



Maximum : 31°C
Minum : 18°C
Humidity : 62%

SUNSET
Today 07:09 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:57 AM



News Digest

Pak Violated Ceasefire In Poonch: Army

Jammu: The Pakistan army on Friday resorted to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward areas along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district violating the ceasefire, officials said. "At about 1830 hours today, Pak army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and resorting to intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Mankote sector," Defence spokesperson said. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly to the ceasefire violation by Pakistan, he added. A 65-year-old man was killed as the Pakistan army resorted to mortar shelling in Poonch district. One jawan too was killed in the Pak firing in **● P-02**

2 Youth Held With Grenade, Bullets: Police

Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested two youth with ammunition in Ganderbal and Anantnag districts of the Valley. Adil Fayaz Bhat of Khiram was riding his motorcycle when he was intercepted by a police team near a naka at Karikadal, a police official said. During searches, the cops recovered 50 rounds of AK-47 from his possession. The youth, the police official said was arrested on the spot. A case FIR no 184/2020 under section 7/25 Arms Act and 23 ULA Act has been registered in this regard in Police Station Bijbehara. Meanwhile, police also claimed to have arrested a youth with grenade in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. **● P-02**

Electric Shock Kills Bandipora Youth

Srinagar: A youth died of electric shock on Friday in Chatibandi area of north Kashmir's Bandipora. 23-year-old Shah Nawaz Ahmad Mir received an electric shock when he came in contact with a live wire at his home in Langerpora village on Friday afternoon, an official said. The youth, he said was immediately taken to the district hospital in an unconscious state where doctors declared him brought dead on arrival. After completing all the legal and medical formalities, the **● P-02**

IAF Technician Dies Of Heart Attack

Srinagar: A 28 year old Indian Air Force (IAF) auto technician on Friday died of heart attack at old Airport in central Kashmir's Budgam district. A local news gathering agency KNT reported that Station Adjutant approached Police Station Humhama saying that Rohit Mehta, an Air Force warrior from Unit 1, died after suffering a massive heart attack. The deceased was an Auto Tech by profession. Meanwhile, Police Station Humhama has initiated proceedings under section 172 CrPc in this regard.

BUMS Student Goes Missing In Awantipora

Srinagar: A Bachelor in Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS) student from Awantipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district has been missing for the last four days and there are no traces of him since then. Aadil Rashid Bhat, son of Abdul Rashid of Charsoo Batpora village of Awantipora area of Pulwama district, who is a last semester student of BUMS at Tibiya College Sumbal is missing since Tuesday afternoon. Bhat's brother, Altaf said that on Tuesday afternoon after having lunch, he offered Zuh prayers with him and since then he didn't return home. "We contacted all our relatives, his friends and other people **● P-02**

Friday Prayers Offered In Major Mosques After 5 Months

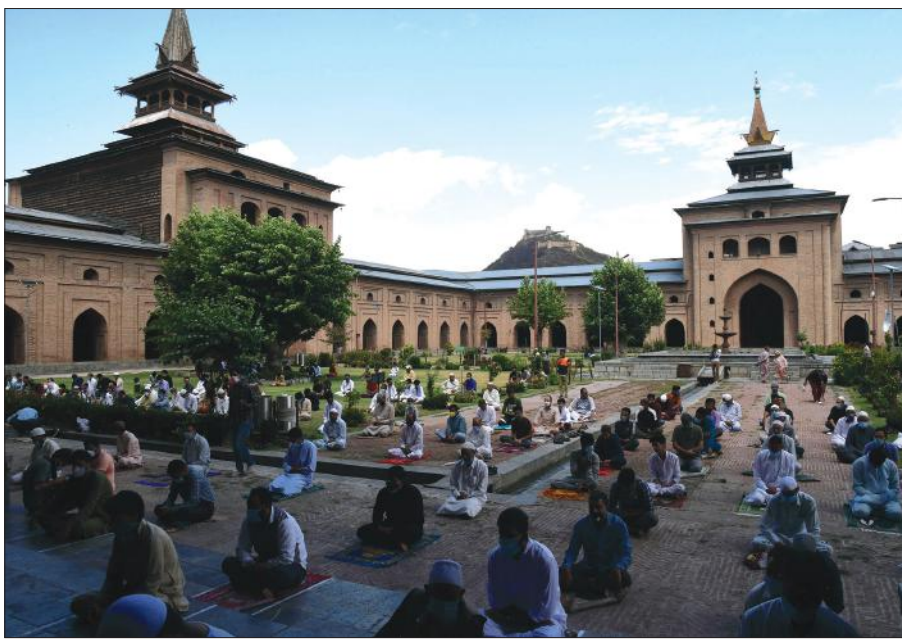
Agencies

SRINAGAR: Thousands of faithful turned up at the mosques and shrines across the Kashmir Valley to attend the congregational Friday prayers held, five months after the government imposed lockdown to combat Covid-19 pandemic.

Prayers were offered in Jamia Masjid in downtown Srinagar, Hazratbal shrine -- which houses the relic of Prophet Muhammad -- shrines of Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani in Charari Sharief, Hamza Makhdoom Kashmiri Sahib, Harzat Syed Yaqoob Sahib, besides other Jamias and mosques in accordance with the guidelines issued by the authorities, including social distancing and facemasks.

A large number of people, maintaining social distance and wearing masks, offered Friday prayers in Hazratbal shrine, on the bank of world famous Dal Lake. Good number of women also offered prayers.

Jamia Masjid, which is a stronghold of Hurriyat Conference (HC) chairman Mirwaiz Moulvi Omar Farooq, witnessed large gatherings of people through social distance maintained during prayers and while leaving the mosque. Last year, the historic mosque remained closed for 132 days due to restrictions imposed by the



DEVOTEES OFFERING congregational Friday prayers after 22 weeks at the Jamia Masjid in Old City of Srinagar. Pic, Abid Bhat

authorities after scrapping Article 370 and Article 35 A on August 5, 2019.

Devotees in large numbers also thronged the shrine of Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani in Charari Sharief after it was thrown open for the general public last week.

Similarly, for the first time in five months people offered prayers in congregations in other

mosques and shrines across the valley, where authorities and religious groups have urged people to strictly follow guidelines issued to curtail the spread of COVID-19. However, people offered Friday prayers in small and interior mosques in the valley though authorities were yet to lift the ban on congregational prayers from the last couple of weeks.

The special weekly prayers were offered on Friday in mosques and shrines across the valley after the J&K administration ordered reopening of all worship places from August 16. Meanwhile, Jamia Masjid, which is a stronghold of Hurriyat Conference (HC) chairman Mirwaiz Moulvi Omar Farooq, reopened on August 18 after **»PAGE 02**

China, Pakistan Discuss Kashmir During Strategic Dialogue

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: The foreign ministers of China and Pakistan held their 2nd annual strategic dialogue on Friday during which they discussed ways to enhance their all-weather bilateral ties, the Kashmir issue, progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Afghan peace process.

Billed as highly relevant and very important by both the countries ahead of the meeting held in the southern Chinese island resort of Hainan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi discussed a host of bilateral, regional



and international issues.

A joint statement issued at the end of the meeting said that both sides underlined that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia was in common interest of all parties. Parties need to settle disputes and issues in the region through dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual respect. **»PAGE 02**

Take 'Final Call' On Trust Vote Against Dy Mayor, HC Tells SMC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed SMC to take a final call on a motion moved against the corporation's Deputy Mayor and asked later to prove his majority "if the motion is strictly under rules and regulations."

"Keeping in view the averments made in petition and having regard to submissions made on behalf of the official respondents (SMC) that they may be given 14 days time to consider the motion, I deem it appropriate to dispose of this petition, directing the respondents to take final call on the motion moved by petitioners strictly un-

der rules and regulations," a bench of Justice Tashi Rabstan said.

"It is further provided that if the motion is strictly under rules and regulations, let respondent No.5 (Deputy Mayor) prove his majority on the floor of the house of Srinagar Municipal Corporation by or before 29.08.2020," he added.

However, the court said, the SOPs issued from time to time to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including social distancing shall be strictly adhered to.

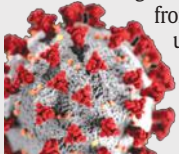
The former Mayor SMC Junaid Azim Mattu and others had petitioned the high court, seeking its direction for culmination of a motion moved against the **»PAGE 02**

12 More Die As Covid-19 Toll Crosses 600 In J&K

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Twelve more people, including a paramilitary CRPF personnel succumbed to coronavirus infection in Kashmir valley on Friday, raising the number of fatalities due to virus in the Union Territory to 602.

Among the victims, five were Budgam residents, three from Srinagar and one each from Baramulla, Pulwama, Shopian and Baramulla districts, official sources



said Friday.

A man from Chadoora, who was admitted to SMHS hospital in wee hours, died at SMHS hospital this afternoon, they said. "He tested positive on a rapid Antigen test," they said.

A woman from Chadoora who was admitted on August 20 as a case of "T2DM with HTN" died in the hospital late on Friday, they said.

A 74-year-old man from Kralpora Budgam died, two days after he was admitted to the SKIMS Bema, one among the exclusive facilities for the management of covid-19 patients in Valley, they said.



16 CRPF Men Among 654 New Cases

At least 49 travellers, 16 CRPF men and 3 expecting mothers were among 654 people, who tested positive for coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory **● P-02**

Another patient, a 70-year-old woman from Chattabal Srinagar also died at SKIMS Bema and according to a doctor **»PAGE 02**

No Let Up In Protests Against Blasphemy Video

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: For the fifth straight day Friday, hundreds of people across the Valley protested against the blasphemous remarks made by the members of a rightwing group against the Prophet of Islam (Pbuh) in Jammu's Reasi.

Like the past four days, hundreds of angry protesters hit the streets in Srinagar, Pulwama, Anantnag, Baramulla and Ganderbal districts and staged demonstrations to condemn the blasphemous remarks made by members of rightwing Sentinel Bharat Raksha Manch members in Jammu's Reasi on Sunday, reports said Friday.

Here in Srinagar, members of All

Jammu and Kashmir Tehreek Soutyik-Awliya (TSA) assembled at Press Colony and staged a peaceful protest denouncing the derogatory remarks, reports said. The protesters led by Muhammad Arfat Shafi demanded capital punishment for the culprits for hurting sentiments of the Muslims.

A group of people, mostly youth also held a protest in Fateh Kadal area of the Old City. Carrying placards and banners, the protesters condemned the blasphemous remarks and sought stringent punishment for the culprits.

Pertinently, on Sunday, police arrested Satpal Sharma, the main accused and his associate Deepak soon after the video containing derogatory remarks against **»PAGE 02**

Kashmir Highway Closed Again After Landslides

JAMMU: The 276-km long stretch of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday was closed due to landslides triggered after fresh rains prompting authorities to sound an alert in parts of the Union Territory.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH44) has been blocked due to shooting stones and landslides between Ramban and Ramsu. "Due to fresh landslides, the road has been blocked while teams of police, BRO men are on job to clear the highway," an official here said.

He said that the overnight rainfall has aggravated the situation due to which the shooting stones have blocked the road at Panthial, Trishul Mod, Marog, Monkey Mod, Iron Shed Digidol, **● P-02**

Police Plays Down

Baramulla Attack Video

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday said that militants want to glamourise militancy after a video of Baramulla attack which left five forces personnel dead surfaced on social media.

Taking on to the twitter, police wrote "By releasing video of attack, militants want to glamourise militancy. But they can't. We replied by actions & killed 04 top commanders, Sajjad @ Haider & FT Taimur Khan @ Abu Usman (seen in said video/attack) & Naseer @ Sad bhai & FT Ali bhai @ Danish within 72 hours, the tweet ends".

Earlier, a video of the attack on forces personnel in Kreeri **● P-02**

Cracks In Leh Congress Over August 5 'Black Day' Decision

Samphel, Spalbar Resign From Their Party Posts

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Congress party unit in Ladakh is heading towards a split after two senior leaders resigned from their posts in protest against party President Asgar Karbali's decision to observe August 5 as 'black day'.

The cracks surfaced after the party's vice-president T. Samphel and General Secretary Rigzin Spalbar announced their resignation from their posts to protest against Karbali's move.

"I wish to draw your kind attention to the letter dated August 5 addressed to you by our senior Congress leader Sh. T. Samphel regarding the shocking statement made by the



File Pic

working President of Territorial Congress Committee (Ladakh) Haji Asgar Ali Karbali, who earlier chose to observe August 5 as 'Black Day' for declaring it as a Union Territory," reads the letter to AICC working resident Sonia Gandhi from Rigzin Spalbar.

"Samphel's letter is self-explanatory who tendered his resignation from the post of Vice President of Ladakh Territorial Congress over **»PAGE 02**

In Kashmir, 45-Day Deadline Set To Save 'Water Kidney'

Swati Joshi

On August 13, 2020, Kashmir's bureaucratic battery penalized the swelling wetland crisis in Kashmir. Driven by the belief of "resting all violations", the officials headed by Divisional Kashmir PK Pole reviewed the progress—demarcation, land transfer, installation of boundary walls, pillars, removal of encroachments and non-dumping of solid waste—of Hokarsar, Wular and Kreencho-Chandhara wetlands.

