the hands of a Party to the conflict or Occupying Power of which they are not nationals.”

While Islamabad may contend that the people of Kashmir are under “occupation” and that New Delhi is an “Occupying Power,” the UNSC, UN as well as the global community don’t think so. Thus, no one will ever agree that Article 4 of Geneva Convention is applicable to the people of Kashmir and I don’t know why Islamabad takes pleasure in further complicating matters. Qureshi should realise that when he refers to J&K as “disputed territory,” then what holds good for Kashmir is also equally applicable to PaK too and so, how can Article 4 of Geneva Convention be relevant to this side of Kashmir only? Moreover, Islamabad needs to realise that it isn’t on very firm ground as

regards its “disputed territory” logic. If merely abrogating sections of its own constitution and bringing in new laws in Kashmir amounts to violating UNSC resolutions” then how does Islamabad explain its ceding Shaksgam Valley in PaK to China in 1963 and allowing China to construct the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through what it calls a “disputed area”?

Islamabad needs to learn some tricks from India. CPEC running through PaK is a very big issue for New Delhi but unlike Islamabad, which keeps mentioning Kashmir everywhere to the extent of getting on the nerves of the global community, New Delhi’s response has been far more calculated. After having lodged an official complaint regarding the CPEC project, New Delhi continues to maintain a discreet silence, knowing very well that by allowing the Chinese to undertake developmental activities in PaK, Islamabad is destroying its own case of Kashmir being “disputed territory.” And with the separatist camp looking the other way despite knowing fully well that CPEC is detrimental to ‘self-determination’ in J&K, it’s New Delhi that must be having the last laugh at Islamabad’s grand betrayal of the Kashmir cause and the Hurriyat’s stoic silence on this issue.

— The writer is based in New Delhi and can be reached at niloofar.qureshi@yahoo.com

Misuse Of Preventive Detention

Even in the absence of any alleged wrongdoing, Indian law allows the detention of individuals in order to prevent acts threatening ‘public peace and order’ and ‘national security’

AREEKA TUFAIL MIR

Preventive detention’, as understood in such laws, involves detention without criminal trial. That is, neither criminal offense is proven nor any charge formulated.

A police officer may arrest such person, without orders from a Magistrate, and without a warrant, if it appears to such officer that the commission of the offence cannot be otherwise prevented. The Constitution of India explicitly empowers the Parliament to enact laws providing for preventive detention which includes various enactments of preventive detention laws, like Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978; National Security Act (NSA) (1980), which provides for administrative detention for a period of up to one year; Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO) in 2001.

In India, the major backdrop through the history of preventive detention falls at the beginning of the British guideline when under the Bengal Regulation III of 1818 the legislature was enabled to keep anyone on minor doubt.

Preventive detention laws have a long and politically-backed history. Indeed, preventive detention was a common feature of the colonial legal system in India. In the 19th Century, a dense network of regulations provided for detention and arrest without trial in certain cases, and detainees were denied the right to file a petition in courts as writs of ‘habeas corpus’. It is surprising that the framers of the Indian Constitution, who suffered most because of the Preventive Detention Laws, did not hesitate to give Constitutional sanctity to the Preventive Detention and that too in the Chapter of Fundamental Rights in the Constitution. Prevention Detention Act (PDA) was piloted by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who said that he had several ‘sleepless nights’ before he could actually decide that it was necessary to introduce such a Bill in the Constitution of India.

The first PDA was enacted by the Parliament on 26th February 1950, and under this Act, not the usual disturbers of order and peace were arrested, but a political leader of A.K. Gopalan’s

eminence. Even from that initial action, it was evident that these Acts were meant to curb political dissent, and such legacy has been and is being followed throughout. In some cases, the suspicion is based on the detainee’s past criminal records or associations, but in other cases, such suspicion may be purely speculative.

According to an illustrative material received from a non-governmental organization, Administrative detention was a common practice in more than 30 countries where thousands of persons were said to be held in detention without charge or trial, either because they were viewed as a potential threat to national security or public order.

“According to the government data, 6,605 persons have been taken into preventive custody since August 2019 and out of them, presently over 450 people are detained under the PSA in J&K itself

To prevent the negligent utilisation of preventive detentions and incessant misuse of the law in practice, our constitution provides three major safeguarding provisions under Article 22 of the Indian constitution.

These provisions are merely given to try minimising the misuse of preventive detention, but we find that preventive detention processes come without many of the hallmarks of procedural fairness that we take for granted in regular criminal law.

Parliament may by law prescribe the ‘class or classes of cases’ in which a person could be detained for a period longer than three months without the approval of the Advisory Board. Even in the absence of any alleged wrongdoing, Indian law allows the detention of individuals in order to prevent acts threatening ‘public peace and order’ and ‘national security’. Neither the Constitution nor the current preventive detention legislation attempts, however, to define either the range of

acts considered threatening to ‘public peace and order’ and ‘national security’. This deficiency poses a fundamental challenge to the legality of preventive detention.

The NSA empowers executive officials to issue detention orders if satisfied concerning any person that such an order is necessary. Clearly, this provision authorises preventive detention if only the detaining authority is satisfied that the detention is necessary to prevent threats to ‘public order’ or ‘national security’. In Anil Dey v. State of West Bengal, the Supreme Court held that the ‘veil of subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority cannot be lifted by the courts with a

the Government of India should promptly pull back its reservation of Article 9(5) of the ICCPR and include a Constitutional provision guaranteeing the right to compensation.

On detention, we see instances of inhuman treatment given to prisoners that have led to the violation of strict Human Rights Laws. It is an international concern lead under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in India, the National Human Rights Commission has laid down several measures and directives. Some of the important among them which could prevent the prisoners from inhuman treatment and restrict preventive detention in accordance with the security of the Nation include detailed recording of facts leading to satisfaction of authority and the second, conveying the grounds of detention to the Detainee. People should be sensitized about various personal liberties. In case there is an unlawful detention, there must be a provision for interim relief or compensation.

However, it has now been the pressing priority to critically review the Preventive Detention Laws. According to the government data, 6,605 persons have been taken into preventive custody since August 2019 and out of them, presently over 450 people are detained under the PSA in J&K itself. In our world, prisons are still laboratories of torture, inhumane behavior of the officials where a spectrum of impatient rage flows. It takes away a slice of the detainee’s life and the legal system which permits this outrage, therefore, owing it to the detainee that he be compensated financially if his detention is declared illegal; ergo Preventive detention must conform to the principles of justice and must not be inappropriate and unjust. An appraisal of the legality of preventive detention laws must be based on a specific analysis of appropriateness and proportionality of the particular preventive detention measures.

(The writer is the 3rd year law student at University Of Kashmir. He can be contacted at Areeka.at@gmail.com)

INTERVIEW: ‘Remote Working Can Lead To Productivity Gains’

AASHIQ HUSSAIN ANDRABI

SINCE its outbreak in January 2020, the COVID-19 has upended the global economy. The International Monetary Fund has reassessed the prospect for growth for 2020 and 2021, declaring that we have entered a recession – as bad as (or worse than) 2009. Amid the global shifting sands and slowing economic engine, many are wondering about the lockdown-hit Kashmir job market.

