



Maximum : 31°C
Minum : 18°C
Humidity : 47%

SUNSET
Today 07:38 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:37 AM

News Digest

Arms Recovered Along LoC In Uri

Srinagar: The Army has recovered arms and ammunition following a search operation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rampur Sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, an official said. Late on Wednesday evening, an input was received regarding a likely weapon drop along the LoC ahead of anti-infiltration obstacle system. On this basis, a search operation was launched along the LoC in Hathlanga area of the Rampur sector in the north Kashmir district, the Army official said. He said that during the search operation, one AKS-74U with magazines, five pistols (one with Chinese markings) and magazines, 24 grenades and other war-like stores were recovered. All stores were, likely, transhipped from the across to support the militants in the hinterland, the official said.

4 Gamblers Held In Pulwama: Police

Srinagar: Police claimed on Thursday to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Acting on an input, a team from Police Station Litter raided a site at SIDCO Lassipora and apprehended 4 gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He said that an amount of Rs 15,000 and playing cards were recovered from the accused. "They have been arrested and shifted to PS Litter where they remain in custody," the police spokesperson said. He said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigations initiated.

Man Held For Murdering Wife

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have solved a murder mystery of a married woman by arresting her husband in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. According to a police spokesperson, a case under 302 IPC was registered at the Police Station Kangan after body of Rubeena, wife of Abdul Majeed Khan of Gounci Mohalla, Kangan was recovered from Nallah Sindh on July 14. The murder case was filed after police probe found that circumstances around the death of the woman were not just a case of simple drowning. After the case was filed, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmed Poswal constituted a team headed by SDO Kangan and SHO Kangan for speedy investigation, the police spokesperson said. During the course of investigation, he said the team arrested the woman's husband who confessed that he was suspecting his wife of having multiple love affair. The accused also suspected that his wife wanted to go back to her maternal home in West Bengal. ● P-02

2 Die After Vehicle Falls Into Gorge

Banihal: Two persons were killed on Thursday after a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, police said. The Kashmir-bound mobile vehicle also had 10 cattle who died in the accident at Digidool, they said. The deceased have been identified as Irshad Ahmad Kohli and Manzoor Ahmad.

Covid-19 Claims 11 More Lives In Kashmir, Toll Reaches 288



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as eleven people on Thursday succumbed to the deadly coronavirus disease in Kashmir valley, taking the total number of fatalities across the Union Territory to 288.

Among the victims, six were Srinagar residents, while four others hailed from Pulwama, Shopian, Baramulla and Kupwara districts of the Valley, officials said. A 60-year-old non-local too succumbed to the deadly disease.

In Srinagar here, three people, including a woman from Firdous Abad and Moomin Abad localities of Batamallo, a 55-year-old male from Nawa Kadal, a 52-year-old woman from Zoonimar, a 40-year-old from Chinkral Mohalla, Habba

Kadal became latest casualties of the virus, officials said. Besides it, a 62-year-old man from Soimoh Tral, a 63-year-old lady from Shopian a 46-year old woman from Gazriyal Kupwara, a 60-year old non local resident also succumbed to Covid-19 at different hospitals.

An official from SKIMS said that a man from Firdousabad was admitted on July 10 and a man from Nawakadal was admitted on 13 July with underlying ailments died at SKIMS on Thursday.

He said that woman from Zoonimar was admitted on 22 July while as woman from Gazriyal was admitted on 20 July and was tested positive on Thursday after her death.

He further added that a 60 year old man who is said to be from Kerala also died at SKIMS ● P-02

AN OFFICIAL FROM BARAMULLA said that a 70-year old dialysis patient from Uri with CRF, varian mass and Metastatic mitotic disease and was critically ill

COVID-19 Crosses 16,000-Mark, 718 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 718 new COVID-19 cases, taking the total number of infected persons in the Union Territory past the 16,000-mark, officials said. J&K recorded 718 new COVID-19 cases during the past 24 hours, taking the total number of infected persons in the Union Territory to 16,429, the officials said. While 117 of these new cases were from the Jammu region, 601 were from the valley, they said. There are now 7,438 active cases in the UT, while ● P-02

Decision On Qayoom Soon, J&K Tells SC

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir administration informed the Supreme Court on Thursday that the issue of high court bar leader Mian Abdul Qayoom's detention was under consideration and a decision will soon be taken in the matter.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Ajay Rastogi and Aniruddha Bose was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the court need not go into the merit of the case as the competent authority will soon decide it and sought some time to take instructions on the issue.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for Qayoom, opposed the request for adjournment and said that if required Mehta can seek instructions ● P-02

J&K Govt Rejigs Admin, 19 Officers Shifted

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ordered reshuffle in the administration by transferring 19 officers, 16 of them Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS), with immediate effect.

In an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Hashmat Ali Khan, KAS, Joint Financial Commissioner Agrarian Reforms in the office of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary to the Government, ARI and Trainings Department.

Farooq Ahmad Shah, KAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Joint Financial Commissioner Agrarian Reforms in the office of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K. Riyaz Ahmad, KAS, Secretary, J&K Board of School Education, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar. Leena Padha, KAS, Special Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional Inspector General of Registration, Jammu. ● P-02

Curbs In Kashmir As 6-Day Lockdown Begins

Srinagar: Strict restrictions were imposed in most parts of Kashmir on Thursday, a day after the J&K administration announced a complete lockdown across the Valley, except for Bandipora district, to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The complete lockdown in the Valley came into effect on Wednesday evening following a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in the last three weeks.

However, the district administration has said that the lockdown will continue till 6 am on July 27. No movement of people, except in medical emergencies and essential services, was being allowed across the Valley, the officials said.

Authorities have sealed most of the roads and market places in all Red districts, including Srinagar, and placed concertina wires and barriers on the roads to stop public movement, they said.

Shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut and public transport was off the roads. Agriculture, horticulture ● P-02

Woman Injured In LOC Firing In Kupwara

SRINAGAR- A woman was injured in a firing from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Tangdhar sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, the Army said on Thursday.

She was rushed to a hospital and her condition was stated to be stable, an Army official said. "Pakistan army targeted civilian villages in forward areas along the LoC last night. It resulted in bullet injury to a woman of Hajitra village of Tangdhar sector (in Kupwara district)," he said, adding that army effectively retaliated.

Meanwhile, India and Pakistan troops traded fire along the LoC for the third consecutive day Thursday in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

"At about 1100 hours, Pak Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms & shelling with ● P-02



AN AERIAL VIEW of Lal Chowk, the deserted commercial nerve centre of Srinagar on the first day of 7 day long lockdown.

Be Ready At Short Notice: Rajnath Singh To IAF

Observer Monitoring Desk

Srinagar: Amid a tense stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh, the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has told the Indian Air Force (IAF) to remain in a state of readiness at a short notice, Indian defence news reported Thursday.

The report said that in the first major meeting of the Air Force commanders after the Galwan clash, the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave a strong message to the forces and asked them to 'be ready at a short notice'. Rajnath, the report said made these remarks during the

'Sincerely Work' On Disengagement: India To China

India on Thursday said it expected China to "sincerely work" with it for complete disengagement and de-escalation and full restoration of peace and tranquility in their border areas, as a fresh round of bilateral diplomatic talks is likely to be held on Friday to push forward the disengagement process in eastern Ladakh. ● P-02

inaugural session of the Air Force Commander's Conference being held in New Delhi.

The Defense Minister praised the readiness of the Indian Air Force and the steps being taken by the Air Force to protect the borders.

"Addressed the inaugural session of the Air Force Commander's Conference today. IAF's role in some of the most challenging circumstances is well regarded by the nation. Their contribution during the nation's response to COVID-19 pandemic ● P-02

Covid-19 Patient Left Unattended At JLNH Hospital Corridor

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a shocking case of alleged negligence, a COVID-19 patient at Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial (JLNH) hospital here, was lying unconscious in the corridor throughout the night until he caught attention of some attendants in the morning and was shifted back to the ward, reports said Thursday.

The middle-aged Covid-19 patient admitted at the hospital a few days ago was lying unconscious on the floor with no staff member ● P-02

SKIMS Patients To Get Anti-Viral 'Remdesivir' Free Of Cost

The hospital administration at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) has decided to provide the antiviral drug Remdesivir to admitted patients free of cost. "Admin decided yesterday in a meeting that they will provide the drug free of cost to Covid-19 patients admitted in the institute," a SKIMS official ● P-02

LG Announces Road Macadamisation Program In J&K

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, G C Murmu on Thursday announced the launch of a macadamisation program for roads across the Union Territory.

The announcement by the LG comes in the backdrop of grievances relating to poor condition of roads and the problems connected thereto, presented before the Lieutenant Governor during his tours as a part of his outreach programme, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the LG ● P-02

Srinagar Hospitals To Admit Only Critical Care Patients On Referrals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday directed the major healthcare institutions in this capital city to admit only patients on proper referrals from the district hospitals.

The patients from districts will be accepted and admitted at Category I Health Care institutions in Srinagar i.e. SKIMS Soura, SMHS Hospital, Chest Diseases Hospital, Srinagar and SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bemina, only when they are properly referred by the District Health authorities in consultation with the Director Health Kashmir or his authorised representative, an official communiqué said.



This shall be ensured by the Director Health Services, Kashmir, to reduce the case load in the tertiary care institutions, so that only the patients requiring critical care are admitted in the aforesaid Institutions, the communiqué added.

The communiqué further asked to adhere to the instructions strictly as the patients from other districts are reporting directly to Category I Tertiary Care institutions in Srinagar.

Hirra Sultan

SRINAGAR: "The torment did not strike us immediately. We were fine. We were busy and had a lot on our plate. There were things to consider, arrange and take care of. Yet, that was not what impacted us. It was because of the phone calls."

This is what happened when Sadia's mother tested positive for Covid. She had been running a high fever for a week. Things were improving when the family heard about pulse oxy-meter and how monitoring oxygen saturation can help.

Initially everything was okay but then this one morning the oxygen saturation suddenly dipped to 80. Along with her younger sister, Sadia immediately rushed to hospital. After a lot of difficulty, moving around and panicking, her mother was admitted in SKIMS, Soura.

As the test reports indicated and

Kashmir's Alarm Calls: When COVID 'Concern' Becomes Trauma

was obvious by then, her mother was Covid positive. Apart from being worried because of her mother's Covid positive status and the existing comorbidities, medicines and everything else, panic had started to settle in. Not because of the fears of bilateral pneumonia or any other complications, but because of some calls.

All was well through the day. The trouble started as soon as Sadia's relatives got to know of her mother's hospital admission. Of the many calls that she had to attend to, many were simply crying and wailing. It seemed as if someone had told them that her mother was already dead.

Over the next few days, the frequency and number of such calls increased. Sadia revealed, "I snapped after a neighbour called. When I

asked him who he was, he replied: Haji Sahab. As soon as he handed over his phone to his wife so she may talk to me, she started crying. I was consoling her for the 5 minutes that the call lasted for. It seemed as if something was wrong with a family member of hers and I had called to console her. I don't even know who that lady was."

Such calls, Sadia said, became quite common, to the extent that she stopped taking a lot of them. "They were getting me depressed instead of offering help or cheering me up. I was already afraid for my mother's life and this premature mourning sent chills down my spine. My phone is still on so I may talk to my family and arrange things; otherwise I would have



turned it off by now." Shaker had a similar experience.

