



Maximum : 32°C SUNSET
Today 07:46 PM
Minum : 18°C SUNRISE
Humidity : 40% Tomorrow 05:24 AM



News Digest

Pak Army Shells Two Sectors Along LoC

Jammu: Pakistani troops resorted to firing in various forward areas in twin sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, prompting the Indian Army to give a befitting reply, officials said. "At around 0930 hours today, Pakistani Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms along the LoC in Kirni and Shahpur sectors of Poonch district," a defence spokesperson said. "The Indian Army is retaliating befittingly," he said. Firing and shelling between the two sides were continuing when the last report came in, officials said.

Another Quake Jolts J&K

DODA: An earthquake of magnitude 3.6 was reported near Gandoh in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday afternoon, according to India's National Center for Seismology. The epicentre of the earthquake was 86 km east (E) of Katra, Jammu and Kashmir, India, the agency said. The earthquake struck at 2:02:12 PM IST at a depth of 5 km from the surface.

Cop Arrested For Drug Peddling

SRINAGAR: A Jammu and Kashmir policeman was on Thursday arrested for his alleged involvement in the peddling of drugs in Ganderbal district of the union territory, police said. In continuation to its drive against menace of drive drugs from society, Ganderbal Police developed information about the involvement of a police official in the peddling of drugs in Kurhama area (of the central Kashmir district), a police officer said. He said after a hot pursuit, constable Showkat Ahmed Ganie was arrested with an initial small quantity of Codeine Phosphate bottles. A case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was registered against him and investigation taken up, the officer said. ● P-02

CASO Launched In Pulwama Village

SRINAGAR: Government forces on Thursday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Pathan village of southern Kashmir's Pulwama district. According to the reports, government forces laid a siege in the area on Wednesday midnight and carried out a search operation. The forces, reports said carried out searches of houses suspecting militants to be hiding there. The search operation continued for several hours, however the joint team did not find any success. (KNT)

Police File Case After JCB Set Afire

Budgam: Police on Thursday filed a case after miscreants set a JCB on fire in central Kashmir's Budgam during the intervening night of July 1 and 2. A police official said that they have taken the cognizance of the incident and registered a case in this regard. The incident occurred at Paller village of Budgam. The JCB (LNT)1-10, that suffered partial damage in the fire incident is owned by one Gulzar Ahmed Bhat of Paller village of Budgam district. (KNT)

J&K Reports 10 Covid-19 Deaths In A Day, Toll 117

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 10 coronavirus deaths, nine among them in Valley on Thursday, taking the total number of deaths due to the virus across the Union Territory to 117.

Among these, five COVID-19 positive patients died at SKIMS Soura hospital, three at SMHS hospital and one at CD hospital, the officials said. Besides it, the reports of a man from Doda came out positive to Covid-19, two days after his death.

The deaths at SKIMS Soura hospital include 2 persons from Kulgam, 65-year-old man from Shop-

ian and a 65-year old man from Sopore, and a 75-year-old from Budgam, they said.

According to officials, a 65-year-old Covid-19 patient from Tarigam area of Kulgam died at the hospital on Thursday afternoon.

They said the sexagenarian was referred from GMC Anantnag to the hospital on June 23 in the view of B/L CAP with ARDS.

A 65-year-old man from Nadigam area of Shopian died at the hospital at 4.45 p.m, the officials said.

They said the patient was admitted in Infectious Disease Block of the hospital on Wednesday as a case of Coronary Artery Disease with ● PAGE 02

NC Leader, 28 Army; Paramilitary Men Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday reported 154 new cases of Covid-19, including a senior NC leader and three of his family members, besides 28 army and paramilitary personnel, taking the number of infected persons across the Union Territory to 7850. While 134 cases were reported from Kashmir valley, the remaining 20 were confirmed by officials from Jammu province. Giving the district wise details ● P-02

UN Takes Note Of Sopore Killings

'People Who Were Responsible Need To Be Brought To Account'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A day after a minor's picture wailing over his grandfather's body triggered massive outrage in Kashmir and outside, the United Nations have said that whosoever responsible for the killings in Sopore, "have to be made to account for it", reports said Thursday.

In a daily press briefing on Wednesday, Stephane Dujarric, the spokesperson for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that those who were responsible for the killing of a civilian and a CRPF man in Kashmir have to be made to account for it.

Plea In NHRC Seeks Impartial Probe

A day after a civilian was killed during a shootout in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, an activist on Thursday moved the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking an impartial probe in the elderly man's killing. A New Delhi-based ● P-02

Dujarric was responding to a question by a reporter at the daily briefing. ● PAGE 02

Siblings, 2 Others Killed In Kupwara Well Collapse

SRINAGAR: At least four people, including two siblings on Thursday were killed after a well they were working upon, collapsed in a village in the frontier Kupwara district.

The tragic incident occurred in Singhdan area of Kralpora this afternoon when a group of four people were working on an under-construction well in the village, reports said. While the men were busy with their work, the well collapsed trapping all the four.

It was only after hectic efforts of the locals, police and other allied departments that the trapped men were retrieved from the well and evacuated to nearby health facility. However the ● P-02

India Slams Pak Over Gilgit-Baltistan Poll Announcement

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold general elections in Gilgit-Baltistan and said such exercises are intended to "camouflage Islamabad's illegal occupation" of Indian territories.

Last week, Pakistan announced that general elections in Gilgit-Baltistan will be held on August 18.

"We completely reject attempts by Pakistan to bring material changes to the Indian territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Such cosmetic exercises are intended to camouflage Pakistan's illegal occupation of Indian territories," Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs An-

urag Srivastava said. "We call upon Pakistan to vacate all Indian territories that are under their illegal occupation," he said.

Srivastava was replying to a question on the issue at an online media briefing.

In a recent ruling, the Pakistan Supreme Court allowed Islamabad to amend a 2018 administrative order to conduct general elections in the region. The Gilgit-Baltistan Order of 2018 provided for administrative changes, including authorising the prime minister of Pakistan to legislate on an array of subjects.

In May, India had issued a demarche to a senior Pakistani diplomat here and lodged a ● PAGE 02

Work To Begin Shortly On Zojila Tunnel: Gadkari

NEW DELHI: Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said work will begin shortly on the strategic Zojila tunnel for all-year connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh regions.

The tunnel project, stalled for about six years, holds strategic significance as Zojila Pass is situated at an altitude of 11,578 feet on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National highway and remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall, cutting off Ladakh region from Kashmir.

"We are also starting work on the around Rs 7,500-Rs 8,000 crore Zojila tunnel to connect Ladakh," Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSME Gadkari said. Addressing a video interaction on 'Employment Opportunities by Ministry of ● P-02

Militant, CRPF Man Killed In Srinagar Gunfight

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: An unidentified militant and a CRPF personnel on Thursday were killed in a late night encounter in Malbagh area of the city.

Special Operations group (SOG) of police and paramilitary CRPF laid a cordon around Malbagh area of Srinagar after receiving specific information about the presence of militants in the area, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants opened fire at a search party of the forces, who retaliated.

In the exchange of fire, a CRPF man was injured. He was removed to the hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to the grave injuries, the police official added.

He said an unidentified militant was also killed in the exchange of gunfire with the joint team.

The search operation is in progress in the area, the official said.

Pertinently, today's gunfight is the second in Srinagar in the last eleven days. On June 21, three militants were killed by government forces in a fierce gun-battle in Zoonimar area of Srinagar. (with GNS inputs)

LADAKH STAND-OFF

Expect China To Ensure Expeditious Restoration Of Peace: MEA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said it expected China to ensure expeditious restoration of peace and tranquillity in the border areas in sync with provisions of relevant bilateral pacts as armies of the two countries remained engaged in a seven-week bitter standoff in eastern Ladakh.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava, while referring to the ban on 59 Chinese apps, said companies operating in India will have to follow laid down rules and regulatory framework including those pertaining to data security and privacy of individual data.

Asked about the corps commander-level talks on Tuesday, he said both sides will continue their meetings at the military and diplomatic levels to resolve the issues to "mutual satisfaction".

He said the discussions at the latest meeting of senior commanders reflected the commitment of both sides to reduce the tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the 3,500 KM de-facto border between the two countries.

"The two sides will continue their meetings both at ● PAGE 02



File Pic

India Rushes To Buy MiGs, Sukhois, Missiles

In the midst of India's tense border standoff with China, the Defence Ministry today approved procurement of 33 fighter jets, a number of missile systems and other military hardware at a cost of Rs 38,900 crore to bolster the combat capability of the armed forces, officials said. They said 21 MiG-29 fighter jets will be procured from Russia while 12 Su-30 MKI aircraft will be bought from ● P-02

DM's Ladakh Visit Rescheduled

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's planned visit to Ladakh on Friday has been rescheduled, official sources said on Thursday. It was not immediately known why the visit has been ● P-02

NHRC Tells JK, Ladakh To Intimate It About Custodial, Encounter Deaths

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The NHRC has asked the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to intimate it about any custodial or encounter death, in accordance with guidelines, officials said on Thursday.

In case of custodial deaths, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) should be intimated within 24 hours, and within 48 hours of the incident in case of an encounter death, according to its guidelines for all states and Union territories with a view to protect and promote human rights, the panel said in a statement.



Image for representation

In a letter dated June 30 to the chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir and the commissioner secretary of Ladakh, NHRC Secretary Gen-

eral Jaideep Govind has requested them to pass suitable instructions to those concerned for compliance of all instructions issued ● PAGE 02

NIA Arrests One More In Pulwama Attack Case

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday claimed to have arrested a man accused in last year's deadly attack on a paramilitary convoy in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

25-year-old Mohammad Iqbal Rather of Futlipura in Chrar-e-Sharief was arrested in the ongoing probe into last year's IED attack in Pulwama that left 40 CRPF personnel dead, a NIA spokesperson said.

Rather, he said had facilitated the movement of Muhammad Umar Farooq, the JeM militant and a key conspirator in this case, after he sneaked into Jammu and Kashmir in April, 2018, from the highway near International border to South Kashmir.

"Farooq, along with others, had assembled the IED used in the attack. Rather had been ● P-02

Auqib Javed

BEFORE his shattering demise would trigger a sentimental storm that swept and inundated social media—the platform he used to plead for his homeland's perpetual pain—Abrar Reyaz had just lived 24 summers of his life. The politically-steaming seasons during his fleeting lifetime had shaped him as a poised person who wielded wit and wisdom as his armour.

The hazardous highway might've just ended another life in Kashmir lately, but the budding lawyer was no boy-next-door.

From the young age itself, the boy from Shopian wasn't basking in his own glory for nothing. Bereft of rage and brimming with reason, he had shown a maturity and promise to emerge as a reckoning voice from the valley.

By the dint of his silent work-



Abrar Reyaz

manship, he had made great inroads in peoples' lives and left an indelible mark. "No wonder

they're beating their chest over his sudden demise," said his inconsolable university colleague. "His loss became personal, even for those who hardly knew him."

Abrar's elegiac colleague says the departed dreamer who wanted to work for the welfare of his homeland caught in the throes of the dogged discord came of age post-2016.

He announced his eager yet unruffled arrival on the valley's legal landscape—even though he was still studying Law—with his insightful

write-ups.

His judicious commentaries, including those published in Kashmir Observer, clearly made him appear ahead of his time. His last column was on whether police have any legal power to register FIRs and summon people.

His folks back home attribute his brilliance to his "Master ji", his scholarly grandfather, who once held sway over Shopian township.

The curious child was born in summer 1996 — the year Kashmir

saw the return of the "tricky ballot" led by Farooq Abdullah who had earlier abandoned the ship in 1990 "to play golf in England".

Abrar's advent as Kashmir's conflict child raised by sham intrigues would deeply shape up his political understanding and personal life. Much of this was clearly reflecting from his articles.

His former classmates at Shopian's Mohammadiya Institution, where he studied till 10th, remember Abrar as a composed debater.

ABRAR WAS MATURE IN CONTEXT OF KASHMIR THAN MOST of those amongst whom he studied and was taught. I had a chance of working with me in relation to preparation of his moot for Nuremberg. He would often visit me and contribute to print and social media to highlight miseries of struggling Kashmiris."

participate in live hearing sessions to groom himself, the cousin continued. "Later he would intern with district and session courts in Shopian and Srinagar."

Much of this court curiosity came handy in May 2019, when Abrar, among the five students of his Law School, would participate in international rounds of the Nuremberg Moot Court, in Germany.

His team finished second in the competition, in which teams from more than 60 countries participated. His teachers equate his foreign land feat with his 'rebel with a cause' image.

"He wasn't only my student but a warrior dedicated to the cause so dear to his people," Dr Sheikh Showkat Hussain, a law professor, recalled the boy's transient legend.

"Abrar was mature in context of Kashmir than most of those amongst whom he studied ● PAGE 02

Post-Script: Kashmir Lost Its Promising Advocate

Katra-Delhi Express Road Corridor Work Started: J-K Official To Union Minister Jitendra Singh

NEW DELHI: The work for Katra-Delhi express road corridor and land acquisition process for it has been started, a senior Jammu and Kashmir administration official informed Union minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday.

The Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra in Jammu and Kashmir is visited by many pilgrims round the year.

This was informed to Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, who reviewed development works in Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Parliamentary constituency, including the status of various national projects in the region, in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic.

In a virtual meeting with deputy commissioners and senior officials, he discussed the progress of various ongoing projects in the six districts of Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar.

As for Kathua district, it was revealed that the work on the first-ever seed processing plant is complete and it will become functional in a few weeks, according to an official statement.

Similarly, the work on north India's first ever Bio-Tech Industrial Park, which had got delayed due to CO-



VID-19, was also nearing completion and is now on the verge of becoming functional in near future, it said.