The potential effects on the job market are dire. As companies from a wide-range of industries experience a decline in hiring, people looking for jobs are coping with uncertainty, assessing options, and fine-tuning their career search strategies in the face of a tough job market.

To talk about the impact of challenging economic times on the job market, Zubair Ahmed joins *Kashmir Observer* for a discussion on how to advance in one's career through various development strategies and dive a little deeper into job search strategies in the midst of COVID-19 uncertainty.

A senior professional with 17 odd years of diversified experience in the field of Marketing, Strategic Planning, Project management, School Operations, Administration, Human Resources and Quality Assurance, Zubair holds Member Connect Certification from Netscape, New York.

In India he has spent most of his career years with “The Indian Express group and Network 18” which are among the biggest Brands of the country.

Now in United Arab Emirates, he heads the operations of Goldline Group of Companies. He is currently leading the Education Division of the group solely. And is also a Consultant for Health & Safety, Child protection and Safeguarding

Under his leadership, Dubai's Springdales School was repeatedly judged ‘Outstanding’ on Health & Safety, Child protection and Safeguarding by KHDA (Ministry of education- UAE) which is considered the highest laurel in UAE for Schools.

Born in Srinagar, Zubair completed his early education from Islamia Hanfia, Islamabad, got his BA (Literature) from KU before perusing his dream of management studies (MBA) outside Kashmir.

“Learning the hard way was the only way as the strife-torn years that shredded normal life as it was the peak of the turmoil and nothing was in order in Kashmir,” Zubair shared his growing up experience with Kashmir Observer. “This also gave a realization that education is the only means to counter ignorance and exploitation.”

His close association with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in various capacities has helped him to contribute to the School Operation Models both in India and in UAE.

Been among the first voices for Kashmiri Language to be introduced at the primary level in Kashmir, Zubair believes everything is important about Kashmir but for Kashmir, the voice possibly got silent with time and the circumstance.

“Formal education is incomplete if we do not integrate the (local) social and cultural values, history and legacy, language – mother tongue into curriculum,” he said. “Also, it's one of the main reasons why and how a society is exploited and oppressed easily as ours.”

In a free-wheeling chat, Zubair talks about the impact of COVID on job market and how planning and strategy can help students to rise above the impediments in post-pandemic world.

From your understanding what are the short-term and long-term implications of the COVID-19 virus on the job market, both locally in Kashmir and internationally? And how is it impacting job securities?

Amid the COVID-19 crisis and the looming economic recession, we are already seeing job losses, lower incomes, and increased poverty. Both locally and globally, unskilled and semi-skilled labour has already been hit hard through mandatory furloughs, salary cuts and redundancies.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) considers the pandemic to be the ‘worst global crisis since the 2nd World War’. The impact on unskilled labour is likely to be sustained even post COVID.

Where there has been government protection of jobs and salaries through borrowing at historically low interest rates, the worst impact of the global recession has yet to be felt even as conditions are ripe for recovery.

Supply chains are being reconnected but investment may remain sluggish, in spite of historically low cost of borrowing, due to uncertainty.

In the longer term, and bearing in mind the severity of the economic crash, we are likely to see severe job losses due to a contraction in global GDP of 2.5% – 9%, which is reminiscent of the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Those who do retain their jobs are likely to face salary cuts of anything from 15% – 25% depending on the industry and how far employers value their human resources.

Older workers and those less open to changing work practices and the use of technology are likely to be at greater risk as medical insurance premiums are likely to be loaded against them, at least until a vaccine is available.

Middle management employees may be rather more vulnerable in the next phase than low level workers who can be replaced and there will be a rush to ensure they acquire skills that fit whatever profile is on offer. Senior executives will try to insulate themselves by taking more decisions at middle level.

Jobs in the ‘informal’, zero-contract sector including unskilled migrant workers may find scarce, but those who are ready to offer their skills freelance to complete short-term tasks, the so-called ‘gig’ economy and/or are willing to work in a range of part-time jobs by exploiting employer's needs to cut overheads may start to thrive.

The coronavirus lockdown has brought with it an array of side-effects – and some of them are surprisingly positive, what are some good things you're seeing in the job market during this pandemic?

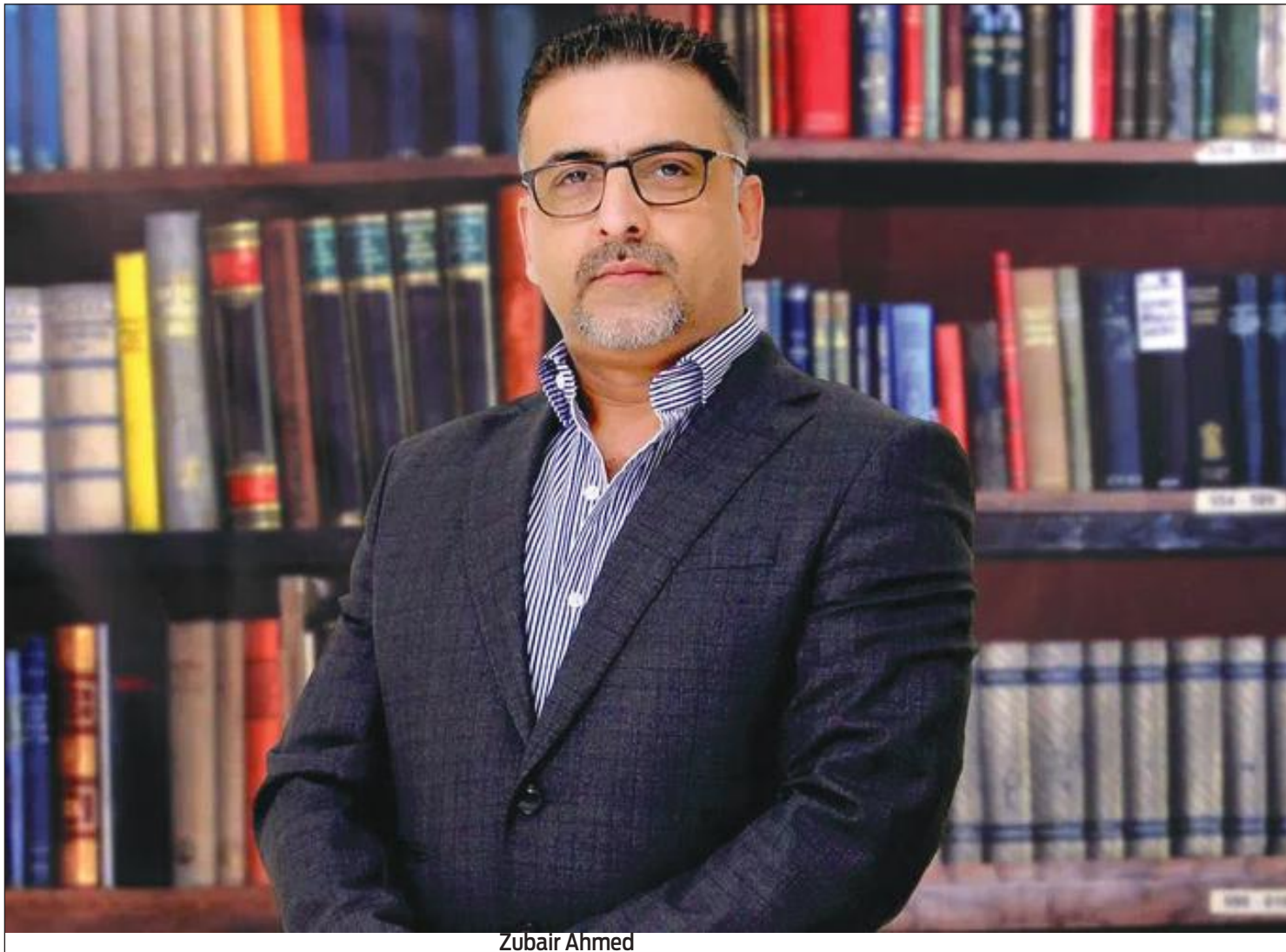
You are right. There is no doubt that COVID-19 is having devastating consequences for economies around the world. However, some positives are also coming out of the current situation.