"Once my brother's reports turned out to be positive, many of my rela-

tives started calling me and giving me advice on how to take care of him and the rest of family members. The most bizarre advice was when an uncle of mine asked me to heat some water in a pressure cooker and put a pipe in place of its vent. The other end of this pipe should be in my mouth so that I inhale steam. I am baffled how people invent these things and how can people think these things are safe to do in the first place. Sometimes I wonder whether he was not trying to kill me!"

A lot of this chaos is because of the fact that Covid is surrounded by a lot of controversies.

South Asian countries also believe in alternate medicines and sometimes this leads to people believing all kinds of things as possible

cure. Like this steam inhalation, or clove vapours, or even ginger water. They sure might be good things but they are not cure. People lack proper knowledge and the happiness of having found an indigenous cure kind of blinds them about truth.

A lot of people are also resorting to taking antibiotics because of the panic around Covid, even if they merely sneeze once. They do not realize that taking antibiotics so easily and for everything makes these useless in case of a real infection later on. They know nothing about antibiotic resistance and how this behavior will make their infections last longer in the future and how they would need to take stronger antibiotics as well.

Naaz's father asked her for something cold and watery. He was feeling irritable because of all the medicines he was being administered in hospital. "When I told my aunt ● P-02

J&K Admin Bans Construction Activities To Deal With Encroachments

JAMMU: To deal with encroachments on over 1,500 acres of government land in Jammu, the union territory administration has banned construction activities along the Tawi river and served notices to all land grabbers, officials said on Thursday.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has transferred 9,479 acres of land to the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) for development since 1973 out of which 6,818 acres has not been demarcated. A total of 1,510 acres of land in Jammu city has been encroached upon, they said.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court, which is monitoring the anti-encroachment drive, has pulled up the and district administration for delay in the removal of encroachments on the land along the banks of Tawi river and lower Shivaliks in Jammu.

The court have also sought records of lands which have been seized from land grabbers and encroaches.

"In exercise of powers vested in me under section 144 CrPc, I do hereby restrain all persons, agencies, firms or anybody from raising any boundary wall, laying plinth or raising any other pucca or kacha construction (residen-



File Pic

tial or commercial) on all kinds of land in villages Jammu Khas, Rakh Raipur, ChakGaneshu and ChakSardar Attar Singh", District Magistrate Jammu, Sushma Chauhan said in an order.

She said that the order will restrain any construction activity on 8,460 kanals of land initially. The DM said that station house officers will be responsible for implementing the order in their respective jurisdictions and violators should be booked.

"Since it is not possible to serve individual notices to all the persons concerned, this order is being passed ex-parte," Chauhan said.

According to the order, a major portion of the said state land has been transferred to the JDA and there have been frequent reports of land grabbing in the fragile Nikki Tawi area that have been thwarted by the authorities of district administration, JDA and police, Chauhan said.

"It has been noticed that some unscrupulous and anti-social elements have attempted to encroach and grab the state land in the garb of private land (which is interspersed in the Nikki Tawi area) by raising boundary walls, laying plinths or raising other constructions," the DM said. Chauhan further said that

there is disturbance of public tranquility and peace when JDA, revenue and police authorities undertake drives for eviction of encroachers and land grabbers.

She said it has become imperative to undertake proper demarcation and delineation of the state land before any private claims are allowed to operate.

Since 2011, despite Supreme Court and subsequent High Court orders to remove the massive encroachers of thousands of acres of land from lower Shivalik ranges and Tawi river banks, respective governments and deputy commissioners have failed to implement the courts' orders.

However, Lieutenant Governor GirishChanderMurmu has given a stern directive to all the deputy commissioners, particularly DC Jammu to remove all encroachments on government and JDA lands by launching anti-encroachment drives and clear all such areas, particularly Shivalik ranges and Tawi banks, officials said.

They said that the LG is personally monitoring the launch of survey and anti-encroachment drives in Jammu city.

So far, the JDA has completed the demarcation process in only 33 of 83 villages in Jammu. The total land demarcated by the JDA since 1973 is only 2,245 acres out of which 330 acres has been encroached, they said.

Similarly, 1,510 acres of land belonging to the JDA has been encroached in Jammu. Of the total 9,479 acres of land, 223 acres is in possession of Jammu while 1,111 acres has been utilised by the JDA while 93 acres has been regularised, officials said.

A total of 3,884 kanals (485 acres) of JDA land has been retrieved till date out of the encroached 12,083 kanals (1510 acres) in Jammu. Around 4,245 cases are pending disposal, they said.

Covid-19: SEC Sanctions Rs15 Cr For Major Health Institutions Under SDRF



KO Photo And Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The State Executive Committee (SEC), headed by B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary, J&K, met here today and sanctioned an amount of Rs. 15 crore under SDRF to major health institutions for further procuring essential labs and equipments for handling COVID pandemic. SKIMS, Srinagar; GMC Jammu and GMC Srinagar have each been sanctioned Rs.5 Crore. The funds shall be placed with Divisional Commissioners of Jammu as well as Kashmir for this purpose.

As per MHA guidelines, SDRF funds for COVID containment efforts in Government Hospi-

tals can be utilized for setting up additional testing laboratories; procurement of personal protection equipment for health workers and other related consumables for government hospitals. It is pertinent to mention that this funding under SDRF is over and above the funding that is being provided to Health Department during the course of the year.

The meeting was attended by A. K. Mehta; Financial Commissioner, Finance; PawanKotwal; Financial Commissioner, Revenue and Simrandeep Singh, Secretary to the Government, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction.

Covid-19 Claims 11 More Lives

who was tested positive for COVID-19

An official from Baramulla said that a 70-year old dialysis patient from Uri with CRF, varian mass and Metastatic mitotic disease and was critically ill

Her dialysis was done at a private hospital in Srinagar and after dialysis she was advised to go home and come after one week for dialysis, he said, adding that she was sampled because of co morbidity by CMO Srinagar and in late hours result was positive and next day she expired and was buried as per COVID-19 protocol.

He further added that all primary contacts of the patient have been traced and put under quarantine.

A resident of Chinkral Mohalla, Habba Kadal, aged 40, became the seventh victim of COVID-19. "He was admitted in SKIMS, Soura on July 18 and had underlying medical conditions. He was tested positive for the virus," a doctor at SKIMS, said.

He further added that an 86-year-old man from Firdous abad Batamallo was admitted on 13 July while a 62-year-old male from Saimoh Tral died at SKIMS on Thursday.

An official from SMHS said that a 63-year-old woman from Shopian who was admitted on 14 July with bilateral pneumonia died on Thursday afternoon while a 65-year-old woman from Moomin Abad Batamallo who was admitted on 20 July died on Thursday evening.

With 11 more deaths, the death toll related to COVID-19 in J&K has reached to 288 including 268 from Kashmir division and 20 from Jammu division—(with KNO inputs)

COVID-19 Crosses 16,000...

8,709 patients have recovered from the infection, they added.

The cases detected on Thursday included 98 persons who had returned to the UT recently.

Besides it, at least 50 CRPF personnel, nine pregnant woman and eight police and as many army personnel also tested positive for coronavirus.

The officials said Srinagar district in central Kashmir recorded the highest of 158 new positive cases followed by 109 in Shopian and 106 in Kulgam district.

Curbs In Kashmir As 6-Day...

and construction activities have been allowed in accordance with disaster management guidelines. The movement of goods carriers, LPG and oil tankers also continued unhindered.

Woman Injured In LOC Firing...

mortars along the LoC in Qasba sector of Poonch district", a defence spokesman said.

This is the third day that Pakistani forces have violated the ceasefire along the LoC.

Pakistani troops had shelled areas along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Be Ready At Short Notice...

has been highly praiseworthy," Rajnath posted on his Twitter handle.

According to the report, an action plan to increase the operational capacity of the Indian Air Force in the next decade will also be discussed in the conference. The deployment of Rafale was discussed before the arrival of Rafale fighter jet on 29 July, which can be used for operations in Ladakh, the report added.

‘Sincerely Work’ On...

At an online media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs(MEA)Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava also asserted that the maintenance of peace and tranquility along the Line of Control(LAC) is the basis of India's bilateral ties with China.

He said another round of diplomatic talks under the framework of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) is expected to be scheduled soon.

People familiar with the developments said the diplomatic talks are likely to take place as early as Friday and its main focus would be to expedite the disengagement of troops from Pangong Tso and some other friction points in eastern Ladakh.

They said the disengagement process has not moved forward as expected following the last round of Corps Commander-level talks on July 14 which lasted for around 15 hours.

Covid-19 Patient Left...

present there to shift him back to the ward, a local news agency KNO reported. The patient, reports said was later shifted to SK Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura, in critical condition, after his family members created ruckus at the hospital accusing doctors and paramedics of putting the patient's life at risk.

The video of the patient has gone viral on social networking sites, with netizens criticizing the hospital authorities for leaving COVID-19 positive patients at the mercy of god.

"My father is undergoing treatment for jaundice at JLNH hospital. When I went out to get tea for my father this morning, I was shocked to see a COVID-19 patient lying unconscious in the hospital corridor. Before I could do anything, a flock of attendants also gathered at the spot and raised hue and cry," an attendant said.

He said the patient after gaining consciousness said he was out for a urinal and felt unconscious while returning back to ward. The witness said the attendant was lying all through the night in the corridor of the hospital before being shifted back to the ward in the morning.

Deputy Medical Superintendent, JLNH Hospital, Dr Tabasum could not be contacted for an official version.

Hospital sources while confirming the incident said there was no doctor or anyone among the paramedic staff present when the shocking episode which took everyone by surprise happened.

SKIMS Patients To Get...

told Kashmir Observer. According to doctors, the drug is vital and full doze of five days costs around Rs 30,000.

It may be noted that the drug finally arrived here, three days after Kashmir Observer reported shortage of the vital drug at the tertiary care hospital.

However, many people including the Doctors association have raised concerns regarding its high cost.

"Because of high cost, Remdesivir is out of reach for poor people" said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement.

"It is a five day treatment. The loading dose of 200 mg (shot) on day 1 is followed by 100 mg (shot) daily for 4 days (total 5 days)," he added.

Dr Nisar said each vial of Remdesivir costs between Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,400. Thus for a five day treatment, a patient has to pay anywhere between Rs 24,000 and Rs 32,400 as the cost of the drug.

Director, SKIMS Dr A G Ahangar told Kashmir Observer on Wednesday, that they have received 500 doses and more were arriving within next few days

LG Announces Road...

approved a program for 100% macadamisation of all roads in J&K including 11,000 kms of fair-weather roads following a detailed discussion with his Advisors.

"A Committee comprising of the Financial Commissioner (Finance), Principal Secretary (PW(R&B)), Secretary (Planning) and Secretary (Rural Development) has been constituted which will prepare a roadmap and a financing plan for ensuring 100% macadamisation of all roads in Jammu & Kashmir in a time bound manner. The Committee has been directed to submit its report by 10.08.2020," the official spokesperson said.

He said that the LG has also announced release of Rs 200 crores to the Public Works Department (PWD) as the first tranche so that the macadamisation work on priority roads can commence.

