



Maximum : 26°C  
Minnum : 14°C  
Humidity : 59%

SUNSET  
Today 07:39 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:35 AM



## News Digest

### Lightning Kills 3 Nomads In Poonch

Poonch: Three nomads were killed while dozens of their cattle perished by the lightning at Gumsar village of Poonch district. Officials said that the incident took place in the intervening night of Monday- Tuesday. They said the lightning hit a seasonal dhok in Gumsar, leaving three nomads dead on the spot who belong to the Surankote area of the district. They added that many animals including goat and sheep, whose number is believed to be in several hundreds, also perished in the incident. Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Surankote, Saleem Qureshi said that teams have rushed to the spot to assess the loss.

### 2 Army Men Injured In LoC Explosion

Jammu: Two Army men were on Tuesday injured in an explosion along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district's Nowshera sector, officials said. Officials said that an explosion took place at a forward location in Nowshera sector. They said reportedly a landmine has went off, which resulted in injuries to two army men. "Two Army men were injured in the incident and have been hospitalized," officials said. Meanwhile, the officials said that Pakistani Army resorted to unprovoked firing along LoC in Nowshera and Sunderbani sectors of Rajouri district. They said that in forward LoC locations of Nowshera and Sunderbani, ceasefire violation started on Tuesday evening after Pakistani Army fired indiscriminately on this side, which was retaliated. The exchange of fire between the two armies was going on when the report was last filed

### 3 Persons Killed In Reasi Mishap

Jammu: Three persons were killed in a road mishap that took place in Mahore area of Reasi district on Tuesday afternoon, officials said. A police official said that a car was on its way from Badder towards Mahore skidded off the road near Bagga Morh, resulting in on spot death to two persons while the other was grievously injured. He identified the deceased as Mohammad Ayoub, son of Nazir Ahmed and Bashir Ahmed, son of Qamar din-both residents of Badder Mahore. He said that the other person identified as Muhammad Iqbal, son of Nazir Ahmed, a resident of Badder, who got seriously injured, was shifted to a nearby hospital in Mahore where he succumbed to his injuries

### 11Th Std Approved For Sainik School

SRINAGAR, JULY 21: The Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam today chaired the 37th meeting of Executive Committee of Sainik School, Manasbal and reviewed its functioning. Principal Secretary, School Education, District Development Commissioner, Ganderbal, Principal, Sainik School, Manasbal, along-with officers of concerned departments participated in the meeting. At the outset the committee reviewed and approved the action taken on the minutes of previous meeting of the Executive Committee. To fully tap the potential of various facilities including

## 11 More Die Of Covid-19, J&K Toll 266

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday reported eleven more deaths attributed to Covid-19, taking the fatality count due to the Novel Coronavirus to 266.

According to the official sources five deaths occurred at SKIMS, four at SMHS hospital while one each was reported from SKIMS Bemina and CD hospital, Durgam.

The fatalities include 96-year-old man from Pattan Baramulla, 70-year-old woman from Lalbazar Srinagar, 50-year-old from Mirbazar Kulgam, elderly from Parraypora Srinagar, 54-years-old man from Fateh kadal Srinagar, 64-years-old woman from Dangerpora Sopore, 55-year-old woman from Budgam, 65-year-old from Sangrama, 85-year-old from Sopore, 74-year-old man from Rawalpura, 43-year-old man from Parigam and 85-year-old man from Papcha area

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Ko Photo Aida Bhat

### 608 New Cases Take Covid-19 Tally Past 15000 Mark In J&K

Fresh Infections Include 66 Security Personnel And 134 Migrant Labourers

Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday reported 608 new Covid-19 infections including 51 CRPF, six BSF and 9 army personnel, taking the overall tally of cases to 15158 in J&K.

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### 26 SKIMS Employees Undergoing Treatment For Covid-19

At least 26 employees from Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Saura are admitted in the hospital. All these employees have been tested positive for Covid-19 infection. KNT quoting hospital sources reported on Tuesday that some staff nurses, couple of doctors, a driver and some

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## J&K Getting Rs 4580 Cr Loan To Clear Power Liabilities

UT Administration Owes Rs 9646 Crore To CPSUS, Other Agencies

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government of Jammu & Kashmir will get Rs 4580 crore special long term loan from the Government of India for clearing its power purchase liabilities.

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) have agreed to grant Rs 2290 crore each as special long term loan to J&K UT to assist it in clearing the power purchase liabilities of different central power generation companies like National Thermal Power Corporation Limited

(NTPC), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and charges of transmission companies, a report said.

The loan is part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package, which was unveiled by the Government of India for revival of economy after outbreak of novel coronavirus. Under the package, the Union government has allocated Rs 90,000 crore financial package to assist power distribution companies (Discoms) who have been under stress during the lockdown caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

The Power Finance

## India-US Navies Hold Exercises Amid Ladakh Tension

NEW DELHI: Indian navy ships held joint exercises with US aircraft carrier Nimitz in the Indian Ocean, the US navy said, in a sign of growing cooperation between the two naval forces in the region.

The USS Nimitz and the USS Ronald Reagan have been deployed to the South China Sea for the second time in two weeks as China and the United States accuse each other of stoking tensions in the region.

India's relations with China have also been strained recently after a deadly clash on their disputed land border last month, prompting calls for closer security ties with the United States and its allies including Japan to balance regional security.

Rear Admiral Jim Kirk, command-



er of the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group, said in a statement that Monday's joint drills with the Indian navy helped improve interoperability of the two forces.

The drills were carried out near

India's Andaman and Nicobar islands which sits near the Malacca Straits, one of the world's busiest shipping routes for trade and fuel, an Indian source said. India has a military base on the islands.

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## J&K Bank Extends Credit Guarantee Scheme For Stressed MSMEs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of Atmanirbhar Bharat economic package, J&K Bank has extended the Government of India's Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) to provide personal loan to the promoters of stressed MSMEs for infusion as equity / quasi equity in the business eligible for restructuring, as per RBI guidelines.

Pertinently, as a special dispensation, RBI has permitted banks to reckon the funds infused by the promoters in their MSME units through loans availed un-

der the scheme as equity/quasi equity from the promoters for debt-equity computation.

"The biggest challenge for stressed MSMEs is in getting capital either in the form of debt or equity. It is expected that this scheme would provide much required support to eligible MSMEs and will help in reviving the economic activity of this sector which is presently experiencing financial difficulties due to the economic fallout of Covid-19 Pandemic", the bank's Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), R K Chhibber said.

Notably, the scheme has been operationalised through

### LG Launches 73 Projects In 6 Districts

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Shri Girish Chandra Murmu e-inaugurated as many as 48 developmental projects worth Rs. 151.79 crores and laid e-foundation of 21 number of projects worth Rs. 290.80 crores during his recent extensive tour to six districts in Kashmir.

During visit to district Kupwara, Lieutenant Governor inaugurated IPD Block at SDH Kupwara worth Rs. 24.80 crores, Video Conference Hall in District Administrative Complex worth Rs. 23.9 lac, and laid foundation stone for construction of parallel Bypass to Lolab road project worth Rs. 1.88 crores. On visit to Kulgam, Lieutenant Governor laid the foundation stone of 50-bedded integrated Ayush Hospital project worth 7.40 crore at Chawalgam

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## NCERT Adds Scrapping Of Article 370 To Class 12 Textbook Chapter

NEW DELHI- The NCERT has revised a chapter in its Class 12 political science textbook to drop a paragraph on separatist politics in Jammu and Kashmir and to add a brief mention of scrapping of its special status last year.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has revised the chapter in the textbook "Politics in India since Independence" for the academic session 2020-21.

While the topic "Separatism and Beyond" has been deleted from the chapter, the scrapping of Article 370, which gave the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir special status, has been included under the topic "Regional Aspirations".



Image for representation

On August 5 last year, the Centre had scrapped the state's special status and divided it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"One strand of separatists who want a separate Kashmiri nation, independent of India and Pakistan. Then there are groups that want Kashmir to merge with Pakistan. Besides these, there is a third strand, which wants greater autonomy for the people

### Bid to Rob Bank With Toy Gun Foiled

KUPWARA: Police on Tuesday detained two persons who made a failed attempt to rob Grameen Bank in Nutnusa area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Police said that two persons were held for attempting to rob the bank and recovered a toy gun from their possession.

According to the police the duo hailing from Kulangam area of Handwara went inside the bank premises Tuesday afternoon with the intention to rob money from the business unit.

"Both the individuals were carrying a toy gun and tried to lock up the manager in his cabin but the timely action of police post Druggulla foiled the robbery attempt," the official said.

The official said that

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## 'Jailed For Testing Positive': Life Inside Quarantine Centres Of Kashmir

pital and the availability of a bed, ventilator and the like has already been checked.

Non-availability of beds has been a reality in Kashmiri hospitals for a while now. SKIMS Saura had earlier asked the patients and attendants in Sarai-2 to vacate so that COVID patients can be accommodated.

Yet, the in-flow of patients is so high that this move comes in too late and is too little.

In another case, a patient in need of a ventilator could only be given an oxygen point and the attendants asked to pray!

This is all very genuine, looking at the number of positive cases every day. But, if we look at the numbers divided into critical, severe, and

mild cases, then the story changes altogether.

According to the current SOPs being followed, all positive cases are either being put up in hospitals or in quarantine centers, even patients with only mild symptoms which are easily manageable at home.

The thing with these quarantine centers is that authorities have mostly acquired college campuses and empty buildings to be turned into quarantine centers which have remained closed for a good while now.

Before moving in patients, nobody has bothered to clean up these places. Hence any person getting quarantined feels ill at ease at such places.

And even if proper cleaning and all has been done before transfer-



ring anyone there, nobody visits these places for cleaning afterwards.

