



Maximum : 32°C
Minimum : 18°C
Humidity : 55%

SUNSET
Today 07:08 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:58 AM

Contact: -0194-2502327
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &
YOUR COPY OF



News Digest

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along IB

Jammu: India and Pakistan troops exchanged heavy gunfire along the International Border (IB) in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir officials said on Saturday. Pakistani Rangers violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing and mortar shelling along the IB in Kathua district, they said. The ceasefire violation in the Border Out Post Karol Mathna area of Hiranagar sector started at 11.30 pm on Friday, prompting strong and effective retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF), they said. The cross-border firing between the two sides continued throughout the night and ended at 4.40 am on Saturday, officials said. **● P-02**

IAF Officer Shoots Self Dead

Jammu- A warrant officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF) allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service pistol inside a camp here, officials said on Saturday. Warrant Officer Inder Pal Singh, 53, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, allegedly shot himself at Air Force Station Kalu Chak on the outskirts of Jammu on Friday, they said. The officials said Singh's colleagues rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

After conducting a postmortem and a COVID-19 test, the body of the deceased was handed over to his family on Saturday, they said. The motive behind his taking such an extreme step was not **● P-02**

Youth Slips To Death In Poonch

Srinagar: A youth died after slipping of a cliff in Loran area of Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Saturday. 20-year-old Zakir Hussain of Naganari in Mandi was cutting grass in Dokh Pathra Loran on Saturday morning when he slipped from the hilltop and died, news agency GNS reported. The police, report said was informed by a person about the incident. A police team later went to the area and retrieved the body.

Case Filed After IGP's Fake Account Created

Srinagar: The cyber wing of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday filed a case against unidentified users for creating fake accounts of Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar on popular social networking website Facebook. In a handout issued here, a police spokesperson said that the fake Facebook accounts have been created by some miscreants containing pictures of IGP Kashmir Zone with the mala-fide intention to cause mischief and cheat common masses by virtue of **● P-02**

5 ISJK Militant Associates Held: Police

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested five supporters of Islamic State Jammu Kashmir (ISJK) from Bandipora district of north Kashmir. On a credible input, Police arrested five militant associates of ISJK and recovered incriminating material including Matrix Sheets, ISJK Flags and ammunition from their possession, a police spokesperson said Saturday. During the preliminary investigation, the police spokesperson said it was revealed that the alleged OGWs had carried out reconnaissance of an army camp to attack it in future. "They were also involved in motivating and radicalizing the local youth to join the militant **● P-02**

Unionist Parties Vow To Fight For Statehood, Special Status 'August 5 Changed J&K's Relationship With Delhi'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A year after Modi-led Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) government scrapped Article-370 and 35-A and split Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, the signatories of last year's 'Gupkar Declaration' on Saturday vowed to fight for restoration of special status to the erstwhile state.

A joint statement issued and signed by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, J-K Congress chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Peoples' Conference leader Sajjad Lone, state CPM leader M Y Targami and Jammu and Kashmir Awami National Conference senior vice-president Muzaffar Shah termed the August 5 events as unfortunate and said it has "unrecognizably changed the relationship between J-K and New Delhi".

"In a spitefully shortsighted and unconstitutional move, Articles 370 and 35A were abrogated and the State was bifurcated and relegated to the status of two Union Territories and its Constitution tried to be made unenforceable," the joint statement said.

The joint statement on 'Gupkar Declaration' comes over two weeks after NC patron unsuccessfully tried to hold all party meet at his Sonwar residence on August 5 anniversary **►PAGE 02**



NC President Farooq Abdullah addresses a press conference after holding a meeting with party leaders. KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Kashmir Politicians Day-Dreaming: BJP

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Saturday said the Kashmir-based politicians are day-dreaming for the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution which is next to impossible.

He claimed the controversial Articles were like a wall of hatred which did nothing except

digging an ocean of misunderstandings and retarding the growth and development of the erstwhile state.

The J&K BJP chief made the remarks after various political parties in Kashmir on Saturday unanimously resolved to fight for the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state as it existed before August 5, 2019,

and said the measures taken were "spitefully shortsighted" and "grossly unconstitutional".

Reacting to the statement, Raina said "the restoration of Articles 370 & 35(a) is next to impossible. Due to these Articles, J&K has suffered for decades and they gave rise to militancy, separatism and flared up the Pakistani agenda **►PAGE 02**

India Rejects Kashmir Reference In China-Pak Joint Statement

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday categorically rejected the reference made to Jammu and Kashmir in a joint statement issued by Pakistan and China after talks between foreign ministers of the two countries.

Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava said the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is an "integral and inalienable" part of India and that it expects the parties concerned not to interfere in the country's internal matters.

"As in the past, we categorically

reject the reference to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in the joint press release of the 2nd Round of China-Pakistan foreign ministers' strategic dialogue," he said.

In their second annual strategic dialogue on Friday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi discussed the Kashmir issue and progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor among a host of other issues.

In his reaction, Srivastava reiterated India's consistent position on the so-called "China **►PAGE 02**

Rajnath Reviews Ladakh Stand-Off With NSA, Top Military Brass

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday reviewed the overall security scenario in eastern Ladakh amid the ongoing talks between India and China on the disengagement process in the high-altitude region, people familiar with the developments said.

The meeting was attended by National Security Advisor Ajit



Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria. The sources said all **►PAGE 02**

Pakistan Freezes Bank Accounts Of Dawood, Saeed

ISLAMABAD: Seeking to wriggle out of the FATF's grey list, Pakistan has imposed tough financial sanctions on 88 banned militant groups and their leaders, including Hafiz Saeed, Masood Azhar and Dawood Ibrahim, by ordering the seizure of all of their properties and freezing of bank accounts, a media report said on Saturday.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) put Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action by the end of 2019, **● P-02**

BSF Kills 5 Pak Intruders On Punjab Border

CHANDIGARH: The BSF shot dead five heavily armed Pakistani intruders along the India-Pakistan International Border in Punjab early Saturday, the force said.

This was the highest number of intruders killed in a single incident along the 3,300-km-long border with Pakistan in more than a decade, officials said.

Punjab shares a 553-km-long frontier with Pakistan, apart from Jammu, Rajasthan and Gujarat, which together constitute the remaining part of the IB.

A BSF spokesperson said troops recovered nine packets containing 9.92kg heroin, an AK-47 rifle, two magazines and 27 rounds, **● P-02**

LG Reviews Progress Of Jammu-Baramulla Railway Line

Project Likely To Be Completed By August 2022



Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday reviewed the progress of the much-awaited 272 km-long Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail

link, which is likely to be completed by August 15, 2022, an official spokesperson said.

Sinha reviewed the progress of the project at a meeting here, which was attended by Railway Board chairman **►PAGE 02**

Kashmir Highway Reopens After 2-Day Closure

JAMMU- The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway re-opened on Saturday after remaining closed for the past two days owing to multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains, officials said.

The highway got blocked at over a dozen places between Udhampur and Banihal on Thursday, leaving thousands of vehicles stranded. "The highway was cleared for one-way traffic around 10 am. After clearance of the stranded vehicles, the traffic will be allowed from Srinagar **● P-02**

Army's 'Saviour' In 2014 Floods Takes Up Arms

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A Pampore youth, who won praise for saving dozens of soldiers during devastating floods in 2014, has reportedly joined militant ranks, six years after his heroic acts.

A resident of Sambora in saffron town of Pampore, Asif Muzaffar Shah has reportedly joined militant ranks, ten days after he went missing, news agency KNT reported Saturday. His family had filed a missing report on August 14 at the police station, after he failed to return home.

Shah, an arts graduate was running

a perfume-cum-stationary shop at Kakpora area of the district.

The report further says that Shah was arrested on charges of supporting militants following the deadliest attack on state forces in Lethpora in 2019 in which over 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

Pertinently, Shah is said to have played a saviour's role in rescuing over two dozen soldiers, who were trapped in flash floods triggered by incessant rains in September 2014.