Pole instructed officials to take stringent action including register FIRs against the offenders indulging in repeated illegal activities. He directed concerned to constitute committees and activate field staff teams for close monitoring of wetlands.

But Wetlands are Shrinking Despite the official stiff stand, the wetlands in Kashmir are shrinking at an alarming rate.

According to "National Wetland Atlas: Jammu and Kashmir" released in 2010, there are 3651 wetlands covering 3,91,501 hectares in the then undivided state of Jammu and Kashmir, out of which 2240 wetlands have an area less than 2.25 hectares.

The Narkara wetland located on the outskirts of Srinagar has shrunk from 22.63 square kilometers (sq km) in 1965 to a mere five sq km in 2016. Another wetland, the Hok-

arsar, also known as the queen of wetland, has lost 5.75 sq km from 1969 to 2008. Brari Nambal, a marshy lagoon in Srinagar which



covered an area of 1 sq km in 1971 has reduced to 0.77 sq km by 2002. According to a study by researcher Shahid Ahmad Dar on the cur-

rent status of wetlands in Srinagar, the major threats to wetlands include pollution, land use and land cover changes, urbanization, encroachments, and climate change.

"The intensive agricultural practices, the introduction of exotic species, and changes in hydrological flows during the past few decades have resulted in degradation of wetlands over this region," mentions the study.

Kashmir has a large number of wetlands due to its peculiar geomorphic setup, says Dr. Shakeel A. Romshoo, Dean of Research at the University of Kashmir. These wetlands have significant hydrological functionality and provide **»PAGE 02**

Amid Political Row, Facebook Says Platform Non-Partisan, Will Remove Content That Violate Standards

NEW DELHI: Facing allegations of bias in handling hate speeches, Facebook on Friday said it is an open, transparent and non-partisan platform, and will continue to remove content posted by public figures in India that are in violation of its community standards.

The statement from Facebook India head Ajit Mohan comes against the backdrop of a political row following a Wall Street Journal report that alleged that the social media platform's content policies favoured the ruling party in India.

"Facebook is and always has been an open, transparent and non-partisan platform where people can express themselves

freely. Over the last few days, we have been accused of bias in the way we enforce our policies.

"We take allegations of bias incredibly seriously, and want to make it clear that we denounce hate and bigotry in any form," Facebook India Vice President and Managing Director Ajit Mohan said in a blog post. He also emphasised that the company has an impartial approach to dealing with content and is strongly governed by its Community Standards.

These standards outline what is and is not allowed on Facebook.

Meanwhile, Facebook's Oversight Board has said it will be within its scope to examine how the social media giant treats posts

from public figures that may violate community standards and are the type of "highly challenging cases" that the board expects to consider once it starts functioning.

Asserting that Facebook's commitment to India is unwavering, Mohan in the blog post said the company's aim is to be an "ally" for India where its platforms preserve the "pluralistic character of a democracy by offering the freedom for people to express themselves and for entrepreneurs to build new things while also protecting society from broader harm".

"Our Community Standards define what stays on our platform and are enforced globally... We enforce these policies globally without regard to anyone's political

position, party affiliation or religious and cultural belief. We have removed and will continue to remove content posted by public figures in India when it violates our Community Standards," he said.

In the wake of the WSJ report, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology has summoned Facebook on September 2 to discuss the issue of alleged misuse of the social media platform.

On Friday, Mohan also said that many questions have been raised specifically about enforcement of Facebook policies around hate speech and pointed out that it has made "significant progress" in removing hate speech and other harmful

content over the past few years.

Citing latest numbers with respect to enforcement, Mohan said the company had removed 22.5 million pieces of hate speech content in the second quarter of 2020, up from 1.6 million pieces of hate speech removed in the last quarter of 2017.

He also admitted that while the platform has made progress in tackling hate speech, it needed to do more and welcomed the opportunity to engage with all parties -- political or otherwise -- who want to understand its content policies and enforcement more.

Mohan noted that the policies are "ever evolving" to take into account the local sensitivities, especially in a multicultural society such as India.

His blog post also comes at a time when even employees of Facebook are questioning the social media platform's handling of hate speech and political content, and whether the policies were circumvented by company executives in India.

With 300 million users, Facebook is among its largest markets.

Multiple sources said employees have been raising questions around the issue on various groups on Facebook's internal network - which looks similar to Facebook's social media product for consumers.

These include discussions around the WSJ article, questions around

the company's stance on the issue and whether rules were indeed bent in this matter, they said.

In the company townhall on Wednesday, most questions revolved around this matter. Sources said most questions were around people wanting to know Facebook's position on how political content is handled in India and whether the policies laid out around content regulations were being followed.

About the Community Standards, Mohan said the standards have clear and very detailed policies against hate speech that prohibit attacks on people on the basis of protected characteristics, including religion, ethnicity, caste and national origin.

Friday Prayers Offered ...

remaining closed since March this year. Meanwhile, devotees were upbeat about offering Friday prayers after over five months.

"We are really happy that we were able to offer Friday prayers in mosques and shrines after over five months. But, we need to make sure that we follow all the guidelines, including maintaining social distance and wearing facemasks, so that COVID-19 doesn't spread," Tahir Hussain, a resident of Rainawari said.

Similar feelings and awareness about SPOs were expressed by other people from different parts of the valley.

The J&K administration on August 4 had announced that all religious places and places of worship would be reopened from August 16. However, authorities issued guidelines and urged people not to lower their guard. "Community response holds the key to fighting Pandemic. Glad to see observance of SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) as religious places opened today after 5 months. Hopeful about industry, business & transport to follow the pursuit," Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary had tweeted.

Authorities and religious organisations had announced closure all mosques and shrines in J&K in view of the outbreak of COVID-19 in March this year. The Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMEU), an organisation of different religious bodies, headed by incarcerated Mirwaiz Moulvi Omar Farooq, had appealed to people not to hold any congregational prayers on account of pandemic.

No congregational Shah-e-Qadar prayers were offered in any mosque in the valley. No prayers were offered on Jamat-ul-Vida, the last Friday of the holy fasting month Ramzan, in the valley, where Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha prayers were offered by people in their respective houses.

‘Give Us Back State, 35A’....

to be honest. I want him to realise that what he did was not right. That it was his party's agenda, not this nation's," he said.

On the continued detention of People Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti, Abdullah said that the government of India thinks they can divide us by creating differences in the minds of people.

"But we are all one, whether we are outside or inside the prison," he added.

Sharing the details of his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, the NC Patron said that no indication was given to him that the government of India has decided to read down the special status.

"I met the prime minister a day before the abrogation, he gave us no indication. When I met him, he didn't say anything. We had no idea at all. It just came out of the blue," he said.

"We were wonderstruck and I got to know only when I was told that I cannot go out any more. What did we do that we are put under home arrest? We have always stood for the nation," he added.

The NC MP further said that it was a tragedy of the government of the day that they call the people who stand with the nation, separatists.

"I couldn't get out of the door of my house. I had to beg to them when I needed to see a dentist, when I wanted to get my eyes checked. My phone lines were all cut. The only thing I had was a TV. Being a member of the parliament, I am supposed to have a phone. I was (treated) like a criminal," Abdullah said.

The former CM said that he would be happy if honourable retired judges could come and see whether Kashmiris have been brought closer or taken away from the nation.

"Yashwant Singh and Rahul Gandhi's delegations were sent back but they let their EU puppets visit Jammu and Kashmir. This is not Gandhi's India," he said.

He said that other party leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Sitaram Yechury, and Sharad Pawar stood and spoke for them

"The Shiv Sena, too, stood by us and questioned what was achieved by the move in Jammu and Kashmir" he added.

2nd Batch Of NC Leaders...

He said these leaders are among the 16 politicians for whom haebas corpus petitions were filed by Farooq Abdullah and NC vice-president Omar Abdullah, but the government claimed in the high court that they were free and not under detention.

The spokesman said party's provincial president Kashmir Nasir Aslam Wani, treasurer Shammii Obero and political advisor to the NC president Mushtaq Guroo were also present in round two of the meeting held on Friday.

The National Conference on Wednesday decided to convene a meeting of its senior leaders on Thursday after the local administration informed the Jammu and Kashmir High Court that none of the 16 leaders, that the party claimed were in illegal confinement, were detained and that they were free to move around.

After Thursday's meet, the NC said the meeting with other leaders would continue on Friday.

The Abdullah father-son duo had filed a bunch of habeas corpus petitions on July 13 seeking the release of the leaders, contending that they were being held in "brazen violation" of constitutional guarantees of the right to liberty.

A habeas corpus is a writ requiring a person under arrest to be brought before a judge or into court, especially to secure the person's release unless lawful grounds are shown for their detention.

Filing the replies before the high court earlier this month, Senior Additional Advocate General Bashir Ahmad Dar said the contention of the pleas was "not only surprising but shocking as well" as there were neither any legal proceedings underway nor was it being contemplated.

China, Pakistan Discuss...

The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, including its concerns, position and current urgent issues , it said.

The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left over from history between India and Pakistan, which is an objective fact, and that the dispute should be resolved peacefully and properly through the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. China opposes any unilateral actions that complicate the situation, the joint press release said.

India has been maintaining that China has no locus standi in commenting on Jammu and Kashmir.

New Delhi has previously told Beijing that the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir "has been, is and shall continue to be an integral part of India." Earlier this month, the Ministry of External Affairs said that the issues pertaining to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir were solely an internal matter of India.

"As on such previous occasions, this attempt too met with little support from the international community. We firmly reject China's interference in our internal affairs and urge it to draw proper conclusions from such infructuous attempts," the MEA said in a statement in New Delhi after China initiated a discussion in the UN Security Council on Jammu and Kashmir.

Ahead of the meeting between Wang and Qureshi, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian told the media here on Thursday that this time the strategic dialogue is highly relevant and the two sides will take the opportunity to discuss anti-epidemic cooperation, bilateral ties and the regional and international issues of mutual interest .

Before leaving for Hainan, Qureshi told the media in Islamabad that "I am leaving on a very important visit to China. I had a discussion with the prime minister regarding this visit yesterday. My delegation will represent the stance of the political and military leadership of the country . The meeting took place amid reports of crisis in Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations which were regarded as the bedrock of Islamabad's foreign policy for decades.

Qureshi left for Hainan after the return of Pakistan Army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa from Saudi Arabia, where he held talks with senior officials on the state of relations between Riyadh and Islamabad.

Pakistan Imran Khan said in an interview on Aug 19 that Pakistan's future was linked to China as Beijing defended Pakistan in all difficult times. He said Chinese President Xi Jinping would visit Pakistan in the winter.

Wang and Qureshi reiterated that the enduring China-Pakistan all-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership is beneficial to international and regional peace and stability, and serves the mutual security and development interests of both countries as well as of international community and regional countries.

On Afghanistan, the joint statement said both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on the Afghan issue and appreciated the efforts made by Afghan government and the Taliban to initiate the Intra-Afghan Negotiations.

China appreciated Pakistan's positive contribution to the Afghan peace process and efforts for promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond , it said.

Both sides agreed on continuing their firm support on issues concerning each other's core national interests.

The Chinese side reiterated that Pakistan and China are iron brothers and Pakistan remains China's staunchest partner in the region and that China firmly supports Pakistan in safeguarding its territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence."

Beijing also said it supported Islamabad independently choosing a developmental path based on its national conditions, striving for a better external security environment and playing a more constructive role on international and regional affairs, the release said.

The Pakistani side appreciated China for standing together with Pakistan in safeguarding its national security and sovereignty, and reaffirmed its firm support to China on affairs concerning China's core interests and issues of major concern, such as those related to Taiwan, Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong , it said.

On the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) both sides have underscored that it has entered the new phase of high-quality development, and has played and will continue to play an important role in supporting Pakistan to overcome the impact of COVID-19 and achieve greater development.

The two sides will continue to firmly advance the construction of the CPEC, ensure in-time completion of those projects under construction, focus on economic and social development, job creation and improvement of people's livelihood, and further strengthen cooperation in Specialised Economic Zones, industrial relocation, science and technology, medical and health, human resources training, poverty alleviation, and agriculture etc, it said.

India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through Pakistan controlled-Kashmir.

12 More Die As Covid-19...

there both patients were suffering from pneumonia besides underlying ailments.

An 85-year-old man from Dragbal Pampore died at SKIMS Soura, a week after he was admitted to the tertiary care hospital, they said.

A 52-year-old CRPF man from 61 battalion Shivpora who was admitted since August 18 died at SKIMS Soura this afternoon along with a 70-year-old man from Budina Budgam who passed away a after he was admitted to the tertiary care facility.

A 67-year-old man from Dalgate Srinagar died at CD hospital, also among exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients. Admitted on August 11, the sexagenarian was suffering various ailments and died this afternoon, the officials said.

"He was a known case of COPD, Hypothyroidism, T2DM and HTN. He was admitted to ICU where he had sudden cardiopulmonary arrest and was declared dead at 11:30 a.m.," a doctor at the hospital said.

