



Maximum : 20°C
Minum : 14°C
Humidity : 83%

SUNSET
Today 07:40 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:34 AM



News Digest

Medical Team Attacked In Kunzar

Baramulla: A medical team was on Monday attacked by the local villagers in Kunzar area of Tangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The incident took place when the medical team from Kunzar hospital was on COVID sampling drive, officials said, adding that a group of people attacked, abused them and damaged their vehicle in Ogmuna village of Kunzar. Block Medical Officer (BMO) Kunzar, Dr Rukaya told KNO that soon after the medical team entered into the village for COVID-19 sampling, a group of people came and attacked their vehicle. She termed the incident as unfortunate. She said they have registered a complaint in this regard in Police Station Kunzar. Meanwhile, Police Officials from Kunzar confirmed the incident and said "we have registered a case in this regard while father investigation has been taken up."

ACR Rajouri To Head Shahdara Sharief Waqaf

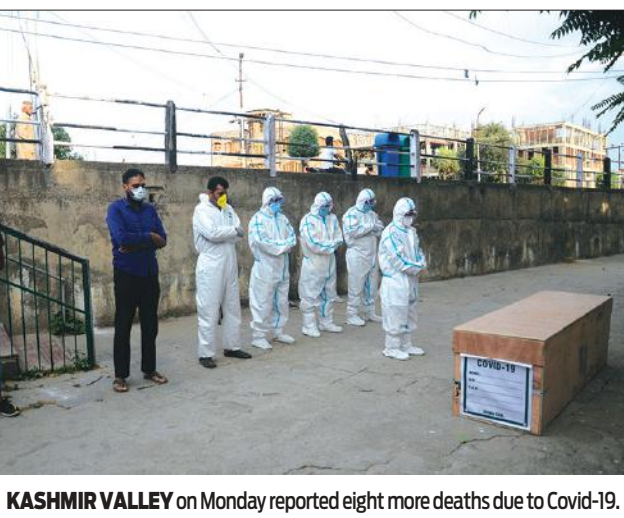
SRINAGAR, JULY 20: The government today ordered Assistant Commissioner Revenue Rajouri, Mohammad Ashraf to hold charge of administration/management of Waqaf, Shahdara Sharief Rajouri and Waqaf of all the tehsils of district Rajouri except erstwhile tehsils of Nowshera and Sunderbani with immediate effect in addition to his own duties. With the implementation of Central Waqaf Act 1995 in Jammu and Kashmir, government in another order terminated appointment of Abdul Qayoom Dar, as Administrator, Waqaf, Shahdara Sharief, Rajouri and for all the tehsils of district Rajouri except erstwhile tehsils of Nowshera and Sunderbani. He shall also be deemed to have been relieved from all the assignments related to management of Waqaf Shahdara Sharief and other tehsils with immediate effect.

PDD Employee Electrocuted In Sopore

Sopore- A 45-year-old employee of Power Development Department (PDD) was electrocuted to death on Monday morning in Yaseen Colony Arampora in north Kashmir's Sopore. A PDD employee who was repairing High volt 11000 KV line at Yaseen colony Arampora received an electric shock and died on the spot, reported news agency KNO. The deceased PDD employee was identified as Sanaullah Dar from Selo Sopore. Meanwhile, Police Station Sopore has registered a case in this regard and started investigation into the matter.

Advisor Khan's Mother Passes Away

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday extended his heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Khalida Begum, mother of Farooq Khan, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor. Terming her as a noble and compassionate soul, the Lt Governor said that she was a philanthropist, always working for the welfare of the public. In a condolence message, the Lt Governor prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss



KASHMIR VALLEY on Monday reported eight more deaths due to Covid-19.

Biggest Day Spike Of 751 Cases In J&K, Tally 14650

51 CRPF, 16 ACB Men Among New Infections; 463 More Recover

SRINAGAR: The re-imposition of restrictions in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir have failed to curb surge of Covid-19 cases, raising questions about the strategy adopted by the authorities in the district.

On Monday Jammu and Kashmir reported the biggest single day spike in Covid-19 infections with 751 additions including 51 CRPF personnel, 16 from ACB headquarters here besides ten pregnant women.

Among the fresh cases 240 were reported from Jammu and 511 from Kashmir division which also include three BSF personnel and as many policemen and seven minors including one year-old baby.

Giving the district-wise breakup of the cases, officials said, Srinagar

reported 171, Baramulla 40, Shopian 62, Anantnag 11, Kupwara 3, Pulwama 111, Budgam 94, Bandipora 9, Ganderbal 10, Jammu 12,

Kathua 13, Rajouri 23, Udhampur 33, Ramban 90, Samba 2, Doda 32, Poonch 1, Kishtwar 22 and Reasi 12.

Meanwhile, 463 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals. They include 64 from Jammu Division and 399 from Kashmir. With them, 8274 have recovered including 1800 in Jammu and 6474 in Kashmir.

A large number of cases were confirmed at SKIMS diagnostic lab and among them Anantnag ones include female (20) from Pushu Market, two males (26, »PAGE 02

THE BANDIPORA CASES INCLUDE female (29) from Naaz Colony, two males (32, 29) from Bsf Camp Madder Bandipora, two males (55, 28) from Wangipora, male (30) from Shadipora Bandipora, male (51) from Sumbal.

Covid-19 Claims 8 More Lives, J&K Toll 254

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley on Monday reported eight more deaths attributed to Covid-19, taking the fatality count due to the microbe to 254 in J&K.

Those who succumbed to the virus include a 60-year-old man from Tankipora, 70-year-old-man from Zoonimar, a 65 year-old resident from Zakura area, a 65-year-old woman from Shadimarg Pulwama, 60-year-old Neehama Pampore, a 65-year-old from Pootshah Rafiabab in Baramulla and two Kupwara residents.

Regarding the man from Rafiabab, they said, he died at 9:40 a.m., on Monday morning. "He was suffering pneumonia besides other underlying ailments," they said.

About Neehama Pampore

resident, they said he had tested positive for the virus on July 14.

Meanwhile, a 65-year-old woman from Shadimarg area of Pulwama died at SMHS hospital last night.

Admitted on July 7, she was diagnosed with "bilateral pneumonia" and came out to be positive for the virus subsequently, they added. The others died during the course of the day.

With these deaths, 234 people in Kashmir and 20 in Jammu have died so far due to the covid-19.

Srinagar district with 63 deaths has the highest fatalities followed by Baramulla (53), Kulgam (24), 19 each in Shopian and Budgam, Anantnag (18), Pulwama (14), Kupwara (15), Jammu(12), »PAGE 02

After 'Strike', Both People And Doctors 'Need To Own Up To Their Faults'

After some emotionally-charged attendants roughed up healthcare workers in a Srinagar hospital lately, the medical staff responded with a shocking strike amid Covid crisis. Even as doctors are back on duty, the move has triggered a mixed response at a time when unavailability of some 'vital drug' is leaving the valley breathless.

Sajad Bhat

SOME recent broadcasted images from hospital chambers reminded many of the vintage valley's dissenting streets strewn with bruised bodies. Certain roughed up Covid-designated medical staff walked out of the ward turned war-turf on shoulder support. Others could be seen writhing in pain.

According to some eyewitnesses, ire erupted in Srinagar's SMHS hospital and targeted the health workers after some attendants—whose patients were



gasping for breath in the Covid-cramped chambers—were told that the hospital is devoid of the "vital drug": Remdesivir.

Following another attack, doctors went on a strike. While demanding security from administration, the protesting medical staff said they can't face public anger for government's inability to stock up hospitals with the vital drug.

"We are here to tackle the current warlike situation," said a senior doctor from SMHS hospital. "But it seems the twitter-savvy administration is hell-bent to make punching bags out of us. If only it could've stockpiled Remdesivir in hospitals, people wouldn't have resorted to violence against us." »PAGE 02

WE ARE HERE TO TACKLE THE CURRENT WARLIKE SITUATION," SAID A SENIOR doctor from SMHS hospital. "But it seems the twitter-savvy administration is hell-bent to make punching bags out of us. If only it could've stockpiled Remdesivir in hospitals, people wouldn't have resorted to violence against us."

US Lawmakers Urge China To Step Back From Ladakh

WASHINGTON: Voicing concern over the recent Chinese military aggression against India, a bipartisan group of nine influential Congressmen have introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives, urging Beijing that it should work towards de-escalating the situation at the border through existing diplomatic mechanisms and not by force.

The troops of India and China are locked in a standoff in several areas along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh since May 5. The situation deteriorated last month following the Galwan Valley clashes that left 20 Indian Army personnel dead.

Led by Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, other co-sponsors of the Congressional resolution are Indian-American Congressman Ro »P-02

Preventing Burial Of Covid Dead Un-Islamic: Mufti Nasir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam Monday declared objections to bury the dead Covid-19 victims in local graveyards by some people as un-Islamic.

"Objection to the burial of those who die due to Covid-19 pandemic in local graveyards is totally against the basic tenets of Islam and the principles of humanity", Mufti said on Monday.

Mufti Nasir said that he has received scores of complaints from the residents of various areas of Srinagar that the patients who succumbed to the pandemic at various hospitals are later denied burial in their respective graveyards. "I couldn't sleep for the whole night after

coming to know that our own Muslim brothers are objecting to the burial of those who die of Covid-19 in graveyards. I received complaints on phone and also various delegations visited my office seeking my opinion on the issue," he said.

Mufti Nasir said that there is no opinion or a need to issue a fatwa. "What treatment should be meted out to those who object to burial of Covid-19 patients, if they themselves die of the same virus? Should they be burnt?", he questioned.

He urged people across Kashmir to wake up and instead of objecting to the burial of such patients, facilitate their burial while following proper guidelines which include wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). »PAGE 02

3 BJP Workers Who Met LG Test Positive For Covid-19

KUPWARA: At least three BJP workers, part of a delegation that met Lt Governor GC Marmu during his Kupwara visit on July 18 have tested positive for the Covid-19, official sources said on Monday.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu had visited frontier district Kupwara to take stock of the developmental activities there. He also had interacted with several delegations, including representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, Traders Federation, Auqaf Committees, Transporters, Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association as well as the senior citizens and some BJP workers.

A local news gathering agency Kashmir News Trust reported quoting sources that three BJP workers who also met LG have been declared positive for »P-02

14,000 Non-Local Labourers Arrive in 1 Week

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Health experts in Kashmir Monday warned of a big 'catastrophe' if the free flow of non-local labourers arriving from different parts of mainland India in Kashmir is not checked.

Official figures suggest that more than 14,000 non-local labourers have arrived in Kashmir between July 14 and July 20 and the number is set to rise in the days ahead as bus loads of them are on their way to Kashmir valley, as per videos circulating on social media.

Health experts have already sounded an alarm, saying the situation would turn ugly in case the arrival of non J&K workforce is not controlled or at least regulated. What is more dangerous is that the non-local workers spread to all over Kashmir and they don't



stay at a one particular place or in a district given the nature of work they are involved in.

Authorities have already declared all the ten districts of the valley as containment Red-Zones earlier this month and imposed fresh restrictions on locals to slow

down the spread of COVID-19. However, the influx of non-local labourers from different parts of India including Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa continue.

A Government spokesman on Monday claimed that »PAGE 02

Omar Threatens To Sue Over Congress Leader's Sachin Pilot Dig

SRINAGAR: NC vice president Omar Abdullah on Monday reacted angrily to comments attributed to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bupesh Baghel apparently linking his release from nearly nine months' detention to the revolt by Sachin Pilot against the Congress government in Rajasthan.

Abdullah, a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, and his National Conference (NC) have threatened to initiate legal action for defamation against Baghel.

Congress leader Baghel was quoted by a prominent English newspaper saying that "...and as far as Sachin Pilot is concerned, not that I have been tracking the Rajasthan events so closely, but it does make one curious why »P-02

Is Pandemic Cause Of New Spurt In CRPF Suicides In Kashmir?

Abid Bashir

SRINAGAR: Amid Covid-19 pandemic, suicide and fratricidal incidents among security forces especially paramilitary CRPF men have shown an upward trend in the Kashmir Valley with ban on availing leave to go home and meet families being cited one of the major reasons for suicidal tendencies among forces personnel.

On Monday morning, a CRPF personnel committed suicide by shooting himself dead with his service rifle at his unit in Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar. "An inquiry has been ordered to find out the reason that led him to take this extreme step," a CRPF official said. Today's incident came just three days after a CRPF man posted at a hotel in Dalgate area of Srinagar 'accidentally' shot himself with his service rifle. He was critically injured and is battling for life at

Army's 92 base hospital in Srinagar.

On July 6, two Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) men were killed in a fratricidal incident in a court complex in Kulgam district of south Kashmir. The duo had resorted to an argument before shooting each other dead with their service rifles. Earlier on May 12, two CRPF personnel committed suicide by shooting themselves with their service rifles in two separate incidents in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

On the same day, a CRPF Assistant Sub-Inspector, Bengali Babu, committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle at his 49th battalion camp in Srinagar. Furthermore, on March 21, a CRPF jawan posted outside Civil Secretariat in Srinagar, committed suicide by shooting himself dead with his service rifle.