For his bravery, the report said Shah was hailed by army and the state authorities. **►PAGE 02**

Hameeda Syed

With the arrival of the pandemic, the more vulnerable sections of the society were hit harder than their counterparts. While reeling from the damage and trying to maintain their footing in an already ineffective health infrastructure, the reality of contracting a seemingly unbeatable virus in Kashmir loomed heavily on their minds.

These silent voices of women who were pregnant, on the verge to deliver and/ or had delivered a baby amidst these trying times were lost in between scores of people rushing through dimly lit hospitals to save their loved ones.

It has been a traumatising experience for us'

Caught In Covid: Kashmir's Beleaguered Birthgivers

"Coronavirus was already feeling like a nightmare come true, and we had three expecting women in our family," Ameena, a resident of district Ganderbal said, while giving a third-person account of the experience. "The first delivery happened on the 5th of June. That was a time when the cases in Kashmir had not yet spiked owing to the lockdown and the district I come from was still a green zone."

The three women in Ameena's family who were expecting were her two sister-in-laws and her

cousin. Detailing their plight, Ameena said that her family decided to go to a private hospital, owing to news about mismanagement in government hospitals.

"I remember very clearly how my sister-in-law, Zahida wept when she was leaving for her mother's place, and the only thing she kept saying to us was to pray for her," she said. Zahida was the first in their family to get tested for the virus before the delivery date.

"We were a little apprehensive, but comparatively calmer because the situation seemed to be



under control. We kept on calling her and asking her to stay calm and if the swab test hurt, just to

know how exactly it is done. The test was negative and the delivery went fine, Alhamdulillah."

Zahida gave birth to her first child, a baby girl, who was received warmly. "I surprisingly didn't even see a single person sighing over the birth, everyone was just relieved that the baby and the mother were fine. Priorities shifting, you see," Ameena said.

The second sister-in-law, Saima was expecting her third child. The delivery was scheduled to happen in July. By then, the cases were already peaking.

"This time we were a little more apprehensive as the situation in Kashmir had suddenly turned

bad, and after unlock, everything seemed to have gone the wrong way," Ameena said.

However, contrary to their expectations, Saima's pre-delivery COVID test came out positive. Immediately, the rest of Saima's family, including her 5-year-old son and 1-year-old daughter were tested, with only her husband's report coming out positive.

Following the news, Saima was forced to deliver a baby boy in a government COVID facility. Only one person, her mother, was allowed to accompany her. Although the delivery went well, it wasn't until late in the evening when a doctor arrived for a check-up and administered a dose of painkillers.

"She wasn't allowed to hold the baby. Another family **►PAGE 02**

From Front page...

‘August 5 Changed J&K’s...

to chalk out future political strategy.

Slamming the government over the August 5 move, the joint statement said that the series of measures undertaken on 5th August 2019 were grossly unconstitutional and in reality measures of disempowerment and a challenge to the basic identity of the people of J-K.

“The measures attempt to redefine who we are. These changes were accompanied by repressive measures meant to silence people and coerce them into submission, and continue unabated,” the signatories said. Reiterating their commitment to collectively fight to restore the Special Status of J-K as guaranteed under the Constitution and the commitments made from time to time, the mainstream leaders said that these were testing times and times of pain for the peace-loving people of J-K. “There is unanimity amongst the political leaders that collective institution is the effective way to fight for these rights and tirelessly struggle to get back the special status and restore the Constitutional guarantees forcibly taken away, against our will,” the joint statement said. “We want to assure the people that all our political activities will be sub-servient to the sacred goal of reverting to the status of J-K as it existed on 4th August 2019,” it added.

Expressing gratitude to the people of India, the political parties, the intelligentsia and other civil society groups for opposing the unconstitutional measures of 5th August 2019 and ever since standing with the people of J-K in this crises, the joint statement urged for their unstinted support to “our just cause till the unconstitutional measures of 5th August 2019 are undone and the special status of J-K restored,”

“We all reiterate that we are bound, wholly, by the contents of the GUP-KAR DECLARATION and will unwaveringly adhere to it. We are committed to strive for the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A, the Constitution of J-K and the restoration of the State and any division of the State is unacceptable to us. We unanimously reiterate that there can be nothing about us without us,” the joint statement added.

Voicing concern over the hostilities between India and Pakistan, the joint statement urged leadership of the subcontinent to take due notice of the ever-increasing skirmishes at the LAC and LOC resulting in casualties on both sides and unabated violent incidents in J-K and work for enduring peace in the region.

The joint statement also said that the signatories to the ‘Gupkar Declaration’ have barely managed to establish basic level of communication with each other in the face of a series of prohibitive and punitive curbs imposed by the government, aimed at impeding all social and political interactions.

“The limited confabulations held within the constraints imposed have resulted in this unanimous resolution,” the statement added.

Kashmir Politicians Day...

and as such, they won't be restored at any cost".

"Kashmiri-based leaders are doing nothing except daydreaming as they are feeling restless to return to the corridors of power to enjoy all luxuries for themselves and their near and dear ones," Raina said, addressing party workers at Sialsui village of Kalakote in Rajouri district. He alleged that due to the pre-370 arrangements, more than one lakh people have lost their lives in J&K because these "pseudo-leaders were carrying on their duties with the hidden agenda of Pakistan".

"After the abrogation of these Articles, the communities like West Pakistani Refugees, Gorkha Samaaj, Valmiki Samaj, daughters of the soil, Gujjar-Bakarwals and many other communities enjoyed the air of freedom as they were being discriminated on every issue earlier," the BJP leader alleged.

Raina said the people of J&K have rejected the "dirty politics" of parties like the National Conference, Congress, PDP and the People's Conference and the J&K is now progressing on the definitive lines of unprecedented development.

J&K Reports 17 More Covid-19...

Regarding the sexagenarian woman, they said, she was referred from Kishtwar on 21 August to GMC as a case of “covid-19 positive with fever and breathlessness for three days.”

Subsequently, they said, she was diagnosed with bilateral CAP and died at 10.30.p.m last night.

Regarding the thirteen deaths from Kashmir Valley, they said, one among them a 79-year-old woman from Kralgund Kupwara died at SKIMS Soura, a day after she was admitted to the hospital.

A 75-year-old man from Bemina also died at the hospital, more than two weeks after he was admitted there.

Also, the pharmacist from Ashmuqam area of Anantnag died at the hospital, three days after he was admitted. He was posted at Sub District Hospital Seer Anantnag and had tested positive for the novel coronavirus recently.

A 63-year-old woman from Bemina died at SKIMS Bemina, twelve days after she was admitted to the hospital, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients in the Valley, they said.

A 40-year-old man from Chanapora also died at a hospital here, hours after being admitted and diagnosed with bilateral community acquired pneumonia, they said. “His sample for rapid antigen came positive,” the sources added.

A 16-year-old teenager from Devsar Kulgam died at SKIMS Soura, 20 days after he was admitted, the official sources said.

A 73-year-old-man from Sopore, they said, also died at SKIMS Soura, 13 days after he was admitted

An 82-year-old man from Nalabal here died three days after he was admitted to the hospital, they said.

The other deaths include an 80-year-old man from Alamgari Bazar and a 40-year-old woman from Harwan in Sopore, they added.

With these deaths, 574 people in Kashmir Valley and 45 in Jammu division have succumbed to the virus so far in the J&K. (With GNS inputs)

33 Uniformed Men, 8 Minors...

Kashmir valley, the remaining 118 were confirmed by the officials from Jammu division, officials said.

Among infected include eight Defence personnel, a Health Worker, eight pregnant woman and as many 08 minors besides three policemen as many as BSF personnel and 19 CRPF men.

Giving district-wise break of the cases, official sources said Srinagar reported 211 cases, Baramulla 20, Pulwama 42, Budgam 42, Anantnag 48, Kulgam 17, Shopian 5, Kupwara 27, Bandipora 46, Ganderbal 34, Jammu 66, Rajouri 4, Kathua 12, Udhampur 12, Samba 6, Doda 5, Poonch 6 and Reasi 7.