The official spokesperson said that the prioritization of roads for macadamisation work will be done by a Committee at the District level, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner with the Executive Engineer, PWD and ACD as its members.

"The prioritization criteria will include, when a road was last macadamized, whether it was part of the grievances presented before Lieutenant Governor during his outreach tours, the present quality of the road and other similar factors," the official spokesperson added.

Decision On Qayoom Soon...

within 24-hours and matter may be listed for Friday.

Dave said he is willing to argue the case on merits as the matter of Habeas Corpus (produce before court) cannot be dragged in this manner.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on July 27.

On July 15, the top court had asked the J-K administration to explain the basis for detaining Qayoom who has challenged his detention under Public Safety Act (PSA) since August 7 last year.

The top court had asked it to take into consideration various aspects including Qayoom's age, expiry of detention period and the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 26, the top court had issued notice to the J-K administration and sought its reply on Qayoom's plea challenging his detention order.

Qayoom has also sought a direction to shift him from Tihar jail here to central jail in Srinagar on medical ground.

He has challenged the May 28 order of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court rejecting his plea against his prolonged illegal detention under the PSA in jails outside the UT.

He said he is a Senior Advocate with more than 40 years' standing at the Bar and has served as President of the J&K High Court Bar Association for many terms, including from 2014 till the present day.

Qayoom said he was detained on the intervening night of Au-

gust 4th and 5th, 2019, under the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Code of Criminal Procedure and thereafter, an order of detention under the PSA was passed against him on August 7, 2019.

He said that on August 8 he was taken to Central Jail, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, without any prior notice of intimation, where he was kept in solitary confinement.

He said the high court's May 28 order is ex facie unsustainable in law as it is premised on "stale, irrelevant, remote, vague, imprecise and deficient" grounds of detention.

The impugned judgment and order concluded that most of the grounds in the detention order are somewhat clumsy which implies that the High Court too found them wanting. Placing reliance on the doctrine of severability as enunciated by this Court in Gautam Jain versus Union of India...the High Court then proceeds to uphold the detention order solely on one ground, his appeal said.

He said the high court makes it abundantly clear that the detention order has been upheld solely on one ground -- the four FIRs dating back to 2008 and 2010, as enumerated in the detention order.

These FIRs are stale, irrelevant and have no proximate, pertinent or live link to the present, and are thus superfluous and extraneous to the satisfaction required in law qua the tendency or propensity to act in a manner prejudicial to public order. Pertinently, even in the said decade old 4 FIRs, the Petitioner was neither arrested, nor any charge sheet ever filed by the police against the Petitioner, he added in his plea.

Qayoom said he had already been detained in 2010 on the basis of the said FIRs under the PSA, and the said detention was subsequently revoked.

Thus, the same FIRs cannot be used to pass another order of detention under the PSA, as held by this Hon'ble Court..., his plea said.

Qayoom said he is suffering from serious health ailments and is at a high-risk vulnerability for COVID-19 due to his co-morbid conditions.

The Petitioner has numerous serious medical conditions for which he has been receiving treatment for the last 25 years under the care and supervision of his doctors in Srinagar, Kashmir. The Petitioner is also dependent on his family for ensuring the regular and daily intake of medicines and regular injections, he added.

As an interim prayer, he sought his transfer to Central Jail, Srinagar, during the pendency of the present petition, ensuring that all necessary medical precautions are taken qua COVID-19.

J&K Govt Rejigs Admin...

Manisha Sareen, KAS, Additional Commissioner in the office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Secretary, J&K Board of School Education.

Khurshid Ahmad Sanai, KAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Project Director, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

Purnima Mittal, KAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, holding additional charge of Director, Animal Husbandry, Kashmir has been transferred and posted as Director, Animal Husbandry, Kashmir.

Arun Kumar Manhas, KAS, Project Director, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, against an available vacancy.

Rishpal Singh, KAS, Additional Inspector General of Registration, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Additional Commissioner (Central) in the office of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K against an available vacancy.

Parvez Sajad Ganai, KAS, Joint Director, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development, has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sopore, against an available vacancy.

Subash Chander Dogra, KAS, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director (Central) in the Directorate of Information, J&K.

Dr. Zakir Hussain, KAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Finance Department, is transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Thanamandi.

Priyanka Bhat, KAS, General Manager, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Information, Jammu.

Nisar Ahmad Shad, KAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Labour and Employment Department.

Rakesh Dubey, KAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Assistant Commissioner (General), Jammu, against an available vacancy.

Surinder Pal Sharma, KAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Labour and Employment Department, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, Finance Department.

Mukhtar Ahmad, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Thanamandi, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, School Education Department.

Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi, Custodian Trade Facilitation Centre, Chakan Da Bagh, is transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Poonch. He shall also hold the additional charge

of Custodian Trade Facilitation Centre, Chakan Da Bagh, till further orders.

Shamim Wani, General Manager, JKTCDC, has been transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Yusmarg. He shall also hold the additional charge of Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Toshamaidan, till further orders.

Muslims Help Kashmiri...

deceased as per the Hindu rituals. They also ferried firewood for helping the family to cremate the deceased.

The deceased is survived by his lone son Ramesh Kumar, a doctor by profession and 4 daughters, who are all settled. His doctor son is running a clinic in the Shopian village, while three daughters are in Jammu and one is in Srinagar.

"We shared good relations with Kanth Ram. We shared our joys and sorrows, meals and sweets. His death has saddened us all," Abdul Gafar, a villager said.

"We used to visit each other families and had a good chemistry. We have lost a noble soul today," he added. (KNT)

Kashmir's Alarm Calls...

that I let him have a cold drink, she scolded me badly for it saying this could harm him," Naaz said.

"She didn't even consider that his doctors had approved of it and that these patients need something that can tone down the bitterness in their mouth and burning in their stomachs. The doctor even asked me to let a chilled glass of skimmed milk accompany his lunch but my relatives keep me blasting for it. I have stopped telling them any details, just to save my own peace of mind."

All these uninformed advices and talks make one feel bad. Most of the attendants are feeling torn because of how and what their relatives, friends and acquaintances are saying. More than personal worry and concern, they get frightened because people believe a Covid positive report means death in itself.

Arsalaan has been searching high and low for the anti-viral drug, Remdesivir.

"My uncle and brother believe that this medicine is what will save my grandfather," he said. "I have talked to the doctors as to why they haven't prescribed this medicine yet. They responded that this drug is running short and hence is of no use to be prescribed. They further explained that the drug costs around Rs 30,000 for a 5-day course and has no proven value for the treatment of Covid. I tried to explain this to family members but they seem to believe that it is a magic drug and will save grandpa from any eventuality. They have crossed the stage where I could reason with them. So I have simply given in. Now I am hoping the medicine is available in SKIMS as they claimed a few days ago and I am saved the agony of visiting every drug store in the city."

To Arsalaan's good luck, the "vital medicine" is not only available in SKIMS, but also free now.

A lot of people, however, are feeling the Covid pinch.

Even if the affected families' personally believe things would turn out to be okay, people are hell-bent on making them question everything.

No doubt there are harrowing tales around Covid, but that does not mean everyone meets the same fate. The mortality rate due to Covid is merely 3 percent. And a family, in such desperate times, would rather want people to tell them things are going to be okay instead of talking as if the patient is already dead.

"It might help us, as a society in general and the affected families in particular, if we could put ourselves in their shoes before saying something," said Mushtaq, a family member of a Covid patient.

"After all anyone would start to have doubts if every person they talk to says something negative. Some people might be able to see though but the ones prone to anxiety would out rightly think that something is totally wrong with their patient."

So the question arises, why give people such heartache?

Maybe among all the other things, people need to figure out how to filter fake medications and cures from authentic ones, along with realizing that there is no treatment for Covid yet. They also need to keep a check on what they say to the affected families for they might be causing panic, depression or even trauma.

Man Held For Murdering Wife

"This lead to heated arguments between the couple and the husband strangled her to death. The accused further disclosed that he kept her dead body in his shop for 5 days and later with the assistance of his brother Nissar Ahmad Khan threw the body into the river Sindh from Akhal Bridge," the police spokesperson said.

He said that on the confession and instance of the accused, rope used for strangulation, clothes of the victim, blood stained card-board and hair were recovered with the assistance from FSL unit.

"Further investigation into the matter is going on," the police spokesperson added.

LG Opens Modernized Woollen Spinning Plant, Silk Filatures at Solina

e-inaugurates upgraded Government Spinning Mill, Nowshera

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: In order to give an impetus to the Silk and Wool sectors in J&K, the Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today inaugurated the Modernized and Upgraded Government Woollen Spinning Plant and Silk Filatures at Solina.

The Lt Governor also e-inaugurated Modernized Government Spinning Mill, Nowshera, Srinagar. All these units have been modernized and upgraded at a total cost of Rs 16.22 cr with around Rs 9.06 cr being funded under languishing projects.

Top officials were present on the occasion. The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of the Industries and Commerce Department to revive the units which had been closed and have been made fit for operation after decades.

He observed that with the operationalization of the units, the economic benefits would reach a large section of the society, especially those associated with cocoon and sheep rearing. A significant amount of raw silk and wool which was being sent outside J&K without any value addition, would now be pro-



cessed and finished within J&K, he added.

The Lt Governor called for undertaking innovative strategy for creating markets for the manufactured products in these units at national and international level.

He also enquired about the interventions being made for the

revival of the historical silk unit and asked the concerned officers to focus on enhancing viabilities of such business units as self-sustaining and employment generating public sector units.

The Lt Governor directed the I&C Department to carry out repair and renovation work of

the buildings and surroundings of the Solina complex at the earliest without disturbing the architecture of heritage buildings. Further, as a long term measure, the Solina Complex should be developed as a cultural hub where in arts, crafts and culture would be showcased, besides also ac-

ing as a focal point for craft shopping, cultural programs for local and tourists visiting J&K, he added.

The Lt Governor also took a round of the Woollen Spinning Plant and Silk Filatures and inspected various sections.

Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi informed the Lt Governor that the Silk filatures would have silk yarn production capacity of 40,000 kgs consuming around 1,20,000 kgs of cocoon, thus providing an assured market to around 10,000 cocoon rearers.

It was further informed that the Spinning Plant would be consuming around 2,00,000 kgs of local wool to produce around 1,50,000 kgs of yarn which would be weaved at Government Woollen Weaving Mills, Bemina to produce local tweed which has got good local and national market. In the coming times, this facility will render an effective market support to the local farmer families who will be benefitting by way of getting better remuneration for the raw wool.

LG Visits Anantnag, Seeks People's feedback

e-inaugurates developmental projects worth 118 cr, lays foundation stones of various works

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today sought feedback from the people in shaping and implementing developmental policies and termed their participation as a vital component of participatory Government.

The Lt Governor observed that the UT Government is ensuring the active public participation at all Administrative levels to make the functioning of the Government more transparent, accountable and participatory. He made these remarks during his visit to Anantnag District where he interacted with 18 public delegations and representatives of ULB's & PRI's.

Today's visit was the latest in the series of Lt Governor's Public Outreach Programme for taking a regular assessment of developmental aspirations of the people and other important local issues of the districts.

During his visit, the Lt Governor also inaugurated 12 developmental projects worth Rs 118 cr and laid foundation stones of various works of public importance. He was accompanied by Advisor to the Lt Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole; IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, K.K Sidha and other senior officers.