A 70-year-old woman, admitted to SMHS hospital with bilateral CAP on August 20, died, they said. "Her Covid-19 report was detected positive," they said.

A 60-year-old from Bamroo Magam in Budgam and an 80-year-old man from Pattan, having severe covid-19 pneumonia, died last night at SMHS hospital, they added.

A 78-year-old man from Shopian "who known was a known case of hypertension, diabetes and COPD" died at Srinagar hospital, an official of the south Kashmir district said.

With these deaths, officials said, 601 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far--560 from the Valley and 41 from Jammu division. (GNS)

16 CRPF Men Among 654...

to 31371. While Kashmir reported 540 new cases, including three pregnant women, as many minors, three Defence personnel and 16 CRPF men, the remaining 114 cases were reported from Jammu region.

Giving district wise breakup of the cases, sources said that Srinagar reported 206, Baramulla 51, Pulwama 33, Budgam 68, Anantnag 45, Kulgam 40, Kupwara 29, Bandipora 52, Ganderbal 16, Jammu 63, Rajouri 3, Kathua 11, Udhampur 13, Ramban 2, Samba 2, Doda 11, Poonch 2, Reasi 2 and Kishtwar 5.

Moreover 580 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals--119 from Jammu Division and 461 from Kashmir Division.

Take ‘Final Call’ On Trust...

deputy Mayor. They had contended that in terms of the provisions of the Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, a resolution of no confidence can

be moved against the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor of the Corporation in accordance with the rules and regulations. Section 37 of the Act of 2000 provides that a notice of intention to move a resolution requiring the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor of the Corporation to vacate his office, signed by not less than majority of its total elected Councillors/Corporators, may be made in accordance with the procedure laid down in the rules.

Accordingly, a resolution was moved against the incumbent Deputy Mayor, signed by 38 Corporators which stands received in the office of the Secretary, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, on July 14.

As rules provide that a Councilor, who wishes to move a resolution, has to give at least 48 hours notice to the Secretary of his intention , the counsel for the petitioners submitted that a conjoint reading of Section 37 of the Act of 2000, and Regulation 21 of the Regulations of 2005, would reveal that a resolution of motion of no confidence against the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor was required to be signed by not less than majority of its councilors and the quorum for convening the special or general meeting for the purpose has to be not less than one half of its total elected members.

Admittedly, the court observed that officials of SMC could not consider the motion due to the present contagious situation of COVID-19 spread and the lock down imposed on account of pandemic.

The counsel for the petitioners submitted that since the Government has modified the SOPs, by allowing the business to operate as well as movement of transport, the SMC have to give final call on the motion made by the petitioners.

Momin Khan, counsel appearing for SMC, when pointedly asked by the Court that how much time would it require to take final call on the motion moved by the petitioners, he submitted that at least 14 days' time was required to consider the motion that too under rules and regulations occupying the field. (GNS)

Soldier, BSF Jawan Commit...

the LoC shot himself dead with his service weapon, official sources said Friday. After he shot himself in Mankote sector, other soldiers rushed to find him in a pool of blood, they said, adding he was declared dead on arrival by doctors at an area hospital.

The deceased soldier identified as Mohit Kumar was serving with the 39 Rashtriya Rifles.

Police said they have registered a case and started investigation.

No Let Up In Protests...

Prophet of Islam (Pbuh) went viral. Rohit Sharma, a resident of Pacca Danga locality, was the third accused arrested in connection with the case related to the communally sensitive video.

Police had also filed a case under section 153A IPC (promoting enmity between different groups) and 295A IPC (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) at Pacca Danga police station.

In central Kashmir's Ganderbal, police used batons and lobbed tear smoke shells to disperse a group of people who took out a rally against the blasphemous video.

According to witnesses, dozens of people after Friday prayers took out a rally to denounce the derogatory remarks made by the members of the fanatic Hindu group. Carrying banners and placards, the protesters were intercepted by the police.

"It is really unfortunate that force was used to disperse us without any reason, given the fact we were protesting in a peaceful way," said a protester. Reports of protesters were also received from several parts of Pulwama district. According to reports, peaceful processions demanding strict punishment to the culprits were taken out in Chata-pora, Rahmoo, Kakpora, Karimabad, Dangarpora, Newa, Pampore and other areas of the district.

At central Jamia Masjid Pulwama, Auqaf Committee Chairman Bashir Ahmad Shah, raised slogans in favour of Islam and Prophet (PBUH) and said Reasi like incidents won't be tolerated and demanded strict action against culprits.

"Our protest will go on until the government punishes the culprits. They don't deserve freedom at all and if they will be released, it will add insult to the injuries of Muslims," he said.

Meanwhile, scores of people also held a strong protest in Handwara of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

In Kralgund, Imam Jamia Qadeem, Mufti Waseem led a protest against the blasphemous video. Addressing the protesters, he demanded that the culprits be booked under Public Safety Act (PSA).

Protest also erupted in Tilagam area of neighbouring Baramulla district. Reports of protests have also been received from Budgam, Shopian and Kulgam, districts of the Valley. (With KNT inputs)

Kashmir Highway Closed ...

Anokhy Fall and Battery Chashma. However, weathermen have also predicted a two day wet spell from Friday and said that the rainfall is likely to generate flash floods and landslides at vulnerable spots of J&K.

Authorities have also sounded flood alert in Udhampur and Jammu districts following heavy rains and increase in water level in the water bodies. "We have sounded alert as a precautionary measure after the Flood Control Department conveyed to us about the rise in river water due to rains," Kulbir Singh, SSP Police Control Room Jammu here said.

He said that in view of prevailing weather conditions, the alert warning will remain in place.

Meanwhile, an official said that authorities will also make announcements to alert the people so that they remain away from the water bodies

Police Plays Down Baramulla...

area of Baramulla surfaced on social media.

In a video purportedly shot by one of the militants who was part of the attack is seen firing at forces personnel.

Five forces personnel and three militants were killed during the attack earlier during the week.

Cracks In Leh Congress...

Sh. Karbali's appalling statement. It has been over two weeks since Sh. Sampel resigned, TCC Working President has not issued any clarifications so far despite our strong objections to his statement."

In the letter, Spalbar has written that UT status has been a long-standing demand of the people of Ladakh.

"As a political party we cannot but support the popular political aspirations of the people. It would be politically suicidal for us especially when the election for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Council (LAHDC) is round the corner," the letter reads.

"I cannot subscribe to Sh. Karbali's view and at the same time continue to

work as the General Secretary of the TCC (Ladakh) under him. In fact, as one of the fore-front leaders who spearheaded the demand for UT for decades cannot but join the people in their moment of happiness." (KNO)

In Kashmir, 45-Day Deadline...

a livelihood to many Kashmiris.

"Unfortunately," Romshoo told Kashmir Observer, "over the past 50 years these wetlands are converted into wastelands not just by the people but also by the government." Whenever there is a requirement of land for infrastructure development project, the first casualty are the wetlands, complains the Dean of Research.

What about deadline

DivCom Pole also directed concerned officials recently to remove all encroachments from the wetlands within 45 days.

On being asked about the deadline, Romshoo says that the encroachment cannot be changed all of a sudden by a directive of 45 days unless it is supported by a policy decision.

"A strong institutional mechanism should be created to prevent the conversion of a wetland into a non-wetland," he says.

The Dean of Research believes that if officials really appreciate the functionality of wetlands they should have a conservation policy for them. "Ideally we should have a wetland management plan for all the wetlands," says Romshoo.

Though there is an authority for the management of Dal Lake, he says, what about the rest 3650 wetlands in Kashmir?

Misplaced Priority

According to a study by Sheikh Aneaus and Irfan Rashid, the catchment area of Narkara, a semi-urban wetland, has drastically shrunk over the years. People living near wetlands convert it into agricultural land which has resulted in the reduction of the aquatic habitats, the study notes.

According to Romshoo, the main problem in Kashmir is that environmental governance has never been a priority and it is deteriorating for the last 40 years.

"The government needs to create a holistic approach to protect the wetlands especially those in the vicinity of the urban population," he says.

He believes that nature is more complex than a human body and as the doctor prescribes medicines for treatment after proper examination, the government and researchers should also study the wetlands and provide a prescription for it.

Wetlands of Kashmir are the centers of attraction for European, Central Asian, and Chinese migratory birds from centuries.

Extreme freezing climatic conditions during winters in Northern Europe, China, and Central Asian countries make it unsuitable for the migratory birds and these birds find Kashmir's climate favorable to be their adobe.

Buffer System

Sakib Qadri, Convener at People's Environmental Council, says that wetlands are important for survival because they act as a "water kidney" which protects flooding.

"The gradual reduction of wetlands is affecting their buffering capacity to withhold floodwaters and stormwater runoff," says Qadri.

The effect was seen in the 2014 floods in Kashmir--when residential areas in the outskirts of Srinagar, which used to be traditional floodplains, were submerged in water for more than three weeks, says the convener. Qadri believes that the real question behind the encroachment of the wetlands is why the encroachers were allowed to deteriorate the area for such a long time. He suggests that the authorities must work to prevent pollution and sediment loads from reaching the wetlands and protect them for being misused.

The open dumping of waste into the wetlands by the Municipal Authorities and people living in the vicinity have tremendously affected the flora and fauna.

"Sometimes the vehicles of municipality don't even come to take the waste," complains Mushtaq Pahalgami, an environmental activist based at Pahalgam. Because of which people throw garbage in the open.

According to a study by Faculty of Fisheries at Sher-e-Kashmir University, the fish catch as well as the diversity has reduced in the Hokersar Wetland. Most probably the wetland ecosystem is not getting adequate time to recover its natural community structure, notes the study.

Like other departments where there is a strong policing by the government, Pahalgami believes, a state-level wetland Development Authority is needed to protect the "water kidney" from being damaged.

Pak Violated Ceasefire...

Rajouri sector along the LoC in another ceasefire violation this month.

On July 11, two women were killed in the shelling by the Pakistani army on forward posts and villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in different sectors in Poonch district.

On July 10 too, an Army jawan was killed in a ceasefire violation by the Pakistani army along the LoC in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

2 Youth Held With Grenade,...

Showkat Ahmad Bhat, of Urpash Ganderbal was arrested near Baderkund Nursery when he tried to evade a joint naka laid by army and police, a police spokesperson said. He said one grenade was recovered from Bhat's possession. The police spokesperson said that a case under FIR number 174 of 2020 under section 7/25 I.A. Act stands registered at Police Station Ganderbal in this regard.

Electric Shock Kills Bandipora...

body of the deceased was handed over to his family for the last rites, he added. Meanwhile, the Police Station Aragam have registered the case and started further investigation--(KNO)

BUMS Student Goes Missing...

but nobody has any clue about him," he said, adding that after failing to trace him, they lodged a missing report at Police Station Awantipora.

"Since then, we have been searching him everywhere but so far we haven't got any clue about him," he said while requesting everyone to kindly allow his brother to return home if he is with anyone.

He said that he was a brilliant student and has secured 94 per cent marks in Class 10th examinations while he has got around 90 per cent marks in 12th class examinations.

He was never arrested before and hasn't even taken part in street protests, he said.

Pertinently, three local youth including a lone son of a family from the particular village have joined militancy since July 2020.

A senior police officer told news agency KNO that efforts were on to trace the missing student. He added that it would be premature to say whether he has joined any militant organization as investigation in this regard is going on--

Govt orders DBT of GJ Insurance claims, real time updation of GPF accounts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 21: Announcing few employee friendly measures, Govt today orders DBT of all the Group Janta (GJ) Insurance claims and real time updation of GPF accounts of employees.

In its circular instructions issued today the department of Finance has asked all the administrative departments to take nomination details of Group Janta Insurance pol-

icy from its employees and submit the same to the Finance department within 15 days.

As per the circular the measure has been taken to avoid undue delay in disbursement of Group Janta Insurance payment claims in favour of the NoK's of deceased employees due to want of legal heir/ dependant/ succession certificates.

Therefore in order to avoid the unnecessary delay in making payment to the legal heir(s) of deceased

employees, the Government has decided to adopt the policy of DBT, as such, making the nomination form mandatory for all employees.

The circular asks all the Administrative Secretaries to impress upon all the DDOs to furnish the details of nominees/legal heirs of all employees working under them as per the prescribed proforma through soft copy within 15 days positively to enable the Finance Department to make all future payments exclusive-

ly through DBT mode.

The circular further reads that in case of delay in submission of nomination form of any deceased employee, DDO concerned will be held responsible and strict action will be initiated against him.

In another government order the department of Finance has accorded sanction to the real-time ledger posting of credit and debit in General Provident Fund (GPF) Accounts and real-time Transfer

Entry (TE) updation w.e.f. 1st September 2020.

This would enable employees to view their updated balances/transactions of their GPF accounts on real time basis.

The order obligates the Director General Funds Organization, J&K to make necessary arrangements for online shifting of the same in consultation with the Director General, Accounts and Treasuries and NIC unit J&K within a week's time only.

Centre okays 5 private sector CA storage project proposals for J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 21: The Government of India has approved 5 private sector proposals for setting of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) Storage projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

The sanction was accorded at a meeting of EMC held today under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, GoI, in which Director Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, participated through VC.