The rise in suicide cases among CRPF personnel have, however been directly linked with the »PAGE 02

13 Years On: Family Of 13 Year Old Rape Victim Awaits Justice

HANDWARA: The family of a teenage girl who was gang raped and murdered in North Kashmir's Kupwara by four men still await justice. The family demands capital punishment for the rapists on the pattern of Delhi's famous Nirbhaya case.

On this day in 2007, the 13 year old Tabinda Ghani was raped and murdered by four men after abducting her when she was on her way to home from school. The criminals were later identified as Sadiq Mir alias Saeda Tsoor, Azhar Mir alias Billa, both residents of Langate, Mochi Jahangir of West Bengal and Suresh Kumar of Rajasthan.

A case vide FIR number 152/2007 U/S 302, 376 and 34 RPC was registered and after investigation, police had filed charge



sheet against the accused. Kupwara District Court judgment gave a verdict on April 24.

2015 and the accused were sentenced to death for offences under section 302/34 RPC.

"Each of the convicts was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of seven years for offence

punishable under section 363/34 RPC. The convicts were also sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years for the offence punishable under sections 376(G)/34 RPC. They were also sentenced to simple imprisonment of one month for offences punishable under section 341/ 34 of RPC. The sentences shall run concurrently," judgment reads.

The culprits approached the High Court where the single bench upheld the judgment of the district court. The case is now pending with the double bench of the High Court.

The family of the Tabinda said that there is undue delay and they eagerly wait for the day when all the criminals will be hanged to death. "When Nirbhaya's rapists were executed, »PAGE 02

New Consumer Protection Act Comes Into Force; Govt Notifies Rules

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, that seeks to set up a regulator to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumer came into force on Monday with the government notifying rules for its implementation.

The government has notified rules for establishing Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), Central Consumer Protection Council, Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission,

mediation, product liability, and misleading advertisements, among others, under the Act.

Parliament last year approved The Consumer Protection Bill 2019, replacing the 1986 Act. The law seeks to revamp the process of administration and settlement of consumer disputes, with strict penalties, including jail term for adulteration and misleading ads by firms.

"The earlier law was time-consuming to provide justice to consumers. The new act has been introduced after many amendments

to provide protection to buyers not only from traditional sellers but also from the new e-commerce retailers/platforms," Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan said.

Rules for implementation of the new law have been notified. However, rules on e-commerce and CCPA will be notified by the weekend and on direct selling will take some more time, the Consumer Affairs Minister added.

Stating that the new law is "revolutionary", Paswan said it provides for setting up of the

CCPA which will carry out inquiries and investigations in matters relating to consumer rights, unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements.

Under the e-commerce rules, he said it has been made mandatory for e-tailers to display details about price, expiry date, return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, modes of payment, grievance redressal mechanism, payment methods, the security of payment methods, charge-back options, etc.

They are also required to display 'country of origin' which are necessary for enabling the consumer to make an informed decision at the pre-purchase stage on its platform.

Under the rules for consumer dispute adjudication, Paswan said the new law enables consumers to file complaints electronically and file complaints in consumer commissions that have jurisdiction over the place of his residence, video conferencing for hearing and deemed

admissibility of complaints if the question of admissibility is not decided within the specified period of 21 days.

The adjudication process has been simplified in consumer commissions and also empowers State and District Commissions to review their orders, he said.

Concerning alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, Paswan said the law provides for 'mediation'. "There will be no appeal against settlement through mediation," he said. A complaint will

be referred by a Consumer Commission for mediation, wherever scope for early settlement exists and parties agree for it. The mediation will be held in the Mediation Cells to be established under the aegis of the Consumer Commissions, he added.

As per the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission Rules, the Minister said that there will be no fee for filing cases up to Rs 5 lakh. There are provisions for filing complaints electronically, credit of amount due to unidentifiable consumers to the Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF).

Biggest Day Spike Of 751...

30) from Fatehpora, female (38) from Razalpora, male (65) from Gulshanabad, male (65) from Bijbehara, male (35) and female (32) from Bonard Shangus, two males (23, 14) from Lehendajan, male (50) from Kadipora Anantnag, male (65) from Anantnag.

The Bandipora cases include female (29) from Naaz Colony, two males (32, 29) from Bsf Camp Madder Bandipora, two males (55, 28) from Wangipora, male (30) from Shadipora Bandipora, male (51) from Sumbal.

The Budgam cases include female (42) from Charari Sharief, female (27) from Gomboora, two males (28, 25) from 2 RR Aripanthan, male (24) from Khanda, male (26) from Dangerpora Chattergam, female (27) from Khosabagh BK Pora, male (40) from Buchroo, female (25) from Chattergam, female (45) from Gath Narbal, male (48) from BK Pora, female (47) from Dadompora, two females (18, 40) from Main Budgam, male (24) from Handjum, male (33) from Hajibagh Soibugh, male (39) from Gotapora Budgam, male (41) from Budgam, male (36) from Stc. Bsf Budgam, male (28) from 182 Crpf Budgam, female (24) from Magam Budgam.

The Srinagar cases include male (50) from Bemina, two males (43, 70) and female (63) from Rawalpora, two females (65, 26) from Bemina, two males (50, 80) from Noorbagh, female (56) from Chatabal, male (34) from crpf Headquarters, female (60) from Dargah, male (35) from SKIMS, male (35) from Gilli Kadal, male (51) from Rajbagh, female (54) from Bemina, male (26) from Tangmarg, female (53) from Nawakadal, male (42) from Baghat, male (50) from Lalbazar, male (43) from 1011 Bsf Humama Srg, male (60) from Buchpora, female (52) from Hawal, male (55) from Nishat, male (55) from Soura, male (49) from Batamalo, male (35) from Motiyar Rainawari, female (28) from Khandai Mohla, female (25) from Khanki Mohla, male (65) from Kralpora Baghe Mehtab, male (66) from Eidgah, female (30) from Nishat, female (19) from Ilahibagh, male (55) from Bagh Mehtab, male (60) from Eidgah, female (33) from Hawal, male (31) from Ahmed Nagar, female (60) from Lalbazar, male (65) from Bemina, male (50) from Khabal, male (72) from Zoonimar, male (57) from Rainawari, male (62) from Qamarwari, male (62) from HMT, male (62) from Chatabal, two males (18, 65) from Elahibagh, Buchpora, male (50) from Karan Nagar, male (82) from Lalbazar, male (33) from Lathpora, male (58) from Rajbagh, male (60) from Lalbazar, female (50) from Sonwar, female (70) and male (22) from Soura, female (70) from Gojwara Srinagar.

The CRPF cases include male (38) from 79 Bn Crpf Sonwar Snr Srg, male (39) from Hq/144 Bn Crpf Nehru Park Snr Srg, twenty nine males (35, 50, 30, 28, 43, 32, 39, 54, 32, 28, 29, 27, 45, 32, 29, 57, 35, 51, 32, 42, 38, 47, 31, 25, 54, 37, 24, 30) from 185 Bn Crpf Lethpura Pulwama, eight males (54, 49, 50, 45, 35, 51, 40, 41) from Gc Crpf Ram Bhag Snr, eight males (35, 28, 29, 35, 41, 38, 37, 35) from 23 Bn Crpf Karan Nagar Snr Srg.

The Ganderbal cases include male (42) from Saloor, female (25) from Wussan Manigam, female (40) from Chattergul Kangan, two males (28, 32) and female (45) from Wakura, male (54) from Ilahibagh, female (28) from Bakura Akusteng, male (33) from Waskura, male (40) from Chanduna Ganderbal, female (NA) from Kangan.

The Pulwama cases include female (39) from Aakhram, male (35) from Kakapora Pulwama.

The Shopian cases include male (24) from Shopian. The Baramulla cases include female (48) from Tangmarg, male (55) from Pattan, male (40) from Noorbagh Baramulla.

The Kupwara cases include male (38) from Drugmulla Kupwara, male (55) from Lolab Kupwara.

The Kulgam cases include a female (65) from Yaripora Kulgam and one female (60) from NA.

CD Cases

The CD cases include female (65) from Chandgam, female (27) from Naina, female (30) from Panzgam, male (33) from Panzgam, male (36) from Panzgam, male (26, 36) and female (08) from BB CANT SRINAGAR, male (45) from Dangerpora Sopore, female (20) from BUdden Rafiabab, female (30) from Behrampora Baramulla, three males (45, 41, 35) from DPL Baramulla, male (65) from Bemina, female (44) from Habbakadal, male (16) from Rajbagh, female (38) from Hyderpora, male (75) from Balgarden, male (28) from Batamalo, female (27) from Nigeen, male (54) from Alochi Bagh, female (23) from Alochi Bagh, female (28) from Batamalo, male (39) from Nowgam, five males (07, 03, 02, 03, 39) and female (32) from Rawalpora, female (25) from Kralpora, female (43) from Kawdara, two females (67, 45) and male (50) from Koolipora, male (40) from Nowpora, male (48) from Mir Mohalla Malarattha, male (NA) from Bandipora, male (45) from Hazratbal, male (28) from from Kothi Bagh, male (31) from Kothi Bagh, male (17) from Chattabal, male (56) from Rawalpora, male (33) from Sheikpora, male (19) from Shalimar, male (33) from Rajbagh, male (40) from Kothi Bagh, male (38) from Shalimar, male (55) from HMT, male (57) from from TRC, male (59) from Indra Nagar, male (41) from Habadakal, N/A (43) from Naid Kadal, male (60) from Saderbal, male (31) from Soura Srg, male (41) from Karanagar Srg, male (31) from Rawalpora Srg, male (30) from Lolab Kupwara, male (40) from Karfali Mohalla, female (55, 33, 15, 24, 04) from Karfali Mohalla, female (46) from Rawalpora, male (35) from Panthachowk, male (55) from Rainawari, male (32) from Soura Srg,male (28) from Zakura, two females (28, 25) from Hyderpora Srg, sixteen males (47, 44, 42, 42, 30, 34, 34, 41, 40, 32, 42, 49, 45, 35, 31, 45) from ACB HQ Peer bagh, female (55) from Lal Bazaar Mughal Road Mohalla Hamza Lane, male (16) from Kawdara, female (37) from Khanyar, male (50) from Lal Bazaar Umar Colony, female (58) from Sona Masjid Karfali Mohalla, female (35) from Sona Masjid Karfali Mohalla, female (05) from Sona Masjid Karfali Mohalla, female (12 months old) from Sona Masjid Karfali Mohalla, male (37) from khankha Moulla, male (30) from Kawdara, male (17) from Kawdara, female (25) from Noorbagh, male (18) from Bana Mohalla Fateh Kadal, female (39) from Bana Mohalla Fateh Kadal, male (35) from Mahraj Gung Sgr, four females (18, 28, 13, 52) from Nigeenbagh Sopore, two females (25, 23) from Reban Sopore, male (48) from Hanfiya Colony, male (25) from Khanpora Baramulla, male (25) from Nowpora Sopore, male (43) from Model Town Sopore, male (20) from Bottingoo Sopore, two males (24, 54) from Nigeenbagh Sopore, male (70) from Srinagar, male (27) from Waniloo Tangmarg, male (20) from Chakoor, male (47) from Reem Sidco Lassipora, male (98) from Tamilhal, male (23) Male from Chakoor, male (61) from Natipora, male (34) from Tulbagh, Pampore, female (44) from Murran Pulwama, female (28) from Achan Pulwama, three males (39, 40, 40) from DPL Pulwama, male (34) from Tumlahal Pulwama, female (35) from Tral E Payeen, two males (68, 61) from Buchpora Srg, male (72) and female (36) from Hyderpora, male (30) from Baghat Srg, male (NA) from Baramulla, male (52) from Nishat, male (70) from Zakura, male (32) from Bemina Srg, male (47) from Cheshmashahi Srg, male (56) from Batpora, male (40) Langate, male

(26) from SBI Kupwara, female (35) from Shanpora Hazratbal, male (50) from NA, male (40) from Khanyar.

Covid-19 Claims 8 More...

Bandipora (5), Ganderbal (4), two each in Rajouri and Doda and one each in Poonch, Udhampur, and Kathua. (GNS)

After ‘Strike’, Both People...

Soon after the shocking strike, vtriol and vexing reactions flooded Kashmir's virtual space.

"Our young and energetic resident doctors are risking their lives by serving our community under testing circumstances," Dr. Muzaffar Maqbool, Researcher and Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, GMC Srinagar, said. "Please cooperate."

An angry doctor termed the public fury as a psychopathic action against the "Covid warriors"—whose role has currently become crucial for the community.

"Now you know why doctors leave this beautiful hell and settle abroad?" wrote Dr Zainub Nabi, a 'surgeon in making' at GMC, Srinagar.

Soon as the social media din over the controversy became deafening, many blamed the "critical reporting" done on medical staff by some Kashmiri journalists for the 'attack on the apron'. Netizens even likened some social media active scribes with a prime-time shouting anchor from the mainland.