When it comes to the job market, there are a few positive trends that are blooming or have already surfaced and going to stick even when all this is done. There is a developing responsiveness of both employers and job seekers to new concepts of working and recognition that upskilling, innovative thinking ‘outside the box’, effective communications and adaptability are essential but also achievable qualities.

What are few things candidates / job seekers should be cautious of or concerned about?

This is an important question. There are few things that the job seekers should be cautious of when looking at a job. Generally speaking, job seekers must always be concerned about their self-worth and pre-conceptions about their position in the job market as seekers of job offers, rather than providers of skill, commitment, and loyalty.

Besides they should be cautious of the consultancies that promise the world for a premium fee and deliver nothing of substance, and promises of employment by those who offer contracts that are based on flat-rate commissions, rather than a revenue share, i.e. the risk-reward trade-off is unevenly shared and unscrupulous recruitment.



Zubair Ahmed

Post pandemic, what jobs and which skills will be higher in demand?

Working remotely, the digital economy and virtual offices are inevitably going to feature more in everyone's life. Opportunities that require a blended approach to working, i.e. flexibility in working from home and in the traditional workplace will be in demand.

Those skills and functions that can be automated and/or accommodated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) will continue to erode clerical and semi-skilled occupations, but this should not be over-stated. There is recognition that workers in health-care and education with the requisite skills, training and soft skills of empathy and resilience would be higher in demand.

There will be new opportunities in data literacy, analytics and building and promoting software to support remote working. This will also apply to AI, machine learning, block chain and cyber-security.

Those with highly-developed Emotional Intelligence for deployment in customer care, logistics, tracking, counselling, are likely to be in demand, at least until AI develops beyond being a simple and irritating FAQs robot.

‘At home’ services will be popular at the outset for more than just catering, but will include hairdressing, beauty, maintenance and repairs.

How can job seekers address their skill gaps to meet the realities and requirements of a post-COVID-19 job market?

One benefit of the lockdown has been providing time and opportunity to reflect on one's own personal and professional development. The excuse, ‘if only I had the time...’ rings a little hollow. The first task is to identify what the skills gaps are. And how to use time as a resource. This is not as easy as it sounds, because it requires a critical understanding of which skills will be in demand in a post-COVID, or ‘second-wave’ environment, rather than those deficits you are already aware of in your profile. Both employers and job seekers need to become more adept at ‘skills mapping’.

Developing a skills map may include:

Identifying hard and soft skills needs and how to address them through self-study

Critically assessing and prioritizing key skills, e.g. using Zoom and MS Teams for presentations as well as for a face-to-face oral communications tool; re-designing your CV to ensure that your new skills profile is more prominent than your career history

Optimizing personal and professional development timeline so that the focus on upskilling is focused more on breadth than depth

Re-assessing any KPIs one may have and re-design them using benchmarking and SMART targets to evaluate personal and professional growth.

Developing an awareness using time and time zones more effectively, i.e. thinking less about ‘9-5’ working hours and more about when you can make most effective use of time throughout a 24 hour period. This is already common practice with online streaming and global trading.

What strategies should the job seekers employ to find and successfully acquire emerging job opportunities remotely?

As a job seeker one should stay abreast of the shifting environment and develop timely strategies for navigating during the uncertainty, as well as prepare for a post-crisis job market which may include:

Clarifying both hard as well as soft skills that can be offered to employers

Matching skills and core competencies to fields and industries less impacted by COVID-19

Developing a personal brand and translating it to an online profile and application materials

Conducting informational interviews to increase knowledge and expand professional networks

Investigating contract positions, remote work and other flexible working arrangements

Acquiring technical and soft skills through tools like LinkedIn Learning

Registering with online recruitment agencies

Ensuring that the CV is fit for purpose for the kinds of openings posted rather than being generic.

Creation of virtual organizations and remote work practices has grown manifold during this pandemic. What is the scale with which work is being detached from traditional fixed places of work and what are its consequences for effort, well-being and work-life balance?

The growth of virtual environments for study, work and leisure has

been growing steadily and now exponentially and entrepreneurs working in cyber space will be more aware of scale than any researcher. One example is how Distance Learning in Schools has led to an increase in providers offering freebie support during the height of the lockdown emergency in April. ‘Necessity is the mother of invention’ – the suspension of international aviation has led to astute event organizers not cancelling conferences, exhibitions and job fairs online, where they have been able to reach a far wider audience.

The future implications are huge:

Wellbeing policy will extend to the remote working as well as the traditional work place.

Remote working can lead to productivity gains. The degree of transition to remote (home-based) working will be less determined by lockdown than to develop and extend the remote working experiment, which will also significantly reduce overhead costs for rented office space.

MS Teams and Zoom can increase engagement in meetings and control time wasting.

Large conferences, exhibitions and fairs have been required to go digital – and they reach a wider audience at lower cost and with environmental savings as a consequence.

AI and automation will put de-skilled jobs at risk. It will be important to diversify and upskill to avoid displacement. That said, AI is still very limited in its scope of dealing with complex problems where human contact remains critical to consumer confidence.

What is the future of remote work?

It is a mistake to either understate or overstate its importance. Blending home-based and office-based working will become increasingly embedded, but this will not apply to manufacturing, leisure services and transport.

Blended learning in education is likely to become an embedded feature of post COVID education. No school on bad weather days will become a memory. For the more able and diligent students, distance-learning has liberated them from the constraints of teacher-led classroom learning.

Online communications between home and school may challenge the traditional parent-teacher conference. People enjoy real rather than online interaction and so being able to ‘go to work’ to make face-to-face contact in real-space is unlikely to be displaced entirely.

In response to today's rapidly changing job market due to the COVID-19 pandemic, how can job seekers stay focused and energized?

Staying motivated and keeping momentum up during a job search can be challenging particularly during this hard time. With so many aspects beyond individual control, for the present job seekers must focus on maintaining a positive mindset and on what can be controlled.

They must ensure that they give time to themselves and focus on activities that provide a good balance between physical wellbeing, recreation and work-related activities, including job-seeking.

Importantly during this time of desperation, one should never limit his/her strategy to only sending out as many resumes as possible but must take a few minutes out of the day to focus on networking.

We should never overlook the power of networking and use social media tools to build our online brand, increase our visibility, support our credentials and network more effectively.

What is your advice for job hunters during this period?