J&K Horticulture Department, with an intention of attracting investors for setting up of more

CA Storage facilities in Union Territory to meet the future requirement of storage facility for A-grade apples, the production of which is expected to increase with the launch of high density Apple plantation programme in the UT, has introduced a scheme for additional subsidy on setting up of CA Stores.

Accordingly many entrepreneurs ventured for setting up of CA Stores and their DPRs, after approval, were sent to GoI for sanction.

After threadbare discussion, 5 CA Storage projects of J&K State were approved. In respect of other proposals it was advised that necessary documents

be furnished at an earliest so that these projects are also sanctioned.

Cold Store plays an important role in post-harvest management and brings better remuneration to the farmers.

Further, the Government of India desired to provide the detail of land for establishment of PEQ facility, which should be sufficient for 8 Lakh plants. In this regard, Director Horticulture visited North Kashmir and inspected Fruit Plant Nursery Zangam for the same. The funds on this account shall be provided by the Government of India. The details are being worked out.

Shopian selected Hajj pilgrims, 2020 asked to collect passports

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 21: All the selected Hajj Pilgrims of Hajj-2020 of district Shopian are informed to collect their Passports from the Deputy Commissioner's office.

Further it is notified that the Passports shall

be handed over to the concerned Pilgrims only after producing the receipt received at the time of deposition of their Passports.

The passports shall be collected by the concerned during the office hours as per the below notified schedule.

S. No	Date of collection	Cover No
1.	22.08.2020	JKR-4-2-0 TO JFK-3041-2-0
2.	24.08.2020	JKF-3043-2-0 TO JFK-3335-2-0
3.	25.08.2020	JKF-3353-1-0 TO JFK-5992-2-0
4.	26.08.2020	JKF-6121-2-0 TO JFK- 6579-2-0

Delegation of J&K AP calls on LG

JAMMU, AUGUST 21: A delegation of Jammu & Kashmir Apni Party (AP) called upon the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and presented a memorandum of demands at the Raj Bhavan here today.

The delegation led by Dildar Mir demanded restoration of statehood, release of detainees under PSA, all weather connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the nation, rights of local population over mining and ecological activities, construction of bunkers for border dwellers, regularisation of daily wagers, setting up separate CAT at Srinagar, implementation of Forest Rights Act and complete restoration of internet services among others.

OFFICE OF THE IG, STC BSF KASHMIR, C/O 56 APO

No.619/Prov/STC-KMR/Almond-Auction/20/9862-89

Dated, the 14 July 2020

AUCTION NOTICE

There will be a public auction at BSF Campus Humhama, Srinagar on 24 August 2020 at 1100 hrs for plucking of almonds yields from almond trees existing at BSF Campus, Humhama for the year 2020. The rights of plucking of almonds (Yield) from the almond trees (Garden) for the year 2020 will be awarded to the highest bidder. The full amount of bid will have to be deposited in cash.

2. All interested bidders may attend the auction to offer their bids.

3. The participants/bidders will have to deposit Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand) only in cash as Earnest Money before start of public auction, which will be refunded immediately on finalization of auction process to unsuccessful bidders. However, earnest money of successful bidder would be adjusted in payment of bid amount.

4. VAT/GST/Taxes as applicable under rule will be charged extra on final bid.

5. Total 7,106 Nos of almonds trees are available in STC BSF Campus Humhama, Srinagar.

6. Successful bidder will have the responsibility to look after and maintenance of Almond garden that includes, spraying of pesticides, putting Fertilizer to the Almond trees, removing of weeds from the garden, hoeing/tilling/plugging of almond trees etc.

7. The character & antecedents of persons employed for the purpose should be got verified by successful bidder and he would be equally responsible for act & omission of these persons.

8. Bidders who want to visit and see the almond trees can contact to the Adm Officer of STC (Exchange Ph. No. 0194 - 230 3396) and will bring all the supporting documents for their identification.

9. Persons deputed by successful bidder for the plucking & looking after the almond orchard should have police verification for issue of entry pass to Humhama Campus. Without these documents they will not be permitted to enter inside the Campus.

10. IG, STC BSF Kashmir reserves the rights to accept/ reject the auction / bidding without assigning any reason, other conditions, if any will be announced at the time of auction.

(Awadhesh Kumar Sinha)
Second-In-Command(Prov)
For IG, STC BSF Kashmir

DAVP 19110/11/0016/2021

Government of Jammu and Kashmir General Administration Department

Civil Secretariat, Srinagar

- -

Subject Prefixing the word "Dr" with the name of Mr. Mudasir Ahmad Najar, Junior Scale KAS Probationer.

NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS, Mr. Mudasir Ahmad Najar, Junior Scale KAS Probationer, has appointed to Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service vide Government Order No. 1015-GAD of 2019 dated 13.09.2019;

AND WHEREAS, Mudasir Ahmad Najar has represented that he has completed Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (BVSC&AH) from Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu in the year 2015 and has requested for pre-fixing the word "Dr." with his name on the basis of the said degree;

Now, therefore, before prefixing word "Dr." in the service records of Mudasir Ahmad Najar, Junior Scale KAS Probationer, through the medium of this notice, objection(s), if any, are hereby invited from the members of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service. The objection(s) must reach the office of Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department within a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this notification. No representation/objection in the regard shall be entertained after expiry of the stipulated time-period.

DIPK-4318/20

Sd/-

(Shuaib Mohammad Naikoo)

Under Secretary to the Government

No:GAD(Ser)/JKAS/226/2019

Dated: 19-08-2020

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
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
02 Muharram
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 27
ZUHR	12: 35
ASR	5:17
Magrib	7:16
ISHA	8:41

This Day In History

- 1942 - Brazil declares war on Germany, Japan & Italy
- 1943 - Soviet troops free Karkov
- 1944 - Adolf Hitler orders Paris to be destroyed
- 1953 - Shah of Iran returns to Tehran
- 1956 - US President Eisenhower and VP Richard Nixon renominated by Republican convention in San Francisco.
- 1958 - Great Britain performs atmospheric nuclear test at Christmas Island.
- 1962 - Failed assassination attempt on French president Charles de Gaulle
- 1962 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1963 - NASA civilian test pilot Joe Walker in the X-15 rocket plane achieves a world record altitude of 354,200 feet (107,960 m, 67 miles)
- 1964 - Guinea, Liberia & Ivory Coast form joint market
- 1968 - The Society of Labour Lawyers (SL) publishes an 'interim report' about alleged discrimination in Northern Ireland; the report is heavily criticised by unionists.
- 1971 - Approximately 130 non-Unionist councillors announce their withdrawal from participation on district councils across Northern Ireland in protest against Internment (allowing suspected terrorists to be indefinitely detained without trial)
- 1972 - Rhodesia is expelled by the International Olympic Committee for its racist policies.
- 1982 - Israeli General Ariel Sharon urges Palestinians to discuss peaceful coexistence
- 1984 - The United Democratic Front, an internal coalition of anti-apartheid groups in South Africa, organizes a highly successful boycotts of the Colored and Indian elections to parliament.
- 1985 - Airtours Boeing-737 crashes at Manchester airport, 55 killed
- 1986 - Gas from Volcano Chamberoen kills 1,734 (Cameroon)
- 1986 - NASA announces tests designed to verify ignition pressure dynamics
- 1988 - Australia unveils 1st platinum coin (Koala)
- 2004 - Athens Olympic marathon is run on same route as 1896 Games, start at site of the Battle of Marathon to the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens; Mizuki Noguchi of Japan wins women's gold in 2:26:20
- 2007 - The Storm botnet, a botnet created by the Storm Worm, sends out a record 57 million e-mails in one day
- 2008 - The Jamaican team led by Usain Bolt smashes the world 4 x 100m relay record in the final at the Beijing Olympics; disqualified in 2017 as Nesta Carter tests positive for prohibited substance
- 2008 - Ethiopian distance runner Tirunesh Dibaba wraps up the women's 5,000/10,000m double at the Beijing Olympics when she takes gold in the 5k in an Olympic record 15:41.40
- 2008 - Russia wins the women's 4 x 100 m relay ahead of Belgium & Nigeria at the Beijing Olympics; disqualified in 2016 when reanalysis of Yulia Chermoshanskaya's samples result in positive test for prohibited substances
- 2012 - 47 people are killed in the Syrian civil war
- 2012 - 48 people are killed in Kenyan tribal wars between the Pokomo and Orma
- 2012 - Russia and Vanuatu become members of the World Trade Organization
- 2013 - 14 people are killed by a suicide bombing in Western Iraq
- 2017 - India's highest court outlaws instant divorce for Muslim men (talaq, talaq, talaq)

From KO Archives

Gunmen loot Budgam village hours

MUSHTAQ AFTAB

CHADURA (BUDGAM), AUG 22: Police are on the lookout for some unidentified gunmen who 'raided' several houses in a village here to extort money. They decamped with the booty ranging between Rs five and Rs 2,000. In another case, where a shopkeeper was relieved of Rs 8,800, an FIR No 2472 was lodged with the police on Friday.

According to reports, unidentified 'gunmen swooped on Chil Yech village in this district at about 8 p.m. on Sunday. They forced their entry into several residential houses asking the inmates not to leave their premises. Then they went on relieving them of whatever they had in cash on gunpoint. Reports identified the victims as Muhammad. Yousuf Wani, Muhammad Shafi, Abdur Rahman Dar, Jahangir Alam, Jalal-ud-din Paul, Fayaz Ahmad Sofi, Nazir Ahmad Paray, Ghulam Rasool Guiri, Amma Paray and Abdul Rasheed Gujri. The gunmen managed their escape under the cover- of darkness. Villagers lodged a complaint with the police who launched a manhunt to nab the gunmen.

Earlier, on Friday, some unidentified gunmen waylaid Abdul Ahad Sheikh, of Danchera, when he was on his way back home from Utligam in Beerwah area. They relieved him of Rs 8,800. An FIR was lodged with police at Beerwah on the same day. However, no arrest has been made so far. Unidentified gunmen also snatched Rs 400 from a shopkeeper of Utligam on the same day.

Kashmir Observer, August 22, 2000

DIPK-4304/20

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NO HOLDS BARRED



For years now, verified Facebook pages of BJP leaders such as Kapil Mishra have routinely published hate speeches against Muslims and dissenting voices

Karbala in Kashmir

The ceremonies held during Muharram, year after year, reinforce integrity and resilience in the face of oppression

Mehak Fatima

The Mansion is white, lit up with roses. He is driven Through streets in which blood flows like Husain's. Our hands won't return to us, not even mutilated, when Death comes — thin bureaucrat — from the plains."

— Agha Shahid Ali
(Muharram in Srinagar, 1992)

Karbala, literally the land of karb (sorrow) and bala (agony) has over time turned into a metaphor — one for catastrophe, and one for resistance. It was on this land that Hussain ibn Ali, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was martyred alongside seventy-one companions. Hussain and his companions made the ultimate sacrifice by standing in the face of tyranny, injustice, and corruption, and keeping alive the values of truth, justice, and dignity.

"Hayhat minna al zilla!" (never to humiliation!) — the flame of resistance was sparked by Hussain ibn Ali's refusal to pledge allegiance to the tyrant, Yazeed, with these words. Hayhat minna al zilla! — chant mourners in processions paying homage to the martyrs of Karbala.

The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic year, however, for the followers of the Shi'a school of thought, Muharram ushers in a religious fervour accompanied by grief and passion. The first nine days of the month of Muharram have, for the longest time, been observed and commemorated with mourning ceremonies across the globe, leading up to the tenth day or Ashura (Arabic for 'tenth'), which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussain and his faithful companions.

Black banners and flags atop buildings and houses betoken the onset of Muharram in Kashmir. Mourning rituals, including majalis (lecture gatherings), juloos (processions), nawhakhwani (lamentation poems), and marsiyakhwani (elegies), begin to be observed. These rituals are pronounced with expression of grief over the tragedies that befell the Prophet's family by lamenting and beating of chests.

Juloos or processions in earlier times were taken out in the wee hours of the night. Ceremonies were largely private and held indoors or within maatam sa-rais (mourning houses). The eighth and tenth of Muharram would usually be devoted to alam (flag) and zuljinah (Imam Hussain's horse in Karbala) processions respectively. Overtime, the rituals moved outdoors in daylight, with male mourners lining streets in groups — some beating chests, some self-flagellating — while women lined the boundaries and buildings beating their chests to the rhythm of the nawhas.

Public observation of Muharram in Kashmir has long undergone notable changes. From night-time processions to mourners being detained and lathi-charged, the socio-political milieu in Kashmir over the centuries has substantially shaped Muharram into a glaring symbol of resistance. Noted poet, Agha Shahid Ali, explored



his Kashmiri Muslim identity in many of his works as he drew parallels between Karbala and Kashmir, adding a distinctive facet to resistance poetry.