However, coming to the rescue of the "helpless" medical staff, some users exhorted angry attendants to hold administration accountable instead of assaulting doctors.

"Kashmir, if you are upset with the prevailing conditions in hospitals, hold powerful holier than thou administration and politicians accountable," a twitter user said.

"The frontline workers doctors, nurses, staff are equally helpless."

But some users took part in the debate to call out the 'false sense of entitlement' in doctor community 'who're only doing their job'.

"Beating of doctors by some Kashmiri 'miscreants' isn't acceptable but medical negligence is criminal too," a twitter user said.

"In garb of aprons, 'some' doctors are dangerous than uniformed army personnel. Both are saviours, who kill."

Many also attributed the recent attacks to "drunk on arrogance" behaviour from the medical staff. "Firstly, any violence upon doctors must be condemned," Ikram Ullah, a scribe from Kashmir, tweeted.

"However, as I have said before, there has to be strict accountability of doctors. All doctors are not noble, as we like to believe. There are these 'holier than thou', self-declared 'cream of the society'."

Amid scorn and solidarity, some doctors rose above the blame game and said that both doctors and patients are Kashmiris, who can't abandon each other at the crisis situation.

"We are all on the same side," wrote Dr. Shazia Shafi, an eye surgeon. "Please all of you, me included, let's focus on our problems and health as united people of Kashmir. Stand with your doctors."

Some even blamed the nomenclature for the public wrath on doctors.

"When doctors dub as administrators, shit will hit the fan, because you don't have administrative expertise," twitter user Mehvash Riyaz said.

"In Kashmir, administrative decisions at hospitals have since forever been taken by doctors. But when accountability is sought they conveniently say, 'It's not on us.'"

These are exceptional circumstances, Mehvash said. "And it's only getting worse. People and doctors alike need to own up to their faults, only then there may be a slight chance of muddling through this. Otherwise we're doomed. Or maybe, we already are."

US Lawmakers Urge China...

Khanna and lawmakers Frank Pallone, Tom Suozzi, Ted Yoho, George Holding, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Haley Stevens and Steve Chabot.

In the months leading up to June 15, along the Line of Actual Control, the Chinese military reportedly amassed 5,000 soldiers; and is trying to redraw long-standing settled boundaries through the use of force and aggression, the Congressional resolution says.

Noting that India and China have reached an agreement to de-escalate and disengage along the Line of Actual Control, the resolution says that on June 15, at least 20 Indian soldiers and an unconfirmed number of Chinese soldiers were killed in skirmishes following a weeks-long standoff in Eastern Ladakh, which is the de facto border between the two countries.

"The Government of the People's Republic of China should work toward de-escalating the situation along the Line of Actual Control with India through existing diplomatic mechanisms and not through force," the Congressional resolution said.

It is the sense of the Congress that there is significant concern about the continued military aggression by China along its border with India and in other parts of the world, including with Bhutan, in the South China Sea, and with the Senkaku Islands, as their aggressive posture toward Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The resolution comes days after the House of Representatives Caucus on India and Indian-Americans in a letter to India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, said that over the last few months, the Chinese authorities have been acting with impunity and have attempted to transgress on the LAC, which resulted in diplomatic discussions to implement a process for de-escalation along the LAC on July 6.

It was led by Congressmen Holding and Brad Sherman and signed by seven other lawmakers.

"It is my hope that they scale back on their excessive weaponry and infrastructure at the Line of Actual Control and uphold both their longstanding and new founded agreements with India," said the lawmakers who offered their condolences to the families of the fallen soldiers.

"We are disappointed that China has been acting in contradiction to their agreements with India, in their attempt to change the status quo and challenge Indian troops at the border," the letter said.

Last week, Senator Bob Menendez, Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said US-India partnership, based on their shared commitment to democracy, is vital to uphold international law, international norms and the institutions that can peacefully and diplomatically resolve disputes and aggression.

"As India and China work to disengage along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), I remain deeply concerned by China's aggressive behaviour in territorial disputes," Menendez said.

"From the 2017 Doklam standoff to the recent violence along the borders in Sikkim and Ladakh, to China's new claims to Bhutanese territory, Beijing has all too often sought to redraw the map of Asia without regard for its neighbours," he said.

Top Republican Senator Marco Rubio also recently called on India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu to express his solidarity with the people of India as they firmly confront unwarranted and lawless armed aggression by the Communist Party of China.

"India has made it clear, they will not be bullied by Beijing," he said.

Senator Tom Cotton too slammed China of its aggression against India. "China has resumed its submarine intrusions in the Japanese contiguous zones and picked deadly fights with India at high altitude," he said.

"Just go around the horn. You started in India, where, high up in the Himalayas, China has essentially invaded India, an ally of ours. And they have killed 20 Indian soldiers," Tom Cotton told Fox News in a recent interview.

Preventing Burial Of Covid...

The Grand Mufti also appealed to the clergy to make people aware of some fringe elements who are trying to add more salt to the injury of those who lose their dear ones due to the deadly pandemic, by objecting to the burial of bodies in local graveyards. "It's the prime responsibility of clergy and all the responsible people to ensure that whosoever dies of Covid-19, is given a proper burial in their respective graveyards. Those who object should be ostracised as they are not humans but elements trying to divide the Kashmiri society," Mufti Nasir said—(KNO)

3 BJP Workers Who Met LG...

Covid-19 infection. As the news about these workers broke, DDC office Kupwara was fumigated and the employees who managed the affairs during LG's visit have been quarantined.

Chief Medical Officer, Kupwara, Dr Kounsar admitted that three members in BJP delegation that had met LG on Saturday have been declared Covid positive. "We are trying to identify all the contacts of these BJP workers and they will be quarantined and tested," she said.

District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Ansul Garg told the agency that while meeting with LG, members maintained a wide distance. "We had taken all the precautionary measures but yet, the contacts of these infected people, including security personnel have been traced and even some employees have been quarantined," Garg said adding that DC office Kupwara has already been fumigated.

Omar Threatens To Sue Over...

Omar Abdullah was released? He and Mehbooba Muftiji were booked under the same Sections of the law, while she is still languishing, he is out. Is it because Mr. Abdullah is brother-in-law of Sachin Pilot?"

Pilot is married to Omar Abdullah's sister Sara Abdullah.

The Congress has accused the BJP of being behind the rebellion by Pilot which led to his removal from the post of the deputy chief minister as well as the state party chief.

Reacting to Baghel's comments, Omar Abdullah tweeted, "I am fed up of the downright malicious and false allegation that what Sachin Pilot is doing is somehow linked to my or my father's release from detention earlier this year. Enough is enough. Mr @bhupeshbaghel will be hearing from my lawyers."

He also tagged Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Randeep Singh Surjewala and the Congress party in his tweet.

The NC also issued a statement expressing "strong objection" to Baghel's statement, saying it has "maliciously suggested" that the release of Abdullah from preventive detention was somehow related to Pilot's revolt or the present political situation unravelling in Rajasthan.

"The Party unequivocally rejects such malicious, false and politically motivated statements that are used for convenient political posturing," the statement said, adding it was "false and scurrilous" and defamatory to the reputation of Abdullah as well.

The party said that it was a public knowledge that Abdullah was released after he had approached the Supreme Court challenging his illegal order of detention.

"Given the indefensible nature of the illegal detention order, the same was revoked by the government during the course of the proceedings before the Supreme Court," the statement said, adding "we have taken cognizance of the libelous statement of Mr. Baghel and we are presently in the process of consulting our lawyers and shall be initiating appropriate legal action" against him.

Abdullah was taken into preventive detention during the intervening night of August 4 and 5, hours before the Centre announced the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcation of the state into union territories—Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Hours before his preventive detention was to end after completing the mandatory six months, Abdullah was booked under the stringent Public Safety Act in February this year. However, on March 24, the PSA order for his detention was revoked after his sister Sara approached the Supreme Court challenging it.

Besides Abdullah, a host of other leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, including PDP leader and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti were taken into custody in August last year.

14,000 Non-Local Labourers...

all the new arrivals including non-local labourers go through screening and their samples are being taken at the designated place which includes toll plaza Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu highway. However, a video that went viral on social media takes a lid-off the government claims as a group of non-locals when asked whether they had undergone mandatory tests for Covid-19 they replied in negative. The video has been captured by some locals on Srinagar-Jammu highway.

Noted influenza expert and President of Doctors' Association of Kashmir, Dr Nisar-ul-Hassan said no outsider should be allowed to enter Kashmir till the situation gets normal on ground. "Hospitals are already overloaded with confirmed cases of COVID-19 and there is no letup in fatalities as well. The government should immediately stop free movement of non-local labourers before everyone in the valley falls prey to deadly pandemic," he said.

"All the entry and exit points need to be sealed and no outsider shall be allowed to enter Kashmir. Situation is grim and the entry of non-locals may have far reaching consequences. Since we have poor health infrastructure, we may not be able to cope up with the situation, it would surely be a catastrophe."

Is Pandemic Cause Of New...

prevailing pandemic as it is evident by the suicide notes left by a couple of CRPF men who took the extreme step. A suicide note of one of the CRPF men who shot himself dead read: "I am afraid, I may be Corona positive.... Better to die."

A senior CRPF official said that every incident is followed by an internal inquiry but one of the main reasons why "boys are taking extreme step" is that they are not able to go on leave and meet their families. "Back home, their families are worried too, which increases mental pressure for the boys on duty in Kashmir, which is a challenging place. Even though regular counselling sessions are being held for the CRPF men in the morning and evening, still the level of stress on their minds remains due to coronavirus outbreak," he said.

Special Director General of CRPF Zulfikar Hassan said that every suicide case in the CRPF ranks has a different reason. "Remaining away from the families may be one of the reasons. Jawans haven't been able to avail the leave facility since March. So it's been over four months, they haven't seen their families. We have taken steps to prevent such incidents among our men," he said.

Asked whether the number of incidents are more this year so far compared to last year, the top CRPF officer however said that the numbers are far less than last year. "Every incident is followed by an inquiry and accordingly measures are taken," he said—(KNO)

13 Years On: Family Of 13 Year

why then were the rapists and killers of minor Tabina alive," the family members questioned.

They demanded that the case should be taken up on priority basis. "We appeal to the Chief Justice of J&K High Court to speed up the trial so that justice is served," they urged. (KNT)

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SATHU PAYEEN BAGHWANPORA, BARBARSHAH, SRINAGAR, KMR.

Jammu Bans Bovine Transportation

JAMMU, JULY 20: District Magistrate Jammu, Sushma Chauhan, has ordered a ban on transportation of bovine animals such as cows, oxen, bulls, calves etc from Jammu to other districts except with the permission from District Magistrate/ Additional District Magistrate in this regard. The restrictions have been imposed as a preventive measure for a period of two months to curb illegal transportation of bovine animals in the district which disturbs public peace and tranquility.

VC IUST calls on Lt Governor

SRINAGAR, JULY 20: Prof. Mushtaq A. Siddiqi, Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), called on the Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu at the Raj Bhavan here today. Prof. Siddiqi briefed the Lt Governor about the status of the ongoing teaching and research programmes in the University, besides various issues of academic and administrative importance. Completion of Chancellor's Commitment projects and various works under PMDP were also discussed. The Lt Governor appreciated the University for contributing towards the efforts against COVID-19 through innovations like developing and designing low cost ventilators, negative pressure chambers etc.

CS Reviews Flood Preparedness in Srinagar City

Says timely communication with public a top priority

SRINAGAR, JULY 20 :-The Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam today chaired a meeting of officers to review flood preparation and response mechanism in place in Kashmir division. Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary stressed on maintaining fool proof preparation and effective response mechanism to deal with any eventuality that may arise due to a flood like situation. In this regard, he called upon Divisional Administration to devise flood management and mitigation plans immediately. Chief Secretary also impressed upon the officers to take proactive measures to augment effective flood preparation and response and ensure that works are completed in time for prompt flood response. He gave directions on raising of embankments at all vulnerable spots, dredging of flood channels and stocking of sand bags, besides making proper arrangements to mobilise



men and machinery in time of any exigency. Chief Secretary asked the officers to strengthen the flood control room and properly equip it for prompt relief and rescue operations. While reviewing pace of execution of flood management related works, Chief Secretary directed timely completion of work on Shariefabad and Naidkhai bridges. Regarding rescue and relief measures, he directed the concerned to increase intake capacity of evacuation centres/ rescue shelters and ensure therein the

availability of tents, standby power, fuel, and essential supplies including ration, drinking water, masks, sanitizers and personal hygiene facilities/products. Additionally, stationing of special teams of doctors and paramedics at all vulnerable areas was also stressed upon. Further, SMC was directed to conduct a cleanliness drive in entire Srinagar city for immediate declogging of all drains, besides installing solar powered high mast lights in all flood prone areas for the hassle-free evacuation during floods. SDRF was instructed to ensure

training of personnel for prompt response during floods. "Rescue teams should be in high level of preparedness through regular mock drills and duty rosters of officials should be prepared beforehand", Chief Secretary said. Regarding protection of important installations like telephone exchanges, instructions were issued for relocation of critical equipment and technical infrastructure so as to ensure uninterrupted mobile connectivity during flood like exigencies. The Chief Secretary directed the use of advance warning system for issuing weather alerts and disseminating evacuation and flood related information through Radio/TV. The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Chief Engineer I&FC, Director Metrology Department, Joint Commissioner SMC, ADC Srinagar and officers of other concerned departments.

