

Maximum : 31°C
Minimum : 17°C
Humidity : 44%
SUNSET
Today 07:46 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:23 AM

News Digest

Pak PM Moves UN Over J&K Domicile Issue

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Tuesday that he has approached the UN over the issue of the grant of domicile certificates by India to the people not originally from Jammu and Kashmir. As per the new domicile law, non-permanent residents who have residency proof of at least 15 years in Jammu and Kashmir are entitled to get domicile certificates. "I have approached UN Secretary General and am reaching out to other world leaders..." Khan tweeted. Pakistan has been unsuccessfully trying to drum up international support against ● P-02

Gunfight Breaks Out In Tral

Srinagar: A gunfight broke out on Tuesday between militants and government forces in Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district. An official said that a joint team of Police, army's 42 RR and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in Brant-Talran specific information about the presence of militants in the area. He said that as the joint team of forces approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them which was retaliated triggering an encounter. A senior police officer also confirmed the exchange of fire between forces and militants. ● P-02

Infiltration Bid Foiled In Kupwara: Army

Srinagar: Army on Tuesday claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid by a group of militants along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. According to an army spokesperson, a group of militants tried to sneak into the Valley through LoC in Parkian Gali Sector of the frontier district before the soldiers pushed them back. "On night of 29/30 Jun 2020, suspicious movement of 6-8 persons was observed in two groups in Parkian Gali Sector, Kupwara (J&K) along the LoC. Own troops challenged the infiltrators ● P-02

BSF Officer Falls Off Building, Dies

Srinagar: An Assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Border Security Force (BSF) died on Tuesday after he fell from a building in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. ASI Rampal of BSF 169 Battalion, posted at Sainik School Manasbal fell from a building, leaving him severely wounded, officials said. The injured BSF man was shifted to PHC Kachan where doctors declared him brought dead. An official said that all the medical formalities have been completed and the body will be shifted to Humama base camp. He said that the body will be later airlifted to his home in Rajasthan—(KNO)

Youth 'Strangulates' Self

Srinagar: A youth allegedly committed suicide on Tuesday by hanging himself to death in Bemina area of Srinagar. The 25-year-old Altaf Ahmad Gujjar of Aripal area of Tral allegedly hanged himself to death on the second floor of the newly constructed maternity Hospital at Bemina Srinagar. Meanwhile, police has recovered the body and has started investigation in this regard—(KNO)

Cross-LoC Shelling Continues In North Kashmir

SRINAGAR: India and Pakistan troops on Tuesday traded heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Naugam sector of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

"On 30 Jun 2020 in the morning hours, Pakistan started unprovoked ceasefire violence (CFV) along the LOC in Naugam Sector, Baramulla (J&K) by firing mortars and other weapons. Be-fitting response is being given," army's Chinara Corps said in a Tweet.

The fresh exchange of fire along the LoC comes a day after the two armies clashed in Tangdhar sector of the neighbouring Kupwara district.

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

On June 20, five civilians, including two minors were injured in ● PAGE 02

...LADAKH STAND-OFF

India, China Corps Commanders Meet Remains Inconclusive

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Indian and Chinese militaries on Tuesday held an over 10-hour Corps Commander-level dialogue with a focus on finalising modalities for the disengagement of troops from various stand-off points in eastern Ladakh, and explored ways to ease tension in the region, government sources said.

In the meeting, the Indian delegation conveyed concerns over China's "new claim lines" in the region and demanded restoration of status quo ante as well as immediate withdrawal of Chinese troops from Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso and a number of other areas, they said.

The talks took place on the Indian side of Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Chushul sector in eastern Ladakh. The meeting began at 11 AM and was continuing beyond 9 PM, the sources said.

The Indian delegation at the meeting was headed by 14 Corps Commander Lt Gen Harinder Singh while the Chinese side was led by the Commander ● PAGE 02



Image for representation

China Voices Concern Over Apps Ban

A day after India banned 59 apps with Chinese links for engaging in activities which are "prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity" of the country, ● P-02

Cong Attacks PM For Skipping China In His Speech

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of doing headline management, the Congress on Tuesday said his address to the nation was "much ado ● P-02

Covid-19 Guidelines Extended In J&K Till July 3

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday extended Covid-19 guidelines across the Union Territory till July 3, officials said. In an order issued here today, the State Executive Committee said the guidelines or instructions issued on June 7 with regard to lockdown would continue until July 3, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the guidelines cum restrictions issued vide Order No. 59 & 61-JK- (DMRRR) of 2020 dated 07.06.2020 ● PAGE 02

Militants Responsible For Bijbehara Attack Killed: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have killed two militants responsible for shootout in south Kashmir's Bijbehara town in which a CRPF personnel and minor were killed.

Special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 3RR and CRPF laid a cordon around Waghama in Anantnag on Tuesday morning on a specific input regarding the presence of militants in the village, a police spokesperson said. The state forces gave surrender offer to the holed up militants when their presence in the village was ascertained.

"However they fired indiscrimi-



Pic: Shashank Jindal

Govt Orders Speeding Up Land Cases Of Central Forces

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The divisional administration on Tuesday asked officials to expedite pending land acquisition and requisition cases of the BSF, CRPF and SSB in Jammu province at the earliest.

According to an official spokesperson, Divisional Commissioner, Sanjeev Verma, today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the status of land acquisition cases of BSF, CRPF and SSB. In the meeting, he said Verma sought case wise detail of land acquisition, requisition cases and



Divisional Commissioner, Sanjeev Verma land cases of central forces in Jammu on Tuesday. Pic, DIPR

asked the concerned officers for resolving all the pending land acquisition and requisition cases of BSF, CRPF, and SSB at ● PAGE 02

PM Announces Free Ration For 80 Cr People For 5 Months



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), a programme to provide free ration for over 80 crore people, mostly poor, for five more months till November end.

In a televised address to the nation, the prime minister said over Rs 90,000 crore will be spent on the programme's extension, and if the last three months expenditure on account of the free ration scheme is added then the total budget will be about Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

The scheme was rolled out for three months from April soon after the nationwide lockdown was announced to combat the COVID-19.

Modi noted that July marks the beginning of the festive season when people's needs as well as expenditure increase.

"Keeping all these things in mind, it has been decided to extend Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana up to Diwali and Chhath Puja till the November end," Modi said on the eve of the start of 'Unlock-2' for a graded exit from the national lockdown that was imposed on ● PAGE 02

Covid-19 Death Toll Crosses 100 Mark In J&K As 5 More Succumb



Health workers carrying body of a Covid-19 deceased for final rites.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus related deaths crossed 100 mark in Jammu and Kashmir as five more people on Tuesday died of Covid-19, taking the total number of fatalities across the Union Territory to 101.

Among the fresh fatalities, four were reported from Kashmir Valley while one was from Jammu division's Kathua district.

Two of the deaths in Valley took place in CD hospital here—one of them a 23-year-old youth from Shopian and another, a 65-year-old woman, from Baghat Barzulla.

Medical Superintendent CD hospital, one of the exclusive facilities

60 CRPF Men, 11 Cops Among 260 New Cases

At least sixty CRPF personnel, eleven cops and two soldiers on Tuesday tested positive for coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir, raising the count of infected persons in the Union Territory to 7,497 "260 new Covid-19 cases were detected in J&K. While ● P-02

for the management of Covid-19 patients said that the ● PAGE 02

HE WAS HAVING HEAD INJURY WAS in serious condition," he said, adding, "The 65-year-old woman from Baghat Barzulla was on ventilator. She was hypertensive, diabetic and had other ailments."

No Case Of Covid-19 Among Inmates In 14 J&K Jails: DG Prisons

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: There is no case of COVID-19 among the 3,628 prisoners lodged in 14 jails across Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of Prisons V K Singh said on Tuesday, attributing it to the prevention measures taken by officials.

He also said that currently, 150 new prisoners are undergoing mandatory 14-day quarantine within jail premises. None of them have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, Singh said.

"We have no case of COVID-19 among prisoners as well as jail staff and we are hopeful there will be none in the future given

the preventive measures taken by the department for the safety of inmates," he told reporters at the Jammu District Jail.

The prisons department is following government approved standard operating procedures (SOPs) strictly to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, the DG said.

Singh said that the SOPs were proposed to the government soon after the outbreak of the novel coronavirus and they were implemented immediately after approval.

"We also incorporated good practices adopted by other states," he said, adding that procedures are being followed by jail staff and prisoners. ● PAGE 02

Geelani's Mission Has Failed, Says DGP Dilbagh Singh

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Tuesday said the dissociation of Syed Ali Shah Geelani from Hurriyat Conference was reflective of his "frustration and the negative approach".

He also said the security agencies are working hard to make more areas militancy free to relieve people of the "oppression and atrocities" by militants but said no time frame could be set to make the Kashmir Valley violence-free as Pakistan is

continuously making attempts to push in armed militants.

"Geelani disassociated himself from the Hurriyat Conference yesterday and in his letter he acknowledged of having caused huge loss of life and property to the people over the years and the mission he wants to follow has failed," the police chief told reporters after inaugurating a women's police station in Rajouri district.

He said Geelani's admission that the people associated with the Hurriyat used its platform for personal gains was ● PAGE 02

...FRATRICIDAL KILLINGS Court Gives Life Term To CRPF Man For Killing 3 Colleagues

SRINAGAR: A local court on Tuesday awarded life imprisonment to a CRPF personnel for killing three of his colleagues and injuring another in a fit of rage in Kuglam district of south Kashmir nine years ago.

After hearing the case for nine years, the Sessions Court Kulgam convicted Sanjay Kumar for fratricidal killing and sentenced him to life imprisonment, reports said. The accused was in police custody all these years and he will spend the quantum of punishment in the jail.

In 2011, Kumar shot dead three colleagues and injured another inside the barrack of CRPF 18 battalion in Kulgam town following ● P-02

Imran Blames India For Attack On Pak Stock Exchange Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan blamed Monday's attempted siege of the nation's stock exchange on India, ratcheting up the war of words between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

Khan told lawmakers in parliament that India was "no doubt" involved in the attacks. He didn't give any evidence, and reiterated comments made by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday. The raid on the bourse in Karachi left four security personnel dead. All four gunmen were also killed.

India's foreign ministry spokesperson rejected the accusation made by Qureshi on Monday, calling them "absurd."

India and the U.S. see Pakistan as providing safe haven for militant



groups and say that the leadership of groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, which carried out the Mumbai attacks in 2008, still live freely in Pakistan. While Pakistan says India is funding militants in the restive Balochistan province.

Balochistan Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack at the exchange on Monday, Associated Press reported. ● PAGE 02

Has Civil Services Exam Become A Herculean Task For Kashmiris?

Jyotsna Bharti

SRINAGAR: Someone who's born and brought up in Kashmir, said Mubeen Khan, knows the value of education because it doesn't come easy.

"We've to face a lot of obstacles on the political and personal front to come up and study hard," said Khan, a 23-year-old graduate from Srinagar, currently trying his luck in Civil Services Exam.