*" 'Break their hands.' Will ours return with guns, or a bouquet?
Ice hardens its fat near his heart. We're cut to the brains.
He memorizes, clause by clause, the contract for Doomsday.
We mourn the martyrs of Karbala, our skins torn with chains.
The Mansion is white, lit up with roses. He is driven
Through streets in which blood flows like Husain's.
Our hands won't return to us, not even mutilated, when
Death comes — thin bureaucrat — from the plains."*

— Agha Shahid Ali
(Muharram in Srinagar, 1992)

The ceremonies held during Muharram, year after year, serve as a reminder and a source for drawing les-

sons from lives of Karbala's martyrs, reinforcing integrity and sustaining resilience in the face of oppression. This period comes for every individual as an opportunity to reflect upon how one can, in their own capacities, answer Hussain's echoing call from the grounds of Karbala — "hal min nasirin yansurna?" (is there anyone to come to my aid). The answer to this call for support does not lie in physical presence and strength, but it is a call to rise up against injustice in every form, to make Hussain's cause one's own, and stand firm for the truth. Observers of Muharram in Kashmir continue to strive in this direction and live by the saying, "kullu yawmin Ashura, kullu ardhin Karbala" — "every day is Ashura, every land is Karbala."

(Mehak Fatima is a postgraduate in English from the University of Delhi and is currently pursuing her Bachelor's in Education from IASE, Srinagar)

Facebook In The Dock

For the social media site, weakening India's democracy is just the cost of business

Rana Ayub

On Aug. 14, the Wall Street Journal published a damning story about Facebook's complicity in aiding and abetting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hate-filled nationalism in India, sparking a much-needed debate on an issue familiar to many activists in the country who have closely documented how misinformation, threats, bigotry and harassment thrive on the platform.

The exhaustive report examines the role of Ankhi Das, Facebook's public-policy executive in India, and the social media giant's refusal to take down the page of T. Raja Singh, a member of Modi's BJP party who has asked for Rohingya Muslim immigrants to be shot, labeled Muslims as traitors and threatened to destroy mosques. The story cites employees at Facebook quoting Das as saying "that punishing violations by politicians from Mr. Modi's party would damage the company's business prospects in the country."

The report also brings to light Das's own anti-Muslim prejudice. She once shared a Facebook post that referred to India's Muslims as traditionally a "degenerate community" for whom "nothing except purity of religion and implementation of Shariah matter."

But as damning as these revelations are for Facebook, for many users none of this comes as a surprise. Modi's campaign leading up to his 2014 victory brazenly relied on fake news and propaganda attacking India's 200 million Muslims. Back in 2013 I wrote a cover story titled "Modi's Operandi" for Tehelka magazine that examined the crucial role Facebook — along with policymakers and think tanks — was

playing in empowering Hindu nationalists and their divisive narrative.

For years now, verified Facebook pages of BJP leaders such as Kapil Mishra have routinely published hate speeches against Muslims and dissenting voices. The hate then translates into deadly violence, such as the anti-Muslim attacks in Delhi that left many people dead in February in some of the worst communal violence India's capital had seen in decades.

On Instagram, @HindustaniBhau, a verified account with 3.4 million followers known for its nationalists posts, recently issued a clarion call for violence against minorities, publishing a video asking that

A Facebook executive, speaking on the condition of anonymity to speak candidly and avoid reprisals, told me this week that in 2017 Facebook hired prominent policy advocates and former journalists from right-wing think tanks.

those opposed to the Hindu faith be taught a lesson. On Thursday, after outrage by leading personalities and days after the Journal published its story, Instagram suspended the page. But thousands of accounts peddling similar content have flourished in recent years, despite being flagged and reported by many users and journalists.

Just a few weeks ago I filed a police complaint in Mumbai for graphic rape and death threats posted against me by hundreds of Facebook and Instagram users. The posts have not been taken down. In 2018,

a Facebook page called Yogi Adityanath Ki Sena, or the Army of Yogi Adityanath, a firebrand Hindu nationalist and now the BJP chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, posted a fake pornographic video with my face in response to my criticism of the Modi regime. The obscene video is still on Facebook, its circulation multiplying on the platform.

It's clear that Facebook has no intention of holding hate-mongers accountable and that the safety of users is not a priority.

In July 2014, within two months of Modi rising to power, Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's chief operating officer, along with Das, met with Modi. Dressed in saffron, the color of the Hindu nationalist party,

Sandberg presented Modi with her book, "Lean In," and in a TV interview called Modi a champion for women's rights — all while his party leaders used her platform to abuse and silence women. The next year, when Modi visited Silicon Valley, Mark Zuckerberg hosted a town hall meeting but left out any questions about the misinformation and hate spread by Modi's party and followers on his platform, or the routine Internet clampdowns on Internet access in Kashmir, a brazen attack on free speech.

Facebook has since made efforts to remain com-

pliant to the regime. A Facebook executive, speaking on the condition of anonymity to speak candidly and avoid reprisals, told me this week that in 2017 Facebook hired prominent policy advocates and former journalists from right-wing think tanks. "It was spoken in no uncertain terms that Facebook needs to boost the image of Modi as a visionary and global leader whose popularity was second only to Donald Trump," said the Delhi-based executive.

India, with its more than 290 million Facebook users, is seen as an important market, since the platform remains blocked in China. But in its quest for a bigger market share, Facebook has had no issue aiding authoritarian leaders who spread lies and hate for political gain and control, such as in Myanmar and the Philippines.

As the social media company invests billions in Indian telecom holdings, its WhatsApp messaging system, used by 400 million people in India, continues to spread fake news that fuels hate crimes. There's now evidence that the February anti-Muslim carnage was planned on a WhatsApp chat with more than 100 members, where Hindu men described how they burned Muslims and threw their bodies in sewers.

But our Silicon Valley overseers seem unperturbed as their platform continues to debilitate Indian democracy. A platform that was once meant to spread ideas and opinions has now become a tool that enables and encourages fascism. In India, as in many other places, Facebook will continue to prosper at the expense of marginalized groups that hold no value for its bottom line.

Washington Post

Don't Miss Your Health Check-Ups For Fear Of Covid

Joshua S. Yamamoto

It is also the thing most likely to injure or damage us. Most of my patients would rather die than be disabled by a stroke or fade away from vascular dementia. And who wants to be parked in a nursing home in times like these?

Frank Herbert wrote the epic novel 'Dune' (which I recommend everyone read before the blockbuster film comes out). When the novel opens, the hero is being tested to determine if he is truly 'human'. The test goes something like this: His hand is placed in a box. The box creates intense pain, which he knows full well is a phantom pain - no real damage is happening. If he has the will power to keep his hand in the box, then he proves that he is human. If he pulls his hand out before the test is over, he dies. OK, this is perhaps a brutal test, but it is a work of fiction. However, it does demonstrate an important lesson about what makes us human. We have free will, and we can make decisions to overcome our more basic instincts. In Dune, the hero knows that his hand is not being hurt, but his instincts are telling him to pull away from the pain. He has to use his mind to overcome his fear. He recites a mantra that he has been taught, "Fear is the mind killer..." and he wills himself to endure. Spoiler alert, he passes the test.

How is this story relevant today? I am a preventive cardiologist who is mostly concerned with managing the natural aging process so that people do not become demented (have brain damage) or heart failure. What does this have to do with fear? Coronavirus is on pace to be the third leading cause of death this year, after Heart And Vascular Disease. If you add strokes, which are almost entirely related to the heart and vascular changes that happen naturally with age, and if you add in dementia (dementia is always made worse if you do not have adequate blood flow to the brain), then heart and vascular disease really still tops out the list of things that are most likely to kill us.

It is also the thing most likely to injure or damage us. Most of my patients would rather die than be disabled by a stroke or fade away from vascular dementia. And who wants to be parked in a nursing home in times like these?

We should not have to die prematurely from heart or vascular disease. You can prevent a stroke. And when you preserve blood flow to the brain, you prevent a lot of senile dementia. But, to do this you need to work with your doctor.

And, this is where the fear comes in. In general, fear is a good thing. It's



what keeps us from getting killed in dangerous situations. Cowards (like me) have a knack for survival. But, like the hero from 'Dune', sometimes we have to overcome our fear when there is something more important to worry about, like your health.

Since the start of the pandemic, there has been a great fear, especially among the elderly, to go out and seek medical care. We have heard that we should put off non-emergent medical care. But, nothing about cardiovascular health is elective. Just because something is not an emergency doesn't make it optional.

To be specific: we all need to keep up on our medical care. Skipping out on 'routine' checks is a recipe for disaster. We manage health, especially cardiovascular health for a reason. When we are under stress (like an infection) we need our bodies to be prepared to meet the challenges. Keep your medical appointments.

If you don't have a doctor, get one. If you wait until you are really sick before you have someone to turn to, you might as well just be using the emergency room. That is the last place you want to go. Medicare has finally changed the

rules so doctors are now allowed to talk to their patients over the phone. Keep in touch. Some things must be done in person, so do that.

The higher risk you are for Covid, the more important it is to maintain your health. But, every day fear prevents people from seeking out medical care they need. What to do?

First, tend to the practical things. Every single health care facility now has a plan to prevent the spread of infection. There are many steps to this plan, and they work. If you want to know what your doctor's office is doing, call and ask.

Know that this is an airborne virus. It spreads in the air. Masks and distancing work. The best masks are the ones that protect you (as opposed to ones that just decrease the likelihood of spreading the virus to others). If you really don't want to spread the virus, don't catch it. Protect yourself. Go online and buy an N-95 or N-99 mask, and wear it. And wear it properly. I don't care if it's uncomfortable, or you don't want to cover your nose; you can wear it long enough to leave your home and get the health care you need. I suppose the truly hard part is

overcoming the fear. Everyone needs their strategy for that. Some people rely on their faith, or at least faith in Anthony Fauci. Some people rely on logic or think about the balance of risks and benefits. Some people even do math. Some people get so frustrated being stuck at home that they finally go out with the logic that, "if I can't see my doctor, who can I see?" I'll take that, it's a start.

FDR would not be right in this case. We have more to fear than fear itself. We need to fear the virus, but we cannot let that fear own us. If we do, then fear will keep us from getting the health care we need. As we grow older, our heart and circulation will age, and if we don't tend to that, then we will have strokes. Thus, fear is truly the mind killer.

But we are human, so it doesn't have to be.

Joshua S. Yamamoto is a former Navy doctor who served in Kuwait as a cardiologist for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Psychology Today

Don't Judge A Person By Their Bookshelf

It must have been this shared vulnerability that we connected well

Pranitha Menon | Gulf News

Someone once said — home is where the heart is.

Today, on the other side of e-learning, webinars, virtual family gatherings and my children's art and music lessons, home is where WiFi, Zoom and the bookshelf are!

Among the many reasons for investing in a bookshelf, using it as a backdrop was not one, simply because it was a time before we let the cameras into our private spaces. Who knew that the bookshelf would be the biggest status symbol of the Zoom era?

Treasure chest for curious minds

The idea was to create a treasure chest for little curious minds, to give our inky treasures a home and to be able to open the glass panes and drink into a welcome gust of the fragrance of books and wood that pleasantly transported us to those moments of free, uninterrupted times that we curled up with one.

When my now-good-friend, Chandni, and I first decided to get discussing on a task we were going to undertake on our first Zoom meeting, she chose to break the ice by inquiring about an inanimate photo frame in the background.

I fail to remember if that meeting had accomplished much as far as the task was concerned but I knew I owned a coveted photo frame but needed to downplay the size of my forehead, my nose didn't appear to fit well on me and eyes were too big when I saw myself concentrating.

It was easy to see all that was me and not me under a spot of blinding light because the other grid filmed the dark outlines of roller blinds and a human form sitting before it.

Connected through a virtual setting

Looking back, it must have been this shared vulnerability that we connected



well even on a virtual setting.

A selfie addict had once explained that choosing an angle and light was the key to picture perfect. Choosing an angle when you are on video would look silly, even to you, so adequate lighting was the trick. I learnt that natural light streaming before you is better than the most expensive candle that could turn the setting creepy or soft light on your face that would highlight your features but also give you a halo.

Plop yourself before a bookshelf instead of opting to choose a background

and you have everyone's attention, even (especially) with wibbly audio.

The bookshelf has been our literary badge. It was when one of the husband's colleagues was seen nosing around the its contents before inquiring about a book that we got shelf-conscious.

We were not very keen on competing with celebrities and their elaborate display of gold-lettered, red-spine hardcovers but we needed to re-arrange what little we owned.

Peeking through the fish-eye camera

The husband brought out all the perfect-looking self-help books into view. Any curious intruder peeking through the fish-eye camera would think we owed our very existence to the 'magic' that these books promised us with.

For a person who does not like to be told what to do, the husband has bought and is often seen reading (and sleeping through) them, but for the sake of marital harmony and the fact that he does not like to be told what to do, it was best to play along.

My fictions, every one of them — a lit-

tle universe in themselves — that I have lived through and that have become a part of me, sit away from prying eyes.

Those with frayed edges, some whose bindings are barely holding the creased pages but best held the might of magic woven by the author when I had travelled alongside the protagonist, even become one, saving the day and still had time to speak the best lines and making adventure, dying in the midst of it and living through tragedy and pain seem like fun.