Meanwhile, the work has started on the Katra-Delhi express road corridor and the land acquisition process has been initiated, the statement said.

The deputy commissioner of Udhampur informed the minister that after an inevitable delay due to COVID-19 pandemic, the river Devika project has again picked up and is expected to keep its deadline of completion during next one-and-a-half year.

Singh issued instructions for expediting the work on the Dayalchak road in Basohli region and the Majaltabridge in Ramnagar, and for planning proposals for invest-

ment in the proposed industrial estate in Udhampur, the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

The district administrations of Udhampur and Kathua were also advised to expedite the public demand for hand pumps particularly in the wake of ongoing summer season, it said.

Singh is a Lok Sabha member from Udhampur constituency.

Deputy commissioner of Reasi gave an update about the proposal of the Kendriya Vidyalaya for which she informed that the procedural formalities have been completed.

The minister asked her to send a detailed note on the issue of toll plaza and the various options to provide relief to the daily

commuters, the statement said.

The deputy commissioner of Kishtwar and other senior officials were told by Jitendra Singh that saffron park had been approved by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, but the foundation laying ceremony had to be deferred at the last moment because of inability to find the exact location, it said.

The minister asked DC Kathua to hold consultation with the members of civil society to draw consensus so that the project could be started at the earliest, the statement said.

The deputy commissioner of Ramban gave an update of the work on the national highway. He was asked by the minister to immediately find out the reasons for delay in the upgradation of the road from Patnitop to Sanaar for which finances have been approved through Central Road Fund (CRF), it said.

The deputy commissioner Doda informed that the construction of Government Medical College, Doda and National High Altitude Medicine Plant at Bhaderwah was going on normally despite the constraints due to COVID-19 pandemic, the statement added.

Lightning Kills 31 In Up, Bihar; Flood Claims 1 In Assam As Mumbai Braces For Heavy Rain

NEW DELHI: At least 31 people died in lightning strikes in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, while the flood in Assam claimed one more life and inundated crop fields, even as Mumbai braced for extremely heavy rainfall.

However, the national capital sweltered under a stifling heat with no rains. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted dry weather in the city for the next two days and rains on the weekend.

Most places in the city recorded the maximum temperatures between 39 degrees and 42 degrees Celsius. In Bihar, 26 people were killed on Thursday after being struck by lightning, officials said. More than 100 have died in lightning strikes in the state in the last one week, they added. According to the state disaster management department, the casualties were reported from eight districts — Patna, Samastipur, East Champaran, West Champaran, Sheohar, Katihar, Madhepura and Purnea.

Samastipur accounted for the highest number of seven deaths, followed by Patna (six), East Champaran (four), Katihar (three), Sheohar and Madhepura (two each) and West Champaran and Purnea (one each), the department said.

On June 30, 11 people were killed by lightning strikes in

five districts, while 83 such deaths were reported from 23 districts within a span of 24 hours on June 25.

Expressing grief over the latest fatalities, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ordered a payment of Rs four lakh as ex-gratia to the next of kin of each deceased. In the neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, five people died and 12 others got injured in incidents of lightning strikes in Ballia district.

The dead included a 70-year-old retired Army man, Babul Singh, and villager Nirmal Verma, 43, who were struck by lightning while working in their fields in BabuKaShivpur village of Dokati area, police said.

Ten others were injured in thunderbolt strike on Wednesday while working in a field in Mahtthapur village of the district.

They were rushed to a hospital, where two women, Savita (35) and Sheela (19), died during treatment. In another incident at Rampur Madai village in Bhimpura area of the district, a 28-year-old farmer, Ram SarikhaRajbhar was struck by lightning while working in his field and killed. In yet another incident, four women were hit by lightning in Hajouth village of Khejuri area of the district. They were rushed to a hospital where their condition was stated to be stable.

The flood situation in Assam, meanwhile, continued to

remain grim as it claimed one more life on Thursday, taking the toll to 34, while over 16.03 people are affected in 22 of the state's 33 districts.

The floodwaters have inundated 72,700 hectares of crop area across the state as on Thursday. According to the daily flood bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), one person died in Goalpara district. The flood-hit districts are Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Chirang, Darrang, Nalbari, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, South Salmara, Goalpara, Kamrup, Kamrup (Metro), Morigaon, Nagaoon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and West KarbiAnglong districts.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department on Thursday predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places in Mumbai and adjoining coastal districts, and issued an orange alert for the next two days. An orange alert implies that authorities should be prepared to handle any situation arising out of severe weather conditions. Ratnagiri district, which bore the brunt of cyclonic storm Nisarga last month, is likely to receive extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places on Friday, while Raigad will receive similar downpour on Saturday, senior director of IMD Mumbai, Shubhangibhute, said.

J&K Reports 10 Covid-19...

bilateral Community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) with Type-1 Respiratory Failure.

Earlier two Covid-19 patients died at the hospital during the Wednesday night.

A 55-year-old man from Yaripora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district died around midnight.

He was admitted to the hospital on June 22 with "hypertension with T2 DM with multifocal encephalopathy," they said.

A 65-year-old man from Sopore area of north Kashmir passed away at around 3 am, the officials said.

They said he was also admitted to the hospital on June 22 and was suffering from hypertension and community-acquired pneumonia. The cause of the death was sudden cardiopulmonary arrest, the officials added.

The deaths at SMHS hospital include a 65-year-old man from Kulgam, a 65-year-old woman from Srinagar and a 75-year-old man from Budgam, the officials said.

They said the male patient from Kulgam, who had tested positive for Covid-19, died at the hospital on Thursday morning.

The patient was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday (June 30) as a case of Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) and hypokalaemia, they said.

According to officials, the other two deaths - 65-year old woman from Batamalo area of Srinagar and a 75-year-old man from Wadwan area of Budgam - occurred yesterday and their swab samples returned positive for the covid-19 today.

Both of them, who were admitted to the hospital on Wednesday, had underlying ailments including hypertension and bilateral pneumonia, the officials said, adding that the woman was also suffering from Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Meanwhile, a sexagenarian Covid-19 positive man from Habba Kadal area of Srinagar died at CD hospital, the officials said.

They said the man was admitted to the hospital on June 29 and was diabetic, hypertensive besides suffering from pneumonia and other ailments.

Late evening, another death due to Covid-19 was reported from SKIMS Soura here.

75-year-old man from Kawoosa area of Budgam district died at the hospital around 7:25 pm Thursday, five days after he was admitted.

"The patient was diagnosed MND with CAP and he died due to cardiopulmonary arrest," Medical Superintendent SKIMS, Professor Farooq Jan said.

Meanwhile, reports of a 63-year-old man from Doda returned positive for the virus, two days after he suffered brain hemorrhage and died at the Udhampur army hospital on June 30, reports said. The sexagenarian man was initially admitted to GMC Jammu on June 20 and later shifted to Udhampur army hospital.

With the deaths, 117 people so far have succumbed to the virus in J&K - 103 from the Valley and 14 from Jammu division.

Srinagar district with 27 deaths has the highest fatalities followed by Baramulla (18), Kulgam (16), Shopian (13), Budgam (10), Anantnag (9), Jammu (8), Kupwara (6), Pulwama (four), Doda (2) while one death each has been reported from Bandipora, Poonch, Udhampur, Rajouri and Kathua. (With inputs from GNS)

NC Leader, 28 Army;...

of the news cases, officials said that 51 were reported from Srinagar followed by Baramulla 19, Anantnag 17, Kulgam 15, Budgam 12, Pulwama 10, Ganderbal 7, Doda 6, Samba 5, four each in Jammu and Udhampur, Bandipora 2 and Ramban 1.

17 CRPF personnel stationed in Srinagar, Pulwama and Anantnag were confirmed positive for coronavirus by the hospital authorities here. Besides it, five soldiers from army's 42 RR in Rajpora Pulwama and six from BB cantonment also tested Covid-19 positive, officials said.

Here in Srinagar, a senior NC leader, his wife and two other family members tested positive for the virus. I

"It is requested to all my friends and well-wishers to pray for my family and four our family members tested positive for Covid-19 today including father," the NC leader's son wrote in a Tweet. Meanwhile, 118 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—38 from Jammu Division and 80 from Kashmir.

Expect China To Ensure...

the military and diplomatic level including under the framework of WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination) in the future to resolve the issues to mutual satisfaction," Srivastava said.

"We expect the Chinese side to sincerely follow up and ensure the expeditious restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas as per bilateral agreements and protocols," he said.

On banning of the Chinese apps, he said India will continue to welcome foreign investments including in the area of internet technologies, but the companies will have to function in accordance with the rules and regulatory framework of the country.

He said India has one of the most open regimes in the world for attracting foreign direct investment and that the government has taken a host of measures for creating a more investor-friendly regime in

the last few years.

"Similarly in the area of digital technology and internet, India has adopted a very open regime. India is today one of the world's largest markets for digital and internet technologies with more than 680 million subscribers," he said.

Srivastava said the world's largest software and internet applications companies are present in India and that they have to abide by the country's rules and regulations including those pertaining to data security and privacy of individual data.

"While we will continue to welcome foreign investments in India, including in the area of internet technologies, but this will have to be in accordance with the rules and regulatory framework established by the government," he said.

In the midst of the border standoff between the two countries, the government banned 59 Chinese apps, including the widely popular TikTok.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last seven weeks. 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.

About Tuesday's military talks, the MEA spokesperson said both sides have emphasised the need for an "expeditious, phased and step wise de-escalation as a priority".

This, he said, is in keeping with the agreement between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during their conversation on June 17 that the overall situation would be handled in a responsible manner.

He also mentioned about the resolve of both the sides to implement the disengagement understanding of June 6 sincerely.

"The discussions at the latest meeting of senior commanders reflected the commitment of both sides to reduce the tensions along the LAC," Srivastava said.

The Indian delegation at the meeting was headed by 14 Corps Commander Lt Gen Singh while the Chinese side was led by Commander of the Tibet Military District Major General Liu Lin.

It was the third senior military commander level engagement to discuss issues related to disengagement at the face-off sites along the LAC and de-escalation from the border areas.

In the previous two rounds of talks, the Indian side demanded immediate withdrawal of Chinese troops from various areas in the region.

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 first round of the Lt General talks were 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.

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

India Rushes To Buy...

State-run aerospace behemoth Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). A separate proposal to upgrade existing 59 MiG-29 aircraft has also been approved.

The ministry has also approved procurement of 248 ASTRA beyond visual range (BVR) air-to-air missile systems. The missile is designed to engage and destroy highly manoeuvring supersonic aircraft and has all weather day and night capability, the officials said.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The DAC is the highest decision-making body of the Defence Ministry on procurement.

The Defence Acquisition Council also approved acquisition of Pinaka missile systems as well as procurement of long range land attack missile systems having a firing range of over 1,000 km.

In a press release, the ministry referred to the "current situation and the need to strengthen the armed forces for the defence of our borders" while talking about the decisions of the Defence Acquisition Council.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last seven weeks. 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 several casualties but it is yet to give out the details.

The proposals approved by the Defence Acquisition Council also included procurement of Pinaka ammunition, software defined radios for the Army and BMP armament upgrades.

The procurement of 21 MiG-29 and upgrade of the existing fleet of MiG-29 is estimated to cost the government Rs 7,418 crore while purchase of 12 new Su-30 MKI from HAL will be made at a cost of Rs 10,730 crore, the officials said.

In the statement, the ministry said capital procurement worth around Rs 38,900 crore was approved by the DAC.

"Focused on indigenous design and development, these approvals include acquisitions from Indian Industry worth Rs 31,130 crore. The equipment are to be manufactured in India involving Indian defence industry with participation of several MSMEs as prime tier vendors,"

it said.

"The indigenous content in some of these projects is up to 80 per cent of the project cost. A large number of these projects have been made possible due to Transfer of Technology by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) to the indigenous industry," the ministry said.

It said the cost of these design and development proposals is in the range of Rs 20,400 crore.

"While acquisition of Pinaka missile systems will enable raising additional regiments over and above the ones already inducted, addition of long range land attack missile systems having a firing range of 1,000 KM to the existing arsenal will bolster the attack capabilities of the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force," the ministry said.

"Similarly induction of Astra Missiles having beyond visual range capability will serve as a force multiplier and immensely add to the strike capability of the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force," it said.

DM's Ladakh Visit Rescheduled

The sources said Singh will "soon" undertake the visit to Ladakh to take stock of India's military preparedness in the region where Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a seven-week bitter border standoff.

The defence minister was to be accompanied by Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane.

The Army Chief visited Ladakh on June 23 and 24 during which he held a series of meetings with senior Army officials and visited various forward areas in eastern Ladakh.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last seven weeks. 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.

UN Takes Note Of Sopore...

"We will look into it. Obviously people who were responsible need to be brought to account. But let me look further into it," he said.

Responding to another question over the outbreak of protests after the civilian's killing, the UN General Secretary's spokesperson said "As anywhere, we encourage people to be, authorities to allow people to demonstrate freely and that they can express their rights to demonstrate."

On Wednesday, the killing of a civilian during a shootout in Sopore town of north Kashmir triggered a massive outrage in Kashmir and outside. While police claimed that the 65-year-old Bashir Ahmad Khan, of Mustafa Colony HMT in Srinagar died due to the firing by militants, the family contested the claims and accused state forces of killing him in "cold-blood" after dragging him out of his personal car. The anger and outrage was fuelled by a series of pictures and videos showing a wailing kid trying to wake up Khan from a road in Sopore town. The incident also evoked strong condemnation from mainstream political, social and religious parties.

Plea In NHRC Seeks...

activist today filed a petition in the NHRC for an impartial probe in the killing, citing different versions of police and family it.

"The facts behind this killing can only be established after a due impartial probe by the National Human Rights Commission and the petitioner prays for its immediate intervention," reads the petition filed by Saket Gokhale.