PHDCCI Head Calls on LG

SRINAGAR, JULY 20: Chairman, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Kashmir, Baldev Singh Raina, today called on the Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu here at the Raj Bhavan and submitted a Road map for revival of Economy of Union Territory of J&K. The Chairman discussed with the Lt Governor about various important issues to mitigate the direct and indirect economic effects on the people due to COVID-19 pandemic, besides bringing reforms in all major economy sectors. He sought Lt Governor's intervention for

nomination of PHDCCI, J&K in all Boards, Advisory Committees, Task Forces, Apex Level Consultative Committee (ALCC) and District Level Monitoring Committee (DMC). He further put forth various issues including macadamization of city roads, lanes and all main roads leading towards tourist destinations; implementation of National Handicraft and Handloom Development programmes for socio-economic empowerment of Handicraft Artisans, Handloom and Carpet Weavers etc. The Lt Governor observed that the UT Government has taken various significant

initiatives like Housing Policy; Waiver of stamp duty on fresh loans; Accelerated recruitment; Excise Policy; Digitization of Land Records; approval of Real-Estate Rules; e-Stamping; Education Investment Policy; preparation of Global Investors Summit to attract investment in private sector, besides various Policy Reforms are in the pipeline for the overall development of J&K and welfare of its people. He assured the Chairman, PHDCCI that the issues projected by him would be looked into meticulously for their early redressal.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL
ARAMPORA, PATTAN.

FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC session 2019- 2020

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Ttu-tion Fee	Annual Dues	Fee	Remarks
01	05th Class	380=00	970=00		
02	04th Class	350=00	970=00		
03	03rd.th Class	330=00	970=00		
04	02nd.th Class	320=00	870=00		
05	1st.th Class	300=00	870=00		
06	U.K.G.	270=00	400=00		
07	L.K.G.	260=00	400=00		
08	NURSERY	220=00	2500=00		

CHAIRMAN
MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL
ARAMPORA, PATTAN.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL
AHMADPORA, PATTAN.

FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC session 2019- 2020

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Ttu-tion Fee	Annual Dues	Fee	Remarks
01	08th Class	550=00	2100=00		
02	07th Class	500=00	2100=00		
03	06th Class	450=00	3000=00		
04	05th Class	380=00	1600=00		
05	04th Class	350=00	1600=00		
06	03rd.th Class	330=00	1600=00		
07	02nd.th Class	320=00	1500=00		
08	1st.th Class	300=00	1500=00		
09	U.K.G.	270=00	400=00		
10	L.K.G.	260=00	400=00		
11	NURSERY	220=00	2500=00		

Note: 100% concession in tution fee is given to orphans students arid 50% concession to handicapped students and wards of employees.

Chairman
Madina Public
School Ahmad Pora Pattan

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL
HANJIWEERA PAYEEN, PATTAN.

FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC Session 2019- 2020

S.NO.	Class	M o n t h l y Ttution Fee	Annual Dues	Fee	Remarks
01	05th Class	380=00	970=00		
02	04th Class	350=00	970=00		
03	03rd.th Class	330=00	970=00		
04	02nd.th Class	320=00	870=00		
05	1st.th Class	300=00	870=00		
06	U.K.G.	270=00	400=00		
07	L.K.G.	260=00	400=00		
08	NURSERY	220=00	2500=00.		

Note: 100% concession in tution fee is given to orphans students and 50% concession to handicapped students and wards of employees.

Chairman
Madina Public School
Hanjiweera Payeen

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

29 Zu al-Qa'dah
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 54
ZUHR	12: 37
ASR	5:34
Magrib	7:43
ISHA	9:19

This Day In History

- 1921 - To prove his contention that air power is superior to sea power, US Colonel William Mitchell demonstrates how bombs from planes can sink a captured German battleship
- 1933 - Haifa Harbor in Palestine opens
- 1947 - Indonesia begins 1st political election
- 1951 - Dalai Lama returns to Tibet
- 1960 - In Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) Sirima Bandaranaike is world's 1st woman PM
- 1961 - Launch of Mercury 4 (Liberty Bell) with Grissom
- 1962 - Battles on Chinese & Indies boundary
- 1965 - Pakistan, Iran & Turkey sign Regional Co-Operation pact
- 1969 - Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to step on the Moon at 2:56:15 AM (GMT)
- 1969 - Russia's Luna 15 impacts moon after 52 lunar orbits
- 1970 - Aswan Dam opens in Egypt, enables human control of the flooding of the Nile
- 1972 - Bloody Friday: within the space of seventy-five minutes, the Provisional Irish Republican Army explode twenty-two bombs in Belfast; six civilians, two British Army soldiers and one UDA volunteer were killed, 130 injured
- 1973 - USSR launches Mars 4 for fly-by (2600 km) of red planet
- 1974 - US House Judiciary approves two Articles of Impeachment against President Richard Nixon
- 1977 - Libyan-Egyptian border fights
- 1978 - US Postal Service & unions agree on a contract averting mail strike
- 1978 World's strongest dog, 80-kg St Bernard, pulls 2909-kg load 27 m
- 1984 - USSR performs underground nuclear Test
- 1986 - Pleasure Island plans unveiled
- 1988 - ESA's Ariane-3 launches 2 communications satellites (1 Indian)
- 1994 - Tony Blair is declared the winner of the leadership election of the British Labour Party, paving the way for him to become Prime Minister in 1997.
- 2002 - Telecom giant WorldCom files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the then largest such filing in United States history
- 2004 - The United Kingdom government publishes Delivering Security in a Changing World, a paper detailing wide-ranging reform of the country's armed forces.
- 2011 - NASA's Space Shuttle program ends with the landing of Space Shuttle Atlantis on mission STS-135
- 2014 - After 3 weeks, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) has struck about 2,800 targets in Gaza, while Gaza has fired 1,497 rockets at Israel

From KO Archives

Car-Bomb Attack In High Security Zone

Major among 3 soldiers, Civilian killed; 20 injured

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - Militants attacked passing army vehicles in the high security Ram Munshi Bagh area with a powerful car bomb this morning, leaving a civilian and three security men, including an army major, dead. Twenty others, including five women and four security personnel were injured in the blast. The attack took place at around 9: 10 am near the Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium close to the Burn Hall School when an explosive-laden Maruti car blew up just as army vehicles were passing by. The residences of several ministers, politicians and senior bureaucrats are located in the area, and it remains under round-the-clock vigil of the police and the security forces. Eye-witnesses, quoted by the CNS, said they saw the driver of the Maruti car leap out and disappear through a lane after slowing the vehicle down. The Maruti rammed in to an army Gypsy and was hurled several feet into the air by the explosion, they said. The police, quoted by the PTI, said that the explosion occurred in a stationary vehicle. The Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, which has owned responsibility for the blast claiming to have inflicted heavy casualties on the security forces, has said that it was a suicide attack. The blast killed Major Kupil Vinayak, two other personnel, identified as Ram Krishen and Subhash Chander, and a civilian. Naseer Ahmad Bhat of Buchwara, Dalgate, who worked as an accountant in the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST). Those injured in the attack include Kaiser Hussain Mir of Pandrethan, Abdul Rahman Wani of Sonawar, Shugufta of Haft Chinar, Ruby Akhtar, Ghulam Qadir Dhoobi, Muhammad Sultan, Abdul Majeed Ganai, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani and Azad Ahmad Khan of Dooru Anantnag, Muhammad Suban of Zero Bridge, Ghulam Muhammad Bhat, Sakina Akhter of Tangmarg, Convent School employee Roshni Akhtar, constable Tahmina, Dara Singh of Mattan, Muhammad Yousuf Wani of Haft Chinar, and Narendar Hakka of Shivpora. Two of the four injured security personnel have been identified as Shankar Rao and driver Ghosh. The blast, which was heard over a large area, left the area strewn with bleeding bodies and twisted metal of damaged vehicles. The Maruti car used in the blast was blown to bits and only its engine could be recovered by the police. The army Gypsy was wrecked, and three other vehicles were damaged. Window panes of the nearby LIC office, the Highland Motors showroom, the official residence of the chief justice of the state high court, and several other buildings were smashed by the impact of the explosion.

(Kashmir Observer, 21 July, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
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Editorial: (0194) 2502327
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Involve the community

The figures tell a story about the Covid-19 cases in Kashmir: The count has now gone well past 13000 cases. Out of these cases, 5,797 are active positive, 7,165 have recovered and around 250 have died, most of them in Kashmir. Srinagar district with 62 deaths has the highest fatalities followed by Baramulla at 50, On Saturday, for the first time, the number of patients recovered were higher than those who tested positive on a single day. Patients, numbering 607, were cured and discharged from different hospitals in the union territory even as 441 new cases were reported. Similarly, of the total of over 13000 cases, 3,202 have been reported as travellers.

Since most of the active numbers are concentrated in the Valley, it is challenging to tackle them for the existing healthcare infrastructure. Any upgradation of the medical infrastructure over the past four months isn't sufficient to treat the surging number of cases.

Going forward the situation doesn't give any confidence. At the current rate, the number of cases are going to be far too many in near future to be handled by our doctors. More so, when the healthcare professionals are also now indicating that the community transmission might have already set in. The situation, we are given to believe, has aggravated after the government took steps to open up the economy. And which is also important. It is not possible for people to remain in a perpetual state of lockdown. This has already wrought havoc with the economy. More so, in Valley which has been under lockdown for the past twelve months. This has led to a loss of employment for thousands of people. The vital sectors of our economy like tourism, horticulture, handicrafts have been hit hard. So, perpetuating the lockdown is not an option. What the administration can do and which is eminently possible is to create more awareness about social distancing norms and take action against the people and the businessmen who violate it. It is time people are made responsible for their own health. We have to ensure that both life and livelihood are saved.

And to this end, the government will have to run an aggressive awareness campaign about the disease. It has to also work towards involvement of the community by charging village, locality elders, mosque managements etc to ensure people follow the safety precautions. Government should also enlist the youth for the purpose. This will go a long way to make a redeeming difference to the attitude of the people towards the contagion and in turn arresting its spread.

OTHER OPINION

Undying tale

The Narendra Modi government had given India a unique gift; it is sheer bad luck that the novel coronavirus should compel its withdrawal. The gift was not willingly given, but had the government not pushed through the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens for the whole country then the months-long sit-in at ShaheenBagh, Delhi would not have happened. At the time, the government was on a roll, pushing through legislations on the strength of its majority in Parliament against protests from the Opposition and sections of the people as though democracy was just a crude matter of numbers, ignoring questions about the discriminatory purpose of the CAA and the possible exclusionary intention of the NRC, while allowing the violent repression of protests. Then ShaheenBagh happened.

Muslim women from a locality of that name came out of their houses and sat on the ground close by: without fuss, they said this was their land and they would not leave it for CAA or NRC or anything else. Their gathering radiated peace, goodwill and welcome — the prime minister never did accept their repeated invitation to tea so that they could 'talk' — and they spoke of no religious cause. They held up the Constitution and the Indian flag. Their presence, day after day, even through the Delhi winter, showed India what peaceful protest is like: immovable, democratic — there were no leaders, only organizers — and completely disciplined, united in a common purpose. It was as though elements from the visions of Gandhi and Ambedkar, whose picture was displayed, had taken shape. Only political leaders with their speeches were forbidden. The women's presence under their own agency was a glorious example of the equality the Constitution aims at. They came from precisely that segment of the population that various shades of political and privileged opinion, with condescending concern, considered to be backward, voiceless and put upon in their own society. ShaheenBagh gave divided and misogynistic India that immemorial moment when not just members of a community often discriminated against, but its women, led a quiet and intransigent protest movement that no one could match. Its hold on constitutional ideals was unmatched too. Muslim women led a truly secular movement which all communities, classes, ages and genders could join, help or participate in, and which spawned similar movements across the country. ShaheenBagh shone as a microcosm of what India was meant to be — and can still become.

No pandemic can take ShaheenBagh away. That two books have been published on it is one manifestation of the deep impression it has made on many. The character of the protest would ensure that many more would have felt its transforming touch than the books can reach. It is now a reference point, a dream of the possible, a revelation of potential to which, irrespective of text books, history can keep aspiring.

Telegraphindia

Give People Credit

In an afflicted economy, J&K Bank must rise to the occasion. Here's how



WAJAHAT QAZI

All in all, before the liquidity crisis in Kashmir morphs into a full-fledged insolvency crisis, J&K bank must rise to the occasion and create conditions for the economic uplift of our society

Jammu and Kashmir Bank is perhaps the backbone of our economy. In fact, it underwrites the economy of J&K. Amidst a lockdown that has been extended (right or wrong I am not debating that), the bank has a special role to play to rescue both the livelihoods of people and keep businesses-MSMEs and SMEs afloat. The question is how? Whilst I plead guilty to the charge of neither being an economist nor a banker, I would proffer a set of suggestions that might salvage our economy which has incurred losses in thousands of crores since the past year and even longer.