Curated bookshelf. Check. Lighting. Check. Now, if only my nose would fit on my face better.

— Pranitha Menon is a freelance writer based in Dubai. Twitter: @MenonPranitha

Those with frayed edges, some whose bindings are barely holding the creased pages but best held the might of magic woven by the author when I had travelled alongside the protagonist, even become one, saving the day and still had time to speak the best lines and making adventure, dying in the midst of it and living through tragedy and pain seem like fun

Childhood Adversity Increases Risk Of Early Death: Lancet

Agencies

Researchers have found that adversity in childhood increases the risk of premature death in early adulthood (16-36 years of age).

Childhood adversity includes child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, bullying, serious accidents or injuries, discrimination, extreme poverty, and community violence.

In a study, published in the journal The Lancet, the researchers have recorded social and stressful adversity in childhood among one million Danish children. The research team divided the children into five groups depending on the degree of adversity experienced in childhood.



"The more stressful experiences they have experienced during childhood, the higher the mortality rate in early adulthood," said study author Naja Hulvej Rod from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

"For the most vulnerable

children, the mortality rate is surprisingly 4.5 times higher," Rod added.

The higher mortality rate mainly manifests itself in suicide and accidents, but the study also shows a higher risk of dying from cancer in this group.

According to the researchers, the results of the study stress the critical importance of broad structural public health initiatives to reduce stressful adversity in childhood.

For example, prevention of childhood poverty and other adversity in childhood. With time, it may help reduce social inequality in health.

In the study, social adversity is defined as financial poverty or long-term unemployment in the family, while stressful adversity includes death of a parent, divorce or alcohol/drug abuse among the parents.

The findings showed that 54 per cent of the children in group one experienced no or only very few isolated incidents of adversity in childhood.

Contact Tracing Apps May Be Ineffective For Reducing Covid-19 Spread: Study

Contact tracing apps are unlikely to contain the spread of COVID-19 without proper public health control measures such as physical distancing and closure of indoor spaces, according to a review of studies.

The systematic review, published in the journal Lancet Digital Health on Thursday, shows that evidence around the effectiveness of automated contact tracing systems is currently very limited.

The research suggests that large-scale manual contact tracing alongside other public health control measures -- such as physical distancing and closure of indoor spaces such as pubs -- is likely to be required in conjunction with automated approaches.

The researchers from University College London (UCL) in the UK found 15 relevant studies by reviewing more than 4,000 papers on automated and partially-automated contact tracing.

They analysed these to understand the potential impact these tools could have in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Across a number of modelling studies, we found a consistent picture that although automated contact tracing could support manual contact tracing, the systems will require large-scale uptake by the population and strict adherence to quarantine advice by contacts notified to have a significant impact on reducing transmission," said lead author Isobel Braithwaite from UCL.

In total, 4,033 papers published between January 2000 and April 2020 were reviewed, which allowed researchers to identify 15 papers with useful data.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Office of the Poultry Project Officer IPDP Mattan.

Subject:- Auction for fruit of 15 walnut trees for the year 2020.

This office has to conduct auction of fruit of 15 walnut trees of IPDP Mattan. In this context, the interested dry fruit dealers shall submit their request for participating in the auction along with the CDR worth Rs 2000= Pledged to the name of Poultry Project Office Mattan upto 25.08.20.

The auction shall be conducted on 25.08.20 at 1.00 pm before the committee of members constituted for same. The auction shall start at Rs.38,844= as per the expert opinion of the Horticulture Development Officer Anantnag. The successful bidder has to deposit the whole amount in lump sum on the same day before the committee against proper GR.

The committee reserves the right to accept or reject the bid on administrative grounds. If the successful bidder fails to remit the remaining amount to any reason the CDR amount shall not be refunded to him.

DIPK-4308/20

Poultry Project Officer,
IPDP Mattan



J&K PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.

(A J&K Govt. Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No: 34/E/K of 2020-21 Dt. 19.08.2020

On behalf of Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Ltd., the Deputy General Manager, Unit Electrical JKPCCL Ltd., Srinagar invites e-tenders from approved and eligible electric contractors registered with J&K Govt./CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Govt. undertaking for the following work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of document	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	Internal Electrification of Administrate Block of Medical College at Baramulla.	Rs 104.00	Rs.2000.00	Rs. 2,08,000.00	In tandem with civil works	"A"

Critical Dates: Qualification criteria, scope of work, tender documents, BOQ and all other terms & conditions can be seen and downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in under PWD/MDJKPCCL/Kashmir circle

Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of undersigned or e-tendering Cell, Kashmir.

DIPK-NB-1911/20

-sd/-

Deputy General Manager,
JKPCCL Ltd., Unit-Electrical,
Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

Tel: 0194-2497056 Email: xenmds@gmail.com

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NO. MDS/TENDER/2020-21/ 59 ; DATE: - 20 .08.2020

Sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 5/= revenue stamps are invited for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory from registered firms/Contractors for:-

Description of the work	Est. Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
Providing & Fitting of water pump, sprinkler nozzles and damaged water line complete with hose, screws, sockets, nipples, plugs, etc to TVR HD85 of MFSD City Right.	86,000/-	Rs. 1750/-	Rs. 200/-	05 days
Date of sale of tender documents	20-08-2020 to 28-08-2020 (up to 4.00 pm)			
Last date of receipt of tenders	29-08-2020 (up to 2.00 pm)			
Date of opening of tenders	29 -08-2020			
Tender receiving & opening authority	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Srinagar			

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. The tender documents shall be issued subject to production of following documents:

- Self attested copy of **Certificate of GST Registration**.
- Application for issuance of Tender Document from the firm duly signed and stamped by the Proprietor, however, in case the Proprietor of the firm wishes to purchase the tender document through his representative, a valid authorization letter duly signed and stamped by the proprietor shall be produced prior to purchase of the document.

In case the last date of receipt of tenders happens to be a non-working day due to any reasons, the tenders shall be received in this office on next working day.

NO: MDS/TS / 2051-54
Date: 20 -08-2020

DIPK-4358/20

(Er. Abdul Rashid Bhat)
Executive Engineer

Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

Sd/-



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tel: 01933-247954/247955.

Website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION No. 1 of 2020

On-line Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to below mentioned programmes for the Academic Session 2020-21. The candidates are advised to peruse the Prospectus (available on the University website) & go through the Admission Procedure thoroughly to check the eligibility criteria/other details before filling and submitting their Online Application Forms:

Post-Graduate Programmes	Eligibility
M.Sc. Statistics	Bachelor's Degree with Mathematics/ Statistics/ Applied Mathematics as one of the subjects with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/Institution OR B.Sc. Actuarial and Financial Mathematics.
Master of Computer Applications - MCA (2-Year)	Having passed BCA/ Bachelor Degree in Computer Science & Engineering or equivalent degree OR passed B.Sc. / B.Com. / B.A. with Mathematics at 10+2 Level or at Graduation Level (with additional bridge course as per the norms of the concerned University), with a minimum of 50% marks from a recognized University/Institution.
Master of Science in Information Technology (M.Sc. IT)	Bachelor's Degree with a minimum of 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution in any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant subject. B.Sc. having Mathematics as one of the subjects at 10+2 level. B.Sc. having Mathematics/ Physics/ Computer Science/ I.T./ or any relevant Computer related recognized subject as one of the subjects. Four year Bachelor's Degree in Engineering & Technology.
M .Tech. Food Technology	B. Tech. Food Technology with 55% marks from a recognized University/Institution.
M.Sc. Chemistry	Bachelor's Degree in Science with Chemistry as one of the subject in all the three years of graduation with 45% marks from a recognized University/Institution.
M.Sc. Physics	Bachelor's Degree in Science with Physics and Mathematics as core subjects in all the three years of graduation or B.E/B. Tech (with Physics and Mathematics as subjects for at least two semesters/one year) with 45% marks from a recognized University/Institution.
MBA	Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with 50% marks from a recognized University/ Institution.
MBA-International Business (IB)	
M.A. International Relations	
M.A. Journalism & Mass Communication	Bachelor's Degree in any discipline with 45% marks from a recognized University/Institution.
M.A. Islamic Studies	
M. A Political Science (IR)	Bachelor's Degree with 45% marks from a recognized University/Institution with Political Science as one of the subject throughout the graduation period.
M.A. Arabic Language & Literature	Bachelor's Degree or equivalent with Arabic as one of the subjects with 45% marks from a recognized University/Institution OR having Aalimayat/ Fazilah degree with 10+2 of the approved Madrasas.
M.A. English Language & Literature	Bachelor's Degree or equivalent with English as one of the subjects with 45% marks from a recognized University/Institution.
M.A. Economics	Bachelor's Degree with Economics/ Mathematics/ Statistics/ Agriculture/ Horticulture as one of the subjects with 45% marks from a recognized University/ Institution OR Bachelor's Degree in Actuarial and Financial Mathematics OR Bachelor's Degree in Engineering.
Under-Graduate Programmes	Eligibility
B.Tech. in Engineering (Civil/ Electronics & Communication/ Computer Science/ Electrical/ Mechanical	Having passed 10+2 with Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics subjects from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with 50% marks.
B.Tech. Food Technology	Having passed 10+2 with Physics, Chemistry and Biology or Mathematics from J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with 50% marks.
B. Voc. (Medical Lab & Molecular Diagnostic Technology)	Having passed 10+2 with Physics, Chemistry and Biology from J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with 45% marks.
B.Sc. Actuarial & Financial Mathematics	Having passed 10+2 with Mathematics as one of the subjects from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with 45% marks.
B.A (Hons) in English	Having passed 10+2 from the J&K Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with 45% marks.
Basic B.Sc. Nursing	10+2 or equivalent qualification through a recognized board / University with subjects Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English with a minimum of 45% aggregate marks. The candidate should have a minimum age of 17 years as on 31-12-2020 and the female candidates must be unmarried.
Integrated Programmes	Eligibility
MBA (5-Year Integrated)	Having passed 10+2 from the J&K State Board of School Education or from any other recognized board with 50% marks.
Three Year Diploma Engineering Programmes	Eligibility
Civil / Electrical / Mechanical	Having passed 10th class or equivalent examination (with Science and Math subjects) from a recognized Statutory Board with 45% marks.
Lateral-Entry Programmes	Eligibility
B. Tech. in Engineering Civil/ Electrical/ Electronics & Communication/ Mechanical/ Computer Science B.Tech. Food Technology	Three-year Diploma from a recognized Technical Board or Institution with a minimum of 45% marks in aggregate in the branch of Engineering/ Technology wherein admission is being sought.
Diploma in Engineering Civil/ Electrical/ Mechanical	Matric with two years Draftsmanship course in appropriate/relevant branch from a Govt. Recognized Institute OR Matric with two years diploma in relevant / appropriate trade/branch from a Govt. recognized Industrial Training Institute (ITI).

Note: There shall be 5% relaxation in minimum percentage of marks required for eligibility in case of reserved categories for all the programmes, the list of which is reflected in the University Prospectus.

I) IMPORTANT DATES:

Availability of Online Application Forms	24-08-2020
Last Date for submission of Online Application Forms	03-09-2020
Last Date for deposition of application fee	04-09-2020

II) SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATION FORMS

The candidates are advised to follow the below mentioned steps for filling the details in their On-line Application Forms:

- Login to University Website www.islamicuniversity.edu.in and follow the link **Admissions 2020**.
- Read the instructions carefully and click on "**Proceed**" tab.
- Click the Programmes tab and select the desired **Programme(s) & Preferences** (wherever applicable). **Enter** the required details very carefully.
- Upload latest passport size photograph/ Signature, Qualifying Marks Card, Valid Reserved Category Certificate (wherever applicable), JEE/CMAT/GATE score card (if applicable).
- Candidates applying under the Tuition Fee Waiver (TFW) Scheme shall upload the latest income certificate & other documents mentioned under the title Tuition Fee Waiver Scheme (TFW) in the University Prospectus.

NOTE: The photograph/certificates to be uploaded must be in image file format (.jpg, .jpeg, .png) with size of 50-100 KB only. Candidates applying under Sports category can upload the multiple sports participation certificates merged in a single file in PDF format.

- Check all the details and status of uploaded documents once again and then click the "**Submit**" tab. On the successful submission of form, an **Acknowledgement Message** will be generated.
- Once the form is submitted choose the payment option for deposition of application form fee as:
 - Online:** Proceed as per the fee instructions on the screen
 - Offline:** Take a printout of the fee receipt and deposit the amount in any branch of J&K Bank Ltd.
- The application fee shall be Rs. 500/- for all programmes.

Candidates are not required to submit hard copy of the application form.

III) PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION

- B.Tech. Engineering programmes:** Based on candidate's performance in the JEE Main (Paper-I) 2020.
- MBA/MBA-IB:** Based on the candidate's performance in the CMAT/ Institutional MAT or percentage in qualifying examination (to be decided in due course).
- M.Tech. Food Technology:** Based on the candidate's performance in GATE or percentage in qualifying examination (to be decided in due course).
- MBA (5-Year Integrated):** Based on the candidate's performance in the tests conducted by a National Level Testing Agency or percentage in qualifying examination (to be decided in due course).
- All other programmes:** Based on the percentage of marks in aggregate obtained by a candidate in the qualifying examination.