After all, those people are also afraid for their lives. The rooms and campuses are properly sanitized once the occupants test negative and leave.

These quarantine centers have many other issues as well. Like having multiple people in a single room.

Kashmiri homes are generally quite spacious and hence even if every family member is COVID positive, they can still stay in their

own rooms and isolate themselves, and hence contain the spread of the virus quite effectively.

On the other hand, these quarantine centers throw multiple people together in a single room, or at the very least two, and the maximum depends on the room size.

But how does that achieve the purpose of isolation?

Issues also arise when strangers of different gender are put together in a single room.

Even if there is an age gap, how is a lady supposed to relax and live in a room where two stranger men are also supposed to live?

Zubair was quarantined on July 19, at Central University, Nowgam Campus. He said, "Along with my

mother, there is an outsider (labourer) in the room who is my age and another lady. How am I supposed to even sleep with strangers in my room? It is not like we are in US and do not mind stranger men to occupy the same room as our women. At least the locals in the administration should consider this before asking people to share space. They are well aware of our beliefs and culture, or have they forsaken everything?"

This sharing of space also makes things worse if one of the people has some other communicable disease.

Being in close quarters, it becomes difficult to evade such infections and hence, instead of proving beneficial, quarantine centers add to the worries of people.

Although the doctor community is pitching for a strong immune system and recommend physical

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#### Hirra Sultan

AFTER Shifa's father was detected COVID positive last week, his serious symptoms forced the family to move him to a hospital.

They initially approached SKIMS Bemina, which is a designated COVID hospital but they were turned down. Even after showing them all reports and telling them that the patient's condition was deteriorating, nobody agreed to let them in.

After spending an hour on the streets, outside the hospital, trying to understand the issue and how to solve it, they went to SKIMS, Saura.

Someone later clarified that the hospital is taking in only referral cases. However bad a patient's condition may be, the hospital would not cater to them unless they have referral papers from another hos-



# From Front page...

## 11 More Die Of Covid-19, J&K ...

of Bandipora. Regarding The nonagenarian, they said he that died two days after he was admitted to CD hospital, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the Covid-19 patients in the Kashmir Valley.

The elderly was suffering from multiple ailments including hypertension, Type-2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease, COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), Dementia, etc, they said.

"He was admitted as a severe Covid19. At 6 a.m. today, the man suffered cardiac arrest and was declared dead at 6:10 a.m.," they added. Regarding the death at SKIMS Bemina, they said, 74-year-old from Rawalpore was suffering from "B/I Covid pneumonia and severe ards." "At 2:30 pm today, his condition worsened and was intubated at 3:15 pm. At about 3:30 pm patient developed cardio respiratory arrest. CPR was given according to latest ACLS guidelines but patient could not be revived and was declared dead at 4 pm," they said.

Regarding 85-year-old male Sopore, they said, he was suffering from bilateral pneumonia and was admitted to SMHS hospital on July 18. As regards, 65-year-old man from Sangrama Baramulla, a senior doctor at SKIMS hospital said that he was suffering from encephalopathy and bilateral pneumonia. "He was admitted on July 17 and died 1800 hours," the doctor added. Regarding the Budgam patients, the senior doctor said that the patient was suffering from bilateral pneumonia. With these deaths, 246 people in Kashmir and 20 in Jammu have died so far due to the Covid-19.

## 608 New Cases Take Covid-19

Among them also include 134 sample reports received at toll post and pertains to mainly migrant labourers, sources said.

Officials said that while 106 tested positive from Jammu and 502 are from Kashmir valley. Also 181 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals, 36 from Jammu Division and 145 from Kashmir. Giving the district-wise details, official sources told GNS that Srinagar reported 213, Baramulla 28,

Kulgam 39, Shopian 3, Anantnag 26, Kupwara 47, Pulwama 43, Budgam 83, Bandipora 14, Ganderbal 6, Jammu 15, Kathua 13, Rajouri 37, Udhampur 3, Ramban 11, Samba 10, Doda 7, Poonch 2 and Reasi 8. A number of cases were confirmed at SKIMS and CD diagnostic laboratories, officials said.

### The CD Cases

The CD cases include male (32) from ACB HQ Peerbagh, male (40) and female (38) from SR Gunj, female (39) from Balgarden Srg, female (48) from Dawaran Uri, three males (41, 22, 38) and two females (36, 56) from Shrai Tangmarg, female (25) and male (50) from Waniloo Tangmarg, male (60) from Tamlihal, female (35) from Achgoza, female (55) from Keegam, male (7M) from Aargicheck Abhama, male (60) from HMT Srg, male (64) from Rangrath Srg, male (31) from Newa Pulwama, three females (23, 65, 25) and male (75) from Khadernoh Pulwama, female (35) from Ratnipora Pulwama, female (27) from Midoora, two males (62, 23) and two females (50, 10) from Noorpora, female (41) from Tral e Payeen, female (29) from Tral e Bala, female (33) from Hari, male (49) from Nowdal, male (23) from Buchoo, male (34) from Gagat Srg, male (22) from Hagerpora, female (53) from Chichilora, female (28) from Pallhalan, three females (36, 07, 30) and two males (35, 25) from Sogam Lolab, female (22) from Batnard Lolab, female (31) from Kuligam Lolab, two females (28, 27) from Lassipora Lolab, two females (45, 19) from Sunard Darpora, female (22) from Doban Khurham Lolab, two females (30, 25) from Chandigam Lolab, male (37) from Lapora Lolab, two males (51, 28) and two females (34, 27) from Trehgam, seven females (22, 33, 10, 65, 30, 18 Months, 24) and three males (33, 70, 25) from Suliman Karnah, female (20) from Budwan Karnah, two females (40, 38) and male (40) from Bhakanyar Tangdar Karnah, NA (04) from Suliman Karnah, male (29) from Shathpalla Karnah, three males (25, 36, 25) from BB Cantt Srg, male (50) from Kharamabad Handwara, male (48) from Banglobagh Baramulla, female (70) from Sopore, male (23) from Pallhalan Pattan, two males (18, 21) from Dudwan, male (40) from Nagri Kupwara, four males (39, 26, 35, 30) from 162 Bsf Bn Kupwara, male (27) from At-Zangli Dist Kupwara, male (40) from Bategam, male (53) from Tarathpora, two males (30, 25) from DPL Baramulla, female (32) from Kanispora Baramulla, male (50) from Noorbagh Baramulla, two males (65, 35) from Iqbal Colony Baramulla, male (17) from Pattan Baramulla, male (28) from Ushkara Baramulla, male (50) from Kantbagh Baramulla, male (28) from Tilagam Pattan Baramulla, male (24) from Khawajabagh Baramulla, female (70) from Peerbagh Srg, female (34) from Sopore Baramulla, male (60) from Hawal, female (54) from Kathi Darwaza, female (40) from Baha u Din Sahab Srg, male (28) from Saidakadal, male (54) from Papchan Bandipora, female (40) from Soura, female (49) from Ishbar, male (49) from Habak, male (43) from Lal Chowk, male (20) from HMT, male (48) from Lal Bazar, male (96) from NA, female (70) from Pulwama, two females (43, NA) from Chanapora Srg, male (35) from Rainawari, male (19) from Mirgund Pattan, male (32) from HMT Srg, male (NA) from Lasjan, male (NA) from PHQ Srg, male (NA) from Kulgam, two males (62, 62) from Chanapora Srg, male (34) from Ganderpora Srg, female (18) from Bengal/Khanyar, male (30) from Eidgah Srg, two males (NA, 30) from Pulwama, female (73) and male (51) from Saderbal Srg, male (35) from Rajbagh, male (49) and female (47) from Pampore, two males (58, 50) from HMT, male (64) from H. No 6 Imran Lane Natipora, male (28) from Palpora Sonwar, male (32) from Budgam, male (28) from Rainawari, female (50) from Natipora, four males (52, 68, 45, 35) and female (44) from Buchpora, male (54) from Munawarabad Srg, male (22) from Chattabal Srg, male (63) from Batapora Zakura, male (30) from Khankah Srg, male (35) from Chanapora, male (65) from Umarabad Srg, male (35) from Maloora Srg, female (28) from Indra Nagar Srg, male (80) from Zoonimar Srg, male (60) from Allochi Bagh Srg, three male (60, 13, 04) from Qamarwari, female (55) from Bemina, NA (60) from Handwara, female (60) from Budgam, female (50) from Solina Srg, male (NA) from Pattan Baramulla, female (NA) from Chattabal Srg, female (37) from Srinagar, two females (NA, 55) and male (NA) from Batamalo Srg, male (67) from Hyderpora Srg, male (80) and female (80) from Baramulla, male (28) from Peerbagh, male (38) from NA, male (45) from Singpora Baramulla, male (58) from Sonwar Srg, female (60) from Fateh Kadal Srg, male (NA) from Handwara, male (60) from Bonyar Baramulla, female (70) from Eidgah Srg, male (65) from Khanyar Srg, male (NA) from Sanatnagar, male (NA) from Sopore Baramulla, male (NA) from Parraypora, female (45) from Bemina, male (80) from Barbarshah, male (65) from Dalipora Pulwama, male (60) from NA, female (27) from Safakadal, male (45) from Palpora Srg, male (65) from Rajouri Kadal, male (65) from Nowhatta, male (77) from Batamalo, male (27) from Chattabal, male (65) from Khadernoh Pulwama, male (57) from Wuyan Pampore, male (50) from PHC Awantipora, female (60) from NA.

### SKIMS Cases

The Anantnag cases include male (80) from Sarnal Bla, male (32) from Anchidora, male (70) from Mominabad, male (43) from S K Colony, female (32) from Anantnag.