In the petition, Gokhale has pointed out that family of the slain man has disputed the official version over the killing.

"The J&K police and the Central Reserve Force (CRPF) claim that militants attacked a CRPF and police party at around 7:45 AM while there they were placing a Naka at model Town in Sopore. They said that the victim Bashir Ahmed, who was driving a car, came out of his car to take his grandson to safety and was fired upon by the militants which killed him.

However, family of the deceased including Nazir Ahmed (the brother of the deceased) and Suhail Ahmed (son of the deceased) have alleged that the victim was asked to come out of from his vehicle by security forces and killed on the roadside," the petition reads.

The plea for NHRC probe has been filed at a time when almost all major political parties in J&K have sought an impartial inquiry in the killing—(KNO)

NHRC Tells JK, Ladakh...

by the commission, to send all requisite reports, including the post-mortem, videography and magisterial enquiry reports, in all custodial deaths and encounter deaths, it said.

"He has said that the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was not under a statutory obligation to follow the mandate of the commission by sending intimations, in such cases of deaths in custody or encounter, in view of the protection given in respect of the subjects mentioned in List II of VII Schedule of the Constitution (State subjects) in the PHR Act," the statement said.

But, after an amendment in the PHR Act in 2019, there is no prohibition on the commission in exercising its jurisdiction like in all other states and Union territories, it said.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to follow the guidelines issued by the NHRC, in case of custodial and encounter deaths that have happened within its territory, the statement said.

NIA Arrests One More In ...

undergoing judicial custody since September, 2018 in another Jaish-e-Mohammed related case investigated by NIA," the spokesperson said.

"As such, he was produced by the Jail authorities before the NIA Special Court, Jammu today and was taken into 7-day NIA custody for his interrogation," he added.

The NIA spokesperson further said that the initial examination has revealed that rather was in constant touch with Pakistan-based leadership of Jaish-e-Mohammed and was in communication with them over secure messaging applications.

"Rather was part of the 'transportation module' of Jaish-e-Mohammed militant organisation. With this arrest, NIA has so far arrested 06 accused persons in this case. Investigation in this case is in progress," the NIA spokesperson added.

Work To Begin Shortly...

MSME, Constraints and Problems faced by J&K Youth," the minister also said a new express highway was being built to connect Delhi with Amritsar and Katra which will cut travel time between Delhi and Amritsar to four hours at an average speed of 110-120 km per hour.

Gadkari, who also holds MSME ministry portfolio, said efforts were underway for the Khadi and Village Industries to achieve a turnover of Rs 5 lakh crore in two years, from Rs 88,000 crore at the end of March this year.

India Slams Pak Over...

strong protest over the apex court ruling.

India also clearly conveyed to Pakistan that the entire union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an "integral part" of the country.

Srivastava also rejected Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's allegations that there was an India link to the terror attack on the Pakistan stock exchange in Karachi on Monday.

Hours after gunmen attacked the Pakistani stock exchange in Karachi, Qureshi alleged that the clues of strike are leading towards sleeper cells activated by India.

Siblings, 2 Others Killed...

doctors declared all of them as brought dead, reports said.

The deceased have been identified as Altaf Ahmad Shiekh, Showkat Ahmad Khan, Mumtaz Ahmad Khan and his brother Altaf Ahmad Khan, all residents of Dard Hari Sangdan.

"The persons have probably died of asphyxiation after remaining trapped inside the well for few hours", the official said.

Post-Script: Kashmir Lost...

and was taught. I had a chance of working with me in relation to preparation of his moot for Nuremberg. He would often visit me and contribute to print and social media to highlight miseries of struggling Kashmiris."

His promising life, much to everyone's heartbreak, came to an abrupt end.

Chaperoning his ailing father along with his uncle to Srinagar for treatment, Abrar met an accident at Pamore on June 27 when their car rammed into a truck. While his uncle Syed Riyaz Ahmad Sofi were brought to SMHS hospital in a critical state.

Abrar suffered a massive brain injury, while his father had multiple rib-fractures. The boy was placed on a ventilator and was monitored by a team of neurosurgeons.

But his last hours saw him going through some endless trials.

In his comatose state, he was declared COVID positive and was sent to the CD hospital. His shift to the corona-designated hospital devoid of neurosurgery ward shocked all and sundry.

Even as he had shown some signs of recovery, Abrar passed away in the same hospital hours later.

Amid sobs and tears, Shopian's boy genius was finally laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard.

"He could've been saved if treated properly," his wailing friend said. "Boys like him are our assets. Their untimely demise is our collective loss."

Cop Arrested For Drug...

The accused was subjected to interrogation and based upon his disclosure, 800 bottles of Codeine Phosphate were seized from his house, the officer said.

He said a special investigation team has been constituted to probe the involvement of other people while the constable has been placed under suspension.

Div Com Tours Srinagar

Takes Stock Of Traffic Decongestion Measures

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: To ensure better traffic management and further enhance parking space in the summer capital, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today conducted an extensive tour of Srinagar City.

During the tour, the Div Com visited Boulevard, Shalimar, Durganag, Sonwar, G.B.Panth Hospital, Panthachowk, Lasjan bypass, Natipora and other areas to take stock of the measures to improve the traffic flow and steps that can be taken to ensure sustainable decongestion of the city centre.

The Div Com directed the concerned authorities to take all required steps for creating additional car parking facilities along the Boulevard from Kralasangi to Dalgate to overcome traffic jams.

At Shalimar, concerned officers were directed to check the feasibility and status of land so that additional parking facility is created opposite the Shalimar garden to cater to the demand.

While reviewing the road widening process near Nehru Park along Boulevard road, the Div Com directed the concerned



cerned to expedite the work and complete the same within the stipulated time and simultaneously ensure better traffic flow in the area.

At Durganag Dalgate, Panthachowk, Athwajan and Lasjan bypass, the Div Com directed for removal of encroachments and also instructed to take action against the violators so that developmental works are not hampered, he also stressed for land demarcation along highways.

At Natipora crossing, the Div Com inspected the site plan of Rambagh to Natipora junction that is to be carried out for road widening which otherwise witnesses huge gridlocks.

He directed the officers to take concrete measures

for the smooth flow of traffic in the area and asked officers to ensure bottlenecks, if any, are immediately cleared for the traffic decongestion in the Srinagar city and devise ways for better traffic regulation and adequate parking facilities.

P.K Pole directed the concerned officers to explore the possibilities for additional parking space across the city for public convenience.

VC SDA, Chief Engineer R&B, SSP Traffic, SSP Srinagar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, besides officers of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Irrigation & Flood Control, RTO, Beacon Kashmir, Ramkay and other concerned departments accompanied the Div Com during the tour.

Two IT Parks coming up in Srinagar and Jammu: Dwivedi

Jammu:: Industries & Commerce Department is coming up with two IT Parks in Jammu and Kashmir for which land has already been identified.

This was revealed by Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi during his inspection of a site for Integrated IT Park at Nagrota here today.

The IT Parks would be established one each in Jammu and Srinagar.

The Commissioner Secretary was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Jammu Sushma Chauhan and Director Industries and Commerce Jammu, Anoo Malhotra and other concerned officers. On the occasion, Mr Dwivedi divulged that the IT Park would be having an IT Tower/ BPOs/ Extended IT Infrastructure and also residential quarters for the employees.

He said that this would fulfil a long pending commitment made by the department and shall encourage entrepreneurship among the technically qualified youth.

HC Notice To Centre, J&K Govt On PIL Challenging interest on loans during moratorium

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir High Court On Thursday issued notice to Union and J&K Government Besides JKB, the lead bank in the J&K, on a Public Interest Litigation, challenging charging of interest on loan during the period of moratorium. The PIL filed by local businessmen Sheikh Feroz Ahmad Siddiq— President, Restaurant and Cafe Association, Kashmir, and Mohammad Muzamil Bacha -jPresident, Industrial Revival and Development Forum, Kashmir) also seeking directions for waiving of interest charged by the banks on the term loans during the period when moratorium was granted by the banks on account of special rehabilitation and revival package for the persons affected by natural calamity-floods in the erstwhile State; rehabilitation package to borrowers hit by the disturbances that occurred in 2016 and 2019. Issuing the notice, a division bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and

Rajesh Oswal issued notice to the central Finance and Home Ministry besides the J&K government, the Reserve Bank of India and the J&K Bank Ltd.

“Notice shall be issued to respondent Nos. 1 to 3 (union ministries and RBI) by ordinary as well as virtual mode, returnable by or before the next date of hearing,” the court said and posted the matter on July 20. The notice to J&K government and JKB was waived by senior AAG B A Dar and senior advocate Z A Shah respectively. The petitioners through senior advocate Jahangir Iqbal Ganai along with advocate Sheikh Umar Farooq pleaded that the relief sought for in the instant petition is for the benefit of the persons who have suffered on account of natural calamity, disturbances of 2016 and 2019 and of the present COVID-19 pandemic. “They are not been in a position to strictly comply with the conditions of the term loan agreements,” the petitioners said, according to GNS correspondent.

Counseling of students with missionary zeal need of the hour: DSEK

SRINAGAR, JULY 02: Director School Education Kashmir Mohammad Younis Malik today laid an emphasis on the need to reach out to the students so that children do not feel alienated during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

He said this while an interaction session with the team of teacher counselors presently engaged with the on-call counseling of students under ‘student outreach programme’ initiated by DSEK in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

Malik advised the counselors to continue the process in such a way that children and their parents have a sense of belongingness and ownership from the teachers and stressed upon them to take the initiative forward with a missionary zeal and reach out to the children in a friendly manner.


The Director said that no student should be left out and children living at the tail end should get the benefits of the initiatives taken by the department.

FATEHA KHWANI

The congregational Fatehkhawani of Advocate Mohammad Ashraf of Orion Hotel who passed away on 02.07.2020, is scheduled to be held on 05.07.2020, the Sunday at 10.30 AM sharp, at our graveyard at Gojwara near Akhoun sb. Keeping in view the prevailing pandemic situation, the congregation will disperse immediately after Fatehkhawani.



BEREAVED FAMILY



Website: <http://jpsc.nic.in>
Email: jpscsecretary@gmail.com

May – Oct : 0194-2312629 (0) 23126331 - Srinagar
Nov. – April : 0191-2666528 (0) 2666530 - Jammu

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Resham Ghar Colony, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.

NOTIFICATION NO. PSC/EXAM/02/2020
DATED: 29.06.2020

Online Applications are invited from the eligible candidates desirous of appearing in the following Departmental Examinations. The details of the examinations are given here under:-

Item No.	Name of Departmental Examination
02.	Excise & Commercial Taxes Part I in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Excise and Commercial Taxes (Departmental Examination) Rules 2006 and J&K Public Service Commission (Conduct of Examinations) Rules, 2005 as amended from time to time.
03.	Excise & Commercial Taxes Part II in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Excise and Commercial Taxes (Departmental Examination) Rules 2006 and J&K Public Service Commission (Conduct of Examinations) Rules, 2005 as amended from time to time.
04.	Excise & Commercial Taxes Part III in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Excise and Commercial Taxes (Departmental Examination) Rules 2006 and J&K Public Service Commission (Conduct of Examinations) Rules, 2005 as amended from time to time.

IMPORTANT

➤ The Commission has developed an online Application Form for the Departmental Examinations. The Application Form together with instructions for filling up the Application Forms will be available at the website of the Commission www.jkpsc.nic.in from 01.07.2020.

➤ Candidates are advised to go through the instructions and all the eligibility conditions prescribed for the examination before filing the online Application Form.

➤ Last date for filing of **online Application** complete in all respects **along with the requisite fee (online mode only)** is **04.08.2020**.

➤ Candidates will also be required to submit in person or by the registered/speed post a hard copy of the downloaded online application form, alongwith copy of the bank challan duly stamped by the J&K Bank Branch concerned and the **Eligibility Certificate** duly recorded by the **Competent Authority viz. respective Commissioners** in the Office of the Public Service Commission at Reshamgarh Colony, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu or Solina, Srinagar as the case may be on or before **11.08.2020**.

➤ The Commission will not be responsible for any postal/courier delays after the above prescribed last date.

a)	Date of commencement for submission of online applications	=	01.07.2020
b)	Last date for submission of online applications alongwith requisite fee=	=	04.08.2020
c)	Last date for submission of fee receipt /hard copies of Application forms & Eligibility Certificate	=	11.08.2020
d)	Tentative date of examination	=	05.10.2020

- Examination Fee:**
After successful submission of the online application form, candidate will be required to deposit requisite fee through online mode.
 - Centre of Examination:**
 - The Examination will be held at J&K PSC Examination Hall, Srinagar and J&K PSC Examination Hall, Jammu.
 - The allotment of centres shall be at the sole discretion of the Commission and once a centre is allotted to a candidate, request for change of centre will neither be entertained nor will the Commission respond to request for change of centre.
- Note:**
- The Candidate should carefully mention about **his/her choice for the centre** viz. Jammu/Srinagar and the **Papers** he wants to appear in the examination while filing up the Online Application Form.

