

Maximum : 31°C  
Minum : 19°C  
Humidity : 67%  
SUNSET  
Today 07:24 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:48 AM

## OBSERVER

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## News Digest

## G C Murmu Takes Charge As CAG

New Delhi: Girish Chandra Murmu on Saturday assumed charge as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of India, an official statement said. Murmu, the former Lt Governor of Jammu & Kashmir union territory, was administered the oath of office and secrecy by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the morning. At a ceremony held in the Ashoka Hall, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Murmu was sworn in as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a statement. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Finance Minister ● P-02

## 2 Youth Arrested In Night Raids

Srinagar: Government forces arrested two youth during a nocturnal raid in Drabgam village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, reports said Saturday. A joint team of government forces raided Drabgam village during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday and arrested two youth identified as Riyafat Manzoor and Shahid Ahmad, local news agency KNT reported. The report further adds that four youth were detained from the same village in last 20 days on charges of being involved in 'anti-national' activities. The report further ● P-02

## Soldier Injured In Road Accident

Srinagar: An army man on was injured after a speedy car hit him near Baramulla town in north Kashmir, reports said Saturday. Havaldar Karnail Singh of army's 46 RR was injured when a car (JK01AF-8354) hit him near post office in Baramulla town on Friday evening, news agency KNO reported. The accident, according to the report occurred when the driver lost control over his vehicle. Quoting an unmanned police official, the report said that a case has been registered in police station Baramulla in this regard.

## 3 Gamblers Held In Srinagar: Police

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested three gamblers in a raid in Maloora area of the city outskirts. Acting on an input, a police team raided a site in Maloora and arrested three gamblers and recovered an amount of Rs 29,950, one watch and cellphone besides playing cards from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He identified the accused as Mehrajuddin Malla, Ab Rashid Goroo and Shakil Ahmad Khan. "They have been shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 164/2020 under ● P-02

## 13 Govt Officials Suspended In Samba

Jammu: The deputy commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district ordered suspension of 13 government officials on Saturday after they were allegedly found absent from their duties, officials said. The deputy commissioner of Samba, Rohit Khajuria, conducted a surprise visit to offices and found 13 officials absent from their duties, they said. Taking serious view of the matter, he ordered suspension of those employees for dereliction of duty, the officials added.

## Kashmir Inaction

## Saudi Stops Oil To Pak Over OIC Split Threat

## Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia has halted the provision of oil on loan for Pakistan after the Imran Khan government threatened to split the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) over Kashmir.

Hit by a severe economic crisis, Pakistan had borrowed a \$6.2 billion loan from Saudi Arabia in 2018. The loan package included a provision under which Saudi Arabia granted Pakistan \$3.2 billion worth of oil, a year on deferred payments. Pakistani media on Saturday said that the provision meant for Islamabad expired two months ago and has not been renewed by Riyadh.

Instead, Islamabad has prematurely returned \$1 billion Saudi loan, four months ahead of repayment period, The Express Tribune said quoting sources and Sajid Qazi, the spokesperson of the Petroleum Division.

Recently Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi during a talk show on a news channel had threatened that if the OIC headed by Saudi Arabia did not convene a foreign ministers' meeting on Kashmir, Prime Minister Imran Khan would



Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in a file photo

## Not Sorry For Kashmir Comments: Mahathir

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said on Saturday that he will not offer apologies for his comments on Kashmir, which he recently admitted had strained the country's ties with India, News 18 reported. Taking to his Twitter handle, the former Malaysian Prime Minister said that what transpired since his contentious speech at the UN General Assembly in September last year only served to prove that what he had said were mild and to a certain ● P-02

hold it on his own with his allies among the Islamic countries.

"If you cannot convene it, then I'll be compelled to ask Prime Minister Imran Khan to call a meeting of the Islamic countries that are ready to stand with us

on the issue of Kashmir..." he had threatened on Ary news channel.

The OIC, the biggest bloc of Islamic countries in the world, has repeatedly declined Islamabad's several requests to hold a meeting on Kashmir. ►PAGE 02

## DSP Davinder Singh Connection

## NIA Raids Carpet Dealer In J&amp;K, Delhi

## Agencies

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday carried out searches at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir, including premises of carpet businessman Sahil Zaroo, to look for financial links with Pakistan-based militant group Hizbul Mujahideen vis-a-vis the DSP Davinder Singh case.

"Searches are going on at multiple locations in Srinagar and other places in J&K in connection with the Davinder Singh case," top NIA sources in Delhi.

The source said that the raided places included the premises of Jaroo in Srinagar, adding that the anti-terror probe agency is looking at the financial link in Davinder Singh and Hizbul Mujahideen conspiracy case.

The development comes almost a month after the NIA filed a charge sheet against six persons, including suspended Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Superintendent of Police, in a special NIA court in Jammu.

The NIA has named Naveed Mushtaq alias Naveed Babu, Irfan Shafi Mir, Rafi Rather, Tanveer Ahmad Wani, and Syed Irfan ►PAGE 02

## Private Schools Warned About Holding Staff Salaries, Layoffs

## Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said it will cancel the recognition of such unaided private schools that were withholding the salaries or were mulling terminate its staff members during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The officials at School Education Department also warned the management of private schools of strict action in terms of relevant provisions of law in case of any violation found.

"The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has received complaints from the staff of recognized unaided private schools

regarding either termination of services or non-payment of salaries," reads the circular issued by the School Education Department.

Director of School Education Kashmir, Mohammed Younis Malik said, "There are clear cut orders from the Govt that the tuition fee only be charged from the student's during the lockdown period in lieu of COVID-19 pandemic facilitating the private schools to meet the expenditure of the salaries of the staff there."

Malik said that few schools were called to attend DSEK office to redress the grievances of staff in lieu of non-payment of salaries or termination thereof ►PAGE 02

## 6 Doda Men Held Over Lashkar Links

JAMMU: Police on Saturday claimed to have busted a finance network of Lashkar-e-Taiba by arresting six people from the Jammu district.

Special operations group (SOG) personnel on July 19 arrested Mubashir Farooq Batt of Sazan village of Doda when he was carrying a consignment of Rs1.5 L concealed in a tiffin box, a senior police officer said.

The police, he said filed a case FIR No. 42/2020 U/S 17/18/20/21/38 and 40 of UAPA Act 1967 at Police Station Peermitha, Jammu. ● P-02

## India, China Hold Military Talks On LAC

## NEW DELHI-

Talks between senior army commanders of India and China were underway on Saturday to take forward the disengagement process along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at a number of friction points including in Daulat Beg Oldi and Depsang in eastern Ladakh, people familiar with the developments said.

The Major General-level talks are being held at a border personnel meeting point in Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) area on the Chinese side of the LAC, they said.

The meeting comes a week after the two armies held the fifth round of Corps commander-level (Lt Gen) discussions in an effort to expedite the disengagement process.

At the military talks, the Indian side has been insisting on complete disengagement of Chinese troops at the earliest, and immediate restoration of status quo ante in all areas of eastern Ladakh prior to May 5 when the standoff began following a clash between the two armies in Pangong Tso.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has pulled back from Galwan Valley and certain other friction points but the withdrawal of its troops has not moved forward from the Finger areas in Pangong Tso, Gogra and Depsang as demanded by India, according to sources.

India has been insisting that China must withdraw its forces from areas between Finger Four and Eight. The mountain spurs in the area are referred to as Fingers. The formal process ● P-02

## 15 More Covid-19 Deaths In Kashmir, J&amp;K Toll 465

## Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least fifteen more people succumbed to Covid-19 infection in the Kashmir Valley on Saturday, raising the number of fatalities due to deadly disease to 465 in the Union Territory.

Four deaths were reported from Kupwara, three each from Srinagar and Baramulla, two from Anantnag besides a one each from Pulwama, Bandipora and Kulgam, official sources said.

Among the victims include 70-year-old woman from Bijbhara, a 55-year-old woman from Malopora Pulwama, a 60-year-old man from Panzgam Kup-

wara, a 50-year-old woman from Natipora Srinagar,

a 50-year-old man from Zaloor Srinagar,

a 55-year-old woman from Sogam Kupwara,

a 60-year-old woman from Muttulhama Qiomoh

Kulgam, a 58-year-old man from Gurez Bandipora,

a 50-year-old man and a

70-year-old, both from Handwara, an 85-year-old woman from Srinagar and a 65-year-old man from Baramulla.

Regarding the woman from Malopora Pulwama, a senior doctor at District Hospital Pulwama said that she was admitted ►PAGE 02

## 70-YEAR-OLD MAN FROM Handwara, an 85-year-old woman from Srinagar and a 65-year-old man from Baramulla also died at SKIMS Soura and had multiple problems, the doctor added.

## IAS Officer, 36 Security Men Among 463 New Cases

A senior Indian administrative service (IAS) officer, 46 travelers and 36 uniformed men were among 463 new covid-19 infections in Jammu and Kashmir, taking the overall tally to 24390, officials said on Saturday. Among them, 81 were reported from Jammu Division and 382 from Kashmir Valley including 36 uniformed— 13 each from army and CRPF, four from BSF, four from SSB and one ● P-02

## Srinagar, Jammu Likely To Get Metro By 2024: Singh

NEW DELHI: The light transit metro train service in Srinagar and Jammu is expected to be ready by 2024, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said Saturday.

Singh said the metro project for the two cities would cost around Rs 10,599 crore.

The railway consultancy firm RITES Limited has submitted the final detailed project reports and the metro systems are expected to be completed by the end of 2024, he said, talking about the development initiatives being undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.

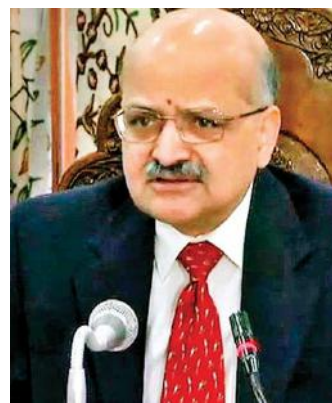
Once the projects are completed, Srinagar and Jammu will become the first two ● P-02

## J&amp;K Govt Plans To Promote Border Tourism

SRINAGAR: A 600 km-long highway will be constructed along the border touching all picturesque tourist spots in the Kashmir Valley, each of which will be "another Gulmarg", Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam has said.

The Rs 8,000 crore road project will connect Gulmarg with Kargil and Drass in Ladakh.

"We are planning to construct a 600 km road which will touch tourist attractions like Keran, Gurez and Machhal. The road will connect all unexplored tourist spots and picturesque valleys and help open them ● P-02



with RSS and are enforcing their agenda in Kashmir," the PDP spokesperson said.

He said that the BJP and its chosen bureaucrats in Kashmir were not only

heaping "insults, humiliation, and atrocities" on the people of Jammu and Kashmir but were also misleading and exploiting the so-called nationalistic sentiments in rest of the country.

"They are trying to appease the fundamentalist Hindu sentiments and creating an atmosphere in the people of the state especially against its Muslim populace. CS is representing a culture and ethos that have produced the biggest dacoits and looters of national wealth- be it the people who looted the banks or making money out of COVID and have amassed wealth amounting to thousands of crores," the PDP spokesperson said.

"Banks in the country have crumbled because of the crony capitalism promoted by the RSS government which the Chief Secretary ►PAGE 02

## High Court Seeks End To Adhocism In Govt Services

## Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has sought comments from the government as to how the system of adhocism can be put to an end and all recruitments and promotions are made strictly in terms of the rules and not on in-charge basis.

A bench of Justices Rajesh Bindal and Rajnesh Oswal issued a slew of direction in this regard to the government, underlining that this system is being followed despite depreciated by the Supreme Court way back in 2000.

"What is seen in the then State of J&K and now the Union Territory of J&K

is that the judgment of the Supreme Court is being complied with less and violated more, as practically in all the departments, promotions are being made on incharge basis," the court said, adding, "This practice is prevalent more in Engineering Department. The reasons therefor are not unknown."

How an employee, who is substantively working on the lowest post, can be given the charge of a highest post in the department without there being regular promotions, the court said. "No one knows their seniority position. It is the local adjustment made claiming that he is senior most available and ►PAGE 02

## Swati Joshi | Tooba Towfiq

WHEN Moosa Raza as chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir was trying to tackle the incipient militancy in Kashmir during nineties, he happened to ask Agha Ashraf Ali one day about Kashmir's relation with India.

The firebrand educationist known for having less tolerance for ignorance told Raza that every Indian politician and bureaucrat, every editor of an Indian newspaper, every judge of the high court or the Supreme Court, has come to Kashmir only to go around its valleys, enjoy its springs, its mountains and hills, its forests, and in the early days, to shoot its wildlife.

This conversation appeared in Moosa's 2019 published

book, Kashmir: Land of Regrets.

"Why should the Kashmiri feel any loyalty or commitment to India," Agha Ashraf tells Moosa, "when the Indian establishment has only treated Kashmir as a call girl – to be enjoyed for a brief while, to be thrown a few crumbs, a few rupees, in appreciation of that hospitality? Kashmir is soon forgotten. That is the reason why, in spite of the fact that you have spent four times more than PoK, Kashmiris are still not happy with you, still do not love you, still do not want to be with you, they still shout 'azadi, azadi, azadi'."

The man who had hushed the Indian emissary during the tumultuous time in Kashmir also finds a stirring mention in writer Amitav Ghosh's "The Ghat of the Only World"—the elegy for his poet friend—as an

## Agha Ashraf Ali: 'A Truly Renaissance Figure'

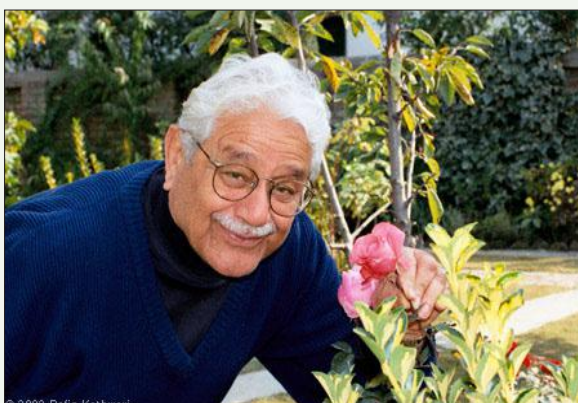
erudite man who "continued the family tradition of public service in education".

"He taught at Jamia Millia University in New Delhi and went on to become the principal of the Teacher's College in Srinagar," Ghosh writes. "In 1961, he enrolled at Ball State Teacher's College, in Muncie, Indiana, to do a PhD in Comparative Education."

But in Kashmir, the outspoken Agha was more than his heavyweight academic stature.

"He was the Rishi of RajBagh, the Sufi of Srinagar – a truly Renaissance figure," says Prof. Amitabh Mattoo.

"There were few like him in Srinagar or anywhere. An extraordinary intellect, who



Agha Ashraf Ali (1922-2020)- Photo credit Rafiq Kathwari

could quote from Ibn Khaldun with as much ease as reciting verses from the Isha Upanishad!"

A visit to Agha Ashraf's fairy tale home at Raj Bagh (rebuilt after the floods), the professor recalls, was an overwhelming

experience. "A raconteur par excellence, he would delight you with anecdotes drawn from history and personal experience; from his time in the United States to the special relationship he shared with Dr Zakir Hussain and Professor Mujib at Jamia – to the story of Kashmir and the Sheikh, as he knew it," he says.

Agha Ashraf retained his encyclopedic memory till almost the last, as separatist and mainstream, the devotee and the atheist, all made way to Agha's Sahib's chambers to be enlightened, the professor continues.

"And he served the delicacies of Awadhi cuisine in Wedgewood with the same epicurean sensitivity as his beloved late

wife Sufia," Prof Mattoo says.

"In his later years he became better known as Agha Shahid Ali's dad; it thrilled him to bits. But Agha Sahib was unmatched in his love and zest of for life in all its colours. In his passing away, Kashmir has lost amongst the last of its truly great souls."

Agha Ashraf breathed his last at 11:45 pm on August 7 at his residence in Srinagar.

At a time when the young were chided and rarely entrusted with leadership roles, Sheikh Abdullah had identified in Agha Ashraf the potential to usher in new reforms in education. However, his merit and role were hardly surprising.

He belonged to a highly educated family in which everyone from his grandparents, mother and his brothers enjoyed very seminal positions of power.

Such a background and an inspired legacy of education in his family ensured his initiation and integration into the world as a changemaker.