The Bandipora cases include two males (29, 34) from Bsf Mader Bandipora, male (52) from Papchan, two males (42, 35) from Chitty Bandi, male (17) from Nadihal, female (14) and two males (27, 27) from Shokbaba Sumlar, male (22) from Ajas, male (50) from Putushai, two females (17, 35) from Ashtangoo, male (28) from Naninara, female (20) from Sumbal, female (57) from Bandipora.

**The BB Cantt cases include three males (22, 22, 23) from BB Cantt Srg.**

The Budgam Cases Include female (37) from Nangerpora, male (40) and two females (38, 08) from Ghat Narbal, female (61) from Yarigund, female (61) from Peth Kanihama, two males (34, 65) and female (28) from Chadoora, female (30)

from Pattan, two females (45, 12) and male (45) from Aribagh BK Pora, male (55) from Namtehal Chadura, male (58) from Jammu Bhande, male (44) from Munawar Abad Srg Budgam, female (60) from Gopalpora Chadoora, male (46) and three females (42, 31, 30) from Dadaompora Chadoora, two females (55, 30) from Kralpora Chadoora, male (62) and female (29) from Parnewa, male (30) from Bihar Budgam, male (45) from Drigam, male (46) from Rathson, female (30) from Chewadara, four males (03, 04, 34, 38) and three females (07, 32, 30) from Bonhama, male (24) from 2 Rr Camp Aripanthan Budgam, male (45) from Batapora, female (55) from Baghi Mehtab, female (24) from Lolipora Nagam, male (53) and two females (19, 18) from Badipora Nagam, male (37) from Dumail Sozeith, male (38) from Narbal, female (65) from Ohangam Beerwa, female (13) from Batapora, female (29) from Darmbug Chadoora, female (36) and male (65) from Kralpora Chadoora, male (30) from Bachroo Chadoora, male (40) from Daharmunna Soibugh, two males (70, 15) and three females (30, 17, 13) from Soibugh, male (30) from Parnewa, female (45) from Nijloo Beerwah, female (30) from Hanji Lawpora, male (57) from Kangripora, male (12) from Humhama, male (44) from Budgam.

**The Ganderbal cases include three males (30, 33, 40) from Watlar Ganderbal, female (25) from Pandach, male (55) from Ganderbal.**

The CRPF cases Include thirteen males (28, 54, 50, 47, 38, 36, 40, 47, 40, 38, 41, 34, 28) from C/184 Bn Crpf Amar singh Club Srg, male (40) from 75 Bn Crpf Indra Nagar Srg, male (30) from D/66 Bn Crpf Dignibal Ganderbal, male (30) from 79 Bn Crpf Sonwar Srg, male (31) from C/93 Bn Crpf Sonwar Srg, six males (40, 48, 55, 28, 38, 34) from 54 Bn Crpf Nishat Srg, male (42) from 75 Bn Crpf Nishat near Jamal Carpet Srg, three males (32, 33, 47) from 117 Bn Crpf Wazirbagh Srg. The Srinagar cases include male (40) from Hawal, female (38) from Zainakat, male (60) from Lal Bazar, male (55) from Parimpora, male (60) from Zoonimar, two males (30, 51) from SKIMS, male (36) from Peerbagh, male (40) from Buchpora, male (45) from Harwan, male (32) from Soura, female (55) and male (60) from Hawal, male (80) and female (75) from Saidakadal, male (34) from SKIMS, male (68) from Zakura, male (53) and female (50) from Soura, male (58) from Elahibagh, male (54) from Fateh Kadal, male (42) from Srinagar, six females (35, 06, 12, 01, 34, 62) and four males (30, 33, 29, 65) from Chanapora, female (27) from Naseembagh, female (82) from Sheeshbagh, male (55) from Natipora, male (NA) from Srinagar. The Baramulla cases include female (51) from Baramulla, male (23) from Kunzer. The Pulwama cases include male (55) from Tral, male (70) from Pulwama while the Shopian cases include male (55) and female (65) from Shopian. (GNS)

## 26 SKIMS Employees ...

lab assistants have been infected and are presently undergoing treatment at SKIMS. "The situation is really grim here. Those who were taking care of Covid suspects are themselves infected and admitted in the hospital," said an insider. Insiders added that no samples were collected from some staffers even when they started showing Covid symptoms. These employees were asked to continue with their duties till they show some symptoms.

They said there are still various employees who are asymptomatic but carrying on with their duties. "We can't overrule the directions that flow from the top. We are very concerned about the situation but still performing the duties," said an employee who claims that majority of the staff at SKIMS are Covid infected, but are asymptomatic.

## Amarnath Yatra Cancelled...

realities prevailing in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Board was informed that the arrangements were on track since February 2020, but due to nationwide lockdown and pandemic, State Executive Committee, J&K has still continued to keep religious places and places of worship closed for the public. These prohibitions continue till 31st July. The Board further discussed that pandemic has put the health administration system to its limit. The spike has been particularly very sharp in July. Health Workers and Security Forces are also getting infected and the focus of entire Medical, Civil and Police Administration at the moment is on containing the local transmission of the COVID-19 pandemic. The health concerns are so serious that the strain on the health system, along with the diversion in resources to the Yatra, will be immense. This would also unnecessarily put the Yatris at risk of catching the COVID-19.

The Board also discussed the decision of High court of J&K in Writ Petition (No CM No. 3022/2020 in WP(C) PIL No 5/2020 in which the Court directed SASB to take a final view in light of order of Hon'ble Supreme court dated 13.07.2020 and keeping in view the compliance of all healthcare protocols, Standard Operating Protocols notified by the Central Government as well as by the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The Board further deliberated the considered views of the Government. The Government made reasoned observations supported by facts which suggested that it would not be advisable to conduct Amarnath Yatra 2020 and it would be advisable to cancel it this year in larger public interest. This would enable the Health, Civil and Police Administrations to focus on the immediate challenges facing them rather than diverting resources, manpower and attention to the conduct of the Amarnath Yatra.

Based upon the circumstances, the Board decided with heavy heart that it is not advisable to hold and conduct this year's Amarnath Yatra and expressed its regret to announce the cancellation of Yatra 2020. The Board is aware of and respects the sentiments of millions of devotees and to keep the religious sentiments alive, the Board shall continue the Live Telecast/ Virtual Darshan of the morning and evening Aarti. Further, the traditional rituals shall be carried out as per past practice. Also, the Chhadi Mubarak shall be facilitated by the Government.

## After 'Free Run', Over 100...

Panic first gripped Kashmir this past Sunday when a video shot by a scribe at Banihal showed hundreds of non-local labourers heading to the valley in a fleet of buses. Asked if they've been tested for COVID-19, the transported 'labourers' replied: "No, we have not."

Hailing from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and other states, these labourers have arrived in the valley amid an upsurge in the viral cases. According to reports, about 25,000 non-local labourers are going to arrive in Kashmir from various states to resume their work soon.

Their arrival rang alarm bells at a time when administration is enforcing another COVID lockdown and penalizing the 'local' violators in the valley. Abdul Rashid War, Labour Commissioner Kashmir, told Kashmir Observer that the labourers arrived on the demand of the Brick Kiln Association of Kashmir. "Shortage of bricks was sky-rocketing their price in the valley," War said.

"So the administration had a meeting with the Brick Kiln Association who demanded availability of non-local labourers in Kashmir. It was on their demand that we facilitated the migrant labourers' movement in the valley." War said there's a demand of around 25,000 labourers, out of which 12,000 have already arrived in the valley.

"Rest of them will arrive soon," the Labour Commissioner said. "But before resuming their work, all of them will be tested."

However, the viral video—wherein these labourers are openly admitting that they weren't tested for COVID—has already created concerns in the valley. "The official hurry to ferry thousands of workers from outside to restart brick kilns is beyond comprehension," Muzamil Jaleel, senior editor, posted on his Facebook account.

"Why has this become a priority suddenly? Why would the administration carry out such an elaborate operation which seems a logistic nightmare?" Jaleel said that the hospitals in Kashmir are already overburdened with COVID patients. "How would you take care of these poor workers if the COVID spread continues?" he asked. Amid these unanswered questions, Mohammad Aamir, a primary school teacher in North Kashmir Bandipora district, said that most of these untested non-local labourers could be the potential carriers of coronavirus. "To save us from further viral assault, the government should halt their movement and instead work to contain the surging COVID curve in the valley," Aamir said. Meanwhile, confirming the official line on the influx of non-locals in the valley, Zahoor Ahmad, head of Brick Kiln Association, confirmed to Kashmir Observer that these non-local labourers were bussed in Kashmir on the association's insistence. "We were unable to work without them," Zahoor said. "Besides, there was a shortage of bricks and people made hue and cry. "So we had a meeting with the Divisional Commissioner and Labour Commissioner, who assured every possible help." Zahoor said the government has made it clear that brick kilns should operate with proper guidelines. According to him, a brick kiln needs around 200 men to work for over a month. Amid growing public concern, PK Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, told Kashmir Observer that people need not to pay heed to rumours.

"Labourers will be tested at Lower Munda before allowed to proceed into the valley," Pole said. "They are being quarantined by respective district administrations as per the established SOPs."

But the concern caused by over 100 non-local COVID cases has already vindicated those who decried their movement during the pandemic times. "Now, it remains to be seen, how and where is government going to treat these cases," said Shabir Hassan, a Srinagar-based bank manager. "Our hospitals are already running out of space and now, these cases are only going to escalate the health crisis in the valley. The administration's mindless move has put us in a very tight spot!"