- The necessary instructions regarding filling up of online applications are given herein below:-**
 - Candidates are required to apply online through the website of the Commission i.e. <http://www.jkpsc.nic.in>. No other means/ mode of application shall be accepted.
 - Candidates are first required to go to the JKPS website www.jkpsc.nic.in and click on the link "One Time Registration" or click on Login menu if you have already created your profile with the JK PSC.
 - After logging into your account, candidates are required to fill all the requisite fields of One Time Registration (OTR) i.e. personal information, contact information & educational qualification, service details and uploading of documents etc.
 - The candidate shall also be required to upload the images of recent photograph and signature. Photograph image must mention the date in which it is taken.
 - Size of the photograph (passport size) and signature must be between 10kB to 20kB in *.jpeg or *.jpg only.
 - After successful submission of all the details in your OTR account, check the eligibility conditions as mentioned in the advertisement notification before applying for the post.
 - Click on the "show jobs" as shown against the respective post/examination you want to apply.
 - On Clicking on the "show jobs" a window will appear on your computer screen. Select the month of the advertisement notification for which you want to apply, a link(s) for the post(s) will appear on the computer screen.
 - An "APPLY" button is shown against the respective post and the candidates will click on the APPLY button against the post he/she is eligible.
 - On clicking "APPLY" button, an instruction window will appear. Candidates should read instructions carefully before clicking on "APPLY" button at the bottom of the webpage.
 - On clicking "APPLY" button, the system will display all facts/particulars that a candidate have mentioned while filling up the necessary fields of his/her OTR account.
 - Once the candidate is satisfied about the filled in details, then, he or she may click on "SUBMIT" button to finally push the data into server with successful submission report, which he or she can print. In case, a candidate feels that the fields/data filled are/is wrong then he or she will be required to edit the details by pressing the EDIT button, until he or she is satisfied about the correctness of the information required to be filled in the desired fields.
 - Note that the Online Application Form once submitted cannot be edited.**
 - On successful submission of the online application, a window will open with a link to print application form.
 - Candidates can pay the requisite fee through online mode only in the "SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS" menu in your account.**
 - After successful payment of the fee, the fee status will get reflected on the Online Application form. Candidates can check the fee status by clicking on the **Print Application Button** in the submitted Applications menu in your account. In case the payment status has not been reflected on your form, candidate may contact the JKPS Office at Solina/Resham Ghar Colony Jammu.
 - Hard copy of the Online Application form (having fee payment details) along with other requisite documents are to be submitted in the office of the Commission at Resham Ghar Colony, Bakshi Nagar Jammu/ Solina Srinagar or through portal service in registered cover provided the said service is invoked 04 days before the cut-off dates fixed for the purpose (personal delivery).
 - Submission of fee payment shall not be accepted/entertained after cut-off date fixed for the Advertisement Notification.
 - Please note that the above procedure is the only valid procedure for applying. No other mode of application or incomplete steps would be accepted and such applications would be rejected.

- Action against candidates found guilty of misconduct:-**
Candidates are advised that they should not furnish any particulars that are false or suppress any material information. While submitting hard copy of the application in the Commission, candidates are warned that they should, in no case, alter or otherwise temper with any entry in a document or its attested/certified copy submitted by them, nor should they submit a tampered/fabricated document. If there is any inaccuracy or discrepancy between two or more such documents or their attested /certified copies, an explanation regarding this discrepancy should be furnished.
A candidate who is, or has been, declared by the Commission, to be guilty of:
 - obtaining by wrongful support of his/her candidature by any means, or
 - impersonating or
 - procuring impersonation by any person, or
 - submitting fabricated documents or documents which have been tampered with or
 - making statements which are incorrect, or false or suppressing material information, or
 - resorting to any other irregular or improper means in connection with his/her candidature for the selection, or
 - using unfair means during the test, or
 - writing irrelevant matter including obscene language or pornographic matter, in the script(s), or
 - misbehaving in any other manner in the examination hall, or
 - harassing or doing bodily harm to the staff employed by the Commission for the conduct of their test, or
 - attempting to commit or, as the case may be, abetting the Commission of all or any of the acts specified in the foregoing clauses may, in addition to rendering himself/herself liable to criminal prosecution, shall be liable:
 - (a) to be debarred by the Commission for appearing in the examination, and/or
 - (b) to be debarred either permanently or for a specified period.

DIPK-2380/20

Sd/-
(Dr. Shabir Hussain Keen) KAS
Controller of Examinations

No: PSC/Exam/ETSI/ETI/ETO/2020/1

Dated: 29.06.2020

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
11 Zu al-Qa'dah
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 39
ZUHR	12: 35
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:50
ISHA	9:30

This Day In History

- 324- Battle of Adrianople: Roman Emperor Constantine I defeats his co-emperor Licinius, who flees to Byzantium
- 1187- Battle of Horns of Hattin: Saladin, Sultan of Egypt and Syria, destroys Jerusalem's crusader army.
- 1250- Louis IX of France is captured by Baibars' Mamluk army at the Battle of Fariskur while he is in Egypt conducting the Seventh Crusade; he later has to ransom himself.
- 1428 -Treaty of Delft between Jacoba of Bavaria & Philip the Good of Burgundy
- 1608 - Samuel de Champlain founds city of Quebec
- 1630 - Emperor Ferdinand II opens German Parliament
- 1661- Portugal gives Tangier & Bombay to English King Charles II
- 1720 - Sweden and Denmark sign peace treaty
- 1754- George Washington surrenders to French, Fort Necessity (7 Years' War)
- 1767 - Pitcairn Island is discovered by Midshipman Robert Pitcairn on an expeditionary voyage commanded by Philip Carteret
- 1767 - Norway's oldest newspaper still in print, Adresseavisen, is founded (first edition published this date)
- 1775 George Washington takes command of Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1778- Prussia declares war on Austria
- 1876- Montenegro declares war on Turkey
- 1900- The British evacuate Rustenburg and occupy Commando Nek and Silkaatsnek in the Anglo-Boer war
- 1942- German troops march into Sebastopol, Crimea
- 1947- Soviet Union doesn't participate in Marshall Plan
- 1950- 1st time US & North Korean forces clash in Korean War
- 1962- Algerian Revolution against French rule ends (Algeria gains independence on 5th July)
- 1965- USSR & Persia sign dash building & economic aid pact
- 1974- Soyuz 14 carries 2 cosmonauts to space station Salyut 3
- 1986- Kuwait's National Assembly (Majlis al Umma) dissolves
- 1988- The Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge in Istanbul, Turkey is completed, providing the second.
- 1992 - South Africa's FIFA membership reinstated (expelled 1961), united non-racial FA, political prisoners released, free political parties
- 1994 - FIFA World Cup: In a huge upset Romania eliminates Argentina 3-2 from the round of 16 at the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
- 1994 - The deadliest day in Texas traffic history, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. Forty six people killed in crashes.
- 1996-British House of Commons announces Stone of Scone, used in the coronation of Scottish and British monarchs, will be returned to Scotland after 600 years
- 2001- A Vladivostok Avia Tupolev TU-154 jetliner crashes on approach to landing at Irkutsk, Russia killing 145 people.
- 2001- At a meeting of its oil ministers, OPEC agrees to maintain current production quotas; ministers indicate that, if Iraqi oil returns to the market, they may cut production in response to maintain their desired level of prices
- 2004 - Wimbledon Women's Tennis: Maria Sharapova becomes first Russian player to win Wimbledon beating defending champion Serena Williams 6-1, 6-4
- 2005 - The national law legalizing same-sex marriage takes effect in Spain
- 2005 - Wimbledon Men's Tennis: Roger Federer makes it 3 straight Wimbledon titles beating American Andy Roddick 6-2, 7-6, 6-4
- 2006 - Asteroid labeled as 2004 XP14 flies 432,308 km (268,624 miles) by Earth.
- 2006- Asteroid labeled as 2004 XP14 flies 432,308 km (268,624 miles) by Earth.
- 2012- Truck bombing kills 25 people and wounds 40 in Diwaniyah, Iraq
- 2013- Egypt's president, Mohamed Morsi, is deposed by the military with Adly Mansour appointed interim president.
- 2014 - Germany passes first nation-wide minimum wage law – at 8.5 euros
- 2017 - Bus crash in traffic jam and resulting fire kills 18 near Muenchberg, Germany

From KO Archives

J&K second most corrupt state: Survey

NEW DELHI - Kerala has emerged as the country's corrupt state while the dubious distinction of being the worst in this regard went to Bihar followed by Jammu and Kashmir according to global corruption watchdog Transparency international first state wise analysis.

The India Corruption Study 2005 conducted by Transparency International India (TII) land Centre for Media Studies (CMS) said Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra - in that order - were the least corrupt states.

The study had a sample of 14405 respondents in 15 cities and 306 villages across 20 States and covered 11services including police, Judiciary, schools and public distribution system. While Kerala topped in all the departments. Bihar was the last, it said.

The national capital Delhi was ranked 11th in the least corrupt state preceded by Chhattisgarh (6) Punjab (7), West Bengal (8), Orissa (9) and UttarP-tadcsch(10).

Tamil Nadu was placed 12th followed by Haryana,Jharkhand, Assam, Rajasthan,Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

Jammu and Kashmir was placed very low at 19th position only to be followed In Bihar.

(Kashmir Observer, 03 July, 2005)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Sopore Tragedy

The pictures of a three year old boy crying over the lifeless body of his grandfather killed in the cross-firing in Sopore on Wednesday have plunged Kashmir into a deep mourning. The images are deeply disturbing and lend an unbearable poignance to the ongoing tragedy in Kashmir. The boy was accompanying the deceased man when he ran into an encounter between militants and security forces. The family, however, has blamed the forces for killing the man saying he was brought down from the vehicle and shot dead. In pictures, the man can be seen sprawled on the roadside, with the boy sitting over his dead body, trying to wake him up. The police later removed the boy and handed him over to his parents. Apart from the civilian, a CRPF personnel was also killed in the encounter while three other jawans were injured.

The pictures soon went viral, causing widespread grief. They also triggered predictable reactions from people, most of them dictated by which side of the ideological divide they are on. In his tweet, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called for an end to the use of boy's pictures as a tool of propaganda. On the other hand the newly floated Apni Party sought a "time-bound probe" into the incident.

However, the tragedy of the civilian's killing and the attendant pictures of the boy are beyond the predictable condemnations and the disingenuous ordering of probe. It is the moral vacuum in which such killings take place. Those who preside over them brazen it out, feigning no responsibility for them but are duly revolted by the misdeemeanours of the opponents. Officially, the tragedies like these are rationalized as natural outcome of the extraordinary situation prevailing in the state. And barring a few exceptions, the world wouldn't hear of them. One only hopes that this unconscionable indifference ends and both New Delhi and the world see Kashmir for what it is – a place of lingering conflict which needs urgent attention and engagement to resolve.

As the situation of the past three decades testifies, the killings of the militants have neither deterred more youth from joining the militancy, nor ushered Kashmir back to peace. Nor for that matter have rising civilian killings enabled a more empathetic understanding of the situation and the consequent need for a resolution. And nor, if this long duration is any guide, will it in future. The militancy and the state's response to it will go on. True, the state tackles the unfolding violence institutionally, so will not tire of it, but this unrelenting state of affairs is taking a massive toll on the people of Kashmir, our new and the future generation. The most rational and effective response to the lingering turmoil is to address the factors which keep it going. But this is something that is and has been last on the minds of the ruling leadership of the country.

OTHER OPINION

App ban not enough

Continuing concerns over national security and citizens' privacy, India has banned 59 apps with a Chinese connection, including the current craze, TikTok. The 'why now' of this move, being tom-tommed as a virtual strike on the hostile neighbour, is explained by the recent violence and military buildup in Ladakh. New Delhi's action – which has elicited a sharp reaction from Beijing – seems to be dictated largely by the prevailing anti-China sentiment in the country, even as TikTok and others have denied allegations of sharing data of Indian users with the Chinese government. The ban, however, is nothing more than a populist, cosmetic exercise that might hardly bruise China. Confronting the superpower in cyberspace is of little use unless it is complemented by large-scale efforts to ramp up manufacturing and bolster import substitution.

According to a recent study conducted by one of the country's leading ratings and research agencies, India can significantly reduce its trade deficit with China by rationalising 25 per cent of its imports in sectors where it has well-established manufacturing capabilities. These sectors include chemicals, drug formulations, cosmetics, bicycle parts and electronic goods. India is already on the right track, though it has a long way to go. During 2019-20, the annual trade deficit with China dropped below \$50 billion for the first time in five years. In the past two financial years, bilateral trade has declined by 2-6 per cent.

China was India's largest trade partner until the US went ahead in 2018-19. Still, the former firmly occupies the number two spot. In contrast, India is among China's minor trade partners, figuring not even in the top 10. This imbalance can't be erased in a hurry. It will take much more than kneejerk reactions and stop-gap measures to do that. With India caught in the throes of Covid-19 and China gradually recovering from the pandemic, it will be a huge challenge for the Indian economy to sustain the domestic push and reduce dependence on the neighbour famed for high productivity and availability of skilled workforce. 'Vocal for local' must become a strategic policy, not just another high-sounding slogan.

Tribune

DR AFROZ AHMAD SHAH

Images are more powerful than words, and the power of imagery has been realized long ago by people and that is why it has become a routine in the modern world where powerful images confront us on a daily basis. The recent killing of a 65 year old gentleman in Sopore has sent shock waves around the world merely because it involved a 3 year old boy, his grandson, whose reaction was filmed during the death of his much-dear-grandfather. The heart-wrenching and powerful images have captured the story of misery, helplessness, and routine traumatic experiences that Kashmiri face on a daily basis. These painful images have circulated, and reached the farthest corners of the world but one wonders, if this will change anything on ground.

Historically, the struggle of Kashmiri people is very old, and the recent wave of atrocities were born during 1947-48 war, which was the moment when Kashmir became a "disputed part" of India and Pakistan. Since then Kashmir has become a battleground for three competing nationalisms: Indian, Pakistani and the aspirant Kashmiri nationalism. The Indian official position has been that Kashmir is an integral part and any opposition, armed or otherwise, against the Indian rule is a handiwork of Pakistan. Pakistan, on the other hand, regards Kashmir as its "jugular vein" and holds that India has occupied Muslim majority Jammu and Kashmir by military might which is against the underlying logic of partition. Kashmiris think that they have historically been deprived of agency over their own political dispensation by two feuding nations, India and Pakistan.