As his death triggered a tsunami of tributes, many recall how his work dramatically transformed the milieu of education in Kashmir. "The positions of administrative leadership in education that he occupied were in itself a statement at a time when Kashmiri Pandits dominated the education and literary landscape of Kashmir," argues Tania Shafi, a Kashmiri scholar.

A Shia Muslim spearheading reforms in education, he was at once an instigator as well as an incentive to invite more Muslims towards education, Shafi continues.

"The impact of his work as a scholar, educationist ►PAGE 02



## Saudi Stops Oil To Pak...

Since August 2019 when India revoked special status of the Jammu and Kashmir state and brought it directly under the control of the Central government by bifurcating it into two Union Territories, the Imran Khan government has been seeking support of the 57-member OIC over the issue in Pakistan's favour. One of the major reasons for OIC's lack of support for Pakistan has been Riyadh's displeasure with Islamabad's proximity with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who nurtures the ambition of replacing Saudi Arabia as leader of all the Sunni Islamic countries.

## Not Sorry For Kashmir...

degree, restrained.

"I offer no apology for what I had said though I am sorry that it had affected our palm oil export to India. I don't know if that is a high price to pay for speaking out against such injustices," Mahathir Tweeted.

"Now that I am no more the Prime Minister, I take it that I can now speak without restrain and address the Kashmir issue without threats of boycotts and such," he said in another Tweet. Earlier, speaking at a "Solidarity with Kashmir" event in Kuala Lumpur, he said he chose to speak up about the issue despite being aware of the potential backlash he would face.

"To my mind, keeping quiet is not an option when all the tell-tale signs were pointing towards another situation whereby a big and powerful country imposed its will with impunity on a small and defenceless nation," he said.

Mahathir said his concerns about the conflict were not baseless, citing the comments of a senior Indian diplomat who allegedly said Delhi needed to employ an "Israeli model" in Kashmir.

"It is indeed beyond comprehension that a diplomat exposed to the ways of the world could even think, let alone suggest, for his government to use Israel's model of occupation on Palestine as the manner or strategy to administer Kashmir," he said.

"Surely, he would be well informed of the atrocities and the genocidal actions the Tel Aviv regime had dished out on Palestine and the Palestinians," he added.

Mahathir reiterated that the Kashmir dispute needs to be resolved in a peaceful manner, calling on India and Pakistan to work out a solution together and to heed the UN's advice.

In his speech at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on Sept 28 last year, Mahathir had said that "despite the UN resolution on Kashmir and Jammu, the country has been invaded and occupied".

His comments sparked an online backlash with Indian social media users calling for a boycott of Malaysia. Mahathir, however, maintained his stance. (With FMT inputs)

## India, China Hold Military...

of disengagement of troops began on July 6, a day after a nearly two-hour telephonic conversation between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on ways to bring down tensions in the area.

Both sides held several rounds of Major General-level talks in May and June before the level of negotiations was upgraded to the level of Corps commanders.

The people familiar with the developments said Saturday's talks will primarily focus on the disengagement process in Daulat Beg Oldi and Depsang areas.

Considering the situation on the ground, the Indian Army and the IAF have decided to maintain a very high-level of operational readiness in all areas along the LAC in Ladakh, North Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh till a "satisfactory" resolution to the border row with China is arrived at, sources said.

Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane has already conveyed to all the senior commanders of the Army, overseeing operation of the front-line formations along the LAC, to keep up a significantly high state of alertness and maintain the aggressive posturing to deal with any Chinese "misadventure", they said.

The fresh directive to maintain a very high-level of alertness came in the wake of lack of forward movement in implementation of the disengagement process by Chinese military in friction points like Pangong Tso, Depsang and Gogra.

The Indian army has already made elaborate plans to maintain current strength of troops and weapons along the LAC during the harsh winter months in eastern Ladakh and all other sensitive areas along the LAC.

It is also in the process of procuring a number of weapons, ammunition and winter gears for the frontline troops

The temperature in some of the high-altitude areas along the LAC drops to minus 25 degree celsius in the winter months.

## 15 More Covid-19 Deaths...

on August 8 and tested positive for novel coronavirus next day. "She died at 3 a.m. today," the doctor added.

Official sources said that that the 60-year-old from Panzgam Kupwara died at SMHS hospital where he was admitted and had tested positive for the virus subsequently.

A senior doctor at SKIMS Soura said that the 50-year-old from Handwara had underlying ailments and died today.

The 55-year-old woman from Natipora, having underlining ailments, also died at the tertiary care hospital today, the doctor said. The man from Qurez having multiple problems also died at the SKIMS Soura, he said.

Regarding the victim from Zaloora Sopore, the doctor said he was suffering from "bilateral community acquired pneumonia with type I respiratory failure." "He died at 11:30 p.m. on August 7," the doctor said.

A 70-year-old man from Handwara, an 85-year-old woman from Srinagar and a 65-year-old man from Baramulla also died at SKIMS Soura and had multiple problems, the doctor added.

Regarding the Baramulla one, he said, the patient was a resident of Sopore and was Diagnosed "MDS with B/L CAP and T1RF." "He was admitted in ward 2A today and had cardiopulmonary arrest at 9:30 p.m," the doctor said.

As regards septuagenarian from Wopzan Bijbhera, a senior doctor said, she was admitted to GMC Anantnag with bilateral pneumonia and other co-morbidities and died today.

Sources said the 55-year-old woman from Lolab was admitted to SKIMS Bemina today and died after few hours.

Regarding woman from Muthalhama Qaimoh, they said, had tested positive on August 4 and was shifted to SKIMS Bemina where she died today.

With these deaths, officials said, 465 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far. Among them, they said, 431 were from the Valley while 34 others from Jammu division.

Srinagar district with 150 deaths tops the list followed by Baramulla (80), Budgam (34), Anantnag (32), Kulgam (30), Pulwama (29), Kupwara (27), Shopian (24), Jammu (23), Bandipora (18), Ganderbal (7), two each in Rajouri, Doda and Udhampur besides one each in Ramban, Samba, Poonch, and Kathua. (With GNS inputs)

## IAS Officer, 36 Security...

from police. Giving district wise breakup of the cases, sources said Srinagar reported 178, Baramulla 20, Pulwama 38, Kulgam 1, Shopian 6, Anantnag 23, Budgam 61, Kupwara 21, Bandipora 10, Ganderbal 24, Jammu 40, Rajouri 2, Kathua 15, Udhampur 1, Samba 7, Poonch 12 and Kishtwar 4. In Kashmir, Srinagar tops the list with 6000 cases followed by Baramulla with 2093, Pulwama 1807, Kulgam 1594, Budgam 1523, Shopian 1514, Anantnag 1438, Kupwara 1230, Bandipora 972 and Ganderbal 654.

In Jammu division, Jammu district has 1513 cases, Rajouri 756, Ramban 576, Kathua 589, Udhampur 619, Samba 485, Doda 302, Poonch 265, Reasi 214 and Kishtwar 163.

According to the daily Media Bulletin on novel Corona virus (Covid-19), out of 24390 positive cases, 7264 are Active Positive, 16667 have recovered and 459 have died; 34 in Jammu division and 425 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 706780 test results available, 682390 samples have been tested as negative till August 08.

Additionally, till date 388741 travelers and persons in contact with

suspected cases have been enlisted for observation which included 42012 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 7264 in isolation and 47304 under home surveillance. Besides, 291702 persons have completed their surveillance period. According to the bulletin, of the total 24390 positive cases in J&K 4876 have been reported as travelers while 19514 as others.

## NIA Raids Carpet Dealer...

in its charge sheet, besides Davinder Singh. The suspended police officer is lodged in Kathua jail at Heeranagar in Jammu division. He was arrested by the police on January 11 on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway while transporting two HM militants – Naveed Babu and Rafi Ahmad Rather – and a law school dropout Irfan Shafi Mir to Jammu. Naveed's brother Irfan was arrested on January 23 for his 'role' in the conspiracy while Wani came under the scanner for allegedly giving money to Naveed, a former Special Police Officer of J&K who had joined the militant ranks. After the arrest of Singh, initial investigations were done by the J&K Police before the case was handed over to the NIA.

Police had said that the two militants and the lawyer had planned to travel to Pakistan. The NIA had earlier claimed that its probe revealed that the accused were part of a deep-rooted conspiracy hatched by Hizbul and Pakistani state to commit violent acts and to wage war against India. "The investigation has revealed that Pakistan-based leadership of Hizbul, namely Syed Salahuddin, Amir Khan, Khurshheed Alam, Nazar Mehmood, and others, along with the Pakistani establishment is extending support to the cadres and commanders of the militant outfit based in Jammu and Kashmir." The probe also revealed that accused Irfan Shafi Mir aka Advocate not only met Hizbul leadership in Pakistan but also met Umar Cheema, Ahsan Chaudhary, Sohail Abbas, and others of the Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan and was tasked to identify and activate the new 'hawala' channels for the transfer of money to sustain militant activities in the Kashmir Valley," a NIA spokesperson had earlier said. The NIA had also claimed that its investigation revealed that certain officials of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi were in constant touch with Mir alias Advocate, who was provided with funds to organise seminars in J&K to mobilise the masses against the government of India. Mir allegedly used to receive instructions and money from the Pakistan High Commission, and he facilitated the visa applications of a number of Kashmiris for their Pakistan visits. Even Davinder Singh was said to be in touch with certain High Commission officials through secure social media platforms. Investigation revealed that he was "being groomed by Pakistani officials for obtaining sensitive information".

Singh was posted with the anti-hijacking wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police in Srinagar, and was part of the security staff that had received a group of foreign diplomats who visited Kashmir. On June 19, a Delhi court had granted bail to Davinder Singh in a militancy case after the Delhi Police failed to file a charge sheet against him and co-accused within the stipulated time.

## J&K Parties Fume Over...

represents in Kashmir. They have left no institution without corruption," he added. The spokesperson further said that with such remarks, the Chief Secretary was merely hiding his incompetence and shrugging of accountability for his mandated work. "Why are our leaders still incarcerated? Why are civil liberties of the entire population suspended? Why and how are our mineral resources looted? Why has administration miserably failed in its response to COVID 19? Where is the promised development? Why has no action been taken on the reports of an unprecedented level of corruption prevalent in the system and who is benefitting from the Ponzi scheme," the PDP spokesperson questioned. The PDP spokesperson also lashed out at Subrahmanyam over his remarks about corruption in Jammu and Kashmir. "CS should first explain to the people what happened to the multi-crore health insurance scam affecting five lakh government employees in Jammu and Kashmir? Who was responsible for taking that scam to the administrative council? And why was that all of a sudden scrapped and what action has been taken against the involved officers? What has happened to the Chinab valley power corporation scams and why were those first approved and later canceled? Who were the officers involved?" he said.

National Conference also rejected the allegations of Chief Secretary terming them baseless, politically motivated and intended to evade the genuine concerns of the public on the failures of J&K administration on every conceivable matrix. In a statement issued today, a NC spokesperson said that it was quite alarming where a serving civil servant was overtly "spewing venom" against the entire mainstream political spectrum to hide the alleged abject failures of the administration under him since 20 June 2018." "It can't be a coincidence that BJP and its leadership have been parroting the same line of thought over the past one year. The language used by CS while hurling allegations against mainstream political parties is exactly similar to what BJP is saying," the NC spokesperson said. "If he is so keen to be a politician, I would suggest that he quit his job and join politics. With the kind of comments he has made on the J&K's situation post Aug 05, the veiled political affiliations of J&K's top bureaucrats have finally come forth before people," he added. Senior leader of Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) Gulham Hassan Mir also censured Subrahmanyam for making political remarks. The former minister also Chief Secretary to stick to his mandate and remain apolitical. "All the government employees including bureaucrats are supposed to remain apolitical and give people a fair deal of governance which is entirely lacking in J&K," Mir said. He said that an officer of the rank of chief secretary in J&K seems to have forgotten about service conduct rules which warrant serving officers not to talk about issues pertaining to politics and instead should work for strengthening the institutions of governance on the ground. Terming CS as a victim of "delusions of grandeur" Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference said that the recurring theme of the administration was to project Kashmiris as corrupt and tarnish their identity. "If the utterances of the Chief Secretary are any indicators of what he thinks of himself and this is what he briefs his bosses in Delhi, then Delhi doesn't need enemies in Kashmir. Talk of inventing a lie and then believing in it. He takes the cake," a PC spokesperson said. The CPI (M) also termed CS's remarks of corruption against J&K politicians "highly un-warranted".

"Leveling baseless allegations against politicians without any credible evidence is fraught with serious consequences. Bureaucrats come and go and it is not the mandate of a CS to level baseless allegations against elected representatives," a CPI (M) spokesperson said. "We want to ask him (CS) what his administration has done to eradicate corruption in J&K for the last more than two years when there is no elected government in the region," he added. The spokesperson said that if frauds have been committed by some persons who have remained in authority, what stops the administration to make those public and book the offenders. "There is a wide perception among common people in J&K that the administration has become more corrupt after the abrogation of Article 370 and BJP government's claim to give Kashmir corruption-free administration and governance was simply rhetoric and has proved mere a hoax. The CS needs to give some attention to this aspect instead of leveling unfounded allegations against the elected representatives," he added.

## Srinagar, Jammu Likely...

non-major cities in the country where the rapid transport network will be functional. Singh, the Union minister for the PMO, said the significance of the projects can be understood from the fact that the first train to reach Jammu and Kashmir had taken more than two decades after Independence and the first railway station came up in Jammu only in the 1970s. But the Modi government is moving quickly to introduce the metro train projects in a short span of time and it will be cost-effective and a sustainable public transport, he said. Singh, who hails from Jammu and Kashmir, said the light metro transit system is proposed to run 17 hours a day throughout the year in Jammu, whereas in Srinagar, it will run 17 hours daily during summers but 14 hours during winters. The minister said the metro rail lines will have only elevated corridors as the underground tunnels were not found feasible in Jammu and Kashmir.

The metro train service in Jammu will have its first corridor from Bantalab to Bari Brahmana and in Srinagar, it will be from Indira Nagar to HMT station, he said. Singh said the elevated metro system will not only facilitate people but also have a positive impact on the economy and the quality of life. According to the DPRs, he said, the metro coaches will be modern, lightweight and made from stainless steel and alu-

minium, with an air-conditioning system. Singh also said it is a matter of pride that the highest railway bridge of the world is coming up on river Chenab in Reasi district and is likely to be completed next year. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be approached for the formal inauguration of this prestigious project. He said after some initial issues the work on railway line to connect the Kashmir valley is in full swing and it is expected that by 2022, Srinagar and other parts of the valley will be connected with the rest of India directly by trains.

## J&K Govt Plans To Promote...

for the tourists," Subrahmanyam told a group of visiting journalists. The chief secretary said there will be 12-13 major tunnels along the road and it will also facilitate connectivity to the forward locations. "Each of these tourist locations will be another Gulmarg," he said. While picturesque Keran and Machhal are located along the Line of Control in Kupwara district, Gurez is a valley surrounded by snow-capped mountains in Bandipora district. Kargil and Drass now fall under the Union Territory of Ladakh. Gulmarg, located about 50 km from Srinagar, is one of the best tourist attractions in the country with its snow-clad mountains, magnificent beauty and winter game facilities.

The chief secretary said the Jammu and Kashmir administration has also intensified construction of rural roads. "Earlier, on an average 1,300 km rural road was built in a year but now we are planning to build 5,000 km rural road in a year," he said. Referring to the efforts being made for creation of employment opportunities, Subrahmanyam said the administration has plans to create 4-5 lakh jobs in the coming years in sectors like the services and Information Technology (IT).

"We have many good doctors, engineers and a huge pool of English knowing people. The potential in Jammu and Kashmir is huge. We will have to just leverage them," he said. The chief secretary also said the Jammu and Kashmir administration is constructing two huge IT towers with 5 lakh sq feet area in Srinagar and Jammu each. After the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, a total of 2,273 infrastructure projects worth Rs 5,979 crore, which had been pending for over five to ten years, were sanctioned and 506 of them completed. Some of the works done so far include strengthening of the panchayat structure, completion of phase 1 of Jhelum flood mitigation project, creation of 10,000 jobs and opening up of 50 new degree colleges.

Subrahmanyam said the coronavirus pandemic could not hit the agricultural and horticulture sectors much. Nearly 15 lakh families (total 75 lakh people) and about four lakh government employees (total 16 lakh dependents) are dependent on these sectors. However, the sectors badly hit by COVID-19 were tourism, transportation and other business establishments. "People of Jammu and Kashmir are more resilient when it comes to lockdowns, having witnessed many shutdowns in long years. I can say confidently that COVID-19's impact on Jammu and Kashmir economy will be the least among all states and UTs," he said. On the now delayed proposed Global Investment Summit, Subrahmanyam said the event may be held in the next financial year in view of COVID-19 situation.