Moreover, 593 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals, 141 from Jammu Division and 452 from Kashmir Valley.

Lashkar’s ‘Chotu Sultan’ ...

The body of the militant was retrieved from the encounter site.

Quoting reliable sources, the police spokesperson said that the slain militant is said to be Anees alias Chotu Sultan, a Pak national affiliated with LeT. He said the body shall be sent to Baramulla for his last rites after conducting medico-legal formalities including collection of his DNA sample. "Incriminating materials including arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe his complicity in other crimes," the police spokesperson said.

He said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Kreeri and further investigation has been initiated. The police spokesperson also urged people to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any.

India Rejects Kashmir...

Pakistan Economic Corridor".

"India has repeatedly conveyed its concerns to both China and Pakistan on the projects in so-called China Pakistan Economic Corridor, which are in the territory of India that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan," he said. "We resolutely oppose actions by other countries that change the status quo in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and call on the parties concerned to cease such actions," Srivastava added.

A joint statement issued after Wang-Qureshi talks said the Pakistani side briefed the Chinese delegation on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including its concerns, position and current urgent issues.

"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," it said.

Rajnath Reviews Ladakh...

important aspects of the border row with China in eastern Ladakh were discussed in great detail.

The meeting also deliberated on the future course of approach in dealing with the situation, they added.

The analysis comes in the wake of the assessment by the Army that the Chinese military is not serious about the resolution of the border conflict in eastern Ladakh.

There has been a stalemate in the military talks as the Indian Army was strongly insisting that the Chinese side must restore the status quo ante of April this year to resolve the over three-month-old row.

The Indian Army has clearly stated to the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) that "shifting" of the Line of Actual Control is not acceptable to it, the sources said adding Chinese military is now desperately attempting to give "ex post facto strategic meaning" to its actions in eastern Ladakh.

"Due to the strong response of the Indian Army, the PLA is faced with unanticipated and unintended consequences of his misadventure," said a source, adding it is looking for a "face-saving exit strategy".

India and China have held several rounds of military and diplomatic talks in the last two-and-half months but no significant headway has been made in resolution of the border row in eastern Ladakh.

On Thursday, the two sides held another round of diplomatic talks following which the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said they had agreed to resolve outstanding issues in an "expeditious manner" and in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols.

However, the sources said the meeting could not produce any significant outcome.

The formal process of disengagement of troops began on July 6, a day after a nearly two-hour telephonic conversation between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on ways to bring down tensions in the area. However, the process has not moved forward since mid-July.

The Chinese military has pulled back from Galwan Valley and certain other friction points but the withdrawal of troops has not moved forward in Pangong Tso, Depsang and a couple of other areas, sources said. In the five rounds of corps commander-level talks, the Indian side has been insisting on complete disengagement of Chinese troops at the earliest, and immediate restoration of status quo ante in all areas of eastern Ladakh prior to April.

Even as both sides have been engaged in diplomatic and military talks, the Indian Army is making elaborate preparation to maintain its current strength of troops in all key areas in eastern Ladakh in the harsh winter months.

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

The Army is also in the process of procuring a number of weapons, ammunition and winter gears for the frontline troops, they added. The temperature in some of the high-altitude areas along the LAC drops to minus 25 degrees Celsius in the winter months.

The tension between the two sides escalated manifold after the violent clashes in Galwan Valley on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details. According to an American intelligence report, the number of casualties on the Chinese side was 35.

Following the Galwan Valley incident, the government gave the armed forces "full freedom" to give a "befitting" response to any Chinese misadventure along the LAC.

The Army sent thousands of additional troops to forward locations along the border following the deadly clashes. The IAF has also moved air defence systems as well as a sizeable number of its frontline combat jets and attack helicopters to several key air bases.

Pakistan Freezes Bank...

but the deadline was extended later due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The government issued two notifications on August 18, announcing sanctions on key figures of militant outfits such as 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Saeed, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Azhar, and underworld don Ibrahim.

Ibrahim, who heads a vast and multifaceted illegal business, has emerged as India's most wanted militant after the 1993 Mumbai bombings. The Pakistan government has proscribed 88 leaders and members of militant groups, in compliance with the new list issued by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) recently, Pakistani daily The News reported.

The notifications announced sanctions on key figures of militant outfits such as the Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), JeM, Taliban, Daesh, Haqqani Group, al-Qaeda, and others.

The government ordered the seizure of all movable and immovable properties of these outfits and individuals, and freezing of their bank accounts, the report said.

These militants have been barred from transferring money through financial institutions, purchasing of arms and travelling abroad, it said.

The notifications ratified a complete ban on all leaders and members of defunct Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) hiding in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas.

The paper reported that Saeed, Azhar, Mullah Fazlullah (alias Mullah Radzio), Zakuri Rehman Lakhvi, Muhammad Yahya Mujahid, Abdul Hakeem Murad, wanted by Interpol, Noor Wali Mehsud, Fazel Raheem Shah of Uzbekistan Liberation Movement, Taliban leaders Jalaluddin Haqqani, Khalil Ahmad Haqqani, Yahya Haqqani, and Ibrahim and his associates were on the list.

The notifications said that leadership of the defunct TTP, and other organisations including Lashkar-e-Taiba, JeM, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Tariq Geedar group of TTP, Harkatul Mujahideen, Al Rasheed Trust, Al Akhtar Trust, Tanzim Jaish-al Mohajireen Ansar, Jamaat-ul Ahrar, Tanzim Khutba Imam Bukhari, Rabita Trust Lahore, Revival of Islamic Heritage Society of Pakistan, Al-Haramain Foundation Islamabad, Harkat Jihad Al Islami, Islami Jihad Group, Uzbekistan Islami Tehreek, Daesh of Iraq, Emirates of Tanzim Qafqaz working against Russia, and Abdul Haq of Uyghurs of Islamic Freedom Movement of China have been banned.

Though various sanctions were in place against almost all of those listed by the UNSC, the government, through the new notifications, consolidated and documented the previously announced measures, the report said.

The UNSC Sanctions Committee deals with sanctions on entities and individuals declared as terrorists. All states, including Pakistan, are bound to implement the sanctions, which include assets freeze, an arms embargo, and travel ban.

It is believed that the latest move by the Pakistan government is part of its efforts to wriggle out of the grey list of the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog FATF.

On August 12, Pakistan Parliament's lower house passed four bills related to the tough conditions set by the FATF after the government and the opposition reached a consensus.

The legislation was part of the efforts by Pakistan to move from the FATF's grey list to the white list.

In its third and final plenary held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic in June, the FATF decided to keep Pakistan in the 'grey list' as Islamabad failed to check the flow of money to militant groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The plenary was held under the Chinese Presidency of Xiangmin Liu.

With Pakistan's continuation in the 'grey list', it will be difficult for the country to get financial aid from the IMF, World Bank, ADB, and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the nation which is in a precarious financial situation.

If Pakistan fails to comply with the FATF directive by October, there is every possibility that the global body may put the country in the 'Black List' along with North Korea and Iran.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

The FATF currently has 39 members including two regional organisations—the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council.

BSF Kills 5 Pak Intruders...

four 9mm Berretta pistols with seven magazines and 109 live rounds, two mobile phones and Rs610 in Pakistani currency after a gunbattle with the intruders near the Dal border post in Tam Taran district.

The border post is guarded by the 103rd battalion of the Border Security Force.The spokesperson said BSF personnel noticed suspicious activity near the border around midnight and asked the intruders, who were wearing T-shirts or shirts and full pants, to surrender but they "did not pay any heed to the challenge" and opened fire on the troops.

"To stop any further misadventure and in self-defence, the BSF troops retaliated with fire in which five Pakistani armed intruders succumbed to bullet injuries," he said.

BSF Inspector General (Punjab Frontier) Manipal Yadav told reporters during a press conference in Amarkot that the five men had "crossed the IB and entered into Indian territory".