The present crisis is an outcome of more than seven decades of injustice that has been imposed on Kashmiri people, just, because they want to decide their own destiny, which is a fundamental right of every citizen of this planet. Pakistan has a role but since it is administered by India therefore the onus is more on India. And with Modi, as the Prime Minister of India, the rate and speed of erosion of democratic India has dramatically increased, which has greatly impacted Kashmir, and Indian Muslims in particular.

The abrogation of Article 370, which was the

Uncertainty is an unavoidable part of life. None of us knows the future, so we must live with a certain amount of it. But life's inevitable uncertainty is like sulfuric acid for the primitive "survive brain," saddled with the hefty responsibility to keep us safe. When it doesn't know what's around the corner, it can't keep us out of harm's way. It can go haywire when certainty is questioned instantly arousing your fight-or-flight reaction, kicking you in the pants in an attempt to spur you to action and get you to safety. If you're intolerant of uncertainty, odds are you will have more anxiety than average and will do almost anything in your power to avoid or extinguish it. The problem is, it's impossible to eliminate all uncertainty. In order to live fully, freely, and happily, we must be able to tolerate uncertainty, which bolsters our "thrive brain."

If you have uncertainty intolerance, it can cause tremendous anxiety. Your survive brain is constantly updating your world, making judgments about what's safe and what isn't. Due to its disdain for uncertainty, it makes up all sorts of untested stories hundreds of times a day because to the mind, uncertainty equals danger. The survive brain, because it's hard-wired with what scientists call a negativity bias, assumes the worst, over-personalises threats, and jumps to conclusions. It overestimates threats and underestimates your ability to handle them - all in the name of survival.

Waiting in the unknown can feel like torture by a million tiny cuts. Will I contact the coronavirus? Will the

Pain of Kashmir

Don't tell me it will be alright anytime soon.

The cycle of suffering will prolong

That face of our three year old child crying over the body of his grandfather ought to give us sleepless nights but will it haunt Indian people. How is it possible that a wailing child in a conflict zone cannot penetrate your heart and tear it apart? When humanity dies: the death of feeling is the sign of it

basis of Jammu and Kashmir's instrument of accession to the Indian union, has rendered India as a mere colonizer. The article, which was legally accepted by the Indian Constitution and implemented in 1949, guaranteed a separate statehood for Jammu and Kashmir: separate flag, state constitution, jurisdiction except finance, defence, foreign affairs plus communications. It also denied property rights, and Kashmir citizenship to outsiders, which was to secure a separate identity for Jammu and Kashmir region. Therefore, seeking their right to self-determination, Kashmiris have tried every possible agency for the past 90 years; ballots, talks, arms, and stones. This struggle for

freedom has claimed around one lakh lives, thousands of children have been orphaned, and property worth billions of dollars gutted in anti-militancy operations by the Indian security forces. The conflict has taken a vicious turn since July 2016 after the popular HizbulMujahideen commander, Burhan Wani was killed by Indian Army. Everyday news of death, torture, injuries, cordons, young boys joining militant groups comes from the Kashmir.

Don't tell me that it will be alright in Kashmir. The cycle of pain will prolong. And how I wish not so soon. Let the fresh wounds of pain subside a little, and we get some courage to witness more imagery of death, destruction, and lifelessness of parents, children, etc., because we know it ought to happen. That face of our three year old child crying over the body of his grandfather ought to give us sleepless nights but will it haunt Indian people. How is it possible that a wailing child in a conflict zone cannot penetrate your heart and tear it apart? When humanity dies: the death of feeling is the sign of it.

If the world really desires end of the miseries of people in various parts of the world, say in Kashmir, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen etc, then we have to work on a solution, and achieve it. The solution to any problem in the world ought to be easy, but it needs sincere people with absolutely no trace of selfishness and ego but full of love, empathy, peace and justice. For example the problem of Kashmir is very easy to fix but they have made it extremely complicated, and articulated it to the world in a language that is full of deception, and lies. Only people who are sincere, and work for justice will solve Kashmir, and those people are not in India, at least not in current India. Therefore, the present India lacks leadership that could resolve Kashmir on a discussion table. So, the coming days may be more painful than what we have seen over the decades, and this only because of selfishness to serve self rather than humanity.

The writer is Assistant Professor in Structural Geology, Department of Geosciences at Universiti Brunei Darussalam

How To Stay Calm And Fight The Odds

BRYAN E. ROBINSON

MRI reveal cancer? Will I get the job? Who's in the house when the alarm goes off, friend or foe? Who lurks underneath the clown makeup? The ground beneath you opens up, threatening to swallow you, or so it feels. Sometimes the survive brain prefers to know an outcome one way or another to take the edge off. It's more stressful wondering if you'll get to your meeting on time than knowing you'll be late. It's more anxiety-inducing to know you'll divorce than being unsure of it. And it's more fearful not knowing if you're going to get sacked than knowing for sure you lost your job.

Scientists have found that job uncertainty takes a greater toll on your health than actually losing the job. Statistics show you're more likely to maintain the stamina to continue taking risks after a car crash than after a series of psychological setbacks. Patients with cancer who have an intolerance to uncertainty develop thought patterns to avoid the negative fears of the possibility of death, and they slip deeper into mental distress. And research shows that you're calmer anticipating pain than anticipating uncertainty of pain. British researchers discovered that study participants who knew for sure they would receive a painful electric shock felt calmer and less agitated than those who were

told they only had a 50 per cent chance of getting the electric shock.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, things are different, and the uncertainty of what the future holds looms, breeding unease, fear, and anxiety. But we can ask ourselves if it's the virus that scares us or the drastic changes, the uncontrollable and the unknown that scare us. Meanwhile, once we stay informed and follow what the experts tell us, our best ally is uncertainty tolerance, which comes from cultivating what social scientists call attitude certainty. When you choose your perspective instead of letting it choose you, this form of attitude certainty can keep you calm, cool and collected.

While avoiding uncertainty is adaptive in that it keeps you safe and sound, the cocoon your primitive brain constructs can be a virtual prison. The same assumptions that keep you safe permeate every sphere of your life and can prevent you from growing, taking necessary risks, and reaching your dreams. The most powerful antidote against uncertainty anxiety is your perspective, which can victimise or empower you. When you look for the upside of an uncertain situation and figure out what you can control and what you can't, it's easier to develop uncertainty

tolerance and accept whatever is beyond your control.

Studies show that attitude certainty leads to endurance and level-headedness; whereas attitude uncertainty can lead to doubt and anxiety. One way to cultivate attitude certainty is to look for the upside of the quarantine constrictions. When we can't control what's happening, we can shift into our thrive mind and challenge ourselves to control the way we respond to what's happening. That's where our power lies. Nobody and no situation can take that away unless we give it away.

Other best practices are to extricate the "cans" from the "cannots." That involves seeing if we can find the opportunity in the difficulty and dwell on positive aspects of life where we can make a difference. We can consider the personal resources at our fingertips, instead of the limitations, and brainstorm possibilities. And we can remind ourselves how our resources provide opportunities to learn about our strengths and positive qualities and put them into practice to grow.

Internal chatter can either boost self-control and uncertainty tolerance and help us thrive. Or it can overestimate threats and undermine our growth. It helps to avoid negative, catastrophic self-talk and use positive self-talk that comforts and reassures us. The more stable and resilient your thrive brain's tolerance for uncertainty, the more likely you can offset the negativity bias and your survive brain's fears and flourish- regardless of the uncertain circumstance in your life.

Psychology Today



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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Common causes of scarring alopecia and its treatment

We lose innumerable hair every day. This is normal as they grow back easily.

Hence, there is no need to panic. A majority of men and women lose hair when they grow older. Many people suffer from hair loss at young age also. It has adverse effects on one's personality, interpersonal relationship, and self-confidence. Men suffering from hair fall are more depressed, causing more hair to fall. Alopecia is thinning of hair or balding. There are three phases of the hair cycle. The first one is called the Anagen phase or growing phase of 2-6 years, the second one is called the Catagen phase of absorption, the third phase is known as the Telogen phase in which shedding of hair occurs.

Many disorders that affect our hair. The causes of hair loss vary from

person to person. Nowadays, stress is a common problem in our day to day life, due to fear of examination,

mental or physical illness, loss of employment and family problems. These factors result in sudden hair loss. Suffering from diseases like fever, thyroid, Malaria or anemic symptoms are the prominent causes of baldness. The lack of nutritional diets can also harm one's hair because inadequate consumption of protein causes severe hair loss. Women lose hair mainly due to the overuse of antibiotics and anesthesia drugs during surgery and after childbirth. Heavy blood flow during menstruation cycles in women can cause iron deficiency which results in hair fall. The use of many oral contraceptive tablets and hormonal imbalance too can cause hair fall. The

deficiency of Zinc, excessive use of blow dryers and hair styling products aggravate the problem of hair fall.

We should think about the physical and psychological problems inherent in an individual for treating hair loss symptoms. Hair loss treatment needs to be handled with personalised care. Hair loss can be significantly cured by homeopathy, Allopathy and Ayurvedic treatments. The sepiia drug is used for treating hairfall problems among women after giving birth. Nux Vomica is an effective drug used against the side effects of antibiotics. Patients with iron deficiency can take FerrumPhos tablets. One should include green leafy vegetables, vitamins and proper minerals in their diet which can also reduce their incessant hair fall.

Hair nourishing products contain-

ing chemicals should only be used after a doctor's prescription. We should be gentle with our hair. Shampooing twice or thrice a week can also prevent hair loss by keeping the scalp clean from dust.

Some home remedies like egg white mixed with olive oil and honey paste can be applied to the scalp to prevent hair loss. Coconut oil also provides essential fats to promote hair growth. The consumption of green tea, beetroot juice, yogurt and honey, Aloe vera and Amla can also reduce the hair fall. The inclusion of carrots, Spinach, milk products, boiled chicken and sweet potatoes in the diet can enhance hair growth.

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The Rich Are Thriving Online As The Poor Lose Lives, Jobs

JEFFREY SACHS

“The correlation of death rates per million and income inequality is far from perfect; other factors matter a lot. France's inequality is on par with Germany's, but its COVID-19 death rate is significantly higher. The death rate in relatively egalitarian Sweden is significantly higher than in its neighbors, because Sweden decided to keep its social distancing policies voluntary rather than mandatory. Relatively egalitarian Belgium was battered with very high reported death rates, owing partly to the authorities' decision to report probable as well as confirmed COVID-19 deaths.

Three countries - the United States, Brazil, and Mexico - account for nearly half (46%) of the world's reported COVID-19 deaths, yet they contain only 8.6% of the world's population. Some 60% of Europe's deaths are concentrated in just three countries - Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom - which account for 38% of Europe's population. There were many fewer deaths and lower death rates in most of Northern and Central Europe.

Several factors determine a country's COVID-19 death rate: the quality of political leadership, the coherence of the government's response, the availability of hospital beds, the extent of international travel, and the population's age structure. Yet one deep structural characteristic seems to be shaping the role of these factors: countries' income and wealth distribution.

The US, Brazil, and Mexico have very high income and wealth inequality. The World Bank reports the respective Gini coefficients for recent years (2016-18) at 41.4 in the US, 53.5 in Brazil, and 45.9 in Mexico. (On a 100-point scale, a value of 100 signifies absolute inequality, with one person controlling all income or wealth, and zero means a completely equal distribution per person or household).

The US has the highest Gini coefficient among the advanced economies, while Brazil and Mexico are among the world's most unequal countries. In Europe, Italy, Spain, and the UK - with Gini scores of 35.6, 35.3, and 34.8, respectively - are more unequal than their northern and eastern counterparts, such as Finland (27.3), Norway (28.5), Denmark (28.5), Austria (30.3), Poland (30.5), and Hungary (30.5).

The correlation of death rates per million and income inequality is far from perfect; other factors matter a lot. France's inequality is on par with Germany's, but its COVID-19 death rate is significantly higher. The death rate in relatively egalitarian Sweden is significantly higher than in its neighbors, because Sweden decided to keep its social distancing policies voluntary rather than mandatory. Relatively egalitarian Belgium was battered with very high reported death rates, owing partly to the authorities' decision to report probable as well as confirmed COVID-19 deaths.

High income inequality is a social scourge in many ways. Moreover, higher inequality leads to lower social cohesion, less social trust, and more political polarization, all of which negatively affect governments' ability and readiness to adopt strong control measures. Higher inequality means a larger proportion of low-income workers - from cleaners, cashiers, guards, and delivery persons to sanitation, construction, and factory workers - must continue their daily lives, even at the risk of infection. More inequality also means more people living in crowded living conditions and therefore unable



to shelter safely.

Populist leaders exacerbate the enormous costs of inequality. US President Donald Trump, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson were elected by unequal and socially divided societies with the support of many disgruntled working-class voters (typically white, less-educated men who resent their declining social and economic status). But the politics of resentment is almost the opposite of the politics of epidemic control. The politics of resentment shuns experts, derides scientific evidence, and resents elites who work online telling workers who can't to stay home.

The US is so unequal, politically divided, and badly governed under Trump that it has actually given up on any coherent national strategy to control the outbreak. All responsibilities have been shifted to state and local governments, which have been left to fend for themselves.

Brazil and Mexico are mimicking US politics. Bolsonaro and Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador are quintessential populists in the Trump mold, mocking the virus, disdaining expert advice, making light of the risks, and flamboyantly rejecting personal protection. They are also guiding their countries into a Trumpian disaster.

Inequality is certainly not a death sentence. China is rather unequal (with a Gini score of 38.5), but its national and provincial governments adopted rigorous

control measures after the initial Wuhan outbreak, essentially suppressing the virus. The recent outbreak in Beijing, after weeks of zero confirmed new cases, resulted in renewed lockdowns and massive testing.