## HC Seeks End To Adhocism...

there being a vacancy, he should be given charge of that," the court said, stressing that these employees continue working on that post for years together and whenever any transfer is sought to be made, they approach the court and persuade to grant interim relief and as a result of that, continue on the same position for years together. "This course adopted by the different departments is generating avoidable litigation as many of the employees approach the court raising the plea that they are senior to the person who has been given charge of some higher post," the court said, adding, "Not only this such a course also demoralizes other employees in the department. This is resulting in adhocism in the working of different departments of the government." The duties, which are required to be discharged by senior and experienced persons is being handed over to the juniors, the court said. "Another facet of this system is that the employees already in service don't let the posts of direct recruitment filled up and usurp the same by adopting this system. With this practice being followed, the very object of having fresh talent at different levels in the department is defeated," the court said, adding, "This also results in delayed recruitments and as a result many of the eligible candidates may be over age by the time vacancies are advertised. There are many more issues which arises out of this illegal practice being followed." The court said that the Supreme Court in 2000 had ordered constitution of a High Level Committee to be appointed to examine the entire issue. "The report of the committee so appointed be also placed before the Court," the court said and sought details regards the total sanctioned cadre strength in each of the cadres, the notified service Rules governing the post, number of posts to be filled up from different sources, such as direct, promotional (giving source of feeder cadre wise, wherever relevant), deputation etc, number of actual employees working in each of the cadres, whether the incumbents holding the posts are regularly recruited or promoted as per Rules or given charge of the post concerned, If any of the employee has been given charge of a higher post, the date from which he is continuing on that post and the substantive post held by him and seniority list of each cadre, as on which date and when the same was circulated before finalization. If any of the seniority lists are still under finalization, reasons for delay. (GNS)

## 6 Doda Men Held Over...

Divulging further details, the police officer said that during the course of investigations, SOG personnel arrested five more suspects in the finance network module, who admitted their involvement in the case. They have been identified as Toqeer Ahmad Batt, Asif Batt, Khalid Latief Batt Gazi Iqbal and Tariq Hussain Mir, all residents of Doda. All the accused, the police officer said were allegedly in contact with Pakistani handler Mohd Amin Batt, who had remained LeT's district commander in Doda and exfiltrated to Pakistan 2006 "All the above named accused were tasked to identify gullible youth for recruitment in militant ranks. Providing logistics support and strengthening LeT cadre in the region. Sharing information about presence of security forces and their important locations to Pak handlers," the police officer said. The accused, he said were also tasked transportation of arms & ammunition from one location to another and distributing money among the families of active and deceased militants. The police officer further added that all the accused had received an amount of Rs 12, 19,704 through different means on different occasions as part of this module. The accused, he said were also instrumental in recruiting youth into militancy. "In continuation to the investigation of above mentioned militant financing case the involvement of four accused from Kashmir has surfaced. Moreover it has come to notice that the module has its links in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab as well," the police officer said. "Further investigation into the case is underway to unearth militant financing channels and militant associates network used for providing financial support and motivating youth for spreading militant in J&K," he added.

## Private Schools Warned ...

during lock down period and they agreed to continue with their services and subsequent drawl of salaries. The school education department impressed upon all the unaided recognized private schools of Kashmir division to adhere with the instructions of providing uninterrupted salaries to the staff in the school during lock down period in lieu of COVID-19 pandemic in letter and spirit. "In case any violation or non-seriousness is found, strict action shall be initiated against the particular school in terms of relevant provisions of Law which includes de-recognition thereof without further intimation," reads the circular. Earlier on June-16, DSEK issued circular— instructing all recognized Private Schools to charge only tuition fee from students on a monthly basis instead of quarterly basis for the lockdown period. "No fee hike shall be made during the academic session 2020-21 and the annual fee, if any, can be charged monthly on a pro-rata basis, after schools reopen," reads the circular. The previous circular further states that no school shall deny access to online education, material or classes for the continuous assessment to poor and deserving students who are unable to pay school fees due to the prevailing situation—(KNO)

## Agha Ashraf Ali: ‘A Truly...

and a philanthropist in Kashmir carries with it the distinction of be-

ing unparalleled and ephemeral."

Back in the 2000s, journalist Gowhar Geelani recalls, when he went to a local hotel where Agha Ashraf Ali was invited as a speaker, everyone was excited to hear him speak. "Before him many speakers came and bored the audiences to death," Geelani recalls. "Visibly upset, Agha's turn came to speak as the chief guest. He cited an example of some American scholar. He said the American scholar was invited as the chief guest, but many spoke before him and spoke nonsense. When it was time for the chief guest to address the audience, he read out his home address instead: 'Street XYZ, House No \*\*\*, Zip \*\*\*\*\*, LA, USA...' This is what renowned Agha Ashraf Ali commented on the prolonged monologues which are off-putting for noted scholars. Bored, they don't address but read out their home address!" "Called Dad to convey death of Prof. Agha Ashraf Ali," a twitter user said, "impromptu reply, 'He won't die but only fade away, as his light will continue to illuminate our generations.'" Manan Kapoor, author of the forthcoming book, "Shahid: His Life and Work", recounts his association with Agha Ashraf with a deep sense of nostalgia. "Although I met him for the first time only a few years ago – when he was already in his nineties – I remember he was always surrounded by books, always reading," Kapoor says.

"Last year, I went for a drive around Srinagar with Agha Ashraf, his son Iqbal and a family friend. As we crossed University of Kashmir, one of his students (who is now a professor) recognised him and invited us to his house inside the campus. I've never seen anything like it. He kept kissing Agha Ashraf's hand, eagerly calling his daughters to meet his guru. I can't forget the look on his face. It was almost as if he'd seen God. I'd heard of everything he'd done for Kashmir and for the education of the youth but that day, I truly realised the legacy he'd left behind. With his passing, Kashmir has lost one of its most erudite and eloquent men." Born in the famous Agha family whose roots belonged to the elite Qizilbashi, a martial race of Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan, Agha Ashraf Ali was a well-known name not even in Kashmir but all over India. Even before he became a renowned educationist, he was entitled to the family name "Agha", a Turkish word meaning chief, master, or lord. His forefathers held respectable offices of Royal Physicians, Ministers, Wazir-e-Wazarat, Thanadaars, and Tehsildars during the Maharaja Rule in Kashmir and had the privilege of Darbar Nishini in the court of the Maharaja. His great-great-grandfather Agha Ashraf (Hakim) Muhammad Baqir was the Chief Physician to Maharaja Ranbir Singh.

Agha Ashraf's mother Begum Zafar Ali was an educationist and a legislator, and she was the first female matriculate of Kashmir. His elder brothers Agha Nasir Ali and Agha Shaukat Ali were both civil servants serving in India and Pakistan respectively. Doing justice to his family name, he became a master educationist who played a significant role in turning around the situation for Muslims in Kashmir after 1947. When the former Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah appointed Agha Ashraf as the inspector of schools in 1951 at the age of 28, he brought sweeping changes to the Kashmir education sector. In an interview, Agha Ashraf termed himself as a "dictator" for whom justice and promotion of talent were the key factors in the education sector. During his tenure, he worked to improve the quality of education and making it available, not only in Kashmir but also in Leh, where he opened the first Girls primary school in 1952.

In 1953 when Abdullah was arrested, Agha Ashraf's position as the school inspector was cut short and he was appointed as the officiating principal to the Teachers Training College. In 1960, when Agha Ashraf received Fulbright Scholarship, he went to the United States to pursue his Ph.D. at Ball State University, Indiana. When he came back from the US, the University of Kashmir had started post-graduation department of education where he was selected as the first professor since there were only lecturers and readers at that time in the University.

He headed the varsity's Department of Education for many years and later served as the acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kashmir. He was also the chairman of the Board of School Education. He promoted the best students and sent them to England and America to study new mathematics, and new ways of teaching mathematics.

"He played a crucial role in eliminating viva voice from the competitive examinations being held at Kashmir," says Sheikh Qayoom, a journalist working with Indo-Asian News Service (IANS). The entrance exam was divided into two sections- 20 marks for viva voice and 80 marks for the written exam. "He told me that it is only the children of the influential who would get those 20 marks and they increase the merit for the average performers due to which students belonging to the weaker section of the society would not get selected," Qayoom recalls.

Agha Ashraf canceled the interview process and increased the weightage of written exam from 80 marks to 100 marks. The decision was challenged in the High Court and it ruled that as the chairman he could not change the exam pattern.

Unsatisfied by the High Court's ruling, Agha Ashraf decided to award 20 marks to every candidate. "He told me that the High Court could stop me from changing the rules but the decision to give marks in the interview is mine," Qayoom recounts. But years later, after he lost his son, Agha Shahid Ali, a Kashmiri-American poet in 2001, the tough educationist wasn't the same man. "He was broken after the death of his son," Qayoom recalls. "It took Agha Ashraf sometime to get back to his life but he was a fighter. But his ability to remember incidents with photographic clarity even at the age of 90 would amaze people. He was a generous and self-righteous man." On the occasion of Teachers' Day, on 5 September 2006, Agha Ashraf was awarded "Nigeeena-e-Watan" for his "unmatched contribution in the field of education". In 2011, he released his autobiography, Kuch to Likhay ki log kehtay hain, in Urdu, which has become an inspirational book.

Even after his retirement, the distinguished educationist continued to spread the knowledge all over the world through his lectures in universities, colleges, and schools. "Agha Ashraf was the greatest of all Aghas," believes Shuja Hussain, his close associate. "He passed away in peace, without becoming a liability on anyone."

## G C Murmu Takes Charge...

NirmalaSitharaman, outgoing CAG Mehrishi, were among the dignitaries present at the ceremony, the Finance Ministry said. Murmu, a 1985-batch IAS officer (retired) of Gujarat cadre, will have a tenure up to November 20, 2024. As a constitutional functionary, the CAG is primarily entrusted with the responsibility of auditing the accounts of the central and state governments. He succeeds Rajiv Mehrishi, who demitted office on Friday, the office of the CAG said in the statement.

"After the oath ceremony, Murmu came to the CAG office, where he was welcomed by the senior officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department," the CAG office said. Murmu is probably the first tribal to head the 160 years old institution. The first CAG of India was Edmund Drummond who held the office between 1860-62 under the British ruled India. V NarhariRao (1948-1954) was the first Indian to take charge as the head of the government auditing body after India gained independence, as per the CAG website. Rao was preceded by Sir Bertie Staig (1945-1948). Murmu was the first Lt Governor of Jammu & Kashmir after the state was converted into a union territory following abrogation of Article 370 last year with effect from October 31. Before appointed as the Lt Governor of union territory J&K, he served as Joint Secretary in the Department of Expenditure, Additional Secretary in the Department of Financial Services and Department of Revenue and then Special Secretary before serving as full-fledged Secretary of the Department of Expenditure. Before his tenure at the Centre, Murmu served on important assignments in Gujarat. He has wide experience in administrative, economic and infrastructure fields. Murmu is a post graduate in Political Science from Utkal University. He holds an MBA degree from the University of Birmingham. He was born on 21st November, 1959 in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa. He is married to SmitaMurmu. They have a daughter Ruchika and son Ruhaan.

## 2 Youth Arrested...

adds that four youth were detained from the same village in last 20 days on charges of being involved in 'anti-national' activities. The report identified them as Umer Hassan Sameer Ahmad, Irfan Ali and Yawar Ashraf.

## 3 Gamblers Held In Srinagar...

relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Parimpora and investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson added.



## SUICIDE RATE ON RISE

# 21-year-old Hangs Self to Death in Anantnag Village

6th suicide case in last 8 days in Kashmir division

Anantnag: A 21-year old youth allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in Utrasoo area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday becoming sixth suicide victim in the month of August in Kashmir Valley.

Officials said that the a villager from Kandaji Brariangan hanged himself at his home this morning and he died on the spot.

The official said that it was not immediately known as to why the youth took this extreme step. "Police have registered a case and initiated proceedings in this regard," he said.

As per details available in the last 8 days, six persons including five teenagers ended their lives by allegedly committing suicide in Kashmir Division.

## Man found dead hanging with tree in Pulwama

**P**ulwama: A man was found dead hanging with a tree near Romshi Nallah at Chewakalan village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday, officials said.

Reports said that locals spotted a man hanging with a tree near Nallah Romshi at Chewakalan village and accordingly contacted the concerned police station.

He said the police team reached the spot and took the body in their custody.

He identified the deceased as Shabir Ahmad Dar son of Mohammad Akbar Dar resident of Ashminder village of Pulwama.

He said that a case under relevant sections of law has been also registered and further investigation is going on.

## Wife kills self after her husband's death in Uri village

**B**aramulla: In a tragic incident in Uri area of north Kashmir a woman committed suicide by taking some poisonous substance after her husband's death on Saturday.

Reports said that a 50-year-old man identified as Aulad Ali Shah son of Mang Shah was admitted to government medical college Baramulla and died this morning of cardiac arrest.

The official said that Ali was working in J&K Grameen Bank and soon after his body reached home for the last rites his wife couldn't bear the shock of her husband's death. "She committed suicide by taking some poisonous substance in Sadipora village of Uri."

A police official said that after completing the legal formalities the body will be handed over to legal heirs under proper protocol and other COVID-19 related guidelines.

### 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**  
18 Zil-Haj  
1441

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 14
ZUHR	12: 37
ASR	5:26
Magrib	7:29
ISHA	9:00

## This Day In History

- 1810- Napoleon annexes Westphalia as part of the First French Empire.
- 1831- 1st US steam engine train run (Albany to Schenectady, NY)
- 1842- US-Canada border defined by Webster-Ashburton Treaty
- 1848- Austria & Sardinia sign cease fire
- 1849- Hungarian Republic crushed by Austria & Russia
- 1855- Battle of Acapulco during Mexican Liberal uprising
- 1859- Otis Tuft patents the first passenger elevator in the US
- 1910- Alva Fisher patents electric washing machine
- 1920- Bulgarian & allied Peace of Neuilly-sur-Seine goes into effect
- 1942- Mahatma Gandhi & 50 others arrested in Bombay after passing of a "quit India" campaign by the All-India Congress
- 1945- US drops 2nd atomic bomb "Fat Man" on Japan destroys part of Nagasaki
- 1953- Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah arrested
- 1965- Singapore separates from the federation of Malaysia and gains its independence
- 1972- There is widespread and severe rioting in Nationalist areas of Northern Ireland on the anniversary of the introduction of Internment
- 1973- USSR launches Mars 7
- 1974- Richard Nixon resigns US presidency, VP Gerald Ford swears oath of office to become 38th US president
- 1976- USSR launches Luna 24, last Lunar flight to date from Earth
- 1990-12 Arab leaders agree to send pan-Arab forces to protect Saudi Arabia
- 1990- Russian spacecraft Soyuz TM-10 launches
- 1995- South Africa celebrates the first National Women's Day
- 1999- The Diet of Japan enacts a law establishing the Hinomaru and Kimi Ga Yo as the official national flag and national anthem.
- 2001- US President George W. Bush announces his support for federal funding of limited research on embryonic stem cells.
- 2012- Usain Bolt becomes the first person to win the 100m and 200m sprint in back to back Olympic

## From KO Archives

## Hizb ends ceasefire, blames India for it

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Hizbul Mujahideen withdrew its unilateral cease-fire in Jammu and Kashmir this evening accusing New Delhi of not responding positively to its call for tripartite talks involving Pakistan to settle Kashmir issue and directed its field commanders to resume Their operation in the state.

"We withdraw the unilateral ceasefire... We direct all the commanders and the Mujahideen to break the cease-fire and go ahead with target-oriented mission" Hizb supreme commander Syed Salah-ud Din said at a press conference here after the expiry of 5:30 P.M. (IST) deadline it had set for India to agree to a three-way dialogue.

"India has failed to respond categorically to our offer of peace and has dilly-dallied in giving peace a chance," the Hizb leader said India intended to tie the af-fair in a bilateral dialogue, which is not acceptable, he said, adding Kashmir tangle can be solved only by a just negotiating process involving all three parties— Kashmiris, India and Pakistan, he said. He said had India agreed to tripartite talks, the other organisations involved in the armed struggle could have been convinced for a comprehensive peace.

