

Maximum : 24°C
Minimum : 16°C
Humidity : 70%
SUNSET
Today 07:46 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:25 AM

News Digest

Headless Body Found In Sumbal

Srinagar: Police on Saturday recovered a headless body from river Jhelum near Sumbal area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Official sources said that the remains were also without legs and right-hand and some passerby first spotted it who subsequently alerted the police. Confirming the recovery of the body, Station House Officer Muneeb-ul-Islam said the body is decomposed and "seems that it's around 30 days old."

"The body without head, right hand and legs was recovered and investigations have been started," he said, adding, "It is a decomposed one and it" **P-02**

Another Quake Jolts Kashmir Valley

Srinagar: An earthquake of magnitude 4.2 was reported near Hanley in Jammu and Kashmir this evening, according to India's National Center for Seismology. The epicentre of the earthquake was 427 km northeast of Hanley, Jammu and Kashmir, the agency said. The earthquake struck at 5:42 PM at a depth of 150 km from the surface.

Pak FM Tests Positive For COVID-19

Islamabad, Jul 4 (PTI) Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was shifted to a military hospital in Rawalpindi on Saturday, a day after he tested positive for the coronavirus and went into self-isolation. Qureshi on Friday announced that he had tested positive for the coronavirus, joining a long list of Pakistani lawmakers who have contracted the deadly virus. "I have now tested positive for Covid-19. By the grace of Allah, I feel strong and energetic. I will continue to carry on my duties from home. Please keep me in your prayers," he said in a tweet. Qureshi has been moved to Combined Military Hospital in **P-02**

Missing Youth's Body Found In Canal

Ganderbal: Body of a youth who was missing for the last three days was found in power canal in Ganderbal on Saturday evening. An official said that one Mudassir Ahmed Khan son of Late Sarfaraz Khan, a resident of Khyber Mohalla Gutlibagh Ganderbal had gone missing three days ago. He said that today his body was found in a power canal. He further added that the youth was mentally unsound and body will be handed over to family after legal formalities—

Aarogya-Setu For Ganderbal Shopkeepers

Ganderbal: As the government of Jammu and Kashmir has classified district Ganderbal as red zone, the District Magistrate (DM) Ganderbal, Shafqat Iqbal on Saturday issued an order for imposition of restrictions under the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and under section 144 CrPc in district Ganderbal. The order has been issued to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and break the transmission chain of the virus. For operating shops and establishments of the district the schedule and timing has **P-02**

1703 Passengers Arrive In Srinagar In 13 Flights

JAMMU: On Day 41 of resumption of routine domestic operations in Jammu and Kashmir, 21 domestic flights with 2,405 passengers on board today arrived at Jammu and Srinagar Airports.

A total of 702 passengers aboard 8 regular commercial flights arrived at the Jammu Airport while 13 domestic flights with about 1703 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 **PAGE 02**

PAGE 1 Anchor

Kupwara's Killer Well And A Wedding Tragedy

Auqib Javeed

ZAHIDA was looking forward to be swarmed by her happy kin who now take turns to console her.

But as the thirty-year-old soon-to-be bride remains inconsolable, a horde of villagers walk in with long faces, only to make her home a packed house of mourners.

Just six days before her wedding, the Kupwara girl lost her brothers to a killer well.

"In Kashmir, happy occasions are known to become mourning events," said Zahida's cousin. "But

losing your affable brothers just days before your dream day in life is worse than thousand deaths!"

The tragic incident took place on July 2, when Zahida heard a shrilling noise outside her home. Soon as her dead siblings were brought amid sobs and shrieks, she saw her lifelong cherished moment collapsing in a jiffy.

The dead brothers had gone to make wedding preparations for their sister.

The incident occurred in the Dard Hari Sangdan area of Kupwara's Kralpora area. The four villagers including Zahida's



two siblings had left home to clean a disused well.

Among them, Mohammad Altaf Sheikh first went inside the well. While cleaning, he had suddenly collapsed. The other three—Mumtaz Ahmad, Altaf Khan and Showkat Khan—were working outside. They soon went inside, one by one, on a rescue mission.

None of them came out alive.

By the time villagers learned about the tragic event, lot of time had already elapsed. Amid hue and cry, it took hectic efforts from locals, police and other allied departments to retrieve the trapped bodies from the well. They were evacuated to a nearby health facility.

"The deceased were brought dead to the hospital," Dr. Kounsar Amin, Chief Medical Officer Kupwara, told Kashmir Observer. "They apparently died due to suffocation. A post-mortem report is still awaited."

As per the villagers, some "inert

gas" leaked by the weathered walls of the well choked the four men to death. While only an investigation will clear the picture, the loss has already numbed the hamlet.

Among the deceased, Altaf Khan and Showkat Khan, residents of Dard Hari Sangdan, were preparing for the marriage of their sister for months.

"Everything was going well, but we had water scarcity in the village," Nisar Khan, brother of the deceased siblings, told Kashmir Observer. "One has to travel 3 kilometres to fetch water here."

The family had **PAGE 02**

2 Militants Killed, 3 Soldiers Injured In Kulgam Encounter

120 Militants Killed This Year So Far: Police



Observer News Service

KULGAM: Two unidentified militants were killed while three soldiers, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were injured in an encounter that broke out Saturday afternoon in Arreh Mohanpora village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

According to reports received here, joint teams of police, Army's 34 RR and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation following inputs about the presence of militants in the village.

As the joint team of forces approached the house where militants were present they reportedly came under fire from inside.

An encounter ensued which ended late in the evening. In the initial bout of firing one militant was killed and three soldiers were injured. As the encounter progressed, one more militant was killed in the evening.

Police on its official twitter handle confirmed that two militants have been killed in Kulgam encounter and the search operation was on in the area. Authorities have snapped the mobile internet services in the area as a precautionary measure. Police however had not revealed the identity of the slain militants when this report was being filed.

This is the 17th such encounter in the southern districts since **PAGE 02**

IGP Visits Slain Civilian's Family In HMT Area

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of police Kashmir Vijay Kumar along with other senior police officers on Saturday visited the family of a civilian who was killed at Sopore earlier this week.

"IGP Kashmir along with other senior police officers visited the #be-raved family of #civilian who was killed during #militant incident at Sopore. IGP #condoled the family members and prayed for the #de-parted soul," police said in a tweet.

"I heard their grievances and I cleared all aspects. I also assured them an impartial investigation (into the incident)," Kumar said. "I also assured family to show CCTV footage if they wish to see the same," he added.

The civilian, Bashir Ahmad Khan son of Ghulam Mohammad Khan of Mustafa Colony HMT Srinagar, was killed in a firing incident near



Nowpora crossing Model Town Sopore on July 1.

Police says the civilian was killed in militant firing which also saw killing of a CRPF trooper and injuries to three other paramilitary men.

However, in a video statement that was shared on social media, slain man's son Suhail Ahmad alleged his father was killed by the CRPF personnel.

Suhail said the CRPF personnel "dragged him from his car and shot him dead" **PAGE 02**

Govt Hints At 'Restricted' Amarnath Yatra This Year

500 Yatris To Visit Cave Per Day For 15 Days; Daily Puja To Be Telecast Live

Observer News Service

JAMMU- Asserting that the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra would have to be undertaken in a "restricted manner" due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday said only 500 pilgrims would be allowed per day by road from Jammu to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine.

It also said the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for testing of persons entering the Union Territory would also be applicable to the intending Amarnath pilgrims.

"The yatra this year will have to be undertaken in a restricted manner so that the SoPs for COVID-19 are strictly adhered to during the conduct of the yatra... a maximum of 500 yatris only could be allowed per day by road from Jammu," Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam said.



He was chairing a meeting of the sub-committee constituted by the Supreme Court for the yatra here.

In the meeting, he reviewed the arrangements, including security for the pilgrimage, an official spokesman said.

The 42-day yatra was scheduled to commence from the twin tracks

of Pahalgam in Anantnag and Batal in Ganderbal on June 23 but was delayed due to the outbreak of the pandemic.

According to sources, the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) is planning to undertake the yatra in the last week of July for a short duration of 15 days. **PAGE 02**

Medical Staff, Cops Pelted With Stones In Sopore

Team Had Reached Dooru Village To Shift Covid Patient To Hospital

SOPORE: A team of medical staff and policemen were on Saturday pelted with stones when they reached Duroo area of Sopore to shift a COVID patient to the hospital.

According to local news gathering agency KNO a team was sent to Duroo Sopore for lifting COVID-19 positive patient to the hospital.

However, they said soon after they entered the area, some locals pelted stones on the Medical staff and police party.

"Amid stone pelting, the police team managed to rescue the Medical staff," they said

Sopore police in a statement said that at about 08:25 PM, while assisting the medical team for lifting COVID positive patient at Duroo, unknown stone pelters took advantage of darkness and pelted **P-02**

Center Okays Rs 574.16 Cr Annual Plan For Highways

3 Fly-Overs Coming Up At Bemina, Sanatnagar, Nawgam

JAMMU: The Center government has approved an annual plan worth Rs. 574.16 crore for NH (O) works in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for financial year 2020-21.

As per a communiqué received here in this regard, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has asked for preparation of estimates for the proposed works in the approved annual plan incorporating the technical parameters and designs as per IRC codal provisions/latest circulars of the Ministry and submission to the Ministry for consideration.

The major works incorporated in the approved annual plan included expressway, four laning, construction of 6 km 3rd bypass



on NH-444 Shopian bypass with Rs. 120 crore, construction of 13.60 km bypasses in Pulwama and Kulgam with Rs.62.98 crore, construction of 3.23 km three fly-overs in Srinagar on NH-44 at Bemina, Sanatnagar and Nawgam with Rs. 220.68 crore under ROBS/RUBS, strengthening/IRQP works of 15.25 km with Rs. 20, missing link/national highways, widening to two lane with or without strengthening, paved shoulders, widening/reconstruction **PAGE 02**

Kupwara Lawyers Under Scanner After 2 Test Positive

KUPWARA: A local court has written to the Health Department to conduct Covid-19 tests for all advocates practicing in Kupwara Court here in North Kashmir.

The letter has been forwarded to Chief Medical Officer Kupwara after two lawyers in the court were tested positive for Covid-19. Sub Judge Kupwara Javaid Alam said that he has written a letter to CMO Kupwara asking her to go for mass testing inside court.

"Two advocates have been tested positive for Covid-19 and both these lawyers were practicing in the court, mingling with other lawyer friends and clients. In order to contain the spread of Covid-19 inside the court, mass testing has become inevitable," he said.