In most other countries, however, we are witnessing once again the enormous costs of mass inequality: inept governance, social distrust, and a huge population of vulnerable people unable to protect themselves from encroaching harms. Alarming, the epidemic itself is widening inequalities even further.

The rich now work and thrive online (Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's wealth has risen by \$49 billion since the start of the year, thanks to the decisive shift to e-commerce), while the poor are losing their jobs and often their health and lives. And the costs of inequality are sure to rise further, as revenue-starved governments slash budgets and public services vital for the poor.

But a reckoning is coming. In the absence of coherent, capable, and trustworthy governments that can implement an equitable and sustainable pandemic response and strategy for economic recovery, the world will succumb to further waves of instability generated by a growing array of global crises.

Jeffrey D. Sachs, is Director of Columbia's Center for Sustainable Development and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

COVID-19 And The Phenomenon Of Predictions

Premonition can help warn us of a terrible tragedy or a looming disaster

NOURA S. AL MAZROUEI | GULF NEWS

Have you been scared, hours before a tragic incident occurred? Can our instinct help us avoid tragedies or disasters? Sometimes we worry suddenly about someone or something important to us without knowing why we have this feeling. This is called “premonition”.

Premonition is important as it could be a warning sign of something terrible that could affect countries. When someone knows about an incident that is about to happen through dreams, we call it “pre-perception” which usually happens days or even hours before the event.

If we think about past events, we will find that every incident was predicted in a TV interview, a book or television series. For example, the sinking of the RMS Titanic, which hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic on April 14, 1912, was predicted in 1898 in a fictional novel called The Wreck of the Titan by Morgan Robinson. He described it in detail — the location and the number of passengers.

Disasters written in the books

The investigation into the sinking said that the survivors and those who had drowned had described a foreboding before the voyage. A British journalist, William Thomas Stead, who was nominated for Nobel prize, recalls having strange feelings since an early age, that he was going to drown in the middle of the ocean. He predicted this in one of his published

articles. As for the survivors, the strange feeling of discomfort before travelling did not stop them from embarking on the voyage. Others had strange dreams about the destiny of the ship and decided to cancel their bookings.

This incident reminds us of what we are facing today with COVID-19. It had been predicted by Lebanese psychic and astrologer Layla Abdel Latif in a television interview in 2019 on her forecast for 2020. She said there would be a pandemic virus that will affect the human respiratory system. This prediction was also published in a book by an American author

titled, End of days: Prediction and Prophecies by Sylvia Browne in 2008. And in 1981 a novel called, Eye of darkness by Dean Koontz also dwelt on the virus.

Premonition and predictions were treated seriously in the United States and the United Kingdom since the British government ignored premonitions like the “Abervan” incident.

- Dr Noura S. Al Mazrouei, writer

The famous American cartoon TV show, The Simpsons mentioned the same in 1989 in one of its episodes, which contained several predictions. One epi-

sode said the spread of a virus in America that would come through trading cargo from China to New York. In 2011, a film called Contagion addressed the idea of a virus that would come to the US from China. Baba Vanga, a Bulgarian fortune-teller, predicted that a virus would spread across the world in 2020.

In general, premonition and predictions were treated seriously in the United States and the United Kingdom since the British government ignored premonitions like the “Abervan” incident. Now both countries have established offices to field premonition calls.

People are divided on the premonition phenomenon. Some believe it, while others deny the possibility for want of concrete scientific proof.

This phenomenon deserves to be studied and understood. However, premonitions can be dangerous if people start to rely on them on a broader scale. The prediction incidents are usually stored in the subconscious mind. Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) said, “who believes in Allah and the Day of Judgment should speak good or remain silent”, and thus we should pay attention to our words and actions as they can define our future. Predicting the future can help build it.

—
Dr Noura S. Al Mazrouei is a writer, academic and artist

Relax, Give Your Mind Little Breaks

RICK HANSON

Thoughts have been swirling around like a sand-storm about work, things I've been reading, household tasks, finances, concerns about people, a yard that needs mowing, loose ends, projects, etc. etc. The other day I told my wife: "I'm thinking about too many things." Know the feeling?

By "head" I mean the cognitive aspects of experience such as planning, analyzing, obsessing, considering, worrying, making little speeches inside, going back over situations or conversations, and trying to figure things out. "Weary" means being fatigued due to continued exertion or endurance, sometimes also with a sense of being dismayed, even depressed; its roots as a word have to do with the effects of a long journey. Basically, your tank is running low.

When your thought processes are tired, it doesn't feel good. You're not relaxed, and probably stressed, which will gradually wear down your body and mood. You're more likely to make a mistake or a bad decision: studies show that experts have less brain activity than novices when performing tasks; their thoughts are not darting about in unproductive directions. When the mind is ruminating away like the proverbial hamster on a treadmill, the emotional content is usually negative - hassles, threats, issues, prob-



lems, and conflicts - and that's not good for you. Nor is it good for others for you to be preoccupied, tense, or simply fried.

On the other hand, when you rest that busy mind, you stop wearing it out plus you start refueling and repairing it. The roots of the word "rest" come from

places to take a break on a journey; it's natural and necessary to rest when you're weary. How? Routinely check in with yourself and ask: What am I thinking about? Is this productive? Do I want to keep thinking about this?

Give your mind little breaks. Look up into the corner of the room. Exhale; this engages the calming and restorative parasympathetic wing of the nervous system to slow your heartbeat; the longer the exhalation, the more parasympathetic activation. Bring awareness into the body, whether it's sensing the breath or paying attention to the movements of walking or reaching for a cup. Set aside a dozen seconds to follow a few breaths.

Step back and take a bird's-eye view of wherever you are, as if you were looking down on it from a few hundred feet above. Try to see yourself in a more impersonal way.

Above all, recognize that, if you're like me and I think most people, so much of what we twirl around with in the mind is, frankly, a waste of time. It doesn't solve a problem, prevent a bad thing from happening, or bring us to peace with others. And it's deeply unnatural.

- Psychology Today

Strong Role Models Have Major Influence On Women's Education Choices



THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE OF THE impact of female role models on female students moving into fields of study in which men are traditionally over-represented, and that the encounters served as an inspiration."

Agencies

Women exposed to successful and charismatic role models are more likely to follow them in choosing a university major (a specific subject that students can specialize in while aspiring to a college degree), suggest the findings of a new study.

An experiment with undergraduates studying introductory economics classes at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in the USA, revealed that female students were hugely more likely to study the subject further

having encountered successful female graduates of the same course. The study was published in the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics.

Researchers from Texas A&M University and Lancaster University engaged two role models - chosen with the help of two current female economics majors - to speak with classes of undergraduates studying principles of economics classes about how their choice of major contributed to their success. They measured the uptake of future economics classes among that group when compared with those studying the same course who had

no such interaction with the successful women.

Female students' enrolment in further economics classes almost doubled following the role models encounter, going against general patterns in recent years showing little progress in attracting women to the field.

"Our results show that role model intervention had a significant impact on all outcomes for female students," said report co-author Associate Professor Danila Serra, of Texas A&M University. "Being in a class that received the role model visits increased the likelihood that a female student

would major in economics by almost 100 per cent. The probability of them taking intermediate or any other economics classes also increased by large margins.

"There is strong evidence of the impact of female role models on female students moving into fields of study in which men are traditionally over-represented, and that the encounters served as an inspiration."

Principles of economics classes at SMU are typically gender-balanced, with between 44 and 47 per cent of students female. In contrast, for the next step up, only 26 per cent of students

are women, and the gender imbalance worsens by graduation, with less than a quarter of economics degrees awarded to women.

"Due to historical gender imbalances in some subjects, such as economics, it is difficult for young women to come into direct contact with successful women who have majored in these fields and who can inspire them to do the same," said report co-author Dr Catherine Porter, of Lancaster University Management School. "Our study suggests that role model intervention could have a significant

impact on the treated women's lifetime income streams.

"Our research shows that the long-term goal of moving towards gender parity in the economics profession at all levels could be achieved simply and at a relatively low cost by exposing students enrolled in principles classes to successful and inspiring alumnae."

The researchers' data shows the majority of those women impacted were previously planning to major in lower-earning humanities fields, and the effect did not decrease the number of them majoring in male-

dominated, higher-paying fields such as STEM and finance. Those

women who swayed towards economics also performed as well, if not better, in exams as the control students, showing the attraction towards the change affected seemingly qualified women who were not previously pursuing economics. Thus, there could be a positive impact on their potential future earnings.

While the effect on female students in the role model classes was marked, there was no effect on the male students in the same groups.

Scientists Identify Best Material For Making Homemade Masks To Prevent Covid-19 Spread

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have experimented with non-medical grade masks, and found that well-fitted ones made from stitching two layers of quilting cotton fabric are the most effective in stopping the spread of cough and sneeze droplets, whereas bandana-style coverings "had little to no effect." The study, published in the journal Physics of Fluids, used a laser to map out the paths of droplets as they were coughed and sneezed out of a mannequin head, and examined how different mask designs and materials altered these paths. While the use of face masks is widely recommended by public health officials during the COVID-19 pandemic, relatively few specific guidelines pertaining to mask materials and designs are available, according to the researchers from Florida Atlantic University in the US.

"While there are a few prior studies on the effectiveness of medical-grade equipment, we don't have a lot of information about the cloth-based coverings



that are most accessible to us at present," said Siddhartha Verma, a co-author of the study.

"Our hope is that the visualisations presented in the paper help convey the rationale behind the recommendations for social distancing and using face masks," Verma said.

In the study, the scientists found that loosely folded face masks, and bandana-style coverings had little to no effect on stopping droplet jets. They said well-fitted homemade masks with multiple layers of quilting fabric, and commonly available cone style masks proved to be the most effective. "Some leakage notwithstanding, these masks reduced

the number of droplets significantly," the researchers noted in a statement to the press.

When without a mask, the scientists said, the mannequins were projecting droplets much farther than the six feet recommendation of social distancing guidelines.

"It is also important to understand that face coverings are not a 100 per cent effective in blocking respiratory pathogens," Verma said. "This is why it is imperative that we use a combination of social distancing, face coverings, hand-washing and other recommendations from health care officials until an effective vaccine is released," he added.

Now, A Musical Device To Help You Wash Your Hands For 20 Seconds

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Researchers have developed an Internet of things (IoT) device for soap dispensers which they say can ensure that people wash their hands properly for over 20 seconds as per the World Health Organisation guidelines for COVID-19.

The device called '20Sec4Life' will glow, beep and play a musical tone for more than 20 seconds to help people disinfect their hands properly, according to the researchers from Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab.

The splash-proof device can be mounted on any liquid soap dispenser and operates using a battery, they said.

According to WHO, promoting good hand hygiene is one of the most basic yet powerful tools that countries must leverage to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The new device can help combat the growing number of cases of COVID 19, which in many cases spread due to negligence in observing the 20 seconds hand wash rule, the researchers said.

"COVID 19 is spreading rapidly and one of the reasons for this is improper hygiene habits. For most people, it is difficult to



keep a track of time while washing hands," Prabin Kumar Das, a B. Tech student of Electronics Communication and Engineering at LPU, told PTI.

Das and his team developed the device prototypes with four variants, including an advanced model that offers step by step hand-washing instructions in vernacular languages to ensure proper cleaning.

The base device is triggered and starts playing music for over 20 seconds when the nozzle of

the handwash is pressed to dispense soap.

The advanced version of the IoT device can be connected via Wi-Fi network and can be paired and operated through a mobile app.

The Internet of things (IoT) is a system of interrelated computing devices with the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction.

The expected selling price of the base model post commer-

cialisation is expected to be Rs. 70 per unit, the researchers said.

"We all are in a hurry and do not realise that we have failed to completely disinfect ourselves by not washing our hands for the prescribed duration of 20 seconds," Das, who developed the device with his colleagues at LPU, said.

"Therefore, we have come up with a simple solution in the form of 20Sec4Life which will enable people to abide by the prescribed timelines for washing hands," he added.

New Eye Drops To Prevent Common Cause Of Blindness

Agencies

Researchers have developed eye drops that could prevent vision loss after retinal vein occlusion, a major cause of blindness for millions of adults worldwide.

Published in the journal 'Nature Communications', the study suggests that the experimental therapy -- which targets a common cause of neurodegeneration and vascular

leakage in the eye -- could have broader therapeutic effects than the existing drugs.

Retinal vein occlusion occurs when a major vein that drains blood from the retina is blocked, usually due to a blood clot. As a result, blood and other fluids leak into the retina, damaging specialised light-sensing neurons called photoreceptors.

Standard treatment for the condition currently relies

on drugs that reduce fluid leakage from blood vessels and abnormal blood vessel growth. But there are significant drawbacks. These therapies require repeated injections directly into the eye, and for the patients who brave this daunting prospect, the treatment ultimately fails to prevent vision loss in majority of the cases.

"The new treatment targets an enzyme called caspase-9. Under

normal conditions, caspase-9 is believed to be primarily involved in programmed cell death, a tightly regulated mechanism for naturally eliminating damaged or excess cells," said study researcher Carol M. Troy from the Columbia University in the US.

However, in studies of mice, the Troy lab discovered that when blood vessels are injured by retinal vein occlusion, the caspase-9 becomes uncontrollably activated, triggering processes

that can damage the retina.

The study found that a highly selective caspase-9 inhibitor, delivered in the form of eye drops, improved a variety of clinical measures of retinal function in a mouse model of the condition.

Most importantly, the treatment reduced swelling, improved blood flow, and decreased neuronal damage in the retina.

"We believe these eye drops may offer several advantages over

existing therapies," said Troy.

"Patients could administer the drug themselves and wouldn't have to get a series of injections. Also, our eye drops target a different pathway of retinal injury and thus may help patients who do not respond to the current therapy," Troy added.