There was no immediate response from the Hizb commanders in the Kashmir valley who had initiated talks with a central team to chalk-out modalities of the three-month unilateral cease-fire announced by Abdul Majeed Dar, chief commander of the group on July 24 in Srinagar.

Prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, while agreeing to hold talks with the Hizb leaders in the state, had categorically ruled out any involvement of Pakistan in the parleys till Islamabad stopped cross-border terrorism and created conditions for peace. "We put, our entire credibility of 12 years at stake for our (desire) to facilitating a peaceful resolution to the lingering Kashmir dispute," said Salah-ud-Din, who had endorsed Dar's cease-fire announcement a day later.

This peace offensive has not been reciprocated by India who have demonstrated their traditional intransigence, he said, adding India had failed to respond to our ice-breaking move which could have become productive and meaningful if India had accepted unconditional tri-partite talk.

(Kashmir Observer, August 09, 2000)

## Office Of The Chief Executive Officer Pahalgam Development Authority

ceopdapahalgam@gmail.com  
+91-1936-243049, 243125

### NOTICE

All Occupants of State Land at Pahalgam Market All the occupants of State Land at Pahalgam Market of J&K UT are informed through medium of this notice to submit their lease papers in original to this office within a period of one week's time positively failing which it will be presumed that they have nothing to say in the matter and action as warranted under norms shall be initiated against them.

NO: CEOP/PDA/BOCA/ 722-24  
DATED 718/2020

Chief Executive Officer  
Pahalgam Dev. Authority  
Pahalgam

DIPK-NB-1743/20

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

### NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one.

Shri : Haji Abdul Majeed Hajam S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Hajam R/o: Ichgam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C-4241 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S State Bank Of India B/U RASMECC .

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1224  
Dated 08/08/2020



MCB

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

### NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one.

Shri : Farooq Ahmad Kuchay S/o: Ghulam Hassan Kuchay R/o: Muni papy Budgam (Transferor) of LMV i 20 Active. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04D - 1721. Chasis number 193021 Engine no. 879180 Model 2015. in favour of Shri. Bashir Ahmad Dar S/o. Mohd Abdullah Dar R/o Akhran Kulgam (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K State Co operative Bank B/U Hyderpora is required.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1213-15  
Dated 06-08-2020



MCB

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
**NEAR J&K BANK, (Zaldagar)**  
Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

**Fresh Short Term e NIT No. 53 to e NIT No. 40 of 2020** **2020 issued vide No.**  
**MIDS/TS/1034 38, Dated: 02** **NIT No. 26 of 2020 21,** **Dated:11**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar, tenders on item rate basis by e tendering mode from the registered **Mechanical firms/ S.S I Unit holders**

**Repairs/ replacements of various mechanical items at various Lift Irrigation Schemes of Mechanical Irrigation Sub Division Ganderbal viz (Manasbal, Chanthan, Gutlibagh**

The bidding process shall be completed online in Tender Document fee, Earnest Money Deposit, Pre qualification & Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

**The critical dates are as tabulated below:**

	Document Download/sale start Date	
	Clarification start date	
	Clarification end date	
	Bid submission start date	08/08/2020 upto 14:00 hrs
	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	17/08/2020 upto 16:00 hrs
	Date and time of Bid opening	18/07/2020 at 14:00 hrs

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date /time other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Zaldagar Srinagar.  
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 & 33.

**Estimated Cost**  
**Position of funds**

**Demanded Under**

**Executive Engineer,**  
**Mechanical Irrigation Division,**

DIPK-3926/20

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**Office Of The Executive Engineer Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.**  
pherwsd@yahoo.in/pherwsd@gmail.com

**23/PHED/RWSD/Civil/SHG of 2020**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir U.T. \_\_\_\_\_  
from Registered/Reputed Civil Contractors/SHG's/Authorized Dealers/Suppliers/ / Automobile workshop holders for the following

	Construction of chowkidar quarter and tapping of spring at Sadnar by way of laying / fitting of D.I. pipes upto 0.50 lac gallons capacity S.R. at Syed Mirza Bagh Colony for WSS Ahil						
	Providing / fixing of tyres (Tyre/ Tube/ Flap) 16 ply reputed make (MRF/ APOLLO/ JK) of different sizes for the Departmental Water Tankers bearing						
	6406 of Rural Water Supply						
	Repairs/ body improvements accidental departmental water tanker No.JK02AD 5708 (04 KL) Eicher 10.75/ Model						
	Making drinking water procession routes to Imam Baras incld. installation of PVC tanks at Bote Kullian and L/F of G.I. pipes enroute Imam Bara Nilgrad incld. Impts. to existing system on the eve of Muharram 2020						
	Providing water supply facilities at various Imam Baras and along the procession routes including extension to New Basties at Dab Ganderbal on the						

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: \_\_\_\_\_  
From 07.08.2020 (10:00 a.m.) UPTO 13.08.2020 (04:00 p.m.)  
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of forms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: \_\_\_\_\_  
As per schedule of dates given below

	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	From 07.08.2020 10:00 a.m.
	Period of downloading of bidding documents	To 13.08.2020 04:00 p.m.
		From 07.08.2020 10:00 a.m.
		To 13.08.2020 up to 04:00 p.m.
	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	14.08.2020 at 11:30am in the Office of the Executive Engineer RWS (H.Q. Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal)

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR and (The date of CDR/FDR etc must not be prior Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) as cost of Tender Document under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer RWS Division Ganderbal (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1) . Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in t documents and shall be valid for 90 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer PHE RWS Division Ganderbal /Sgr (H.Q. Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal) on \_\_\_\_\_  
on the next working day at the same time and venue.

(Er. M. Aslam Zargar)  
Executive Engineer,  
PHE RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.  
H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.

PHED/RWSD/Corrs./4535 \_\_\_\_\_

DIPK-3867/20

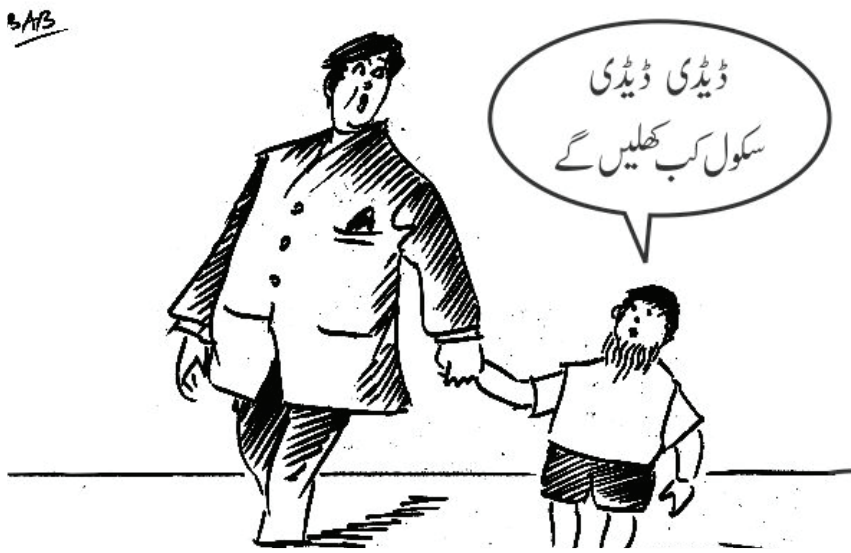


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NO HOLDS BARRED

BAB in the 'Srinagar Times'



Like most Turks, Mustafa Kemal found occupation insufferable. There is an interesting incident that brings this to point. Once a British officer asked him for a drink in the Pera Palace, Kemal is said to have replied, 'We are the hosts, they are the guests. It is fitting they must come to my table.'

# Ataturk and the Question of Hagia Sophia

As clichéd as I may sound by bringing up the comparison, but if there is a modern Salah-ud-din it is Kemal Pasha

FAHEEM GUNDRoo

**Growing command over the army by 1919, Kemal rapidly took control of Ottoman territory groups, administration and telegraph wires. The nationalists under Kemal Ataturk united against the Allies. However, Britain did not want Istanbul to come under the control of nationalists -- referred to in a derogatory term as 'Kemalist'.**

There has clearly been a dearth of leadership in Muslim world as a whole since the end of Caliphate in early 20th century. Likes of Muslim brotherhood under Hasan Al Bana in Egypt and Jamaat-e-Islami under Maulana Maududi in sub-continent to a large extent tried to fill this vacuum. The Muslim world lives under the nostalgia of golden age of Islam; taking pride in Islamic civilization. Like any student of history, I'm fixed with dates. And if you calculate this 'golden age' ended 700 years ago.

As an idea, Islam lost its message. Something did go horribly wrong in between. The closure of reasoning and logic under Imam Ghazali, in his classic philosophy book 'Incoherence of Philosophers' draws a point if you have to pick one, where Muslims went wrong. But I'm not going into that debate; that's for another day.

While Muslims have been looking for modern Khalid bin Waleeds, they have disowned many of their own, over the course of years, who in turn were hijacked by west from them. One of those distinguished leaders is Mustafa Kemal. And there couldn't be an apt irony.

In an age of Wikipedia experts, the dissemination of information, mostly inaccurate is so vast and quick that a lie trumpeted continuously by coddled millennials is taken as gospel truth. One such crusty old bird misconception is that Mustafa Kemal was westernized, who converted Hagia Sophia into a museum in 1934 to appease west. Nothing can be far from truth than this allegation. It is like a vast number of people in India calling Jawahar Lal Nehru a debauch who slept with white women and died of syphilis.

The Mustafa Kemal story has so many loopholes that you could fly an airplane through. However, to understand it, we have a go back a little and discern how and why Mustafa Kemal in fact was west's avowed enemy.

On 13 and 14th November 1918 more than three thousand British, French and Italian troops landed from allied ships on the western coast of Anatolia. The Ottoman government protested against this armistice. The British representative calmly replied that Constantinople had been chosen as British headquarters. The Ottoman official was so humiliated that he didn't reply. The Bosphorus within a short span of time was black with Allied battleships.

Like with Berlin and other cities of Europe, Istanbul was divided into zones by the Allies. French controlling south, Britain Galata and Italians in North. But why did the Allies put so much weight behind Istanbul?

Imperialism, vengeance and anti-communism were the primary reasons for occupation. The Allies intended to prove that lives lost in Gallipoli were worth the cause. By 1919, the Allies drunk with victory, hoped to inflict worse terms on Ottoman empire than on Germany through Treaty of Versailles. The British prime minister on record said that Istanbul was the hotbed of every Eastern vice. Lord Curzon -- the British general was very clear in his strategy. The idea was to divide Anatolia into tiny nations, so that no Sunni majority existed. It was in this context that Lord Curzon suggested to rebaptize Hagia Sophia. There is always Realpolitik behind Hagia Sophia, more than the emotion, right from Sultan Mehmet to Lord Curzon to Erdogan.

While Sultans had more or less agreed to the extreme injustices of Allies, young Turks plotted resistance. The hero of Gallipoli, Mustafa Kemal Pasha was to be the prime leader who stood up to Western forces. Born in 1881, Kemal had proved his military shrewdness when he routed Allied forces in Gallipoli in 1915. It is probably the only time in recent history when a much advanced western military is defeated by a Muslim general. As clichéd I may sound by bringing up comparisons,

but if there is a modern Salah-ud-din it is Kemal Pasha.

Like most Turks, Mustafa Kemal found occupation insufferable. There is an interesting incident that brings this to point. Once a British officer asked him for a drink in the Pera Palace, Kemal is said to have replied, 'We are the hosts, they are the guests. It is fitting they must come to my table.'

Growing command over the army by 1919, Kemal rapidly took control of Ottoman territory groups, administration and telegraph wires. The nationalists under Kemal Ataturk united against the Allies. However, Britain did not want Istanbul to come under the control of nationalists -- referred to in a derogatory term as 'Kemalist'.

With British encouragement, the Sultan turned on the nationalists and issued a fatwa against Mustafa Kemal, calling him a traitor who destroyed law and under, forming a private army. Blinded by ego, the Ottoman sultan called Mustafa Kemal a Macedonian unknown mercenary. Notwithstanding the newly found love in sub-continent for grand Viziers and sultans of Ottoman empire, the truth was that they condemned a man to death, who was fighting the nefarious designs of west.

On 10th August 1920, the Turks were forced to sign the humiliating punitive treaty of Sevres- which literally cut Turkey into pieces; each dog getting its bone. However the treaty of Sevres was just the short in the arm that nationalists required. It became clear that the interim government under Sultan had failed. Between 1921 and 1923 Kemal Mustafa amply gave an indication of his prowess. In the Battle of Sakarya, Turkish nationalists won a decisive victory against the Greeks. On 13th October 1924 Ankara- Mustafa Kemal's bastion was declared the capital and in few days a Turkey was proclaimed a republic, with Mustafa Kemal as its first president.

Now that I have tried to explain the

actual truth of Kemal Mustafa, let's understand why did he after all order Hagia Sophia to be converted into a museum. A burning debate in the Muslim world.

I've been to Hagia Sophia during my travels in Turkey. The Byzantine Basilica generates awe in its first glimpse. After emperor Justinian ordered its construction, it's lofty and wide spanned dome symbolized the Cosmos. Amongst many of gilded monuments inside Hagia Sophia, there is one mosaic of Virgin Mary dating back to 867 AD, with winged archangel Gabriel on the right and archangel Michael on left. There is a beautiful ceramic tile panel depicting the Kaaba in Mecca, from 16th century. The intricate Iznik tile work leaves one mesmerized. But what really caught my eye were the monolith marble water jars belonging to 6th and 7th century BC Hellenistic era and the marble door of 6th century AD that separated private chambers of the Emperor from the meeting place for church members. Interestingly Sultan Mehmet and all the Sultans after him retained all these Byzantine footstones within the Hagia Sophia. Nothing was destroyed.

The Ottomans had over the centuries lost their riches and by early 1800s there were growing fissures among the Viziers and Sultans. As a result Hagia Sophia was reduced to a near ruin. Like any other historic structure it needed maintenance. After proclaiming independence in 1924 Musafa Kemal realized that the empty coffers Sultans had left Turkey with, would not be able to maintain a structure like Hagia Sophia. In his wisdom he thus decided to turn it into a museum so that international organizations fund its maintenance. This is exactly what happened. UNESCO called it a world heritage site and soon Hagia Sophia was the world's most visited museum.

(Faheem Gundroo is a ICT Engineer based in Dubai, with interest in Travel, History and Culture)

It has been few weeks now that we have been watching the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Students' differences unfold over the question of conducting examination in times of the pandemic. The Supreme Court too has been invoked to adjudicate the matter at the earliest.

By all possibilities, even thinking of an examination, be it online or offline mode seems farcical. How can one forget that as the pandemic continues to accelerate, as people continue to suffer in one way or the other, given different social positions, people have lost lives, jobs, homes and so much more.

This not only exposes the loopholes in our system but also in our understanding of "education" which we have in this moment collapsed into "examinations", as we interchangeably use one word for the other. Some would say, let's be "practical", how would you have your education without getting a degree by taking the exams. They also say that life is all about competition and that I should keep my philosophy to myself - this only shows our underlying intellectual bankruptcy, thanks to the idea of education with which we have grown up with. Rather than facing up to life and questioning all that is wrongly placed, we are looking for means to evade it.

As the debates around exams continue to make it to the newsroom, I am forced to add some other points as well.

We have, for all these years conveniently forgotten the variable of "political conflict", the site of which happens to be the Kashmir Valley, for so many years now. How many times did it become impossible to hold classes, for how long the situation has never been conducive for education here, when survival becomes the primary question? How many examinations could not be conducted on time here, how many semesters had to be left suspended and how often? Given the frequent internet shutdown here, how many online classes could be held, rather is the op-

## Education, Examination And Selective Amnesia

We mistake 'education' for "examinations", as we interchangeably use one word for the other

SANA SHAH

tion of online mode of learning even available to the students here?

These questions are not raised here to play the 'conflict-victim' card, as some people would like to believe- these questions are only a small reflection of

here, day in, day out?

How many times then did we hear of any concession or alternative measures or even a proper strategy or long term plan to help our students here? We always had to work with some make-do temporary

Yes, our students despite odds, have been excelling. But glorifying the same without accepting the structural injustices and systemic indifference to a certain section of the population adds to the process of normalising suffering

the larger lived experiences and realities every student faces here, in almost every academic session. How many times did we hear of a "twitter-storm" to highlight the plight of students here, how many times did it occur to the "concerned citizens" to register a protest to highlight the challenges students face

system (reducing syllabus at times, going for mass promotion the other times, working with home-delivered assignment at times), letting things pass, thinking that the next session would be better.