"I always wanted to write UPSC [Union Public Service Commission] exam, but despite being a topper all my life, I've failed this time. There's no availability of high-speed internet and access to classrooms due to constant lockdown. I don't know what's there in store for Kashmiri students!"

Like Khan, many other Kashmiri



Image for representation

students want to fight their circumstances to fulfill their career dreams. But most of them find themselves at the crossroads due to the recurrent situation back home.

"Problem is," said Asim Mohammad, a UPSC exam trainer from Sri-

nagar, "while candidates from other states are coming in droves to fill the IAS/IPS vacancies in Jammu and Kashmir every year, our own students are lagging behind. Politics has marred their career prospects. This trend should concern all of us and we should start raising this question,

as why these exams have become herculean tasks for natives."

This concern is being voiced when Jammu and Kashmir has already emerged as the region with the highest unemployment rate in North India. It has the eighth-highest unemployment rate in India, according to the survey released by the Labour Bureau under the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment. Adding to that, the constant lockdowns and internet blockade has made these exams a distant dream.

"We don't have the opportunity of having any IT jobs in Kashmir because of the obvious reasons," said Rameez Bhat, an IAS aspirant from Anantnag. "Also, after seeing corruption, faults in the management and government, most of us want to join UPSC and aim ● PAGE 02

From Front page...

India, China Corps...

of the Tibet Military District Major General Liu Lin. The sources said the Indian side also pitched for strictly following provisions of a number of agreements on dealing with issues relating to handling of border issues. The focus of the talks was on finalising the modalities for de-escalation, and disengagement of troops from various friction points, the sources said adding there were deliberations on confidence building measures as well. There was no official word on details of the meeting. It was the third corps commander-level meeting since the standoff began on May 5. In the previous two rounds of talks, the Indian side demanded immediate withdrawal of Chinese troops from various areas in the region. The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last seven weeks, and the tension escalated manifold after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a violent clash in Galwan Valley on June 15. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details. In the talks on June 22, the two sides arrived at a "mutual consensus" to "disengage" from all the friction points in eastern Ladakh. The previous two rounds of dialogue took place at Moldo on the Chinese side of the LAC. Following the Galwan Valley incident, the government has given the armed forces "full freedom" to give a "befitting" response to any Chinese misadventure along the LAC, the 3,500-km de-facto border. The Army has sent thousands of additional troops to forward locations along the border in the last two weeks. The IAF has also moved air defence systems as well as a sizeable number of its frontline combat jets and attack helicopters to several key air bases. In a strongly-worded statement, the external affairs ministry last week held China responsible for the standoff, saying it has been amassing a large contingent of troops and armaments along the LAC since early May and that conduct of the Chinese forces is in complete disregard of all mutually agreed norms. The first round of the Lt General talks was held on June 6 during which both sides finalised an agreement to disengage gradually from all the standoff points beginning with Galwan Valley. However, the situation deteriorated following the Galwan Valley clashes as the two sides significantly bolstered their deployments in most areas along the LAC. Tensions had escalated in eastern Ladakh 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.

China Voices Concern...

China on Tuesday voiced strong concern over the move, and said the Indian government has the responsibility to uphold the "legitimate and legal rights" of international investors. India on Monday banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including the hugely popular TikTok and UC Browser, for engaging in "activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order". The ban also comes in the backdrop of the current stand-off along the Line of Actual control in eastern Ladakh with Chinese troops. Reacting to India's ban of the Chinese apps at a Chinese Foreign Ministry briefing here, spokesman Zhao Lijian said, China is strongly concerned about the relevant notice issued by the Indian side. We are checking and verifying the situation. "I want to stress that the Chinese government always asks the Chinese businesses to abide by international rules, local laws and regulations in their business cooperation with foreign countries," he said. The Indian government has the responsibility to uphold the legitimate and legal rights of the international investors including the Chinese ones, he added. India's Information Technology Ministry said on Monday that it has invoked its power under section 69A of the IT Act and rules, and has decided to block 59 apps in view of information available that they are "engaged in activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order". The move will "safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users. This decision is a targeted move to ensure safety and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace", the ministry said in a statement. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said the practical co-operation between China and India is actually mutually beneficial and win-win. Such pattern has been artificially undermined and it is not in the interest of the Indian side, Zhao added. The list of apps that have been banned by India also include Helo, Likee, Cam Scanner, Vigo Video, Mi Video Call Xiaomi, Clash of Kings as well as e-commerce platforms Club Factory and Shein. The IT ministry statement also said that it has received many complaints from various sources, including several reports about misuse of some mobile apps available on Android and iOS platforms for "stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users' data in an unauthorised manner to servers which have locations outside India". "The compilation of these data, its mining and profiling by elements hostile to national security and defence of India, which ultimately impinges upon the sovereignty and integrity of India, is a matter of very deep and immediate concern which requires emergency measures," the statement said.

Cong Attacks PM...

about nothing" as he belied expectations and skipped any mention of the border standoff with China. Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said Modi did not look the "enemy" in the eye, which was expected of him after a bloody standoff with China in Ladakh on June 15. "Our biggest expectation was that the PM will gather the courage and the will to look at China in the eye and reply to the enemy. Take the enemy head-on and make a very strong statement against what China is doing. But the PM once again shied away," she said. The Congress has been demanding the prime minister to name China as "aggressor" and send a strong message to it after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in violent clash with Chinese troops. On Monday, the government banned 59 mobile applications with Chinese links, including TikTok and UC Browser, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country. During his 16-minute televised address on Tuesday, Modi cautioned people against laxity in following government guidelines and taking precautions against the coronavirus. He said India was comparatively better positioned vis-a-vis many other countries because of "timely imposition" of a nationwide lockdown and other decisions of his government. He also announced extension of a central government scheme to provide free ration to over 80 crore people, hit by the pandemic, until November. Shrinate said many had hoped the prime minister would talk about substantive steps to contain the pandemic and putting the economy back on track, but he did not. She said the prime minister only talked about the extension of an existing scheme, which could have been done by issuing a simple notification. "Neither did the prime minister talk about job losses and wage cuts," she said, "nor did he announce the much needed relief to migrant labourers and the poor." Urging Modi to ensure a cash transfer of Rs 7,500 to the poor, the Congress spokesperson said he should keep "raj dharma"

and national interest in mind in doing so. The prime minister said everything was well but the truth is "far from that" as India is among the top four nations as far as COVID-19 cases are concerned. India's COVID-19 tally climbed to 5,66,840 on Tuesday with nearly 66 per cent cases reported in June alone. For seven days, the country has been reporting more than 15,000 cases and experts say the pandemic has yet to reach its peak. "There was massive euphoria and build up. At the end of it, the prime minister's address was 'much ado about nothing. We had great expectations from the prime minister. once again he belied our expectations," she said at a virtual press conference. The congress leader said it seems the top priority of the PM is the Bihar elections. "The hype and build up was all aimed at headline management," she said.

PM Announces Free...

March 25. 'Unlock-1' ends on Tuesday The prime minister said in his 16-minute address that the central government is also working on the "one nation, one ration card" initiative which, he added, will benefit people living outside their home for employment and other needs the most. This is Modi's sixth address to the nation after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic Underscoring the enormity of the free ration scheme, Modi said it covers two and half times the population of the United States, 12 times the population of the United Kingdom and double the population of the European Union Each member of a family covered under the scheme will get five kilogram wheat or rice, and every family will get one kilogram whole gram per month as well Highlighting his government's pro-poor measures during the lockdown, he said it had announced Rs 1.75 lakh crore package for the poor earlier, with Rs 31,000 crore transferred to 20 crore poor families under direct benefit transfer and Rs 18,000 crore given to nine crore farmers The Union government, he added, is also spending Rs 50,000 crore for providing employment to people in rural India With economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic hitting employment across the country and millions of migrant labourers having returned to their native states, the extension of the free ration scheme is expected to provide succour to the poor It is also expected to help the ruling BJP-led NDA in the poll-bound Bihar, which is home to a huge number of migrants and beneficiaries of the scheme Modi also credited farmers and honest taxpayers for the government's success in providing free ration to the needy and poor While farmers produced enough grains, contribution from honest taxpayers has helped the poor coping with such a big crisis successfully, he said "On behalf of all the poor of the country, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the taxpayers and farmers, and also salute them. In the coming days, we will further strengthen our efforts and continuously work to empower the poor, downtrodden and deprived sections of society. While taking all the precautions, we will further expand the economic activities," Modi said The nation's top priority during the lockdown was to ensure that no one remains hungry, and the Central government, state governments and civil society, all did their best, he added The prime minister said his government will continue to work ceaselessly for 'aatamiribhar Bharat' "We all will be vocal for Local. With this pledge and commitment, the 130 crore people of this country will have to work together and move forward together." Speaking on the coronavirus situation, he said India is comparatively in a better position compared to many countries of the world, as timely imposition of lockdown and other decisions have saved lakhs of lives But, he also expressed concern that since 'Unlock-1' began there is an increasing "negligence" in personal and social behaviour "Earlier, we were very careful with respect to wearing of masks, social distancing and washing of hands for 20 seconds. But today, when we need to be more careful, increasing negligence is a cause of worry," he said.

Covid-19 Death Toll Crosses

23-year-old youth was shifted from SHMS hospital yesterday. "He was having head injury was in serious condition," he said, adding, "The 65-year-old woman from Baghat Barzulla was on ventilator. She was hypertensive, diabetic and had other ailments." A 65-year-old man from Qamarwari area of Srinagar also tested positive for the novel coronavirus, hours after his death at the SMHS hospital here. He was admitted to the SMHS hospital's isolation ward on Monday and was suffering from bilateral pneumonia. "He complained chest related problem and his oxygen level was low as such we took him to SMHS hospital on Monday afternoon. He was admitted to isolation ward and died at 9:30 a.m. today," the deceased's son said. Earlier, an 85-year-old woman from Basohli area of the Kathua district died at GMC Jammu. The octogenarian was the first covid-19 victim in the district. "She was suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and was on oxygen since admission. She died at 7:30 a.m. today," said Dr. Nasib Chand Digra, Principal Dean Government Medical College Jammu. With history of travel, she was admitted to the JMC on June 25 and was on oxygen support since, a senior doctor of the hospital said. Later in the day, a 55-year-old covid-19 positive patient from Baramulla district died at a hospital here. A resident of Devan Bagh Baramulla, the 55-year-old businessman was admitted to SKIMS Bemina on June 27, said hospital's Medical Superintendent Dr Shifa Deva. "He was suffering from pneumonia," she said. With four more fatalities, the death toll in J&K due to COVID-19 has reached 100 – 89 in Valley and 12 in Jammu division. Srinagar, with 24 deaths tops the list of Covid-19 fatalities followed by 16 in Baramulla, 13 in Kulgam, 12 in Shopian, seven each in Budgam, Anantnag & Jammu, five in Kupwara, four in Pulwama and one each in Bandipora, Udhampur, Doda, , Kathua, Poonch and Rajouri districts. (with GNS inputs)

60 CRPF Men, 11 Cops Among

228 of them are from Kashmir, 32 are from Jammu," the officials said. Among fresh cases, 64 cases were reported from Kulgam followed by 46 from Srinagar, 44 from Baramulla, 19 each from Budagm & Baramulla, 17 from Anantnag, 14 from Pulwama, 12 from Jammu, seven from Udhampur, five each from Ramban & Kathua, three from Bandipora, two from Rajouri and one each Kupwara, Ganderbal & Samba, they said. According to officials, 137 more patients recovered and were discharged from different hospitals. The cases detected on Tuesday included 22 people who had returned to J&K recently. Besides it, 60 CRPF personnel from 29, 44 and 18 battalions from Patha Chowk, HMT Srinagar and Kulgam were confirmed Covid-19 positive at the SKIMS here. 11 cops from Police Station Rajpora Pulwama also tested positive for virus today. The number of confirmed cases has now reached 7,497 out of which 5886 are in Kashmir, while 1,611 are in Jammu, the officials said. There are 2,674 active cases of the coronavirus disease in J&K – 2,233 in Kashmir and 441 in Jammu – and 4,722 (3,564 from Kashmir and 1,158 from Jammu) patients have recovered, according to officials. The J&K has witnessed 101 (89 from Kashmir, 12 from Jammu) Covid-19 deaths so far.