JKSSB Releases 31 Recommendations Of Withheld Cases

JAMMU: The 172nd Board meeting of the J&K Services Selection Board was held under the Chairmanship of Khalid Jahangir, Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board at Central office JKSSB, Seh-kari Bhawan, Bahu Plaza, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by the Members of the Board, M. Shafiq Chak, Pritam Lal Atri and Harvinder Kour, Controller of Examination JKSSB Musheer Ahmad Mirza, Secretary, JKSSB Ranjeet Singh, officials assisted the Board in conduct of its proceedings.

Further, the Kashmirir based Members which include Nazir Ahmad Khwaza, Ashiq Hussain Lily and Prof. Tasleema Peer attended the meeting through video-conferencing. In addition, Under Secretary Kashif, AO JKSSB Altaf Hussain, Under Secretary Harjinder



Singh and other officials assisted the meeting through video-conferencing from Srinagar.

The agenda of the meeting included only cases of withheld recommendations relating to various posts like Jr Staff Nurses of Five new GMCs, Teachers and Junior Assistant (Migrants), Naib Tehsildar, Dental Technician GMC, MRW, Driver GMCs, etc.

The Board examined 47cases and after due deliberations decided to approve release of recommendations in respect of 31 cases. Five candidates were declared as Not Eligible for not possessing requisite qualification as **PAGE 02**

Police Rakshak Knocks Down Scooty Rider

KUPWARA: A youth died on spot after his Scooty collided with a police van in North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The incident occurred at Dooniwari Lolab area of Kupwara. Sources said that a youth with pillion rider was on way from Maidanpora Lolab towards Kupwara when the accident took place. While reaching Dooniwari Lolab, the Scooty (JK09B-1504) collided with a Rakshak vehicle of Station House Officer Police Station Sogam. The rider died on spot while another youth was shifted to hospital in critical condition. Sources identified the deceased youth as Saqib Hussain son of Ghulam Hasan of Khumriya Kupwara while the injured has been identified as Faisal Subhan of Bumhama. A police official while confirming the incident said that an FIR vide number 97/2020 under section 304, 279 has been registered at police station Kupwara.

IAF Flies Fighter Aircrafts Near India-China Border

NEW DELHI: Fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Saturday carried out operations at a forward base near the India-China border. These included the Su-30MKI and MiG-29 fighter aircraft as well as Apache attack helicopters.

The operations come amid continuing border tensions

with China. Last month, 20 Indian Army personnel were killed in violent clashes with the Chinese army in Eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley.

"We have all the resources in terms of men and equipment to meet all the challenges. The IAF is ready in all aspects to undertake all operational tasks and



File Pic

for providing requisite support for military operations," news agency ANI quoted a squadron leader as saying.

Another squadron leader said the flight base plays an important role for undertaking operations in this area. "It's cleared for all contingencies and for all combat and support operations

that are planned to be undertaken in this area," he added.

All the front-line bases of the Indian Army and the air force along the nearly 3,500 km de-facto border with China are on high alert in view of the worst border clash between Indian and Chinese troops.

The Army has already rushed in additional troops to all its key

front-line bases and formations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh, they said.

The Indian Air Force has already raised the alert level in all its front-line bases tasked to keep an eye on the LAC, the de-facto border.

Workshop On “Land Conversion For Non Agricultural Use And Its Effect On Our Sustenance” Held In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Director Agriculture Kashmir Altaf Aijaz Andrabi today warned that the large scale conversion of agricultural land into non agricultural use shall create an imbalance in the agricultural eco- system and the change in land pattern would be the greatest concern to food security and economic sustainability in Kashmir.

He said that while speaking at inaugurating of day long workshop on land conversion for non-agricultural use - its catastrophic effect on our sustenance which was organized by the Joint Directorate of Agriculture Extension Kashmir at Lalmandi, Srinagar.

He said that the Kashmir valley is temperate region which otherwise has the potential to be world leader because of its unique identity in agro based products

however, change in land use pattern has arguably been the most pervasive socio economic force which has caused imbalance in the eco system.

Director said that the Cessation of this pattern is a critical element in achieving long term economic growth and sustainable development of the society as a whole but the land use policy has to be designed in a way that it should strike a balance between private proprietary right and public interest, he added.

He said that according to the census report published by the Union Agriculture Ministry and as per the latest National Agriculture Census agricultural land in J&K UT continues to shrink and the average size of holding has reduced from 0.62 hectare per person to 0.59 hectare in the last five years.

Director said that keeping in

view the catastrophic effect of rapid land conversion this one day training program has been designed to develop the understanding of the field functionaries of the Department of Agriculture about the implications of the land conversation and to educate them about the implementation of J&K Agrarian Act and J&K Land Revenue Act to stop conversion of agricultural land.

Director said that it is the prime responsibility of this Department to reach out to all the media houses, schools, colleges with a message about the effects of land conversion and to start an effective campaign against this menace.

While elaborating the need to curb land conversion, Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal presented a detailed power point presentation on agricul-

ture land conversion and food security – a thematic analysis. He said that such training programs will act as a catalyst in educating the officers and other stakeholders about land conversion.

Various speakers from the Agriculture, Revenue and Irrigation Department gave presentations on the topic during the day long programme.

The training program was also attended by Joint Director Agriculture Inputs Amir ud din Andrabi, Project Coordinator Mushrooms Farooq Ahmad Shah, Director Rakhs and Farms Subash Chandra, Deputy Director Agriculture Central Dr. Syed Waseem Ahmad Shah, representatives of Revenue Department, Command Area Development Department, Chief Engineer Irrigation Department, senior officers of the Department of Agriculture.

J&K Bank Observes Van Mahotsav Week In Jammu

SRINAGAR: Commemorating Van Mahotsav Week, J&K Bank's Zonal Head Jammu (Central I) Sunit Kumar planted a peepal sapling (Ficus religiosa) in Rajinder Park Jammu. The initiative symbolizes the bank's commitment towards helping preserve ecology and enrich environment.

The Zonal Head, accompanied by PRO Jammu Kewal Sharma and senior officers of the bank, planted the sapling in presence social activist and Founder President Peepal Saves People Foundation Pritam Singh who hailed the gesture as “harbinger of good”.

Speaking on the occasion, the Zonal Head said, “The initiative reaffirms the bank's commitment to help preserve ecology and spread awareness about importance of the ‘Green Gold’ especially in view of the climate change and rampant felling of the trees. Our bank has always been at the forefront of helping



protect the environment and every year conducts plantation drives across the UT”.

“Since the monsoon season has arrived in most parts of the country, a good beginning has been initiated by the bank by planting the peepal saplings. We took the initiative last year also

and so far we have planted more than 5000 saplings in Jammu province as well as outside the UT”, Pritam Singh said.

Notably, first started in 1950, Van Mahotsava is an annual tree planting festival in the month of July during which thousands of trees are planted all over India.

Books On Democracy Removed From Hong Kong Libraries

HONG KONG: Books written by prominent Hong Kong democracy activists have started to disappear from the city's libraries, online records show, days after Beijing imposed a draconian national security law on the finance hub.

Among the authors whose titles are no longer available are Joshua Wong, one of the city's most prominent young activists, and Tanya Chan, a well known pro-democracy lawmaker.

Beijing's new national security law was imposed on Tuesday and is the most radical shift in

how the semi-autonomous city is run since it was handed back to China by Britain in 1997.

China's authoritarian leaders say the powers will restore stability after a year of pro-democracy protests, will not stifle freedoms and will only target a “very small minority”. But it has already sent fear coursing through a city used to speaking openly, with police arresting people for possessing slogans pushing independence or greater autonomy and businesses scrambling to remove protest displays.

Wong said he believed the re-

moval of the books was sparked by the security law. “White terror continues to spread, the national security law is fundamentally a tool to incriminate speech,” he wrote on Facebook, using a phrase that refers to political persecution.

Searches on the public library website showed at least three titles by Wong, Chan and local scholar Chin Wan are no longer available for lending at any of dozens of outlets across the city.

An AFP reporter was unable to find the titles at a public library in the district of Wong Tai Sin on Saturday afternoon.

Kupwara’s Killer Well And A Wedding Tragedy...

decided to store the drinking water in the well for their guests. Zahida's two siblings and cousins were given the job to clean it.

"None of us is ready to believe that we've lost them," Nisar said. "I'm still unable to look at the face of my to-be-bride sister!"

The village is over 24 kilometres away from the main town, Kupwara. According to locals, the godforsaken area is without basic facilities.

"There's no water, electricity and a proper road," Abdul Rashid, Sarpanch of the Sangdan village, told Kashmir Observer.

Backed by Peoples Conference, Sarpanch Rashid said they've got the proposal of a water supply scheme years ago, but the authorities are delaying the tenders since last one year.

"Had there been a proper water supply in place," Rashid said, "the unfortunate incident would've been avoided."

2 Militants Killed, 3 Soldiers Injured In Kulgam Encounter

June 1. In south Kashmir alone 48 militants have been killed since June 1 taking the number of militants killed this year in Kashmir valley to 120.

5 Pregnant Women, 40 Security Men Among 227

He said 40 security forces include 32 CRPF men from Keegam Shopian, 2 CRPF men from 45 battalion Sumbal, one from 61 battalion Srinagar, four BSF men from Srinagar and one cop from police station Dr Reyaz Untoo, Principal at JVC Bemina said that out of 395 samples tested at SKIMS Bemina (JVC) 37 including 26 from Budgam and 11 from Srinagar were tested positive.

He said that 12 more patients were discharged taking tally of discharged patients to 541 while as 104 patients are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

He further added that 19 normal deliveries were managed and 29 major surgeries were conducted at hospital till date. Officials from CD hospital said that samples which were tested positive at CD hospital include 5 pregnant ladies

As per officials figures, 1091 positive cases including 30 deaths and 423 recoveries are from Srinagar, 1006 including 22 deaths and 421 recoveries are from Baramulla, 854 including 598 recoveries and 16 deaths are from Kulgam, 848 including 13 deaths and 611 recoveries are from Shopian, 717 including 10 deaths and 554 recoveries are from Anantnag, 584 including 418 recoveries and 07 deaths are from Kupwara, 534 including 267 recoveries and 04 deaths are from Pulwama, 466 including 241 recoveries and 09 death are from Budgam, 303 including 274 recoveries and 01 death are from Bandipora, 121 including 62 recoveries and 01 death are from are from Ganderbal.