The researchers are preparing to test the eye drops in people with retinal vein occlusion during a phase I clinical trial.



Rescue Work Continues As 60 Feared Dead In Turkish Lake

Agencies

ANKARA: Up to 60 migrants may have been trapped in a boat that sank in an eastern lake last week, Turkey's interior minister said on Wednesday.

Turkey launched a search-and-rescue mission involving helicopters and boats after the ferry carrying migrants across Lake Van was reported missing on June 27.

So far, search teams have recovered six bodies.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu, who travelled to Van to oversee the rescue operation, told reporters that authorities estimated the boat was carrying between 55 and 60 migrants when it went down in stormy weather.

Eleven other people were detained in connection with the tragedy, he said. A village administrator was removed from office for delayed reporting of the incident, he added.

Soyulu said experts believed the sunken boat was under 110 to 120 metres of water. An underwater imaging system was dispatched from Ankara to locate the wreck, he added.

HaberTurk television said the migrants were believed to be from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

Last year seven migrants drowned while 64 others were rescued when their boat capsized in the lake, which is situated along a major transit route for migrants coming from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia. Turkey, which hosts about 3.7 million Syrian refugees, is a main crossing point for migrants trying to reach Europe.

However, Turkish authorities have intensified immigration controls near the border, and some smugglers transport migrants across Lake Van to avoid several police and military checkpoints between the provinces of Van and Bitlis.

Soyulu said Turkey had detained 454,000 migrants last year. This year, Turkish authorities prevented some 16,000 migrants from reaching Turkey through the Turkey-Iran border and detained 4,500 others who managed to cross into the Van province.

Earlier this year, thousands of migrants arrived at Turkey's border with Greece trying to cross illegally after Turkey made good on a threat to open its borders for those seeking to cross into Europe. The move triggered days of violent clashes between the migrants and Greek border authorities.



Pak Army Rejects Media Reports of Additional Deployment of Troops Along LoC

Agencies

Islamabad: The Pakistan Army on Thursday rejected as "false and irresponsible" media reports that it has moved around 20,000 additional soldiers along the LoC in PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan to match the Chinese deployments on the LoC.

The military's media wing in a statement on Twitter "vehemently" denied the presence of Chinese troops in Pakistan and refuted reports that the Skardu Airbase in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) was being used by China.

News claiming additional deployment of the Pakistan Army troops along the LoC in GB and alleged use of Skardu Airbase by China is "false, irresponsible and far from truth, Inter-Services Public Relations Director General

Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar said.

"No such movement or induction of additional forces has taken place. We also vehemently deny the presence of Chinese troops in Pakistan," he said.

Amid the military stand-off between India and China in eastern Ladakh, media reports claimed that Pakistan has deployed "almost 20,000 additional soldiers" along the LoC in PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan "to match Chinese deployments on the Line of Actual Control in the east."

The report said that the level of troops Pakistan has deployed is more than what it did after the Balakot air strikes.

The ties between India and Pakistan strained following the Balakot strike when the Indian Air Force jets bombed a Jaish-e-Mohammed

training camp in Pakistan on February 26 last year to avenge the killing of 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel in the Pulwama terror attack on February 14. Pakistan retaliated on February 27 by attempting to target Indian military installations.

The ties further nose-dived after New Delhi abrogated Article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir in August last. Pakistan downgraded diplomatic relations with India and expelled the Indian High Commissioner.

Last month, India asked Pakistan to reduce the strength of its High Commission in New Delhi by 50 per cent within the next seven days and announced a reciprocal reduction in Indian strength in Islamabad.

Putin Could Stay In Power Till 2036 As Per The New Constitution Reforms

Agencies

Moscow: Russians overwhelmingly approved a package of constitutional changes in a nationwide vote, partial results showed Wednesday, allowing President Vladimir Putin to potentially extend his two-decade rule until 2036.

With just over 85 per cent of ballots counted after the end of seven days of voting, 77.8 per cent of voters had supported the reforms, according to election commission figures cited by Russian state agencies.

There had been little doubt of voters backing the changes, which Putin announced earlier this year and critics denounced as a manoeuvre to allow him to stay in the Kremlin for life.

But top Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny slammed the results as a "huge lie" that did not reflect real public opinion.

The amendments had been

run twice again after his current six-year term expires in 2024.

Turnout as of 2000 GMT was about 65 percent, the election commission said.

The Kremlin pulled out all the stops to encourage voting, with polls extended over nearly a week, the last day of voting declared a national holiday and prizes – including apartments, cars and cash – on offer to voters.

Initially planned for April 22, the referendum was postponed by the coronavirus pandemic but rescheduled after Putin said the epidemic had peaked and officials began reporting lower numbers of new cases.

'Stability, security, prosperity'

In a final appeal to voters on Tuesday, Putin said the changes were needed to ensure Russia's future "stability, security, prosperity".

State television showed Putin



passed weeks ago by Russia's parliament and copies of the new constitution were already on sale in bookshops, but Putin had said voter approval was essential to give them legitimacy.

The reforms include conservative and populist measures – like guaranteed minimum pensions and an effective ban on gay marriage – but crucially for Putin also reset presidential limits allowing him to

voting Wednesday at his usual polling station at the Russian Academy of Sciences, where he was handed a ballot by an electoral worker wearing a surgical mask and gloves. Dressed in a dark suit and tie, Putin was not wearing any protective gear.

At a polling station in Vladivostok in Russia's Far East, 79-year-old Valentina Kungurtseva told AFP she supported the reforms.

NEWS MAKERS

Jeff Bezos's Wealth At Record \$171.6 Billion, Ex-Wife 2nd Richest Woman

Jeff Bezos's net worth has smashed through its previous peak, even after he relinquished a quarter of his stake in Amazon.com Inc. as part of a divorce settlement last year.

Shares of the Seattle-based retailer surged 4.4% to a record \$2,878.70 Wednesday, boosting the founder's world-leading fortune to \$171.6 billion. That tops his previous high of \$167.7 billion, set on Sept. 4, 2018, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

His gains – \$56.7 billion this year alone – underscore a widening wealth gap in the U.S. during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Initial public offerings and buoyant equity markets have bolstered mega-fortunes, even as tens of millions of people have lost their jobs. This week, after receiving complaints about ending pandemic hazard pay, Amazon said it would spend about \$500 million to give one-time \$500 bonuses to most front-line workers.

The company declined to comment on its founder's wealth. Amazon has been on a tear, with the pandemic accelerating the consumer shift to e-commerce from brick-and-mortar retail. Bezos owns 11% of the stock, which comprises the bulk of his fortune.

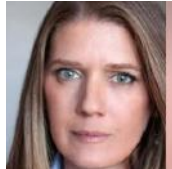


Judge Lifts Ban On "Tell-All" Book By Trump's Niece

Washington, United States: An appeals court judge in New York has lifted a temporary ban on the publication of a potentially explosive "tell-all" book by President Donald Trump's niece, court documents showed.

The ruling issued Wednesday allows publisher Simon & Schuster to print and distribute the 240-page book by Mary Trump, who dubs the US president "the world's most dangerous man."

The president's brother, Robert Trump, had asked for the restraining order, arguing that Mary was violating a non-disclosure agreement signed in 2001 after the settlement over the estate of Fred Trump – the father of Donald and Robert and of Mary's father Fred Trump Jr. Judge Alan Scheinkman postponed addressing whether the author had violated the non-disclosure agreement preventing her from revealing family secrets by writing the book.



Erdogan Arrives In Qatar On First Post-Coronavirus Trip

Agencies

Doha: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has arrived in Qatar for a meeting with Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

This is the Turkish president's first overseas trip since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

A statement by Turkey's Communications Directorate on Thursday said the leaders of the two "brotherly and friendly" nations would exchange views on regional and international issues.

Among the Turkish delegation accompanying the president in his day-long visit are Treasury and Finance Minister Berat Albayrak, Defence Minister Hulusi Akar and Communications Director Fahrettin Altun, Presidential Spokesman Ibrahim Kalin and National Intelligence Organisation head Hakan Fidan.

Ankara and Doha have enjoyed strong relations, particularly since the Gulf crisis erupted on June 5, 2017, when Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt imposed a blockade on Qatar and severed diplomatic relations.



The blockading countries stopped many vital exports to Qatar, including basic food supplies. To avoid potential food shortages, Turkey sent cargo planes full of essential food items to Qatar within less than 48 hours of the start of the blockade.

Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Sub- Division Magam.

Tender Notice No. 26 R&B of 2020-21.

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir the Executive Engineer, Sub- Division Magam / GDA Tangmarg invites sealed tenders affixed with four rupees Revenue stamps from registered PWD contractors for the works as mentioned below on terms and conditions shown hereunder. The tenders should reach the office of the Executive Engineer Gulmarg Development Authority Tangmarg by or before 06 - 07 - 2020 upto 2pm and will be opened on the same date or any other date convenient to the tender opening Authority in presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to be present there.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in E Money Lacs	Class	Time for Completion	Cost of TD.	M.H
1	Face lifting of Narbal town on Narbal Tangmarg road	0.60	DEE	10 days	200/-	M&R
2	Face lifting of Mazhama and Kanihama towns on Narbal Tangmarg road	0.60	SHG	10 days	200/-	M&R

Terms and Conditions:-

- The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam / GDA Tangmarg which should reach the office by or before 06-07-2020 upto 2 pm in a properly sealed envelope with name of work, name of contractor CDR No. & Date.
- The Treasury Challan/ demand draft will also be entertained as the cost of tender document charges.
- If the amount of the work on the rates quoted by the agency / contractor comes out below 15% of the advertised cost, the contractor / agency has to accompany the equivalent amount of additional performance security deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR as per the condition No. 15.9 of e-NIT No. 01 of 2021-21 with BOQ & other requisite documents, otherwise the tender will not be accepted.
- If the receiving date is declared as holiday the tenders will be received on next working day.
- The offered rates should be covered with transparent tape; otherwise the tenders will be rejected.
- *Sales Tax, Income Tax & Labourcess will be deducted at the time of payment as per the rates as in vogue.
- The tender document shall be issued to the contractors personally / authorized representative after verification of capacity / validity of their registration card on the production of same for purchase of tender documents and production of attested Photostat copies of permanent account PAN/ TIN Nos. (GST Regist.)
- The Tender documents of the work shall be issued against the Treasury Challan (M.H 0059) mentioned with, Name of contractor, registration No., phone No., NIT No. and S. No. of work as shown above from 03-07-2020 to 04-07-2020.
- The tenders not accompanied with the CDR's equivalent to the amount shown against the work will not be entertained and out rightly rejected without assigning any reason thereof.
- The rectification of damages if any that may occur from the date of start of work to the site or apartment / structures shall be responsibility of the contractor and nothing extra shall be paid for the same.
- The rectification of damages to the completed work within DLP period under rules from the date of completion of work shall be responsibility of the contractor and nothing extra shall be paid for the same.
- The work has to be executed strictly as per PWD specifications within the stipulated time failing which, penalty shall be imposed & action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the agency / contractor.
- The Departmental material if any to be lifted from Divisional store premises shall be deducted as per the stock rate issued.
- The additional security deposit if any may only be released after the completion of work and the CDR shall be released after DLP is over.
- The registration card duly renewed, PAN, GST registration with latest GST clearance (GSTR-3B) should be attached with the tender documents.

All other terms & conditions will remain same as advertised vide this office NIT No: 01 / R&B of 2020-21.

All other terms & conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

The payment will be made only after funds will be available with the Department.

No: R&B/ 1276-96
Dated: 29-06-2020

For & on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K

SD/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Sub-Division Magam

Department Of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir Office Of The Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Budgam Notice Inviting Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders affixed with six rupee revenue stamp are invited from the Authorized Dealers/ SSI Unit Holders regarding, supply of Sanitary/Hygienic items for one year 2020-21. Interested parties may send their Tenders/ offers with complete details about the Sanitary/Hygiene/general items as mentioned below by or before 13-07-2020 at 2.00 PM to the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Budgam.