No Case Of Covid-19 Among

This has resulted in no COVID-19 cases among prisoners and staff, Singh said, adding that visits by relatives were stopped after the outbreak. Inmates are contacting their relatives through the prison inmate calling system under which two pre-verified numbers of each prisoner is loaded in the calling machine, the officer said. To facilitate trials and interaction between prisoners and their family members, video conferencing, which was initially introduced in the Jammu District Jail and the central jails in Jammu and Srinagar, was extended to all other jails, Singh said. The DG prisons said modernisation of interaction chambers has helped the department to overcome the problem of escorting prisoners to courts during the prevailing COVID-19 crisis. He said new prisoners undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days. "At present, we have 150 inmates under quarantine across the prisons," Singh said. There are a total of 3,628 inmates in 14 jails across Jammu and Kashmir as against a capacity of 3,232, he said. "This amounts to an occupancy rate of 112 per cent, which is below the national average of 115 percent," he said, adding that 88 per cent of jail inmates are undertrials, seven per cent booked under the Public Safety Act and five per cent are convicts. Referring to the Supreme Court directive to decongest jails to ensure social distancing among prisoners, he said as many as 437 undertrials were released on bail while 33 others were released on parole. In response to a question about the recovery of a mobile phone from the central jail in Jammu in recently, Singh refused to divulge any details but said there is a constant "cat and mouse" game happening. "We would like that lapses do not happen and we have a good equation with the police. We are constantly monitoring the situation, he said. Singh also highlighted various measures taken by the department to reform prisoners and said over the last one year, several top judiciary, army and civil officers have visited jails and interacted with inmates. He said dry canteen facility has been provided in every jail and inmates are also involved in the manufacturing of face masks to overcome the shortage of the protective gear against COVID-19. Superintendent of the district jail, Mirza Saleem Ahmad Beig, said, "Initially, we received demand (of face masks) from government departments and started making the face masks which was subsequently given to frontline workers as well." Beig said there is enough stock of masks and they are being sold at markets.

Militants Responsible...

the police spokesperson said that the duo and another militant Zahid were involved in killing of a policeman last year and killings of two CRPF personnel and a minor boy recently. "Incriminating materials including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes," 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. "In this connection a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Bijbehara and investigation has been initiated," he added. Pertinently, this was second encounter in Anantnag district in less than 24 hours. Three militants were killed in the gun battle with state forces at Khulchohar area of the district on Monday.

3 ‘Militants’ Chargesheeted

civilians injured. Following the attack, the police spokesperson said a case FIR No. 10/2020 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Kothibagh and investigation was initiated. "During the course of vigorous investigation, officers with the help of advanced technical tools identified the three militants involved in the incident," he said. The police spokesperson said that all the three Jaish-e-Muham-mad militants were arrested with evidence within four days of the incident. During the investigations, he said it was learnt that the trio were tasked to carry out grenade attacks at different places in Srinagar City, particularly Lal Chowk area, to disturb the peace and public besides posing threat to the integrity and sovereignty of the Nation." "Accordingly during the course of investigation, all the required evidence was collected in a professional manner against three involved militants and the case has been presented before the Hon'ble Court of Additional District and Session Judge TADA/POTA for Judicial determination," the police spokesperson added.

Covid-19 Guidelines ...

will remain in place until 03.07.2020 saying the Center's fresh guidelines on some relaxations require a detailed assessment and consultations on the spread of COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt Orders Speeding...

the earliest. "He also asked the revenue officers to prepare revenue papers of land, conduct joint verifications for early resolutions to pending cases," the official spokesperson said. In the meeting that was attended by DFO Jammu, Alok Kumar Maurya, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Jammu, Vijay Kumar Sharma, senior officers of BSF, CRPF, SSB and Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, it was informed that most of the cases have been resolved in some of the districts while other pending cases are being processed. "Besides, some of the cases after verifications have been sent to home department for NOC. The concerned officers apprised the Div Com of present status of land requisition and acquisition cases pending in various districts," the official spokesperson added.

Geelani's Mission Has...

reflective of the "frustration, incompetence, negative thinking and negative activity". Geelani, 90, the lifetime chairman of the pro-Pakistan Hurriyat Conference, made a surprise announcement of completely dissociating himself from the 16-party amalgam on Monday, alleging lack of accountability and a brewing rebellion in the ranks. Asserting that police and other security agencies are working to strengthen the peace prevailing in the valley at present, the DGP said 128 militants were eliminated since the beginning of this year, but Pakistan is making all out efforts to push more militants into this side to keep the pot boiling. "This month alone, 48 militants were killed in various successful operations, which is the highest number in the month of June in the past many years. The last surviving militant from Doda was among three militants killed in Anantnag district yesterday, while two more militants who were involved in the recent killing of a CRPF jawan and an innocent child were eliminated (in south Kashmir) today," he said. The DGP said police and other security agencies are working to make more areas militancy free so that people are relieved of the "oppression and atrocities" being committed by militants. "They have killed innocent people but the situation is far better than before and we are trying to further strengthen the peace in the valley," he said. In response to a question, Singh said setting a time frame for

making Kashmir violence-free is not possible since Pakistan is continuously pushing armed militants into this side. However, he said security forces are working to further strengthen the border grid to foil the Pakistani attempts to push in armed militants into this side. "A new infiltrating group (of militants) had come from Pakistan and was neutralised on the Line of Control in Nowshera sector (Rajouri) on May 28. It was followed by another encounter after a gap of one day and one more militant was killed while two of his associates probably went back. "Similar attempts are being made on the international border as well. We have an encounter with a group of three Jaish-e-Mohammed militants who sneaked but were eliminated in an encounter in Nagrota (in January). A group had earlier managed to sneak via the same route," he said. He said similar infiltration bids were made in the Kashmir Valley, especially Keran and Karnah in Kupwara and Uri in Baramulla. "Many infiltration bids were made from there. One group was neutralised in April (in Kupwara) while attempts are being made to activate Gurez and Machil sectors (of north Kashmir) to facilitate infiltration," he said, adding that the border grid is fully vigilant and the nefarious design of Pakistan would be scuttled. Referring to his visit to Basantar sector along the International Border (IB) along with Inspector General of the Border Security Force (BSF), Jammu frontier, he said security grid is being further tightened there. He said Pakistan is also trying to utilise drones to smuggle weapons and narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir and "we are working out a countermeasure to deal with the threat". "BSF jawan successfully shot down a drone armed with an M4 rifle and some grenades along the IB. This was for the first time that a drone was shot down though there were a number of attempts by Pakistan to send drones earlier as well," he said, adding that the weapons were meant for JeM militant Ali Bhai, who is active in south Kashmir. Besides inaugurating the women's police station in Rajouri, the DGP said his visit to the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch was aimed at reviewing the prevailing security and COVID-19 situation.

Court Gives Life Term To...

an altercation. All four were working as drivers in the force. Following the fractricidal killings, Police had lodged a case and arrested six CRPF personnel as part of the investigation to fix the responsibility.

Imran Blames India For...

The attackers had planned a Mumbai-style operation and they wanted to take hostages, Khan said. Pakistan, earlier this year, escaped being placed on a global financial blacklist after making some progress toward improving its controls on money laundering and militancy financing. The Financial Action Task Force urged the nation to swiftly complete its full action plan by June and warned of the consequences if it does not make progress, which could include urging countries to advise financial institutions "to give special attention to business relations and transactions with Pakistan." "Pakistan cannot shift the blame on India for its domestic problems," Anurag Srivastava, spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs, said on Monday. "Unlike Pakistan, India has no hesitation in condemning terrorism anywhere in the world, including in Karachi." India and Pakistan have fought three major wars since independence, two of them over Kashmir. A militant attack on an Indian police convoy in Kashmir in February 2019 and the ensuing military clash brought the rivals close to the brink again.

Has Civil Services Exam...

to become IAS/IPS, so that we can help in making Kashmir a better place for the civilians." But then, some practical hitches are playing a spoilsport. Since last summer, when internet services, landline and mobile phones were snapped across Jammu and Kashmir in the run up to the abrogation of J&K's special status, most civil service aspirants are finding it hard to focus on the exam. "Because of these constant blockades and tensions in the valley, I'm not even able to read the news every day which pulls me back," said Azra Khan, a Delhi University graduate. "Most of the times we aren't able to access UPSC website for any update. This is very distressing. After 2019, it's not easy for us to get up-to-date books which can help us to study better for civil exams." Notably, when Lolab-born doctor became the first Kashmiri to top the Indian Civil Services Examination in 2010, it inspired many to try their luck in bureaucracy and police services. "I also became a fan of Dr. Shah Faesal, as his feat showed that Kashmiris can do it," said Kaiser Rafiq, a UPSC aspirant from the old Srinagar. "Ever since then, I wanted to follow his footsteps to serve my motherland. But in Kashmir, the season changes overnight. It's a way more difficult to stay focused in Kashmir as probably it looks." Many feel that there's a dystopian era in Kashmir where students have to either migrate to study in reliable internet zone, or drop the idea of pursuing IAS/IPS dream. "I often go to Jammu to get a better internet connection," said Ulfat Bhat, a UPSC aspirant who has done his Masters from Aligarh Muslim University. "I stay at my friend's place, download all the important study material and come back home. I share my notes with my other friends pursuing the same career." But at times, Bhat said, he gets drained out and feels like leaving it all. "I feel pathetic over this constant helplessness," he said. "I don't think none of us deserve this treatment where we've to struggle even for basic things in life."