Yadav said the operation against the infiltrators began around 11:30PM on Friday, and initially two bodies were found during a search this morning. Three more were found later.

He said the bodies were handed over to the local police, which will now probe the case and scan the data of the two mobile phones the BSF found with the bodies.

Another senior BSF official said the exchange of fire began around 4.30 am. BSF troops, officials said, used thermal imaging, night surveillance devices and also set up multiple ambushes to track down the infiltrators. The intruders were seen carrying rifles and moving through 'sarkanda' or elephant grass to hide themselves, they added.

A photo collage released by BSF showed two bodies piled on each other while three others were lay separately in the slushy grass. The weapons and a backpack were visible in the photographs.

Officials said the BSF has seized over 356 kg heroin and 25 illegal weapons so far this year.

Project Likely To Be ...

Vinod Kumar Yadav, Advisor to Lt Governor K K Sharma, Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam and Northern Railway General Manager Rajiv Chaudhary, he said.

The spokesperson said the LG was informed that 161 km length of the Rs 27,949 crore project has been commissioned.

Sinha directed the Railway authorities to complete the remaining part of the project from Katra to Banihal by August 15, 2022, and assured full support to the executing agencies for timely completion of the project. The Railway authorities assured the completion of the project by the set deadline, the spokesperson said.

The world's highest railway bridge with a height of 359 metres is coming up on the Chenab river under the project, while India's first cable-stayed railway bridge on Anji Nallah in Reasi is also coming up along the link.

Sinha directed the Railway authorities to expand the rail link towards unconnected areas of Rajouri-Poonch and Kupwara region.

On this, the Railway officials informed that a preliminary survey for the 223 km-long Jammu-Poonch rail link at an estimated cost of Rs 22,768 crore was completed and submitted in 2017, and for the 39 km-long Baramulla-Kupwara rail link with an estimated cost of Rs 3,843 crores, the survey has been completed and submitted to the Railway Board in July this year.

The LG asked the railways to prepare detailed project reports of both the projects so that the matter could be taken up with the Ministry of Finance for sanctioning of these projects, the spokesperson said.

He said the Railway authorities requested Sinha to resolve the issue of non-availability of minor minerals in Ramban district.

Sinha issued on-spot directions to the director of Geology and Mining and the deputy commissioner of Ramban to issue short-term permits so that the railways could procure essential construction material without any hassle, the spokesperson said.

He said the LG also asked the railways to run vistadome coaches in Kashmir to attract tourists and offer them a better view of the scenic Kashmir Valley once the COVID-19 situation normalises.

On the intervention of Sinha, the railways agreed to run a local train service between Kathua and Udhampur to benefit local commuters. The local train service will be started once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides. It was informed that on the request of the Union Territory government, the railways has agreed to construct a rail over-bridge at its own cost near Madhopur to decongest traffic between Pathankot and Lakhampur, the spokesperson said.

He said Sinha also asked the railways and the Jammu and Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation (JKSRTC) to launch a single-ticket travel facility to provide travellers with an opportunity of going from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu via train and bus.

The spokesperson said the LG directed the divisional commissioner of Jammu to identify projects to be taken up by the Indian Railways under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the region.

Kashmir Highway Reopens...

towards Jammu," Deputy Superintendent of Police, National Highway, Ajay Anand said.

Heavy rains lashed wide parts of Jammu and Kashmir over the past two days, triggering landslides and shooting stones from hillocks overlooking the highway at Panthiyal, Battery Cheshma, Monkey Morh, Mehar, Chanderkote, Sherbibbi, Moum Passi, Ramssoo, Digdole, Kela Morh, Marroog and Trishul Morh.

"After hectic efforts by road clearance agencies, the road was made trafficable this morning, but continuous shooting stones from the hills at Panthiyal and Monkey Morh caused some delay," the officer said on Saturday.

He said passenger vehicles and trucks carrying essential commodities to Kashmir were cleared on priority after restoration of the highway amid improvement in weather.

"The traffic is moving smoothly and we are expecting to allow traffic from Kashmir towards Jammu around noon," he added.

Army’s ‘Saviour’ In 2014...

The report also quoted a police official as saying that the investigations were on but prima facie it seems the youth in question has joined militancy.

Caught In Covid: Kashmir’s...

member was called to look after him. She told us there was hardly any staff that would come to even ask or see if everything was okay. Those who came were in a hurry to leave. But he needed cotton gauze for dressing but weren't able to find it anywhere in the hospital," Ameena said.

After the delivery, the baby was tested and his reports came out negative four days later. Saima tested negative a day later, and was finally allowed to hold the baby and breastfeed him.

"It has been a traumatising experience for each of us, but even then it isn't possible to imagine what Saima must have gone through on an emotional and mental level, with her husband being in the hospital, two of her kids away at home, and a newborn she couldn't even hold close," Ameena said. "She said that her stay in the hospital felt like being put in a grave, where you're all alone by yourself."

This particular experience left them scared and anxious for the third delivery of Ameena's cousin, Kulsoom. Kulsoom had married late and had been able to conceive with a few complications involved. After the incident with Saima, Ameena narrated how Kulsoom would often call in a voice laced with fear while asking about Saima's wellbeing.

"She was getting her consultations done from a private clinic since the beginning, and that's where they got the delivery done eventually, at the end of July, when the crisis in Kashmir had deepened," Ameena said.

Kulsoom's pre-delivery COVID test was carried out by a private laboratory and she tested negative. The test cost around Rs 5,500, despite the government putting a cap on its price. "But the situation had been such that added with the trauma of past experiences, they would have paid more without a second thought."

"On the day of the delivery I saw her weeping even while entering the Operation Theatre. She was anxious since days and even her ECG before the surgery had hinted at the same. However, things went fine, Alhamdulillah," Ameena said.

Kulsoom gave birth to a baby boy sans any complications.

"I slowly slipped into depression"

"I couldn't get an appointment with the doctor while I was pregnant," Areeb said, a resident of downtown Srinagar, who delivered a baby girl on 6th June. "No one was available for a check-up and they told me to come when I was in my 9th month, that too, if I was in pain. Even then, they said they weren't sure if they would be able to give me a check-up." Due to unavailability of doctors, Areeb visited Soura to try her luck. Upon

reaching the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), she was turned away.

"I got the required tests after many obstacles but wasn't even spared a glance. They told me I wasn't a patient here so I had no business coming here till my 9th month," she said. "They told me they had their own patients to deal with, and they couldn't do anything for me."

Despite their rejections, she lumbered on with her visits, fighting the overwhelming fear of contracting the virus while trying to get checked. She tried to take care by standing far from the crowd, wearing a mask and gloves to protect herself and her then unborn child.

"Even if I'd go in the morning at 9 am and stay till 8 pm, no doctor would see me," she said. "I slowly slipped into depression. I had fifteen days left before my delivery. It was so bad that my in-laws decided to take me to a private hospital. We had no other option."

In Modern Hospital, Dr. Masuma Rizvi took on Areeb's case and consoled her throughout the last leg of the traumatic race. "She told me not to be afraid, that she would take care of me. She helped me a lot. Those last fifteen days went smoothly."

After her delivery, Areeb's feelings of helplessness subsided, but she stayed alert and cautious. She took extra care of her newborn, aware of the dilapidated health infrastructure she has been a victim of.

"I don't hand her over to anyone," she said assertively. "I sanitize my baby's hands every other hour and don't let any passing guest hold her in their lap. If they insist, I tell them to wash their hands before touching my child. If I don't trust that person, I don't give her to them. This is not the time to speculate. This is the time to stay safe."

'They don't know what to do to keep their child safe'

"Well, first of all, before talking to them about the delivery, you have to explain to them about the virus's existence," a senior gynaecology resident in Srinagar said when I asked her about her patients' psyche. "So many of them are totally ignorant of the virus. Some think the virus is a lie, a few educated among them blame the system and the closure of private clinics due to the lockdown. There are some women who are very worried and don't know what to do to keep their child safe."

The resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said that the women would feel very anxious and would try to leave early after their check-up so that they would not expose their child to the virus.

"They find it very problematic to wear a mask during these times," she said. "Since the female is already in distress owing to her pregnancy, this is an added burden."

Stating that the attendant is not allowed to stay by the patient's side during the check-up, or during labour or during required surgery, the resident said that her patients felt a lack of moral support and insecure. The resident's patients came often from small towns from faraway districts, such as Uri, and had very little idea about the pandemic.

"When I asked my patients about bringing up a baby in the midst of all this, many gave hopeful answers, saying that it wasn't as if the virus was here to stay," she said. "But they do feel worried about it, from time to time."

One of her patients, who had been tested positive, told the resident that she was more worried about infecting the newborn with the disease rather than being infected herself.

"In my personal opinion, I found many do not have an idea about the virus or how serious the situation was," she said. "Those who were worried about it were extremely worried."

According to the resident, the patients were more affected by the treatment of the doctors during this time than by the virus itself. They complained of not being able to recognise the doctor behind a PPE kit, being scolded for trivial things such as wearing a mask and were offended by not being touched by a doctor.

"They take the last part personally and don't understand that precaution is more important right now," she said.

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire...

There was no report of any casualty or damage on the Indian side, they said. However, the firing caused panic among border residents who were forced to spend the night in underground bunkers for their safety.

Pakistan has been frequently targeting forward posts and villages in Hiranagar sector of Jammu and Kashmir to stall the construction work being undertaken by BSF to strengthen the counter-infiltration grid, officials added.

IAF Officer Shoots Self Dead...

known immediately, the officials said, adding that police have started inquest proceedings and further investigation is underway.

This was the second incident of suicide among the IAF personnel posted in the Jammu region this month.

Earlier on August 8, an IAF jawan allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Udhampur district.

Case Filed After IGP’s Fake...

misrepresenting the IGP.

"Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 19/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation going on," the police spokesperson added.

5 ISJK Militant Associates...

outfit. Besides they were also making flags of ISJK in Chittibandy Aragam area of Bandipora and further supplying it to their associates in Srinagar," the police spokesperson said.

He said a case FIR No. 30/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Aragam and further investigations have been initiated.

MHA Issues SOP For International Passengers

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs on Saturday issued Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for international travel on non-scheduled commercial flights under Vande Bharat scheme and air transport bubble arrangement.

Accordingly, persons desirous to travel to India on Vande Bharat flights, will register themselves with the Indian missions in the country where they are stranded or residing, along with necessary details as prescribed by Ministry of External Affairs.

However, such a registration may not be required on flights operating under air transport bubbles arrangements, the SOP said. People who will travel to India

4273 Cases Resolved, Rs.11.49 Cr Settled in J&K’s Maiden E-Lok Adalat

40 year old land dispute ended in compromise

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 22-When entire citizenry including the litigants are in deep mental stress due to ill effects of COVID-19 Pandemic, J&K State Legal Services Authority, under the able guidance of its Patron-in-Chief, Ms. Justice Gita Mittal, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and under instructions of Justice Rajesh Bindal, Judge, High Court of J&K & Executive Chairman of the J&K State Legal Services Authority, today organized 1st E-Lok Adalat/Video

Conferencing Lok Adalat through different digital platform modes. This first E-Lok Adalat was organized in all the Districts of UTs of J&K and Ladakh to achieve the goal of Access to Justice for all and to help the poor litigants tide over their financial problems and untold mental stress. As per the information received from the districts, out of a total 5757 cases taken up by 110 Benches in the day long E-Lok

Adalat at various courts across the twin UTs, 4273 Cases were disposed of and an amount of Rs. 11,49,45,449 was awarded as compensation/settlement amount in civil, criminal, labour disputes, Electricity and Water Bills cases, Land Acquisition, Family matters, cheque dishonor and Bank Recovery cases. The disposed cases include a smart number of old cases including one 40 year old land dispute in Bhaderwah, which end-

ed in compromise between the parties on the intervention of the bench. M. K. Sharma, Member Secretary, J&K SLSA thanked all the participants including the Judicial Officers, Secretaries DL-SAs, Advocates, representatives of insurance companies & banks, staff of the courts & Legal Services Institutions & litigants for their pragmatic approach in settlement of cases in such a large number.

No Shortage of Oxygen in City Hospitals: Govt.

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 22: Refuting news published in an online news portal regarding shortage of Oxygen in Srinagar’s SMHS Hospital, the Health Department has clarified that SMHS is a 900 bedded tertiary care hospital where 232 beds have been dedicated for COVID-19 patients, of which, 180 beds are supported with oxygen ports and rest are supplemented with bulk cylinders. The hospital authorities further informed that the hospital has procured 1500 bulk cylinders (B-Type) which provide uninterrupted continuous oxygen to the COVID-19 patients as per demand of the patients. Some patients need oxygen @5litres per minute and one bulk oxygen cylinder suffice for 16 hours for such patients and if the demand increases to 10 litre per minute (High Flow) the bulk oxygen cylinder provides it for 8 hours continuously as these Bulk Oxygen Cylinders are being filled continuously in the oxygen

generation plants which have been outsourced. Apart from oxygen cylinders, the hospital has piped oxygen with manifolds and two (02) Oxygen Generator Plants with the capacity of 1100 LPM each (Total=2200 LPM) which also provide continuous and uninterrupted oxygen supply to the COVID-19 patients. The hospital has also procured a new plant of 600LPM which will be commissioned within 2 weeks time. Government is also supplementing one more plant of 4600 LPM with Oxygen manifold @ Rs.15.41 crore in SMHS Hospital. Moreover, CD Hospital has a 930LPM oxygen generator plant with 200 Bulk Cylinders which caters to the oxygen demand of the patients admitted in the Hospital. The Government has also sanctioned one more Oxygen plant of the capacity of 1000 LPM worth Rs.4.50 crore for CD Hospital.

Webinar on 'World Entrepreneurs' Day at IUST Prof Mushtaq For Close Interaction Between Academia & Industry

Awantipora: Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised a webinar to commemorate the ‘World Entrepreneurs Day’. Prominent entrepreneurs, business and corporate leaders besides people from academia addressed and interacted with the diverse group of participants belonging to different universities, colleges, industry and government departments within and outside the state. Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Mushtaq A Siddiqi, while inaugurating the webinar, stressed upon building a close interaction between Academia, Industry and the Govt. to promote the culture of entrepreneurship in the state in an effective manner. He proposed the establishment of a think-tank composed of professionals from industry, academia and policy designers which would advise and help both prospective entrepreneurs and decision makers to make strategic decisions. “There is a

need for undertaking R&D and incubation activities to promote entrepreneurship within the institutions of higher learning.” Prof. Siddiqi added. Prof. Siddiqi also appreciated the role of Design Innovation Centre of IUST towards Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR) of IUST as it designed and developed solutions like Low cost Ventilator, Negative Pressure Chamber and specially designed headgear in response to the existing crisis faced by health workers and patients. He emphasised the need to leverage the available talent pool to keep up with the growing requirements of the industry. Earlier, Dean School of Engineering and Technology, Prof. Ayaz Hassan Moon, in his welcome address impressed upon the local IT professionals to seize various opportunities around for developing low-cost but effective solutions to various societal issues during the existing crisis period. He cited the example of Edu-tech companies at the

national level offering solutions in the areas of e-learning, online classes, online assessment and corporate training & collaborations using AI, Augmented reality, Virtual reality, Cloud Technology. Prof. Moon highlighted the challenges faced by the industry to protect their entrepreneurial and scientific knowledge by creating awareness about IPR, Patents, Copyrights, designs, branding etc among the entrepreneurs. Prof. Moon also highlighted the achievements of EDC and DIC at IUST in the last three years to create some of the success stories in terms of facilitating the establishment of start-ups. Farooq Amin, CEO, Kanwal Foods Pvt Ltd, and Chairman CII-J&K, enlightened the participants about the choices and opportunities in businesses for the young and promising entrepreneurs. He discussed the importance of having a strategic plan to expand the business within and outside state and even at the global level.