The bank can and must, against the backdrop of almost non-existent fiscal space in J&K, must keep credit flows open. Admittedly, this poses a risk in terms of profitability for the bank and a possible overshooting of Non-Performing Assets (NPA's) and the distinct possibility that the loans and their interest repayment will create leverage on companies' balance sheets and not investment. This would assume salience against the backdrop of a dwindling net interest margin (NIM) of and for banks (Net interest margin is the difference between the interest income of banks and the interest paid to lenders). The decrease, accruing from a poor macro and micro economic environment, presupposes a decrease in both net and operating profits of the bank. Against this condition, increasing or enhancing credit flows would sound irrational but there is no other way out.

Enhanced credit flows can be offset against loan loss provisioning and perhaps increasing the capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of the bank and prudential regulations thereof. Obitier dictum, the present conditions and increasing the CAR - both tier one and tier II capital - might warrant increasing the deposit share of J&K bank by taking the bank, so to speak, to what are traditionally called the non-bankable segments of the population. The bank can even go on a deposit taking binge. In terms of enhanced credit flows, at this

critical juncture, these can lead to a positive spiral of investment and consumption that J&K is in dire need of. This, in the least, is the assumption and the theory with empirical evidence to back up with.

While credit must be extended to all kinds and forms of businesses, but if the businesses in contention have scale that qualifies them to be either a start-up or an MSME, then what the bank must ensure as a stipulation is develop a criterion that should be coeval with or as important as collateral: the requirement of robust and sound business model and plan. (In Kashmir, often times, what is in vogue is the 'project report' which has a rough equivalency with the business plan but there's hardly a demand for business models. This lacuna must be redressed. If one properly, it will make new businesses more efficient and effective and after uncertainty in Kashmir is accounted for perhaps even more prudential.

The problem and the major uncertainty are and remain the future economic outlook and the nature of the recession induced by the Covid 19 pandemic. No one now can know its form and nature. Would then increasing credit flows at this point constitute shooting itself in the foot by J&K bank? Not necessarily. JK's economy, is not necessarily aligned to economic developments elsewhere even though it is affected by these in a convoluted way. The region's economy is decoupled from that of the world; the nature and form of the recession while it would have an impact will not necessarily be the same as elsewhere. This means that even if there is a rebound and uptick in economic activity in other parts of the world, the same might not happen in J&K.

This makes J&K Bank's role more salient and its activism, for want of a better word, important. If the overall profitability of the bank will suffer and take a hit, what can the bank alternatively do to boost income and profitability. There can be two ways for this.

One is to eke out cost savings from operations. It amounts to stating the obvious that there exist large inefficiencies in the operational side of the bank. If and when these are weeded out, cost savings can accrue without cost cuttings (read without layoffs) in the bank. The most pedestrian of techniques to weed out operational efficiencies would be business process re-engineering (BPR) and allied techniques. And to boost the overall income and profit of the bank along with operational efficiency of the bank would be to engage in trading activities, bonds, derivatives, stocks and so on. If there is an extant trading department of the bank, it needs to be more robust and effective. If done well, it can enhance the bank's profitability and cushion it against economic issues that might emerge. In the developed world, well known banks, have made a killing by trading activities which has offset their loan losses.

J&K's economy is in crisis but crisis can also be touchstone for opportunities. If the suggestions made here are taken up by the bank, it should also set the institution thinking on its future direction and nature. What I have in mind is for the bank to become a financial conglomerate with a diverse and diversified set of activities that not only validates its historical role as the underwriter of J&K's economy but also take the region's economy to a new level.

All in all, before the liquidity crisis in Kashmir morphs into a full-fledged insolvency crisis, J&K bank must rise to the occasion and create conditions for the economic uplift of our society. This is not charity. Besides inhering in the bank's charter and remit, this particular institution has a duty to perform. But this need not, as demonstrated here, undercut its income and profitability. Let the bank then do a serious rethink and approach both the Covid 19 and post Covid 19 world in a way that is both dexterous, efficient, effective and moral.



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When a patient dies, why is a doctor beaten?

The recent incidents of life-threatening assault on doctors by some goons, though not new by any means, are certainly disheartening and disturbing. Why does a patient die? The reasons can be many. Lack of proper infrastructure, unavailability of an ambulance to transfer the patient, lack of life saving drugs, lack of trained medical staff and so on. I didn't include the most common reason cited by the Kashmiri attendants, 'negligence by doctors' in the list because negligence is a qualified term and more importantly no doctor in his right senses would want to kill a patient intentionally. If only I could anticipate high standards of understanding and acceptance among the common masses, would I include the actual reason for death which is 'death

is inevitable'. Let that sink in. No matter how much we advance technologically, we will not be able to conquer death. Everyone has to die one day, you and me included. When people die in hospitals, you beat doctors. But when they die at home, do you beat yourself, your wife, your kids, your neighbors. Exactly who do you take out your frustration on.

I just saw a video of a man sharing his anguish regarding the delay in getting the dead body of one of his relatives, pending COVID testing. I was feeling his pain till he uttered this sentence 'kisi doctor kasarphodahi. Lekin is hisab se theek hi kiyahai'. I cannot express the amount of disgust I felt looking at his face and suddenly the feeling of sympathy vanished. This statement was disgusting for me but not demoralizing. What is demoraliz-

ing for me is that in a place like Kashmir where scores of relatives flock your house for an issue as minor as vomiting or diarrhea, a top administrator from SMHS comes to a doctor in casualty who has just survived an attack on his life and suffered seizures and has the cheek to tell him 'ye sab to hhotarehtahai'. It kills the compassion inside me as well as the little respect, if any left, for our administrators.

As a doctor, I don't expect any patient to thank me or think high of me. Let them call us killers or donation doctors or murderers or whatever they wish, on facebook and behind our backs. The problem I have is with anyone physically harming a doctor and with the failure of the administration to ensure the safety of doctors.

Don't think of yourselves as heroes or brave people when you attack

doctors in groups of 10-20 in the dark of the night. You don't do it out of angst or concern for the health of your patient. You are just a frustrated person who seeks gratification by taking out your frustration on a vulnerable section of the society. When was the last time you attacked some policeman who was taking undue advantage of his power or a clerk who wouldn't forward your file without some emoluments or some politician who consumed the funds that were meant for the healthcare facilities that don't exist now.

Recognize yourself for who you are: a coward.

And the administration should also recognize themselves for what they are: a failure.

Faizan Shah
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12 Ways To Help Overcome Social Anxiety

CHLOE BROTHERIDGE

Act confidently. There are a large number of adults suffering from social phobia and crippling shyness. You can learn to be confident in the same way you learned to ride a bike. Act more confidently and people will react positively. This doesn't mean you need to be the class clown or the centre of attention. It's just about being more assertive. Something that feels terrifying at first will gradually feel better each time

Social anxiety disorder is often misunderstood and many people could be suffering in silence. It's much more than feeling shy and not wanting to speak up in big groups. It can really take control and impede your everyday life. Anxiety Care UK states that social anxiety is a common and distressing condition with as many as 40 per cent of the population suffering from it.

The good news is that there are ways to develop new habits to help ease and overcome your social anxiety.

1. Challenge your negative and anxious thoughts. At times it may feel like there's nothing you can do about the way you feel and how you think. In reality though, there are a number of things that can help. Challenging your mentality and negative thoughts can be an effective way to reduce symptoms of social anxiety. Start by identifying the anxious thoughts that automatically pop into your head when you think of social situations. Next, analyse these thoughts and challenge them. Question why you think like this and if your first reaction is actually how you feel or you're just always assuming the worst. Changing the way you think is a long journey and is not an immediate fix but the mind is a powerful thing and it is possible.

2. Be mindful. Being mindful and practicing mindful meditation helps you to be present and aware of your thoughts and feelings in a nonjudgmental and positive way. In a study published in the journal Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, researchers found that meditation has effects on activity in particular areas of the brain. Participants who had normal levels of anxiety took part in four 20-minute mindfulness meditation classes. They found up to 39% decrease in anxiety levels after mindfulness training.

3. Go to a coffee shop. If you enjoy watching movies online or catching up on your favourite tv show then try taking your tablet or laptop to your nearest coffee shop. Do an activity you like and feel comfortable with, in an environment that would usually make you anxious. You have the familiarity and comfort of being able to concentrate only on what you're doing but will be pushing your boundaries. Hopefully, you can push yourself but remain in your mental comfort zone at the same time.

4. Create an exposure hierarchy. Identify and rate how each social situation makes you feel in terms of anxiousness. For example, 0 would mean no anxiety and 10 would be a full-blown panic attack. Make a list and write down how you think you would feel for every situation, no matter how small or big. From walking into a room at a gathering to asking a stranger on the tube for the time. It's important to write down on a piece of paper your predictions so that when the times comes to experience it, you know how you thought you would feel.

5. Don't focus on yourself. It's hard to



stop the endless mind chatter when you're in situations that make you particularly anxious. We often turn inward and focus on ourselves and how others will perceive us, almost always assuming it will be negative. The thought that everyone will be looking at you when you walk into a room and judging you in one way or another. This isn't the case. Stop focusing on yourself and what other people are thinking of you. Focus on other people, try to be present and make genuine connections. No one's perfect so try to be in the moment and actually listen to what is being said.

6. Adopt a healthier lifestyle to reduce anxiety. The mind and body are linked and how you treat your body can have a significant impact on the rest of your life including your anxiety levels. By making small lifestyle changes, these can help to improve your self-confidence and your ability to cope with anxiety symptoms. Avoid or limit your caffeine intake by not drinking coffee or caffeinated drinks after a certain time. Energy drinks act as a stimulant and can increase anxiety symptoms. Make physical exercise a priority in your day and always try to be active at some point, even taking a brisk walk during your lunch hour is a great way to fit it in.

plenty of water, stay hydrated and get enough high-quality sleep. When you're deprived of sleep, you're much more vulnerable to anxiety and your mood can be affected greatly. New research suggests that sleep deprivation can actually cause an anxiety disorder.

7. Take a breath. The physical symptoms of anxiety include increased heart rate, pounding chest, dizziness and muscle tension. Learning to take a minute and

slow down your breath can help you take back control of your body. Simply take a seat, get comfortable and take the biggest breath you've taken all day and hold it in for four seconds. Then exhale slowly, pushing out as much air as possible. Take another deep breath filling the stomach with air and continue until you feel your breath slowing down to its normal rate.

8. Act confidently. There are a large number of adults suffering from social phobia and crippling shyness. You can learn to be confident in the same way you learned to ride a bike. Act more confidently and people will react positively. This doesn't mean you need to be the class clown or the centre of attention. It's just about being more assertive. Something that feels terrifying at first will gradually feel better each time.

9. Find social situations and engage. Make a conscious effort to be more social. Actively look for supportive social environments that can help you overcome your fears. Perhaps start with a social skills training class. Here you can properly practice your social interactions before heading out into the real world. This will give you some tips on what to say and do when you find yourself in a social situation you're unfamiliar with or anxious about.

10. Be kind to yourself. Nobody's perfect and everyone feels embarrassed at one point or another in their life. Overcoming social anxiety is by no means easy. You'll have times where you think negatively and slip back into old habits. If you're feeling run down or tired, you may find yourself feeling more anxious than normal but it doesn't mean you've failed. Just take a minute, focus on the present and practice

the techniques you've been working on.

11. Talk. By overcoming social anxiety and shyness you will hopefully start feeling more confident during conversations. Talking to someone can be very challenging and knowing what to say isn't easy. Sometime's an awkward silence can feel like it lasts a lifetime. Talking to people gradually will help you be less anxious each time.

12. Face your fears. The final step is to face your fears. It's impossible to overcome social anxiety if you don't expose yourself to situations that make you anxious. By using avoidance as a tool to cope, you won't be helping yourself or encouraging personal growth. Numerous studies have shown that exposure therapy, facing your fears, is effective in treating anxiety disorders. Research does suggest, however, that exposure should be applied gently. Therefore take part in a social interaction or activity that only slightly provokes your anxiety and work your way up.

Overcoming social anxiety is a long journey and it takes time for new neural pathways for social interactions to form. Is your social anxiety is constantly interfering with your daily life? Then don't hesitate to seek professional help in whatever form you feel comfortable looking for. These are great ways to help overcome your social anxiety. Although it seems like an impossible obstacle, it's so worth overcoming so you can live your life to the fullest.

Chloe Brotheridge is a hypnotherapist and anxiety expert and the author of *The Anxiety Solution*.

Psychology Today

Masked Men And The Paranoia Of Pandemics

MICK O'REILLY

I have never read Dante's Inferno, the literary tale of the seven levels of Hell each worse than the other. But that's a book that came to mind as I descended into the bowels of London Underground last week.