Date sheets were pinned at the notice board, I remember in my student-days, without proper classes

and even our teachers here would ask us to go by the "system" for the lack of any alternative and this continues to happen till date. Not to talk of the psychological consequences of the same for students.

However to even think like that was nothing but a reflection of the intellectual dereliction and administrative omission on part of the people at the helm of affairs and all the stakeholders who could have acted in a better way instead, learning from the experiences.

Yes, our students despite odds, have been excelling. But glorifying the same without accepting the structural injustices and systemic indifference to a certain section of the population adds to the process of normalising suffering. Applauding those students who succeed despite the odds only shows a reverse-failure on the part of those applauding, after letting the students suffer alone without any help and having to put up with the systemic challenges in the midst of all pervasive institutional apathy, all on their own.

In other ways it acts as a pressure point on students who could not do the same, or to put it differently, it sends the message that 'well, suffering is okay, since you have people who can do well even with such difficulty, so doesn't make a difference if you face it as well!'

It is very late though, but such moments nonetheless call for a reflection on the exclusionary system that we all have accustomed ourselves to, which requires a pandemic to wake us up and even then we conveniently forget those at the margins who continue to suffer.

It is due to the pandemic situation that we see education disrupted. However let's never forget, each year, the students in Kashmir face education-disruption, and no one blinks an eye, as we all are equal but some are more equal than others.

(Sana is a research scholar and is currently pursuing M.Phil at JNU, New Delhi)



This profile of the noted Kashmiri educationist and public intellectual Prof Agha Ashraf Ali, who passed away on Friday (August 7) in Srinagar, was written in October 2006. The writer spent many an evening interviewing Agha Ashraf Ali at his residence in Rajbagh before writing it.

We are reproducing it unchanged.

-Editor

FIRST MET Agha, as he is widely known, on a July visit to his cozy Rajbagh home. Arguing politics over drinks with several close friends, the octogenarian educator was in high spirits and rare form: accusing me, the imperialist American, of most if not all of the world's problems; brushing aside challenges for talking "rot;" and jovially lording over his kingdom like a knighted duke. As the months passed tales of his family's notable Kashmiri heritage, the literary achievements of his revered poet son, and the mark he left on Kashmiri education and politics filtered down and we at Kashmir Observer decided that his 84th birthday – Wednesday, October 18 – presented the perfect opportunity to take a closer look at this long and well-lived life. So with pen, notebook, and recording device at the ready I returned to his house last week and, after exchanging pleasantries, asked him about his family's rise to prominence in Kashmir.

"The family of my grandfather's grandfather has fallen on hard times, 1872, and Hari's Singh's son, Pratap Singh's father Maharaja Ranbeer Singh is going in a big boat, 24 rowers, on the way to Mansbal Lake down the Jhelum, and he gets, luckily for us, a wind colic and he is in terrible pain," he began with a typical single-burst-of-breath sentence-story, bobbing gray mustache keeping time and dark-rimmed spectacles lending gravitas.

"So they stopped the boat and they ran into that area of woebegone humanity, sixth bridge, 'Is there any doctor here?'" And out steps my great great grandfather, Aga Hakim Baqir. He gives him black salt and the Maharaja starts farting away. Farting away! And he totally recovered and he appointed Aga Baqir as his royal physician. True story. And over a century later my son the poet said to Amitav Ghosh: 'The fortunes of the Agha family we're hanging by a fart.'"

From this tale sprung forth not only a wealthy, cultured assemblage of kin but also a long, meandering stream of words, a seven-hour marathon of memory that regularly doubled back on itself and spanned three afternoons, the four score years of his life, five continents, and the modern story of Kashmir and the communal divide. One man's psychological and professional journey, a trip intertwined with the story of India and full of the spice and contradiction that define the subcontinent.

With the fighting spirit of Turkoman Qizilbash commanders in his blood, Agha remains a bear of a man, with thick features, an able body and a vigorous, agile mind prone to three-minute digressions that conclude with a shake of his square, silver-topped head and a thin, subject-changing "anyway."

Wearing a wool sweater over a plaid dress shirt with pressed khakis, he leaned back in his favorite, floral-patterned chair, rested his navy blue-socked feet on a round wooden coffee table and recalled his childhood.

"I was an adopted child," he said, explaining that his mother had wanted a daughter and so delivered Agha into the hands of her father, his grandfather, to raise him. "In a way I was a compromise the day I was born, and thereby hangs the story of an unhappy childhood."

It was not for lack of money. Noticing that Agha's grandfather, Aga Syed Hussain, was a bright student, Aga Hakim Ali Maki, the farting curer's son and royal physician to Maharaja Pratap Singh, helped him win a post as a junior government officer shortly before the turn of the century.

(Agha spells his surname differently than his maternal forebears.)

"Sir Walter Lawrence and other English officers made calls and they went on hunting and fishing trips and so he kept rising up," Agha related. "At his peak my grandfather was making 2500 rupees a month, this at a time when you could get in Kashmir 64 large breads for a single rupee, which also happened to be the average teacher's salary at the time."

Along with his cousin he built a grand feudal estate in Shaheed Ganj, where he lived with his three children. Nearby were Agha's mother and father and two brothers. Empty now, the manor house still stands, having narrowly escaped a watery grave.

"There were floods in Kashmir in 1928 and King Hari Singh...offered us one of his grand guesthouses, but my grandfather said 'no, we're not leaving.' I remember as a child, the water is about this much (brings his hand to his waist) in the house and my adopted mother and others are walking through it to the road where the car is... and the water's coming into the house and our books are in the yard and about a mile away, floating....his elder son he goes in a shikara collecting them.

"And my grandfather's cousin Sher Ali, retired, he would read huge books like 'Mysteries of the Courts of London' – stories of sex and lords running about, that sort of thing – with a magnifying glass. But there was one story... about when a particular village was supposed to be flooded there was a wall in which there was a hole, so he told him to put his finger in that and the village was saved. He had read this. Now water is coming through at least two feet in his house, and he's yelling to the servant: 'In the back door, the pine door, there's a knot, put your finger in it!' And he does, but of course the water just keeps pouring in."

Agha doubled over in giggles before returning to his parentage.

"My stepmother, 22 years younger than her husband, doted on me in the hopes that I, the youngest, would get some of the property...So she was giving me everything, showing to her husband, 'Look how much I love him,' but she made too much of me got me the best things and occasionally for no rhyme or reason other than being frustrated she would beat me," he added. "She was insecure and transmitted a bit of that insecurity to me."

[That insecurity may partially explain why so few of Agha's millions of words have been preserved on paper; in 84 years he has written only one lengthy prose piece, his doctoral thesis. Asked why he had not written more Agha responded with a question: "Did



Agha Ashraf Ali (1922-2020) - Photo credit Rafiq Kathwari

# The Life and Times of Agha Ashraf Ali

DAVID LEPEKA

Socrates write?" He had Plato, I countered. "Yes, well there are many great men who did not write, for various reasons. I don't have the patience for it. The craft of writing takes real patience, a virtue I do not possess."

"My grandfather loved me as he loved all his children but he loved me more because he'd brought me up in his old age," Agha pointed out. "Treated me like his own son...and he gave me more of his property, not equal to his sons but more, handing me his daughter's share. So I became an apple at the scarlet age of twelve.

"Then came my mother...she created a tremendous debate based on the following: since I have given half of my property to him, he is my son," Agha went on. "So I was taken back at twelve; it was a trauma in chief. And there I was the third child and unwanted and not taken care of as well. It was a very educational atmosphere, etc., etc., but I could see that I was not loved as much as I was by my grandfather and grandmother."

His adolescent years were strung between the grand, Westernized life of his grandfather in his younger days and the stolid, more traditional ways of his mother's home. And as Agha spoke of his formative years a glittering gallery of writers, philosophers, politicians, and academics made regular and unscheduled appearances, shooting from his memory like kernels of popping corn, fully in character and offering up personal anecdotes or paragraph-long quotations sprinkled with buttery sentimentality or salty wisdom, or both. He employed them to further an argument, to emphasize the dramatic moment, and to delve into his own psychology. Dr. Zakir Hussain, then-future president of India, materialized first.

"1941, I'm a senior, fourth year in college. I'm merely going to be twenty," he started again, excitedly approaching an early milestone. "I've seen good teachers but nothing first rate...and because of my bewildered and bewildering childhood, I'm lost.

"And I in my state of total liquidity, I am like wax, and Zakir Hussain comes and – whap! (slaps his hands together) – he spoke and I was totally won over. It was my first unsophisticated love. I fell in love with Dr. Zakir Hussain...governor of Bihar, future president of India, studied in Berlin, a brilliant man. I hear this speech and I'm bowled clean. Bowled clean!"

He scooted to the edge of his chair and sat up tall before unleashing, without pause, the bulk of Hussain's October 2nd 1941 speech for the All Jammu and Kashmir Student's Conference.

"Young friends," he began, as if in my melting wax the needle is making the grooves. Can you imagine?! I'm just bewitched, totally bewitched! It's very kind of you to ask me to preside over your deliberations. But if in asking me to do so you want me to make a long speech or a good one, I shall have to disappoint you. I must abstain on medical advice from making a long speech and my personal limitations will see to it that I will not make a good one. Fortunately I can turn this necessity into a virtue. I shall refrain from flattering you. I will not tell you that the future of your country, nay, the future of the world was safe in your hands: you are the promise, you are the hope. Because I know alas there have been others young before you. They also were a hope and a promise. Their story alas is a sad tale of hope unfulfilled and promise unrealized. No one can predict the story of the generation that's now growing. But if it has to be different, our young men will have to start by realizing now," Agha continued, index finger pounding out key words. "Life, young friends, is real. Life is hard. Life is earnest. Life is striving forever higher. Life is service. Life is a vision. Life is virtue." He goes on and on then he brings up the end, a devastating sentence. "Young friends, youth is not an attainment, it is an opportunity, do not let that opportunity go by."

Agha grinned and rubbed his hands together with glee. "I was bewitched!"

The young student quickly embraced the open-minded, liberal idealism of Zakir Hussain and his Jamia Millia colleagues, but the shift was short-lived.

"The Partition of India... knocked out the basis of Jamia Millia's ideology and philosophy, which was Hindu-Muslim culture, which was unity...so the whole philosophy of Zakir Hussain and the Jamia Millia crumbling led to: what is the future of the Muslims in India? So, by 1940, when Jinnah spoke about the partition of India, Muslims would come and say to us, 'You are not in the Muslim League? You are not a Muslim?!' Dr. Zakir Hussain would talk to them patiently and say, 'Look, you are welcome to have Pakistan, but you will weep tears of blood one day. Remember.'"

"So the whole idea that we were bargaining with the Hindus for official equality, that several hundred years of Muslim culture had also done some good, was knocked out. We'd just become fourth class citizens of India. So

I thought Marxism was the only way, that communism was the only way, which is that the poor of Hindus and Muslims would get together to fight for freedom," he said, looking back. "That was innocence incarnate."

## PART II

In the living room of Agha Ashraf Ali's Rajbagh home multi-colored Kashmiri rugs cover smooth brown carpeting. Thick books and ruffled newspapers, odd objects of sculpture, and photographs of family and friends lay about the bright, airy space while misty portraits of Gandhi, Jesus, and Maulana Azad hang near a maroon couch. The scent of black tea and old wood mingle with the occasional creaking of walls and furniture, the only sounds of a still mid-afternoon.

*I look back on my life with my wife and my children and my friends, the greatest things in my life have been laughter and friendship and the vision of beauty both in nature and in art. I regret the fact that...I was often too domineering. I lacked that genuine humility which would have made me have a greater impact on the lives of the young. That's why as I have ripened in that last ten-fifteen years I have focused on simplicity and humility."*

Until Agha speaks, that is.

"My first clash with Farooq Abdullah and I cut him to size," he resumed, recounting with a broad grin an early incident as J&K; Inspector of Schools. "Eighteen year-old cheeky lad, 1953. He came into the office, says, 'There's an understanding between the PM and this office that my cousin will not be transferred. He's a teacher and you have transferred him.' I said to my secretary, 'Please find where is the order of the Prime Minister that his nephew should not be transferred.' And he said, 'Sir, there is no such order.' And I said to Farooq, 'Mr. Farooq, I will talk to Sheikh Sahab myself. Goodbye!'"

Concerns about the state of education in Kashmir, however, could not be similarly dismissed. The Indian Constitution had recently been made law, stipulating that within ten years all of India should have free, compulsory, and universal primary education up to the age of 14.

"Within ten years?!" he recalled, referring to Kashmir. "They don't have it today! They wished it, but they didn't realize what would be the problem."

Trotting a couple centuries back in time to strengthen his argument, Agha turned to 18th century England and the rural to urban migration of the Industrial Revolution. Several decades later it had led to mass education.

"They were able to do it but we in fifty years have not been able to do it because we are not ideologically and philosophically wedded to the idea that the masses have to be educated," he explained. "Here we thought without any industrial revolution, we'll have mass education! It's just not possible, you see. You have to generate the resources to establish infrastructure and all that. When I go to that damned country called the United States...underground there are tunnels, under the roads. And hundreds of pipes through which everything flows and if anything goes wrong you go in and you put it right. But here there is nothing underground except my bottom!"

Towards tea time the chirping of chickadees rose, muezzins wailed from down the street and across the Jhelum, and puttering, chatting servants produced a muted clamor in the connecting kitchen.

[By turns fierce and gentle, berating then caressing, Agha embraces his domestic help as he does life. From his living room throne he will shout across the dining room and into the kitchen with specific instructions. When later some small oversight is committed he will erupt, scolding a man a mere foot away, and then quickly subside. Yet he dines and takes tea with them, remembers the names of their children and children's children, and knows what they do when they are elsewhere – one's a computer programmer, another studying to be an engineer, and his kindly, white-bearded gardener once worked for one of the wealthiest men in Kashmir.]

Sipping black tea and crunching marmaladed toast with his gardener, Agha waxed philosophical.

"It was in England that I came upon the great Jewish philosopher Martin Buber. He gave me my motto, my creed, my Bible, which destroys both Jinnah and Gandhi in one sweep. Listen, this is just fantastic, devastating: 'In an age which is losing form the highly praised persons who serve its fictitious forms and in their name learn to dominate the age count no more than those who are diligent to corrupt those forms...The ones who count are those who though they may be of little renown respond to and are responsible for the continuance of the liv-

ing spirit each in the active stillness of his sphere of work."

Many Kashmiris believed Sheikh Abdullah to be the embodiment of that living spirit, and as the Lion of Kashmir pressed India for greater autonomy in the early 1950's the Central Government pushed back.

"Because he was behaving like that, fighting India for article 370, which was being eroded since the day it was created, Sheikh Abdullah was being disobedient like a naughty boy, creating a problem for India," Agha said. "The day Sheikh was arrested they came and took away my vehicle. The whole of Kashmir was risen; there was civil commotion. They took machine guns to kill people in Anantnag. Shops closed. It was a tremendous uprising. In that atmosphere suddenly my rule in Kashmir was finished, as was Sheikh Abdullah's."

After a two-month stint as the acting principal of the College of Education and a year as the head of the National Education Training Center, Agha was appointed the full-time principal of the College of Education in 1955.

"That is when I began my work," Agha recalled, his face brightening. "Becoming a teacher of teachers; and I was able to devote myself to academic work!"

But that work was cut short in 1956, when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev provoked a deep philosophical crisis.

*"I had returned from England a rabid Marxist, but Khrushchev's secret speech changed everything. I picked it up from my local bookshop came home and read it through. I was shocked. I've been envisioning Russia as a utopia and I've been criticizing everybody...I was so embarrassed," he admitted, again growing quiet. "I was on the verge of suicide...I was feeling so bad...Oh god, it was terrible."*

I had returned from England a rabid Marxist, but Khrushchev's secret speech changed everything. I picked it up from my local bookshop came home and read it through. I was shocked. I've been envisioning Russia as a utopia and I've been criticizing everybody...I was so embarrassed," he admitted, again growing quiet. "I was on the verge of suicide...I was feeling so bad...Oh god, it was terrible."

Reading cleared his mind of suddenly troubling Marxism and put the wind back into his sails.