Cross-LoC Shelling...

cross-LoC shelling in Uri sector of Baramulla district. A few unexploded shells were diffused a day after the two armies traded gunfire On Friday last, a teenage girl was injured after India and Pakistan troops exchanged heavy gunfire along the LoC in Poonch district.

Pak PM Moves UN Over...

India for withdrawing Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5 last year and bifurcating it into two Union territories. India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution was its internal matter. It also advised Pakistan to accept the reality and stop all anti-India propaganda. (PTI)

Gunfight Breaks Out In Tral

As per the sources, two to three militants are believed to be trapped in the area. Pertinently this is second encounter in a day in South Kashmir as two militants were killed in an encounter at Waghama Bijbehara area of Anantnag on Tuesday morning taking the toll of total militants killed in June to 38 in southern Kashmir—(KNO)

Infiltration Bid Foiled...

with fire. Infiltrators ran away taking help of darkness. Details awaited," army posted on its official Twitter page.

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Geelani's resignation

In a surprise decision, Syed Ali Shah Geelani on Monday resigned from his faction of Hurriyat Conference that he himself had founded in 2003. Geelani has blamed the constituents of his grouping for not guiding people in the wake of revocation of Article 370 in August last year. He has also accused the Hurriyat chapter in Pakistan administered Kashmir of financial bunglings and pursuing their own individual interests in the garb of fighting for "freedom struggle". Geelani announced his decision in a short video. However, he has explained the reasons for his resignation in a long letter that makes no bones about accusing his colleagues of the abdication of leadership.

The development has come as a shock to the people in Kashmir. It has also created ripples outside J&K with senior BJP leader Ram Madhav issuing three successive tweets over the development. Some have tried to project Geelani's resignation as tantamount to quitting politics and which it certainly is not. That said, Hurriyat leader's resignation has raised many questions. It is an extreme step from him at a very critical time. The decision seems to have been prompted by the alleged absence of resistance from the separatist camp following withdrawal of Article 370.

Like their mainstream counterparts, major separatist leaders in Kashmir were also under detention since the scrapping of Article 370. They included Geelani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, both of whom were under house arrest. The JKLF supremo Yaseen Malik who is a part of the Hurriyat triumvirate along with Geelani and Mirwaiz was arrested and sent to Tihar jail in the run up to August 5 move.

So, Hurriyat was conspicuously absent from the scene from August 2019 onwards. And this was so unlike it's role in Kashmir over the 27 years of its existence, more so during the unrests when the grouping would be in a driving seat issuing hartal calls and calling for protests. But this time, nothing like that happened: no calls for hartals or protests were issued. Even the few leaders who have not been detained have stayed short of doing it, in the absence of a direction from the top leaders. A few calls for hartal which were attributed to Geelani are believed to have been issued from across the border.

So, people in the Valley were by and large left without any plan of action in the wake of August 5 move. Intermittent protests notwithstanding, Kashmir Valley remained eerily calm. Markets remained uninterruptedly shut for four months. Public transport was off the roads. But all this happened spontaneously without anyone directing it. Now eleven months after Kashmir was stripped of autonomy, Geelani has had his say. It remains to be seen how his colleagues in Hurriyat would react to his decision.

OTHER OPINION

George Floyd's legacy

Today marks one month since George Floyd, an unarmed black man in the US state of Minnesota, was choked to death by a police officer in broad daylight, in the sight of three other officers. The video footage of his last moments, in which he is seen gasping for air and pleading for his life, has sent shockwaves across America and the world.

Floyd's senseless death at the hands of public servants has become a symbol of the plight of African Americans, who have long suffered from discrimination in many corners of US society. For thirty days now, anti-racism protesters and supporters of the Black Lives Matter movement have taken to the streets to demand justice for Floyd and the equality afforded to them under American laws.

Their cry has resonated across the world, and shed light on the discrimination and hardships faced by black people and other minorities in many parts of the world. Throughout Europe, thousands of people have gathered to denounce racism against ethnic minorities.

Floyd's tragic death has also sparked a conversation about racism in the Middle East creating space for black Arabs to give voice to their own experiences. These pages have covered the black Iraqis' struggle for equal rights and given a platform to black Arab women to discuss challenges they regularly face.

Arab artists, authors and activists, of course, have not waited for the recent events in the US to address racism and shed light on similar issues in the region. Last year, Omani writer Jokha Alharthi won the 2018 Man Booker International Prize for her novel Celestial Bodies, in which she discusses the legacy of slavery in the region. Discussions like these must be had, and the voices of black Arabs, who have long been underrepresented in the region's public discourse, should be amplified.

It is imperative for the US to uphold at home the ideals that it has long promoted elsewhere. The influence of American culture and values around the world cannot be overstated. The US has been an ally to Arab nations and others in the Middle East for decades, promoting a message of freedom, tolerance and equality in the Arab world and beyond. Those principles have inspired many of the region's greatest peacemakers, artists and intellectuals.

It is imperative for the US to uphold at home the ideals that it has long promoted elsewhere. They have also drawn many immigrants and students from our region to American shores, granted them economic opportunity and fostered their talents. Like other minorities in the US, Arab Americans have not had an easy journey – particularly in the last two decades. But they have thrived nonetheless, and their success has solidified the bonds between the US and the Middle East.

It is no exaggeration to say that George Floyd has changed the face of his country. Thirty days after his killing, the police officer who choked him to death awaits trial. Statues glorifying racist historical figures have been brought down and Americans are having conversations about the path forward. The outcome of these debates is for Americans to decide, but resolving them will only strengthen America – and with it, the rest of the world.



Surviving The Pandemic

We ought to remain positive in our approach and keep in mind that the economic slowdown is sometimes the best way to speed up

IFTIKHAR BASHIR

“The priority is to prevent the spread of the virus leading to various quarantines, lockdowns and travel bans. What can governments do to mitigate the recession that will inevitably follow from the blockade is a million-dollar question. And the question needs to be answered sooner than later

A billboard outside a cafe read “If you don't eat here, we'll both starve” – quotes like these leave us with little doubt that the world is headed towards a Corona-induced recession. When the economy slows, it seems like money also slows to a pause. Businesses don't hire, wages grind to a halt and no one seems to be giving out work. Families tighten their belt and companies go on an austerity drive—all to ‘wait for the good times to return’. The current mood on the ground is not helping things either. If you go out and talk to the businessman in the market, anecdotally he will tell you about business becoming smaller, fewer customers are buying and they are buying less. There are pockets of extreme weakness in the world economy. At the most basic level, it is important to recognize that some sectors are very cyclical, meaning they grow rapidly in upturns and fall sharply in recessions and others tend not to fluctuate very much over the course of a business cycle. The cyclical group is led by housing and non-residential construction, durable goods consumption (cars and big household appliances), equipment investment, and inventories. On the other hand, there are several components of demand that are mostly unresponsive to the business cycle. Spending on consumer services (largely medical spending, FMCG, etc) varies little over the course of the business cycle. This point about the varying cyclicity of different sectors matters for recession predictions, because the highly cyclical components have shrunk sharply as a share of the economy in the last few decades, as the less cyclical components have grown.

While the economy was definitely on a slowing trajectory with trade and manufacturing already affected, the only bright spot was consumer spending. COVID 19 has ensured that families hunker down and go on an austerity drive. While there is a logic to the madness. It takes spending to get an economy going in such testing times. After a massive crash like the Great Recession, institutions of all kinds get nervous and hoard cash. As experience now shows, the only organizations the banks lend to in such circumstances are those that already have the money they need. Many small businesses can't get capital to spend, which helps jump-start the economy. So, central banks have to find new ways to get liquidity into circulation. As in every economic downturn, there is an opportunity behind the crisis. Small businesses with solid fundamentals and enough preparation can ride out the storm—and come out stronger on the other side. At remarkably low-interest rates that are now the norm in many countries, it is perhaps time to borrow and build new infrastructure.

With the economy gradually being reopened, as more industries are allowed to be fully operational such development is heartening. However, there seems to be a sense of discomfort about how the equities market has behaved recently. As the global economy is expected to be in recession this year why the economy and equity markets are not on the same page? The common defense would be equities tend to move ahead than the economy and equity investors will only place their money in companies based on the future earnings. That is why the Price-Earnings (PE) multiples are the main tools

for assessing whether the companies' share prices are selling cheap or it is way too expensive. Agreed that we are not completely out of the woods yet. Lockdowns and uncertainty because of Covid19 could be the possible showstoppers for the equities market. Perhaps, the equities market would experience some correction in the horizon and the prices may have gone up a bit too far. Whatever the case may be, it all boils down to how economic policies are being designed and implemented and how the unknown factors like geopolitical risks, etc would play out. These factors could result in more cautious trade among investors.

Generally, people care much more about the psychological pain and anxiety of pandemics than they care about a fall in their standard of living. As per one estimate from the World Bank, using the 1918 Spanish flu as a baseline, the bank estimates that in the case of such a severe pandemic, global GDP could fall by 5%. More than half of that would be because of the disruptive effects of avoiding infection. As a matter of fact, we can do little about the past, the best we can do is to think about the most appropriate remedial action now. It's clear that the priority is to prevent the spread of the virus leading to various quarantines, lockdowns and travel bans, etc. What can governments do to mitigate the recession that will inevitably follow from the blockade is a million-dollar question. And the question needs to be answered sooner than later. We ought to remain positive in our approach and keep in mind that, the slowdown is sometimes the best way to speed up.

(Ifthikhar Bashir is a freelance financial advisor)



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Paid news is killing the media

The media acts as a guardian of the public interest in a democracy. It plays an important role in a democracy and informs people about events of national and international importance. The media is considered as the “fourth pillar” in democracies, along with the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary. The importance of media in influencing readers can be gauged from the fact that the role it played during the freedom struggle was politically educating the millions of Indians who joined the fight against British imperialism.

Journalism is a profession to serve the public. The basic purpose of journalism is to serve the people with news, ideas, comments, and information on matters of public interest, in a fair, accurate and impartial manner.

It shapes public opinion. Parliamentary democracy can flourish only under the watchful eye of the media. The media not only reports but also acts as a bridge between the state and the public. With so much power and strength, the media cannot lose sight of its privileges, duties, and obligations.

Today, paid news, media trials, non-issues are being presented as real news, while real issues are being sidelined. Real news pertaining to social interest is being ignored. The main reasons behind the rise in the cases of paid news are profit maximization. Most of the media groups in India are run by big corporate houses which are in the fieldwork only for profits. The low salary of journalists and their desire to become famous early is also one of the reasons behind yellow journalism.

The statistics also reveal that

about 40 percent of the total budget of most political parties is spent on media. Today, the excess of money and paid news used in elections is a matter of grave concern. According to the Press Council of India, news that is being broadcast in print or electronic media in exchange for cash or other benefits is called paid news.

The absence of objective journalism gives rise to a false presentation of facts in a society. This affects people's perception and ideas. As seen in the Cambridge Analytica case, biased news coverage on social media platforms affected the U.S. elections. The pursuit of sensationalism and high TRP rates, as seen in the coverage of the 26/11 terrorist attacks in India, endangered the internal security of the nation. Despite court guidelines, sensationalism driven reporting com-

promised the identification of rape victims and survivors.