For starters, the angle of the escalator on its relentless fall into the opening arch beneath has a gravity all of its own. There is no turning back, no way up once on the downward steps.

You are committed to an eternity of the Circle Line as it pitches and jolts through the darkness — each station a purgatory where lost souls might finally ascend into the light after their tortuous journey.

There is a deceptive stillness on the white ceramic tiled walls opposite the platform — the subway pattern often replicated by inferior interior designers, a subtle psychological torment to remind condominium owners and urbane urban yuppies of the underground unfurling beneath their city buildings.

The advent of the train, counted down on amber-lit digital signs, pushes a breeze ahead through the tube — like some monstrous dragon's breath about to consume commuters and all in its sure and steely footsteps.

The doors jerk aside, luring prey as they mind the gaps where many might disappear forever into a sub-platform abyss. And inside, all are wearing masks. It is like we sit — all bandits, banished from the light and air of the streets above where the pandemic is real.

Here, on the tube, over masks of blue, scarves of football teams, coverings of cloth, we eye each other suspiciously: Have they had it or have it or are they a super spreader determined to do their worst as we shake, rattle and roll our way through the intestinal tubes of London.

In the best of times, good air is hard to come by on the circle, the District, the Northern, the Victoria. These are not the best of times, and every breath



even through our woven shields seem to plague my thoughts, a paranoia of the pandemic.

As trains hurtle and hustle under the city above, the stations themselves remind of times when those in the Middle Ages were stricken by sickness and pestilence.

But the city has persevered and survived, rebuilt and thrived.

These cold cement platforms, these subway tiles, these tunnels and tubes, offered refuge and

quiet, calm and a good nights' sleep in times of bombing and blitz.

Londoners, in quilts and socks, pyjamas and blankets rested, not knowing if their homes would stand through the night. But there was safety in numbers then. Now, crowds are contagious, the risk multiplied.

I would gladly give up my seat not to an elderly or infirm person, but to a person who would dare sit in the vacant one beside mine.

There are those who appear at ease with this new norm. I do not. I haven't been on a tube train in months, long before the word coronavirus was ever uttered or pecked by my finders on a keyboard.

I find my temperature rising — yes, it is warm on the underground in summer — but wonder if this is the first signs that I am developing the symptoms. Is there sweat on my brow?

Can others see that I might be a carrier? Might they turn on me and somehow report me to those who reports are made. I am miffed that another masked man has taken the seat opposite me.

My nose starts to itch. Try as I might, I cannot help ... cannot stifle ... cannot stop ... "Achoo". I sneeze the sneeze of the damned.

"Bless you," the man opposite me mumbles through his mask.

Somehow, all is still right with the world.

There are those who appear at ease with this new norm. I do not. I haven't been on a tube train in months, long before the word Coronavirus was ever uttered or pecked by my finders on a keyboard

MUNDANE

Decisions, Actions Can Be 'Misremembered' As Done, STUDY EXPLAINS



Agencies

It is not a rare thing that people often forget to take daily medication or respond to that one email which they have been meaning to send at one point. New research has now found a reason as to why this happens. This research was co-written by a University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign expert who studies social psychology. The paper was published in the Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin. Mundane behaviours that are repeated over time and occur in the context of many other similar behaviours can lead people to

conflate intentions and behaviours and create false memories of completing the task, said Dolores Albarracín, a professor of psychology and marketing at Illinois and the director of the Social Action Lab. "Intentions and making plans typically improve task execution. We need them to function in society, to realize our goals and to get along with others. But when we form an intention at the moment such as 'I'm going to sign that form now,' and it's an activity we routinely perform, we want to complete the task when we form the intention," she said. "Otherwise, we don't actu-

ally sign the form. And the reason why is because the thought of wanting to sign the form can be misremembered as actually having signed it, in which case we'd be better off not having formed the intention to sign the form in the first place," the professor added. Across five studies, Albarracín and her co-authors investigated the previously unrecognized phenomenon of remembering having enacted a mundane behavioural decision when one only intended to do so, as well as its psychological mechanisms. "Our aim was to develop a lab-analog procedure entailing

relatively simple, repetitive, and similar behavioural decisions to create the conditions hypothesized to produce high levels of error," Albarracín said. Participants chose job candidates and either acted on the decision to hire them later, or made a judgment that was irrelevant to the behaviour. Following a delay, participants were asked to report whether they had acted on the decision or simply intended to do so for each person they had seen. "The methodology was carefully crafted to produce the necessary high level of errors we

were studying, to keep irrelevant characteristics constant across conditions, and to systematically manipulate enactment versus intention," said Albarracín, also a professor of business administration at Illinois. "If intentions play a causal role in producing misreports of behaviour, misreports should be more common in the intention than the control condition," Albarracín noted. The first two experiments showed misreports and subsequent performance errors even when controlling for guessing. Experiments three and four demonstrated greater

confusion when the physical involvement and mental criteria for intention and behaviour were similar. And the fifth experiment indicated that monitoring whether one has acted on a decision is highly effective at reducing errors and more effective than monitoring intention. "Our results highlight that behaviours will look to be more consistent with intentions when the behaviour is routine. The finding implies we should be more aware of the potential for error in these similarly trivial behaviours," she said. The paper has implications for

health care settings and any other situation where self-reporting of following through on action is critical, Albarracín said. "The fulfillment of routine, repeated behaviours can have meaningful consequences, and are part of, if not central to, many practical contexts," Albarracín said. "More generally, understanding the complexity of the intention-behaviour link and the possible unexpected effects of intention formation is essential to promote beneficial behaviours in many domains, ranging from financial decisions to a person's health," the professor added.

Curcumin In Turmeric Has Antiviral Properties



Agencies

Curcumin, a natural compound found in the spice turmeric, could help eliminate certain viruses, research has found. A study published in the Journal of General Virology showed that curcumin can prevent Transmissible gastroenteritis virus (TGEV) - an alpha-group coronavirus that infects pigs - from infecting cells. At higher doses, the compound was also found to kill virus particles. Infection with TGEV causes a disease called transmissible gastroenteritis in piglets, which is characterised by diarrhoea, severe dehydration and death. TGEV is highly infectious and is invariably fatal in piglets younger than thus posing a major threat to the global swine industry. There are currently no approved treatments for alpha-coronaviruses and although there is a vaccine for TGEV, it is not effective in preventing the spread of the virus. To determine the potential antiviral properties of curcumin, the research team treated experimental cells with various concentrations of the compound, before attempting to infect them with TGEV. They found that higher concentrations of curcumin reduced the number of virus particles in the cell culture. The research suggests that curcumin affects TGEV in a number of ways: by directly killing the virus before it is able to infect the cell, by integrating with the viral envelope to 'inactivate' the virus, and by altering the metabolism of cells to

prevent viral entry. "Curcumin has a significant inhibitory effect on TGEV adsorption step and a certain direct inactivation effect, suggesting that curcumin has great potential in the prevention of TGEV infection," said Dr Lilan Xie, lead author of the study and researcher at the Wuhan Institute of Bioengineering. Curcumin has been shown to inhibit the replication of some types of virus, including dengue virus, hepatitis B and Zika virus. The compound has also been found to have a number of significant biological effects, including antitumor, anti-inflammatory and antibacterial activities. Curcumin was chosen for this research due to having low side effects according to Dr Xie. They said: "There are great difficulties in the prevention and control of viral diseases, especially when there are no effective vaccines. Traditional Chinese medicine and its active ingredients, are ideal screening libraries for antiviral drugs because of their advantages, such as convenient acquisition and low side effects." The researchers now hope to continue their research in vivo, using an animal model to assess whether the inhibiting properties of curcumin would be seen in a more complex system. "Further studies will be required, to evaluate the inhibitory effect in vivo and explore the potential mechanisms of curcumin against TGEV, which will lay a foundation for the comprehensive understanding of the antiviral mechanisms and application of curcumin," said Dr Xie.

Study Focuses On Predicting Personality From One's Smartphone Data

Agencies

Everyone who uses a smartphone unavoidably generates masses of digital data that are accessible to others, and these data provide clues to the user's personality. Psychologists at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet in Munich (LMU) study how revealing these clues are. In a study that appears in the journal PNAS, a team of researchers led by LMU psychologist Markus Buhner set out to determine whether conventional data passively collected by smartphones (such as times or frequencies of use) provide insights into users' personalities. The answer was clear cut. "Yes, automated analysis of these data does allow us to draw conclusions about the personalities of users, at least for most of the major dimensions of personality," says Clemens Stachl, who used to work with Markus Buhner (Chair of Psychological Methodologies and Diagnostics at LMU) and is now a researcher at Stanford University in California. The LMU team recruited 624 volunteers for their PhoneStudy project. The participants agreed to fill out an extensive questionnaire describing their personality traits and to install an app that had been developed especially for the study on their phones for 30 days. The app was designed to collect coded information relating to the behaviour of the user. The researchers were primarily interested in data pertaining to communication patterns, social behaviour and mobility, together with users' choice and consumption of music, the selection of apps used, and the temporal distribution of their phone



usage over the course of the day. All the data on personality and smartphone use were then analysed with the aid of machine-learning algorithms, which were trained to recognize and extract patterns from the behavioural data and relate these patterns to the information obtained from the personality surveys. The ability of the algorithms to predict the personality traits of the users was then cross-validated on the basis of a new dataset. "By far the most difficult part of the project was the pre-processing of the huge amount of data collected and the training of the predictive algorithms," says Stahl. "In fact, in order to perform the necessary calculations, we had to resort to the cluster of high-performance computers at the Leibniz Supercomputing Centre in Garching (LRZ)." The researchers focused on the five most significant personality dimensions (the Big Five) identified by psychologists, which enable them to characterize personality differences between individuals in a comprehensive way. These dimensions relate to the self-assessed contribution of each of the following traits to a given individual's personality:

- (1) openness (willingness to adopt new ideas, experiences and values),
 - (2) conscientiousness (dependability, punctuality, ambitiousness and discipline),
 - (3) extraversion (sociability, assertiveness, adventurousness, dynamism and friendliness),
 - (4) agreeableness (willingness to trust others, good-natured, outgoing, obliging, helpful) and
 - (5) emotional stability (self-confidence, equanimity, positivity, self-control).
- The automated analysis revealed that the algorithm was indeed able to successfully derive most of these personality traits from combinations of the multifarious elements of their smartphone usage. Moreover, the results provide hints as to which types of digital behaviour are most informative for specific self-assessments of personality. For example, data pertaining to communication patterns and social behaviour (as reflected by smartphone use) correlated strongly with levels of self-reported extraversion, while information relating to patterns of day and night-time activity was significantly predictive of self-reported degrees of conscientiousness. Notably, links with

the category 'openness' only became apparent when highly disparate types of data (e.g., app usage) were combined. The results of the study are of great value to researchers, as studies have so far been almost exclusively based on self-assessments. The conventional method has proven to be sufficiently reliable in predicting levels of professional success, for instance. "Nevertheless, we still know very little about how people actually behave in their everyday lives -- apart from what they choose to tell us on our questionnaires," says Markus Buhner. "Thanks to their broad distribution, their intensive use and their very high level of performance, smartphones are an ideal tool with which to probe the relationships between self-reported and real patterns of behaviour. Clemens Stachl is aware that his research might further stimulate the appetites of the dominant IT firms for data. In addition to regulating the use of passively collected data and strengthening rights to privacy, we also need to take a comprehensive look at the field of artificial intelligence, he says. "The user, not the machine, must be the primary focus of research in this area. It would be a serious mistake to adopt machine-based methods of learning without serious consideration of their wider implications." The potential of these applications -- in both research and business -- is tremendous. "The opportunities opened up by today's data-driven society will undoubtedly improve the lives of large numbers of people," Stachel says. "But we must ensure that all sections of the population share the benefits offered by digital technologies."

Study Links Regular Physical Activity To Cognitive Development In Children

Physical activity is linked to better cognitive ability, which is in turn related to academic performance in school. As per the new study, physical activities can enhance cognitive functions especially in those who have the most room for improvement. The recent study was led by Associate Professor Keita Kamijo at the University of Tsukuba and Assistant Professor Toru Ishihara at Kobe University shows. Understanding the effects of physical activity on cognition has been difficult for several reasons. "Previous studies looked at the issue too broadly. When we broke down the data, we were able to see that physical activity helps children the most if they start out with poor executive function," explained Professor Kamijo. Executive functions refer to three types of cognitive skills. The first is the ability to suppress impulses and inhibit reflex-like behaviors or habits. To assess this ability, children were asked to indicate the color in which words like "red" and "blue" were displayed on a computer screen. This is easy when the words and colors match ("red" displayed in red font), but often requires inhibition of a reflex response when they don't ("red" displayed in blue font). The second skill is the ability to hold information in working memory and process it. This was evaluated by testing how well children could remember strings of letters that vary in length.

China Expands Amphibious Forces In Challenge To US Beyond Asia

Agencies

Hong Kong: China launched its military build-up in the mid-1990s with a top priority: keep the United States at bay in any conflict by making the waters off the Chinese coast a death trap. Now, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is preparing to challenge American power further afield.