In Jammu division, 388 including 301 recoveries and 08 deaths are from Jammu district, 288 including 195 recoveries and 01 death are from Udhampur, 242 including 177 recoveries and 01 death is from Kathua, 226 including 187 recoveries are from Ramban, 168 including 120 recoveries from Samba, 124 including 113 recoveries and 01 death are from Poonch, 122 including 01 death and 65 recoveries are from Rajouri, 90 including 60 recoveries and 02 death are from Doda, 45 including 32 recoveries are from Reasi and 29 including 21 recoveries are from Kishtwar.

As per the daily information bulletin, 293,355 persons in Jammu and Kashmir are under observation while 40,409 persons have been kept

under home quarantine besides that 2976 persons are in hospital isolation while 43 persons are under hospital quarantine.

According to the bulletin, 205,107 persons have completed surveillance period and 44,693 persons are under home surveillance besides that so far results of 392,919 samples are available.

Out of 392,919 the number of samples tested negative stands at 384,673 while as 8019 have been tested positive, among them 2976 are active and 5143 persons have recovered and 127 persons have died—

5 More Succumb To Virus...

JVC Bemina hospital a 65-year-old male from Chogal Handwara, who was shifted from SKIMS, Soura hospital last night, died at JVC on Saturday morning at around 5 am. She said the patient was suffering from bilateral pneumonia, diabetes, hypertension and ailments.

"The samples of man were taken on the same day of his admission the results of which came as positive," she said.

Dr Farooq Jan, Medical Superintendent at SKIMS Soura that a 75-year-old man from Dialgam Anantnag died on Saturday, adding that the patient was admitted on July 1 in Ward 2-A and was shifted to Infectious Disease block after he was tested positive for the Covid-19.

The patient was suffering from bilateral community acquired pneumonia with type 1 respiratory failure and expired at 7:15 am, he said.

He further stated that a 65-year-old man from Alasteng, Ganderabal who was admitted on 29 June 2020 in Ward 2A and was tested positive Covid-19 and was later shifted to Infectious Disease Block where he died on Saturday at around 9 am.

Patient was having many underlying problems like Dementia with Type 1 Respiratory Failure with Encephalopathy and Urosepsis," he said.

He further said that an 80-year-old man from Baramulla was tested positive a day after his death. His samples were taken on Friday and he died at around 6:30 Pm on Friday, hours after he was admitted at SKIMS, he said, adding that the patient was suffering from Multiple Organ Dysfunction Syndrome (MODS).

Dr Nazir Choudhary, Medical Superintendent at SMHS told KNO that a 75-year old from Makdoom Sahab area of Srinagar who was admitted on July 03 died on Saturday. "She was already in critical condition and was suffering from hypertension and many other ailments," he said, adding that the patient was tested positive after her death.

With fresh five deaths, the death toll in Jammu and Kashmir has mounted to 127 including 113 from Kashmir and 14 from Jammu division

IGP Visits Slain Civilian's Family In HMT Area ...

Khan, who was a contractor, had taken his grandson from Srinagar to Sopore to oversee the progress of a construction work.

Soon after the video started doing round on social media and “apprehending law and order situation”, IGP Vijay Kumar called a Press Conference.

“When militants started firing in which a CRPF trooper attained martyrdom and three others were injured, a civilian vehicle was going from the area. The man left the vehicle in panic and started to runaway for safety by carrying his 3-year-old grandson in his lap. The fire also hit him and he died,” the IGP had said. (GNS)

Govt Hints At 'Restricted'

Amarnath Yatra This Year...

While reviewing the preparations for the Yatra 2020, the chief secretary said in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Executive Committee constituted under the Disaster Management Act has issued SoPs which, interalia, prescribe 100 per cent RTPCR test for all persons travelling into J-K.

"All entrants into J&K will have to be sampled, tested and quarantined till they are reported to be negative," he said, adding the camping facilities earlier utilised for yatris, especially at entry points are currently being utilised as quarantine centres.

He emphasised that SoPs for testing of persons entering J&K would apply to yatris as well.

It was informed that Baba Amarnath Aarti this year will be telecast live on Doordarshan. Chief Secretary emphasised that adequate arrangement should be made to ensure uninterrupted telecast of the Aarti.

During the meeting, the chief secretary was briefed by the departments concerned with regard to status of works, including upgradation and improvement along the track from Baltal to the Cave shrine at Kali Mata and emergency exit track from Sangam, installation of railings along critical stretches of the track, construction of additional helipads at Lower Holy Cave and construction of sanitisation tunnels at Neelgrath Helipad, Baltal and Dome.

He also reviewed strengthening of footbridges and routine works viz installation of Bailey bridges, the spokesman said.

Financial Commissioner, Health, Atal Dulloo also gave a brief with regard to healthcare.

He said adequate stock of drugs, consumable items, sleeping bags, besides PPE kits and masks are being made available to the doctors and paramedical staff being deployed for yatra duty.

Dulloo apprised that two base hospitals are also being established along Baltal route.

However, he was concerned about the stress in the medical system because of the yatra.

"Nine out of 10 Kashmir districts are Red and the entire medical system is fully stretched in handling the challenge. No doctors will be available from outside J&K for the Yatra this year," he said.

"COVID and high altitude sickness symptoms are quite similar and all cases will have to be treated as deemed COVID positive in case of an emergency. Also, special arrangements will have to be made for handling dead bodies," he said.

With regard to the security arrangements, the chief secretary asked the police department to ensure effective regulation of the yatra at access control gates.

He emphasised that all deployments in relation to security, rescue and fire and emergency need to be in place well in time.

Medical Staff, Cops Pelted With Stones In Sopore...

stones on police party and medical team.

However, police said no loss of life or damage to the property was reported so far. "An FIR has been registered and investigation has been taken up," police said.

JKSSB Releases 31 Recommendations Of Withheld Cases

per Indent/Advertisement. In addition, 11 cases were deferred for seeking further clarifications/information from various authorities.

The Kashmir based members raised certain issues relating to office accommodation, office equipment, stationery, etc. for which appro-

priate directions were passed to the concerned officers of the Board. Further, directions were given for identification of a suitable Govt/ private building at Srinagar, following which the matter would be taken up with the General Administration Department for seeking necessary approval

3 Fly-Overes Coming Up At Bemina, Sanatnagar, Nawgam

of Culverts, Road Safety and Environment works with Rs. 105 crore besides various miscellaneous works.

1703 Passengers Arrive In Srinagar In 13 Flights...

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) prescribed by the Union Ministries of Civil Aviation and Health and Family Welfare.

Headless Body Found In Sumbal

seems to be 30 days old," he added.

Meanwhile, the body of a youth who was missing from the last three days was found in a power canal in Ganderbal on Saturday evening.

An official said that one Mudasar Ahmed Khan son of Late Sarfaraz Khan, a resident of Khyber Mohalla Gutlibagh Ganderbal had gone missing three days ago.

He said that today his body was found in a power canal. He further added that the youth was mentally unsound and the body will be handed over to family after legal formalities.

Pak FM Tests Positive...

Rawalpindi, the Geo News reported on Saturday, citing sources.

Aarogya-Setu For Ganderbal Shopkeepers...

been notified in an order.

As per an order, chemist/medical/milk products/ vegetable/fruit nanwaie (traditional bakers/ baby food/ mutton/ poultry/ hotels/ restaurants for home delivery/ takeaway only, pesticides and fertilizers shall operate full day for all days.

Groceries/ kiriyana/ bookshops/ stationery/ Handicrafts and hand- looms shall operate from 09am to 07pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Similarly, Hardware/ Furniture/ Furnishing/ Building Materials/ Readymade Garments/ Footwear/ Electronics/ Cosmetics/ Jewellers/ repair-workshops/service stations/beauty parlors/saloons/boutiques and others shall operate from 09 am to 07 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Order further reads that shops mentioned shall be permitted to operate on the schedule/timings having proper arrangements for physical distancing and wearing face masks shall be mandatory. Besides, shopkeepers are strongly advised to download the Aarogya-setu mobile app on their mobile phones and follow the SOP in letter and spirit.

Police authorities, executive magistrates and incident commanders are directed to enforce the restrictions in their respective areas of jurisdiction strictly and any violation of an order by any person shall invite punitive action under the relevant law

KASHMIR
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NO HOLDS BARRED

PUTIN FOREVER



In fact, there is no better example of executive overreach being legitimised in Kashmir, than our Supreme Court letting the executive itself be the assessor of whether 4G internet speed should be restored therein, through a special committee headed by the Secretary of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs

Doligam and the House of Khwaja Samad Joo

Last summer when I visited the place, there are newer roads inside the village. It can no longer promise the innocence that dwelled here in its folks

FAHEEM GUNDRoo

SamadJoo was a Vizier first in Ranbir Singh's era and then Pratap Singh's. His family held lot of weight in the Pir Panchal mountains. His father Khwaja Afzal SamadJoo was a Tehsildar and an estate owner. He owned swathes of land, right across from Doru in Islamabad to Banihal.

I was peering out the weather-beaten window at the moonless Pir Panchal forests when I thought of my belonging. When I had woken up, it was still dark and I thought I was in the bowels of a ghost. The Himalayan heat of mid-summer even at 5 in the morning, had settled over my limbs like moist candy floss. I could hear the call to prayer from loudspeaker in the mosque down the road, haunting and lovely Arabic words sounding brassy over an antiquated land.

I've had a love affair with Doligam always. In a place and time not known for self-invention, Doligam had always cast its spell on me. Yet lingering in small places is not in favor now; they no longer seem to fit the world. Yes, Doligam is fading, as it's been since decades. It can no longer promise the innocence that dwelled here in its folks. That life of its own, which settled along a water canal that traversed this quaint village of medieval grandeur. In the corner of the scene, row of women would wash clothes, children played with shards of stones, small stones, that shone under tall walnut trees, men went out for work - their modest government jobs-taking the same road along that canal, which ended on a curve, the macdamized road from where it took them to main Banihal town, four kilometers downhill.

Last summer when I visited the place, there are newer roads inside the village. Concrete replacing the sharp slate stones which were once strewn on its muddy alleys. In houses that I walked past after years, residents were glued to televisions. The sound produced by one of its main natural streams remained from old times. Perhaps, like an artefact. A remnant.

So being woken up early on that morning, what really made me think of

was us. Us as people. Of memories. Of places where sense of belonging comes. It is said unless you have someone of your own buried in a land it doesn't belong to you.