Around 18 delegations including repre-

sentatives of ULB's, PRI's; former Legislators; Traders Associations; Civil Society Associations from various areas; Fruit Growers; Hoteliers & Restaurant Owners Pahalgaon; un-employed Physical Education Trainees; Sikh Welfare Forum, Mattan / Chittisinghpore; members of Kashmiri Pandit community; deputation of Gujar Mahasabha & Tribal Community, NGO Helpline Bijbehara & South Kashmir Handicapped Association Anantnag put forth their concerns issues before the Lt Governor.

The members of delegations projected various issues and demands pertaining to empowerment of ULBs, PRIs, creation of BDC fund, strengthening of road network, Special Package for Un-employed Physical Education Trainees, beautification of Anantnag town, Mini-Secretariat and marriage hall, establishment of fruit mandis, introduction of Market Intervention Scheme, anti-hail net for orchardist, cremation grounds for minority communities, drainage system for Gurdwara at Mattan, inclusion of Gujar & Bakerwalls in BPL category, crop insurance, augmentation of sports infrastructure etc.

Regarding the issues raised, the Lt Governor assured the members of the delegations that their genuine concerns would be taken up on priority for early resolution and directed the concerned officers to initiate the necessary measures in this regard.

Category I Health institutions in Srinagar to admit patients only on referral

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: The government today directed that the patients from districts will be admitted at category I health institutions in Srinagar only on proper referral by the District Health authorities.

The patients from districts will be accepted and admitted at Category I Health Care institutions in Srinagar i.e. SKIMS Soura, SMHS

Hospital, Chest Diseases Hospital, Srinagar and SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bemina, only when they are properly referred by the District Health authorities in consultation with the Director Health Kashmir or his authorised representative, said the communique.

This shall be ensured by the Director Health Services, Kashmir, to re-

duce the case load in the tertiary care institutions, so that only the patients requiring critical care are admitted in the aforesaid Institutions, the communique added.

It (communique) further asked to adhere to the instructions strictly as the patients from other districts are reporting directly to Category I Tertiary Care institutions in Srinagar.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Muffasil R&B Division, Budgam

FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No:43/MDb/2498-2518 of 2020-21 DATED:21.07.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K (Union Territory), e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on **item rate basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time	Class	MH of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Upgradation of Khalpora Brass via Chilli road by way of Providing and Laying of 75mm compacted wet mix, 50mm compacted thick bituminous macadam and 25mm compacted thick semiside with 6mm thick seal coat in KM 1" RD 700 to KM 2" RD 675.	29.50 Lacs	1100/-	59,000/-	15 Days	Registered Hot Mix Plant holders	C&T
2	Upgradation of Hamchpora Gogaldara road by way of Providing and Laying of 75mm compacted wet mix, 50mm compacted thick bituminous macadam and 25mm compacted thick semiside with 6mm thick seal coat (818 Mtr in length)	29.50 Lacs	1100/-	59,000/-	15 Days	Registered Hot Mix Plant holders	C&T
3	Upgradation of Inner links Khag by way of Providing and Laying of 75mm compacted wet mix, 50mm compacted thick bituminous macadam and 25mm compacted thick semiside with 6mm thick seal coat (Hospital link and Old Tehsil link).	29.50 Lacs	1100/-	59,000/-	15 Days	Registered Hot Mix Plant holders	C&T
4	Impts/Upgradation of Farashgund Allahpora road taking off Solbugh Sonpath road by way of Providing and Laying of 75mm compacted wet mix in patches/stretches, 50mm compacted thick bituminous macadam and 25mm compacted thick semiside with 6mm thick seal coat (for a length of 1750 RM) (Balance portion)	52.00 Lacs	1600/-	1,04,000/-	20 Days	Registered Hot Mix Plant holders	C&T

(i) Position of AAA: U/S

(ii) Position of funds: Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21.07.2020 4.00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21.07.2020 from 4.00 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	21.07.2020 from 4.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	29.07.2020 upto 4.00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.07.2020 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Chalan in favour of **Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam**(tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR/BG pledged to **Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam** (tender receiving authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same Web Site in the **Office of the Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam** (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids**
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required additional performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Sd/-

No: 2498-2518
Dated: 21.07.2020

Executive Engineer
Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

DIPK-3274/20

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
02 Zil-Haj
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 57
ZUHR	12: 37
ASR	5:33
Magrib	7:42
ISHA	9:17

This Day In History

- 1783 - Georgia becomes a protectorate of tsarist Russia
- 1863 - Battle at Battle Mountain, Virginia
- 1880 - 1st commercial hydroelectric power plant in the world begins generating electricity in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 1883 - Arabi Pasha declares a holy war in Egypt
- 1886 - China takes British protectorate of Burma
- 1902 - In Turkey, the Sultan Abdul-Hamid, under pressure from within the Ottoman Empire, appoints a commission to consider reforms that might pacify Macedonian revolutionaries
- 1905 - Tsar Nicholas II (Russia) and Emperor Wilhelm II (Germany) sign the Björkö Treaty, whereby each country agrees to come to the other's defense if attacked by European powers
- 1908 - After days of discussion with his ministers, Sultan Abdul Hamid of Turkey announces he is restoring the liberal constitution of 1876 and will become more responsive to demands of dissidents
- 1911 - American explorer Hiram Bingham discovers Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas
- 1915 - Excursion ship Eastland capsizes in Lake Michigan, 852 die
- 1917 - Trial of Dutch exotic dancer Mata Hari begins in Paris for allegedly spying for Germany and thus causing the deaths of 50,000 soldiers
- 1923 - Allied Powers and Turkey sign peace treaty, Lausanne
- 1929 - US President Herbert Hoover proclaims Kellogg-Briand Pact which renounces war
- 1935 - 1st greetings telegram sent in Britain
- 1935 - The world's first children's railway opens in Tbilisi, USSR
- 1941 - FDR demands Japanese troops out of Indo-China
- 1942 - German troops occupy Rostov-on-Don in Southern Russia for the 2nd time
- 1943 - Operation Gomorrah: RAF begins bombing Hamburg (till 3rd August), creating a firestorm and killing 42,600 people
- 1944 - 300 allied bombers drop fire bombs on Allied/German positions
- 1944 - Soviet forces liberate concentration camp Majdanek
- 1944 - US troops land on Tinian
- 1946 - US performs atmospheric nuclear Test at Bikini Island
- 1952 - US President Harry Truman settles 53-day steel strike
- 1955 - Ali Sastroamidjojo of government resigns in Indonesia
- 1959 - US Vice President Richard Nixon argues with Nikita Khrushchev, known as "Kitchen Debate"
- 1969 - Muhammad Ali is convicted for refusing induction in US Army on appeal
- 1974 - Supreme Court unanimously rules Nixon must turn over Watergate tapes
- 1981 - Mohammed Ali Rajai elected president of Iran
- 1982 - Heavy rain causes a mudslide that destroys a bridge at Nagasaki, Japan, killing 299.
- 1985 - Rajiv Gandhi signs peace contract with Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal
- 1987 - IBM-PC DOS Version 3.3 (updated) released
- 1987 - USSR performs underground nuclear Test
- 1991 - U of Manchester scientist announce finding a planet outside of solar system
- 1994 - Bodo kills 37 Muslims in Bashbari NE India
- 2001 - An Iranian warship in the Caspian Sea threatens a BP oil exploration ship off the coast of Azerbaijan
- 2014 - 116 people are killed after Air Algérie Flight 5017 crashed in Mali
- 2014 - Fuad Masum is elected as the President of Iraq
- 2014 - Over 10,000 Palestinians protest Israel's operation in Gaza; 2 Palestinians killed after Al-Aqsa Brigades members fire at Israeli forces

From KO Archives

Talks with Hurriyat soon: Centre

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - The Centre today assured that the Hurriyat Conference, led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, will soon "get the dates" of the next round of talks between the two sides and asserted that its "doors are open for all" willing to make efforts for restoration of lasting peace in Jammu & Kashmir. "If they (Hurriyat leaders) are waiting for the dates...let me assure you that they will soon get the dates. The talks will be definitely take place," Union Minister of State for Home Sriprakash Jaiswal told a news conference here at the end of his two day visit to the state. However, he said no dates have been fixed for resuming the stalled talks so far. "We will soon fix dates for talks with the Hurriyat," he said but added that the Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umer Farooq should convey their desire to the Centre for resuming the dialogue process through the proper channel. "There is a difference between expressing desire to continue talks through public statements and conveying the same through authentic means," the minister said. The Union Minister said all problems could be resolved only through a dialogue process. "Violence cannot resolve any issue. The peace process is the only solution," he added. The moderate Hurriyat leaders have so far held two rounds of talks with the previous BJP-led NDA government. The dialogue process was discontinued after the UPA led by the Congress assumed power at the Centre in May 2004. On the recent spurt in militant attacks, Jaiswal said these were manifestations of their "desperation and frustration" as they did not want peace to return but the "peace process is moving forward".

(Kashmir Observer, 24 July, 2005)



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg@jktourism.or

Retirement of one partner from the Registration Certificate of "M/s Adventure Call Tour & Travels" Noor Colony, Hyderpora, Srinagar.

Mr. Obaid Yousuf Reshi Mr. Mohammad Yousuf Reshi

applied in this office for Retirement of one partner from the Registration certificate of Travel Unit running under the name a

Adventure call Tours & Travels

Noor Colony, Hyderpora, Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act

the applicant has submitted Original Dissolution of Partnership by virtue of which one Partner namely Ms. Parveen Akhtar is retiring and Mr. Obaid Yousuf Reshi will be the continuing party.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of Registration of

the request of the applicant is considered for retirement of one partner from the Registration certificate, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection if any, the same should reach this office within a period of from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. No objections beyond period of will be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered as per

Deputy Director Tourism,
Registration (Kashmir)

DIPK-3307/20

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Welcome Decision

Cancellation of the AmarnathYatra is a good step by the government. Though the pilgrimage was expected not to be held this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the government had decided to go ahead with it ignoring the risks involved. The administration wanted to undertake the yatra in a restricted manner so that the Standard Operating Procedure for Covid-19 were strictly followed - a maximum of 500 yatis were to be allowed per day by road from Jammu. On July 5 morning Lieutenant Governor Girish ChanderMurmur even performed ‘PrathamAarti’ of the ice stalagmite at the holy cave shrine. The Aarti was performed as part of the preparations for the yatra.

This had generated some unease in Kashmir where people apprehended that the yatra will lead to a surge in the cases of Coronavirus. As things stand, J&K, particularly the Valley, is already reeling from an exponential rise in the positive cases. In J&K, the cases are now around 16000 with about 280 deaths. The daily caseload hovers around 500. This has forced the government to impose a fresh lockdown for six days. And this too at a time when Kashmir is looking forward to Eid-ul-Azha and it is the time for many businesses to make most of the spending that takes place.

Under these circumstances to allow the AmarnathYatra to go ahead looked odd and also, in a sense, discriminatory when the same administration had chosen to bar the religious gatherings in Kashmir. During yatra, the pilgrims from all across India would have visited J&K. They would have to travel hundreds of kilometres through the country to reach their destination. So, letting the pilgrimage take place in the middle of a pandemic with cases rising by the day was an ill-advised move. However, it is good that the better counsel has eventually prevailed and the government has seen through the risks involved. Even MahantDeependraGiri, the custodian of the holy mace of Lord Shiva, has supported the decision to cancel this year’s pilgrimage.