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
03 Muharram
1442

PRAYERS

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

This Day In History

- 1441 - Holland & Hanzesteden sign cease fire treaty
- 1514 - Battle of Chaldiran ended with a decisive victory for the Sultan Selim I, Ottoman Empire, over the Shah Ismail I, Safavids founder.
- Discovery
- 1789 - French Revolution: The National Assembly proclaims freedom of religious opinions
- 1799 - Napoleon leaves Egypt for France en route to seize power.
- 1866 - Treaty of Prague ends Austro-Prussian war
- 1911 - British Prime Minister H. H. Asquith holds secret meeting about British strategy in case of war with Germany
- 1914 - Japan declares war on Germany in World War I
- 1915 - Tsar Nicolaas II takes control of Russian Army
- 1921 - Austria and the US formally end war; the US does the same with Germany on the 25th, and Hungary on the 29th
- 1924 - Mars' closest approach to Earth since 10th century
- 1933 - Mahatma Gandhi released from Indian jail following another hunger strike
- 1939 - Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agree the Molotov-Ribbentrop non-aggression pact and secretly divide Poland between themselves, setting the stage for World War II
- 1942 - World War II: last cavalry charge in history takes place at Isbushenskij, Russia; the Italian Savoia Cavalleria charges Soviet Infantry
- 1943 - Red army recaptures Charkov
- 1944 - Allied troops capture Marseille, France
- 1952 - Arab League security pact goes into effect
- 1960 - World's largest frog (3.3 kg) caught (Equatorial Guinea)
- 1961 - US lunar probe Ranger 1 reaches 190 km from Earth, falls back
- 1974 - Zaheer Abbas scores 240 Pakistan v England at The Crick-et Oval
- 1975 - Communists take over Laos
- 1976 - Heavy earthquake strikes China, 1,000s die
- 1978 - Iranian students occupies Iranian embassy at Wassenaar
- 1979 - Iranian army opens offensive against Kurds
- 1982 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1990 - Armenia declares independence
- 1990 - East & West Germany announced that they would unite on Oct 3
- 1996 - Osama bin Laden issues message entitled "A declaration of war against the Americans occupying the land of the two holy places" captivity.
- 2007 - Hashtag invented and first used in a tweet by US product designer Chris Messina
- 2011 - Libyan leader Muammar al-Gaddafi is overthrown after the National Transitional Council forces take control of Bab al-Azizia compound during the 2011 Libyan Civil War.
- 2012 - At least 30 are killed as a result of monsoon rain in Rajasthan, India
- 2013 - 50 people are killed in mosque bombings in Tripoli, Lebanon
- 2013 - 26 people are killed and 55 are injured by a suicide bombing in Baghdad, Iraq

From KO Archives

WWIP Wazwaan & a bridge too far

Chulam Muhammad

Sopore: Even as the long wait for completion of the Hathishah bridge here is over, its formal opening awaits a ministerial indulgence. For a good two months, no minister or VIP has been available to cut the ribbon to enable the people benefit from its erection. The inordinate delay &am generated resentment among the local people who have been inconvenienced due to its absence over the fears.

According to reports, the authorities had slated the formal inauguration of the bridge at least thrice so far. On every such occasion, the engineers had to arrange the customary feast, known as wazwan, for the august guests to partake. Obviously forces alleged, the charges on this account might have to be borne out of the funds provided for the main project.

Reports said the border Security force (BSF) personnel manning the security posts on filler side of the bridge were not allowing any vehicle to pass over the bridge on the plea that no minister had so far inaugurated it formally. However, they allowed some pedestrians selectively prohibiting the general public to walk over the bridge.

It may be recalled the speaker of the legislative assembly, Abdul Ahad Vakil, was the one to crack an occasional whip to get the work on the bridge, which had been going on at a snails pace over the years, speeded up. He held several meetings with engineers and even promised its completion long ago. Now that the work is complete, no minister is available to Commission Bridge.

Kashmir Observer, August 23, 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE

i have lost my driving license bearing DL No: JK-O-12012004762 somewhere.

Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Maqbool Guree
S/o Abdul Khaliq Guree
R/o Syed Hamid Pora Nawab Bazar Srinagar

FATEHA KHAWANI



with profound grief we inform the demise of Ghulam Nabi Bhat S/O Mohammad Sultan Bhat R/O Bemina Housing Colony Near Ibrahim Masjid who passed on 22-08-2020 Saturday, Fateha khawani will be held on 24-08-2020 Monday 10.A.M at his ancestral grave yard SDA colony Bemina Near Anjum Ground.in View Pandemic situation,the congregational will disperse immediately after Fateh Khawani

BEREVED FAMILY BHAT FAMILY

CELL. 9419023111
6005647323

info

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 80 of RnB-Sopore of 2020-2021 e-tendering DATED- 21-08. 2020.

For and on behalf of the **Lt. Governor, J&K** e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on **item rate basis** from approved and eligible SHGs registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

| Name of Work | Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/ DOC (in Rupees) | Earnest Money (In Rupees) | Time of Completion In days | Time & Date of Opening of Bid | Class of Contractor | Major Head of Account | Position of AAA |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 2 Improvements/upgradation of Seelu Brath road part of (Shangergund Brath road) by way of providing and laying of Nallah muck and WBM grade 2 nd in patches/ stretches. | 3 5.40 lacs | 4 300/- | 5 10800/- | 6 20 days | 7 31 .08. 2020 | 8 DEE/ CEE | 9 4059 State-sector | 10 Accorded |

Position of funds: Assured

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

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 01. | Date of issue of Tender Notice | 21.08.2020 |
| 02. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 21.08.2020(10.00A.M) to 28 -08-2020 (4.00P.M) |
| 03. | Bid submission start date | 21.08.2020 from (10.00A.M) |
| 04. | Bid submission end date | 28-08 -2020upto (4.00 P.M) |
| 05. | Date & time of opening Bids (on line) | 31-08-2020 at (04.10 A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore |

- It is compulsory for bidders to upload the additional performance security deposit in advance while uploading the bid process as admissible under rules.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **Treasury Chhllan/ receipt** in favour of **Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore** (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to tender receiving authority Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.ijktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of **Responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.**
- All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NIT No:1 of 2020-21 issued under No:- 1-20 dated: 01.4.2020 PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)
- If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

For and on behalf of the,
Lt. Governor of J&K,
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

DIPK-4387/20

No:- **4554-74**
Dated:- **21.08.2020**

Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez

Tender Notice NO. (

the year 2020

tenders affixed with Rs./4/

or and on behalf of the Executive Engineer Special Sub stamps from the registered PWD Contractors of UT J&K,whose registration cards are valid for current financial year in terms of standing rules for P.M .The tenders will be opened on the same date or any other date ,convenient to the opening authority in presence of the contractors who may like to be present. In case the last date of receipt of tenders is holiday, the tenders will be received on next Working day up to 2.00 P.M. The contractors should not in any case quote more than one rate. Payment to the contractors ill be made as and when funds are available to the

The tender document will be issued by Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez on production of valid registration cards and GST No against cash payment as shown against each work

| The detailed terms and conditions | the NIT shall be binding in to | works advertised during 2020 |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | | |
| | of community Bunkers at Kishay/ TatriKilshayTulail | |
| | Face lifting with Colure design logos of Ayushman repairs/renovation at Sub center Gujran. | |
| | Repairs to Rest House at SheikhpuraTulail | |
| | | |
| | Construction of chain link fencing around Gust House at Sheikhpura (Prefab material to be supplied by Department). | |
| | Construction of R/wall at KanzalwanChuntiwari road Km 1 | |

DIPK-4394/20

Special Sub Division

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

NO HOLDS BARRED



Over the years, intense political conflict in Kashmir has hampered any heavy industry to thrive and prosper. The absence of sustainable peace and the presence of frequent shutdowns not only results in the loss of human lives, but also makes the society economically weak.