The association between our families goes back a long way. My great grandmother belonged to the landlord family of Wanyee's of Doligam. Wanyee over the years, probably due to their association with urban Srinagar, turned to Wani. There are many far flung areas in valley, where a local dialect of surname prevails. My great grandmother is buried in Doligam, her village of birth, in the precincts of a shrine belonging to PirMehmood Shah, a disciple of Hazrat Sultan- Sheikh Hamza. It was PirMehmood Shah who brought the message of Islam to parts of Banihal. Back in the days there used to be a annual festival here, villagers from far-off places would throng the shrine and tie their prayer knots. Nothing of that remains now.

The etymology of 'Doligam' is very interesting as well. It is believed that a Hindu seer named 'Doli' had taken refuge here. The village came to be known after her. There is evidence of strong Brahmin footprints in the village.

One of my cousin, who lives in Jammu, told me once while digging at a cliff for new construction in Doligam, an idol was found. He took it to Jammu and showed to a archaeologist, who told him that this was a sculpture of Lord Shiva and probably belonged to Gupta period; that is around 1500 years ago. This period coincided with Kushan dynasty in Kashmir-preceding Avanti-varman and Lalitaditya.

Build on a mountain, Doligam speaks of things Kashmir and of a way of life its elite aspired of. The old house that belongs to our relatives there, stands still. Dilapidated. The tradi-

tional Khatam-band work on its ceiling, pointed arches, emblematic of the style of the era, remnant of its past glory. One of its most famous son of soil is KhwajaSamadJoo. And it is with SamadJoo that the connection of my family began with Wanyee's of Doligam.

SamadJoo was a Vizier first in Ranbir Singh's era and then Pratap Singh's. His family held lot of weight in the Pir Panchal mountains. His father Khwaja Afzal SamadJoo was a Tehsildar and an estate owner. He owned swathes of land, right across from Doru in Islamabad to Banihal. Two of SamadJoo's daughters were married in our family; one being my great grandmother. His death in 1891 had created quite a ruckus in the city.

It is said SamadJoo was on an impromptu visit to Srinagar in the early summer of 1891. As was the ritual, he first paid obeisance at Hazrat Sultan at Makhdhoom sahib. He had brought with him an embellished veneered serape, lined with gold, as mark of respect, to be spread over the grave of his sufi master. However, just when he was to leave and he put his feet on the saddle of the horse, the knuckle broke off. The Vizier feared a bad omen.

After a trip to the Dal in the Doonga with noble men of Shawl family joining them- a common practice back in the days, he died at our house in Khanyar that night. The omen had come true.

The following morning entire city was cordoned off by Maharaja's sepoy. Pratap Singh believed his Vizier was poisoned by his dogra contemporaries, who were jealous of SamadJoo's closeness to the Maharaja.

The matter was later resolved after Maharaja was visited by nobles of the city, explaining that the cause of the death was natural. SamadJoo's burial was attended by every who's who of the

city. In a long procession that started from our house in Khanyar to Makhdhoom sahib shrine, where he is buried, entire city grieved at the loss of this noble man.

In addition to clear presence of gene-try in Doligam and hobnobbing with the nobility of the times, Doligam also has a literary company. Abdul Rahim Amma, a poet who was blind by eyes since birth was a contemporary and comrade of Rasul Mir and has written a masnavi called 'Gulbadan' in Persian.

We've a whole litany of documents that prove all above incidents. It is no hearsay. It is remarkable to know how everything was documented in those times- right from the Persian lines written on the serape KhwajaSamadJoo laid at Sultan's shrine to hundreds of letters written to each other across the Banihal pass. SamadJoo owned a library- being well versed in Persian and Urdu. Some of his books to the day are preserved in our house in Khanyar.

The houses that were inhabited by these learned men, in their shattered windows, its sills privy to what happened behind them, in the abandoned dark rooms, not just scarred or peeling walls or dusty floors, the lonely takaks perched in its walls, hollow to the eyes. The names hung over them like weights, each light enough to bear its own. Somewhere close a widely lit path of belonging exists. In these experiences, there are places to look back, the anchor and all that was there. Remembrance of who you are and in it your song of belonging.

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The Kashmir Blackout

The author investigates the constitutionality of the internet shutdown imposed in Kashmir. He argues whether the communication restrictions hold up to the test of 'reasonable' envisaged under Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India.

Zaid Drabu

Of course, the Article as it stands today speaks of restrictions being reasonable, yet there rings a modern age truth to the particular concerns of our Constitution Drafters - across India, but especially in Kashmir. In the present times, the pandemic has rendered the legislature dysfunctional and has drastically limited the functioning of the judicial system, to say the least. As a result, the executive has been bestowed with sweeping powers. Whilst this is true across the country, it glaringly pronounced in Kashmir where indigenous political leaders have been placed under preventive detention following the abrogation of Article 370; stringent security measures and now the lockdown, have curbed physical manifestations of protest; and internet restrictions have stripped the people of one of the few basic mediums of speech and expression.

In fact, in January the Supreme Court in the case of AnuradhaBhasin declared internet to be a fundamental right. However, the GOI circumvented compliance by providing 2G internet. Herein, it relied on its narrative that the internet is a means for the thriving of unscrupulous, 'anti-national' and 'terrorist' elements and that any restrictions imposed are thus in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India and the security of the State.

There was never any doubt that the state has the power to put certain restrictions on fundamental rights. The question was whether the restric-

tions in Kashmir were reasonable. The GOI in its argument before Court stated that since August 5, 2019, 108 terrorist attacks have taken place in Kashmir. How is that reconcilable with the fact that till January 2020, there was a complete internet blackout and yet the attacks continued?

GOI has in this regard, failed to establish any proximate or direct nexus between the access to internet and terrorist attacks. By GOIs own admission since 1990, there have been 71038 terror incidents. But, from 1990-2000, the worst period of the conflict, there was no internet in Kashmir, in fact mobile phone services were introduced only in 2003. After the internet was introduced there have been 181 internet shutdowns in Kashmir, and yet, terror incidents remain consistent.

In fact, there is no better example of executive overreach being legitimised in Kashmir, than our Supreme Court letting the executive itself be the assessor of whether 4G internet speed should be restored therein, through a special committee headed by the Secretary of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs! It is most unfortunate that when it comes to balancing a perceived threat to national security and the basic civil liberties of the citizens of our nation, the judicial system has no qualms about authoring preachy judgments that merely defer authority to the executive.

In Superintendent, Central Prison, Fatehgarh v. Ram Manohar Lohia, a five judge bench of the

Court mandated that in order for a restriction to be reasonable, there has to be a proximate connection with public order and not a far-fetched, remote or hypothetical one. While the law provides for prior restraint and censorship of speech, provided there is a proximate nexus between free speech and public order, the law does not empower the state to shut down completely, the very means of making free speech.

The state can make an argument that, at times, there may be a proximate nexus between free speech and threat to security, for example a provocative hate speech on the television that leads to communal riots. However, there can never be a nexus, let alone a proximate one, between the medium of television itself and the threat to security. Even during the 1975 national emergency, when the state censored the news, there was no blanket ban on publishing of newspapers.

The Constitution only envisaged temporary restriction on speech that threatens security, but not all speech or the medium of speech. The restrictions imposed in Kashmir since August 5th, 2019 have nothing to do with security or public order and everything to do with dissent. Thus, while GOI might have failed to establish a proximate nexus between access to internet and terrorist activities, what has been established, however, is that these internet restrictions have violated the (i) Right to conduct business by destroying the economy and putting an end to sectors dependent on the internet (ii) Right to education as children haven't been to school in 10 months and there is no possibility of online classes (iii) Right to freedom of speech & expression as people couldn't post online and the press couldn't even file reports. (iv) Right to health by drastically limiting the functioning of the healthcare sector in the middle of a catastrophic pandemic.

The Leaflet

The author is a Law Clerk at Supreme Court of India. Views expressed are personal.

Virtual Tech Is Capturing The Future

EVE ZUCKER & DAVID SIMON

The use of social media for the memorialisation of mass atrocities illustrates the global dimensions of these new trends. In countries such as Myanmar, Facebook is synonymous with the internet itself. The platform permits sharing of photos, live streaming, pre-recorded videos, stories, and the ability to interact within communities of interest by commenting and 'liking' posts. Residing in 'the cloud', or, more concretely, a server farm in Oregon or Sweden, Facebook commemorative or memorial pages transcend physical space, permitting individuals to form and join communities of interest from anywhere in the

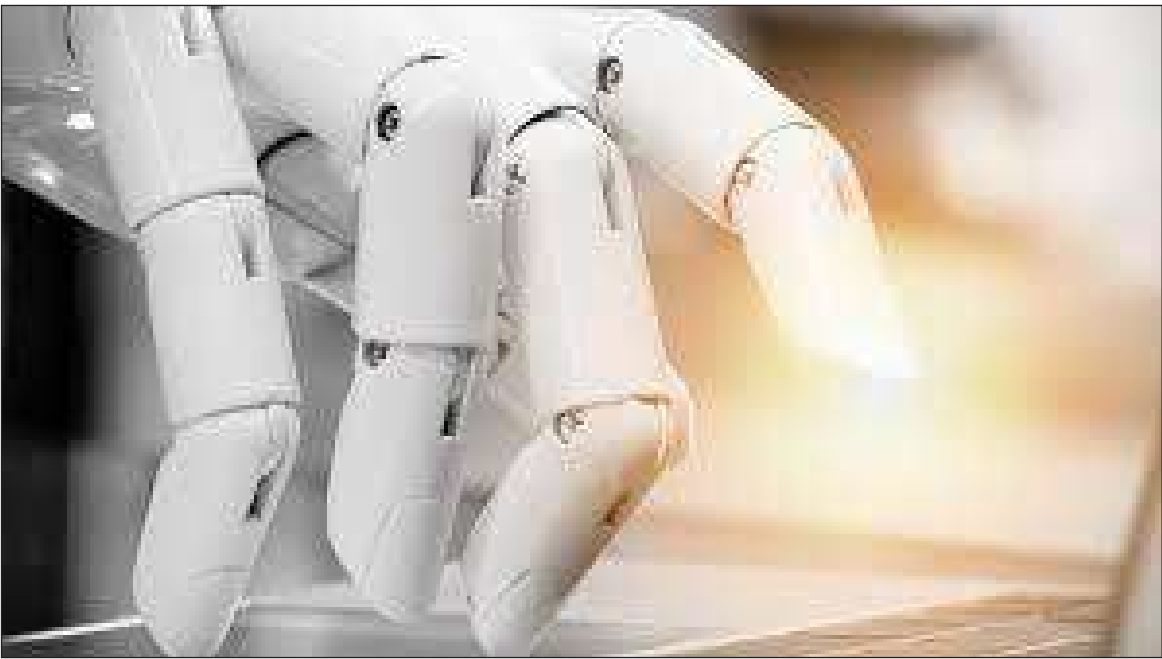
Virtual sites of memorialisation of mass atrocities, from web pages and blogs to social media, have proliferated this century. Once unimaginable technology enables individuals and communities to share photos, memories, and ruminations about the past. Recent developments like holograms, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and augmented reality - AI, VR and AR - permit further changes in the very nature of memorialisation, including simultaneously, and sometimes paradoxically, decentralising and globalising it.