China's shipyards have launched the PLA Navy's first two Type 075 amphibious assault ships, which will form the spearhead of an expeditionary force to play a role similar to that of the US Marine Corps. And like the Marines, the new force will be self-contained - able to deploy solo with all its supporting weapons to fight in distant conflicts or demonstrate Chinese military power.

The 40,000-tonne Type 075 ships are a kind of small aircraft carrier with accommodation for up to 900 troops and space for heavy equipment and landing craft, according to Western military experts who have studied satellite images and photographs of the new vessels. They will carry up to 30 helicopters at first; later they could carry fighter jets, if China can build short take off and vertical landing aircraft like the US F-35B.

The first Type 075 was launched last September and the second in April, according to reports in China's official military media. A third is under construction, according to the May edition of a Congressional Research Service report.

Eventually, the PLA Navy could have seven or more of these ships, according to reports in China's official military press.

Chinese military commentators quoted in official media say China's shipyards are now building and launching amphibious ships so rapidly it is like "dropping dumplings" into water.

The military rivalry between China and the United States is only growing sharper. Last week, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared most of Beijing's claims of sovereignty in the South China Sea illegal, throwing Washington's weight behind the rival claims of Southeast Asian nations over territory and resources in the strategic waterway that were supported by international law. China said the US position raised tensions in the region and undermined stability.

China's nascent amphibious forces still lag far behind those of the United States, but the speed of China's military rise has already shifted the balance of power in Asia. Over the past two decades, China has deployed an arsenal of missiles and a massive surface and sub-surface fleet to deter potential enemies from sailing in its coastal waters. Now, as part of an accelerated modernization of the PLA since Chinese President Xi Jinping came to power in 2012, these new amphibious ships and the specially trained marines they carry will boost Beijing's firepower and political influence far from its shores, according to Chinese and Western military analysts.



Oxford COVID-19 Vaccine Shows Promise In Early Testing: Study

Agencies

London: An experimental COVID-19 vaccine, being developed by the University of Oxford, was safe and produced an immune response in early-stage clinical trials in healthy volunteers, data showed on Monday.

The vaccine, called AZD1222 and being developed by pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca and scientists at Britain's University of Oxford, did not prompt any serious side effects and elicited antibody and T-cell immune responses, according to trial results published in The Lancet medical journal.

"We hope this means the im-

mune system will remember the virus, so that our vaccine will protect people for an extended period," study lead author Andrew Pollard of the University of Oxford said.

"However, we need more research before we can confirm the vaccine effectively protects against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) infection, and for how long any protection lasts," he said.

AstraZeneca's is among the leading vaccine candidates against a pandemic that has claimed more than 600,000 lives, alongside others in mid and late-stage trials.

include shots being devel-

oped by China's Sinovac Biotech, another from state-owned Chinese firm Sinopharm, and one from the U.S. biotech firm Moderna.

AstraZeneca has signed agreements with governments around the world to supply the vaccine should it prove effective and gain regulatory approval. The company has said it will not seek to profit from the vaccine during the pandemic.

Researchers said the vaccine caused minor side effects more frequently than a control group, but some of these could be reduced by taking paracetamol, with no serious adverse events from the vaccine.

Trump trails Biden in approval rating: Survey

Press Trust Of India

Washington: US President Donald Trump faces an uphill task in his re-election bid in November with his approval rating hitting a record low and Democratic nominee Joe Biden taking a double-digit lead in key indicators, according to a survey conducted by the Washington Post and ABC News.

The opinion poll, conducted July 12 to 15, shows how the coronavirus outbreak has adversely affected Trump's prospects.

Now, the president's hopes of winning are pinned on his enthusiastic core base of supporters and showing the electorate that the pandemic is being dealt with effectively, The Washington Post said in its report on the ABC News-Post poll.

Among registered voters, Biden, 77, leads Trump, 74,

adults. Results may have error margin of plus/minus 3.5 percentage points.

The survey said 54 per cent of Americans believe Biden would handle COVID-19 outbreak better than Trump. Only 34 per cent felt Trump was doing well tackling the pandemic.

In handling of the economy, Biden has made giant strides and is nearly on par with Trump in the opinion poll, the ABC News reported.

Biden edges out Trump by 9 points in crime and safety, which has been a major topic in the US after hundreds of anti-racism protests in the last two months.

On race relations, Biden has a lead of 25 points over his Republican rival (58-33 per cent). Trump's job approval rating has plummeted in the last two months, standing at 39 per cent positive and 57 per



cent negative. In the same category, Biden led Trump by just two points in March and by 10 points in May.

The survey found that traditional Republican and Democratic voters are treating the November polls as a referendum on Trump and not on whether Biden is a more suitable candidate, the report said.

Seventy-two per cent of Trump voters say reelecting the president is important, while 62 per cent of Biden voters say defeating Trump is the goal.

The Washington Post-ABC News poll was conducted by phone among a random American citizens sample of 1,006

cent negative.

Notably, 48 per cent of the surveyed 'strongly disapprove' Trump's way of doing his job, according to the Washington Post's article.

However, the president has managed to hold a positive view on his handling of the economy with 50 per cent of the surveyed saying they are happy with the US economy's performance and 47 per cent disapproving.

Biden is perceived to have a better personality and temperament to serve as president, holding 26 points advantage over Trump, the Washington Post reported.

UAE Launches Mars Mission From Japan, First Such By An Arab Nation



Agencies

Tokyo, Japan: The first Arab space mission to Mars, an unmanned probe dubbed "Hope", blasted off from Japan on Monday, in a bid to reveal more about the atmosphere of the Red Planet.

The Japanese rocket carrying the probe developed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southern Japan right on schedule at 6:58 am local time (2158 GMT Sunday).

The launch of the probe, known as "Al-Amal" in Arabic, had twice been delayed because of bad weather, but the Monday liftoff appeared smooth and successful.

Almost exactly one hour later, a live feed showed people applauding in the Japanese control room as the probe successfully detached.

"The launch vehicle trajectory was executed as planned and separation of the Hope spacecraft was confirmed," rocket manufacturer Mitsubishi Heavy Industries said.

In Dubai, the launch was met with rapturous excitement, with the Burj Khalifa - the world's tallest skyscraper - lit up hours before liftoff with a symbolic 10-second countdown in anticipation.

"This mission is an important milestone for the UAE and the region," said Yousuf Hamad AlShaibani, director of the UAE's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, at a post-launch press conference in Japan.

Bosnia Buries Six War Victims Recovered After 28 Years From Gorge

Agencies

Kamicani, Bosnia: Several hundred mourners gathered in the Bosnian village of Kamicani on Monday to bury six Bosniak Muslims killed 28 years ago in one of the most gruesome episodes of the 1992-95 war, with those present observing strict coronavirus precautions.

The victims, mainly prisoners from the wartime detention camps for non-Serbs near the town of Prijedor, were told they were being released in a prison exchange but instead were driven to the Korican Cliffs in central Bosnia, lined up on the edge of the ravine and shot by Bosnian Serb forces in August 1992.

Five were recovered from under rocks piled over their bodies while the sixth was unearthed from the Jablanica-Prosara mass grave, one of more than 70 mass grave sites in the area.

"I have been waiting for this day for 28 years ... 28 long, painful and sad years," Sanel Fazlic, 40, told Reuters while standing by flag-draped coffins containing the remains of his father and two uncles.

Relatives had planned to bury 30 victims but the coronavirus outbreak prevented many of those living abroad from attending.



Villages were razed, thousands were taken to detention camps, more than 3,000 non-Serbs were executed and tens of thousands were driven from their homes.

It has taken years to locate the mass graves and identify the victims. Last year 68 newly identified victims were buried in Kamicani and another 10 at other locations in the area.

The Prijedor area saw some of the most violent ethnic cleansing attacks in 1992 by the Bosnian Serb police and army against Bosniaks and Croats.

Villages were razed, thousands were taken to detention camps, more than 3,000 non-Serbs were executed and tens of thousands were driven from their homes.

Eleven Bosnian Serb ex-police were convicted of the crime, including Darko Mrdja who was jailed for 17 years by the Hague-based international war crimes tribunal. The remainder were convicted by the Bosnian war crimes court.

The suspected mastermind of the killing, Simo Drljaca, the Prijedor police chief, was killed in an exchange of fire with NATO-led peacekeeping forces in 1997 in their first attempt to arrest suspects still at large.

Ahead Of Court Verdict, Ex-SS Guard Apologises To Holocaust Victims

Hamburg: A 93-year-old former Nazi concentration camp guard apologised to Holocaust victims at a Hamburg court on Monday, ahead of the verdict in the high-profile trial over his complicity in the World War II atrocities.

"Today I would like to apologise to those who went through the hell of this madness, as well as to their relatives. Something like this must never happen again," said Bruno Dey from the dock.

In what could be one of the last such cases of surviving Nazi guards, Dey stands accused of complicity in the murder of 5,230 people when he worked as an SS tower guard at the Stutthof camp near what was then Danzig, now Gdansk in Poland.



The court is expected to issue its verdict on Thursday.

Prosecutors have sought three years in jail for the 93-year-old.

But in his summary on Monday, Dey's defence lawyer Stefan Waterkamp asked the court for an acquittal or a suspended sentence, saying his client "would not survive" jail.

Dey himself has denied any guilt for what happened at the camp, and said that the tri-

al had "cost a lot of strength".

"I would like to stress again that I would never have voluntarily signed up to the SS or any other unit - especially not in a concentration camp," he said in his final statements before the court delivers its verdict.

"If I had seen an opportunity to remove myself from service, I would have done so."

He added that he only became aware of the "extent of the atrocities" upon hearing witness testimonies and reports.

- 'Inhumane conditions' -

Dey is standing trial at a juvenile court because he was aged between 17 and 18 at the time.

Waterkamp, his lawyer, pointed out that such a young man could hardly have been expected to break ranks, and that the teenaged Dey "saw no escape".

Saudi King, 84, Admitted To Hospital For Gall Bladder Inflammation

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's 84-year-old ruler, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, has been admitted to hospital in the capital Riyadh, suffering from inflammation of the gall bladder, state news agency SPA said on Monday.

The king, who has ruled the world's largest oil exporter and close U.S. ally since 2015, is undergoing medical checks, the agency added, without giving details.

After the news, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi postponed a visit scheduled to Saudi Arabia, said Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said.

King Salman, the custodian of Islam's holiest sites, spent more than 2-1/2 years as the Saudi crown prince and deputy

premier from June 2012 before becoming king. He also served as governor of the Riyadh region for more than 50 years.

The de facto ruler and next in line to the throne is the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, widely referred to as MbS, who has launched reforms to transform the kingdom's economy and end its "addiction" to oil.

The 34-year-old prince, who is popular among many young Saudis, has won praise at home for easing social restrictions in the conservative Muslim kingdom, giving more rights to women and pledging to diversify the economy.

To the king's supporters, this boldness at home and abroad was a welcome change after decades of caution, stagnation and dithering.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL NOORIPORA, PATTAN.

FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC session 2019- 2020

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Ttution Fee	Annual Fee Dues	Remarks
01	10th Class	750=00	1200=00	
02	09th Class	700=00	3000=00	
03	08th Class	550=00	2100=00	
04	07th Cladd	500=00	2100=00	
05	06th Class	450=00	3000=00	
06	05th Class	.380=00	1600=00	
07	04th Class	350=00	1600=00	
08	03rd Class	330=00	1600=00	
09	02nd Class	320=00	1500=00	
10	1st.th Class	300=00	1500=00	
11	U.K.G.	270=00	400=00	
12	L.K.G.	260=00	400=00	
13	NURSERY	220=00	2500=00	

Note: 100% concession in tution fee is given to orphans students and 50% concession to handicapped students and wards of employees.

CHAIRMAN
MADINA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Arif S/o: Mohammad Talib Wani R/o: Pallar Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C-9748 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Co-operative Bank B/U Budgam. .



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1146
Dated 20-07-2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

Div Com Reviews Land Transfer Cases In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today chaired a meeting of concerned officials here to settle land transfer cases of Srinagar district pertaining to government departments.

During the meeting threadbare deliberations were held regarding various issues including transfer of State land measuring 796 kanals and 9 marlas within 200 meters periphery of Dal Lake.

The transfers of land measuring 125.5 kanals at Khonmoh, Panthachowk and 60 Kanals at Sempora Srinagar in favour of Industries and Commerce Department for establishment of Industrial Estate besides matter related to construction of Degree College at Allochibagh Srinagar were also discussed in the meeting.

On the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner directed the revenue authorities to sort out all the land transfer issues and ensure a demarcation process within 15 days, followed by handover and takeover by the concerned departments.

He also stressed for removal of encroachments on state land so that it is utilized for the purpose.

The Div Com also called upon all the officers present in the meeting to ensure that their departmental land and assets are properly registered and entered in revenue records.

He further asked the concerned to take all required measures into consideration as per law while transferring state land to government departments by taking quantum of land and type of land in consideration besides stressed for timely completion of the process.