My advice to the job hunters would be:

Take time to know yourself and question your preconceptions about career pathways, the job market, the workplace, employment terms and conditions and strategies to safeguard your long-term financial security.

Register your CV and profile online with a range of established recruiters and be discriminating about what you pay for when approached by those promise everything but deliver little.

Develop digital proficiency, on-line team-working and both oral and written communication so that you are adaptable to blended working.

Take advantage of the growth in online training to upskill existing strengths and build new ones. Skills need to be re-focused and refined so that they are more transferable and able to take advantage of new opportunities.

Be conservative about your expectations as the economies navigate through a recession that is likely to be deeper and longer than anticipated.

Learn the lessons of experience and adjust your mind-set to be resilient, innovative, adaptable and critically aware of your self-worth and value.



HOW AFFECTIONATE ARE YOU? It Might Be Hereditary!

Agencies

The level of affection expressed by women, to an extent, can be explained 45 per cent by hereditary, and 55 per cent by environmental influences like media, personal relationships, and other unique life experiences. However, genetics do not appear to influence how affectionate men are.

The study, published in Communication Monographs, was led by Kory Floyd, a professor in the University Arizona Department of Communication in the College of Social and Behavioural Sciences.

"The question that drove the study was: Recognizing that some people are more affection-

ate than others, what accounts for that variation, and is any part of that variation genetic?" said Floyd, whose research focuses on the communication of affection in close relationships and its effects on stress and physiological functioning.

"A study like this makes room for us to talk about the possibility that a number of social and behavioural traits that we automatically assume are learned may also have a genetic component," Floyd added.

Floyd and his collaborators studied 464 pairs of adult twins - about half identical and half fraternal - between the ages 19 and 84.

Twin studies often are used to look at how environmental and

genetic factors influence specific traits. Because twins typically are raised in the same household, they've usually had very similar upbringings and early experiences.

However, twins' genetic similarities vary based on what type of twins they are. While identical twins share 100 per cent of their genetic material, fraternal twins share only 50 per cent - the same as regular siblings.

Each participant in the study rated a series of statements designed to measure how much affection they typically express. The researchers then looked at how similar each twin pair's responses were.

The identical twin pairs scored more similarly than the fraternal

twin pairs - at least in the case of women - suggesting that there is, in fact, a genetic component to affectionate behaviour.

The researchers don't know why affectionate behaviour seems to be heritable in women but not men. However, Floyd notes that men, on average, tend to express less affection overall than women, as evidenced by previous research.

"When we measure people's tendency to be affectionate and to receive affection from other people, almost without exception we find that women score higher than men," Floyd said.

"The trait of being affectionate may be more adaptive for women in an evolutionary sense. There is some speculation that

affectionate behaviour is more health support for women than it is for men, and that it helps women to manage the effects of stress more than it does for men. That may be partly why women are more likely than men to inherit the tendency to behave that way rather than that tendency simply being a product of their environment," Floyd added.

The researchers also found that twins' shared environment - such as how they were raised or their socioeconomic background - had little bearing on how affectionate they were. Rather, unique environmental factors, such as an individual's friends and experiences apart from their twin, were what mattered more.

It's important to note, Floyd

said, that the study's findings are at the population level and not the individual level. In other words, they don't suggest that every woman's level of affectionate behaviour can be attributed 45 per cent to heredity and 55 per cent to environmental influences. Nor do they mean a person can't be more or less affectionate than what their genes suggest.

"Our genes simply predispose us to certain kinds of behaviours; that doesn't automatically mean we're going to engage in those behaviours. And it certainly doesn't mean that we have no control over them," Floyd said.

Those who are more predisposed to being affectionate might especially miss hugs and handshakes in the era of COV-

ID-19 physical distancing, Floyd said.

But it's not just "huggers" who crave regular affection. We all are wired to need a human touch.

People who live alone or who are limiting social interactions during the pandemic may experience what's referred to as "skin hunger," Floyd said.

"Just like regular hunger reminds us that we're not getting enough to eat, skin hunger is the recognition that we're not getting enough touch in our lives," Floyd said.

Floyd added: "Many people these days are recognizing that they miss getting hugs, they miss the touch, and it's maybe the one thing technology hasn't really figured out how to give us yet."

Air Pollution, Smoking Linked With Increased Risk Of Childhood Obesity

Agencies

Air pollution, smoking, and certain characteristics of the built environment-- such as high population density-- may play a role in the development of obesity in children, according to a recent study.

The Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), a centre supported by the "la Caixa" Foundation, and the University of Southern California led the first major study to investigate the associations between many pollutants and environmental factors

The new study, which forms a part of the HELIX project and was published in Environmental Health Perspectives, used data on more than 1,300 children aged 6 to 11 years from birth cohort studies in six European countries: France, Greece, Lithuania, Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

The authors used data on body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, skinfold thickness and body fat mass to determine the children's overweight and obesity status. Blood and urine samples from the children and their



mothers during pregnancy were also analysed.

In total, 77 pregnancy and 96 childhood exposures were assessed, including air pollutants, built environment, green spaces, smoking, and chemical pollutants (persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, phthalates, phenols and pesticides).

ISGlobal researcher Martine Vrijheid, who coordinates the HELIX project and was the first author of the study, commented: "The prevalence of childhood obesity is increasing at alarming rates across the globe and may have increased even more than usual during the COVID-19 lockdown period."

The findings of the study, which used data collected before anti-COVID-19 measures

were introduced, were in line with global trends: the combined prevalence of overweight and obesity was 29% for the study population as a whole, with higher percentages for the cohorts from Spain (43 per cent) and Greece (37 per cent).

The results showed that exposure to smoking (both maternal smoking during pregnancy and second-hand smoking during childhood), air pollution (PM2.5 and PM10 particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, indoor and outdoor) as well as certain characteristics of the built environment were associated with a higher childhood BMI. Differences in socioeconomic status did not explain these findings.

Associations with chemical pollutants were less consistent, with some chemicals measured in child blood (heavy metals copper and cesium) showing higher BMI, and others (persistent organic pollutants such as PCBs and DDE pesticides) showing lower BMI.

This may be explained by the fact that chemicals were measured at the same time as obesity in the children, and obesity sta-

tus may have influenced chemical blood levels. A longitudinal follow-up of the cohort is needed to establish this.

"The children who live in densely populated areas and go to schools in areas with few services and facilities were more likely to be obese," commented Leda Chatzi, Professor of Preventive Medicine at the University of Southern California and the last author of the study.

The relationship between obesity and the characteristics of the built environment "is in line with the findings of previous research and could be explained by a lack of opportunities for children to walk or engage in other outdoor physical activities," she added.

"These findings provide further evidence that modifying environmental exposures early in life can limit the risk of obesity and associated complications," commented Martine Vrijheid.

"The implications for public health are important since these results may help to identify obesity-related exposures that could be targeted for prevention and intervention early in life," Vrijheid added.

Children And Youth's Mental, Physical Health Negatively Affected By Covid-19

Agencies

Despite reports that children and young people may be less likely to get infected with COVID-19 than older adults, there may be substantial indirect adverse effects of the disease on their physical and mental health, according to a new study.

The study was published in the CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal).

"While children and young people seem rarely to be victims of severe COVID-19, we should anticipate that they will experience substantial indirect physical, social and mental health effects related to reduced access to health care and general pandemic control measures," said Dr Neil Chanchlani, University of Exeter, United Kingdom.