"That period, that crisis period, is fantastic!" he recalled, perking up again as he toured his personal journey of philosophy. "After Zakir Hussain and Erich Fromm, and moving away from that, through Marxism after the Partition of India, and then coming to Dr. Zhivago and Azad and back to the inner most self via Krishnamurthi. Aahhhhh," he finished, sighing.

"I live by ideas," he explained, "whatever that means to you."

I asked if he noticed any agitation towards independence during this period.

"Of course, it's all the time here," he explained. "A few people are dying every few months instead of every day. They throw stones at the army and things like that; Sheikh Abdullah is continuing this agitation. It's building...the middle class Muslim is coming to the fore. Youth are going to high schools and colleges...and they see the government of India promoting only Hindus, in all the banks, in all the government offices: discrimination, that's what Partition did to this country. Greatest tragedy.

"Here, because of the Partition and the communal divide and the two-nation theory, the Kashmiri Pundit professors would go to the Indian government and complain about how a Muslim man twice their age and half their ability had been promoted. Seniority and experience and ability didn't matter...Pundits saw that they were being superceded...and they offset it by employing only Hindus in their own domain.

"The quality of education dropped because on the whole the Pundits, who were the better teachers, stopped teaching well. If Muslims were going to be promoted why would they teach? Im talking about the 50's, 60's, 70's. And slowly as Muslims started coming up the Hindu was being squeezed out of this."

In an effort to place these developments in greater relief, Agha scooted to the edge of his seat and huddled his shoulders close to transform himself into Maulana Azad circa 1945:

"I'm taking you back again, but this is detonating. Three Pandits come to visit him on a houseboat in Dal. He's sleeping but calls them in anyway. Only a five minute interview but Azad could pierce to the heart of the matter; he had a luminous mind." Agha leaned forward conspiratorially, crouched further and spoke meekly, like a wise man aware of the power of his words. "Brothers, this movement of Shiekh Abdullah, the masses coming up, does it make you feel a little afraid? 'Oh, no, no,' they said. 'Oh, it can be frightening, it can be, you don't have to deny. But my advice to you is' one single sentence, like a doctor's prescription for Cipro 500! 'devote all your creative energies to the uplift of the masses and therefore remain at the head of it.'"

And like flipping the channel, Agha suddenly inhabited two very different characters from an earlier era.

"Lord Rutherford, British physicist, split the atom you should know, was at some fancy gathering and an American professor of physics, cigar in his mouth, comes up to him and says," and here Agha employed brash, flat American tones, "Ha! Hey! Lord Rutherford! How do you manage to remain at the head of the wave? You are always at the head of the wave! And Rutherford, with his British understatement, 'I'm sorry. I made the wave.'"

On Agha roamed, shouting now in his excitement. "What Azad meant was in this vast movement, if you help Kashmiri Muslims to learn math and science and use your creative energies to bring them up you will remain at the head!" Agha said, leaving the UK behind and returning to Kashmir. "This is what they didn't do and this is why they were thrown out. Not only from the college but out of Kashmir. They didn't want the masses to come up...but the masses have got to come up!"

Most, unfortunately, were unable to come up as far they had hoped.

*I look back on my life with my wife and my children and my friends, the greatest things in my life have been laughter and friendship and the vision of beauty both in nature and in art. I regret the fact that...I was often too domineering. I lacked that genuine humility which would have made me have a greater impact on the lives of the young. That's why as I have ripened in that last ten-fifteen years I have focused on simplicity and humility."*

"The products are the unemployed, the unemployables, and that leads to the movement, Yasin Malik and company," he said, speaking with less force, as if wary of the familiar tale. "And they went across and brought the gun and in the last fifteen years the whole thing has been destroyed, and Kashmir become a luckless, lawless society."

NOTE- Full version of the profile is available on kashmirobserver.net



## Experts Urge Evaluation Of Diet At Routine Healthcare Check-Ups



### Agencies

The time has come for routine healthcare visits to include some form of dietary assessment and counselling, according to a new scientific statement written by a group of nutrition and cardiovascular disease experts. The statement issued from the American Heart Association was published today in Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes, an American Heart Association journal. The experts recommend the adoption of a rapid diet screening tool that can be integrated into electronic health record platforms across all healthcare settings.

"Dietary patterns and quality are not sufficiently prioritized when addressing modifiable risk factors during regular healthcare office visits. Given the evidence that diet contributes to disease and mortality, it is a risk factor worth screening for continuously," said Maya Vadiveloo, Ph.D., RD, chair of the statement writing group and assistant professor of nutrition and health sciences in the College of Health Science at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island.

Poor diet quality has surpassed all other risk factors for death, accounting for 11 million deaths and about half of the cardiovascular disease (CVD) deaths globally, according to the 2017 Global Burden of Disease Study, a comprehensive report on the health impact of diet in 195 countries around the world.

The statement authors reviewed 15 existing screening tools, assessing each to provide insight on the feasibility of incorporating an evidence-based dietary screening tool into routine practice. The authors list numerous reasons why members of a healthcare team may not address diet quality during a routine office visit: lack of training and knowledge;

lack of time and reimbursement; competing demands during the often short office visit and that nutrition services aren't integrated into many healthcare settings.

"However, these barriers can be overcome," said Vadiveloo. "We want a valid, reliable way to assess diet that reflects the best science and most of the tools assessed take under 10 minutes to use." Three of the tools assessed to meet criteria set forth in the statement and may provide a framework to help practices incorporate diet screening into their workflow. The Powell and Greenberg Screening Tool asks two questions about fruit and vegetable consumption and sugary food and juice consumption. The Rapid Eating Assessment for Participants-Shortened assessment and the Mediterranean Diet Adherence Screener ask more than 10 questions and cover major food groups, as well as processed foods and alcohol consumption.

The keys to an effective

diet screening tool include:  
-Using an evidence-based approach;  
-Assessing the total dietary pattern, not just a single food or nutrient;  
-Speed;  
-The ability to give actionable next steps and support to patients; and -The ability to track and monitor dietary change over time.

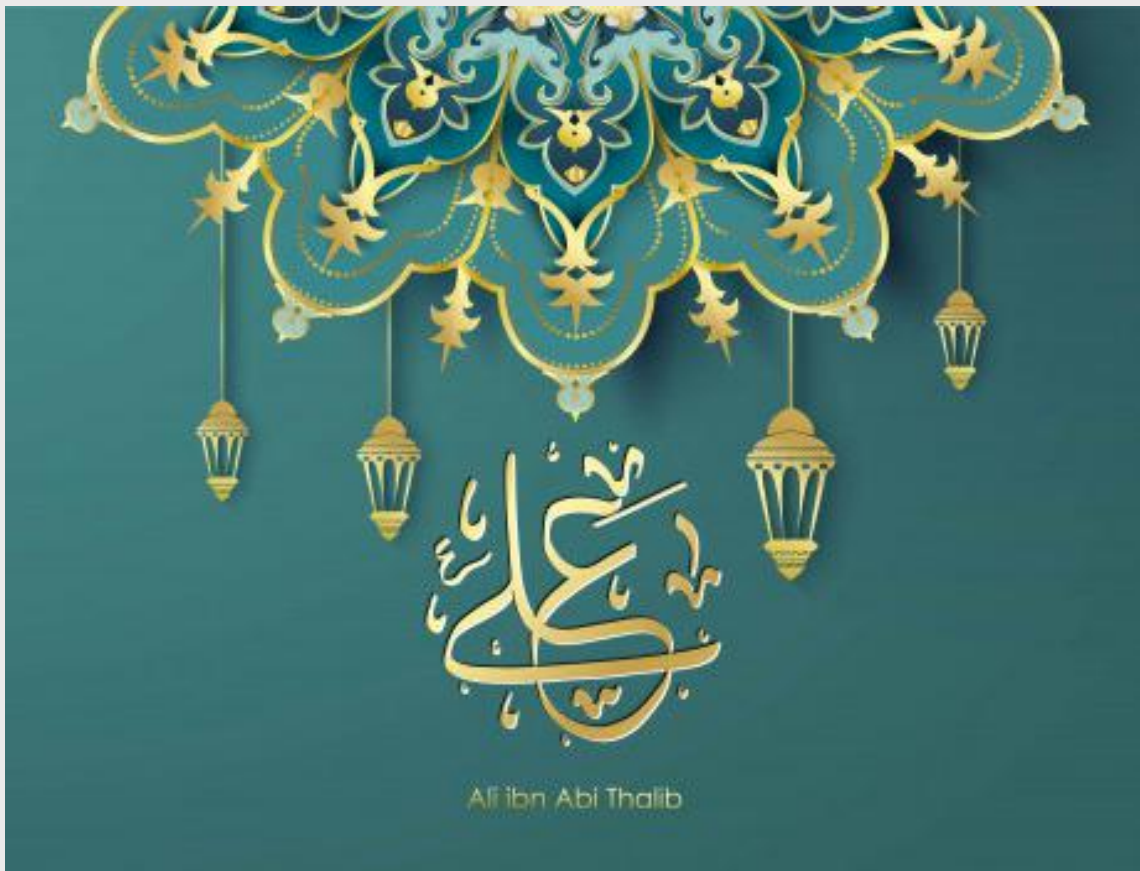
"There are other tools beyond what was assessed and additional tools could be developed," said Vadiveloo. While the statement does not endorse a specific screening tool, it encourages critical conversations among clinicians, individuals with diet/lifestyle expertise and specialists in information technology to adopt rapid diet screening tools for adults in primary care and relevant specialty care and prevention settings.

"An important component in addition to evaluating diet quality is targeting actionable changes - helping patients set achievable dietary goals - and then following up at the next visit," said Alice H. Lichtenstein, D.Sc., vice-chair of the writing group and lead and senior scientist of the Cardiovascular Nutrition Team at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston.

Areas for future study include testing and validating screener tools in diverse populations, as well as among special clinical populations (paediatrics, geriatrics), and evaluating the feasibility of implementing these tools in clinical settings.

A healthy diet can improve cardiovascular disease risk and outcomes. What you eat (and how much) can affect other controllable risk factors, such as cholesterol, blood pressure, diabetes and being overweight.

## Significance Of 18Th Zilhaj



### Observer News Service

Ten years after the migration and on the last days of Dhu al-Qi'dah, Prophet of Islam (Pbuh) moved from Madinah to Makkah for Hajj. He only once attended Hajj rituals, a few months before his passing. Since this Hajj took place in the last year of his life, he made his farewells to people.

The Messenger of Allah (Pbuh) ordered his close followers to call all the people in different places to join him in his last Hajj pilgrimage. On this pilgrimage he taught them how to perform the pilgrimage in a correct and unified form.

Hazrat Ali (AS) was in Yemen, preaching Islam. He moved towards Makkah together with his companions and joined Prophet (Pbuh) before rituals began.

When the rituals of Hajj (Hajjatul-Wada'), were over, Prophet (Pbuh), accompanied by thousands of faithful, left Makkah for Madinah. This was the year 10 AH (coinciding with February 632).

This was first time that the Muslims with this magnitude gathered in one place in the presence of their leader, the Messenger of Allah (Pbuh).

On his way to Makkah, more than seventy thousand people followed Prophet (Pbuh).

When Prophet accompanied by multitude of pilgrims reached a pond, called Ghadeer-e-Khumm (which is close to today's al-Juhfah), on 18th of Zil-Hijjah of the year 10 AH, he ordered them to stop. It was a place where people from different provinces used to say good bye to each other before taking different routes for their homes.

In this place, the following verse of the Qur'an was revealed:

"O Apostle! Deliver what has been sent down to you from your Lord; and if you don't do it, you have not delivered His message (at all); and Allah will protect you from the people ..." (Qur'an 5:67)

Upon receiving the verse, the Prophet (Pbuh) stopped at Khum which was extremely hot. Then he

sent for all people who have been ahead in the way, to come back and waited until all pilgrims who fell behind, arrived and gathered. He ordered Salman al Farsi (RA) to use rocks and camel toolings to make a pulpit (minbar) so he could make his announcement. It was around noon time in the first of the fall, and due to the extreme heat in that Valley, people were wrapping their robes around their feet and legs, and were sitting around the pulpit, on the hot rocks.

On this day the Messenger of Allah (Pbuh) spent approximately five hours in this place; three hours of which he was on the pulpit. He recited nearly one hundred verses from The glorious Quran, and for seventy three times reminded and warned people of their deeds and future. Then he gave them a long speech.

The following is a part of his speech which has been widely narrated by both Shia & Sunni traditionalists:

The Messenger of Allah (SAWW) declared:

"It seems the time approached when I shall be called away (by Allah) and I shall answer that call. I am leaving for you two precious things and if you adhere to them both, you will never go astray after me. They are the Book of Allah and my Progeny, that is my Ahlul Bayt. The two shall never separate from each other until they come to me by the Pool of Kausar."

Then the Messenger of Allah continued:

"Do I not have more right over the believers than what they have over themselves?"

People cried and answered: "Yes, O' Messenger of God."

Then followed the key sentence denoting the clear designation of Hazrat Ali bin Abi Talib as his vicegerent. The Prophet (Pbuh) held up the hand of Ali and said:

"For whoever I am his Leader (Mawla), Ali is his Leader (Mawla)." In some narrations the word used was Wali rather than Mawla - with the same implication.

The Prophet (Pbuh) continued:

"O' God, love those who love him, and be hostile to those who are hostile to him."

These were the key parts of the speech of the Prophet (SAWW). There are also more detailed versions of this sermon which are recorded by many authorities.

Immediately after the Prophet (Pbuh) finished his speech, the following verse of the Qur'an was revealed:

"Today I have perfected your religion and completed my favour upon you, and I was satisfied that Islam be your religion." (Qur'an 5:3)

After his speech, the Messenger of Allah (Pbuh) asked everybody to give the oath of allegiance to Ali (A.S.) and congratulate him. Among those who did so was 'Hazrat Umar b. al-Khattab (RA), who said:

"Well done Ibn Abi Talib! Today you became the leader (Mawla) of all believing men and women."

Allah ordered His Prophet (Pbuh) to inform the people of this designation at a time of crowded populous so that all could become the narrators of the tradition, while they exceeded a hundred thousand.

Narrated by Zayd b. Arqam: Abu al-Tufayl said: "I heard it from the Messenger of Allah (Pbuh), and there was no one (there) except that he saw him with his eyes and heard him with his ears."

Shia Muslims believe this to be the appointment of Ali as Imam of Muslims. Most Muslims accept the historicity of the event, but not all believe that this constituted an appointment of Ali as the successor to the Prophet. The day's anniversary in the Islamic Calendar (18 Dhu al-Hijjah) is celebrated by Muslims as Eid al-Ghadeer.

Eid of Ghadeer should be used to unite Muslim Ummah as the enemies of Islam are using the same day to create discord among the Muslim Ummah. It is crucial that people are able to approach these matters in a mature and respectful manner. Discussion and debate is healthy and it is important that we are able to speak openly about differences between various schools of thought in Islam.

This year the day falls on 9th of August.

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**MECHANICAL HOSPITAL & CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
(Phone No: 0194-2496089, E-mail id: [xennhchdh@yahoo.in](mailto:xennhchdh@yahoo.in)) Website: [www.medkmr.org](http://www.medkmr.org)  
NIT No: MHCHD/TS/2020-21/48  
Dated: 07.08.2020  
**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Date of sale of tender documents.	From 07.08.2020 to 17.08.2020 (2.00 P.M)
Last date of receipt of Tenders.	18.08.2020 upto 2PM.

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed tenders affixed with Rs.5/- revenue stamps are invited from the registered firms/Govt. Contractors for the below mentioned work:

S.No	Description of work.	Estimated cost in Rupees	Amount of Earnest Money in Rs.	Cost of Tender document in Rs.	Time of completion	Position of Funds
1	Providing and Laying of Main oxygen piping for connecting the newly installed 500 LPM oxygen Plant with existing circuit at GB Pant Hospital, Srinagar.	61150/-	1200/-	200/-	05 Days	Available as communicated by Intending Department

The tender must be accompanied with the requisite earnest money deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR drawn from any scheduled/national bank and pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, MH&CH Division, Srinagar. The tenders found without earnest money shall be rejected out rightly at the time of opening of tender.

The tender document can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours against cost mentioned above, in the form of IPO/Demand Draft or Cash Payment. Tender documents shall be issued subject to production of certificates to the following effect:

- Latest Sales tax clearance certificate/or as applicable as per new GST rules.
- J&K State Sales Tax Registration Certificate/ GST registration certificate.
- Documentary proof of similar nature of work in any Govt./Semi-Govt. Department.