India’s Covid-19 Case Tally Crosses 11 Lakh; Recoveries Now Over 7 Lakh



NEW DELHI- India’s COVID-19 case tally crossed the 11-lakh mark on Monday, while the total number of recovered patients increased to over seven lakh, according to Union health ministry data.

The death toll due to the disease rose to 27,497 with 681 fatalities reported in one day.

The data updated at 8 am on Monday showed that a record single-day jump of 40,425 COVID-19 cases had taken the total number of cases to 11,18,043.

India’s COVID-19 tally crossed the 11-lakh mark, just three days after it crossed the 10-lakh mark. This is also the first time that the single-day spike in cases has crossed the 40,000-mark.

There are 3,90,459 active cases in the country, while 7,00,086 people have recovered and one person has migrated. The recovery rate stands at 62.62 per cent.

As many as 22,664 COVID-19 patients have recovered from disease in the last 24 hours.

The number of recovered COVID-19 patients exceeds India’s active caseload by 3,09,627, as on Monday.

Medical attention is being provided to all the 3,90,459 active cases in hospitals and in home isolation, the health ministry said.

The case fatality rate in the country continued to register a steady decline, dropping to 2.46 per cent on Monday, the ministry said, noting that India has one of the lowest case fatality rates in the world.

“Effective clinical management of moderate and

severe cases through a well-executed standard of care protocol has ensured a high rate of recovery among COVID patients. The Centre is handholding and supporting State/UT governments in collectively combating COVID-19,” it said.

“One such initiative is e-ICU programme of AIIMS, New Delhi. Aimed at reducing mortality, AIIMS has mentored and supported 43 big hospitals in 11 states through shared experiences and technical advice from domain experts in clinical management of ICU patients,” the ministry said.

This has substantially boosted their capacity in treatment of critical care patients, it added.

The total number of confirmed cases includes foreigners.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 1,40,47,908 samples have been tested up to July 19 with 2,56,039 samples being tested on Sunday.

Of the 681 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, 258 were reported from Maharashtra, 91 from Karnataka, 78 from Tamil Nadu, 56 from Andhra Pradesh, 38 from Uttar Pradesh, 36 from West Bengal, 31 from Delhi, 20 from Gujarat and 15 from Madhya Pradesh.

The total fatalities in one day include nine from Bihar, eight each from Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, six each from Rajasthan and Telangana, five each from Haryana and Odisha, four from Assam, three from Jharkhand, two from Kerala, and one each from Goa and Ladakh.



A FISHERMAN casts his net in desolate Dal Lake. KO Photo Abid Bhat

DCs Authorised To Impose Penalty On Covid Violators

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, G C Murrmu, in exercise of powers conferred by section 2 of Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 (3 of 1897), has authorized all the Deputy Commissioners of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to impose penalties to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within their jurisdiction.

As per a notification issued here today in this regard, a penalty of Rs. 500 would be imposed on persons not wearing a mask in public places, Rs. 2,000 on persons violating the home quarantine instructions, Rs. 500 on persons spitting at public places, Rs. 2,000 on persons violating social distancing norms by owner of shops/commercial places while for violating the social distancing norms

by vehicle owners of Buses a penalty of Rs. 3000, of Cars Rs. 2000, of Auto Rickshaws and of Two wheelers Rs. 500 would be imposed.

Meanwhile, the notification further reads that non-payment of penalty, as aforementioned, by the violator will attract proceedings under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (45 of 1860).

Zoji-La Tunnel To Take 5 More Years: Govt Efforts On To Ensure Round-The-Year Connectivity To Ladakh

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam today chaired a meeting of National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), to review progress of various road projects being undertaken by them in Jammu & Kashmir.

Managing Director, NHIDCL, Administrative Secretaries, of departments of Revenue, Power Development, Public Works (R&B), Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir, Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Udhampur, Anantnag, Ganderbal and Baramulla among others participated in the meeting.

With regard to Kashmir province, it was informed that works on mega projects including Z-Morh tunnel and Zoji-La tunnel, are being taken up on footings.

During the meeting, it was given

out that Z-Morh tunnel project comprises 6.5 Km tunnel, 6 Km approach road, 2 major bridges and 1 minor bridge. The project worth Rs. 2379 crores is expected to be completed by 30th June, 2021 and will provide round-the-year connectivity to Sonamarg.

Simultaneously, the works under Zoji-La project are also being taken up. It was mentioned that the project comprehensively includes 14.15 Km tunnel and 18 Km approach road between Z-Morh and Zoji-La tunnel as a single integrated package, besides, comprising carriage way, 2 snow galleries, 4 major bridges and 18 avalanche protection dams. The project will cost Rs. 4430 crores and is expected to be operational by June, 2026, which will enable round-the-year connectivity to Ladakh.

Chief Secretary also reviewed progress of Baramulla- Gulmarg,

Vailoo- Khanabal, Vailoo- Donipawa, Donipawa- Ashajipora road projects.

While reviewing the progress on road projects being executed in Jammu province, it was informed that a penalty of Rs. 25 lakh has been imposed on the erring contractor for abandoning the project works under third package of Jammu Akhnor road, and the works will shortly resume. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, maintained that 15 KMs stretch is currently encumbrance free and the rest will be made available by 30th July, 2020, so as to enable speedy completion of the project.

Moreover, Chief Secretary urged Divisional Commissioner, Jammu to allow contractors to bring in migrant labour and equipment after observing the duly established protocols and standard operating procedures with respect to COVID -19 mitigation efforts.

J&K Admin Notifies Territorial Jurisdictions Of 8 Acb Police Stations

SRINAGAR- The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday notified eight police stations of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and specified the areas of their respective jurisdiction.

The notification to this effect was issued by the General Administration Department.

While a central ACB police station

with jurisdiction over the entire Union Territory has been notified, the other seven police stations more or less serve the police ranges which are usually headed by a DIG.

Police stations have been established in Jammu (jurisdiction over Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts), Rajouri (jurisdiction over Rajouri and Poonch districts), Srinagar (jurisdiction over Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts), Doda (jurisdiction over Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts), Anantnag (jurisdiction over Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam districts), Udhampur (jurisdiction over Udhampur and Reasi districts) and Baramulla (jurisdiction over Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts).

Targeting the Prime Minister for saying that China is not occupying any Indian territory in Ladakh, the Congress leader said Modi is defending his image by saying so.

"It is not simply a border issue. It is a border issue designed to put pressure on the Prime Minister of India. And they are thinking of putting pressure in a very particular way. And what they are doing, is that they are attacking his image.

"They understand that in order for Mr Narendra Modi to be an effective politician; in order for Mr Narendra Modi to survive as a politician, he has to protect the idea of 'Chhapan Inch'. And this is the real idea, the Chinese are attacking," Gandhi said in a short video while explaining his views on China's strategic and tactical game plan.

Saudi Arabia Announces Readiness For Haj Season Amid Covid-19 Pandemic

RIYADH: The Saudi Interior Ministry announced the Kingdom's readiness for the upcoming Haj season amid the COVID-19 pandemic, state-media reported.

Zayed Al Tuwailan, commander of Haj Security Forces, told the media on Sunday that the forces are ready to ensure the safety of pilgrims, Xinhua quoted the Saudi Press Agency as saying in the report.

He revealed that pilgrims of 160 nationalities, 70 of whom are foreign residents in the Kingdom, would take part in this year's annual pilgrimage.

"It is an extraordinary season with extraordinary measures to tackle the coronavirus for the safety of pilgrims," Al Tuwailan said.

The commander warned of jail terms and fines against violators, noting non-Saudis would face deportation.

On Sunday, the Saudi

The recoveries from the disease rose to 197,735 after 3,517 patients recovered, while 39 more fatalities were recorded in the past 24 hours, increasing the death toll to 2,486.

This is not the first time Saudi Arabia has restricted participation in the pilgrimage.

Between 2014 and 2016, Muslim faithful from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and several other African countries were excluded from the Haj due to Ebola.

The Haj represents an important source of income, typically generating between \$5.3 billion and \$6.9 billion for the local economy, according to Mecca's chamber of commerce.

In 2019, nearly 2.5 million Muslims performed the Haj, including more than 6,00,000 Saudis, according to official figures.

The annual pilgrimage is one of the five pillars of Islam, which every Muslim must perform at least once if his or her physical and economic state allows. IANS



Health Ministry reported 2,504 new coronavirus cases, raising the total number in the country to 250,920.

Family Urges Missing Bandipora Youth To Return Home

Bandipora: The family members of a 28-year-old youth, who is missing from his home in Bagh locality of north Kashmir's Bandipora since June 19, on Monday appealed to him to return home.

The youth identified as Azad Ahmad Shah (28), son of Mohammad Yousuf Shah, a resident of Bagh locality of Bandipora left his home on June 19 and has been missing ever since.

According to the family members, Azad has completed his Masters in Computer Application (MCA) from Srinagar and after that he was running a computer institute at Ajas area of Bandipora.

The family members of the missing youth said that ever since Azad went missing, they have searched him everywhere but in vain.

"Although we also contacted his friends and relatives, we haven't found him anywhere," they said.

"My brother left home in the evening for some work but didn't return till late evening. Later, his phone was also switched off and he hasn't returned home since then," said Azad's brother, Tariq Ahmad Shah.

He said that "we don't know anything about him whether he has joined any militant group or not but he must return home for the sake of his parents."

He said that they tried to locate him everywhere but couldn't find any clue about his whereabouts despite lodging a missing report in Police Station Bandipora on 24 June.

The family members urged Azad to return home as all their hopes have been dashed ever since he has gone missing.

"We are worried since he disappeared from the home. His mother has been crying ever since," said Azad's father, Mohammad Yousuf, while appealing to his son to return home.

The family members including his married sister have also released a video on social media urging Azad to return home.

"My brother, I beg you, please come back wherever you are. For the sake of God, please don't leave us like this please return home as soon as possible, we cannot live without you," Azad's sister could be seen pleading in the video which has gone viral on social media.

NEWS MAKERS

Bombay High Court Judges To Get Rs 50,000 Annually To Buy Spectacles

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government has approved payment of Rs 50,000 per year to every judge of the Bombay High Court for buying spectacles, as per a government resolution (GR).

According to the GR of the states law and judiciary department, the decision covers judges, their spouses and family members dependent on them.

The amount will include recurring expenses too, the July 10 GR signed by legal adviser and joint secretary Yogesh Ameta said.

DIPR Condoloes With Bilal Ahmad Rather

SRINAGAR: Department of Information and Public Relation (DIPR) has expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of uncle of Bilal Ahmad Rather, an employee of the Department.

A condolence meeting of officers and officials of the Department was held today in which participants expressed sympathies with Bilal Ahmad Rather.

The meeting prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Rahul Gandhi Attacks PM Modi On LAC standoff

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- In a sharper attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said the LAC standoff in Ladakh is not simply a border dispute but a design by China to target his image as a "56-inch strongman".

BJP president J P Nadda hit back at Gandhi, accusing him of indulging in "mudslinging" and describing his attack as another "failed" edition of "Project RG Relaunch".

He also accused "one dynasty" of trying to weaken India and strengthen China.

Gandhi said the Chinese are trying to put pressure on PM Modi to act in a way they want him to, else they will destroy his strongman image, and so far he has been seen as one succumbing to it.

The former Congress president said the Chinese are basically telling Modi that if he does not do what they say, they will destroy "the idea of Mr Narendra Modi as a strong leader".

Nadda slammed the Congress leader's remarks, saying, "We saw yet another (failed) edition of 'Project RG Relaunch' today. Rahul Gandhi ji was, as usual, weak on facts and strong on mudslinging. Attempts to politicise defence and foreign policy matters shows one dynasty's desperation to wash their past sins of 1962 and weaken India."

"For years, one dynasty has been trying to destroy PM Narendra Modi. Sadly for them, PM Modi's connect with 130 crore Indians is deep-rooted. He lives and works for them. Those who want

to destroy him will end up only further destroying their own party," he said in a series of tweets.

"In recent years, be it Doklam or the present, Rahul Gandhi ji prefers briefings from the Chinese instead of believing India's armed forces. Why does one dynasty want a weak India and a strong China? Many leaders in Congress also disapprove of one dynasty's shenanigans! "Since the 1950's, China has made strategic investments in one dynasty that has given them rich dividends. Remember 1962, giving away of a UNSC seat, losing a lot of land to China in the UPA years, MoU Signed with much fanfare in 2008, funds to RGF and more," said Nadda.

Countering Nadda's charge, Congress leader K C Venugopal

said he should use his energy to answer the questions on China instead of targeting Rahul Gandhi.

"Naddaji, what you saw today is the truth which you've been known to shy away from. Use the energy with which you attack Rahulji, to answer these questions - 1. Why is the BJP afraid of openly condemning China for its actions? 2. What is the BJP Government doing to reclaim our land?".

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala also retorted through a series of tweets saying instead of abusing the opposition, the BJP chief should start fighting the pandemic, the economic downturn and joblessness. The video is part of a series launched by Gandhi to explain his views on key issues before the country.