The authors describe a range of potential adverse effects and contributing factors as well as mitigation strategies for health care providers and health systems.

Adverse effects include delays in seeking care for non-COVID-19-related illnesses, which can lead to severe illness and even death.



Other effects can be widespread delays or omissions of routine childhood vaccinations, which can threaten herd immunity and missed detection of delayed development milestones that are usually identified during routine child health checks.

"Delays in bringing children and young people to medical attention may be due to parental fears of exposure to COVID-19 in hospitals or on public transit, lack of childcare for other children, lack of access to primary care due to closures, or changes to hospital visitation policies," said Dr Peter

Gill, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Toronto, Canada.

However, reduced social contact because of travel and quarantine restrictions may reduce the transmission of other commonly acquired illnesses.

Families living in inadequate or crowded housing may experience heightened stress or conflict, which can affect the mental and physical health of children. Refugees, some indigenous communities and low-income families living with financial strain and food insecurity are particularly vulnerable.

Managing Pulse Pressure Can Prevent Dementia

Agencies

SYDNEY- In a promising find to prevent dementia, scientists now report that reducing elevated pulse pressure in blood can herald new therapeutic target for preventing or slowing cognitive impairment.

Pulse pressure is the difference between systolic and diastolic blood pressure and commonly increases with age due to the stiffening of arteries and blood vessels. The normal range of pulse pressure is between 40 and 60 mm Hg.

In a paper published in the journal Frontiers in Neuroscience, researchers have outlined a pulse-pressure-induced pathway of cognitive decline that sheds light on why previous treatments for dementia may have failed.



"Over the last couple years, a sea change in dementia and Alzheimer's disease research has occurred. Focus has shifted from solely targeting amyloid-beta in the brain to the opinion that more fruitful progress could be made by addressing factors that compromise the blood brain barrier," explained study co-author Mark Carnegie of The Brain Protection Company based in Australia.

Connecting a large and rapidly growing body of evidence, the researchers elucidate how elevated

pulse pressure may cause dementia by disturbing the blood brain barrier.

Elevated pulse pressure in blood travelling to the brain can cause inflammation, oxidative stress, mechanical stress, cellular dysfunction, and cell death in the blood brain barrier that leads to brain damage.

There is significant evidence supporting that disruption of the blood brain barrier is a key driver of cognitive decline and dementia.

Professor David Celermajor of The Brain Protection Company said that "this is an important paradigm shift in our understanding of the pathogenesis of dementia".

For the past two decades, a primary focus of drug development for Alzheimer's disease, the most prevalent form of dementia, has been to target the molecule amyloid-beta.

Study Links Increased Exercise With Lower Sleep Apnea Risk

Agencies

Washington D.C.-A new study has found that increased physical activity is associated with a lower risk of obstructive sleep apnea, a common sleep-related breathing disorder.

The study is the largest to date focused on the relationship between sleep apnea and levels of physical activity in the general community.

It has been published as an accepted paper in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine

Researchers reviewed lifestyle, medical, socio-demographic, and sleep health data collected from more than 155,000 adults participating in

the Ontario Health Study. Based on the physical activity of participants with and without sleep apnea, the investigators determined that a modest increase in physical activity, including walking, is associated with a 10 per cent reduction in the risk of developing sleep apnea.

"Our results highlight the importance of physical activity as a preventive measure against developing sleep apnea. One surprising finding was that not only vigorous physical activity but also just walking alone was associated with a decreased risk of sleep apnea," said senior author Lyle Palmer, who is professor of genetic epidemiology at the University of Adelaide in



Australia.

The authors found that adding 20 minutes to a daily walk and increasing vigorous daily activity by eight minutes would be enough to achieve a lower sleep apnea risk. The finding is independent of other known risk factors for sleep apnea such as sex, age, ethnicity, and obesity.

It is estimated that more

than 29 million American adults have sleep apnea, many of them undiagnosed. Untreated sleep apnea is associated with an increased risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and other potentially serious conditions.

"The rates of sleep apnea in children and adults are continuing to rise. Therefore, understanding the role of modifiable protective factors for sleep apnea is important. Exercise is one such protective factor and has many other positive effects on general health. Sleep health care professionals should be trying to get their patients to exercise more," said Palmer.

New Record Set For Earth's Longest Lightning, Both Distance And Duration

Agencies

United Nations: A single lightning flash stretched more than 700 kilometres across Brazil last year - equivalent to the distance between Boston and Washington DC - has created a new world record for the longest reported distance of lightning, the UN's weather agency has announced.

A World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) committee of experts said two new world records for the longest reported distance and the longest reported duration for a single lightning flash were set in Brazil and Argentina.

on October 31 last year. This was equivalent to the distance between Boston and Washington in the US, or between London and Basel in Switzerland.

The previous megaflash distance record was 321 km (199.5 miles) in June 2007 across the US state of Oklahoma, and the previous continuing duration record was 7.74 seconds, reached in August 2012 in southern France.

The new record-breaking strikes, captured by the American Geophysical Union ahead of International Lightning Safety Day on June 28, were recorded by equipment carried on the Geostationary Operational



The new records for extreme lightning bursts, or 'megaflashes', during 2019, are more than double the size and duration of the previous record flashes.

A lightning flash that developed continuously over northern Argentina on March 4, 2019 lasted a whopping 16.73 seconds.

A second flash stretched more than 700 kilometres (400 miles) across southern Brazil

Environmental Satellites, and their orbiting counterparts from Europe and China.

The records were described by Professor Randall Cerveny, chief rapporteur of Weather and Climate Extremes for WMO, as "extraordinary."

"Environmental extremes are living measurements of what nature is capable of, as well as scientific progress in being able to make such assessments," he said.

Imran Khan under fire for referring to bin Laden as martyr

Agencies

Islamabad: Pakistani opposition parties criticized Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday after he told parliament that al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden had been "martyred" in 2011 by U.S. forces. Bin Laden, who masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the United States, was killed in a raid on his hideout in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad after eluding detection for nearly 10 years.



Pakistan was not aware of the operation, which involved U.S. helicopters flying deep into the country from Afghanistan.

"I will never forget how we Pakistanis were embarrassed when the Americans came into Abbottabad and killed Osama bin Laden, martyred him," Khan said in his speech while recounting the lows of the relationship between Islamabad and Washington. Opposition leader Khawaja Asif, the foreign minister in the last government, was among those who objected to the remark. He described bin Laden as the "ultimate terrorist".

"He destroyed my nation, and he (Khan) is calling him a martyr," Asif said in his reply on the floor of the house. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, whose Pakistan Peoples Party was in power when bin Laden was killed, accused the prime minister of appeasing violent extremism.

The government's spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Khan's remarks and the opposition leaders' criticism.

Khan's speech came as the country's foreign office hit out at a U.S. State Department report that accused Pakistan of continuing to be a safe haven for "regionally focused terrorist groups".



Eye On China Aggression, US Defense Bill Seeks To Include India, Japan, Australia

Agencies

Washington: With an eye on the aggressive Chinese behaviour, the United States's Defense Bill - National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal 2021 - has sought fighter jet training detachment for India, Japan and Australia in the US Pacific territory of Guam. The move comes six months after the US Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Singapore Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen signed a memorandum of understanding for Singapore to set up a fighter jet training detachment in Guam.