Paid and fake news can manipulate public perception and create hatred, violence and disagreement between different communities within society. It is therefore important that for the media to play its important role effectively and efficiently, it must operate within a well-defined code of conduct while maintaining its independence and editorial freedom. As irresponsible journalism invites restrictions, robbing the media of its freedom, professional conduct and ethical practices are critical to protecting media freedom and ensuring that public confidence in the media is maintained.

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Meet Zahid Manzoor, A Special Kid With Special Talent

TANVEER MAGREY

WHEN a child was born to a needle-worker's family in 2008, no sweets were distributed among the relatives or in the neighbourhood. Instead, it descended a pall of gloom on the family. The child named Zahid—"the one who lead life of simplicity in lifestyle as well as workmanship"—was born with one limb short.

As doctors didn't have any "silver lining" for the young country couple, Manzoor along with his wife lapping their new born started marching towards their home amidst melancholy and hopelessness.

But 11 years down the line, Zahid doesn't evoke sadness and helplessness among his family. A second child to his parents among their three children, the specially-abled boy has beaten an untrodden path and brought laurels in Martial Arts and Cycling for Jammu and Kashmir.

In the 17th Anjali National Festival in 2018, Zahid grabbed the first position in Cycling and Dancing. In the same year he won an appreciation award in Martial Arts in Jammu where then Governor handed him Rs 10,000 for his excellent show. In 2019, he was gifted bicycle by the state.

The boy prodigy comes from dusky Budgam village Meeripora, ringed around by the karewas, nested six kilometres from main square Magam on Srinagar- Gulmarg highway. Few furlongs from the main marketplace lies the dwelling place of Zahid.

The two-storey house lays bare the rigours of impoverished life. The ground floor, having a single room, houses the livestock while the single room on the first floor doubles up as kitchen and resting place for Manzoor's family. Cattle and heaps of fodder had taken over the yard from the front side of the house.

Despite the blatant poverty, the family's specially-abled son is trying to go an extra mile to carve a niche for himself in his chosen field and mitigate the sufferings whacked by poverty on them.



Zahid fiddles with the mobile phone while his father threads different designs on shawl

As a needle-worker, Zahid's father hardly makes a two ends meet. His story is the replica of those ubiquitous pleas: Middlemen take lion's share while they receive the blade of grass.

"I don't earn that much to fulfill all the needs of my family but I wish Zahid study to get some better job," says Manzoor while pinning hopes on his son. "His education would get rid us of the poverty we are living in."

Zahid's grandfather, Ghulam Ahmad Parrey, showers heaps of praises on Zahid's coach Mohammad Yousuf.

"We had no idea that there is anything he can do but Yousuf sahib



Zahid Manzoor with his trophy

In the 17th Anjali National Festival in 2018, Zahid grabbed the first position in Cycling and Dancing. In the same year he won an appreciation award in Martial Arts in Jammu where then Governor handed him Rs 10,000 for his excellent show. In 2019, he was gifted bicycle by the state.

opened the gates of hopes for us," the grandfather beaming with pride says.

"Winning such awards gives us recognition. Now I don't regret that he is lacking something because Allah has bestowed him something special."

While scouting for some talent among the specially-abled students as the resource coordinator of Budgam, coach Yousuf had instantly sensed special talent in the boy the moment he had bumped into him.

"When I came across him I knew he has some ingrained special talent," says Yousuf. "Once I started spending time with him I explored different shades in him. He learns Martial Arts for which he has earned much appreciation. He cycles and even drives a vehicle. He is also a dancer."

As our vehicle was revving up to motor its ways outside Meeripora, Zahid returned from the roundabout of the hamlet while doing a cycling stunt much to the delight of a bevy of old men.

The very act not only defied the sense of "oddity" which had freaked out his parents during his birth, but also asserted his will to rise above the weakness in life. And that's how this Budgam boy is paddling his own glory.



Zahid walks with his coach and mentor

COVID-19: How Schools Will Reopen Safely

Children may be less likely to transmit the coronavirus than adults

FAYE FLAM

If there's any consensus, it's that getting kids back into the classroom is worth the risks. "There's accumulating evidence that even two months of schools closing in the spring did significant damage to the educational process in children," says Colorado paediatrician Sean O'Leary, a spokesman for the American Academy of Paediatrics who has been helping put together a set of safety guidelines for restarting schools.

For children, keeping schools closed in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic amounts to a cure that's worse than the disease. Children are much less likely than adults to suffer any severe consequences of the virus, and they are at risk of suffering academically and emotionally if they miss more months of school.

That's one reason it's good news that K-12 schools in the United States are gearing up to reopen in the fall. "We know that in all kids, active engagement in learning is important for their development," says Yale University infectious disease expert Albert Ko. There will be changes, however, that will make the school year far from normal.

As with everything else associated with this pandemic, safety measures will vary from place to place, as there's not yet a scientifically agreed-upon standard for protecting students from SARS-CoV-2. Scientists are still trying to figure it out, and everyone is learning as they go along. Masks will undoubtedly be required for some students, though there's still disagreement over whether they should be worn all the time by very young kids. The experts say they may end up touching their faces to fiddle with masks, thus increasing their odds of becoming infected.

If there's any consensus, it's that getting kids back into the classroom is worth the risks. "There's accumulating evidence that even two months of schools closing in the spring did significant damage to the educational process in children," says Colorado paediatrician Sean O'Leary, a spokesman for the American Academy of Paediatrics who has been helping put together a set of safety guidelines for restarting schools.

This is a big change from March, when scientists thought this disease might act like influenza pandemics, whose spread can be fuelled by school outbreaks, and which can be deadly to children.

With the flu, the youngest and oldest members of the population are the most adversely affected, says Vineet Menachery,



an immunologist at University of Texas Medical Branch. Coronaviruses, including those causing the previous SARS and MERS epidemics, don't seem to have the same pattern. Kids and teens are much less likely than adults to get severe cases or die.

Kids less likely to test positive for coronavirus

Still, a few children have been hospitalised with a severe inflammatory syndrome, which affects their blood vessels, skin and organs. "It's driven by something the virus is doing that we don't understand," says Menachery. They still don't have reliable statistics on the risk, he says, except that so far it appears to be rare. O'Leary, the Colorado paediatrician, says more kids die and are hospitalised for complications of flu and other respiratory infections, which aren't deemed dangerous enough to close schools.

Another concern is that the virus will have a chance to spread in schools and spark outbreaks in communities. But the good news is that kids may be less likely to transmit the disease than adults. A study in Iceland that used a random sample of people revealed that children and teenagers were about half as likely to test positive for the virus as adults. By reading slight genetic differences from one virus to the next, they could track how the disease spread from person to person, and determined that within families, there were only two cases where kids gave the virus to an adult.

O'Leary says it's also reassuring to see that while thousands of day care centres have been running for children of essential workers, only a couple of cases have been documented in the adults who work there. And another study from France showed schoolchildren were unlikely to spread the

disease to parents, teachers or each other.

Some remote learning may be necessary

Many decisions are being left up to individual schools, says Sharon Nachman, Chief of Division of Paediatric Infectious Diseases at Stony Brook University, New York. Younger kids will be encouraged to wash their hands more often, hand sanitisers will be ubiquitous, and masks will be common. She says she it may be difficult to expect younger children to wear masks all day long. In some places it might be required, while others will focus on getting kids to mask up when they're on the bus or walking through the hallways.

Different schools will also find ways to limit the number of children in a classroom — whether it's having an early and late shift, or having half the kids attend every other week on Zoom, though remote learning will be complicated by parents' return to work. One thing every school should do is make sure sick kids don't come to class.

The new guidelines are flexible, says O'Leary, because measures such as spreading kids out in classrooms will be easier for some schools than others. And some remote learning may remain necessary in situations where a particular child's health problems or those of a family member make classroom learning too dangerous. There's also a risk that severe outbreaks force some schools to close again.

All these changes will have unintended consequences. Will students be able to hear masked teachers? Will staggered schedules cause sleep problems for the early shift or conflicts with parents' works schedules? Will bus drivers be put at unacceptable risk?

We'll soon find out. And as we do, experts should gather lots of data to identify best practices among the hodgepodge of approaches, so that schools can find ways to stay open even if the pandemic worsens. There's a lot at stake.

—
Bloomberg

DEFORESTATION, Ecosystem Destruction Increases Risk Of Pandemics

“ECOSYSTEMS NATURALLY RESTRAIN THE TRANSFER OF diseases from animals to humans, but this service declines as ecosystems become degraded,” said study lead author Mark Everard, of the University of the West of England.

Press Trust Of India
Environmental degradation, including deforestation, land use change and agricultural intensification, may make pandemics more likely and less manageable, according to a study. The study, published in the journal Environmental Science and Policy, presents the hypothesis that disease risks are “ultimately interlinked” with biodiversity and natural processes such as the water cycle. The researchers at the University of the West of England, and the University of Exeter in the UK used a framework designed to analyse and communicate complex relationships between society and the environment. They conclude that maintaining intact and fully functioning ecosystems and their associated environmental and health benefits is key to preventing the emergence of new pandemics. The loss of these benefits through ecosystem degradation -- including deforestation, land use change and agricultural intensification -- further compounds the problem, according to the researchers.

This happens by undermining water and other resources essential for reducing disease transmission and mitigating the impact of emerging infectious diseases, they said. “Ecosystems naturally restrain the transfer of diseases from animals to humans, but this service declines as ecosystems become degraded,” said study lead author Mark Everard, of the University of the West of England.

“At the same time, ecosystem degradation undermines water security, limiting availability of adequate water for good hand hygiene, sanitation and disease treatment,” Everard said. He said the disease risk cannot be dissociated from ecosystem conservation and natural resource security. “The speed and scale with which radical actions have been taken in so many countries to limit the health and financial risks from COVID-19 demonstrate that radical systemic change would also be possible in order to deal with other global existential threats, such as the climate emergency and collapse of biodiversity, provided the political will is there to do so,” said David Santillo, of the Greenpeace Research Laboratories at Exeter.

The researchers said the lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic is that societies globally need to “build back better”, including protecting and restoring damaged ecosystems keeping the many values of nature and human rights at the very forefront of environmental and economic policy-making.

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The researchers said the lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic is that societies globally need to “build back better”, including protecting and restoring damaged ecosystems keeping the many values of nature and human rights at the very forefront of environmental and economic policy-making.