Pre-digital practice mostly confined memorialisation to a particular geographical space - often a monument, a museum or an archive. States produced and controlled these spaces, thus using them not only to pay respects to the heroes, victims, and martyrs of its past, but also to craft narratives that supported their own claim to legitimacy.

Virtual memorialisation loosens, if not shatters, such control - carrying the prospect of fundamentally changing how and where collective memory is formed and retransmitted. Digital technology allows those processes both to devolve to individuals beyond the reach of the state and communities that might transcend national boundaries. The resultant local and transnational connections may sometimes reinforce state narratives, but in other instances may serve to contest them. Previously marginalised voices may find a broader audience, while historians and their audiences have the opportunity to use and appreciate new sources and perspectives about the past. Emergent virtual communities generate their own vocabularies as well as their own touchstones for pride, grievance, and understanding.

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In some cases, online memorial sites simply provide a place where people can engage with a memory in a way that is more personal, such as on pages dedicated to the legacies of particular episodes of mass violence. While not necessarily global in ambition, these sites may nonetheless produce the familiar consequence of loosening the nation-state's grip over its historical narrative. Digital forums of memorialisation of wars, genocides and mass atrocities have the power to elevate new voices, allow geographically disparate communities to share experiences and learn about their shared past, and enable others to compose their



Virtual memorialisation illustrates the potential for challenges to state sovereignty and conventional understandings of reality

own virtual memorials outside the official domain of the state.

These positive developments come with limitations and risks. Many states increasingly police social media sites. In some countries, individuals can be arrested for posts and sites deemed oppositional to the state. Revisionist history can also empower denialists or foment resentment at odds with projects of unity and reconciliation. Extremists might also expropriate the virtual memorialisation toolkit for their own hateful purposes, gaining unprecedented global reach.

The first half of 2020 brought a nearly global lockdown to fight the spread of Covid-19, and the ultimate paradox of the local and the global has been laid bare. Confined to our homes and apartments, we were brought perhaps more closely than ever before into direct engagement with people in similar circumstances around the world. In international Zoom conferences, virtual tourism and online memorialisation events, we may be witnessing the emergence of a new norm of remote mourning and virtual commemoration.

Although the proliferation of digital memoriali-

sation began long before the Covid-19 pandemic, the requirements of social distancing serve to push memorialisation much further into the realm of the virtual. The shift from 'real' memorials to virtual ones may be viewed as an extension of globalisation - yet also augers further changes. The current age of populism, nationalism and now the pandemic, each of which threatens to roll back globalisation in one way or another. The turn to virtual memorialisation points to a means for maintaining global connections even as globalisation recedes. At the same time, it illustrates the potential for challenges to state sovereignty and conventional understandings of reality. If, in the future, the past is ultimately represented by decentralised historiography, holograms, or VR or AR tourism, how we define ourselves through our collective memories will never be the same.

Eve Zucker is lecturer in Anthropology, Columbia University. David Simon is director of the Genocide Studies Program and senior lecturer in Political Science, Yale University. -Yale Global

Where Fiction And Cinema Collide

Awais Khan's debut novel explores issues of love, fidelity, and sacrifice

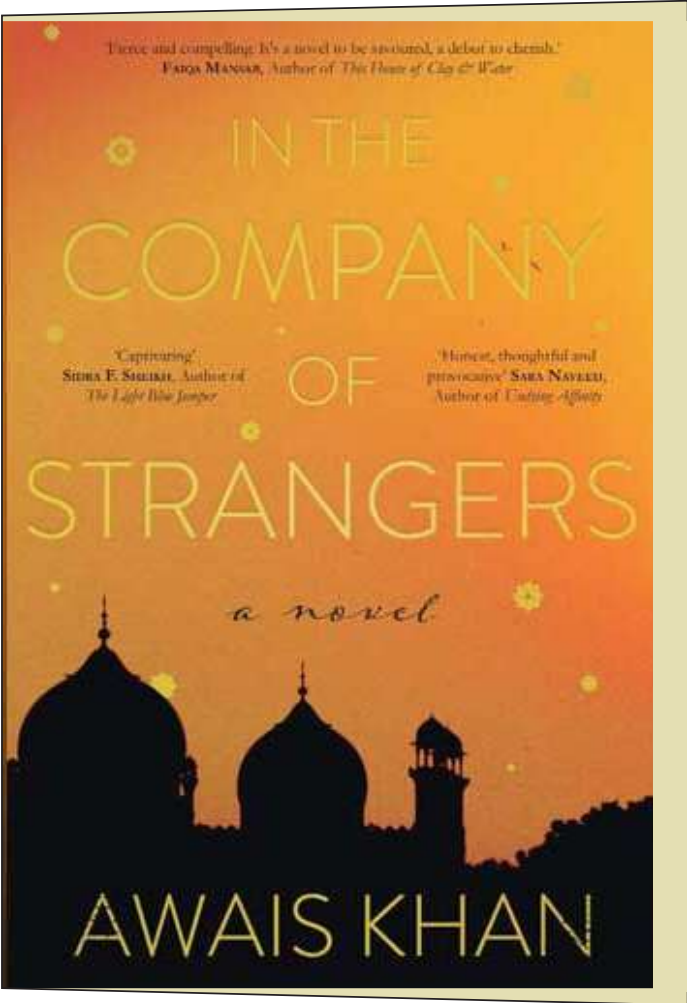
MOAZZAM SHEIKH

Ritwik Ghatak, the great Bengali auteur, has said that cinema is not an art form to him. Instead, it borrows form(s) from other sources such as music, novel, theatre, painting, photography and so on. The only reason he chose the cinema, he elaborated, was that it allowed him to reach a large number of people. Unfortunately, he didn't live long enough to encounter the phenomenon where fiction begins to lean, even recline, on cinema, often referred to as cinematic writing. Though cinematic writing and vivid writing may flow in and out of each other, they are not the same. Cinema's influence on literature is undeniable and how a writer manipulates that influence into the text affects the plot, characters, ideas, the balance between content and context. Fiction, however, is neither cinema nor a TV serial.

Reading Awais Khan's entertaining novel brought an Indian film Rajput (1982) to one's mind. Predicated upon patriarchy, the narrative explores issues of love, fidelity, sacrifice. Hema Malini is betrothed to Rajesh Khanna, a police officer, but she is having a love affair with Dharmender. Rajesh Khanna's wedding procession is ambushed by soldiers from a princely state. Dharmender arrives in time to shoot Rakesh Roshan standing next to the fainted Hema Malini before Rajesh Khanna locates the dead abductor slumped over his wife. Once home, Hema Malini discloses to Khanna that she is pregnant. He thinks the child's father is Rakesh Roshan. That plays out with the backdrop of a princely state, which refuses to be annexed by the Indian state and continues to unleash terror on the local population. Dharmender ends up serving jail time under Rajesh Khanna, who vows to bring the princely state to its knees. Rajesh Khanna begins taking care of Malini's boy only to find out that the child's real father is Dharmender. Approaching climactic battle, Dharmender makes sure that his child and Hema's marriage survive while he sacrifices his own life. Now, let's turn to the novel, which seems to have emerged from the belly of the beast called cinema.

Ali is forced to return to modeling he once abhorred because he needs quick cash so his younger brother, a victim of a terrorist bombing, can have a prosthetic leg. As Ali re-enters the decadent world of high society he encounters an unhappy Mona, married to a construction tycoon with two children studying abroad. Two dramatic strands develop from thereon. Mona and Ali develop mutual attraction. Mona justifies her action partly because her husband, too, has cheated on her several times. Ali is lured gullibly by a friend's friend to a terrorist network as he's given a prosthetic leg free of charge.

In return, Ali is asked to provide information and access to people the terrorist organisation wants to kill. As things build up, Mona finds herself pregnant and is willing to leave her husband. Though abusive, Mona learns, her husband has a good side too, which is why the radicals want him gone. Ali is blackmailed into becoming a suicide bomber to take out Mona's husband or else he'd find his mother and brother killed. Ali can't bring himself to take the final step. Mona's husband learns of her affair. Ali rushes out to the sea to kill himself in the hope of



In the Company of Strangers

Author: Awais Khan

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meeting his mother and brother in a better place. While in mourning Mona visits Ali's grave every day for two hours for many months, but she also wants to recharge the relationship with her husband.

Novels that are fundamentally plot-driven run into the problem of taking structural issues lightly. Sometimes a good writer can wing it by accentuating interiority to highlight exteriority.

I don't mean to suggest that the novel is directly inspired by the film. Rather the writing is heavily influenced by absorbing the influence of such films that employ the narrative technique of Rajput.

Despite being melodramatic, it is a well-crafted novel. The real victim of the bombing is used as a backdrop. Too much energy is spent on relaying how women of upper classes converse and banter, how radical Islamist terrorists wax eloquent and issue threats. Khan tries too hard to achieve believability in his realism. He should've aimed for some impressionism, a bit of expressionism. It could've been a different novel, and a better one, one believes if he had pointed out a connection between the army and its nurturing certain of radical groups, later dividing them into 'good' and 'bad' terrorists. Who knows where the novel could've gone. Instead, the narrative is kept on a tight leash.

There's a basic difference between a narrative film and a novel, which has a much greater ability to go out-of-focus and refocus - literary theorists call it expansion and contraction - to bring in three-dimensionality, a much needed psychological depth and unexpected turn of emotions. The reader learns early on that Mona has two grown-up children, but they remain pretty much absent throughout the novel, making Mona appear like a cardboard figure. Ali has a bit more meat but barely. One wonders if it is Khan has an obsession with physical detail that makes him use the word fat at least seven times while describing mostly women.