The text of NDAA 2021, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, was introduced in the Senate on Thursday.

The act directs the Secretary of Defense submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing the merit and feasibility of entering into agreements similar to that of Singapore with other

US allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region, to include Japan, Australia, and India.

The US-Singapore memorandum is meant for approximately a squadron's worth of Republic of Singapore Air Force fighter jets and associated personnel. The Singapore training presence is expected to begin around 2029.

Among other things, the bill establishes the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, which will focus resources on the Indo-Pacific - addressing key military capability gaps, reassuring US allies and partners, and bolstering the credibility of the United States, said Senator Jim Inhofe, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Describing Indo-Pacific as the "priority theatre," an NDAA report said the bill establishes the Pacific Deterrence Initiative to enhance budgetary transparency and oversight, focus resources on capability gaps, reassure allies and partners, and restore the credibility of American deter-

rence in the region.

The bill proposes procurement of 48 Long Range Anti-Ship Missiles (LRASMs), which it said will be especially useful in the Indo-Pacific, which the Department of Defense has named its priority theatre.

The LRASM provides a near-term capability enhancement that will allow the carrier air wing to contribute to blunting a Chinese offensive earlier in conflict, thereby directly advancing the objectives and priorities laid out in the National Defense Strategy.

NDAA also seeks acceleration in the American effort to establish an F-35A operating locations forward in the Indo-Pacific region.

To date, the Air Force has announced the selection of nine operating locations for the F-35A, including locations in the US, Alaska, and Europe.

It has yet to announce plans for any F-35A operating locations forward in the Indo-Pacific region.

"Can't Breathe": Video Of Another Death In US Police Custody Emerges

Agencies

Washington: The chief of police in Tucson, Arizona on Wednesday offered to resign after he released a video showing the death of a Latino man who said "he could not breathe" as police handcuffed him and placed him face down on his stomach. Carlos Ingram-Lopez, 27, died on April 21, police restraining him in a "prone position" with his hands behind his back for about 12 minutes, police chief Chris Magnus told a news briefing.

The video showed Ingram-Lopez repeatedly asking for water, crying out, moaning and breathing heavily until he eventually falls silent. Three police officers resigned over the incident, Magnus said.

An investigation found they committed multiple policy violations during the incident, Magnus said, adding that he had offered his own resignation.

A source said Tucson's city manager had yet to accept Magnus' resignation "The involved officers did not live up to our department's high standards," Magnus said. The



video was released following weeks of protests demanding police departments be overhauled, defunded or dismantled to stop officers killing unarmed people of color.

The protests were sparked by the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis on May 25. Police reported Ingram-Lopez died from a sudden cardiac arrest with acute cocaine intoxication and an enlarged heart, according to the Pima County Medical Examiner's report.

Ingram-Lopez had committed

domestic violence against a "significant other" two days before his grandmother called police around 1 a.m. on April 21 and told them he was "drunk and yelling," Magnus said.

Ingram-Lopez was acting in a "highly erratic manner" when he was taken into custody, and officers, handcuffed him inside the garage of the family home, Magnus said.

Officers performed CPR and used Narcan to try to revive him after he became unresponsive, Magnus said.

PIA Grounds 150 Pilots With 'Dubious Licences'

Agencies

Islamabad: The cash-strapped Pakistan International Airlines on Thursday announced that it has grounded 150 pilots with "dubious licenses", a day after the preliminary probe report of the Karachi plane crash blamed the pilots and the air traffic control for the tragedy that killed 97 people.

Grounding so many pilots will affect the PIA flight operation, the spokesperson for the national carrier said, adding that they have already dismissed six pilots with fake degrees.

Those pilots who get their licenses verified will be allowed back on duty, Geo News quoted the PIA spokesperson as saying.

The national flag car-

tion Authority (CAA), PIA chairman requested the aviation authority for details of the remaining pilots with dubious and fake commercial licenses.

Action will be taken against all those pilots with fake licenses, PIA chairman said, adding they will take all the necessary steps to make the commercial operation safe.

The decision to ground the pilots was taken after Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan disclosed in the National Assembly on Wednesday that a large number of commercial pilots possessed dubious licences', Dawn newspaper reported.

Khan said that the pilots were not focused and their lack of concentration had caused the crash.

Human error by the pilots



rier on Thursday said it has grounded 150 pilots with "dubious licenses", a day after the report of the plane crash blamed the pilots and the air traffic control (ATC) for the incident, the report added.

"We have asked the Civil Aviation Authority to send the list of the remaining licenses, the spokesperson said. We acknowledge the report and are working on making our standard better.

In a letter to the Civil Avia-

and air traffic control caused the crash of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane, he said.

The PIA spokesman acknowledged the findings of the preliminary investigation report shared with the parliament by the aviation minister on the plane crash and reaffirmed PIA's resolve for further improving safety standards within the company using the findings of the report as guiding principles, the Dawn report said.

Israeli PM Announces Cooperation With UAE To Fight Coronavirus

Agencies

New Delhi: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday said his country would be cooperating with the United Arab Emirates to fight against the coronavirus pandemic, despite a lack of diplomatic ties.

"This collaboration will be in the areas of research and development and technology, in areas that will improve health security throughout the region," Netanyahu said in a statement.

He did not give further details, but said that the planned cooperation - to be announced formally by health ministers for Israel and the UAE - "is the result of prolonged and intense contacts in recent months".

Jordan and Egypt aside, Arab countries have no official relations with Israel.

But Arab states in the Gulf, including the UAE, have increasingly built informal ties with Israel in recent years amid shared concerns over Iran, which the Jewish state

considers its arch-enemy.

"The stronger we are, the more powerful we are at deterring our enemies and bringing our friends closer," Netanyahu said in his statement.

His remarks come just days before Israel intends to kick-start US-backed plans to annex settlements in the occupied West Bank and the Jordan Valley.

The plan has sparked the fury of the Palestinians and drawn international condemnation.

On Wednesday the United Nations, European and Arab powers warned Israel that the plan would deal a major blow to peace.

Arab countries have repeatedly called for a settlement to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as a condition for normalising ties with the Jewish state.

And earlier this month, the Emirati ambassador to Washington warned that annexation of parts of the West Bank would jeopardise any warming of Arab-Israeli relations.

NEW SMAKERS

Japanese Startup Makes Internet Connected "Smart Mask" Amid Coronavirus

Tokyo: As face coverings become the norm amid the coronavirus pandemic, Japanese startup Donut Robotics has developed an internet-connected "smart mask" that can transmit messages and translate from Japanese into eight other languages.

The white plastic "c-mask" fits over standard face masks and connects via Bluetooth to a smartphone and tablet application that can transcribe speech into text messages, make calls, or amplify the mask wearer's voice.

"We worked hard for years to develop a robot and we have used that technology to create a product that responds to how the coronavirus has reshaped society," said Taisuke Ono, the chief executive of Donut Robotics.

Donut Robotics' engineers came up with the idea for the

mask as they searched for a product to help the company survive the pandemic. When the coronavirus struck, it had just secured



a contract to supply robot guides and translators to Tokyo's Haneda Airport, a product that faces an uncertain future after the collapse of air travel.