Kashmir's Economic Downfall

In the absence of an enduring vision about the fate of Kashmir's political destiny, little can be done to accelerate forces of economic development in the region

Bilal Gani

In a recent report, the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) put economic losses in Kashmir Valley in the last year at Rs 40,000 Crore. These figures estimate a loss of about 11 percent of J&K's economic output

More than a year since the abrogation of Article 370, J&K's economy is going deeper into a crisis. In August last year, a complete communication blackout and lockdown was enforced after BJP-led central government scrapped Article 370 and suspended J&K's constitution. This lockdown continued into the next year and extended further due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The effects of this double lockdown have been devastating on Kashmir especially its economy. Twelve months into it, there's little to no hope of improvement.

Current State of J&K's Economy

In a report, "Jammu and Kashmir: The Impact of Lockdowns on Human Rights" compiled by The Forum of Human Rights in Jammu and Kashmir, civil rights members said that, "the August 2019 lockdown plunged the state into a sharp downward spiral. By the end of December 2019, economy of the valley was in dire straits". This was because, in the first four months of the lockdown, industries in J&K suffered a loss of about Rs.17,878.18 Crores (roughly USD 2.4 billion). Job losses in the valley were under half a million (497,000). According to the preliminary loss assessment report by Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries, service sector including Tourism took the biggest cumulative hit. It lost Rs 9191 Crore in the first 120 days that followed the abrogation of article 370. The sector also witnessed 1, 40,500 job losses.

According to a news report by Scroll.in, as per statistics provided to Parliament in December last year, tourist figures declined from over quarter of a million in 2018 to just over 43,000 between August and December '19. As a result, an estimated 144,500 jobs were lost

in the tourism and handicraft's sector alone.

Even after a year, this number has only increased. In a recent report, the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) put economic losses in Kashmir Valley in the last year at Rs 40,000 Crore. These figures estimate a loss of about 11% of J&K's economic output.

The prolonged lockdowns from August 2019 till date led to low demand, fewer purchases, and reduction in satisfaction. This in turn affected turnover, margins, market share and overall business performance. For instance, the fruit industry, which is one of the state's largest producers lost around 1.35 lakh metric tons of its crop, due to restricted transport facilities. According to the MHA, by January 2020, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) had only purchased Rs.70.45 Crores worth of apples, while the average revenue from apple sales used to be around Rs. 14,000 crores per annum.

Is There a Way out?

In his book, "How an Economy Grows and Why it Crashes", Peter Schiff presents three important aspects that characterise a robust economy. The first aspect is the prevalence of production over consumption. The second is improving the deteriorating economic situation through savings and the third condition is that the economy needs deflation and not inflation for prosperity. Unfortunately, Kashmir is becoming more and more of a consumer state.

However, economic growth also depends on a degree of economic freedom. In the words of leading economic analyst for South Asia, Zahid Hussain, "economic growth and political stability are deeply interconnected. The uncertainty associated with an unstable politi-

cal environment reduces investment and the pace of economic development"

Over the years, intense political conflict in Kashmir has hampered any heavy industry to thrive and prosper. The absence of sustainable peace and the presence of frequent shutdowns not only results in the loss of human lives, but also makes the society economically weak.

Since last August, there has been limited to no physical movement in Kashmir. Internet bans in Kashmir have proved harmful for the economy. It has devastated supply chain and caused a colossal demand shock. The absence of high speed internet facilities has also affected businesses to a large extent. In the absence of it, it has become difficult to switch to e-commerce even as the pandemic has made the world rely on the digital to avoid big losses.

When the brutality of conflict surrounds every sphere of life, people's lives are bound to become chaotic and anarchical. The landscape of Kashmir is swiftly changing around a particularly compelling narrative. The India Government's policies are detrimental to Kashmir's economy and are damaging its sociology. People are in an economic quandary and in a practical dilemma over how to sustain this crisis. In the absence of an enduring vision about the fate of Kashmir's political destiny, little can be done to accelerate forces of economic development here.

The author is a research scholar at Central University of Kashmir and can be reached at bilalganiwrites@gmail.com

Meet the Philosopher Who Is Trying to Explain the Pandemic

Giorgio Agamben criticizes the "techno-medical despotism" of quarantines and closings.

Christopher Caldwell

Stumping for regional candidates in Tuscany this month, Italy's former interior minister Matteo Salvini waved around a surgical mask — and pointedly did not wear it. Covid-19 has taken more than 35,000 lives since it struck Italy in January. But now the daily death toll is typically in single digits, and Mr. Salvini, the leader of the anti-immigration League party, wants to put the country back to work. "Italians are being held hostage, kept at a distance, masked," he hollered, "and meanwhile they let thousands of lowlives land their boats and do what they want, go where they want, spit, infect. Enough is enough!"

People cheered. But half of them kept their masks on.

This is a common pattern in the Western countries (and American states) where Covid-19 fatalities are dwindling. The arguments for freedom may be strong — but they are put awfully crudely. The arguments for discipline and prevention may often be resented — but they have a lot of scientific authority behind them, and they carry the day. Better safe than sorry. Late last month, Italy's parliament voted to extend the government's state of emergency until Oct. 15.

In a society that respects science, expertise confers power. That has good results, but it brings a terrible problem: Illegitimate political power can be disguised as expertise. This was a favorite idea of the French philosopher Michel Foucault, who used it to explain how experts had expanded definitions of criminality and sexual deviancy. One of Italy's most celebrated thinkers, Giorgio Agamben, has recently applied similar insights to the coronavirus, at the risk of turning himself into a national pariah.

In late February, Mr. Agamben began using the website of his publisher, Quodlibet, to criticize the "techno-medical despotism" that the Italian government was putting in place through quarantines and closings. Mr. Agamben, 78, is a philosopher of language, art and meaning. Since 1995, he has focused on what he calls the "archaeology" of Western political institutions, devoting a monumental nine-volume work, "Homo Sacer," to excavating their hidden logic. Some of his earlier work was translated by Michael Hardt, the Duke professor and co-author of the

radical campus classic "Empire."

The part of the Italian intellectual establishment that calls itself "radical" has been Mr. Agamben's milieu for half a century. His position on the coronavirus has cost him its support. Paolo Flores d'Arcais, the influential editor of the bimonthly MicroMega, accused Mr. Agamben of "ranting." The newspapers La Repubblica, Corriere della Sera and Il Foglio all called him a negazionista regarding the coronavirus, using a word generally reserved for those who deny the Holocaust happened. Just as unexpected as these repudiations was the sudden receptivity to Mr.

Mr Agamben's argument about the coronavirus runs along similar lines: The emergency declared by public-health experts replaces the discredited narrative of "national security experts" as a pretext for withdrawing rights and privacy from citizens. "Biosecurity" now serves as a reason for

Agamben's recondite philosophy in the pages of La Verità and Il Giornale, newspapers more often sympathetic to Mr. Salvini's League.

Last month, Quodlibet published Mr. Agamben's collected posts in an expanded volume called "Where Are We Now? The Epidemic as Politics." (That's a rough translation; the book does not yet exist in English.) In hindsight, Mr. Agamben missed a few things in the first days of the coronavirus. For instance, he relayed the National Research Council's description of Covid-19 as a kind of influenza — true enough in most cases, but far from the whole story. Today, however, with the Italian crisis receding, and with a measure of calm restored to the public discussion, we can see his book for what it is: not a work of scientific crankery or crackpot policymaking but an on-the-spot study of the link between power and knowledge.

Mr. Agamben's name may ring a bell for some Americans. He was the professor who in 2004, at the height of the "war on terror," was so alarmed by the new U.S. fingerprinting requirements for foreign visitors that he gave up a post at New York Universi-

ty rather than submit to them. He warned that such data collection was only passing itself off as an emergency measure; it would inevitably become a normal part of peacetime life.