At the same time, cancellation of the yatra is a huge economic loss for the thousands of people associated with it and who have come to depend on it for their livelihood.

Here’s hoping that the yatra takes place next year. And for that to happen the administration has to focus all its energies on the fight against Coronavirus. But on this score, the situation doesn’t look promising enough. So far the government has been entirely banking on the lockdowns to sail through the crisis. It has ignored the upgradation of the healthcare infrastructure that should have been its main priority. Lockdowns will only further crush the economy that has already been reeling from a year-long closure.

OTHER OPINION

Rethinking China

The US secretary of state’s visit to London highlighted the complications of the government’s toughened stance. The hardening of attitudes towards China, seen throughout much of the west and elsewhere, has been driven primarily by Beijing’s increasing repression at home and forcefulness internationally. Much of the shift is a sensible recalibration. The government was right to extend the arms embargo on mainland China – which covers equipment potentially used for internal repression – to Hong Kong, and to suspend the extradition treaty with the region. Britain could hardly have done otherwise, given not only its historical responsibility, but also the extraordinary reach and draconian nature of the national security law.

China has warned that there will be consequences. These decisions follow the U-turn banning Huawei from the UK’s 5G network, and the welcoming of Hong Kongers eligible for a British national overseas (BNO) passport. And MPs – including the Conservative backbenchers who met Mr Pompeo on Tuesday – are pushing for further action, ranging from sanctions on officials involved in human rights abuses to reviews of Chinese involvement in British nuclear power and influence on higher education.

When Boris Johnson promised he would not become “a kneejerk Sinophobe”, it was a sensible sentiment. But one question is whether the prime minister was serious, or whether the phrase was a euphemism for getting back to business when possible – perhaps once a free trade deal with the US is signed, or Donald Trump has left the White House. Britain has reportedly hinted to Huawei that not only was its arm twisted by Washington, but also that things might look different for the Chinese firm in future.

Another question is whether such an approach is feasible while Britain spurns the European Union and the Trump administration, with its unwieldy mix of ideological fervour and political calculation on China, remains in place. Though the US president would happily bargain away human rights concerns for trade concessions, Mr Pompeo and others talk as though they want a new cold war. It would be a grave mistake for Britain to adopt the kind of policies that the US is reportedly weighing, such as a sweeping travel ban on the 90 million members of the Communist party of China and their families. In a one-party state, people join for many reasons. Li Wenliang, the whistleblower doctor in Wuhan, was a member. So was the jailed Uighur intellectual Iham Tohti. Others in the US have called for a ban on all Chinese science and technology students – an absurd overreaction that fosters broader suspicion of all Chinese people and entities. Already, coronavirus has led to harassment of, and attacks on, Chinese and other Asian people globally.

Britain can and should go further on China. Young Hong Kong pro-democracy activists who do not qualify for BNO passports will need help. The foreign secretary’s condemnation of “gross and egregious” human rights abuses in Xinjiang was overdue; targeting companies and officials for their actions there is another step. China is unlikely to dramatically change course, and certain to seek retaliation. So the approach must be considered, consistent, and in concert with like-minded countries. There are, sensibly, growing efforts for democracies to cooperate in dealing with China. But this should not mean obedience to every demand from the US, or an echoing of its excesses.

The Guardian

GOWHARGEELANI

In any society the medical fraternity is the one that is often looked up to, especially when there is an impending health crisis. Countless women and men draped in white aprons with DR. as prefix have rendered their professional duties in a conflict-hit Kashmir for several decades. Under challenging circumstances they have often delivered the goods.

The isolated acts of hooliganism against a few doctors are not only deplorable, these are also blatantly shameful. Under no circumstances can mob violence be rationalised. Recent incidents of manhandling four doctors at Srinagar’s Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital and its Super Speciality Wing cannot be Kashmir’s normalcy indicators. The unjustifiable acts cannot be justified.

So, two things are sorted. One, the doctor fraternity is an important cog in the wheel of any society. Two, a civilised society cannot normalise violence against doctors.

Like journalists, sometimes the doctors too are treated as sitting ducks and thus become soft targets of the mob fury. Several journalists have been killed in Kashmir during the past three decades. They have been kidnapped, beaten, tortured and framed. In the 1990s, they were caught between a rock and a hard place. Both the state as well as non-state actors would target them at will. But journalists kept reporting, often at great personal risks.

More recently, dozens of journalists were summoned and interrogated at various police stations for discharging their professional duties. The widely respected journalists including PeerzadaAshiq, NaseerGanai, Bashaarat Masood, Irfan Hakeem, MasratZehra, Fahad Shah and others were interrogated at various police stations for doing their job as storytellers. There are cases registered against several journalists under stringent laws like the UAPA and IPC. Some were forced to reveal sources of their stories. They were intimidated. And for many the judicial process has been mentally torturous. The process has become the punishment.

The powers that be are unhappy with them for journalists can never make all sides happy. The irrefutable truth and unpalatable ground facts always hurt one party or the other. But what do journalists do after facing wrath from various quarters? They do not suspend work. They do not stop writing. Storytellers do not surrender. The warriors do not leave the battlefield.

Though what is unpardonable is that the doctors at SMHS locked doors of the emergency ward in protest against a manhandling incident. The casualty ward cannot be bolted. The patients cannot be left to fend for themselves even during normal times. Kashmir is in the middle of a raging pandemic. If the violence against a couple of doctors cannot be defended how can anyone defend a protest strike by the doctors during a colossal humanitarian crisis? Is this what the doctor ordered?

Some doctors often claim that they are the cream of the society. As they are fighting this tiny virus people across the globe have granted them a new title: frontline warriors. As a token of love, people in several countries garlanded and applauded them with the aim to keep their spirits high. It was well deserved.

Many doctors have been away from their family members and kids. It is a huge psychological challenge for them to work away from the family for hours while knowing that they too can get infected anytime and then suffer in isolation.

Success, they say, has many fathers but fail-

ure is an orphan.

A lady doctor from Srinagar was left high and dry once she tested positive for the virus. Her tremendous fight against COVID19 was forgotten. The doctors too have families. They too are human. Several doctors have alleged that they were beaten by the government forces personnel while on way to the hospitals. They too face indignation, sometimes from an angry attendant and other times from a trigger-happy cop.

That said, some doctors have taken refuge in the tried-and-tested technique of shooting the messenger. This technique is a tried-and-tested failure. Granted, the doctors cannot be held to account for administrative loopholes or ailing health infrastructure. But how can we not question them for locking down the emergency ward at SMHS? The protest strike during a pandemic

“If one were to do a content analysis of writings on Twitter and Facebook by some doctors against Kashmiri populace and journalist fraternity, one would reach a discomfoting conclusion. Their writings are shrill. The language employed by them is abusive. The remarks made are unparliamentary, uncivil and uncouth. And they have bloated egos

needs a thorough investigation so that the erring doctors are taken to task for taking such an irrational step during a crisis time.

Besides, the many anecdotal evidences, video recorded stories of peoples’ ordeal and the cases of alleged medical negligence cannot be brushed aside. Dr.MudasirFirdosi, a leading psychiatrist based in the United Kingdom, told this writer that “In Kashmir, medical negligence is not so uncommon.” The buck cannot be passed.

A son complained how he lost his father at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Bemina. He alleged medical negligence. The doctors there refuted the allegations, though. Journalist Umar lost his uncle at SKIMS, Soura. He was detected positive after a trop-T test, indicating heart failure based on his symptoms. He lost the golden hour, first in try-

ing to reach SMHS and then leaving for SKIMS, Soura due to the doctor’s strike at SMHS. How can this be justified? Another attendant alleged that the body of their deceased member was not handed over to the family even after 24 hours had passed. Nor the COVID test of the deceased was given, they said. In a video the man alleged that neither the concerned chief medical officer (CMO) nor the medical superintendent (MS) were available in their rooms. Other attendants pleaded with the doctors not to snatch dignity of their dead. All they wanted was a dignified burial, not an unending torment and humiliation.

How are journalists responsible for showing both sides of the coin? Why are some doctors hurling invective on journalists? Why this mis-directed anger? Are doctors above scrutiny? If one were to do a content analysis of writings on Twitter and Facebook by some doctors against Kashmiri populace and journalist fraternity, one would reach a discomfoting conclusion. Their writings are shrill. The language employed by them is abusive. The remarks made are unparliamentary, uncivil and uncouth. And they have bloated egos.

A senior doctor accused all journalists of being “boot-licking morons” who, according to the learned doctor, deserve “worst treatment”. Another doctor described journalists as “Cow-Swamis”, a derogatory reference to Republic News anchor Arnab Goswami. A lady doctor blamed the entire Kashmiri population for the 2005 earthquake, 2014 floods, routine gunfights between militants and government forces personnel, and even the COVID19 pandemic. One more doctor alleged that all journalists are “sold out souls” and called them “pseudo-journalists” who peddle “fake stories”. The list is long.

I am restraining myself from reproducing everything they wrote for the aim is not to show them in poor light, but to make them realise that their superiority complexes need a reality check. Strangely, the otherwise vocal Doctors Association of Kashmir (DAK) is maintaining an endearing silence over the disgraceful remarks made by several doctors against the journalist fraternity. Is DAK’s silence a sign of complicity?

Privately, many sensible doctors concede that the situation is precarious and a large number of COVID19 patients are managing themselves at home due to psychological influences and the fear that they won’t get adequate care in the hospitals. Off the record, they concede that reports of medical negligence are not exaggerated. As both asymptomatic and symptomatic cases are increasing rapidly the doctors in the hospitals are going to be over stretched further.

The health infrastructure remains the same except for the fact that some hospitals have been converted into COVID level hospitals. Hospitals are in need of station or hospital ventilators, transport ventilators and high-flow oxygen systems for the patients. The limited facilities will get exhausted with an upward trajectory of the COVID19 curve. New hospitals need to be added.

Today, the doctors rightly complain of the poor healthcare infrastructure. Why were the six transport ventilators, donated to Srinagar’s Chest & Disease (CD) Hospital by a credible NGO several months ago, returned? True, even the best healthcare systems around the world have crumbled to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. But denials won’t solve anything. The situation in Kashmir has shown signs of doctor-people relationship deteriorating.

“Was I an incompetent nephew or the system is so competent that it issues death certificates faster than the first aid. I do not have an answer,” these words by journalist Umar on his uncle’s death should haunt us forever!



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We are anxious about our job prospects

Post abrogation of J&K’s special status a lot has changed on the ground. From its bifurcation to various administrative changes, the erstwhile state has endured it all.

The latest development that has sent shivers down the spine of people is the case of issuing domicile certificates to non locals. The issue caught the public eye when an IAS Officer of J&K cadre Navin K Choudhury’s domicile certificate was seen doing rounds on the social media platforms Facebook and Twitter. The said bureaucrat is originally from Bihar and became the domicile of J&K among 25,000 others, as reported by The Tribune.

The decision has been declared unconstitutional and arbitrary by the region’s two political rivals National Conference (NC) and People’s Democratic Party (PDP) while Congress has termed it, “morally and ethically wrong move”. It, however, didn’t deter the BJP-led NDA government in New Delhi to rethink on the matter.