Donut Robotics' first 5,000 c-masks will be shipped to buyers in Japan starting in September, with Ono looking to sell in Chi-

na, the United States and Europe too. There has been strong interest, he said.

At about \$40 per mask, Donut Robotics is aiming at a mass market that did not exist until a few months ago. One aim, he said, is to generate revenue from subscriber services offered via an app that users will download.

Donut Robotics built a prototype connected mask within a month by adapting translation software developed for its robot and a mask design that one of the company's engineers, Shunsuke Fujibayashi, created four years ago for a student project to interpret speech by mapping face muscles.

Ono raised 28 million yen (\$260,000) for development by selling Donut Robotics shares through Japanese crowdfunding site Fundinno.

Mangoes At Your Doorstep, Lamborghini Joyride: Dubai Supermarket's Offer

Dubai [UAE]: A supermarket in Dubai is delivering Mangoes at the doorsteps of its customers in a green Lamborghini, a Gulf news report has said.

The king should travel like a king," says Mohammad Jehanzeb, the managing director of the store at Dubai's Pakistan Supermarket.

Mohammad Jehanzeb delivers the pulpy fruit himself and also takes the customers on a short ride in the luxury car.

In order to avail the offer rolled out on the Facebook page of the famous supermarket, customers are required to make a minimum order of Dh100, the Gulf News report said.

"The idea is to put a smile on people's faces and make them feel special," says Mr Jehanzeb.

The videos of delighted mango lovers, taking a joy ride in the car, are doing rounds over the internet.

"The joy ride was essentially meant for kids who have been seques-

tered at homes because of the coronavirus but adults are equally thrilled at the prospect of getting behind the wheels of my Lamborghini Huracan. I am happy to oblige them too," Mr Jehanzeb said.

"Each order takes about an hour. We do about 7-8 home deliveries a day but are hoping to ramp up the numbers to 12," he adds.

Arshad Khan, who hails from India's Lucknow, said that his children were excited after hearing the roar of the Lamborghini outside their Falcon City villa.

"For someone who hails from Lucknow - the land of the famous dushsheri and landga mangoes - I was a bit skeptical about the taste of Pakistani mangoes. I ordered them for the sheer experience of seeing them come to my place in a luxury supercar," Gulf News quoted Mr Khan as saying.

"It was quite exhilarating and I must confess that the mangoes were as delicious as the ones back home," he added.

"To Protect Denmark's Interest": Danish PM Postpones Wedding Third Time

Copenhagen, Denmark: Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen thought she had finally found a date for her wedding, but has now had to postpone it for a third time due to an EU summit, she said Thursday.



Many a wedding plan has been upended by the COVID-19 pandemic and it seems not even world leaders are immune.

"I am really looking forward to marrying this fantastic man," Frederiksen wrote in a Facebook post alongside a photo of herself and her fiancé Bo.

"But obviously it can't be that easy, and now there is a council meeting in Brussels called, exactly on that Saturday in July when we had planned to marry," she wrote.

"But I have to do my work and take care of Denmark's interests. So we have to change plans again."

"Soon we should be able to get married. I'm looking forward to saying yes to Bo (who fortunately is very patient)."

Chinese Ports Holding Up Indian Consignments In Tit-For-Tat Move: FIEO

Some exporters have raised concerns over consignments being held back by Hong Kong and Chinese customs in response to a similar action being taken by Indian authorities at Chennai port, FIEO said on Thursday.

The matter assumes significance in the wake of border tensions between India and China at Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh.

"We have been given to understand that customs is physically examining all imports from China which is delaying clearance, adding to the cost of imports," Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President S K Saraf said in a letter to Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan.

He said that some exporters have informed that, in response to such action, Hong

"Kindly take it up with CBIC and, if no such instructions have been given, a denial may be issued by CBIC so that the matter may be communicated to our importers in China and Hong Kong to suitably take up with their customs explaining our stand," he added.

Later, briefing reporters on the issue, Saraf said: "We have found that at Chennai and Mumbai ports, Indian customs are opening and checking all containers of China, although there is no written instruction or circular from CBIC regarding that".

He added as the federation has taken up the matter with government, expects that the issue will be resolved soon.

Saraf also said that FIEO is against putting a blanket ban on imports of Chinese



Kong and Chinese customs are also holding back export consignments from India. Saraf urged the Commerce Ministry to take up the matter with Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to see whether any official communication has been sent to Indian customs regarding scrutiny of Chinese consignments here.

SC Breather For Anchor Amish Devgan on FIRs Over Remarks Against Sufi saint



The Supreme Court on Friday stayed any coercive action against TV news anchor Amish Devgan in multiple FIRs lodged in several states over his alleged defamatory statements against Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti.

A bench comprising Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari issued notices to those who have lodged criminal cases against the journalist, and also the state governments of Rajasthan, Telangana and Maharashtra where the cases have been lodged.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Devgan, sought the relief and said that the journalist has already issued a clarification for his alleged tweet.

Errors cannot be construed as criminal offences, Luthra said.

It was alleged that the journalist in his news show

on June 15 had used the term Lootera Chisti for the Sufi saint, inviting reactions from the Muslim community.

One of the FIRs was lodged at Pydhonie police station in Mumbai on the complaint of Arif Razvi, general secretary of Raza Academy against Devgan for allegedly hurting religious sentiments by referring to saint Chisti in derogatory terms in the TV programme.

However, later the news anchor tweeted saying that he was actually referring to Muslim ruler Alauddin Khilji and ended up naming Chisti.

The top court, which has fixed the plea for hearing in the first week of July, has ordered that till then no coercive action would be taken against Devgan.

The FIRs and complaints have also been lodged in Rajasthan and Telangana also alleging that Devgan had used word 'lootera' for the saint.



A CHILD BEING tested for Covid-19 at a city medical facility-KO photo Abid Bhat

International Commercial Flights To Remain Suspended Till July 15: Govt

NEW DELHI: The aviation regulator DGCA said on Friday it is extending the suspension of scheduled international passenger flights in the country till July 15 but added that some international scheduled services on select routes may be permitted on a case-to-case basis.

Scheduled international passenger flights were suspended in India on March 23 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"The competent authority has decided that scheduled international commercial passenger services to or from India shall remain suspended till 2359 hrs IST of July 15, 2020," said the DGCA circular.

"However, international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case to case basis," said the circular by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Air India and other private domestic airlines have been operating unscheduled international repatriation flights under the Vande Bharat Mission, which was started on May 6 by



the Central government. India resumed scheduled domestic passenger flights on May 25, after a gap of two months. PTI

Unilever Faces Calls To Scrap Skin Lightening Products

NEW DELHI: Unilever is facing calls to scrap a range of skin lightening products in South Asia, where critics said a rebranding announced on Thursday was a "gimmick" that did not fully resolve the problem.

"Fair & Lovely" products are sold across Asia, but the brand has long been criticised as perpetuating negative racial stereotypes and the company has faced intensified pressure in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement.

On Thursday, Unilever announced it was dropping the word "fair" from the name, a move applauded by some but criticised by others, with many people on social media in India saying it did not go far enough.