## Dist. Adm To Conduct Covid...

chairing a weekly Covid-19 review meeting to take stock of the situation and arrangements put in place for effective containment of deadly virus. He said that the laborers will be tested in the respective districts of work and in this regard, Pole directed all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of Kashmir to constitute three member teams and train them for smooth conduct of antigen testing of all laborers.

The Div Com instructed the DCs to identify centrally located places and structures like schools, bus stands and vacant buildings to conduct these tests and added that antigen testing shall help in quick identification of the positive cases and their separation from others to control spread of the disease. He said that the positive laborers shall be immediately sent into quarantine, while as negative shall be allowed for work at brick kilns. The Div Com directed concerned to put in place all required facilities, necessary infrastructure and keep PPE kits available for the staff to be deployed at these testing centers. Stressing on coordinated efforts by the concerned, the Div Com called for decongestion of a tertiary care hospitals in Srinagar and reverse referral of patients to districts for effective containment of Covid-19 infection. The concerned DCs and health officers were instructed to raise the current bed capacity in their districts to avoid referrals and besides were directed to check bed availability before patient referral to Srinagar.

He emphasized on the smooth functioning of newly adopted designated structures for Covid-19 positive patient care including Hajj House Bemina, PHC Chanpora.

## J&K Getting Rs 4580 Cr Loan...

Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation would extend special long term transition loans up to 10 years to DISCOMs. According to the documents, the 10-year loan has three-year moratorium period and is repayable in 84 EMIs (Equated Monthly Instalments). The package has been sanctioned at a time when J&K is struggling to clear liabilities of Central Public Sector Undertakings (generating companies), Transmission Companies and Independent Power Producers. The documents reveal that J&K owes Rs 9646 to them on account of power purchases and transmission charges.

Now, the administration of Union Territory will require to execute Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with PFC and REC to avail the loan. In 2016, J&K joined Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme. Under the scheme, the State Government was permitted to restructure the outstanding debt of Rs.3537.55 crore on account of power purchased from various Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). J&K power purchase liabilities are swelling due to massive gap between power purchases and revenue generated from consumers—(KNO)

## India-Us Navies Hold...

"While operating together, the US and Indian naval forces conducted high-end exercises designed to maximize training and interoperability, including air defense," the US navy said. It said that the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group is currently deployed in the Indian Ocean in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific. Later this year, India will host joint naval exercises with the United States and Japan in the Bay of Bengal and there is a proposal to invite Australia also into those exercises. China has previously opposed such multilateral exercises in the region.

## Cs Reviews Health Scheme

to roll out JKHS. Administrative Secretaries of departments of Finance, Health & Medical Education and Labour & Employment along with CEO Ayuhsman Bharat-PMJAY, Director, SKIMS and Principal, GMC, Srinagar were present in the meeting. While reviewing the processes involved in the roll out of JKHS on the lines of AB-PMJAY, Chief Secretary approved the extension of existing guidelines, IT eco system, hospital network, price packages, Transaction Management System to the new scheme. During the meeting, it was informed that the envisaged health scheme will provide free of cost universal health coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir, who are presently not covered under AB-PMJAY. It will provide an annual health cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family on a floater basis to the beneficiaries including Government employees/ pensioners. Chief Secretary maintained that to establish first point contact with beneficiaries availing the benefits under both the schemes, empanelled hospitals will be required to hire Pradhan Mantri Arogya Mitras (PMAMs). "PMAMs will guide them in claiming cashless treatment through the Government sponsored health cover", he added. Further, decision was also taken to depute adequate staff to the J&K Health Agency for efficient roll out of JKHS and subsequent hassle-free settlement of claims.

## J&K Bank Extends Credit ...

Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for MSEs (CGTMSE). The major highlights of the scheme are: "The scheme seeks to extend support to the promoter(s) of the operational MSMEs which are stressed (SMA-2) or have become NPA as on April 30, 2020, but were standard as on March 31, 2018. • The Promoter(s) of the MSMEs will be given credit equal to 15% of their stake (equity plus debt) or Rs. 75 lakh whichever is lower. The Promoter(s) in turn will infuse this amount in the MSME unit as equity and thereby enhance the liquidity and maintain debt-equity ratio. •90% guarantee coverage for this sub-debt under the scheme will be provided by CGTMSE and 10%

would come from the concerned promoters. "There will be a moratorium of upto 7 years on payment of principal and after completion of the moratorium period, the principal amount shall be repaid within a maximum period of 3 years, while the interest shall be served during the entire tenor of the facility. As such the maximum door to door tenor of the loan will be 10 years.

## LG Launches 73 Projects...

Kulgam. The 48 projects e-inaugurated includes 8-bridges, 5-schools, 2-colleges, 3-receiving stations, 5-hospitals, 4-hostels, 9-Water Supply Schemes, 7-buildings and 5 other works during his visit to Bandipora, Kupwara, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian and Baramulla districts. Lieutenant Governor also laid e-foundation of 21 mega projects that include, 50-bedded Ayush Hospital at Kupwara, 2-Hospital at Kulgam and Sopore, 2-transit accommodations at Shopian and Kupwara, 5-road projects, 2-Water Supply Schemes, 1-number of 12 Mega Watt Hydro Electric Project, 2 Colleges, 4-buildings and 1-Indoor Stadium and Community Bunkers in these districts. Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Advisor to LG Baseer Ahmad Khan; Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole; respective Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other concerned officers of various departments.

During meeting with DCs, Lieutenant Governor reviewed the pace and progress of ongoing development projects executed by Health, RDD, PWD, Jal Shakti, PDD, Agriculture/ Horticulture and other departments in all these Districts. He stressed on concerned to expedite the work process on all under construction projects to ensure their speedy completion.

## NCERT Adds Scrapping Of...

of the state within the Indian union," the deleted portion read. The chapter then talks about the President's Rule imposed in June 2018 after the BJP withdrew its support to the Mehbooba Mufti government and towards the end mentions the withdrawal of Article 370.

The revised portion, where the chapter talks about Jammu and Kashmir, says, "Jammu and Kashmir had a special status under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. However, in spite of it, the region witnessed violence, cross-border (militancy) and political instability with internal and external ramifications". "The Article resulted in the loss of many lives, including that of innocent civilians, security personnel and militants. Besides, there was also a large scale displacement of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir valley," it read.

"On August 5, 2019, Parliament had approved a resolution abrogating special status to J and K under Article 370 of the Constitution. The state was also bifurcated into two Union territories Ladakh with no Legislative Assembly and Jammu and Kashmir with one," the revised portion read. The revised textbook takes into account the developments that took place in Jammu and Kashmir from 2002 onward. Earlier this month, a controversy had erupted over the reduction of syllabus by the CBSE due to the COVID-19 situation, with the Opposition alleging that chapters on India's democracy and plurality are being "dropped" to propagate a particular ideology.

But the Board had insisted it is a one-time measure for this academic year only and is not restricted to a particular subject as is being projected by some. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had notified the new syllabus for classes 9 to 12 for the 2020-21 academic session after rationalising up to 30 per cent of the curriculum. According to the updated curriculum, the chapters deleted from the Class 10 syllabus are those dealing with democracy and diversity, gender, religion and caste, popular struggles and movement and challenges to democracy. For Class 11, the deleted portions include the chapters on federalism, citizenship, nationalism, secularism and growth of local governments in India.

Similarly, Class 12 students will not be required to study the chapters on India's relations with its neighbours – Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, the changing nature of India's economic development, social movements in India and demonetisation, among others.

## Bid to Rob Bank With Toy ...

the duo was apprehended and taken to police post Drugmulla while a toy gun was also recovered from their possession. He identified the duo as Javid Ahmad and Ashiq Hussain-both residents of Kulangam area of Handwara and said that they were being questioned.

## 'Jailed For Testing Positive'...

exercise, the quarantined people are not even allowed to take a walk in campus areas. There are no other options to keep one occupied. How are people supposed to spend 14 days in such conditions? How much can one use social media and watch movies? All these quarantine centers (or at least a huge majority of them) are devoid of any kind of medical care and attention. These positive patients are merely brought there. No doctors visit them anymore. How can they? The hospitals are overflowing and nobody has time for mildly affected patients. It is as if these people are being jailed for testing positive and nothing else.

Recently a family fled their home in order to escape being taken to a quarantine center. With such stories of how bad the experience can be, which get more attention than positive stories, is that family actually to blame? Especially when everyone was positive and they could have isolated better in their own home?

Also, because of this compulsory quarantine policy, a lot of people prefer not taking a test in the first place. Their concern is quite simple. If they take a test and test positive, they would be taken away. In case someone tests negative from the family, they would be allowed to stay and the family would be split. Major issues arise when kids test negative and parents test positive. How can the authorities expect a year-old child to stay away from its mother?

Add to that the fact that they come in an ambulance and bring police with them, as if testing positive is a crime in itself. How can anyone expect people to come forward and get tested when the authorities behave like this? Why all the blame on the masses? Serious questions also arise as to why outside labourers are not being put into mandatory quarantine till they test negative. Why are they simply allowed to leave? Where does the SOP go then?

Or is it that these SOPs and lockdowns are only for the local population and the outsiders are free to go about as they will?

This behaviour has already led to panic and speculations.

If these spaces are available and can be used as per needs, why quarantine people there and lay them waste? Why not install oxygen points and ventilators in all these centers and aid the ailing health sector? How is putting these people into quarantine helping anyone? And if administration believes that people would violate home quarantine and a mere poster on their door is inefficient, why do they not lock them up in their homes instead of locking them up at a strange place, with some strangers?

Why cannot the administration think straight and change these SOPs to help the people as well as the health sector?

## 11Th Std Approved For...

experienced faculty and state of art infrastructure available at the school, it was decided that the lateral admissions in class 11th will be allowed from this academic session through entrance examination.