Many people and also some regional political parties perceive it as an attempt to change the demography of the J&K.

While demographic change undoubtedly continues to be the biggest and foremost concern of the people, my focus of discussion here is limited to domicile certificates and it’s impact on the job market and youth of Kashmir.

For the youth, the ordeal at this point in time should have been looking for employment and more development like most of the Indian unemployed youth aspire but the recent move of issuing domicile certificates to outsiders has compelled them to think otherwise.

While a larger group of native inhabitants have started applying for the domicile certificates, a major lot especially unemployed youth are in no mood to follow the suit, seeing the decision as arbitrary, the endorsement of which is against their science and self respect.

The J&K in general and the conflict ridden Valley in particular has not seen any recruitment drive since August 5, 2019 when Articles 370 and 35 A were scrapped by the BJP-led central government. But the recent recruitment drive initiated by government in various departments, the

registration process of which has already begun, comes as a good news to some but a larger faction has decided to abstain from filling the application forms, calling it a lolipop from administration.

As per the recruitment notification only those who are domiciles of J&K can apply. The furnishing of the copy of the domicile certificate under the new law after selection list is issued by the recruitment board has been made mandatory.

Earlier Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) was proof of residence in J&K but after the demotion to UT from a state and loss of special status, it has been replaced by new domicile law, which defines “domiciles” as those who have been residing in Jammu and Kashmir for a period of 15 years, or have studied here for seven years and appeared in Class 10/12 examination in educational institutions located in J&K.

Now since these young men are reluctant to apply for the domicile certificate, without which they cannot get a government job, the question arises what is in store for them? How are they going to sur-

vive without a job and what is brewing in their minds?

Although some people are ready to go for the private sector jobs, keeping in view the situation in Kashmir that remains tense due to conflict and insurgency here, there is not much scope in this field either.

Presently these people are in tens, tomorrow they will increase to hundreds and after sometime there will be thousands more. What option are they left with? What will they do if not employed?

It is no doubt a matter of grave concern for all of us, particularly persons at the helm of affairs have to think about it. If these educated people are alienated in such a way, a time will soon arrive when they can take decisions that will bring intolerable consequences not only to themselves but their families and the society in general because each one of us is a part of it.

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How The Oxford Coronavirus Vaccine Works And What's Next

Preliminary data shows the vaccine is safe and induced a strong antibody response in all vaccinated volunteers.

REBECCA ASHFIELD

Vaccines work by training the immune system to recognise and fight off infectious agents or pathogens, such as bacteria and viruses. Vaccines do this by presenting the immune system with a readily identifiable part of a pathogen, which the immune system remembers so that it can quickly respond should it encounter that same pathogen in the future.

A vaccine against Covid-19 is urgently needed if we're to stop the virus spreading and prevent potentially millions of further deaths. We're now one step closer to that goal.

On Monday, we published early results from our clinical trial of the vaccine Chadox1 nCov-19, also known as AZD1222, designed by the University of Oxford and developed in partnership with AstraZeneca. The preliminary data shows that it is safe and induced a strong antibody response in all vaccinated volunteers, suggesting that an effective vaccine could be within reach.

This trial was the first time that the vaccine had been given to humans: 543 healthy adults aged 18-55 were vaccinated with a single dose of Chadox1 nCov-19. A further 534 people were given a control vaccine that gives similar minor reactions, including injection site redness and mild pain. Volunteers are having their immune response — both antibodies and T cell levels — monitored for at least 12 months, and will also be observed to see whether or not they develop Covid-19.

The preliminary data from the trial clearly demonstrates that the vaccine induces an antibody response within 28 days. This response is in a similar range to that in individuals who have recovered from Covid-19, providing encouragement that the vaccine will be able to protect the majority of people against infection.

Ten volunteers were also given a second "booster" dose of the vaccine. This increased the antibody response to even higher levels, and 100 per cent of blood samples from this group showed neutralising activity against Covid-19 infection in a laboratory setting.

The vaccine also induced T cells that specifically recognise Sars-Cov-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. It's encouraging to see both antibody and T cell responses, as together this is the right kind of immune response that could lead to protection against the virus. Importantly, the vaccine demonstrates an acceptable safety profile, with no vaccine-induced severe adverse events — that is, no major side-effects.

We were confident testing the vaccine in humans after encouraging trials with mice and rhesus macaque monkeys. These had shown that the vaccine was safe and induced a robust immune response. Significantly, the vaccinated monkeys were protected from severe disease after they were challenged with



a much higher dose of Sars-Cov-2 than humans would encounter through natural exposure.

How does this vaccine work?

Vaccines work by training the immune system to recognise and fight off infectious agents or pathogens, such as bacteria and viruses. Vaccines do this by presenting the immune system with a readily identifiable part of a pathogen, which the immune system remembers so that it can quickly respond should it encounter that same pathogen in the future.

Most vaccines in development for Sars-Cov-2 — including this one — focus on presenting the spike protein that decorates the surface of the virus. It's this protein that allows the virus into human cells by binding to a molecule on their surface called Ace2.

There is a broad range of approaches to vaccine design; Chadox1 nCov-19 is what's known as a viral vector vaccine. To make this vaccine, particles of a different, harmless virus called Chadox1 are loaded with the portion of Sars-Cov-2 DNA that instructs cells how to build the spike protein.

When these Chadox1 particles infect human cells, the coronavirus DNA is then "expressed", building the spike protein for the immune system to respond

to. Importantly for vaccine safety, the viral vector can't replicate and cause an ongoing infection.

The Chadox1 viral vector has been used to make eight vaccines already in clinical trials for other human diseases, including the Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome or Mers, a coronavirus that is related to Sars-Cov-2.

What happens now?

Crucially, we need to demonstrate that the vaccine is effective — that it results in significantly lower, ideally zero, cases of Covid-19 in the Chadox1 nCov-19 vaccinated group versus the control group. Falling infection rates in the United Kingdom are an excellent outcome for the health of the nation, but may compromise the ability to show this.

If there are no cases of Covid-19 in the group receiving the control vaccine, comparing that group to the vaccinated group would be meaningless. Deliberately infecting people with the virus may be possible in future after careful consideration of the ethical implications, but is not currently allowed.

For this reason, a second trial has been launched in approximately 10,000 UK individuals, focusing on health workers, and further trials are being conducted in Brazil and South Africa,

where infection rates are much higher. The expanded UK trial will include children and older adults to estimate vaccine efficacy in these age groups. Immune responses in people over 70 are often lower than those in younger adults.

It's essential to follow the vaccine-induced immune response over a period of at least one year, to estimate whether booster injections will be required, and if so how often. My personal prediction — based on decreases in antibody levels in individuals infected with other types of coronavirus, rather than data from the current vaccine trial — is that we're likely to need yearly boosters, similar to annual flu jabs.

Finally, if the vaccine proves effective, rapid manufacture of potentially billions of doses would be required to supply the world. To facilitate this, AstraZeneca has already initiated a large-scale vaccine manufacturing programme, aiming to have hundreds of millions of doses with delivery starting by the end of 2020. Agreements are in place to provide the vaccine to low-income and middle-income countries and also to the UK, Europe and the US.

*By arrangements with
The Conversation*

Think Of Yourself As A Superhero In Mask

Masks as cultural objects have been used throughout world in all periods since Stone Age

VANAJA RAO

Gulf News

With the lifting of the lockdown in many states of India, we see many people moving around without masks. Or, if they do wear one, it resembles a neck kerchief more than a mask.

The problem is the lack of impunity which encourages everyone to throw caution to the wind. If fines were imposed strictly, this would put a stop to such irresponsible behaviour.

Earlier, masks were not easily available at most pharmacies. So I had to make do with using a scarf which wasn't very practical as it needed frequent adjusting.

Many masks are primarily associated with ceremonies that have religious and social significance or are concerned with funerary customs, fertility rites or the curing of sickness. They are also used on festive occasions such as Mardi Gras, Halloween and in enactments of mythological events

- Vanaja Rao

When I did get hold of some, they were the kind with two sets of straps to be tied. Eventually, I managed to get the kind with loops that could be worn around the ears.

Mask making has become big business now and even helped Lamborghini navigate the crisis by switching to making masks and visors. The masks were made in the upholstery department and protective shields were made in the composites production plant.

Masks as cultural objects

Masks as cultural objects have been used throughout the world in all periods since the Stone Age. But today we are forced to wear these as protection against a pandemic that has swept across all countries.

I remember reading about masked balls in the Regency period romances of Georgette Heyer



Many masks are primarily associated with ceremonies that have religious and social significance or are concerned with funerary customs, fertility rites or the curing of sickness. They are also used on festive occasions such as Mardi Gras, Halloween and in enactments of mythological events.

and finding them a riveting read. However, there is nothing romantic about wearing a mask to prevent disease. It takes some getting used to.

But wearing these can help contain the spread of Covid along with social distancing. The latter is difficult to achieve in a country like India due to the huge population and lack of basic amenities.

Many masks are primarily associated with ceremonies that have religious and social significance or are concerned with funerary customs, fertility rites or the curing of sickness. They are also used on festive occasions such as Mardi Gras, Halloween and in enactments of mythological events.

In many cultures throughout the world, a judge

wore a mask to protect him from future recriminations. Among non-literate peoples who cannot record their own histories, masked rituals act as an important link between the past and present.

Masks for protection from disease include the measles mask worn by Chinese children and the cholera masks worn by the Chinese and Burmese during epidemics.

These face coverings have also been used almost universally to represent characters in theatrical performances while artists like Picasso and Matisse found a source of inspiration in the masks of Africa and western Oceania.

Formidable-looking visages

This reminds me of the huge collection of masks brought home by a sister after a long stay in Nigeria. She put them up on the walls of the living and dining room and, frankly speaking, it was not a very pleasant experience having these formidable-looking visages staring down at you.

A video forwarded on WhatsApp recently shows a customer walking into a bank in an Indian city without a mask. When she is denied permission to enter, she flies into a rage and starts abusing the staff. It is sad that there are people who think they are a law unto themselves.

Examples of such irresponsible behaviour appear daily in the newspapers, with reports of politicians especially flouting the rules.

Whenever you feel hampered by the thought of donning a mask each time you step outside, think of inspirational figures such as Superman, Batman, Spiderman, Iron Man, Zorro and the Green Hornet, among others.

These have provided us with hours of entertainment as well as inspired us with their actions. Think of yourself as a superhero stepping outside to face the common enemy and save yourself as well as others.

*Vanaja Rao is a freelance writer based in
Hyderabad, India.*



STUDY REVEALS BRAIN NETWORK MECHANISM CAUSING SPATIAL MEMORY IMPAIRMENT

“OUR FINDINGS COULD LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT of a method to reactivate brain activity of the entorhinal cortex, which may help establish new treatments for preventing the progression of spatial memory impairment in Alzheimer’s disease patients,” Igarashi added.

Agencies

A team of researchers has brought clarity on the brain network mechanism that causes spatial memory impairment.

Patients with Alzheimer’s disease frequently suffer from spatial memory loss, such as no recognition of where they are, and forgetting where they put their belongings. They often show a

wandering symptom, which is also a feature of spatial memory impairment.