One Twitter user urged the company to "pull the plug on the product", while another said if the brand was "targeting the same set of people even with a different name, it doesn't become any less problematic", calling the change "a gimmick".

A spokeswoman for the company said it was removing all references



to whitening and lightening from its branding and that the name change was "not the end destination".

"We will also continue to evolve our advertising, to feature women of different skin tones, representative of the variety of beauty across India and other countries. We are fully committed to caring for and celebrating all skin tones," she said.

After years of criticism and campaigns against such products, many brands moved to calling them "skin brightening", "whitening" or "lightening" creams and face washes. Unilever said it would remove the words "fair/fairness", "white/whitening", and "light/lightening" from all its products and rename "Fair & Lovely" in the next few months.

Do Not Be Scared To Admit China Occupied Indian Territory: Rahul Gandhi To PM Modi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak up and tell the truth to the country on whether China has occupied any Indian territory.

He said if the Prime Minister says no Indian territory has been occupied by China, while satellite images show otherwise, then China stands to benefit from his statement.

"If you (the PM) say Indian land has not been taken by China and it has actually been taken, then China will stand to benefit," Gandhi said.

satellite images and experts say China has occupied Indian territory at three points in eastern Ladakh.

Noting that the entire country is standing together behind the prime minister, the former Congress chief said, "We have to together fight China and throw them out".

"Prime minister ji, speak up and do not be scared. You will have to tell the truth to the country. Don't be scared today that yes, China has taken our land and we are going to act against them. The whole country is with you," he said.



In a video message, part of the Congress party's 'Speak-UpForOurJawans' campaign in honour of martyred Indian soldiers, Gandhi said the prime minister had stated that not even an inch of Indian territory has been taken away by anyone and there has been no intrusion, but

Referring to the 20 Indian soldiers who died following a clash with the Chinese army personnel at Galwan valley in eastern Ladakh earlier this month, Gandhi asked the government to explain who had sent the Indian soldiers without weapons to the border.

Mild To Medium Colour Blind People Can Now Obtain Driving Licence



NEW DELHI: The central government said on Friday that those with mild to medium colour blindness could now obtain driving licence.

The Road Transport and Highways Ministry has issued a notification in this regard for necessary amendments in required forms of motor vehicle norms.

"The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued a notification for amendment to the Form 1 and Form 1A of the Central Motor Vehicles (CMV) Rules, 1989 for enabling the citizens with mild to medium colour blindness in obtaining the driving licence," the ministry said in a statement.

The MoRTH has been taking many measures to enable 'divyangjan' citizens to avail transport-related services and especially relating to the obtaining of the driving licence, it said.

The advisories, the statement said, have been issued in this regard to facilitate driving licence to 'divyangjan' citizens. Further, an advisory for people with monocular vision has also been issued, it said.

"The ministry received representations that the colour blind citizens are not able to have the driving licence made as restrictions through the requirements in the declaration about physical fitness (FORM 1) or the medical certificate (FORM 1A) makes it difficult," the statement said.

"The issue was taken up with medical expert institution and advice was sought. The recommendations received were to allow mild to medium colour blind citizens to be allowed to drive and put restrictions only on the severe colour blind citizens from driving," the statement said.

This is also allowed in other parts of the world.

Earlier issuing a draft notification in March, the ministry had sought suggestions and comments from various stakeholders for an amendment in Motor Vehicle Rules for enabling such individuals obtain driving licence.

"It was brought to the notice of the ministry that the colour blind citizens were not being able to get the driving licence made although they are able to perform all functions properly except from identifying colours. The matter was sympathetically examined consulting the medical experts," the ministry had said earlier.

NEWS MAKERS

Hindujas Fight Over Fortune: Over \$11 Billion Family Assets At Stake

NEW DELHI: A USD 11 billion business empire spread over 38 countries that includes banks, India's second-largest truck maker and lubricant making firms is at the heart of a legal dispute in the Hinduja family that is now playing out in a London court.

The four Hinduja brothers -- Srichand, Gopichand, Prakash and Ashok -- had in 2014 signed on a document saying the assets held by one brother belong to all, and that each of them will appoint the others as their executors.

But now family patriarch Srichand Hinduja, 84, and his daughter Vinoo want the letter to be declared of "no legal



effect" and the family's assets be separated as per his wish of 2016.

Hinduja Group has presence in auto, financial services, IT, media, infrastructure, energy and chemicals and healthcare sectors.

Differences among the brothers cropped up over control of a bank the group has in Switzerland.

Gopichand, Prakash and Ashok tried to use the 2014

letter to take control of Hinduja Bank -- an asset that was in Srichand's sole name, resulting in the legal battle, according to court documents.

Vinoo and Srichand Hinduja now want the court to agree that the document has no legal standing and can be revoked.

Hinduja Bank has Shanu Hinduja, the other daughter of Srichand, as chairperson, and her son Karam was appointed CEO just last week.

It was not immediately known if the 2014 document, which is at the centre of the dispute, is an informal agreement, a will or the basis of a family constitution.

Woman, 30, Discovers She's A "Man", Has Rare Condition

KOLKATA: For thirty years, she has lived a normal life with no complications, until recently, when doctors in Kolkata diagnosed her with a very rare condition that can be found in one out of 22,000 people.

While treating her for abdominal pain, doctors found that she was a "man" suffering from testicular cancer.

Surprisingly, her 28-year-old sister, who underwent necessary tests following the revelation, was also diagnosed with "Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome" -- a condition in which a person is genetically male but has all physical traits of a woman.

The 30-year-old woman, who is a resident of Bengal's Birbhum



and has been married for the last nine years, had visited the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Cancer Hospital in Kolkata with severe pain in lower the abdomen a couple of months ago. Dr Anupam Dutta and Dr Soumen Das conducted her medical tests and found her "true identity" during treatment.

"From her appearance, she is a woman - starting from her voice, developed breasts, normal external genitalia. However, the uterus and ovaries have

been absent since birth. She has also never experienced menstruation," Dr Dutta told PTI.

"We conducted clinical examinations, after she complained of abdominal pain, and found out she has testicles inside her body. A biopsy was conducted, following which she was diagnosed with testicular cancer, also called seminoma, Dr Dutta explained.

Currently, she is undergoing chemotherapy and her health condition is stable.

"As her testicles remained undeveloped inside the body, there was no secretion of testosterone. Her female hormones, on the other hand, gave the appearance of a woman," Dr Dutta said.

1993 Mumbai Serial Blast Convict Yusuf Memon Dead Mumbai, June 26

Yusuf Memon, a 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case convict and a brother of absconding accused Tiger Memon, died on Friday at Nashik Road Prison in Maharashtra's Nashik district, a prison official said. The cause of death was yet to be ascertained, the official sent. The body would be sent to Dhule for autopsy. Nashik police commissioner Vishwas Nangre-Patil confirmed Memon's death. While Tiger Memon was allegedly the mastermind of the blasts conspiracy along with fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, Yusuf was accused of allowing his flat and garage at Al-Husseini building in Mumbai for terrorist activities. A special TADA court had sentenced him to life imprisonment. Yakub Memon, another Memon brother who was arrested in the case, was hanged in 2015. At least 250 persons were killed and hundreds were injured when 12 blasts ripped through Mumbai on March 12, 1993. PTI