This doesn't help even if the reader wants to ignore the sexist trapping of the novel. The development of Mona's character, or the lack thereof, is another issue. One hand, she does not care about material gifts, on the other, she can't conceive of having an agency on her own. The only way she can leave her husband is if Ali leads her. In a magical concurrence of events, when Ali decides to take his life, Mona suffers a miscarriage as well. Status quo ante restores itself just like in the movie Rajput.

Be it through a terrorist organisation or princely state, the sacred institution of marriage has been restored. Good writing requires seeing through these issues. Novels that are fundamentally plot-driven run into the problem of taking structural issues lightly. Sometimes a good writer can wing it by accentuating interiority to highlight exteriority, but in lesser hands, the narrative becomes flat.

From the start, one can tell that the world inhabited by Mona and Ali is going to collide with the world of terrorism, and that Ali is going to pay the price for trespass. Good writing should avoid predictability. Finally, a good editor could've improved the text by making sure that words like flattened and flat do not occur so frequently. While Khan managed to keep my interest, this kind of repetition is just deadwood.

This is a debut novel. Despite some of the weaknesses one cannot ignore, Khan shows promise. His language is modern and he knows how to bring in a Lahori flavor both to the dialogues and narration. He definitely shows a good sense of pacing and that ability alone carries the reader to the last page. That's a good skill to have for a writer of fiction.

Physical Distancing Over Six Feet May Be Essential To Prevent Covid-19: Study



Press Trust Of India

Respiratory droplets travel between eight to 13 feet before they evaporate or escape, without wind and depending on the ambient condition, according to Indian researchers who suggest that physical distancing greater than six feet may be essential to avoid Covid-19 transmission.

The researchers, including those from the Indian Institute of

Science (IISc), Bengaluru, Karnataka, noted that it is well established that the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19 disease is transmitted via respiratory droplets that infected people eject when they cough, sneeze or talk. The team developed a mathematical model for the early phases of a Covid-19-like pandemic using the aerodynamics and evaporation characteristics of respiratory droplets. The research, published in

the journal Physics of Fluids, modelled the pandemic dynamics with a reaction mechanism, wherein each reaction has a rate constant obtained by calculating the droplet collision frequency. The researchers then compared the droplet cloud ejected by an infected person to the one by a healthy person. "The size of the droplet cloud, the distance it travels, and the droplet lifetimes are, therefore, all important factors that we

calculated using conservation of mass, momentum, energy and species," said Swetaprovo Chaudhuri from the University of Toronto in Canada. "The model could be used to estimate approximately how long droplets can survive, how far they can travel, and which size of droplet survives for how long," said Chaudhuri, one of the authors of the study. He added the actual situation could be complicated by wind,

turbulence, air-recirculation or many other effects. "Without wind and depending on the ambient condition, we found droplets travel between 8 to 13 feet before they evaporate or escape," said Abhishek Saha, a co-author, from the University of California, San Diego in the US. This finding implies that social distancing at perhaps greater than six feet is essential, according to the researchers. The ini-

tial size of the longest surviving droplets is in the range of 18-50 microns, meaning masks can indeed help, they said. These findings, the researchers said, could help inform reopening measures for schools and offices looking at student or employee density. "This model is not claiming to predict the exact spread of Covid-19," said Saptarshi Basu, another study author, from IISc. "But, our work shows that

droplet evaporation or desiccation time is highly sensitive to the ambient temperature and relative humidity," Basu said. The researchers noted that their model and the firm theoretical underpinning that connects the two scales -- macroscale pandemic dynamics and the microscale droplet physics -- could emerge as a powerful tool in clarifying the role of environment on infection spread through respiratory droplets.

Women With High Bp During Pregnancy Susceptible To Heart Disease

Agencies

LONDON- Women who experience high blood pressure during pregnancy are more likely to develop heart disease and heart failure in later life, warn researchers. Published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, the study found that women who experienced high blood pressure during their first pregnancy were at 45 per cent higher risk of overall cardiovascular disease. "When we looked at all the available research, the answer was clear: women who develop high blood pressure during pregnancy are more likely to develop several different kinds of cardiovascular diseases," said senior author Dr Clare Oliver-Williams from the University of Cambridge in the UK. Between one to six per cent of all pregnancies in Western countries are affected by high blood pressure, which usually returns to normal after giving birth, the study said. This condition is known as gestational hypertension or pregnancy-induced hypertension. It differs from pre-eclampsia in that traces of protein are not found in the urine. Clinicians increasingly recognise that women who have had gestational hypertension are more likely to develop cardiovascular disease in later life.



However, studies of different kinds of cardiovascular diseases, such as heart disease and heart failure, have found mixed results. To examine these links further, an international team of researchers conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of 21 studies involving a total of 3.6 million women, 128,000 of whom previously had gestational hypertension. The researchers found that women who experienced high blood pressure during their first pregnancy were at 46 per cent higher risk of coronary heart disease compared to women who did not have high blood pressure in pregnancy. Women with one or more pregnancies affected by high blood pressure were at 81 per cent high-

er risk of cardiovascular disease, 83 per cent higher risk of coronary heart disease and 77 per cent higher risk of heart failure. The study adds to growing evidence of the relationship between pregnancy and subsequent risk of cardiovascular events. Recurrent miscarriages, pre-term birth, foetal growth restriction and pre-eclampsia have all previously been linked with a greater risk of heart disease. The researchers said that it is not entirely clear why gestational hypertension is associated with heart disease in later life. However, they suggest it may be that high blood pressure in pregnancy causes lasting damage that contributes to cardiovascular disease.

Roadside Hedges Combat Traffic Emissions At The Cost Of Plant Health

Agencies

Roadside hedges can combat near-road pollution exposure for humans but take a hit to their health, says a new study from the University of Surrey. According to the European Environmental Agency, air pollution causes 400,000 premature deaths annually. In 2017, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pinpointed pollution generated by traffic as a major contributor of particulate matter. Earlier studies have shown that green infrastructure in the busy streets can reduce exposure to air pollution to a great extent. A vegetation barrier can as much as halve the levels of pollutants just behind the barrier. In a new study published by Environmental Pollution, experts from Surrey's Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE) set out to quantify the deposition of particles on leaf surfaces of a roadside hedge at child (0.6m) and adult (1.5m) breathing heights. The study, titled 'Quantifying particulate matter reduction and their deposition on the leaves of green infrastructure', examined a beech (Fagus sylvatica) hedge along a busy two-lane road in Guildford, Surrey. They also



monitored a nearby location on the same road with no hedge. Following previous work by GCARE researchers to quantify the filtering capacity of different types of green infrastructure, including roadside hedges, this new study involved quantifying and comparing particle deposition on leaves from the front (traffic-facing) and back side of a hedge. The researchers discovered a dominance of fine particles on leaves on the traffic-facing side when compared with the back of the hedge. They also found that the closer the hedge is to the road, it likely led to the underdevelopment and poor health of leaves on the traffic-facing side of the hedge.

The team discovered that more harmful particles were captured by leaves at child breathing height than at adult breathing height, supporting GCARE's previous studies on how air pollution is harming babies who travel in low-riding prams more than it is affecting the parents pushing them. The researchers also found that leaf fall in autumn lowered the canopy density, resulting in particulate matter reductions behind the hedge to drop from 25 per cent in summer to 9 per cent in autumn. Professor Prashant Kumar, Director of GCARE at the University of Surrey, said: "The poor health of leaves on the traffic-facing

side highlights that green infrastructure takes a continuous assault from traffic emissions to protect roadside users from harmful sub-micron particles." "The high particle capture during peak traffic hours at around the breathing height of children compared with adult breathing height reinforces our advocacy for the implementation of hedges as a barrier against traffic emissions, particularly around school boundaries, children's play areas, and other vulnerable populations. This study's findings also underline the importance of appropriate selection of vegetation species considering traits such as air pollution tolerance."

Blood Tests Can Predict Risk Of Severe Liver Disease

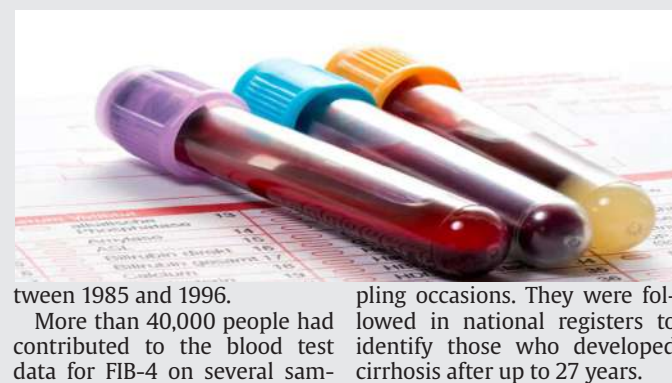
LONDON- Researchers have found that repeated measurements of the biomarker FIB-4 in human blood every few years can predict the risk of developing severe liver disease. According to a study published in the Journal of Hepatology, the risk of liver cirrhosis increases if the levels of this biomarker rise between two testing occasions. Fat accumulation in the liver is common and is often seen in people with obesity or diabetes. In the worst case, fatty liver can

lead to cirrhosis or liver cancer. It is unusual for this to occur but in those affected, symptoms often only occur at a late stage when there is no available treatment. It is difficult to predict the risk of cirrhosis, although you can get some guidance in using regular blood tests that measure liver damage," said study lead author Hannes Hagstrom from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. "Therefore, we wanted to investigate whether what is known as the FIB-4 score can in-

crease the accuracy of the identification of people at high risk, in particular with information from repeated measurements," Hagstrom added. The new study shows that repeated sampling and measurements of the FIB-4 score, rather than measuring FIB-4 on one sole occasion, can increase the prediction of future liver cirrhosis. The researchers used the "AMORIS" cohort that contains laboratory test data in a very large population, surveyed be-

tween 1985 and 1996. More than 40,000 people had contributed to the blood test data for FIB-4 on several sampling occasions. They were followed in national registers to identify those who developed cirrhosis after up to 27 years. The main finding was that the risk increases in people where the FIB-4 score rises between two testing occasions and decreases when it falls. In this way, almost half of those who were later affected by cirrhosis could be identified. One problem, however, was that the accuracy was relatively low, with a risk of false-positive tests, the researchers said. The study also established that it took a long time to develop cirrhosis, and that it may be enough

to recalculate the FIB-4 score at intervals of several years. "We show that this biomarker is useful for identifying people in primary care with an increased risk of cirrhosis who may need to be more carefully investigated and to exclude people who do not need this," Hagstrom said. "But the method needs to be further developed to reduce the risk of false-positive findings, which can lead to unnecessary examinations in healthy people," the study author noted.