Published in Neuron, the study titled, “Disrupted place cell re-mapping and impaired grid cells in a knockin’ model of Alzheimer’s disease,” reveals how the normal brain network function of hippocampus cells which works to discriminate a distinct spatial environment in a process called “remapping,”

was disrupted in Alzheimer’s disease.

The study, done Alzheimer’s disease model mice, found that this disruption of the hippocampus is most likely caused by the activity impairment of the entorhinal cortex, a brain region that supplies information to the hippocampus.

“We recorded the brain cell activity in the hippocampus, which is the memory centre of

the brain, responsible for spatial memory, among other things,” said Kei Igarashi, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine.

“Our findings could lead to the development of a method to reactivate brain activity of the entorhinal cortex, which may help establish new treatments for preventing the progression

of spatial memory impairment in Alzheimer’s disease patients,” Igarashi added.

Igarashi has been studying brain network mechanisms for Alzheimer’s disease since he started his lab in 2016. “Our memory comes from the activities of the brain network. To find out the cure for memory impairment in Alzheimer’s disease, we need to understand how the network function is

impaired,” he said.

Igarashi is 2019 New Vision Research and BrightFocus Foundation award recipient. The first author of this study, Heechul Jun, is a MD/PhD student in the UCI Medical Scientist Training Program.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, there are an estimated 5.8 million Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease. By 2050, that number is expected to

increase to 13.8 million people.

Spatial memory impairment, such as wandering behaviour, is one of the most troublesome symptoms in Alzheimer’s disease, and it occurs in more than 60 percent of Alzheimer’s patients. Despite recent molecular and cellular findings in Alzheimer’s research, it is still largely unclear how deterioration of brain circuit function causes spatial memory loss.

New Insights Into Different Aspects Of Anxiety May Help Treat It Effectively

Agencies

While there is no definite cure for anxiety, a team of researchers sheds light on the source of unease and tension to help effectively treat anxiety as soon as the symptoms appear.

The study conducted by researchers of the University of Trento, which has just been published in Scientific Reports, pursues these goals and helps draw a line between different aspects of anxiety and to find the best treatment for each one.

The team of researchers focused on what goes on in the brain of people with the two main types of the condition: trait and state anxiety, respectively the temporary and the stable, chronic form of the disease.

Nicola De Pisapia, a researcher of the Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science of the University of Trento and scientific coordinator of the study, explained the differ-



ence between the two: “If you are feeling very tense today, but you usually are calm and quiet, you have high state and low trait anxiety.”

“Whereas if you are unusually quiet, while in general you feel nervous, you may have low state and high trait anxiety. Therefore, state anxiety is a temporary condition, while trait anxiety is usually a stable feature of a person,” the researcher said.

Clinical experience shows, among other things, that individuals with trait anxiety have difficulties managing stressful situations, are at risk of depression, have altered cognitive functions, are less socially competitive and tend to develop psychopathological disorders.

Differentiating between trait and state anxiety is helpful to choose the most appropriate

treatment for patients and to prevent the condition from becoming chronic.

“Our study makes it clear that it is fundamental to treat individuals with state anxiety so that they do not develop trait anxiety, which is a chronic condition. One way to treat it is to reduce anxiety as soon as it manifests itself, for example using relaxation techniques, physical activity, and other means that improve personal well-being in general”, commented De Pisapia.

The goal of the study was to better understand the neural bases of the two types of anxiety.

“Our research group studied and investigated with MRI the anatomy and activity of the brain at rest in more than 40 individuals. We then correlated our measurements to variations in state and trait anxiety in the participants in the study with standard questionnaires which are also used in clinical practice,” commented De Pisapia.

Pinpointing Hotspots For Covid-19 Will Help People Start Travel Again

Press Trust Of India

Testing of plane, ship wastewater for COVID-19 could help as governments and transport industries develop plans to minimise transmission associated with resuming international travel.

The research, published in the Journal of Travel Medicine says that the test provides an early warning of infection, as the virus sheds in the stools of infected passengers even before they show symptoms.

Testing of aircraft and cruise ship wastewater upon arriving at their destination for the genetic fragments of the novel coronavirus can be a valuable tool to prioritise clinical testing and contact tracing among disembarking passengers, according to a study.

“The ability to test wastewater from planes and cruise ships is another piece of the puzzle as we look to the future of travel and keeping Australians safe,” said Karen Andrews, Australia’s



Minister for Industry, Science and Technology.

In the study, scientists from The University of Queensland (UQ) and Australia’s national science agency CSIRO worked with transport companies to test on-board wastewater from lavatories.

“This could provide additional peace of mind to track and manage infection and play an important role in opening up long-haul flights or cruises resuming,” said study co-author Jochen Mueller from UQ’s Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences.

However, while the coronavirus genetic material, RNA, was detected in samples from both aircraft and cruise ship wastewater, the scientists said the concentrations were near the “assay limit of detection.”

“The study indicates that surveillance of wastewater from large transport vessels with their own sanitation systems has potential as a complementary data source to prioritise clinical testing and contact tracing among disembarking passengers,” the researchers wrote in the study.

Study Suggests Increased Risks For Covid-19 Patients Who Smoke, Vape

Agencies

Based on the findings of recent case studies of COVID-19 patients, researchers reviewed the role of smoking and vaping that may play in the cerebrovascular and neurological dysfunction of those who contract the virus.

The study led by Cucullo and TTUHSC graduate research assistant Sabrina Rahman Archie, “Cerebrovascular and Neurological Dysfunction under the Threat of COVID-19: Is There a Comorbid Role for Smoking and Vaping?” was published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences.

As the SARS-CoV-2 virus or COVID-19 has unfurled its tentacles across the globe, the severe respiratory and pulmonary disorders associated with the infec-

tion have become well known. However, recent case studies also have strongly suggested the presence of cerebrovascular-neurological dysfunction in COVID-19 patients, including large artery ischemic strokes that originate in one of the brain’s larger blood-supplying arteries such as the carotid.

Luca Cucullo, Ph.D., and other researchers from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) have for years studied the effects smoking and vaping have on the cerebrovascular and neurological systems. Their research, and that of others, has shown smokers of tobacco and vaping products are more vulnerable to viral and bacterial infection than are non-smokers.

In his previous research, Cucullo demonstrated how tobacco

smoke can impair a person’s respiratory function. From there, it can affect the vascular system and eventually the brain. Because COVID-19 also attacks the respiratory and vascular systems, he and Archie wanted to see if there were any reported cases indicating the virus may also affect the brain and lead to the onset of long-term neurological disorders like ischemic strokes. They also looked for evidence showing smoking and vaping can otherwise worsen the outcomes for COVID-19 patients, which Cucullo said seems to be the case.

Archie said some case studies demonstrate there are indeed stroke occurrences in COVID-19 patients and the rates appear to be increasing every day. In fact, one study comprised of 214 patients found that 36.45% of CO-



VID patients had neurological symptoms, further indicating the virus is able to affect the cerebral vascular system. But how does this happen?

There are within the human body approximately 13 blood coagulation factors that can be increased due to hypoxia, a

condition that occurs when the body is deprived of sufficient amounts of oxygen at the tissue level, as occurs with smoking. Archie said COVID-19 appears to also raise some blood procoagulant, especially the von Willebrand Factor, a blood-clotting protein that primarily binds car-

ries coagulation factor VIII and promotes platelet adhesion at the site of wounds.

“When the coagulant factor will be increased in our body, there will be a higher chance of clot formation,” Archie explained. “Ultimately, it will be responsible for several vascular dysfunctions, for example, hemorrhagic or ischemic stroke.”

Because COVID-19 and smoking or vaping each increases blood coagulation factors that may eventually affect the cerebral vascular system, Cucullo believes the stroke risk may be higher still for COVID-19 patients who smoke.

“COVID-19 seems to have this ability to increase the risk for blood coagulation, as does smoke,” Cucullo added. “This may ultimately translate in

higher risk for stroke.”

Recent clinical study data also shows some of the damage caused by COVID-19, especially to the respiratory system, is permanent. Cucullo said the same data indicates that patients who recover from COVID-19 still have an elevated risk for stroke and that age and physical activity don’t seem to be factors. Some of those with the highest risk factors for long-term problems related to COVID-19 are young adults in their 20s and 30s who were active and considered to be in their physical prime.

“After COVID-19, some of those can barely take few steps without having breathing issues, so the recovery, it’s kind of formal recovering, but some of these long-term effects remain,” he added.

Babri Mosque Demolition Case: BJP Veteran Murli Manohar Joshi Deposes Before CBI Court

LUCKNOW: A special CBI court today recorded the statement of BJP veteran Murli Manohar Joshi in the 1992 Babri mosque demolition case.

The statement of the 86-year-old leader was recorded in the court of Special Judge SK Yadav through video conference.

Former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani, 92, is likely to record his statement in a similar manner on Friday.

The Babri mosque demolition trial is presently at the stage of recording of statements of 32 accused in the case under Section 313 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) during which they get an opportunity to refute the prosecution evidence against them.

The mosque in Ayodhya was demolished on December 6, 1992, by 'kar sevaks' who claimed that an ancient Ram temple stood at the same site.

LK Advani and MM Joshi were among those leading the Ram temple movement at that time.

The court is conducting day-to-day hearing in the case to complete its trial by August 31 as directed by the Supreme Court.

"Liquor Not An Essential": Top Court Dismisses Plea Over Its Counter Sale In Mumbai



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has said that liquor is not an essential thing while dismissing an appeal by Maharashtra Wine Merchants Association (MWMA) against the Bombay High Court order refusing to direct the state to allow over-the-counter sale of liquor in Mumbai.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah said: "The High Court has already permitted the petitioner to represent the matter to the Municipal Corporation. We see no reason to entertain this special leave petition. The special leave petition is dismissed."

Advocate Charanjeet Chanderalp, appearing for the MWMA, said a representation was made to Brihan-mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) as directed by the high court but it has not responded as yet.

He urged the top court to fix a time frame on BMC or municipal commission for deciding the representation of the Association.

The counsel said that online sale of liquor has many problems and chances of sale spurious liquor are very high while over-the-counter sale of liquor would prevent such products being sold.

"Liquor is not an essential thing. We are not inclined to entertain this plea," the bench said.

On May 29, the high court had refused to quash the BMC's order prohibiting over-the-counter sale of liquor in the city, stating that it was the civic body's policy decision to do so amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

It had refused to quash a notification issued by the civic body on May 22, prohibiting over-the-counter sale of liquor and permitting the use of e-commerce platforms for home delivery of alcohol.

The MWMA in the high court had sought a direction to the state government to permit sale of liquor at wine shops in Mumbai, which is a COVID-19 red zone.

The petition had contended that in cities like Pune and Nashik, where the COVID-19 situation was similar to Mumbai, regular counter sale of retail liquor was being permitted.

The MWMA had contended that the system of online orders and home delivery of liquor was fraught with difficulties and could have an adverse social impact and was also not safe.

The high court, however, said it would be appropriate for the petition to be placed before the city municipal commissioner as a representation.

The municipal commissioner will be able to take an appropriate decision after considering all the factors, the court had said.

"This decision is in the nature of policy. Such a decision entails evaluation of various competing factors. The situation may differ from place to place. The relevant factors can also undergo a change with passage of time," the court had said.