# 3 Days Webinar on Digital Marketing

New World Order Demands New Skill Sets: VC IUST

Awantipora July 21: Three Days Webinar on ‘Digital Marketing’ began at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) here on 20-07-2020. The webinar is being organized by IUST in collaboration with CII-J&K and is sponsored by TEQIP-III for the students of Department of Food Technology and School of Business Studies. While inaugurating the Webinar, Vice Chancellor, Prof Mush-taq A. Siddiqi expressed that ‘New World order after this pandemic will demand new skill sets from our employable youth, so our education system has to be revamped, wherein the industry partnership should be a compulsory component in our educational curriculum’. Prof. Siddiqi highlighted the initiatives of IUST during pandemic to work on the product design of the low cost ventilator, negative pressure chambers,

multi-channel splitters and supply of face splash guards to the local hospitals. IUST being a technology driven University, is working towards design and rollout of new training programmes for up-skilling of students and industry professionals in collaboration with relevant organizations like CII to meet the new challenges, Prof. Siddiqi added. While delivering the first expert lecture, Dean School of Engineering & Technology Prof A. H. Moon discussed the technology stack of digital marketing used for implementation and also explained the digital marketing concepts like pay-per-click, search engine optimization, data analytics. IUST is ideally poised to launch digital marketing course in the online mode in collaboration with the CII , which could enhance the employability of Management

and Technology students, Prof. Moon added Earlier, Prof Haroon Naik presented the welcome address, wherein he stressed that digital technology is must to become a successful entrepreneur and for whom learning, un-learning and re-learn of technologies holds key to meet future challenges. Technical sessions were delivered by Mr Krishna Kumar, CEO, Greenpepper Pvt Ltd. wherein he presented the industry perspective and best practices in digital marketing. The workshop was coordinated by Mr. Khurshid Maqbool, Head CII-J&K Chapter & Dr. Parvez A. Mir, Chairperson Entrepreneurship Development Cell and Industry Institute Interaction Cell. At the end, Vote of Thanks was presented by Dr. M. Ashraf Parry, I/C Head, Department of Management Studies.

## Union Secretary chairs meeting of EC Approves 10 High Value 30% CCIS cases of Industrial Units worth Rs 19.65 cr

SRINAGAR, JULY 21: Union Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, today chaired a meeting of Empowered Committee for Sanctioning of High Value Central Capital Investment Subsidy cases on Plant and Machinery under Special Package of Industrial Incentives for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K Package-II). The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir, Mehmood Shah, General Manager, JKDFC, Gowhar Arif and General Managers of concerned DICs through Video Conferencing from Srinagar while Director Industries & Commerce Jammu, Anoo Malhotra, Director Finance Industries & Commerce, R.C Kotwal and General Managers of concerned DICs participated in the meeting through video conferencing from Jammu. During the meeting, 10 High Value 30 per cent CCIS cases on Plant and Machinery of Industrial Units of Jammu, Samba and Kathua amounting Rs 17.40 crore were placed before the Empowered Committee for approval, of which, 9 cases were cleared. The Committee also gave nod to one High Value 30 per cent CCIS case on Plant & Machinery worth Rs. 2.25 crore for Industrial Unit of Pulwama District, Kashmir.

### 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

30 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

- 1456 - Battle at Nandorfehervar (Belgrade): Hungarian army under Janos Hunyadi beats Sultan Murad II
- 1691 - Battle at Aghrim: English/Dutch army beats France
- 1731 - Spain signs Treaty of Vienna
- 1739 - Ottoman Empire defeats Austria at Crotzka (Krotzka) in Serbia & subsequently successfully laid seige to Belgrade
- 1793 - Alexander Mackenzie reaches the Pacific Ocean, becoming the first Euro-American to complete a transcontinental crossing of Canada.
- 1864 - Battle of Atlanta-Hood attacks Sherman, 8,449 Confederate and 3,641 US soldiers die
- 1942 - 4th Soviet army forms with 80 tanks
- 1946 - Militant Zionist organisation Irgun bombs the British administrative headquarters for Palestine in the southern wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91 people of various nationalities and injuring 46.
- 1955 - Richard Nixon becomes the first US Vice President to preside over a cabinet meeting
- 1963 - Sarawak achieves independence from British colonial rule
- 1969 - USSR launches Sputnik 50 & Molniya 1-12 communications satellite
- 1971 - Sudanese military counter-coup under premier Numeiry
- 1987 - Soyuz TM-3 launched with 3 cosmonauts (1 Syrian)
- 1987 - US began escorting re-flagged Kuwaiti tankers in Persian Gulf
- 1988 - 500 US scientists pledge to boycott Pentagon germ-warfare research
- 1992 - Soyuz TM-15 launches
- 1993 - Soyuz TM-17 lands
- 1994 - 23rd & last part of Comet Shoemaker-Levy hit Jupiter (since July 16th)
- 1995 - Space shuttle STS-70 (Discovery 20), lands
- 1997 - The second Blue Water Bridge opens between Port Huron, Michigan and Sarnia, Ontario.
- 2002 - Israel assassinates Salah Shahade, the Commander-in-Chief of Hamas's military arm, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, along with 14 civilians.
- 2003 - Members of 101st Airborne of the United States, aided by Special Forces, attack a compound in Iraq, killing Saddam Hussein's sons Uday and Qusay, along with Mustapha Hussein, Qusay's 14-year old son, and a bodyguard.
- 2012 - Car bombs kills 20 people and injures 80 in Madaen and Najaf, Iraq
- 2012 - At least 77 people are killed by torrential rain in Beijing, China
- 2013 - 89 people are killed and 500 are injured by earthquakes in Gansu province, China
- 2014 - Both the United Arab Emirates and the USA announce aid packages to besieged Gaza
- 2014 - News broadcaster Al Jazeera claim that its office in Gaza is under attack by the Israeli Defence Force
- 2014 - European Union claim that Israel 'has the right to defend itself', but say civilian casualties in Gaza are unacceptable
- 2015 - 'Oldest' Qur'an fragments discovered in collection of Birmingham University, radiocarbon testing dates to AD568 - AD645
- 2016 - Hillary Clinton announces Virginia Senator Tim Kaine as her Vice Presidential running mate
- 2016 - Japan's Funai Electric announce they will manufacture world's last videocassette this month

## From KO Archives

## JKAP man on killing spree Kills SHO, driver; wounds DSP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - A station house officer (SHO) of the Kashmir police and an SRTC driver were killed and a deputy superintendent of police injured when a member of the J&K Armed Police opened indiscriminate fire on his superiors near, the Deshnam Akhara building on the Budshah Chowk here this morning. A member of the J&K Armed Police (JKAP) opened unprovoked fire on his officers who were overseeing security arrangements for the departure of the Chari Mubarak (Holy Mac.o) from the Deshnam Akhara at around 8 this morning, the ONS said. The station house officer of the Maisuma police station, Ghulam Nabi Parray, and an SRTC driver, Basher Ahmad Khan, were killed on the spot, and the deputy superintendent of police ‘(DSP) for security, Ghulam Jeelani Baba, was injured. The driver was present at the scene in connection with yatra duty. The injured DSP was rushed to the SMHS hospital where doctors referred him to the SKIMS. His condition was reported to be serious. The attacker, Kabeer Singh of the 9 Bn JKAP, hailing from Udhampur, was immediately taken into custody. He had fired 23 rounds from his service carbine, and only five bullets were found in the magazine after the attack. The attack was deliberate, and the DSP was the actual-target, the CNS quoted sources as having said. A criminal case has been registered by the police. . Heartrending scenes were’ witnessed as the body of the slain driver arrived home in Gurgari Mohalla, Nawab Bazaar. The driver was a father of five children, four of them girls, and the sole earning hand of the family.

(Kashmir Observer, 22 July, 2005)

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN IMAM SAJAD (A.S) MEMORIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL GARIEND KALLAN, BUDGAM.**

FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC Session 2019- 2020

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Ttution Fee	Annual Fee Dues	Remarks
01	08th Class	550=00	1380=00	
02	07th Class	500=00	1380=00	
03	06th Class	450=00	2280=00	
04	05th Class	380=00	970=00	
05	04th Class	350=00	970=00	
06	03rd Class	330=00	970=00	
07	02nd Class	320=00	870=00	
08	1st Class	300=00	870=00	
09	U.K.G.	270=00	400=00	
10	L.K.G.	260=00	400=00	
	NURSERY	220=00	2500=00	

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

CHAIRMAN  
IMAM SAJAD (A.S) MEMORIAL PUBLIC  
SCHOOL GARIEND KALLAN

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GUND KHAWAJA QASIM, 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 Class	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. 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  
GUND KHAWAJA QASIM, PATTAN

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL SYEEDPORA, SOPORE.**

FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC Session 2019- 2020

S.NO	Class	Monthly Ttu-tion Fee	Annual Fee Dues	Fee	Remarks
01	07th Class	500=00	1380=00		
02	06th Class	450=00	3000=00		
03	05th Class	380=00	970=00		
04	04th Class	350=00	970=00		
05	03rd. Class	330=00	970=00		
06	02nd. Class	320=00	870=00		
07	1st. Class	300=0.0	870=00		
08	U.K.G.	270=00	400=00		
09	L.K.G.	260=00	400=00		
10	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  
SYEEDPORA, SOPORE.