IV) IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The soft copy of the Prospectus can be downloaded from the University website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in
- The eligible meritorious candidates with weak economic background can apply for admission under the TFW scheme wherein their Tuition Fee will be waived off completely. The selection under the TFW scheme will be made under rules subject to a maximum of 5% of the intake capacity of a programme.
- Notification for admission under Self-Financing category/ NRI sponsored quota shall be issued separately.**
- Change of preferences shall not be entertained after last date for submission of online application form.
- The candidates are advised to check the Application Form Status online using the **Applicant Number** after three days of the submission of online Application Form.
- The candidature of applicants who fail to submit all the required documents/ fee etc. with the online Application Form shall be rejected.
- Procedure for making corrections/ uploading of accurate documents in the already submitted application forms is as follows:
 - Send an e-mail to admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in and mention the details to be modified.
 - Attach the document with the e-mail incase the already document needs to be changed.
 - Take a re-print of the updated application form after three days of sending e-mail for checking the changes and for future references.
- Note:** Only e-mails from the registered email ID mentioned in the application form will be entertained.
- Candidates are advised to remain in touch with the University website to download the Admit Cards / Roll Number slips (wherever applicable) and other updates.
- For any further query/information, the candidates may contact the following:

EPABX: 01933-247954/247955 Ext.: 1109 / Email ID: admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in

No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/Notification_1/20/409

Dated: 21-08-2020

Sd/-

Deputy Registrar (Academics)

Greenland Ice Sheet Sheds Half-A-Trillion Tonnes: Study

Agencies

Paris: Greenland's massive ice sheet saw a record net loss of 532 billion tonnes last year, raising red flags about accelerating sea level rise, according to findings released Thursday.

That is equivalent to an additional three million tonnes of water streaming into global oceans every day, or six Olympic pools every second.

Crumbling glaciers and torrents of melt-water slicing through Greenland's two-to-three-kilometre thick ice block were the single biggest source of global sea level rise in 2019, accounted for 40 per cent of the total, or 1.5 millimetres, researchers reported in the journal Communications Earth & Environment.

Last year's loss of mass was at least 15 per cent above the previous record in 2012,

and render land occupied today by hundreds of millions of people uninhabitable.

Until 2000, Greenland's ice sheet -- covering an area three times the size of France -- generally accumulated as much mass as it shed.

Runoff, in other words, was compensated by fresh snowfall.

But over the last two decades ago, the gathering pace of global warming has upended this balance.

The gap is widening at both ends, according to the study, which draws from nearly 20 years of satellite data.

Changing weather patterns -- also a consequence of climate change -- has resulted in less cloud cover, and thus less snow. These high pressure systems have also resulted in more, and warmer, sunny days, accelerating the loss of mass.



but even more alarming are the long-term trends, they said.

"2019 and the four other record-loss years have all occurred in the last decade," lead author Ingo Sasgen, a glaciologist at the Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research in Germany, told AFP.

If all of Greenland's ice sheet were to melt, it would lift global oceans by seven metres (23 feet).

Even a more modest rise of a couple of metres would redraw the world's coastlines

Climate system 'tipping point'

In 2019, the ice sheet lost a total of 1.13 trillion tonnes, about 45 percent from glaciers sliding into the sea, and 55 percent from melted ice, said Sasgen. It gained about 600 billion tonnes through precipitation.

A study in the same journal last week concluded that the Greenland's ice sheet has passed a "tipping point", and is now doomed to disintegrate, though on what time scale is unknown.



Pandemic Could Cause Extreme Poverty To Surge By 100 Million: World Bank

Agencies

Washington: The coronavirus pandemic may have driven as many as 100 million people back into extreme poverty, World Bank President David Malpass warned Thursday.

The Washington-based development lender previously estimated that 60 million people would fall into extreme poverty due to COVID-19, but the new estimate puts the deterioration at 70 to 100 million, and he said "that number could go higher" if the pandemic worsens or drags on.

The situation makes it "imperative" that creditors reduce the amount of debt held by poor countries at risk, going beyond the commitment to suspend debt payments, Malpass said in an interview with AFP.

Even so, more countries will be obliged to restructure their debt. "The debt vulnerabilities are

high, and the imperative of getting light at the end of the tunnel so that new investors can come in is substantial," Malpass said.

Advanced economies in the Group of 20 already have committed to suspending debt payments from the poorest nations through the end of the year, and there is growing support for extending that moratorium into next year.

But Malpass said that will not be enough, since the economic downturn means those countries, which already are struggling to provide a safety net for their citizens, will not be in a better position to deal with the payments.

The amount of debt reduction needed will depend on the situation in each country, he said, but the policy "makes a lot of sense."

"So I think the awareness of this will be gradually, more and more apparent" especially "for the countries with the highest vulnerability to the debt situation."

The World Bank has committed to deploying \$160 billion in funding to 100 countries through June 2021 in an effort to address the immediate emergency, but even so, extreme poverty, defined as earning less than \$1.90 a day, continues to rise.

Malpass said the deterioration is due to a combination of the destruction of jobs during the pandemic as well as supply issues that make access to food more difficult. "All of this contributes to pushing people back into extreme poverty the longer the economic crisis persists."

Newly-installed World Bank Chief Economist Carmen Reinhart called the economic crisis a "pandemic depression," but Malpass was less concerned with terminology.

"We can start calling it a depression. Our focus is on how do we help countries be resilient in working out on the other side."

Beijing To Go Mask-Free As Coronavirus Cases Hit New Lows

Agencies

Beijing: Health authorities in China's capital Beijing have removed a requirement for people to wear masks outdoors, further relaxing rules aimed at preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus after the city reported 13 consecutive days without new cases.

Despite the relaxed guidelines, a large proportion of people continued to wear masks in Beijing on Friday.

Some said the mask made them feel safe, while others said social pressures to wear the masks were also a factor.

"I think I can take off my mask anytime, but I'll need to see if others accept it. Because I'm afraid that people would be scared if they see me not wearing mask



I think I can take off my mask anytime, but I'll need to see if others accept it. Because I'm afraid that people would be scared if they see me not wearing mask

ters for Disease Control first said residents could go without masks in outdoor areas in late April, though the rules were swiftly reversed in June after a new outbreak in a large wholesale market in the city's south.

China has reported no new locally transmitted cases on the mainland for five days after successfully controlling flare ups in the capital, Xinjiang and elsewhere.

Experts say the key to

the country's success in controlling the disease has been the strict enforcement of local rules, including wearing masks, mandatory home quarantine and participating in mass testing.

Authorities reported 22 imported cases in the mainland on for Aug. 20, and has closed its borders to most non-Chinese citizens. The country has reported a total of 84,917 cases since the outbreak began.

Palestine burning in fire of Arab rulers' treason: Iran

Agencies

Tehran: Iran says half a century after Israel's arson attack on the al-Aqsa Mosque, "the innocent Palestine" is still burning in the fire of Israeli incursion and some Arab rulers' treason.

"Today is the World Mosque Day. It's been 51 years since Zionist extremists set fire to al-Aqsa Mosque -- the first qibla of Muslim people, a common heritage of human beings, and a symbol of unity among all monotheistic religions," said Iran's Foreign

On August 21, 1969, the mosque was set on fire by an Australian settler in coordination with Israeli officials and military forces. The fire gutted the southeastern wing of the mosque.

The World Mosque Day has now turned into an annual occasion when Muslims around the world highlight the importance of the al-Aqsa Mosque as the third holiest site of Muslim world.

This year, a controversial deal between the United Arab Emirates and the Israeli regime to normalize their bi-



Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh.

"The innocent Palestine is still burning in the fire of the Zionist regime's impudence and incursion and the treason of certain Arab rulers," he added in a Friday tweet.

The tweet was issued on the 51st anniversary of Zionist extremists' arson attack on the al-Aqsa Mosque.

lateral relationships has outraged Muslims around the world.

Last week, Israel and the UAE announced in a joint statement, issued by the White House, that they had agreed to the full normalization of relations, sparking anger among Palestinians and supporters of the Palestinian cause against Israeli occupation.

Russian opposition leader Navalny in coma, allegedly poisoned by toxic tea

Agencies

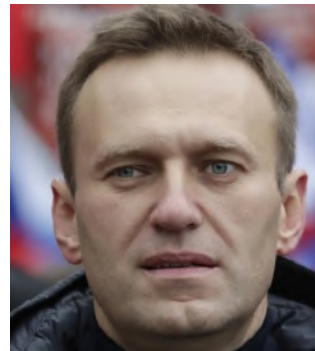
Moscow: Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, one of Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics, lay in a coma Friday at a Siberian hospital, the victim of what his allies said appeared to be a poisoning engineered by the Kremlin.

Navalny's organisation was scrambling to make arrangements to transfer him to Germany for treatment; a German group said it was ready to send a plane for him and that a noted hospital in Berlin was ready to treat him.

The 44-year-old Navalny fell ill on a flight back to Moscow from the Siberian city of Tomsk on Thursday and was taken to a hospital after the plane made an emergency landing in Omsk, Navalny's spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, said on Twitter.

She told the Echo Moskvy radio station that he must have consumed poison in tea he drank at an airport cafe before boarding the plane early Thursday. During the flight, Navalny started sweating and asked her to talk to him so that he could "focus on the sound of a voice." He then went to the bathroom and lost consciousness, and has been in a coma and on a ventilator in grave condition ever since.

In a video statement released early Friday in Omsk, Yarmysh said Navalny remained in critical condition and she called on the hospital's leadership "not to obstruct us



from providing all necessary documents for his transfer." It was not clear what the possible obstructions could be.

Other opposition figures were quick to suggest Kremlin involvement.

"We are sure that the only people that have the capability to target Navalny or myself are Russian security services with definite clearance from Russia's political leadership," Pyotr Verzilov, a member of the protest group Pussy Riot who ended up in intensive care after suspected poisoning in 2018, told The Associated Press. "We believe that Putin definitely is a person who gives that go-ahead in this situation."

Jaka Bizilj of the German organisation Cinema For Peace, which arranged for Verzilov's treatment in Germany, said that at Verzilov's request "we will send at midnight an air ambulance with medical equipment and specialists with which Navalny can be brought to Germany."

Turkey converts another former Istanbul church into a mosque

Agencies

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has ordered another ancient Orthodox Church that became a mosque and then a popular Istanbul museum to be turned back into a Muslim place of worship.

The decision to transform the Kariye Museum into a mosque came just a month after a similarly controversial conversion for the UNESCO World Heritage-recognised Hagia Sophia. The decree on the issue was published in Turkey's official gazette on Friday.

The 1,000-year-old building's history closely mirrors that of the Hagia Sophia - its bigger neighbour on the historic western bank of the Golden Horn on the European side of Istanbul.

The Holy Saviour in Chora was a medieval Byzantine

church decorated with 14th-century frescoes of the Last Judgement that remain treasured in the Christian world.

It was originally converted into the Kariye Mosque half a century after the 1453 conquest of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks.

It became the Kariye Museum after World War II as Turkey pushed ahead with the creation of a more secular new republic out of the ashes of the Ottoman Empire.

A group of American art historians then helped restore the original church's mosaics and opened them up for public display in 1958.

However, Erdogan has in the past few years placed a greater emphasis on the battles that resulted in the defeat of Byzantium by the Ottomans.

Turkey's top administrative court approved the museum's conversion into a mosque in November.

Biden vows to defeat Trump, end US 'season of darkness'

Joe Biden accepted the Democratic presidential nomination on Thursday night with a vow to be a unifying "ally of the light" who would move an America in crisis past the chaos of US President Donald Trump's tenure.

In his strongest remarks of the campaign, Biden spoke both of returning the United States to its traditional leadership role in the world and of the deeply personal challenges that shaped his life.

Virtually every sentence of his 22-minute speech was designed to present a sharp, yet hopeful, contrast with the Republican incumbent.

"Here and now I give you my word: If you entrust me with the presidency, I will draw on the best of us, not the



worst. I'll be an ally of the light, not the darkness," Biden said.

"Make no mistake, united we can and will overcome this season of darkness in America." "Speech of a lifetime"

For 77-year-old Biden, the final night of the Democratic National Convention was bittersweet. He accepted a nomination that had eluded him for over three decades because of personal tragedy, political stumbles and rivals who proved more dynamic.

But the coronavirus denied him the typical celebration, complete with the customary balloon drop that both parties often use to fete their new nominees. Instead, Biden spoke to a largely empty arena near his Delaware home.

Afterward, fireworks lit up the sky outside the arena where supporters waited in a parking lot, honking horns and flashing headlights in a moment that finally lent a jovial feel to the event.

The keynote address was the speech of a lifetime for Biden, who would be the oldest president ever elected if he defeats Trump in November. Trump, who is 74, publicly doubts Biden's mental capacity and calls him "slow Joe", but with the nation watching, he was firm and clear.

Can nuke India without harming Muslims: Pakistan railway minister

Pakistani minister known for his provocative statements against India has claimed that if Pakistan is attacked by India, the country would have no option but to retaliate with nuclear weapons--adding that these were so 'small' and 'perfect' they would not kill Indian Muslims.