“Asked Me To Light Up” The Oven: Khashoggi Murder Trial Tells Court

Agencies

Istanbul: A Saudi consulate worker in Istanbul told a Turkish court on Friday he had been asked to light a tandoor oven less than an hour after Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi entered the building where he was killed.

Zeki Demir, a local technician who worked for the consulate, was giving evidence on the first day of the trial in absentia of 20 Saudi officials over Khashoggi's killing, which sparked global outrage and tarnished the image of Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler.

Demir said he had been called to the consul's residence after Khashoggi entered the nearby consulate to seek his papers.

“There were five to six people there... They asked me to light up the tandoor (oven). There was an air of panic,” he said.

Khashoggi disappeared after going to the consulate to get papers for his marriage in October 2018. Some Western governments, as well as the CIA, said they believed Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had ordered the hit - an accusation Saudi officials denied.

Turkish officials have said one theory police pursued was

that Khashoggi's killers may have tried to dispose of his body by burning it after suffocating him and cutting up his corpse.

The indictment accuses two top Saudi officials, former deputy head of Saudi Arabia's general intelligence Ahmed al-Asiri and former royal court adviser Saud al-Qahtani, of instigating “premeditated murder with monstrous intent”.

It says 18 other defendants were flown to Turkey to kill Khashoggi, a prominent and well-connected journalist who had grown increasingly critical of the crown prince.

The defendants are being tried in absentia and are unlikely ever to be handed over by Saudi Arabia, which has accused Turkey of failing to cooperate with a separate, largely secretive, trial in Riyadh last year.

In December a Saudi court sentenced five people to death and three to jail for the killing, but Khashoggi's family later said they forgave his murderers, effectively granting them a formal reprieve under Saudi law.

A Saudi prosecutor said at the time there was no evidence connecting Qahtani to the killing and dismissed charges against Asiri.

'Hidden Language'

Hong Kongers Get Creative Against Security Law

Agencies

Hong Kong, China: Hong Kongers are finding creative ways to voice dissent after Beijing blanketed the city in a new security law and police began arresting people displaying now forbidden political slogans.

Faced with the sudden threat of prosecution for anything that might promote greater autonomy or independence for the restless city, resi-

dents are using word play and even subverting Chinese Communist Party dogma to express their frustration.

On a bridge in the busy shopping district of Causeway Bay, a key spot for pro-democracy protests over the past year, traffic thunders past newly daubed graffiti that declares: “Arise, ye who refuse to be slaves”. The phrase is taken from the first line of China's national anthem.



US Sends Aircraft Carriers To South China Sea During Chinese Military Drills

Agencies

Washington: Two US aircraft carriers were conducting exercises in the disputed South China Sea on Saturday, the US Navy said, as China also carried out military drills that have been criticised by the Pentagon and neighbouring states.

China and the United States have accused each other of stoking tension in the strategic waterway at a time of strained relations over everything from the new coronavirus to trade to Hong Kong.

The USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan were carrying out operations and exercises in the South China Sea “to support a free and open Indo-Pacific,” the navy said in a statement.

It did not say exactly where the exercises were being conducted in the South China Sea, which extends for some 1,500 km (900 miles) and 90% of which is claimed by China despite the protests of its neighbours.

“The purpose is to show an unambiguous signal to our partners and allies that we are committed to regional security and

The purpose is to show an unambiguous signal to our partners and allies that we are committed to regional security and stability

stability,” Rear Admiral George M. Wikeoff was quoted as saying by the Wall Street Journal, which first reported the exercises.

Wikeoff, commander of the strike group led by the Ronald Reagan, said the exercises were not a response to those being conducted by China, which the Pentagon criticised this week as “counter-productive to efforts at easing tensions and maintaining stability”.

China dismissed the US criticism of its drills on Friday and suggested the United States was to blame for increasing tensions.

US carriers have long carried out exercises in the West-

ern Pacific, including in the South China Sea, according to the US navy. At one point recently, the United States had three carriers in the region.

China announced last week it had scheduled five days of drills starting July 1 near the Paracel Islands, which are claimed by both Vietnam and China.

Vietnam and the Philippines have also criticised the planned Chinese drills, warning they could create tension in the region and impact Beijing's relationship with its neighbours.

The United States accuses China of trying to intimidate Asian neighbours who might want to exploit its extensive oil and gas reserves. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also lay claim to parts of the South China Sea, through which about \$3 trillion of trade passes each year.

The US statement said the naval exercises gave commanders the flexibility and capabilities “that only the US Navy can command”. Reuters

Iran Threatens Retaliation After Possible ‘Cyber Attack’ On Nuclear Site

Agencies

DUBAI: Iran will retaliate against any country that carries out cyber attacks on its nuclear sites, the head of civilian defence said, after a fire at its Natanz plant which some Iranian officials said may have been caused by cyber sabotage.

The underground Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant (FEP) is one of several Iranian facilities monitored by inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog.

Iran's top security body said on Friday that the cause of the “incident” at the nuclear site had been determined, but “due to security considerations” it would be announced at a convenient time.

Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation (AEOI) initially reported an “incident” had occurred early on Thursday at Natanz, located in the desert in the central province

day by state news agency IRNA addressed what it called the possibility of sabotage by enemies such as Israel and the United States, although it stopped short of accusing either directly.

“So far Iran has tried to prevent intensifying crises and the formation of unpredictable conditions and situations,” IRNA said. “But the crossing of red lines of the Islamic Republic of Iran by hostile countries, especially the Zionist regime and the US, means that strategy...should be revised.”

Iranian officials said they believed the fire was the result of a cyber attack, but did not cite any evidence.

One of the officials said the attack had targeted the centrifuge assembly building, referring to the delicate cylindrical machines that enrich uranium, and said Iran's enemies had carried out similar acts in the past.



of Isfahan.

It later published a photo of a one-storey brick building with its roof and walls partly burned. A door hanging off its hinges in the photo suggested that there had been an explosion inside the building.

“Responding to cyber attacks is part of the country's defence might. If it is proven that our country has been targeted by a cyber attack, we will respond,” civil defence chief Gholamreza Jalali told state TV late on Thursday.

An article issued on Thurs-

Two of the officials said Israel could have been behind the Natanz incident, but offered no evidence.

Asked on Thursday evening about recent incidents reported at strategic Iranian sites, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters: Clearly we cant get into that.” The Israeli military and Netanyahu's office, which oversees Israel's foreign intelligence service Mossad, did not immediately respond to queries on Friday.

NEWS MAKERS

COVID-19

Indian dozes off at Dubai airport, misses repatriation flight

A 53-year-old Indian worker in the UAE has missed a special repatriation flight after he

dozed off at the Dubai International Airport, a media report said.

P Shajahan, who worked as a storekeeper in Abu Dhabi, was supposed to fly to Thiruvananthapuram on the Emirates jumbo jet chartered by the Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre (KMCC) Dubai, Gulf News reported.

It was the first-ever jumbo jet chartered for repatriation.

Shajahan, who had paid 1,100 dirham (USD 300) for the ticket, said that he did not sleep on the previous night as he kept on waiting for the confirmation of his ticket for the jumbo jet flying 427 stranded Indians to Kerala, it said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

E-NIT NO: 03/SE/PMGSY/Bl/e-tendering of 2020-21 dated 01-07-2020

Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla on behalf of President of India invites item rate bids in electronic tendering under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak for the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

Name of Work with Package No. and				Cost of document (Rs in lacs.)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.)		Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid)	Class of contractor
	Construction	Maintenance	Total cost of						
Construction & Maintenance of road L026 Safaidab (Waste Plastic) Stage II, (Batch									

1. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>

The Bids shall be deposited in <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>

uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened online on in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

. The complete bidding process will be on line.

(Rupees Ten thousand only)

refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of Accounts Officer PMGSY

Kashmir payable at Srinagar.

5. The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding GST. GST @12% shall be added to the contract value by the allottee

In the Office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents.

bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site of conditions. It has been made m

all the intending bidders to participate in the pre bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgsytenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). *Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website.

Bids must be accompanied by as mentioned in column 6 & 7 of the table in the form as specified in the Bidding Document. The Demand Draft on account of cost of bidding document shall be pledged to Accounts Officer PMGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar. The d security should be in the form of FDR/BG from a scheduled commercial bank be pledged to the Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla payable at Baramulla and shall be valid for 135 days from the last date of bid submission.

iginal instruments in respect of cost of bidding document original copy of affidavits must be delivered in the office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid either by Registered Post or by hand failing which the bids shall be declared non

The bidders are advised to upload the required documents/information strictly as per the formats given in Section Qualification Information fails to comply with the said instructions shall be declared as non

The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> This is conveyed to the bidders automatically bids shall be opened accordingly on line on same Web Site at the Office of Superintending Engineer

. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

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

DIPK-2522/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of Deputy General Manager Housing Board Unit-I Srinagar

Email ID: dgmhousingunit1@gmail.com

Contact No: (0194) 2476895

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No. 01 of 2020-21 Dated: 01/07/2020

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, J&K UTe-tenders (in two cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Regd. Contractors for the below mentioned works:-

S.NO	Name of the work	App. Cost In Lacs	E. Money / Bid Security In Rupees	Cost of Doc In Rupees	Time of Comple- tion	Class of Contract	Authority of Approval/ Head of Account
1	Construction of Naib Tehsildar Office at Tral Pulwama.	46.50	93,000/-	1100/-	2 Working Seasons	"AAY" & "BEE"	Revenue Sector
2	Construction of Tehsil Office at Sallar Anantnag Kashmir.	105.55	211100/-	2600/-	2 Working Seasons	AAY	Revenue Sector
3	Construction of Health Sub Centre at Kareem-abad Pulwama Kashmir.	21.51	43020/-	800/-	1 Working Seasons	"BEE" & "CEE"	Health Sector

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <https://jktenders.gov.in> as per the scheduled date given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-07-2020
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-07-2020 06:00 P.M. Upto 22-07-2020 4:00 P.M.
3	Bid Submission Start Date (online)	02-07-2020 06:00 P.M.
4	Bid Submission End Date (online)	22-07-2020 4:00 P.M.
5	Date & Time of Opening of bids Online.	23-07-2020 at 11:00 A.M. in the office of the Deputy General Manager Housing Board Unit-I Srinagar.