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL KRIPALPORA BALA, PATTAN.**

FEE STRUCTURE FOR ACADEMIC session 2019- 2020

S.NO.	Class	Monthly Ttution Fee	Annual Fee Dues	Remarks
01	05th Class	380=00	970=00	
02	04th Class	350=00	970=00	
03	03rd. Class	330=00	970=00	
04	02nd. Class	320=00	870=00	
05	1st. 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  
KRIPALPORA BALA, PATTAN

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DIVISION QAZIGUND**  
**gazigundphedivision@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 01931**  
**NOTICE INVITING E**

For & on behalf of Union Territory tenders in single cover system are invited **on item rate basis** from registered **PWD Contractors** registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules following work

	L/F of shunt line for Wani mohalla/Extension to Mir Mohalla and other minor improvement to existing ine at village Zadoora WSS Furrah Zadoora (under JKIDFC)				
	L/F of 100mm dia DI/80mm dia GI pipes from Lisser High School up to Guswanigund Nard WSS Zaldoora (under NABARD)				

**osition of funds** **Position of AA**

consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), terms & condition of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website **www.jktenders.gov.in** as per the dates shown below:

Download start date	
Download end date	
Bid submission start date	
bmission end date	
Bid opening date	

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz. Earnest Money and Additional Performance Security Deposit in the shape of CDR/FRD pledged to the Ex Engineer PHE Division Qazigund and cost of tender the shape of shown against the item advertized which should be credited to MH:0215 Government Account as per the format devised / attached with this NIT CDRs shall not be accepted. Besides, the NIT No. & item No. of the work/ name of work should be clearly written on the Treasury Challan. It is mandatory upon the bidder to upload **"Bidders Address Format"** duly filled in his seal and signature or future correspondence which is attached

The bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division on above mentioned date in presence of the bidders who may wish to be

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like CDR/ of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan Registration with latest Bidders Address Format Registration card duly renewed copies of bidding docum not necessary to deposit in the Divisional office as per standing Govt. instructions After opening of tenders online, the 1st. lowest bidder shall be asked to deposit the uploaded CDR & cost of tender document in the form of Treasury hysical form.

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason. The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days.

As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department. However, non drawl of agreement will not prevent the contract from being enforced upon him.

Departmental material like pipe & pipe specials shall be supplied departmentally. However, cement & steel of sorts shall be issued as per the stock issue rates at the time of issuance of material.

Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form

Executive Engineer  
Division Qazigund



# COVID-19: No Easy Answer To How Colleges Should Reopen

Top educational institutes around the world scramble to find ways to get started

BROOKE SAMPLE

**“We will use the city as a laboratory, exploring the destruction of Seneca Village “- the 19th-century Black settlement razed to make way for Central Park “- and debates surrounding a Teddy Roosevelt statue. Students will explore their neighbourhoods for art, graffiti and architecture. During a photography unit, students will take their own photos.**

How parents and students feel about the fast-approaching spectre of college reopenings this fall has been debated — perhaps exhaustively — in the thick of the Covid-19 pandemic. Can we do it safely? Should we send them back at all? Will young adults wear masks and abide by social-distancing guidelines? To get a better sense of the other side of the equation, we asked contributors who are also educators for their views on getting back in the classroom, whether physical or virtual.

Andrea Gabor, Baruch College

I mostly teach journalism to undergraduates at Baruch College, part of the City University of New York, in lower Manhattan. Most classes are taught in 14- and 16-story buildings. Elevator lines are long. A street below is closed to traffic, creating a small common space outdoors that’s often crowded with students.

Most of our 18,000-plus students commute via bus and subway. So do most professors.

Even before we received final word this week that “the vast majority of classes” will be offered fully online in the fall, we were planning our classes on that assumption.

I will teach a freshman seminar on New York City and the arts for CUNY’s Macaulay Honors program. During normal times, our curriculum would include trips to museums, theatres and the opera. Now we’ll find online performances and artists and curators to give us virtual tours via Zoom.

To avoid the inertia that can set in when students are isolated in Zoom squares, I will assign weekly research projects for teams of students to present the context for each subject we study. A unit on murals, for example, could include Picasso’s “Guernica,” the Mexican muralists and the role of protest art “- a theme that should speak to our majority minority student population at a moment of racial upheaval.

We will use the city as a laboratory, exploring the destruction of Seneca Village “- the 19th-century Black settlement razed to make way for Central Park “- and debates surrounding a Teddy Roosevelt statue. Students will explore their neighbourhoods for art, graffiti and architecture. During a photography unit, students will take their own photos.

Building trust and connections fosters the intellectual risk-taking needed to learn. So I will organise small-group Zoom meetings and require a few one-on-ones. I may take a road trip to meet groups of students in parks around the city before bad weather locks us in again.

Stephen L. Carter, Yale University

Lawsuits. I’m a law professor, so that’s what comes to mind when I think about the school year that will shortly be upon us: an avalanche of litigation.

Start with grades K-12. Suppose they open, but supporters turn out to be wrong, and the virus winds up spreading through the student body and onward into their families. Lawsuits will ensue. On the other hand, if the schools don’t reopen and instead offer instruc-



The campus of Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, on March 13, 2020, after the school moved to online classes for the rest of the semester.

tion only online, families might sue for a partial refund of property taxes, which would be paying for services they’re not getting.

What about colleges and professional schools? The same caveat applies to what happens if they open for business and the virus spreads. They can take precautions, but they cannot offer guarantees. They might want students to sign waivers, as if they were about to play tackle football or engage in some other inherently hazardous activity. But students asked to sign waivers are less likely to show up. Rock, meet hard place.

Now suppose colleges and professional schools choose to stay entirely online. Then we’ll see a lot more lawsuits demanding tuition refunds. Plaintiffs point to the loss of the opportunity to network with other students, as well as close professorial guidance. They might also argue that their inability to find quiet places to work and study will mean they learn less.

There are reasons to prefer live classroom instruction. But there are also reasons to worry about the con-

sequences. A crisis is a decision with a deadline. When there’s a likelihood of litigation either way, the decision is that much harder.

Cass R. Sunstein, Harvard Law School

Here’s something that troubled me last spring when I taught a large class online: It’s tough to get a feel for how students are responding.

In an in-person class, you can pick up students’ signals, which often register unconsciously: a smile, a laugh, a bored look, a flash of insight, a frown, an eagerness to participate. Faces and posture tell you a lot. You lose that online.

Harvard University is bringing many students back to campus in the fall, but as things now stand, classes are expected to be held remotely. That’s made me think about potential adjustments that I might make when classes resume.

Bloomberg

## Escaping Lockdown Through The Screen

It is important to keep our minds on life after restrictions ease

CHRISTINA CURRAN

Gulf News

Throughout the worst of the lockdown I sought many different ways to distract myself.

Firstly, there was drinking, then work, then painting, drinking, baking, drinking and more work, but soon the enthusiasm for this housebound life dried up and I began to forget how to entertain myself, how to distract and keep my thoughts on anything but the uncertainty of life under the fear of COVID-19.

There was television throughout — thanks to the plethora of platforms out there at the touch of a button. And my lockdown escapism of choice was via The Walking Dead, a post-apocalyptic drama series — complete with zombies — based in the US, with horror so vivid and traumatic that it was the perfect example of ‘it could be worse’.

We’re not out of the woods yet and it is important to keep our minds on life after lockdown, one that has so much possibility and opportunity for us all to make a positive difference in our lives.

The show has lasted 10 seasons and is still going strong, unlike the majority of its main protagonists, who each, it seems, have a distinct sell-by date — a worrying concept that makes one afraid to get too attached to any of them lest you be heart-broken when they are killed off in some gory and catastrophic way; and they are, usually by said zombies or their fellow survivors.

The show saw me through the first few weeks of lockdown and I watched it so often that I began to dream of the apocalypse, which soon merged with the coronavirus, and I began to visualise and actually discuss a plan of action with my other half if indeed the world did ever did come to a Walking-Dead end. Our plan involved finding transport and resources, and guns, lots of guns. We both agreed that I was unlikely to survive, being a devout pacifist and generally ‘too nice’, although I suspect this might have changed when confronted with a flesh-eating creature. Or maybe not. Anyway, I could have outrun a



slow-paced zombie at the beginning of lockdown, but now I’d probably just have to sit there out-of-breath and wait for the impending zomification (I’ve just made that word up). Thinking about it, life as a zombie would probably be similar to the feeling of emptiness that lockdown has brought upon many of us. I do not want to be a zombie.

A welcome party of one

Over the past few months we’ve all had to examine our lives and find out what is most important to us, family being the most obvious. It’s been difficult

for all of us, although some more than others have felt the worst of the situation, while others yet have spent time re-evaluating what matters most to them. We can only hope that we emerge stronger and with more clarity of our lives, our loves and what motivates us.

The lockdown is currently and very slowly easing in England, with the smallest hints of normality creeping back into our lives, and the ever-present vital messaging of staying safe and taking care of each other. Masks are the new life-asserting item that we all need to integrate into our daily routines. It’s a

small price to pay for other people to feel safe.

We’re not out of the woods yet and it is important to keep our minds on life after lockdown, one that has so much possibility and opportunity for us all to make a positive difference in our lives. If we hang on for a little longer we’ll get to come out of this horrible period in our lives. And hopefully there’ll be no zombies, except for those of us who emerge, eyes straining in the light, gaunt, unhealthy, and dragging their left leg behind.

— Christina Curran is freelance journalist based in Northern Ireland.

**“Over the past few months we’ve all had to examine our lives and find out what is most important to us, family being the most obvious. It’s been difficult for all of us, although some more than others have felt the worst of the situation, while others yet have spent time re-evaluating what matters most to them. We can only hope that we emerge stronger and with more clarity of our lives, our loves and what motivates us.**



# STUDY SUGGESTS Living Environment May Be Key To LONGEVITY

**OUR STUDY ADDS TO THE GROWING BODY** of evidence that social and environmental factors contribute significantly to longevity, said study author Rajan Bhardwaj, a second-year WSU medical student who took an interest in the topic after serving as a home care aide to his ageing grandfather.