The tenders should reach the office of undersigned on 18.08.2020 upto 2 P.M and shall be opened on the same day or any subsequent date convenient to the undersigned in presence of the tenderers who may be present on the spot.

The envelope containing tender should properly be superscripted with Tender Notice no, Name of work and Name of tenderer.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division,  
Srinagar.

DIPK-3851/20

NO: - MHCHD/TS/2065-71 Dated 07.08.2020

Email address: [exen-mcdsdmscgr@ik.gov.in](mailto:exen-mcdsdmscgr@ik.gov.in) Contact No. 0194 2503097

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECH. CITY DRAINAGE DIVISION SRINAGAR.**

**CORRIGENDIUM No:(02) TO N.I.T NO:E\_05\_CDM\_OF \_2020-21**  
**D A T E D :-27-07 -2020**

Subject:- 1. Annual Maintenance Contract for Repairs/replacement to A.C. Induction horizontal and vertical motors of pumping units at various dewatering stations located in and around Srinagar City.  
2. Annual Maintenance Contract for Repairs/replacement to manual voltage stabilizers at various dewatering stations located in & around Srinagar City.  
3. Annual Maintenance Contract for repairs to various capacities EOT Crane at various dewatering stations located in & around Srinagar City.

In view of requests made by the various intending prospective bidders, the critical dates in respect of above mentioned NIT for works vide SI.No. 02, 04 & 13 are hereby re-scheduled as under:-

Bid submission end date	13-08-2020 upto 6.00 PM
Date & time of opening of bids	14-08-2020 at 2.00 P.M

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the original N.I.T.

NO.CDM/C/  
Dated:-06-08-2020

Sd/-  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
MECH. CITY DRAINAGE DIVISION SMC

DIPK-NB-1745/20

## Brain Noise Contains A Unique Signature Of Dream Sleep

When we dream, our brains are filled with noisy electrical activity that looks nearly identical to that of the awake brain. But researchers have pulled a signal out of the noise that uniquely defines dreaming, or REM (Rapid eye movement) sleep, potentially making it easier to monitor people with sleep disorders, as well as unconscious coma patients or those under anaesthesia.

The study highlighting the first (electroencephalogram) EEG measure of REM sleep that allowed scientists to distinguish dreaming from wakefulness, was published in the journal eLife.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people undergo overnight studies to diagnose problems with their sleep, most of them hooked up to an EEG to monitor brain activity as they progress from wakefulness to deep, slow-wave sleep and on into REM sleep. But EEGs alone cannot tell whether a patient is awake or dreaming: Doctors can only distinguish REM sleep by recording rapid eye movement -- hence, the name -- and muscle tone, since our bodies relax in a general paralysis to prevent us from acting out our dreams.

### AGHA FAMILY BEREAVED

"TO ALLAH WE BELONG AND TO HIM SHALL WE RETURN"

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of the head of our clan, pride of our family, Prof Agha Ashraf Ali S/O Late Agha Zaffar Ali Qizilbash who passed away today at his residence, Sufia Nishan, Rajbagh, Srinagar.



(18/10/1922-08/08/2020)

AGHA ASHRAF ALI who brought education revolution in Jammu & Kashmir post 1947 shall live in our memories

There Shall be no congregational Fatiha/gathering of relatives due to the prevailing circumstances in the valley however the house shall remain open for visitors to offer condolences till Monday. People can also offer condolences to his son & relatives via social media as his children could not come from the United States. May Allah grant him Maghfirat and bless his soul with Jannat ul Firdous.

Bereaved

Dr. Agha Iqbal Ali (Son)

Dr. Hena Ahmed, Dr. Sameetah Agha (daughters)

Aga Syed Muzaffar-/AS, Syed Raza Aga, Dr Agha Maqsood

Ali, Agha Sajad Ali, Agha Himayun Advocate

(Cousins)

Showkat-ul-Islam, Asadullah Chopan and Ghulam Mohammad Lone (Personal Employees of Agha Ashraf Ali). The entire Agha family remains indebted to these wonderful selfless people for their services to their Agha Sahib



## Jacinda Ardern Launches Re-Election Bid Riding High On Covid Success



**AUCKLAND:** New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern kicked off her Labour Party's election campaign Saturday riding high in the opinion polls after a successful response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Ardern's popularity as preferred prime minister -- often referred to as "Jacindamania" -- topped 60 percent in the latest surveys following her leadership through the Christchurch mosque attacks, the White Island volcanic eruption and the pandemic.

Before the virus forced New Zealand to seal its borders, the polls had pointed to a cliffhanger election on September 19, but support swung sharply towards the centre-left Labour Party as the country eliminated community transmission in a matter of months.

In a country of five million people, New Zealand has had only 22 COVID-19 deaths and it has been 99 days since the last recorded case of infection from an unknown source.

"When people ask, is this a COVID election, my answer is yes, it is," the charismatic 40-year-old said as she launched the campaign with a NZ\$311 million (US\$205 million) pledge to boost jobs. "Businesses large and small are crucial to our economic recovery."

Labour is the senior partner in a three-party coalition government but if it can

maintain the support shown in recent opinion polls, where it has consistently been above 50 percent, it could govern alone after the election.

Ardern was an unheralded MP when thrust into the Labour leadership shortly before the 2017 election when the party was struggling and "there were plenty who thought it couldn't (win)," she said.

"If you had told me then that our launch in 2020 would be in the midst of a global pandemic with our borders closed -- I would have found that very hard to fathom."

The centrepiece of Labour's campaign is to support businesses in hiring at least 40,000 people whose employment has been affected by the coronavirus.

It pledged to expand existing job schemes to help employers hire staff at risk of long-term unemployment.

It will also help out-of-work New Zealanders start a business through an expanded self-employment programme which will provide the equivalent of the minimum wage for up to 30-hours a week.

"The new flexi-wage scheme is a key plank of our economic plan to support businesses to recover and to provide jobs to those who have lost work due to COVID," Ardern said.

"Our team-of-five-million approach to fighting COVID means there is huge willingness in our business community to avoid unemployment rising by retaining staff and taking on new employees where they can, but many just need a little bit of extra support to do that, which this package provides."

## US Schools Reopen For In-Person Classes In Coronavirus Hotspots

**WASHINGTON:** Undeterred by the coronavirus, schools in several US states have reopened for in-person classes -- but some have already been hit by large quarantines of students and staff following fresh outbreaks.

In Mississippi -- the state with the country's highest positivity rate at 22 percent of everyone tested, sick or otherwise -- the Corinth School District has so far seen eight confirmed cases across several schools, according to officials.

As a result, over 100 people who came into close contact with them have been asked to quarantine, swiftly disrupting local authorities' plans for a return to normal.

The city of Corinth is located in Alcorn County where positivity rates are 25 percent and ICUs are full, according to the tracking site CovidActNow.

Health experts say that if the proportion of positive tests in a given location is above five percent, the virus is spreading rampantly.

Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves told Fox News the quarantine was in fact evidence things were working as they should.

"Those who want to attack everyone look at that as a



negative, I actually look at it as a positive," he said.

"We've identified positive cases, we've contract traced those back and we're trying to protect those kids."

### "Cautionary tale"

The district's troubles highlight the dangers of reopening schools, a key priority of President Donald Trump as he tries to kickstart the economy ahead of the election. After pressure from the president, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month issued new guidelines on how to open up classrooms.

It firmly weighed its recommendations in favor of in-person learning because of the negative impact of lockdowns on social development and mental health.

Data also shows distance-learning exacerbates educational attainment gaps between socioeconomic groups.

This goal is shared by outside experts including the American Academy of Pediatrics, but a major problem is a lack of clarity around when it is safe to reopen.



## Hiroshima And Nagasaki Day 2020: History Of Nuclear Attack On Hiroshima And Nagasaki

**NEW DELHI:** Japan on Thursday completed 75 years since it first suffered the world's first atomic bomb attack on the city of Hiroshima, followed three days later by the second and last on Nagasaki, leading to the end of world war II at the cost of over 2,00,000 lives and unimaginable loss of property.

On August 6, 1945, a US B-29 warplane, named Enola Gay, unleashed a bomb nicknamed "Little Boy" on Japan's southwestern city of Hiroshima, killing 140,000, and leaving lakhs injured, many of whom died in

coming years.

Temperatures near the blast reached an estimated 7,000 degrees Celsius (12,600 Fahrenheit), which caused fatal burns within a radius of about three kilometres.

On August 9, the United States dropped another bomb, named "Fat Man", on the city of Nagasaki, killing more than 75,000 people.

The historic pictures of the tragic incident show that huge blast led to a mushroom cloud, which grew as high as 9,000 metres (30,000 feet). Japan surrendered six days later,

ending World War Two.

The two bomb attacks remain the only time atomic bombs have been used in wartime.

In previous years, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the city mayors attended annual memorial services and renewed pledges for a nuclear-free world. Bells tolled and a minute's silence was observed at the exact time the bombs detonated in both cities.

Commemorations this year will be scaled back due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with fewer seats and video messages from dignitaries.

**I**N PREVIOUS YEARS, PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE AND THE CITY mayors attended annual memorial services and renewed pledges for a nuclear-free world. Bells tolled and a minute's silence was observed at the exact time the bombs detonated in both cities.

## UN: At Least Nine Children Killed By Air Raids In Northern Yemen

**A**ir raids in northern Yemen have killed as many as nine children, a United Nations official said, making it the third such attack with significant child deaths in the rebel-controlled region this month.

Lise Grande, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Yemen, said in a statement on Friday a group of mostly women and children were hit while they were travelling by road the previous day.

She said the attack was "shocking and completely, totally unacceptable".

The health ministry for the Houthi rebels, who control the area where the attack happened, said on Thursday the Saudi-led military coalition supporting Yemen's government conducted six air raids in the mountainous northern Yemeni province of Jawf. It said an early count indicated more than 20 dead, mostly women and children. Limited access to Houthi-controlled areas for aid workers and journalists often makes details of attacks difficult to confirm.

### 'Seriously looking into'

A spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, Turki al-Maliki, told the Saudi newspaper Asharq al-Awsat on Friday the coalition was "seriously looking into" the recent allegations of civilian casualties. The military alliance, which has been at



war with the Houthi rebels for years, has drawn international criticism for errant air raids that have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties, killing thousands of civilians.

On July 14, the UN reported an air raid in Hajjah province killed seven children, some as young as two years old.

The next day, the Houthi rebels and aid workers reported an air raid by the coalition hit a celebration in Jawf for a newborn boy's circumcision, killing at least 10 civilians, including six children and two women.

Yemen's conflict erupted late in 2014 when the Iran-aligned Houthi swept across much of the

north and seized the capital, Sanaa, forcing the internationally-recognised government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi into exile.

The following year, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states formed a coalition to fight the Houthis in what they said was an effort to stop Iran's growing sway in Yemen. The conflict has killed more than 100,000 people and created the world's worst humanitarian disaster, with more than three million people internally displaced and two-thirds of the population relying on food aid for survival.

## Lebanon President Rejects Global Probe Into Port Blast

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon's president on Friday rejected any international probe into the catastrophic port blast, saying a missile or negligence could have been responsible as rescuers desperately combed the rubble for survivors.

The entrenched ruling class has come under fire once again since Tuesday's explosion, which killed at least 154 people and devastated swathes of the capital.

The revelation that a huge shipment of hazardous ammonium nitrate had languished for years in a warehouse in the heart of the capital served as shocking proof to many Lebanese of the rot at the core of their political system.

Even Lebanese President Michel Aoun admitted on Friday that the "paralysed" system needed to be "reconsidered". "We are facing changes and reconsidering our system, which is built on consensus, after it was seen to be paralysed and incapable of swiftly executing decisions," Aoun told reporters.

He pledged "swift justice", but rejected widespread calls for an international probe, telling a reporter he saw it as an attempt to "dilute the truth".

"There are two possible scenarios for what happened: it was either negligence or foreign interference through a missile or bomb," he said, the first time a top Lebanese official raised the possibility that the port had been attacked.

What ignited the massive shipment of the chemical remains unclear -- officials have said work had recently begun on repairs to the warehouse, while others suspected fireworks stored either in the same place or nearby. Near the seat of the explosion, by the carcass of the port's giant grain silos, rescue teams from France, Russia, Germany, Italy and



other countries coordinated their search efforts.

Four bodies were uncovered near the port's control room, where a significant number of people were expected to have been working at the time of the blast. No one has been found alive.

"I am waiting to hear that you have been rescued alive, my dear," tweeted Emilie Hasrouty, whose brother is among the missing. "I am paralysed with fear."

At the port, reduced to an enormous scrapyard, excavators removed mangled shipping containers to clear a path for rescuers. Civil defence teams anxiously watched a sniffer dog as he paced around a gap under a fallen crane.

Beirut has received a stream of international assistance since the blast, with the president of the European Council, Charles Michel, set to visit the ravaged capital on Saturday.

French President Emmanuel Macron was the first world leader to touch down in Lebanon on Thursday, where he pressed officials to enact deep reform ahead of an aid conference planned in the coming days.

Macron spoke on Friday to US President Donald Trump, with the White House saying they would work "with international partners to provide immediate aid to the Lebanese people".

The World Food Programme promised food to affected families and wheat imports to replace lost stocks from the port's disembowelled silos. The World Health Organisation, meanwhile, called for \$15 million to cover immediate health needs.

## "China Would Love US Losing To Sleepy Joe Biden," Says Trump

**NEW JERSEY:** US President Donald Trump on Friday said that China would "love" to have an election if he lost to his "sleepy" Democrat presidential candidate Joe Biden.

"China would love for us to have an election where Donald Trump lost to sleepy Joe Biden. They would dream (that) they would own our country. If Joe Biden was president, China would rule our country," he told reporters in New Jersey.

He said that Iran would also "love" to see him lose the election in November, adding that if he won the elections, he will "make deals with Iran very quickly".

"If and when we win, we will make deals with Iran very quickly. We will make deals with North Korea very quickly. If I did not win the elections in 2016, our country would have been in war with North Korea. We actually have a relation with



North Korea," Trump added. Talking about interference in the US elections, Trump called China "a bigger threat".

"Do you think China is a bigger threat? I think maybe it is. We will be watching all of them very closely. The biggest risk we have is mail-in ballots because with the mail-in ballots it is much easier for a foreign power -- whether it is Russia, China, Iran or North Korea -- to forge ballots," he further said.

**I** LOVE" TO SEE HIM LOSE THE election in November, adding that if he won the elections, he will "make deals with Iran very quickly".

### NEWS MAKERS

## Mahathir To Set Up Political Party At Age 95

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad, 95, said on Friday he was setting up a new political party as he seeks to take on the government, months after he quit as premier and his administration collapsed.

Mahathir, the world's oldest leader until his resignation in February, first entered parliament as an MP in 1964 and had two stints as prime minister, totalling a quarter of a century. But far from quietly retiring, the spry nonagenarian has continued to challenge the legitimacy of the leader who replaced him, and on Friday announced the new party.

Mahathir said the group, still unnamed, would be independent, champion the rights of the country's Muslim majority and battle corruption.

"We will fight the parties

involved in bribery and the stealing of money," he told reporters at a press conference.

Mahathir said he will be chairman and the party would not be part of the current government or the opposition alliance of which he used to be a member. Several other MPs also appeared with Mahathir at the announcement.

The ex-premier used to be a member of a party called Bersatu, which he set up to contest the 2018 election, but it split when Mahathir's shaky coalition government collapsed.

The veteran politician was first premier from 1981 to 2003 but then launched a comeback ahead of the polls two years ago, to take on the corruption-mired regime of Najib Razak.

He led an opposition alliance to a shock victory and



returned as prime minister.

But the government collapsed this year amid intense infighting over whether Anwar Ibrahim should become the next premier, and Mahathir resigned.

He sought to come back as prime minister but lost out to Muhyiddin Yassin, who now leads a coalition that includes

Najib's scandal-plagued party. Analysts said Mahathir's party would need the support of other parties to stand a chance of success.

"Standing alone, he would be lucky to win back his own seat," Oh Ei Sun, senior fellow, from the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, said.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's ex-finance minister, now a key opposition figure, was charged with corruption over a \$1.5 billion construction project, the latest government critic to be targeted since a scandal-plagued party returned to power.

Lim Guan Eng is the highest-profile figure yet to face a criminal probe in a sweeping crackdown on dissent launched by the new administration, and says the case against him is politically motivated.