S.No	Name of Item	Specification	Make/ Brand	Rate per unit/ No of items (including all Taxes) (in Rs.)
1.	Acid	Pack of 1 Kg	Superior Quality	
2.	Bleaching Powder	1 Qtl	Superior Quality	
3.	Cleaner Spray	500 ml	Superior Quality	
4.	Detergent Powder	1 Kg	Superior Quality	
5.	Liquid hand Wash	Pack of 1 Ltr	Superior Quality	
6.	Mosquito Spray	425 Ml	Superior Quality	
7.	Phenyl Black	Per Ltr	Superior Quality	
8.	Phenyl White	Per Ltr	Superior Quality	
9.	Toilet Cleaner	500 Ml	Superior Quality	
10.	Disinfectant	5 Ltr	Superior Quality	
11.	Broom Bamboo	Per Qtl	Superior Quality	
12.	Broom coconut	Per Qtl	Superior Quality	
13.	Broom Soft	Per Qtl	Superior Quality	
14.	Floor Cleaner500 ml	Per No	Superior Quality	
15.	Rubber Hand Gloves	Heavy per pair	Superior Quality	
16.	Tile Cleaner500 ml	Per no	Superior Quality	
17.	Toilet Cleaner Brush	Per No	Superior Quality	
18.	Gum Boots Size 07 No	Per No	Superior Quality	
19.	Disposable Face Masks	Pack of 100 Per No	Superior Quality	
20.	Lime	Per Qtl	Superior Quality	
21.	Naphthalin Ball100 Gm	Per pack	Superior Quality	
22.	Phawara Big with handle	Per No	Superior Quality	
23.	Phawara Small with handle	Per No	Superior Quality	
24.	Punjer Iron	Big	Superior Quality	
25.	Hammers	As per Std	Superior Quality	
26.	Helmet	As per Std	Superior Quality	
27.	Wheel Barrows Small	Per No	Superior Quality	
28.	Picks Axis Small	Per No	Superior Quality	
29.	Wooden Hand carts (Thali)	Per No	Superior Quality	
30.	Wooden Hand Carts (Kekap)	Per No	Superior Quality	
31.	Spades TATA	Per No	Superior Quality	
32.	Plastic Mugs Small	Per No	Superior Quality	
33.	Sickles	Per No	Superior Quality	
34.	Shovels	Per No	Superior Quality	
35.	Water proof jackets	Per No	Superior Quality	
36.	Water proof Trousers	Per No	Superior Quality	
37.	Fogger machine	Per No	Superior Quality	
38.	Sprayer battery driven of 04 hour back up	Per No	Superior Quality	
39.	Grass Cutter	Per No	Superior Quality	
40.	Lyzol	Per Liter	Superior Quality	
41.	Surgical Gloves	Per pair	Superior Quality	
42.	Sodium Hypo chlorite	Per Liter	Superior Quality	
43.	Sanitizer	Per 100 ml	Superior Quality	

Terms and conditions:

- The tenders for supply of above items shall be addressed to the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Budgam, and should reach this office upto 13-07-2020 at 2.00 PM.
- The tenders shall be opened on the next working day or any other convenient day in presence of bidders/ representatives who wish to be present and in case of any un-avoidable circumstances, the tenders shall be opened on next working day.
- The tenderer interested in supplying the above-mentioned material/ equipment shall furnish detailed offers along with the rates and other terms and conditions valid for a period of 12 months from the date of actual opening of the tender and rates should be quoted "FOR" to the premises/Office of the Executive Officer MC Budgam .
- The rates shall be mentioned without any mutilation / overwriting and no separate correction slip will be accepted.
- The SSI unit shall have to furnish the latest functional status of their unit from the concerned DIC.
- The tender shall be accompanied with a CDR of Rs.10000/-and SSI unit holders shall have enclose a CDR Rs.5000/- pledged to Executive Officer MC Budgam.
- The successful tenderer shall have to execute an agreement with the Department before supply orders are issued by the Department.
- The Executive Officer MC Budgam reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The bidder must have valid PAN No, TIN, GST Registration and Photocopy of PAN Card/ TAN/ GST Registration of the Firm/Dealer/Proprietor needs to be submitted to this Office.
- The tender with the successful bidder shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of awarding the Contract.
- The offers shall be inclusive of all taxes payable under rules.
- The intending bidder shall enclose the Income Tax/ Sales Tax clearance certificate (latest) with the bid without which no offer will be entertained.
- The offers/ tenders can be delivered physically or sent through post/ courier in sealed envelopes that should reach this office by 13-07-2020 at 02:00 pm.

No: MC/Bud/2020-21/ 1165-69
Dt: 01-07-20 DIPK-NB-1113/20

Sd/- Executive Officer
, Municipal Committee, Budgam

India Need Rs 50-60 Lakh Crore Fdi To Boost Economy: Nitin Gadkari

NEW DELHI: India needs foreign direct investments worth Rs 50 to 60 lakh crore and the money can be tapped mainly through infrastructure projects as well as MSME sector to accelerate the wheels of coronavirus-hit economy, according to Union minister Nitin Gadkari.

Emphasising that at this juncture Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is the need of the hour, the senior minister said such funds would benefit the country as there is a need for pumping in liquidity into the market.

Economic activities have been significantly disrupted in the wake of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns that were in place to curb spreading of infections.

"Country at this juncture needs liquidity. Without liquidity our economy's wheel will not accelerate... Rs 50-60 lakh crore foreign investment is needed in the country under present circumstances to boost the economy," the Road Transport, Highways and MSME Minister told PTI in an interview.

Infrastructure sector including highways, airports, inland waterways, railways, logistic parks, broad gauge and metro, apart from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) can attract large scale foreign investment, he noted.

"FDI in MSME, Non-

Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and banks are needed... in the highways sector, we are trying to bring foreign investment," he said.

Mr Gadkari further said that talks are on with investors from Dubai and the US for various sectors, including MSMEs.

"Some MSMEs are already listed on the BSE. I have talked to investors in Dubai and the US to come and invest in such MSMEs based on their three-year turnover, GST track record, IT record and good rating. Investing in these can result in rich dividends as these do exports also," he said.

"We need to boost our technology for increasing growth and need to focus on enhancing exports. The Prime Minister's thrust is also on reducing dependence on imports and boosting exports. In this infrastructure can play a



crucial role," he said.

While noting that the present situation is very serious as the entire world is facing problems, Mr Gadkari stressed on the need to work on a war-footing basis on infrastructure front.

Hotels In Goa Ready To Reopen, Awaiting Government's COVID-19 Guidelines

PANAJI: Even as Goa allowed entry of tourists into the state from today, hotel owners, who have applied for permission from the tourism department to resume operations, are still waiting for guidelines that they need to follow amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Goa Hotel & Restaurant Association President, Gaurish Dhond said that hotels in Goa are ready to open their gates for travellers but they are yet to receive the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

"It is a good move that the government has decided to open hotels. In fact, they should have opened a long back. I have been told by Goa Tourism Di-



rector's office that SOPs are yet to be loaded. Once the advisory comes, every hotel will have to file an undertaking, take the necessary precautions according to the SOPs, for instance, every time a guest checks out, the room has to be fumigated," Mr Dhond told ANI.

"260 hotels have applied for permissions with the Director's office. We know tourists are not going to come immediately.



A CHILD IN DHARA, HARWAN shouts at photographer who clicked his photo. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Private Train Operations Likely To Begin By April 2023: Railway Board Chairman

NEW DELHI: Private train operations in the country will begin by April 2023, and the ticket fares in these trains will be competitive with airfares on similar routes, the Railways said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference online, Railway Board Chairman VK Yadav said that private players in passenger train operations will mean a quantum jump in technology and coaches that run at higher speeds.

The improvement in technology will also mean that the coaches that now require maintenance after running 4,000 km, will need maintenance after every 40,000-km, that is either once or twice a month, he said.

His statement came a day after the Railways formally kickstarted its plans to allow private entities to operate passenger trains on its network by inviting request for qualifications (RFQ) for participation on 109 pairs of routes through 151 modern trains.

Allaying fears that the Railways network was being handed over to private parties, Yadav told the Thursday press conference that private participation in passenger train operations will only be five per cent of the existing 2800 Mail/Express trains over IR.

"Train sets have to be brought by private operators and maintained by them. Private train operations are likely to begin by April 2023, all coaches will be procured under Make in India policy. Fares in private trains will be competitive and prices on other modes of transport like airlines, buses will have to be kept in



mind," he said.

He also said that the introduction of private players would also mean that trains will be available on demand and that passenger wait-list will decrease.

Mr Yadav said that the private operators will also pay fixed haulage charges for path, stations, access to railway infrastructure and charges for electricity consumed.

It will also share revenue with Indian Railways through competitive bidding.

The private entity has to ensure 95 per cent punctuality and record not more than one failure per lakh kilo-

metre of travel.

"If any performance indicators are not met by private players in passenger train operations they will be penalised," said Mr Yadav.

He also said that there will be a power meter in every locomotive and private operators will pay for the actual amount of energy consumed. This, Mr Yadav said, will encourage them to keep their energy consumption low.

"Through this the common man will get better trains, better technology and at low cost. The Indian Railways will continue to run 95 per cent of the trains," he said.

Millions Switch To "Local Tiktoks" After India Bans Chinese Apps

NEW DELHI: Millions of Indians have joined home-grown social media platforms since the centre banned a slew of Chinese apps, including TikTok, amid growing tensions between the two neighbours, industry officials said today.

The ban comes as India steps up economic pressure on China following a violent face-off last month in which 20 soldiers laid down their lives for India.

The 59 banned apps include video-sharing giant TikTok, Helo and Likee, with authorities accusing them of activities "prejudicial" to the "sovereignty and integrity of India".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has a huge social media profile, threw his weight behind the campaign by closing his account on China's Weibo platform on Wednesday.

His photograph and 115 posts made over the past five years were deleted at the request of Indian authorities, the Chinese company said.

India is a key market for global internet players and homegrown app platforms Sharechat and Roposo said they had seen a huge surge in new users since Monday's ban on their Chinese rivals.

Sharechat said in a statement that its video platform had clocked 15 million new downloads - sometimes at a rate of half-a-million every 30 minutes - in the 48 hours following the ban.

It now has at least 150 million registered users, it said.

"We welcome the move from the government against platforms that have had serious privacy, cyber-security and national security risks," Berges Malu, public policy director for ShareChat, told AFP.



Centre Informs Top Court About Blacklisting, Visa Cancellations Of Islamic Sect Members

NEW DELHI: The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Thursday that it has issued individual orders on a case-to-case basis for cancellation of visas and blacklisting of over 2,500 foreign nationals, for their alleged involvement in Tablighi Jamaat activities.

As per the information available, 205 FIRs have been lodged against the foreign Tablighi Jamaat members by 11 states and 2,765 such foreigners have been blacklisted so far, while visas of 2,679 foreigners (including 9 Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders) have been cancelled, it said.

The top court was also informed by the centre that 1,906 Look Out Circulars (LOCs) were issued against foreign Tablighi Jamaat members and 227 left India before the issuance of LOCs/Black Listing.

The foreign nationals told the top court that around 1,500 one-liner e-mails were sent to them with regard to cancellation of visas but there was no show cause notice for blacklisting from travel to India for 10 years.

A bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna posted the matter for further hearing on July 10 and asked the petitioners to file a rejoinder affidavit to the Centre's reply and make appropriate representation with the competent authority with regard to deportation. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the centre, said it has filed an affidavit stating that individual orders were passed with regard to the cancellation of visas and blacklisting of individuals on case-to-case basis. He said the grant of visa is not an enforceable right, let alone a fundamental right, and these foreigners were not only blacklisted but there are criminal charges pending against them and will be prosecuted under Foreigners Act.



Jammu, Srinagar Airports Receive 21 Domestic Flights With 1,947 Passengers

JAMMU: On Day 39 of resumption of operation of routine domestic operations in Jammu and Kashmir, 21 domestic flights with 1,947 passengers on board today arrived at Jammu and Srinagar Airports.

A total of 537 passengers aboard 8 regular commercial

flights arrived at the Jammu Airport while 13 domestic flights with about 1410 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.

HK Nissan Unveils Datsun Redi-GO Facelift In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: HK Nissan unveiled the new redi-GO on Thursday at a starting price tag of Rs 2.83 lakh (ex-showroom, pan-India). The car was unveiled at HK Nissan's showroom located at Athwajan Bypass, Srinagar.

The new redi-GO brings a heavy update to the exterior styling and adds new features to bring it up to date in terms of design and features. It now comes with things like L-shaped Daytime Running Lights (DRL), sleek headlamps with silver accents, LED fog lamps, 14-inch wheels with a dual-tone wheel cover, LED tail-lamps, and updated door trim with fabric.

Commenting on the launch in presence of all directors of HK Group, Umar Yaqoob Mir, Director, HK Nissan Srinagar, said, "With the new Datsun redi-GO, Datsun India has introduced a high-quality product with a strong value proposition. Built with Japanese technology, the new redi-GO offers segment-leading technologi-



cal features that cater to growing ambitions of young India. We aim to enhance the value propositions of Datsun products in line with our mission of enabling progressive mobility."

The new Datsun redi-GO comes with an impressive 187mm ground clearance and, as per the company, class-leading rear knee room comfort which is equivalent to a compact sedan. The new redi-GO is also offer a best-in-class approach and departure angle for a

confident driving experience on Indian roads, Said" Mr. Irshad Ahmad, Manager Sales & Marketing.

Operations Head, Mr. Tehmid Qureshi Said, "On the safety front, the redi-GO will come with rear seat belts with a retractive function, dual airbags and a rearview camera for parking. Datsun has launched the redi-GO in six variants. These include four variants for the 800cc engine-powered model which gets a manual transmission, namely - D, A, T, and T

(O). Then, there are two variants for the 1000cc engine powered model which gets a choice of either a manual transmission or an AMT gearbox.

Khalid Mustafa, Manager IT & Operations, during the unveiling said, "Its tough time of pandemic all over world - customers can opt for online booking and use 360 degree visual experience on Datsun India website by sitting at home. For offline bookings, customers can approach us by prior appointments only & by following WHO guidelines during visit to Showroom.

All of the valuable directors and management of HK Group (HRCC Private Limited, HK Cement Industries Private Limited), NMIPL (Nissan Motors India) , Media Groups, and Business Organizations congratulated the HK Nissan for new launch over various emails and telephonic conversations for which HK Nissan is highly thankful.

Desirous customers can reach the showroom on 8717000777 or marketing@hknissan.co.in

CANCER SOCIETY OF



کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

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

Ref. No. CSK/83/2020/5426-33
Dated: 01-JUL-2020

Subject: - Auction of old buildings.

(Auction Notice)

For & on behalf of chairman Cancer Society Of Kashmir bids in sealed covers duly affixed with revenue stamp worthRs, 10- along with earnest money of Rs, 20,000/- in cash/CDR pledged to cancer society of Kashmir are invited from interested persons for dismantling of existing old buildings for as is basis situated at 4-Bagi Islam Colony Lalnagar Chanapora.

- Bids have to be quoted for existing structures excluding machinery equipment's, furniture fixture & other records etc.
- The last date of receipt of bids is fixed upto 08-07-2020 (Upto 04:00pm). Which shall be opened on same day at 04:30 pm.
- Interested persons/parties can visit the site during office hours on all working days from 10:00am to 4:00pm.
- The structures shall have to be dismantled & its material to be disposed off from the site within 10 days by the successful bidder.
- Earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded/released after finalization of bids.

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General Secretary.

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