## Agencies

The environment where you live has a significant impact on the likelihood that you will reach centenarian age (person who has reached the age of 100 years), suggests a recent study. The study conducted by scientists at Washington State University's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine was published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. Based on Washington State mortality data, the research team's findings suggest that Washingtonians who live in highly walkable, mixed-age communities may be more likely to live to their 100th birthday. They also found socioeconomic status to be correlated, and an additional

analysis showed that geographic clusters where the probability of reaching centenarian age is high are located in urban areas and smaller towns with higher socioeconomic status, including the Seattle area and the region around Pullman, Wash. "Our study adds to the growing body of evidence that social and environmental factors contribute significantly to longevity, said study author Rajan Bhardwaj, a second-year WSU medical student who took an interest in the topic after serving as a home care aide to his ageing grandfather. Earlier research, he said, has estimated that heritable factors only explain about 20 to 35% of an individual's chances of reaching centenarian age. "We know from previous research that you can modify, through behaviour, your suscep-

tibility to different diseases based on your genetics," explained Ofer Amram, the study's senior author and an assistant professor who runs WSU's Community Health and Spatial Epidemiology (CHaSE) lab. In other words, when you live in an environment that supports healthy ageing, this likely impacts your ability to successfully beat your genetic odds through lifestyle changes. However, there was a gap in knowledge as to the exact environmental and social factors that make for an environment that best supports living to centenarian age, which this study helped to address. In collaboration with co-authors Solmaz Amiri and Dedra Buchwald, Bhardwaj and Amram looked at state-provided data about the deaths of nearly

145,000 Washingtonians who died at age 75 or older between 2011 and 2015. The data included information on each person's age and place of residence at the time of death, as well as their sex, race, education level and marital status. Based on where the person lived, the researchers used data from the American Community Survey, Environmental Protection Agency, and other sources to assign a value or score to different environmental variables for their neighbourhood. The variables they looked at the included poverty level, access to transit and primary care, walkability, percentage of working-age population, rural-urban status, air pollution, and green space exposure. Subsequently, they conducted a survival analysis to determine which neighbourhood and de-

mographic factors were tied to a lower probability of dying before the centenarian age. They found that neighbourhood walkability, higher socioeconomic status, and a high percentage of working age population (a measure of age diversity) were positively correlated with reaching centenarian status. "These findings indicate that mixed-age communities are very beneficial for everyone involved," said Bhardwaj. "They also support the big push in growing urban centers toward making streets more walkable, which makes exercise more accessible to older adults and makes it easier for them to access medical care and grocery stores." Amram added that neighborhoods that offer more age diversity tend to be in urban areas, where older

adults are likely to experience less isolation and more community support. Meanwhile, Bhardwaj said their findings also highlight the importance of continuing efforts to address health disparities experienced by racial minorities, such as African Americans and Native Americans. Consistent with previous research findings, for example, the data shows being white is correlated with living to 100. Looking at gender, the researchers also found that women were more likely to reach centenarian age. Finally, the researchers wanted to see in which areas of the state people had a higher probability of reaching centenarian age. For each neighborhood, they calculated the years of potential life lost, or the average number

of years deceased individuals would have had to continue living to reach age 100. Neighborhoods with lower values for years of potential life lost were considered to have a higher likelihood of reaching centenarian age, and vice versa. When they mapped the years of potential life lost for all neighborhoods across the state, they saw clusters with high likelihood of living to centenarian age in higher socioeconomic areas in urban centers and small towns across the state, including the greater Seattle area and the Pullman region. While more research is needed to expand upon their findings, the researchers said the study findings could eventually be used to create healthier communities that promote longevity in older adults

## Animal Proteins More Effective In Building Ageing Muscles: Study

### Agencies

New research shows that animal proteins are more effective than plant proteins in supporting the maintenance of skeletal muscle mass with advancing age. The research was presented at The Physiological Society's virtual early career conference Future Physiology 2020. The number of vegans in the UK has quadrupled since 2006, meaning that there are around 600,000 vegans in Great Britain. While we know plant-based diets are beneficial for the environment, we don't actually know how healthy these diets are for keeping muscles strong in elderly people. Scientists generally agree

that the primary driver of muscle loss with age -- at least in healthy individuals -- is a reduction of muscle proteins being built from amino acids. These amino acids come from protein that we eat and are also formed when we exercise. Oliver Witard of King's College London is presenting research at The Physiological Society's Future Physiology 2020 conference about soy and wheat proteins showing that a larger dose of these plant proteins is required to achieve a comparable response of building muscles. Simply transitioning from an animal-based protein diet to a plant-based diet, without adjusting total protein intake, will likely be detrimental to



muscle health during ageing. A more balanced and less extreme approach to changing dietary behaviour, meaning eating both animal and plant-based proteins, is best. Witard and his colleagues conducted carefully con-

trolled laboratory studies in human volunteers that involve the ingestion of plant compared with animal-based protein sources. To test changes in participants' muscles, they use several techniques including stable isotope methodology, blood sampling, and skeletal muscle biopsies to see how quickly the muscles were building up from amino acids. It's important to note that this research to date has only compared two plant-based protein sources, namely soy and wheat. The researchers in this field will be conducting further research on other promising plant proteins such as oat, quinoa and maize. Commenting on the research, Witard said, "This research challenges the broad viewpoint that plant proteins don't help build muscles as much as animal protein by highlighting the potential of alternative plant-based protein sources to maintain the size and quality of ageing muscles."

## Google 'Nearby Sharing' Tool Coming To Android Users In August

Google is set to launch its Apple AirDrop-like file sharing feature for Android users sometime in August. Called Nearly Share and currently in Beta, the tool will be available for current Android users, running Android 6 and newer, over the air, reports GSMArena. "The minimum OS version requirement falls in line with what Google has previously shared in relation to the ongoing Nearby Share beta test," said the report. The Android users will



likely get the feature as a Play Store update package. Nearby Share is a simple and seamless file-sharing solution like Apple AirDrop. Just like AirDrop, the Google feature relies on both Bluetooth and Wi-Fi. The feature will allow users to share files between

Android devices quickly, easily, and wirelessly. A user can share files such as photos and videos, links, and other stuff as well. When a device nearby wants to share with the user, a notification will appear and one can tap it to make the device visible. AirDrop is a service for Apple iOS and macOS users, which enables the transfer of files among supported Mac computers and other iOS devices without using e-mail or a mass storage device.

## Study Suggests Loneliness Alters Brain's Social Network

### Agencies

Loneliness alters how the brain represents relationships, according to a new research published in The Journal of Neuroscience. A brain region called the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) maintains a structured map of a person's social circles, based on closeness. People who struggle with loneliness often perceive a gap between themselves and others. This gap is reflected in the activity patterns of the mPFC. Courtney and Meyer used functional magnetic resonance imaging to examine participants' brain activity while they thought about the self, close friends, acquaintances, and celebrities. Thinking about someone from each category corresponded to a different activity pattern in the mPFC: one for the self, one for the social network (both friends and acquaintances), and one for celebrities. The closer the relationship, the more the pattern resembled the pattern seen when thinking about the self. These brain patterns differed for lonelier individuals. Activity related to thinking about the self was more different from activity related to thinking about others, while the activity from thinking about others was more similar across social categories. In other words, lonelier people have a "lonelier" neural representation of their relationships.

## Scientists Put Machines On Job To Spot Deepfake Images, Videos

### Agencies

Deepfakes are becoming more authentic owing to the interaction of two computer algorithms to create perfect 'fake' images and videos, and humans are simply unable to gauge which is real or not. Researchers now propose a new method called 'frequency analysis' that can efficiently expose fake images created by computer algorithms. "In the era of fake news, it can be a problem if users don't have the ability to distinguish computer-generated images from originals," said Professor Thorsten Holz from the Chair for Systems Security at Ruhr-Universität Bochum in Germany. Deepfake images are generated with the help of computer models, so-called Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs). Two algorithms work together in these networks: the first algorithm creates random images based on certain input data. The second algorithm needs to decide whether the image is a fake or not. If the image is found to be a fake, the second algorithm gives the first algorithm the command to revise the image - until it no longer recognises it as a fake. In recent years, this technique has helped make deepfake images more and more authentic. Deepfakes are video forgeries that make people appear to be saying things they never did, like the popular forged videos of Facebook CEO Zuckerberg and that of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that went viral last year. To date, deepfakes have been analysed using complex statistical methods. The Bochum group chose a different approach by converting



the images into the frequency domain using the discrete "cosine transform". The generated image is thus expressed as the sum of many different cosine functions. Natural images consist mainly of low-frequency functions. The analysis has shown that images generated by GANs exhibit artefacts in the high-frequency range. For example, a typical grid structure emerges in the frequency representation of fake images. "Our experiments showed that these artefacts do not only occur in GAN generated images. They are a structural problem of all deep learning algorithms," explained Joel Frank. "We assume that the artefacts described in our study will always tell us whether the image is a deepfake image created by machine learning," Frank said, adding that frequency analysis is, therefore, an effective way to automatically recognise computer-generated images. The team presented their work at the virtual International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) this week.



## Prominent Pak Journalist 'Goes Missing' In Islamabad

Asad Hashim | Al Jazeera

Islamabad, Pakistan - Rights groups have demanded information on the whereabouts of a prominent Pakistani journalist, known for his criticism of the country's powerful military, after he reportedly disappeared earlier on Tuesday.

Police said Matiullah Jan was last seen outside a government school in the Pakistani capital Islamabad on Tuesday



morning.

"He came here to the government girls school in the G-6

[neighbourhood], where his wife is a teacher, to drop her off," said Nasrullah, an officer investigating the case. "His car is still standing here."