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Why Cloth Masks Without Valves Are Better At Stopping Spread Of Covid-19

Angela Fritz / The Washington Post

Those face masks you see with coin-sized valves on the front may look intriguing but they are not as good at preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus as the seemingly lower-tech, non-valved masks. Some masks designed for hot, dusty construction work - where the intent is to filter out dust before it hits the wearer's lungs - have “exhaust” valves that allow the exhaled air to flow out more easily, to keep the mask-wearer cooler. The 3M company, which makes valve masks for such occupations, illustrates on its website how they work: Inhaled air is filtered through the fabric part of the mask, and hot, humid exhaled air goes out through the valve. The system may be what you want when tearing out a kitchen for remodeling, but the valve defeats the purpose when you're trying to slow the spread of a virus. Public health experts have been recommending mask-wearing to prevent respiratory droplets from spreading into the air when you exhale, speak, cough or sneeze, and the valves allow those droplets through. Medical masks, you'll notice, do not have valves. In its guidelines for mask-wearing, San Francisco stipulates that masks with valves do not meet its standards. “Any mask that incorporates a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling allows droplets to be released from the mask, putting others nearby at risk,” the order says. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends simple cloth masks for the public to prevent the spread of covid-19. A few layers of cotton prevent most of the potentially infectious respiratory droplets from escaping into the air around you, and they are also much cooler than the form-fitting N95 masks.



Excessive Sugar Intake Linked With Unhealthy Fat Deposits Near Heart, Stomach

Agencies

Sugar consumption is linked with larger fat deposits around the heart and in the abdomen, which are risky for health, finds a new study. The study was published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, a journal of the European Society of Cardiology. “When we consume too much sugar the excess is converted to fat and stored,” said study author Ms. So Yun Yi, a PhD student at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. “This fat tissue located around the heart and in the abdomen releases chemicals into the body which can be harmful to health. Our results support limiting added sugar intake,” added Yi. Excess sugar consumption is a worldwide problem. The six countries with the highest sales of sugary drinks per capita are Chile, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, the US, and Saudi Arabia. The demand for sugar is expected to increase in Asia, Africa, and Russia.



This observational study examined both sugar-sweetened beverages (such as soft drinks, fruit drinks, energy drinks) and sugar added to foods and beverages for sweetness (for example when cooking or in processed foods). The researchers analysed the association between long-term sugar consumption and fat stores around the heart and other organs. Data were obtained from Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA), an ongoing cohort study in the US that includes centres in Alabama, California, Illinois, and Minnesota. A total of 3,070 healthy participants aged 18 to 30 were included in this study. Food and beverage intakes were measured three times over a 20-year period (1985 to 2005). After 25 years (in 2010) computed tomography (CT) scans of the chest and abdomen were performed to measure fat volumes in the abdomen and around the heart. Researchers found that sugar intake over the 20-year period was related to fat volumes later in life. Higher intakes of both sugar-sweetened beverages and added sugar were related to greater fat stores around organs in a stepwise fashion.

“Our findings provide more evidence that consuming too much added sugar and sugary drinks is related to a higher amount of fat tissue. And, we know that fat deposits are connected with higher risks of heart disease and diabetes,” said study author Dr. Lyn Steffen of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She advised reducing the amount of added sugar consumed each day. “Have water instead of sugary drinks and choose healthier snacks over foods rich in added sugar like cakes,” she said. “Read food labels to check the amount of added sugar in what you are buying. Look for ingredients like syrups, glucose, fructose, sucrose, and maltose. Being more aware of hidden sugar will help you cut back.” “On top of our individual efforts, governments, food manufacturers, restaurants, schools, and workplaces have a role to play in increasing consumer awareness of the sugar content in foods and beverages and offering healthier alternatives,” added Dr. Steffen.

Smart MRI Scan May Also Spot Aggressive Childhood Cancers

Agencies

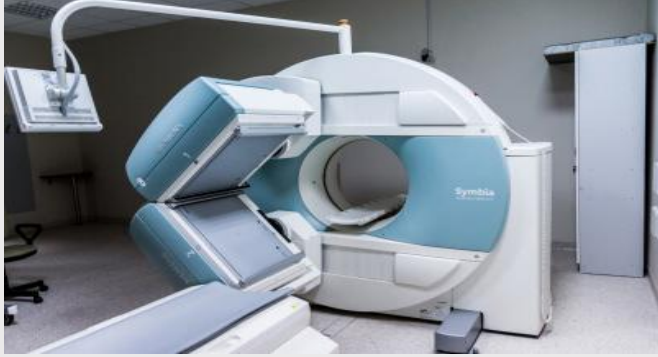
LONDON- A type of smart MRI scan used in people with heart disease could help assess whether children's cancers are especially aggressive and spot early signs that targeted treatments are working, say researchers. The study, published in the journal Cancer Research, showed that the MRI imaging technique, known as T1-mapping, could offer crucial insights into the biology of childhood cancers and give an early warning of how effective targeted treatments were likely to be. T1 mapping scans measure how water molecules interact at a microscopic level inside cells to understand the cellular make-up of tissue and are used in heart disease to assess damage to heart muscle tissue. The researchers from The Institute of Cancer Research, London (UK) found that the non-invasive scanning technique has the potential to pick out children with high-risk forms of neuroblastoma, a type of childhood tumour. “Our findings show that an imaging technique readily available on most MRI scanners has the potential to pick out children with aggressive cancer and give us early signs of whether a treatment is working,” said study author Yann Jamin from The Institute of Cancer Research, London.

“We've shown in mice that this technique can give us detailed insights into the biology of neuroblastoma tumours and help guide use of precision medicine, and next we want to assess its effectiveness in children with cancer,” Jamin added. It is easy to perform and analyse T1 MRI scans, and they could be used to provide insights into many aspects of cancer biology - and help doctors to design tailored treatments based on how aggressive a tumour appears to be, the researchers said. During the findings, researchers studied T1 mapping in mice with an aggressive form of neuroblastoma to get a clear picture of the microscopic and physical characteristics of the tumour. The team used artificial intelligence to map the different cell populations in tumours and compared these maps with those created using non-invasive T1 mapping MRI scans.

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India Accounts For 45.8 Million Of World's "Missing Females": UN Report

Agencies

United Nations: India accounts for 45.8 million of the world's 142.6 million "missing females" over the past 50 years, a report by the United Nations said on Tuesday, noting that the country along with China form the majority of such women globally.

The State of World Population 2020 report released on Tuesday by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the world organisation's sexual and reproductive health agency, said that the number of "missing women" has more than doubled over the past 50 years - from 61 million in 1970 to a cumulative 142.6 million in 2020.

Of this global figure, India accounted for 45.8 million missing females as of 2020 and China accounted for 72.3 million.

"Missing females" are women missing from the population at given dates due to the cumulative effect of postnatal and prenatal sex selection in the past, the agency said.

"Between 2013 and 2017, about 460,000 girls in India were 'missing' at birth each year. According to one analysis, gender-biased sex selection accounts for about two-thirds of the total missing girls, and

post-birth female mortality accounts for about one-third," the report said.

Citing data by experts, it said that China and India together account for about 90-95 per cent of the estimated 1.2 million to 1.5 million missing female births annually worldwide due to gender-biased (prenatal) sex selection.

The two countries also account for the largest number of births each year, it said.

The report cites data by Alkema, Leontine and others, 2014 'National, Regional, and Global Sex Ratios of Infant, Child, and under-5 Mortality and Identification of Countries with Outlying Ratios: A Systematic Assessment' from The Lancet Global Health.

According to their analysis, India has the highest rate of excess female deaths, 13.5 per 1,000 female births, which suggests that an estimated one in nine deaths of females below the age of 5 may be attributed to postnatal sex selection.

The report notes that governments have also taken action to address the root causes of sex selection. India and Vietnam have included campaigns that target gender stereotypes to change attitudes and open the door to new norms and behaviours.

Worldwide Slowdown In Fishing Unlikely To Save Rare Species

Agencies

Portland : Commercial fishing taking place worldwide has dipped since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, but scientists and conservation experts say it's unclear if the slowdown will help endangered species of marine life recover.

Hours logged by fishermen at sea fell by nearly 10 per cent around the world after the March 11 declaration of a pandemic, and in some



hard-hit countries such as China, fishing completely stopped.

The fishing decline has spurred questions about food security, ocean management and global trade.

As countries begin to resume fishing, new questions are emerging about whether an extended fishing slowdown could help rare ocean animals, such as the North Atlantic right whale. The whale numbers only about 400 and is vulnerable to fatal entanglement in fishing gear.

Less fishing could also help jeopardized fish stocks of the Mediterranean Sea, which is home to the overfished Atlantic bluefin tuna. And many rare species are vulnerable to accidental catch, called bycatch, in fishing gear. But it's too early to hail the respite from fishing lines and nets, said David Kroodsma, director of research and innovation for the nonprofit Global Fishing Watch. And since millions of people rely on fishing for their livelihoods and sustenance, any benefit to sea life has come at a cost, he said.

"I don't think we should be celebrating anything here. Not by making people suffer incredibly," Kroodsma said. "I bet what we'll find is, it is not sufficient for rebuilding stocks in places they have to rebuild."



Worst Of Pandemic 'Yet To Come', Warns WHO

Agencies

GENEVA: Six months since the new coronavirus outbreak, the pandemic is still far from over, the World Health Organisation said on Monday, warning that "the worst is yet to come".

Reaching the half-year milestone just as the death toll surpassed 500,000 and the number of confirmed infections topped 10 million, the WHO said it was a moment to recommit to the fight to save lives.

"Six months ago, none of us could have imagined how our world — and our lives — would be thrown into turmoil by this new virus," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing.

"We all want this to be over. We all want to get on with our lives. But the hard reality is this is not even close to being over. "Although many countries have made some progress, globally the pandemic is actually speeding up. "We're all in this together, and we're all in this for the long haul.

"We will need even greater stores of resilience, patience, humility and generosity in the

months ahead.

"We have already lost so much — but we cannot lose hope," Tedros also said that the pandemic had brought out the best and worst humanity, citing acts of kindness and solidarity, but also misinformation and the politicisation of the virus.

In an atmosphere of global political division and fractures on a national level, "the worst is yet to come. I'm sorry to say that," he said. "With this kind of environment and condition, we fear the worst." The respiratory illness caused by the new coronavirus has been particularly dangerous for the elderly, although other adults and children are also among the 501,000 fatalities and 10.1 million reported cases.

While the overall rate of death has flattened in recent weeks, health experts have expressed concerns about record numbers of new cases in countries like the United States, India and Brazil, as well as new outbreaks in parts of Asia.

More than 4,700 people are dying every 24 hours from Covid-19-linked illness, according to cal-

culations based on an average from June 1 to 27. That equates to 196 people per hour, or one person every 18 seconds. About one-quarter of all the deaths so far have been in the United States, the data shows. The recent surge in cases has been most pronounced in a handful of Southern and Western states that reopened earlier and more aggressively. US officials on Sunday reported around 44,700 new cases and 508 additional deaths.

Case numbers are also growing swiftly in Latin America, on Sunday surpassing those diagnosed in Europe, making the region the second most affected by the pandemic, after North America.

On the other side of the world, Australian officials were considering reimposing social distancing measures in some regions on Monday after reporting the biggest one-day rise in infections in more than two months.