Speaking to Samaa TV, Pakistan's Railway Minister Sheikh Rasheed said if the country were attacked by India, there would be "no scope" for a conventional war, with only a bloody, final nuclear war as the outcome.

Boasting of "calculated", "small" and "perfect" nuclear weapons, Rasheed said these could save Muslim lives while only targeting specific regions, adding that Pakistan's range includes Assam.

"Pakistan has no option in convention war, therefore India knows if something will happen it will be the end," Rasheed said.

Rasheed is the same minister who had spoken earlier of Pakistan having tactical nuclear bombs as small as 125-250 grams.



While a bomb of such low yield is not known to be in Pakistan's possession, the country has long worked on low-yield 'tactical' weapons that could offset India's traditional military advantage.

After the abrogation of Article 370, Rasheed had also predicted a war with India that would take place within 3-6 months.

Rasheed, who had earlier tested positive for COVID-19, has often made headlines for his provocative and alarmist statements. In some cases, his antics on stage made the news--such as when he received an electric shock after speaking about Prime Minister Narendra Modi while giving an address.

Biden helped this teen

Wilmington, United States: The scene-stealer at Thursday's Democratic convention was not a politician or Hollywood A-list, but a 13-year-old boy whose stutter has substantially improved through the help of the man at the center of the gathering itself: Joe Biden.

Brayden Harrington said in a touching video aired on the event's final night that he had met Biden while the candidate with blue-collar roots campaigned in New Hampshire earlier this year.

"Without Joe Biden, I wouldn't be talking to you today," the young boy wearing braces and a wide smile explained. "He told me that we were members of the same club. We stutter. It was really amazing to hear that someone like me became vice president," Brayden said, halting on some of the words.

N E W S M A K E R S

Gmail Service Restored After Global Outage



NEW DELHI: Gmail service, which suffered a global outage for hours on Thursday, has now been restored, according to Google.

Some users faced issues with Gmail like being unable to log in, add attachments and receive messages since morning.

On Thursday morning, GSuite status dashboard – which provides performance information on various Google services – said the company was investigating reports of an issue with Gmail. When contacted, a Google spokesperson confirmed that the problem has now been resolved.

In its latest update, the company said: "...We apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience and continued support. System reliability is a

top priority at Google. We are making continuous improvements to make our systems better".

The company provided multiple updates on the matter over the past few hours, stating it is investigating the issue and that there was a disruption in sending e-mails, Meet recording, creating files in Drive, posting messages in Google Chat, among others. As per the dashboard, other Google services like Google Drive, Google Docs and Google Meet have also been restored. While Google did not specify details around how many users were impacted and their locations, data from DownDetector (which provides outage updates on various online platforms) showed users from various parts of the globe, including India, were affected.

Users, in various posts on DownDetector, said they were facing issues around logins, adding attachments and receiving messages. Netizens also turned to Twitter to air their concerns around the issue with hashtag #Gmail, featuring among the top trending topics. — PTI

WE APOLOGISE FOR THE inconvenience and thank you for your patience and continued support. System reliability is a top priority at Google. We are making continuous improvements to make our systems better".

Health Minister Launches Video Game To Spread Covid-19 Awareness



To spread awareness about the coronavirus pandemic, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday launched a first-of-its-kind, interactive video game and two new promotional videos urging people to adhere to key COVID-19-appropriate behaviours.

Expressing his happiness at the launch of the uniquely designed game -- 'The Corona Fighters', Vardhan said it "presents a new and extremely creative way to teach people the right tools and behaviours to fight the COVID-19 pandemic."

According to an official statement, the minister stated that the game, available on www.thecoronafighters.in, was designed to "influence the players' actions in the real world, reminding them to take the right precautions and escape infection."

"This, along with two promotional videos, is a simply designed and enjoyable medium to get a serious message across to the wider

public," the statement quoted the minister as saying.

Vardhan also recalled his experience with the Polio Abhiyaan which, he said, was transformed into a social movement through people's participation and the support and contribution of many film industry professionals.

"The Pulse Polio programme, through its targeted and engaging IEC (information, education and communication) and outreach campaigns, encouraged the last mile mothers to get their children immunized. The same effort can contain COVID by publicising COVID-appropriate behaviour through caller tunes and other mediums throughout the lockdown and thereafter during the phases of unlocking," he said.

"Till we get a vaccine for fighting COVID-19, the COVID-appropriate behaviours will serve as a potent social vaccine and keep us protected and safe," the minister stated.



JAMIA MASJID was reopened for Friday prayers on August 21 first time after Covid-19 broke out early this year

Millions Likely Infected By Coronavirus In New Delhi: Survey

Nearly one-third of New Delhi's 20 million population have likely been infected by the novel coronavirus, according to a survey of 15,000 people conducted by the local government, a figure that indicates infection numbers are much higher than those recorded.

The survey, which tested a sample of the population for the presence of antibodies, was done in India's capital in the first week of August, its health minister Satyendra Jain told a news conference on Thursday.

"We found that 29.1 percent of the population of Delhi had antibodies, which means that they were infected and have been cured," Jain said.



In the first survey last month, 23.48 percent of Delhi's population was found to have been exposed to the coronavirus.

Delhi has recorded more than 150,000 cases of COVID-19, out of India's total of 2.9 million. At least 4,257 people have died due to COVID-19 - the disease caused by the coronavirus - in the Indian capital.

The survey also found that more women (32 percent) than men (28 percent) were infected by the virus that has killed nearly 800,000 people worldwide since its outbreak was first recorded in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

The findings of the survey are in line with what other cities like Mumbai and Pune have discovered, that a significant number of their people have been infected.

The city has recorded 151,904 cases - less than 1 percent of its approximate population of 20 million. The difference shows that a large number of infected people are asymptomatic, Delhi government officials said.

Facebook To Be Questioned By Parliamentary Panel For 30 Minutes

NEW DELHI: A parliamentary committee will question Facebook executives on how the social media giant regulates political content in the country, a panel member told Reuters on Friday, following controversy about its practices.

Facebook and its top lobbying executive in India, Ankhi Das, are facing criticism after a news report said she opposed applying hate-speech rules to a politician from the ruling party.

Facebook has been summoned to appear on September 2 before the information technology panel, which considers issues like social media abuse. The discussion with Facebook will last for 30 minutes, according to a notice published late on Thursday.

"The subject is serious because of Facebook's extensive reach in India ... and the potential for hate speech to incite violence and other unlawful behaviour," said the panel member, who declined to be identified.

"How worrying this is, is to be determined after a hearing process is concluded."

Facebook - which has more than 300 million users in India, its biggest market - did not respond to a request for comment.

Facebook has long faced criticism for high-profile content moderation issues.

The Wall Street Journal reported recently that Ms Das told staff that applying hate-speech rules to



politicians close to the ruling party "would damage the company's business prospects in the country".

Facebook has been battling political fallout in India since.

The opposition Congress Party criticised Facebook for its policies, while some ruling-party lawmakers have accused it of censoring nationalist voices.

Separately, Reuters this week reported that some Facebook employees in the United States and beyond have raised questions in internal forums about whether adequate content regulation practices are being followed by the India team and demanded some changes.

Facebook's soon-to-be-operational content Oversight Board, which some have dubbed the company's "Supreme Court", said it was committed to protecting users.

"How Facebook treats posts from public figures that may violate the Community Standards are within the scope of the Board," the board told Reuters in a statement.

"We won't shy away from the toughest cases and holding Facebook accountable," said the board, which has powers to overturn decisions by the company and Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg on whether individual pieces of content should be allowed or not.

SC Rejects Plea Seeking Probe Into Conduct Of Ranjan Gogoi As Justice

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking setting up of a three-judge panel to inquire into the conduct of former chief justice of India Ranjan Gogoi as a judge of the apex court.

Gogoi is now a Rajya Sabha MP.



A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra termed as "infructuous" the public interest litigation (PIL), and said the petitioner did not press for a hearing in last two years and moreover, now Justice (retd) Gogoi has already demitted office.

"Why did not you (petitioner) press it for hearing in the last two years? This plea has become infructuous as he has demitted office," the bench, also comprising Justices B.R. Gava and Krishna Murari, said.

"Sorry we can't entertain," the bench told petitioner Arun Ramchandra Hublikar, who had sought inquiry into

the alleged "omission and commission" by Gogoi as a judge of the apex court.

The petitioner claimed before the bench that he had met the secretary general of the top court for listing of his plea but it was not listed.

Justice Gogoi, the first person from the northeast to reach the top of judiciary and credited for bringing the curtains down on the decades old politically and religiously sensitive Ayodhya land dispute, had retired as the CJI on November 17 last year.

ISL's Hyderabad FC Join Hands With German Giants Borussia Dortmund



Indian Super League franchise Hyderabad FC on Thursday entered into a new two-year partnership with German football giants Borussia Dortmund and at the heart of this association will be youth development.

Borussia Dortmund will focus on building and supporting HFC on its academy structure as well as guiding the Indian club on coach education.

The partnership will also include BVB's expertise in technology to drive innovation, enhance connectivity between the clubs, positively grow and expand its fan base.

Borussia Dortmund's managing director Carsten

Cramer said, "This partnership comes at a quite challenging time for all of us during this COVID-19 pandemic, and it shows that sports and particularly football can unite people from all over the world."

Varun Tripuraneni, co-owner of Hyderabad FC said, "We, at Hyderabad, are committed to developing the football ecosystem in the region and our association with BVB will go a long way in helping us achieve success both on and off the pitch."

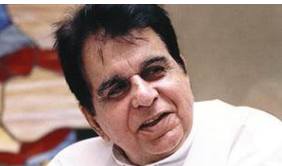
BVB has similar partnerships with Thai Premier League club Buriram United, Australia's NPL club Marconi FC and Iwate Grulla Morioka in Japan.

Dilip Kumar's Younger Brother Aslam Khan Dies Due To Covid-19

Veteran actor Dilip Kumar's younger brother Aslam Khan, who tested positive for COVID-19 last week, has died. He was 88.

The cinema icon's two brothers, Ehsaan Khan, 90, and Aslam Khan were admitted to Lilavati Hospital on August 15 after they complained of breathlessness and were tested positive for coronavirus.

Aslam Khan was being treated by Dr Jalil Parkar. "Mr Aslam passed away at Lilavati Hospital due to COVID-19. He had pneumonia with diabetes, hypertension



and heart disease. He had multiple organ failure. He died in the early hours of Friday," Parkar said.

In March, Dilip Kumar, 97, had shared a health update on Twitter, saying that he and wife, actor Saira Banu, 75, were under "complete isolation" and quarantine due to the coronavirus pandemic.

NEWS MAKERS

Wife Seeks Divorce From 'Perfect' Husband

SAMBHAL : In a bizarre incident, a Muslim woman has sought a divorce from her husband on the grounds that he does not fight with her.

The woman has approached a Sharia court for divorce just 18 months after her marriage. The woman claimed that her husband's love was 'suffocating' her.

"He does not shout at me and neither has he upset me on any issue. He even cooks for me and also helps me in performing household chores," she told the court. She further said, "Whenever I make a mistake, he always forgives me for that. I wanted to argue with him. I do not need a life where the husband agrees to anything." The Sharia court cleric, expectedly rejected her plea for divorce, terming it as frivolous. When the Sharia court refused to grant her divorce, the woman took up the matter with the local panchayat which also expressed its inability to decide the issue. Meanwhile, the woman's husband said he loved his wife and always wanted to keep her happy. He also requested the Sharia court to return the case. The court has now asked the couple to resolve the matter mutually.--IANS



Book On Parveen Babi To Chronicle Person Behind 'Myth And Gossip'

A book on yesteryear star Parveen Babi, which aims to shed light on her professional highs and lows, battle with mental health and unknown facets of her personal life, has hit the shelves.

Titled Parveen Babi: A Life, the biography, penned by journalist Karishma Upadhyay and published by Hachette India, released on Friday.

The book traces the journey of Parveen, a shy, ambitious girl from an aristocratic family in Junagadh, Gujarat, to a life of merciless scrutiny that came with being in the spotlight.

"Exploring with depth and sensitivity the myriad facets of the actress's life, Karishma lays bare little-known details about Parveen's doomed romances... Her obsession with the spiritual guide



who advised her to quit films, the tumultuous years of battling mental illness and her tragic, untimely demise," a statement from the publishing house read.

In a career of 15 years, the actor came to be known for breaking stereotypes with her film choices

and off-screen persona. Parveen was one of the biggest stars of the 70s, featuring in films like Deewaar, Shaan, Kaalia and Amar Akbar Anthony. She died in 2005.

Karishma said when she was offered to write the book three years ago, she was most intrigued by Parveen's

"The thing that most fascinated me was the fact that she quit the industry twice at the peak of her career. And each time that she returned, she made it back to the top of the pile. Then, there was her battle with mental illness.

"Even today there is so much stigma attached to mental health issues. I can't even imagine what it must have been like for her to deal with her mind slowly unravelling, leave aside the added pressures of being in the limelight," the author said.

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