"We are investigating the case presently, and no formal charges have been filed yet."

Jan's wife Kaneez Sughra, 42, told Al Jazeera she heard sounds of a scuffle outside the school, but she had not thought seriously about it at the time.

"The school is closed and there are no children here, but we do have a little work there to write letters or other administrative work, so I was there."

Sughra said Jan dropped her at the school at 10am local time (05:00 GMT), and asked to be picked up three hours later. Around an hour later, she heard the scuffle outside the gate.

"I could hear that something was going on outside, but I couldn't hear my husband's voice. What I heard was for four or five seconds. Then at 1.15pm (08:15 GMT) when I called him, he was not answering."

## The World's Richest Are Planning Futures In Covid Safe Countries

The next time the world's rich are forced into lockdown, they would like to have an escape ready to a remote and sunny beach. Or perhaps to New Zealand, one of the few countries that has eliminated Covid-19.

They are willing to pay for the privilege, of course.

They can turn to programs that guarantee citizenship or residency in exchange for investment in the host country, using specialty firms such as Henley & Partners, the world's biggest citizenship and residency advisory firm. With the persistent threat of viral infections and sudden lockdowns, the company is helping those with deep pockets buy access to a safe haven.

For instance, you can acquire the right to live, work and study in New Zealand if

you part with NZ\$3 million (\$2 million) or NZ\$10 million, depending on the type of investor resident visa you choose. About 1.2 million euros (\$1.4 million), including a property purchase, will get a married couple citizenship in Malta.

"They're now realizing: Let's actually get the contingency plan in place," said Dominic Volek, Henley's head of sales, said of his potential customers. "That's why we've seen quite a spike now, not only in inquiries, but also in the families actually signing up and saying, 'Let's start the process.'"

New inquiries jumped 49% in the first four months of this year, compared with the same period in 2019, according to the company. There was a 22% increase in those wanting to proceed with an application for new citizenship or residency rights.

Agencies



## Key Takeaways From Monday's Data On Experimental Coronavirus Vaccines

Agencies

Los Angeles: Two potential vaccines to protect against the novel coronavirus - one from Oxford University and AstraZeneca Plc and the other from China's CanSino Biologics - induced immune responses in healthy volunteers without causing dangerous side effects, according to studies published on Monday in The Lancet.

A third different type of vaccine from Pfizer Inc and German biotech BioNTech also showed promise in a small, early study released on Monday, adding to hopes that at least one will prove safe and effective.

The following are five takeaways from Monday's developments, drawn in part from an editorial in The Lancet medical journal:

1. The Oxford/AstraZeneca and CanSino teams released results from early trials of COVID-19 vaccines that use harmless versions of another virus, or viral vector, to deliver genetic material from the novel coronavirus into cells to generate an immune response. Both trials were primarily designed to test the vaccines' safety and provide potential hints of efficacy. Subjects in both studies experienced mild side effects such as fever and injection site pain, but no severe adverse events were reported. Vaccines are traditionally made by using a weakened or inactivated form

of the virus to elicit an immune response and prevent infection, but those vaccines are not easy to develop quickly. Viral vector vaccines do not need to be frozen, although they do need to be refrigerated. Johnson & Johnson's vaccine against the Ebola virus on July 1 became Europe's first approved viral vector vaccine.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic has fast-tracked other new types of vaccine technology. The Pfizer and BioNTech candidate, which had initial data from a German study in 60 healthy volunteers, was shown to prompt an immune response and was well-tolerated. The data were in line with those from another early-stage U.S. trial released earlier this month..

That vaccine uses a different novel platform - ribonucleic acid (RNA) - the chemical messenger containing instructions for cells to produce proteins. RNA vaccines are designed to work by instructing cells to make proteins that mimic the surface of the coronavirus, which the body then sees as a foreign invader and learns to target with an immune response. Although the technology has been around for years, there has never been an approved messenger RNA vaccine.

3. The number of people in whom experimental COVID-19 vaccines have been tested so far is small, but researchers say measurements of immune system

responses are encouraging. Still, much remains unknown about COVID-19 vaccines in development, particularly the staying power of any immune responses and effectiveness in older adults or other specific groups, including people with chronic health problems and ethnic or racial groups more severely affected by the disease. Other outstanding questions include: Will a single dose be sufficient; Do they spur enough neutralizing antibodies and T-cells, a type of white blood cell that helps the immune system destroy infection; Do T-cell responses correlate with longer-term protection; Is there a possibility that a vaccine could put someone at risk of more serious infection?

4. More than 150 possible vaccines are in development for preventing COVID-19. J&J is also developing a viral vector vaccine for coronavirus and expects to begin human trials this month. Moderna Inc last week said its experimental RNA vaccine for COVID-19 showed it was safe and provoked immune responses in all 45 healthy volunteers in an ongoing early-stage study. Moderna expects to begin large-scale testing before the end of July. Once vaccines clear early safety hurdles, they will need to be tested on thousands of subjects to assure they can be safely administered to millions or billions of healthy people.

## Afghan girl kills two Taliban fighters after parents

Agencies

Ghazni, Afghanistan: An Afghan girl shot dead two Taliban fighters and wounded several more after they dragged her parents from their home and killed them for supporting the government, officials said.

The incident happened last week when insurgents stormed the home of Qamar Gul, a teenager from a village in the central province of Ghor.

The fighters were looking for her father, the village chief, local police head Habiburrahman Malekzada told AFP.

Her father was a government supporter, which is why the Taliban fighters went to his house and dragged him out, Malekzada said.

When his wife resisted, the Taliban fighters killed the couple outside their home, Malekzada said.

"Qamar Gul, who was inside the house, took an AK-47 gun the family had and first shot dead the two Taliban fighters who killed her parents, and then injured a few others," he said.

Gul is aged between 14 and 16, according to different officials. It is common for many Afghans

to not know their precise age.

Several other Taliban fighters later came to attack her house, but some villagers and pro-government militiamen expelled them after a gunfight.

Afghan security forces



have now taken Gul and her younger brother to a safer place, said Mohamed Aref Aber, spokesman to the provincial governor.

Since the incident, social media networks have been flooded with praise for Gul's "heroic" act. A photograph of Gul, wearing a headscarf and holding a machinegun across her lap has gone viral in the past few days.

"Hats off to her courage! Well done," wrote Najiba Rahmi on Facebook. "Power of an Afghan girl," wrote another Facebook user Fazila Alizada.

## 'Locust Attacks Pose "Serious Threat" To Food Security In India'

Agencies

**United Nations: Locust attacks are posing a serious threat to food security in parts of East Africa, India and Pakistan as a result of changing climate conditions that can be linked to human activity, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has said.**

The specialised agency of the United Nations said extreme weather events and climatic changes such as increases in temperature and rainfall over desert areas, and the strong winds associated with tropical cyclones, provide a new environment for pest breeding, development

and migration.

Large and aggressive swarms of these crop-devouring short-horned insects recently invaded over two dozen districts of desert areas in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

In Pakistan, authorities declared an emergency in February, saying locust numbers were the worst in more than two decades.

WMO cited an article in Nature Climate Change and said while desert locusts have been here since biblical times, recent intense outbreaks can be linked to anthropogenic climate change and the increased frequency of extreme weather events.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Office of the Executive Engineer P.H.E. Mechanical Division (North) Sopore**

**Extension of e**  
**This office E NIT No. PHE/MDNS/NIT/E**, 02, 03, 04,  
**o. PHE/MDNS/DB/**

**This office E NIT No. PHE/MDNS/NIT/E**, Issued unde  
**o. PHE/MDNS/DB/**  
**above referred e** hereby rescheduled as under:

Particulars	
Last date for online submission of bids	
bid meeting	
Date of online opening of tender	

Other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.  
**PHE/MDNS/**

DIPK-3266/20 **Executive Engineer P.H.E. Mechanical Division (North)**

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL**  
Secretariat Ganderbal Tele No: 0194

For and on behalf of the tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors/ SHG's registered with CPWD, Railways and other State/ Cen ral Governments for the following works:

Name of work						
Lar Manigam Road incl. internal roads from fire service station Lar to Pakhtoon Basti Lar P/L 75mm thick compacted wet mix macadam, 50mm thick compact bituminous macadam in thick semidense with 6mm thick seal coat (laid with paver)	24.00					

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental webiste as per schedule of dates given below:

Date of issue of Tender Notice	
Period of downloading of bidding documents	
	Executive Engineer R&B Division

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money/ Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e The bids of Responsive bidders same website in the Office of Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of

The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:  
Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.  
Additional performance security required as per NIT conditions appended with the tender bids shall be released after virtual completion of the work.  
of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

(R&B) Division Ganderbal

**Department of Wildlife Protection**  
**Wildlife Warden Central Division Srinagar**  
**New Theed, Harwan, Dachigam Pin code: 191123**  
[wlwc786@gmail.com](mailto:wlwc786@gmail.com)

parties for the outsourcing (on license basis) of operation Man the Registered or experienced Panther House Coffee Shop at Pari

Period of downloading of tender/bid documents	
tender submission state Date	
Date of opening of tenders/bids	
	Office of the Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir Region, Srinagar

Tender Documents fee(non refundable) I the shape of Government Treasury

Challan Receipt under Account Head : 0406, payable at J&K Bank Ltd.

Other terms and conditions are laid down in the This tender shall be regulated by rules and regulations/ orders issued by the government from time to time in this regard.

DIPK-3213/20

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla**

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The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditi other details can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in>  
The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in>  
The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the time and date, in the office of the in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opene g day at the scheduled time and venue.  
The complete bidding shall be online.  
Prequalifying bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened on the same day. The clarification shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical  
The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of days from the date of opening of bids.



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