The first recorded death from the new virus was on Jan. 9, a 61-year-old man from the Chinese city of Wuhan who was a regular shopper at a wet market that has been identified as the source of the outbreak.

European Union Reopens Borders To 15 Nations Including China, US Excluded

Agencies

Brussels: The EU on Tuesday agreed to open its borders to 15 countries from July 1, but the United States, where the coronavirus is still spreading, will remain excluded.

China made it to the list, which will be updated every two weeks, but on the condition that Beijing do the same for Europeans, a statement said.

US neighbour Canada as well as Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay were

included without conditions on the list which was drawn up by diplomats on Friday, but required final approval.

Algeria, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand and Tunisia rounded out the countries, which was agreed to by vote among the EU's 27 member states.

Non-essential travel to the EU has been banned since mid-March, but only after member states closed their national borders in confusion

and without coordination as the pandemic grew.

Though the list was legally non-binding, the EU said member states "remain responsible for implementing the content of the recommendation."

National authorities "should not decide to lift the travel restrictions... before this has been decided in a coordinated manner," the statement added.

Britain is considered part of the EU during its post-Brexit transition that ends on December 31.

Israel's Annexation Plans 'Illegal': UN Rights Chief

Agencies

GENEVA: Israel's aim to annex parts of the occupied West Bank is clearly "illegal", the UN's human rights chief said on Monday, warning that the consequences could be "disastrous".

In a move condemned by Israel, Michelle Bachelet added her voice to the chorus urging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to drop a proposal to annex its West Bank settlements and the Jordan Valley.

"Annexation is illegal. Period," the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said in a statement.

"Any annexation. Whether it is 30 percent of the West Bank, or five percent," she said.

She urged Israel to "listen to its own former senior officials and generals, as well as to the multitude of voices around the world, warning it not to proceed along this dangerous path." International condemnation of the possible Israeli annexations has mounted ahead of July 1, when the Jew-

course, warning that "the shockwaves of annexation will last for decades, and will be extremely damaging to Israel, as well as to the Palestinians".

Israel's foreign ministry reacted angrily to the statement, noting that it was "not the first time" that Bachelet "has politicised her office against Israel, in a one-sided manner."

"For a while now, Israel has lost any faith in (her) abilities to promote human rights in our region in a fair manner," a spokesperson said, recalling that Israel had frozen its ties with Bachelet in February.

The UN rights chief meanwhile stressed that there was still time to reverse the annexation plans. The precise consequence of the move were difficult to predict, she said.

"But they are likely to be disastrous for the Palestinians, for Israel itself, and for the wider region." The UN rights chief warned that "any attempt to annex any part of the occupied Palestinian territory will not only seriously damage ef-



ish state could take its first steps towards implementing part of a US-proposed Middle East peace plan.

US President Donald Trump's proposals, rejected outright by the Palestinians, pave the way for annexing key parts of the West Bank, including settlements long considered illegal by the majority of the international community. Bachelet urged Israel to shift

forts to achieve lasting peace in the region, it is likely to entrench, perpetuate and further heighten serious human rights violations that have characterised the conflict for decades".

Her statement cautioned that such a move would almost certainly lead to increased restrictions on Palestinians' right to freedom of movement, as their population centres would become enclaves.

Cloudy Sky, Light Rain Keep Mercury Below 40 Degree Celsius In Delhi

Agencies

New Delhi: A partly cloudy sky and light rain in isolated areas kept the mercury in check in the national capital on Tuesday.

However, humidity levels shot up to 91 per cent, causing inconvenience to the residents.

A fresh bout of rain is expected over the weekend, according to the India Meteorological Department's forecast.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representa-

tive figures for the city, recorded a maximum of 37.5 degrees Celsius, as against 40.7 degrees Celsius on Monday.

Most places recorded their maximum temperatures between 36 degrees Celsius and 40 degrees Celsius.

The Met department said the city has recorded 3.2 mm rainfall since 8.30 pm on Monday. On Monday evening, a squall with winds gusting up to 68 kilometers per hour hit the city, uprooting a number of trees across the national capital.

First-ever Galvanized Rebar Manufacturing Facility launched

Srinagar: International Zinc Association (IZA), leading industry association dedicated exclusively to the interests of zinc in collaboration with Madhav KRG Group and Initiative supported by Hindustan Zinc Limited has launched Asia's first-ever Continuous Galvanized Rebar (CGR) Manufacturing Facility today.

The plant was virtually inaugurated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan - Hon'ble Union Minister of Steel, Petroleum & natural Gas, Government of India (GoI) along with Mr. Sunil Duggal - Group CEO-Vedanta Limited & CEO-Hindustan Zinc and Mr. Andrew Green - Executive Director, International Zinc Association, Global and other representatives. The first-of-its-kind facility, situated near Gobindgarh in Punjab, will produce a new product, Continuously Galvanized Rebar (CGR).

CGRs are value added rebar for higher life and low maintenance of infrastructure to provide significant cost savings compared to other corrosion resistant rebar systems. It offers on-site formability of the finished product, superior corrosion resistance in concrete at a price cheaper than other corrosion resistant rebar (Epoxy Coating & CRS rebar) With an annual capac-



ity of over 30,000 tonnes, the plant will manufacture ZNCOATTEMP-CORE TMT BARS under the brand name - JYOTI - a name that is now synonymous with excellence in steel manufacturing.

This will be the first brand in Asia to apply CGR technology that will not only be superior but will also enhance lifespan of the rebars thereby reducing the overall maintenance cost. Commenting about the new facility, Mr. Sudhir Goyal Managing Director, Madhav KRG Group said, "Unlike painting and

epoxy which are solely barrier-type coatings, CGRs are known to provide superior corrosion protection - both barrier and sacrificial - that further enhances the lifecycle of the underlying steel.

I would like to thank the entire team of International Zinc Association and Hindustan Zinc Limited for their support in helping us bring this technology to India that will further help minimize the damage caused by corrosion and put India on the global map for its sustainable usage of zinc.

Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi Srinagar

E-NIT No.06 of 2020-21 Dated 26.06.2020

For and on behalf of Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar e-tenders (In single cover system) invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible suppliers/dealer for each of the following item/work.

S. No	Name of work	Est. cost (Rs in lacs).	Earnest money/ Bid Security (In Rs)	Cost of tender document (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Class contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Supply of slow release fertilizer at RSGC Srinagar	12.40 Lacs	24800/= in Shape of CDR Or FDR in favour of Executive Engineer RSGC	1250/= Non Refundable in shape of DD in favour of Secretary RSGC or Bank Chalan SB-12341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar	45 days	Eligible suppliers/dealers	5452-Toursim

Position of Funds: Demanded

Special conditions :-

- In case the offered bid is below 60% of the advertised cost or more, such bid / bids will be out rightly rejected.
- In case more than one bidder has quoted equal bid amounts or bids are found to a "Tie" these bids shall be rejected out rightly.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27.06.2020 1:00 PM
	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 27-06.2020 to 06.07.2020 (4.00PM)
	Bid submission Start Date	27-06.2020 4:00 PM
	Bid Submission End Date	06-07.2020 4:00 PM
	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	07-07.2020 11:30 PM in the office of Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar

General Conditions:

- The successful bidder shall submit original Demand Drafts/CDR or FDR and copies of GST Registration Certificate and PAN in person within two days from the opening of the bids failing which proceeding as warranted under rules shall be initiated in the matter.
- 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.iktenders.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
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Bids
35. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
36. Conditional tenders shall not be entertained at all.
37. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)
40. The CDRs/FDR in respect of unsuccessful & untendered bidders shall be released only after depositing of Demand Draft in original (cost of Tender Document) in the office of Executive Engineer RSGC
41. In case the IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY is executed by the successful contractor in favour of any other person or Bank, the same shall be entertained subject to acceptance by the competent authority.

DIPK-NB-1079/20

Executive Engineer
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar.

No:- RSGC/EE /2020-21/91-94
Dated :-26-06.2020.

Day 37: Jammu, Srinagar Airports Receive 20 Domestic Flights With 2,185 Passengers

JAMMU: On Day 37 of re-sumption of operation of routine domestic operations in Jammu and Kashmir, 20 domestic flights with 2,185 passengers on board today arrived at Jammu and Srinagar Airports. Besides, an international evacuation flight carrying 171 passengers has arrived at Srinagar Airport from Sharjah.

A total of 555 passengers aboard 7 regular commercial flights arrived at the Jammu Airport while 13 domestic flights with about 1630 passengers on board landed at Srinagar Airport today.

After arrival, all the passengers were tested for the COVID-19 virus and transported to their destinations at both the airports amid strict observance of all necessary preventive protocols.

The Government has made elaborate arrangements for the arrival, screening, sampling and proper transportation of the passengers to the quarantine centers taking special care of guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) prescribed by the Union Ministries of Civil Aviation and Health and Family Welfare.

COVID-19: Govt Evacuates 1,75,166 Stranded JK Residents

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has evacuated about 1,75,166 JK residents, stranded in other parts of the country due to COVID lockdown, via Lakhapur and through special trains and buses till date amid strict observance of all necessary guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures.

As per the official data received in this regard, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has received 69 special trains at Jammu and Udhampur railway stations from different states and UTs, so far, with about 56,143 passengers while about 1,19,023

persons from other states and UTs including 657 from abroad have been evacuated by the government through Lakhapur till date.

As per the detailed breakup of the figures, about 1620 stranded passengers have entered through Lakhapur from June 29 to June 30 mornings while 818 passengers have reached today in the 48th Delhi COVID special train at Jammu. So far, 48 trains have reached Jammu with a total of 40,447 stranded passengers belonging to different districts while 15,696 passengers have reached Udhampur in 21 special trains, so far.

Sda Reviews Progress Of ‘Shehjar’ Apartments Project

SRINAGAR: In order to review the progress of the prestigious "Shehjar" Apartments project a meeting of officers of SDA along with the representatives of executing agencies (Contractors) was held today.

During the meeting threadbare discussions on the progress of work was held and impact of the pandemic was also assessed.

The Vice Chairman SDA impressed upon all the concerned to expedite the work so as to complete it within the given time. On the occasion time lines were fixed and the representatives of the executing agencies were impressed to adhere to the same, the contractors also assured all the possible cooperation to meet the deadlines.

Power Shutdown In City Areas Today

SRINAGAR: According to the Power Controller, Kashmir Province, in order to execute the replacement of old deteriorated conductor by fresh one from Batamalo Adda to Hamdard Hospital, the power supply of 11kV feeder F#5 to Receiving Station Exhibition shall remain affected on July 01 from 10.30 am to 4.00 p.m and on July 02 from 10.30 am to 6.00 pm.

Similarly, the power supply

ply to F#3 and F#4 fed from Receiving Station Bone and Joint will remain affected on July 03 and July 04 from 9 am to 9 pm.

Also to carry out left over works of 33 KV Machil Line from termination point to the Receiving Station Khumriyal Krusan and Sogam, the power supply shall also remain affected to the areas fed from these receiving stations on July 01 from 10 am to 5 pm.