## Colorado Prison Escapee Caught After Nearly 50 Years On Run

**DENVER:** A man who escaped from a Colorado prison in 1974 was found living under an alias in a small town in northern New Mexico after the Denver police officer he shot decades ago helped track him down, authorities said.

Luis Archuleta, 77, also known as Larry Pusateri, was arrested Wednesday in Espanola, New Mexico, where he had been living under the name Ramon Montoya for about 40 years, the FBI said in a statement.

Archuleta was accused in 1971 of shooting Denver police officer Daril Cinquanta, who had pulled over Archuleta to check his ID, KMGH-TV reported.

When Cinquanta tried to check for weapons, the two



fought and Cinquanta was shot in the stomach, KMGH-TV said.

A jury in 1973 convicted Archuleta of assault with a deadly weapon.

Cinquanta, who since retired and started his own private investigation company,

never stopped making phone calls and knocking on doors in hopes of tracking down Archuleta, KUSA-TV reported.

His search paid off when a tipster called.

"I get a phone call from an individual and this person says, 'I've thought about it, and I'm gonna tell you where the guy is who shot you,' and of course I was sceptical," Cinquanta said.

"Forty-six years later, and out of the clear blue, I get a phone call. Well, this person gives me his address and his alias ... and other facts that meant nothing at the time."

A federal court in Colorado issued a new arrest warrant involving the prison escape and Archuleta was arrested in the

small town about 20 miles (32 kilometres) north of Santa Fe.

He is being represented by the Office of the Federal Public Defender, which did not immediately respond Friday to a phone message seeking comment on Archuleta's behalf Michael Schneider, the FBI Special Agent in Denver, said the "arrest should send a clear signal to violent offenders everywhere: The FBI will find you, no matter how long it takes or how far you run, and we will bring you to justice."

Cinquanta hopes to visit Archuleta when he is back in custody in Colorado.

"I would love to sit down and talk to him," Cinquanta said. "He may or may not talk to me. Who knows?" AP



## 'Need For Mandir Culture More Than Hospital Culture': West Bengal BJP Chief Dilip Ghosh



West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh Friday hit out at those opposing the bhoomi puja for the Ram Temple at Ayodhya and espoused the building of a hospital instead lack the realisation that "mandir culture is needed more than the hospital culture".

Those who are speaking in favour of a hospital at Ayodhya have themselves failed to provide proper healthcare to the people, he said.

Ghosh, however, did not name any person or party.

Keeping up his attack, Ghosh said those who are afraid of speaking about their religion are speaking against the Ram temple construction. But those who are proud of their faith and worship Lord Ram are supporting it.

"Persons opposing the Ram temple (at Ayodhya) are speaking of building a hospital instead are bereft of the realisation that mandir culture is needed more than the hospital culture", he said.

Ghosh, who was speaking to newsmen in Kolkata, said "The people of Ayodhya did not ask for a hospital, they had asked for a temple" and added that a large number of people had sacrificed their lives in the last five centuries to build the Ram temple there.

"Those who are saying that there is need for hospital rather than the Mandir are trying to mislead the people... Those raising the hue and cry over the bhoomi

pujan have themselves failed to provide proper health services and build sufficient number of hospitals," he said.

He claimed that people of Ayodhya already have access to excellent health care services. "In Uttar Pradesh you have enough hospitals. The number of (COVID-19) patients is less as the government of that state has controlled the situation.

"I think there should be Mandir culture instead of hospital culture, as Mandir is part of our culture and tradition. Moreover the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya is completely different as it is the pride and honour of our country," the BJP leader said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is one the harshest critics of the BJP, had called for preserving brotherhood between communities and the age-old legacy of unity in diversity on Wednesday, the day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the bhoomi puja.

Asked to comment on a certain section of people comparing the movement for the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya with the Independence movement, Ghosh said the fight for Ram Mandir is much older.

"For the last 500 years lakhs of people have fought for the Ram Mandir, and thousands have sacrificed their lives for it. The Independence movement had been fought for about 100 years. Those who have no idea about the history of Ram Mandir or the history of the country's independence should get some clarity in their ideas," he said.

## Kerala Plane Crash Victims' Families To Get Rs 10 Lakh Compensation

KOZHIKODE: The Kerala government on Saturday announced 10 lakh compensation to the families of those who died when an ill-fated Air India Express flight veered off the runway while attempting to land at the Kariapur international airport.

At least 18 people have lost their lives and 149 are under treatment at various hospitals of Malappuram and Kozhikode districts, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the media after a high-level meeting held at the district in which state Governor Arif Mohammed Khan also participated.

"The state government has decided to provide a compensation of 10 lakh to the families of those who have lost their lives. The medical expenses of those under treatment will be taken over by the state government," Mr Vijayan told the reporters.

The Chief Minister also said out of the 18 who died, 14 are adults and four are children.

"Out of the 14 adults, seven are male and others female. Currently, 149 people are in various hospitals of Malappuram and Kozhikode, out of which 23 are in critical con-



dition. Earlier, 23 were discharged after being provided initial medical assistance," Mr Vijayan said.

Mr Vijayan also said that if any further assistance is required, the state government will take an appropriate decision to support them to get back to normal life.

There are a few passengers from Tamil Nadu and Telangana also. "The post mortem process has been expedited despite the COVID-19 threat and is expected to finish before evening. All the accident victims will be tested for COVID-19 including those who died in the crash. So far, only one victim has tested positive for Coronavirus," Mr Vijayan said.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the instant response of the locals living in the vicinity of the airport and also the local authorities to the tragedy, which ensured minimum loss of lives in a disaster of such large magnitude.



OFF TO THEIR HOMES after days hard work women in Dodhpatri in Budgam can be seen with bagfuls of herbs.

## Indus Water Treaty: World Bank Expresses Inability To Appoint Neutral Expert Or Court Of Arbitration

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has expressed its inability to take an independent decision on the appointment of a neutral expert or a Court of Arbitration for the settlement of a long-pending water dispute between India and Pakistan, saying the two countries will have to bilaterally choose one option, a media report here said on Saturday.

India and Pakistan signed the treaty in 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the Washington-based World Bank being a signatory.

The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of the rivers. However, there have been disagreements and differences between India and Pakistan over the treaty.

"Both India and Pakistan should come together as to which option to take forward," Patchamuthu Illangovan, the World Bank's former Country Director of Pakistan, was quoted as saying by Dawn newspaper on completion of his five-year term in Islamabad.

Pakistan had made a request for the appointment of a Court of Arbitration (COA) while India had sought a neutral expert to resolve the dispute on two hydroelectric projects, he said.

Due to the two conflicting positions under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, the bank was facilitating the two governments to find ways in re-



solving their differences and move forward, Illangovan said.

Asked if the bank was shying away from its role even though it was part of the treaty and had been sitting on Pakistan's request for a COA for almost four years now, he said: "There is no provision in the treaty for the World Bank to take an independent decision".

When asked about bank's reluctance to fund the Diamer-Basha Dam, Illangovan said that while the bank was supporting other projects on the Indus river like Dasu-1 and Dasu-II, India had raised objections over the Diamer-Basha's location in a disputed area (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) and that it was not the bank's policy to finance disputed projects.

Pakistan had called for the resolution of disputes over the 330MW Kishanganga project on the Neelum river and 850MW Ratle Hydropower project on the Chenab river.

In December 2016, the bank "paused" the process for either ap-

pointing a COA or a neutral expert, and started mediation between the two countries on how to advance and develop consensus in the light of the treaty on the mechanism for the resolution of faulty designs of the two projects.

The last round of bank-facilitated and secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan were held in Washington in September 2015 which ended in the disappointment for Islamabad. Pakistan raised a number of objections over the design of the two projects at the level of Permanent Indus Waters Commission almost a decade ago, followed by secretary-level talks and then requests for arbitration through the bank.

Under the treaty, in case the parties fail to resolve disputes through bilateral means, the aggrieved party has the option to invoke the jurisdiction of the International Court of Arbitration or the neutral expert under the auspices of bank. PTI

## Admin Deliberates Options To Reopen Schools In J&K

SRINAGAR: In the wake of Government of India's (Gols) directive to submit a proposal of reopening of schools, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir Saturday said they are discussing the matter and have not finalized anything yet.

Top officials in the administration said that they were asked to submit the proposal to Gol as to whether there was any feasibility with regard to reopening of schools following the closure in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

Advisor to governor, Kewal Kumar Sharma said, "The Gol has asked for the input of reopening of schools from the authorities of all States."

"As of now discussions are going here with regard to the matter, but nothing has been decided," Sharma said.

With regard to the reopening of schools in other states, reportedly, the authorities have said that the schools for higher classes could begin in a phased manner between



Image for representation

September and November.

Earlier this year in March, the schools and colleges reopened after a gap of more than seven months following the abrogation of Article 370 in the month of August.

In the second week of March, the government had ordered closure of all edu-

cation till March 31 that got extended till April 14 in view of the pandemic.

However, there was a surge in COVID-19 cases and the government further ordered closure of educational institutes till May-3. Then the orders of closure of schools again got extended till August—(KNO)

## 196 Doctors Fighting COVID-19 Dead In India, Medical Body Seeks PM's Help

NEW DELHI: A total of 196 doctors in the country, majority of them being general practitioners, have died due to COVID-19 so far, said the Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Saturday, requesting the prime minister for his attention on the issue.

"As per the latest data collected by the IMA, our nation has lost 196 doctors, out of which 170 of them are above the age of 50 years, with general practitioners attributing to around 40 per cent of it," the IMA said expressing concerns over the safety of doctors losing their lives in the fight against the COVID-19 crisis.

While an increasing number of doctors are getting infected and losing their lives every day, substantial number of them have been found to be general practitioners.

Since, significant proportion of the population consult general practitioner due to fever and its related symptoms, they remain the first point of contact as well as care, the doctors' body said.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the IMA requested him to ensure adequate care for doctors and their families who are a special risk group and extend the state-sponsored medical and life insurance facilities to doctors in all the sectors. "The IMA represents over 3.5 lakh doctors spread across the country providing next door affordable health-



care, it is pertinent to mention that COVID-19 does not differentiate between government and private sector and affect all same.

"Further disturbing are the reports that state that the doctors and their family members are not getting beds for admission and deficiency of drugs in most of the cases. The IMA thus requests the government of India to provide adequate attention for the safety and welfare of doctors during the pandemic," said Dr Rajan Sharma, National President, IMA.

Dr R V Asokan, Secretary General, IMA, said the mortality rate among doctors due to COVID-19 has reached an "alarming proposition" now.

"Saving each and every life of a doctor will ensure safety of thousands of patients who depend on their care. Doctors who have died in line of their professional duty merit favourable consideration for succour and solace to their families. It is thus pertinent for the IMA to also draw your attention to the demoralising effect to our healthcare community," he said.

## Yogi Adityanath To Be Invited For Mosque Event In Ayodhya: Trust Member



LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be invited to lay the foundation stone for various public facilities at a mosque to be built in Ayodhya's Dhannipur village by a trust formed by the state Sunni Central Waqf Board, one of its office-bearers said on Saturday.

"On the five-acre land in Dhannipur village, which has been given for the construction of a mosque on the Supreme Court's directive, a hospital, a library, a community kitchen and a research centre will also be built. These will be for the public and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be invited to lay the foundation stone for these projects," secretary and spokesperson of the trust -- Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) -- Athar Hussain told PTI.

He said the chief minister will not only participate in the programme, but will also assist in the construction of these public facilities. To a question on whether Yogi Adityanath will lay the foundation stone for the construction of the mosque, Hussain said according to the four schools of thought in Islam -- Hanafi, Hanbali, Shafi and Maliki -- there is no provision for laying the foundation stone for a mosque.

Asked whether the mosque will be named as "Babri Mas-

jid", Mr Hussain said, "There is no such thinking. The name is yet to be finalised."

"Barring the Masjid-e-Nabwi (Madina in Saudi Arabia) and a few other mosques, the names of other mosques do not matter. In the eyes of Allah, the "sajda" done at the mosques is important, everything else is meaningless," he added.

The trust constituted by the Uttar Pradesh State Sunni Central Waqf Board to construct the mosque is in the process of setting up an office in the state capital, which will be functional in 10-12 days.

"The trust has been formed. In accordance with rules, we have applied for a PAN card in its name and awaiting its delivery, after which we will meet online and pass a resolution for opening a bank account. We met online last month. As of now, we have identified an office space and renovation work is going on there. It will take 10-12 days for the work to be completed, after which the office will be functional," Mr Hussain said.

The state government has allotted a five-acre land in Dhannipur for the construction of the mosque. The IICF will oversee the construction of the mosque, the Indo-Islamic research centre, the library and the hospital on the land.

A member of the trust said, "Ayodhya District Magistrate Anuj Kumar Jha has formally handed over the possession of the land for the mosque to the trust members. We have got a certified copy of the revenue record."

### NEWS MAKERS

## Man Counts Lucky Stars After 7 Family Members Survive Kerala Plane Crash

DUBAI: Dubai-based Indian expat Shemir Vadakkan Pathappiriyaam is exhausted but overjoyed as all the seven members of his and his brother's family survived the Air India Express plane crash in Kerala that claimed the lives of at least 18 co-passengers on Friday.

Since Friday evening, 41-year-old Shemir, who works as a logistics manager in Dubai Silicon Oasis, has been making frantic phone calls to different trauma centres in Kerala near the Kozhikode airport to get information of his family members on board the flight.

The Air India Express flight IX-1344 from Dubai with 190 on board overshot the tabletop runway at Kozhikode airport in Kerala on Friday night while landing in heavy rain and fell into a valley 35 feet below and broke into two, killing at least



18 people, including pilot-in-command Captain Deepak Sathe and his co-pilot Akhilesh Kumar. "The news came as a real shock and we couldn't contact them for a long time," Mr Shemir told PTI.

"When I finally managed to speak to my wife, she told me that she and the other family members were rescued by the local people," he said and thanked

the authorities and the local people who rushed to his family's rescue at the site of the crash.

Mr Pathappiriyaam's wife was travelling with their two daughters and a son. His brother Safvan's wife and their daughter and a son were also on board the Vande Bharat flight from Dubai to Kozhikode.

Mr Pathappiriyaam said the family members were wound-

ed in the crash but their injuries are not life threatening. However, they are admitted in trauma centres of three different hospitals in Calicut and Malappuram in Kerala.

"My brother's visa had expired, so we decided to send both the families together," Mr Pathappiriyaam said.

According to the Civil Aviation Ministry, the Boeing 737 aircraft was carrying 184 people, including 10 infants, 2 pilots and 4 cabin crew.

The Indian consulates in Dubai and Sharjah have activated five helpline numbers to provide information to the family members of the people who died and suffered injuries.

Abdul Manaf, another Dubai expat said he was relieved to finally get in touch with his wife Hadiya, and child, who are currently in a hospital in Kozhikode.

"Such a relief after speaking to her. You can imagine what I went through after hearing the news," Mr Manaf told Khaleej Times. They were in Dubai for four months on a visit visa.

Dubai resident Abdullah and his wife were relieved to hear from their nephew a couple of hours after the accident.

He said, "my wife's sister Zenobia Mohammed Ali with her two boys aged 4 and 15 were on the flight. The older boy Azam borrowed somebody's mobile and called us. We are glad he is fine and was in a position to talk."

"My sister-in-law and her younger son have been spotted in two separate hospitals in Calicut. Our relatives there are trying to locate them. We don't know what kind of injuries they have sustained but we are just indebted to God that they are alive," he said.

## 5-Month-Old Kidnapped In Assam, Body Found Buried In Jungle: Police

SILCHAR: The body of a five-month-old baby, allegedly kidnapped from home while his parents were asleep, was recovered from a jungle in Assam's Cachar district, police said on Saturday. The body was dug out in the jungle in the Rangirghat area on Friday and sent for postmortem to the Silchar Medical College and Hospital, they said.

The baby was abducted on the night of August 4 after the kidnappers entered the house through a window, police said. The kidnappers demanded 10 lakh as ransom from the family, a source said.

Three persons have been arrested in connection with the kidnapping, and they took the investigators to the



spot where the body was found buried, police said.

The motive behind the kidnapping and the killing is yet to be fully ascertained as an investigation is underway, they said.

Assam Assembly Deputy Speaker Aminul Hoque Laskar demanded that those

behind the incident should be hanged.

Mr Laskar, who is an MLA from Sonai where the incident happened, told PTI that he has asked police to take strict action against the accused and ensure that the case is tried in a fast track court.