Note: - The CDR of Successful bidder shall be deemed to be forfeited upon failure to furnish the required additional performance security within five working days from the date of award of contract.

1. The cost of bidding document must be credited in the following account through cash, RTGS/ NEFT and the proof of the same must be uploaded.

Name of the Bank: J & K Bank Ltd.

Branch: Rawalpura branch Account Title: DGM, J&KHB UNIT 1

Account Type: Savings Account No: 0361040500004285

IFSC Code: JAKAORAWWAL Swift Code: JAKABINRSGR

19. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT.

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

Dated: - 01/07/2020

SD/-
Dy. General Manager,
Housing Board Unit-I,
Srinagar.

DIPK-NB-1189/20

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.

No:-2181-84

Date:-03-07-2020

(FINAL NOTICE)

Prime Engg. Construction (SHG)

G/L Abdu Majeed Bhat

S/O. Ali. Mohd Bhat

R/O Budgam

Regd. No. 9258/Kmr of 2011.

Subject:- construction of L/Wall on both sides of Kenz Khul u/s Head Works at village Arampora at Spots.

- Whereas, the authority for execution of the subject work has been issued to you vide this office allotment No: 01 of 05/2020 issued under No. 499-502 dt: 05-05-2020 but till date you have not started the work.
- Whereas, notices were served to you to start the work but till date you have failed to start the work.
- As per the conditions of the NIT you were supposed to complete the work within stipulated time.
- As the work is of urgent nature and needs to be complete within the stipulated time.

Now you are given the final opportunity to start the said work within two days positively failing which the work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost, as this office can't wait further in view of urgency of work.

DIPK-2507/20

Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division,
Ompora Budgam.

Follow ‘Raj Dharma’, Tell People About Reality Of Chinese Incursions: Congress To PM

NEW DELHI: A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Leh and addressed frontline soldiers, the Congress on Saturday said the time has come for him to follow his “raj dharma” and tell the people of the country about the reality of Chinese “incursions”.

Addressing a virtual press meet, Congress leader Kapil Sibal used satellite images of Ladakh’s Pangong Tso from May and June to show Chinese structures in the area and asked the prime minister to at least speak the truth about it.

He also asked Modi to stop doing the politics of “illusion and delusion” and showing “red eyes” to China, and protect Indian territory.

“The times warrant India to look eye-to-eye at China and unequivocally tell them to retreat from their illegal and brazen occupation of Indian territory. Mr Prime Minister, this is the only ‘raj dharma’ that you must follow,” Sibal said.

Posing a set of five questions to the prime minister, he asked Modi to say whether the actual picture of “Chinese

occupation of our territory” up to the “Finger 4 Ridge” in the Pangong Tso area depicts the truth on the ground.

“They say ‘pictures do not lie’. Will the prime minister now tell the nation—is this Indian territory on which radars, helipad and other structures have been built by the Chinese in a brazen act of transgression?”

“Have the Chinese occupied our territory in Galwan Valley, including ‘Patrol Point 14’, where our 20 jawans of the 16 Bihar Regiment made



the supreme sacrifice? Has China also occupied Indian territory in Hot Springs?” the Congress leader asked.

“Has China occupied our territory up to ‘Y-junction’ (18 kms inside the LAC) in the Depsang plains, threatening India’s strategic DBO airstrip, which is the lifeline for our military supplies to the Siachen glacier and Karakoram pass?” he asked.



A CHILD RIDES A BYCICLE in the interior of Dal Lake on Saturday. Pic Abid Bhat

CICSE Announces Up To 25% Reduction In Syllabus For 2021 Board Exams

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) on Friday announced a reduction of up to 25 per cent in syllabus for classes 10 and 12 board exams in 2021 taking into account the learning disruption due to closure of schools during the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

“...Schools across the country have been shut for the past three months due to the lockdown. While a number of CISCE-affiliated schools have tried to adapt to this changed scenario and have tried to keep alive the teaching learning process through online classes, there has been a significant shortening of the academic year and loss of the instructional hours,” CISCE Chief Executive and Secretary Gerry Arathoon said.

“To make up for the loss in instructional hours during the current session, the CISCE has worked with its subject experts, to reduce the syllabus for all major subjects at the ICSE (Class 10) and ISC (Class 12) levels. Syllabus reduction has been done, keeping in mind the linear progression across classes while ensuring that the core concepts related to the subject are retained,” he added.

Arathoon said at present the syllabi has been reduced by up to 25 per cent, but that is subject to further review of the prevailing conditions and the council may have to reduce it further in case the prevailing con-



ditions don’t turn conducive.

“Given the academic loss till July, which is around 45 days we have reduced the syllabus for the students appearing for Class 10 and 12 Boards up to 25 pc. However, that is subject to further review as from July first week our schools are only able to resume online classes. This could have further adverse effects. We may even have to reduce the syllabi further and may even have to go up to 50 pc reduction,” he said.

The board has directed its schools to ensure that the subject teachers concerned at the ICSE and ISC levels transact the syllabus strictly according to the sequence of topics given in the syllabus, so as to facilitate further reduction in syllabus, if

required, depending on the situation of the pandemic in the country.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is also in the process of reducing the syllabus and has sought suggestions from various stakeholders. However, the final syllabus has not been notified yet.

Universities and schools across the country have been closed since March 16 when the central government announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as one of the measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak.

A nationwide lockdown was announced on March 24, which came into effect the next day. While the government has eased several restrictions, schools and colleges continue to remain closed.

Editors Delegation Calls On Advisor Farooq Khan



SRINAGAR: A deputation of editors of Kashmir based newspapers today called on the Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan here and projected several demands before the Advisor.

The five-member deputation led by Editor-in-Chief of Kashmir News Service, Mohammad Aslam including, Manzoor Anjum, Tahir Mohudin, Rashid Rahil and Farzana Mumtaz apprised the Advisor of various issues regarding the welfare of editors of the Valley newspapers.

The deputation discussed streamlining of advertisement, media policy and other issues with the Advisor.

The Advisor gave a patient hearing to the visiting deputation and assured them that all their genuine issues would be taken up with the appropriate quarters for redressal.

Meanwhile, several other deputations and individuals also met the Advisor and apprised him of their issues.

A deputation of Panches and Sarpanches led by Chairman Block Development Pulwama, Omar Jaan apprised the Advisor of the developmental issues related to the panchayats of the area. Saqib Yousuf, Chief Area Manager Northern Railways Kashmir also met Advisor Khan.

Gold Wroth Rs 15.67 Cr Seized From Passengers Arriving From S Arabia, UAE At Jaipur Airport



JAIPUR: Nearly 32 kg of gold worth over Rs 15 crore was seized from 14 passengers who arrived here in two chartered flights from the UAE and Saudi Arabia, officials said on Saturday.

“The gold bars/bricks were concealed in baggage and were recovered by a customs department team at the Sangner airport on Friday,” a press release is-

sued here said. Eleven passengers from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, were carrying gold bars weighing 22.65 kg, while three passengers from the UAE had 9.3 kg gold with them, it said.

The total value of the gold is Rs 15.67 crore, the release said, adding the gold has been seized under the Customs Act and the passengers are being interrogated. PTI

PM Did Visit Hospital, Not Conference Hall, Clarifies Army

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army on Saturday termed as “malicious and unsubstantiated” criticism in some quarters about a medical facility in a military hospital in Leh where prime minister Narendra Modi interacted with soldiers injured in the Galwan Valley clashes.

In a statement, the Army said, “It is unfortunate that aspersions are being cast on how our brave Armed Forces are treated. The armed forces give the best possible treatment to their personnel.”

Prime minister Modi made an unannounced visit to Ladakh on Friday, signalling India’s firmness in dealing with the border row with China in several areas of the region. Modi also interacted with the



soldiers who are undergoing treatment at the hospital, and told them that their bravery will be a source of inspiration for times to come.

Following release of photographs of Modi’s interaction with the injured soldiers, there were comments on Twitter that the facility did not look like a hospital as there were no medicine cabinet, IV (intravenous) stand, and other medical equipment.

“There have been malicious and unsubstantiated accusations in some quarters regarding the status of the facility visited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the General Hospital at Leh on July 3,” the Army said.

The Army further said: “It is clarified that the said facility is part of the crisis expansion capacity of 100 beds and is very much part of the General Hospital complex.”

It said the COVID-19 protocol had necessitated some wards of the hospital to be converted into isolation facilities.

“Hence, this hall which otherwise was normally used as a Training Audio Video Hall was converted into a ward ever since the hospital was

also designated as COVID-19 treatment hospital,” it said.

The Army said the “injured braves have been kept there since their arrival from Galwan to ensure quarantine from COVID areas. The Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane and the Army Commander have also visited the injured braves in the same location.”

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.

NEWS MAKERS

Nagaland Bans Sale, Consumption Of Dog Meat

The Nagaland government on Friday banned the sale and consumption of dog meat, in a significant decision amid concerns over cruelty to animals.

The decision to ban commercial import and trading of dogs, and sale of dog meat, both cooked and raw, was taken during a state cabinet meeting, said state Parliamentary Affairs Minister Neiba Kronu.

Considering the dangers of importing dogs from other states for consumption and also in line with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the state cabinet took the decision, Kronu, who is the spokesperson of the government, said. The government also decided to ban



commercial import and trading of pigs with immediate effect, he said. The state already banned the import of pigs following the outbreak of swine fever in the region and the cabinet gave approval to it in the meeting, he said.

“The state government has

decided to ban commercial import and trading of dogs and dog markets and also the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked. Appreciate the wise decision taken by the state’s cabinet,” Chief Secretary Temjen Toy said in a tweet.

IIT Roorkee Develops Technology For Smooth Driving In Foggy Weather

DEHRADUN: The Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, has developed a system to facilitate smooth driving and minimise accidents in foggy weather conditions. A team of researchers at the premier institute has developed an efficient architecture and algorithm to enable better driving experience in low visibility conditions, said an IIT-Roorkee press release. Hundreds of road accidents are caused due to fog every year. The research has been published in the journal IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems. “The objective of this research was to design a system for real-time defogging that produces a clear image stream from the input foggy frames,” said Brajesh Kumar Kaushik, one of the researchers. “The collision of vehicles due to poor visibility caused by fog leads to numerous fatalities annually. This advanced defogging system will aid drivers by providing real-time information and minimise the risks of road and train mishaps due to fog,” said Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi, Director, IIT, Roorkee. PTI

CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR



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 worth Rs, 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.

--sd--
General Secretary.

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