STRICT LOCKDOWN was enforced on Thursday in Srinagar with police personnel deployed in strength. KO Photo Abid Bhat

US Maintained "Close Contact" With India On Chinese Aggression: Envoy

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration has maintained close contact and "tremendous cooperation" with India on the latest Chinese border aggression, America's top envoy in New Delhi has said, asserting that the last six months have been unprecedented in terms of the bilateral relationship.

The troops of India and China were locked in a standoff in several areas along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh since May 5. The situation deteriorated last month after the Galwan Valley clashes that killed 20 Indian Army personnel in the line of duty.

"For now, (we are) watching the issues on the Northern border of India in which China has raised disputes throughout the Western sector, but also in the central and East. Throughout all of this, we've had very close contact with our Indian counterparts and quite frankly, tremendous cooperation," US Ambassador to India Ken Juster said on Wednesday in his address to the virtual India Ideas' Summit organised by US India Business Council.

The ambassador's remarks came two days after US Defence Secretary Mark Esper described the Chinese military's aggressive activities in the region as "destabilising". Esper also said the US was "very closely" monitoring the situation between India and China along the Line of Actual Control.

"We have seen post the (India) visit of the President several further conversations between the President and



the Prime Minister. The Secretary (of State) has spoken on numerous occasions with (External Affairs) minister, Jaishankar. I think it's really solidified their relationship," Mr Juster said.

Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun has spoken not just with Foreign Secretary Harshvardhan Shringla, but with a range of counterparts in the Indo-Pacific region, he said. Mr Juster said there have been a host of ministerial-level interactions between the two countries including the one between Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

The two countries also had a strategic energy partnership meeting. It is showing the breadth and the depth of the issues that the two countries work on together, he said.

"I think because of the intensity of the last six months, we've really had a new level of comfort in dealing with each other, a degree of trust and respect to get things done," Mr Juster said.

"I remember, issues we had and repatriation flights, where we had to get cooperation, not just from the home ministry and the ministry of external affairs, but at the local levels with state officials and with police officers. It shows the importance of these individual relationships," he said.

Through all of this and the intensity of the last six months and the range of emotions from an incredibly successful presidential visit to dealing with lockdown and all the urgent issues that came out of that, "we've really transformed a strategic partnership into a comprehensive global strategic partnership," Mr Juster said.

"As the prime minister has said recently, what may be the most important partnership of the 21st century. So that's really what I think the last six months have done to solidify this relationship," the top American diplomat said.

Peace, Tranquility Along LAC Basis Of Bilateral Relationship With China: India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday asserted that the maintenance of peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the basis of its bilateral relationship with China, and said it expected the Chinese side to be sincere in completing the disengagement of troops in eastern Ladakh.

At an online media briefing, MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said another round of diplomatic talks under the framework of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) is expected to

be scheduled soon. "The maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is the basis of our bilateral relationship," he said.

"Therefore it is our expectation that the Chinese side will sincerely work with us for complete disengagement and de-escalation and full restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas at the earliest as agreed to by the Special Representatives," Mr Srivastava added.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a nearly two-hour-long tele-

phonic conversation on July 5 to bring down tension between the armies of the two countries in eastern Ladakh.

Both sides began the disengagement process from July 6 following the talks between Mr Doval and Mr Wang, who were Special Representatives for the boundary question.

"We have also made it clear that India is fully committed to observing and respecting the LAC and that we will not accept any unilateral attempts to change the status quo along the LAC," said Mr Srivastava.

COVID-19: Waste Masks, Gloves To Be Stored For 72 Hours Before Being Disposed

NEW DELHI: In its latest guidelines on disposal of COVID-19 waste, pollution watchdog CPCB or Central Pollution Control Board has directed that masks and gloves used by everyone, whether infected or not, should be cut and kept in paper bags for minimum 72 hours before disposing of them.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) also directed commercial establishments like malls and offices to follow the same procedure with discarded protective personal equipment (PPE) from general public.

"Discarded PPEs from general public at commercial establishments, shopping malls, institutions, offices, etc. should be stored in separate bin for 3 days, thereafter, disposed of as dry general solid waste after cutting/shredding."

"Waste masks and gloves in general households should be kept in paper bag for a minimum of 72 hours prior to disposal of the same as dry general solid waste after cutting the same to prevent reuse," the CPCB said.

This is the fourth time the Central Pollution Control Board has issued guidelines on management of bio-medical waste generated from coronavirus.

It, however, said that leftover food and empty water bottles handled by infected patients should not be collected along with bio-medical waste but with other general solid waste.

"Leftover food, empty juice bottles or tetra packs, empty water bottles, packaging material, and any other items, generated or handled by COVID-19 patient should be collected along with other general solid waste in bags securely tied for handing over to waste collectors."

"Yellow coloured bag should not be used for general solid waste," it said.

Yellow bags are dedicated for bio-medical waste from COVID-19, as per the guidelines issued time and again.

The Central Pollution Control Board also recommended use of bio-degradable or non-disposable cutlery to minimize waste generation.

"In order to minimize waste generation, as far as possible, non-disposable items must be used for serving food, which are to be handled with appropriate precautions and cleaned and disinfected as per hospital guidelines."

"If use of disposable items is inevitable, use biodegradable cutlery. The wet and dry solid waste bags to be tied securely in leak-proof bags, sprayed with sodium hypo-chlorite solution and hand over to authorized waste collector. Yellow coloured bags should not be used for collecting general solid waste. Compostable



bags should be used for collecting wet-waste," it said.

It has also directed that isolation wards, including temporary healthcare facilities like rail coaches, must keep separate colour coded bins to maintain segregation of waste and use a dedicated bin to collect and store COVID-19 waste and keep it separately, use double layered bags for collection of COVID-19 waste and disinfect all bins/containers every day.

From COVID-19 isolation wards, used PPEs such as goggles, face-shield, splash proof apron, plastic coveralls, hazmat suits, nitrile gloves must be collected into a red bag, it said.

"Collect used masks (including triple layer mask, N95 mask etc.), head cover/cap, shoe-cover, disposable linen gown, non-plastic or semi-plastic coverall in yellow bags. Used masks, tissues and toiletries, of COVID-19 patient shall become biomedical waste and shall be segregated in yellow bag," it said.

Gehlot Govt Has Majority Figure Far More Than It Requires: Rajasthan Cong Chief

JAIPUR: Amid the current political crisis in the state, Rajasthan Congress Chief Govind Singh Dotasra said on Thursday his party's government has the majority figure, which is far more than that is required.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said an assembly session will be called soon and his government will prove its majority. He hoped that some of the dissident MLAs, who are led by sacked deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot, will also attend the session when it is called "very soon".

Dotasra said, "The government has the majority figure... hundred per cent... far more than the government requires."

To the question of holding an assembly session, he said,

"We are ready. If our chief minister calls the House... we are ready for the floor test."

Dotasra said he would soon formally take over as the Congress' state unit head.

The indication that the Gehlot government is preparing for a floor test in the assembly comes a day ahead of the expected pronouncement of a high court order on the disqualification notices sent by the Speaker to the rebel MLAs.

But any Rajasthan High Court order will be subject to the outcome of a petition by the Rajasthan Speaker that the Supreme Court is now hearing.

The 19 dissident MLAs had filed a petition in the high court, challenging the disqualification notices. PTI

NEWS MAKERS

78% Indian Consumers Cut Spending Amid Covid-19 Crisis: KPMG

NEW DELHI: Consumers in India are cautious about spending in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic with 78 per cent of respondents claiming to reduce discretionary spending, according to a survey by consultancy firm KPMG.

However, consumers in tier-II and tier-III cities were almost two-times more optimistic on their spending habits than those in tier-I, hence it could be the next focus area to monitor spending habits, as per KPMG in India's report titled 'Time to open my wallet or not? - The new spending patterns emerging from a consumer's perspective'.

Interestingly, the survey said "overall 51 per cent of respondents feel that the impact of COVID-19 will be short-



lived and normalcy is not far". Commenting on the findings, KPMG India Partner and Head Consumer Markets and Internet Business Harsha Razdan said, "our study indicates that 22 per cent consumers in tier-II and 30 per cent consumers in tier-III feel that their spending will either increase or remain the same as prior to COVID-19 and this could be the next focus area for retailers to expand their presence."

"In the next three months, 49 per cent respondents intend to spend up to Rs 5,000, across categories which makes this the most popular basket value and indicates that consumers are cautious about spending," he added.

Elaborating on consumer spending habits, the KPMG India survey said, "78 per cent of the respondents claim to reduce on discretionary spending... tier-II and -III cities are 1.9x more positive than the tier-I cities."

Consumers in tier-III cities were 1.4 times more inclined towards spending on apparel than those in tier-I cities for spending more than Rs 5,000, it said.

Across all categories, males intend to splurge more than females in the spending range of over Rs 5,000 with 60 per cent of males intending to shell out up to Rs 5,000 in skin

care and cosmetics, it added.

In terms of consumer age band, the survey said, "the 20-30 age band is more optimistic on discretionary spending, while spending habits reduced considerably among both male (76 per cent) and female (82 per cent) consumers."

The survey also said a comparative study of pre and post COVID-19 scenario clearly showed that preference for online channels have seen 1.6 times growth.

KPMG said the survey has been conducted with 2,376 respondents, of which 66 per cent were male and 34 per cent female. It was conducted across tier-I, tier-II, and tier-III cities, among different types of spenders and age groups, between May 18, 2020 to June 7, 2020.

Nizam Of Hyderabad's Descendants Back In UK Court Over Historic Funds

LONDON: The descendants of the Nizam of Hyderabad on Wednesday returned to the High Court in London to challenge a court order related to over 35 million pounds lying in a UK bank account.

In a judgment handed down at the Royal Courts of Justice in London last year, Justice Marcus Smith had ruled in favour of India and the titular eighth Nizam of Hyderabad and his brother, who had reached a confidential agreement in a decades-old legal dispute with Pakistan over funds belonging to the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad at the time of Partition in 1947.

However, other descendants of the Nizam, Najaf Ali Khan on



behalf of 116 heirs of the late seventh Nizam, sought to challenge that ruling this week by accusing the administrator of the seventh Nizam's estate of "breach of trust".

Mr Khan, appearing remotely from India, told the court that the funds were released improperly to India and the two princes - Prince Mukarram Jah and his young-

er brother Muffakham Jah - and also claimed "chronic financial hardship".

"I determined the beneficial ownership of that money in my judgment in 2019... It is impossible to accept that he can be entitled to reopen the proceedings," said Judge Smith, dismissing Najaf Ali Khan's attempt to reopen the case.

However, the judge will continue to hear arguments over Wednesday and Thursday over allegations of impropriety by the administrator of late seventh Nizam's estate.

The administrator apparently holds around 400,000 pounds from the money left over following payments made to the state of India and

the two princes based on their confidential agreement over the total funds.

The arguments centre around legal costs accrued in the case and Withers LLP, who have acted for the VIII Nizam since Pakistan issued proceedings in 2013, returned to the court along with barrister James Brithwell appearing on behalf of India.

"The Nizam VII was beneficially entitled to the Fund and those claiming in right of Nizam VII - the Princes and India - are entitled to have the sum paid out to their order," Justice Smith had ruled in favour of India and Princes Mukarram and Muffakham Jah in October 2019.