DDC Anantnag Distributes Laptops Among Specially Abled

ANANTNAG: In pursuance to its endeavor to help physically challenged persons to earn for their livelihood, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, K.K. Sidha today distributed four more tailoring machines and three laptops among such deserving and enthusiastic persons.

While talking with beneficiaries, the DM said that the govt. is keen on providing all facilities to the persons with disabilities

and district administration is also committed for their well-being and upliftment.

The DM advised the specially abled persons to overcome their shortcomings with dedication and will power and not let themselves slip in depression and hopelessness.

Among others Additional Deputy Commissioner Ghulam Hassan Sheikh and District Social Welfare Officer were present on the occasion.



COOLING OFF- With mercury jumping to all time high this season boys enjoy swimming in Dal waters on Tuesday- KO Photo Abid Bhat

India's Ban On 59 Chinese Apps: What Lies Ahead

NEW DELHI: With the Indian government announcing to ban 59 Chinese apps, millions of users were in flux on Tuesday as some of those popular apps were still there on their smartphones and available for downloads, barring TikTok and Helo which disappeared from both Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

The next step for the government would be to tell various Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to remove these apps from devices owned by their subscribers and send users notifications, along with sending instructions to Google and Apple to remove all 59 apps from their respective online stores.



Since most of the Chinese phones come bundled with pre-installed Chinese apps, users will also need to pro-actively remove those apps.

The move to ban Chinese apps would affect roughly one in three active smartphone users in the country. Some of these apps like TikTok have been installed on hundreds of millions of smartphones.

"We now expect investments flowing in for local apps which are an alternative to some of these Chinese apps. The scale will be the key here as faster the scale, more user acquisition and retention for the desi apps," Tarun Pathak, Associate Director, Counterpoint Research, told IANS.

Once the apps are removed from app stores, there will be no updates or upgrades. In that case, the users would automatically exit the platforms.

"We have done a few reports about lack of content moderation and offensive content on one of the blocked platforms, and we do believe that there are problems with the platforms that need to be fixed which may extend into being serious privacy and security violations," said Vineet Kumar, Founder of Cyber Peace Foundation.

"However, in light of the law on blocking under Section 69A of the IT Act and IT Rules, 2009, we believe that all these services should be given a reasonable chance to represent themselves before the government to demonstrate their compliance and security standards," Kumar said in a statement.

Both TikTok and Helo, products of China-based content giant ByteDance, said that they will abide by the decision and have been invited to meet "concerned government stakeholders for an opportunity to respond and submit clarifications".

TikTok had nearly 119 million active users in India and was among the top 10 apps on Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

However, other banned apps like Alibaba Group's UC Browser and UC News,

Xiaomi's Mi community, Tencent-owned WeChat, e-commerce platform Club Factory and document scanning app CamScanner were still available on the platforms for download.

According to Pathak, users will proactively start deleting apps from their smartphones once they realise there are no install updates and the apps undermine their privacy and data security.

Accessing these apps via VPN is also a solution but how many Indian users would try that route is not clear. They would, however, keep receiving short videos from folks from other countries as these apps are only banned within the boundaries of the nation.

"The picture will become clear soon. The China-India border dispute compounded with the economic stress caused due to the pandemic has forced the government to adopt a strategy similar to the US (like Huawei), to potentially retaliate in a way where it would hurt China the most," Pathak told IANS

India Has Responsibility To Uphold Our Businesses: China

China said on Tuesday it was concerned about India's decision to ban Chinese mobile apps such as Bytedance's TikTok and Tencent's WeChat and was making checks to verify the situation.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters during a daily briefing that India has a responsibility to uphold the rights of Chinese businesses.

India on Monday banned 59, mostly Chinese, mobile apps in its strongest move yet targeting China in the online space since a



border crisis erupted between the two countries this month.

BJP Says 'Make In India', But Centre Buys From China: Rahul Gandhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took a swipe at the BJP saying, the party says 'Make in India', but its government at the Centre buys from China.

"Facts don't lie. BJP says: Make in India. BJP does: Buy from China," he said in a tweet along with a graph showing comparative volumes of imports from China during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance's tenure and the current BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government.

The graph shows a rise in Chinese imports under the current dispensation.

Continuing his offensive against the government on the LAC stand-off, Gandhi also asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi when and how he will throw out the Chinese army from Indian territory.

"The entire country knows that China has snatched India's sacred land. Everyone knows that China has transgressed into Indian territory at four places in Ladakh," the Congress leader said in a video message ahead of Modi's address to the nation.

"Narendra Modi ji, please tell the country when will you throw out China's army from India's territory and how," he said in a video message.

"Hope the prime minister will definitely agree to these suggestions in national interest. This is true national service and patriotism," he said in a tweet in Hindi, sharing his video message.

Gandhi has been attacking Prime Minister Modi and his government over the India-China border standoff in eastern Ladakh, that led to the death of 20 Indian soldiers in a clash between the troops of the two countries on June 15.

Targeting the prime minister over the Chinese incursions in Ladakh, he has accused the Modi government of "surrendering" Indian territory.



Modi, in his address at the all-party meeting earlier this month, had said no one has intruded into Indian territory and no one has occupied it.

he former Congress president has been attacking the government on the 'Make in India' initiative, alleging that it has "failed" to yield results.

In the video, Gandhi said COVID-19 has destroyed India's economy over the last three months and the entire country knows this.

The biggest blow has been dealt to the poor, labourers, middle class and salaried class, he said.

"We have given some suggestions to the government. The first is to implement an income guarantee scheme for six months, and not a year, and directly put Rs 7,500 per month in the accounts of the poor. This will lead to creation of demand and revival of the economy," he said.

The Congress leader said the government has not heeded to this proposal. Not once but three to four times, they have refused to implement it, he said, noting that the reason they give is that there is no money.

"I want to remind the country that the government waived of lakhs of crores of tax liabilities of the 15 richest crony capitalists and in the past three months the government has consistently increased petrol and diesel prices on 22 occasions.

"There is no shortage of money. The government has three lakh crore rupees, with which it can implement the Nyay scheme and directly put money into the accounts of the poor," he said.

Gandhi shared his video message on social media minutes before the prime minister's address, in which Narendra Modi announced extension of the PMKAY, a free ration scheme, for 80 crore people across the country till end of November.

Steps Taken To Stop Cultivation Of Poppy, Cannabis In Valley: Govt

SRINAGAR :- In order to stop the illegal cultivation of Poppy and Cannabis crops across the Kashmir Division, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today convened a meeting to discuss the measures being taken to curb the menace of cannabis and poppy cultivation.

Divisional Commissioner said that all possible steps are being taken to stop cultivation of Poppy and Cannabis crops across the valley as early as possible so that drug menace will be weed-ed out completely from our society. He directed the concerned authorities to devise a concrete strategy so that cultivation of these harmful crops destroyed in government and private lands.

He asked for involving stakeholders in this noble cause and make people aware about harm effects of cannabis and poppy cultivation.

He also directed for conducting special drives as and registering formal FIRs against the cultivators once Revenue and Excise shares the details of cultivators with them. It was informed that the government intends to provide skill development and industrial training to the people involved in illicit consumption, cultivation and trade of poppy and cannabis through the Departments of industries and technical Education in order to provide them reasonable opportunities to earn their living. Rehabilitation plan with Departments of Floriculture, Agriculture, Horticulture and Argo Industries Development Corporation for making a policy on alternate crop development for farmers involved in illegal cultivation of poppy and cannabis and to divert their farm activities from illicit cultivation and adoption of cash crop for their livelihood.

Gauhati HC Grants Divorce To Man After Woman Refuses To Wear 'Sindoor', 'Shaka'

GUWAHATI: The Gauhati High Court has granted divorce to a man, observing that the refusal to wear 'shaka' (conch shell bangle) and 'sindoor' (vermillion) as per customs by a Hindu married woman amounted to her refusal to accept the marriage.

After hearing a matrimonial appeal filed by the husband, a division bench comprising Chief Justice Ajai Lamba and Justice Soumitra Saikia set aside an order of the family court which rejected his prayer for divorce on the grounds that no cruelty was found on the part of the wife against him.

The man had appealed in the high court against the



family court's order.

"Her refusal to wear 'sakha' and 'sindoor' will project her to be unmarried and/or signify her refusal to accept the marriage with the appellant (husband). Such categorical stand of the respondent (wife) points to the clear intention of the respondent that she is unwilling to continue her conjugal life with the appellant," the high court said in the judgment passed on June 19.

The man and the woman had married on February 17, 2012, but they started fighting soon as she started demanding not to live along with his family members. As a consequence, the two have been living separately since June 30, 2013. She had lodged a police complaint against her husband and his family accusing them of torturing her, but the allegation of subjecting her to cruelty was not sustained, the bench said. "Such acts of lodging criminal cases on unsubstantiated allegations against the husband and/or the husband's family amount to cruelty as held by the Supreme Court," they said in the order.

Film Producer Booked For Letting Loose His 5 Dogs On Hyderabad Police

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad police on Monday registered a case against leading film producer and leader of Andhra Pradesh's ruling YSR Congress Party, Prasad V. Potluri for allegedly letting loose his pet dogs on police officers who had gone to his residence for investigation of a complaint against him.

PVP, as Prasad is popularly known, his wife and another person were booked under Indian Penal Code's Section 353 (assault or use of criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging his duty).

The case was registered at Banjara Hills police station on a complaint by sub-inspector



D. Harish Reddy, who along with another officer and a home guard, had gone to PVP's house in posh Jubilee Hills.

The police officers had gone as part of the investigations into a complaint lodged by a person with Banjara Hills police last week, alleging that PVP was stalling

his house construction and threatening him.

When the team reached PVP's house they were stopped at the main gate by a person and when they told him about the purpose of the visit, he went inside and came back only to inform them that PVP and his wife have asked him not to allow anybody in.

When they tried to enter the house, five dogs came charging towards them, making them flee the place.

PVP had joined the YSRCP on the eve of 2019 elections and contested unsuccessfully as the party candidate from Vijayawada Lok Sabha seat. IANS

Three Held For Hanging Monkey To Death In Telangana

HYDERABAD: Days after a video of a monkey being hanged to death from a tree in Khammam district went viral, three people have been arrested in connection with the incident.

According to Sathupalli Forest Range Officer A Venkateswarlu they filed a Preliminary Offence Report (POR) under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 against the perpetrators and they were arrested on Monday.

"As it is a bailable offence they were later granted bail on personal bond," he said.

The official told PTI that a notice under section 41 (A) of the CrPC (notice of appearance) was also served to them and they have to appear before the forest officials whenever they are asked to do so as part of investigation.

The incident happened on June 26 at Vemsoor village and the video of the primate being hanged using a rope went viral, prompting the officials to investigate.

Forest officials said the accused wanted to scare other monkeys by hanging the one which was caught and they later found the carcass in a decomposed state.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO) condemned the brutal killing of the monkey.