His argument about the coronavirus runs along similar lines: The emergency declared by public-health experts replaces the discredited narrative of "national security experts" as a pretext for withdrawing rights and privacy from citizens. "Biosecurity" now serves as a reason for

which locking down an entire nation of 60 million becomes unreasonable. Many European governments, including Italy's, have developed national contact tracing apps that allow them to track their citizens using cellphones.

Wars have bequeathed to peacetime a "series of fateful technologies," Mr. Agamben reminds us, from barbed wire to nuclear power plants. Such innovations tend to be ones that elites were already agitating for, or that align with their interests. Epidemics, he suggests, are no different. He believes that the fateful inheritance of the coronavirus will be social distancing. He is puzzled by the term, "which appeared simultaneously around the world as if it had been prepared in advance." The expression, he notes, "is not 'physical' or 'personal' distancing, as would be normal if we were describing a medical measure, but 'social' distancing."

His point is that social distancing is at least as much a political measure as a public health one, realized so easily because it has been pushed for by powerful forces. Some are straightforward vested interests. Mr. Agamben notes (without naming him) that

the former Vodafone chief executive Vittorio Colao, an evangelist for the digitized economy, was put in charge of Italy's initial transition out of lockdown. Social distancing, Mr. Agamben believes, has also provided Italy's politicians with a way of hindering spontaneous political organization and stifling the robust intellectual dissent that universities foster.

The politics of the pandemic expose a deeper ethical, social and even metaphysical erosion. Mr. Agamben cites Italians' most beloved 19th-century novel, Alessandro Manzoni's "The Betrothed," which describes how human relations degenerated in Milan during the plague of 1630. People came to see their neighbors not as fellow human beings but as spreaders of pestilence. As panic set in, authorities executed those suspected of daubing houses with plague germs.

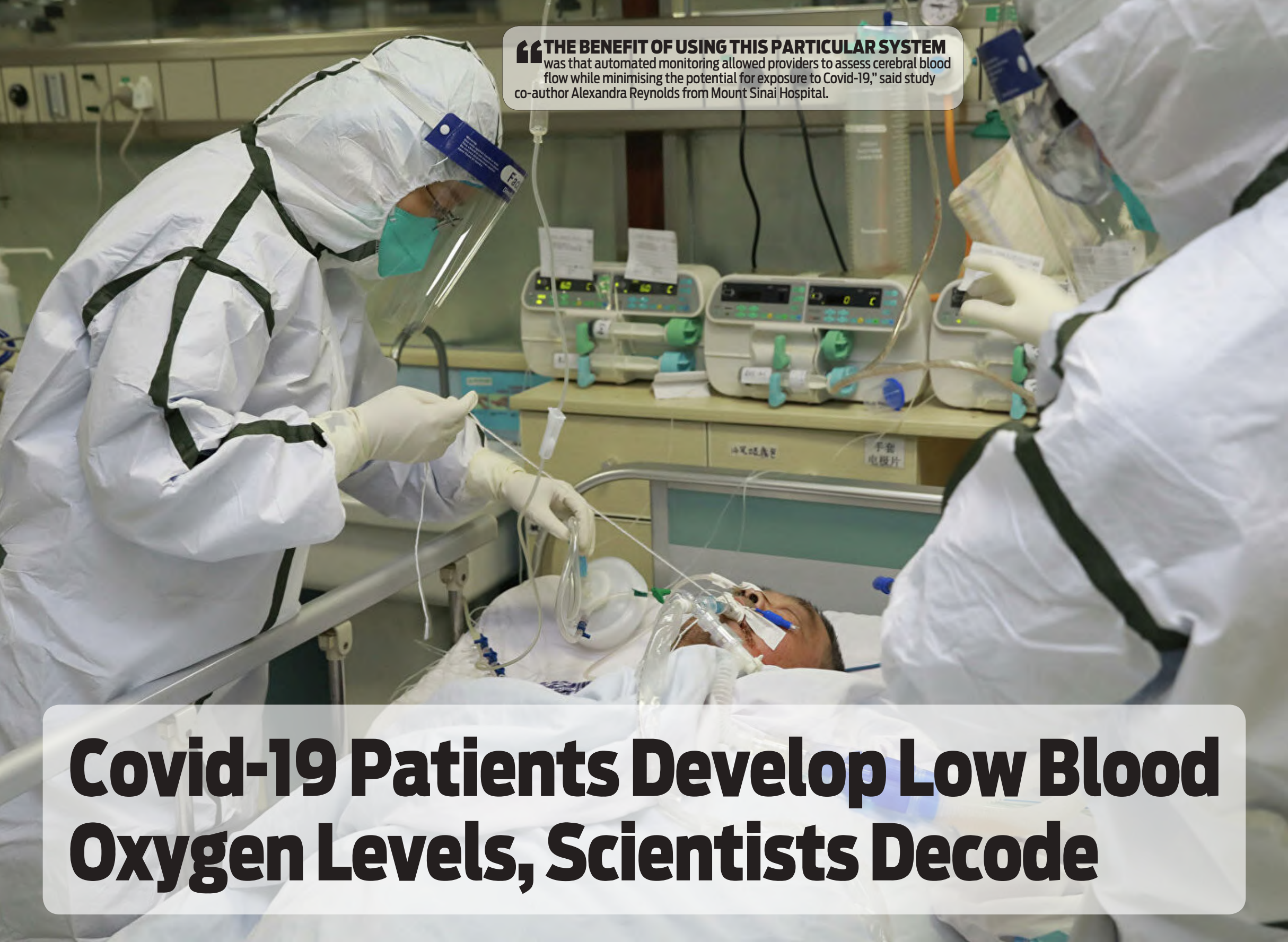
When a society loses its collective cool this way, the cost can be high. Rich, atomized, diverse, our society has a weak spot, and the coronavirus has found it. "For fear of getting sick," Mr. Agamben writes, "Italians are ready to sacrifice practically everything — their normal living conditions, their social relations, their jobs, right down to their friendships, their loves, their religious and political convictions."

In fact, "the threshold that separates humanity from barbarism has been crossed," Mr. Agamben continues, and the proof is in Italians' treatment of their dead. "How could we have accepted, in the name of a risk that we couldn't even quantify, not only that the people who are dear to us, and human beings more generally, should have to die alone but also — and this is something that had never happened before in all of history from Antigone to today — that their corpses should be burned without a funeral?"

Mr. Agamben has always been fascinated by such instances of common customs or historic institutions getting emptied out of their long-held meanings. In books less punchy and direct than the present one, he has described this process with the word inoperosità. It means "idleness," but idleness of a kind that can generate new systems of belief and new dangers. Whatever it is, it has made itself felt not just in Italy but in all Western societies in recent months, perhaps in the United States most of all.

New York Times

This series is a perfect watch for the current environment of India but we would suggest people to watch it with open senses. Here, we from Kashmir would give this series 2.5 out of 5 stars.



“THE BENEFIT OF USING THIS PARTICULAR SYSTEM was that automated monitoring allowed providers to assess cerebral blood flow while minimising the potential for exposure to Covid-19,” said study co-author Alexandra Reynolds from Mount Sinai Hospital.

Covid-19 Patients Develop Low Blood Oxygen Levels, Scientists Decode

Press Trust Of India

Covid-19 is causing significant dilation of the blood vessels of the lungs, contributing to the very low oxygen levels seen in patients with respiratory failure, according to a new research that may help provide better treatment to those who are severely affected by the disease.

The pilot study of 18 patients, published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, helps explain how Covid-19 behaves differently than classic acute respiratory dis-

stress syndrome (ARDS) in which lung inflammation leads to leaky blood vessels in the organ.

In ARDS, the study noted that the leaky blood vessels in the lungs flood the organ with fluid and make it stiff, impairing oxygenation.

According to the scientists, including those from the Mount Sinai Hospital in the US, many patients with Covid-19 pneumonia experience severely low levels of oxygen in the blood that is markedly out of proportion to the degree of lung stiffness.

In the current study, the researchers assessed whether the

mechanisms leading to low blood oxygen, or hypoxemia, in Covid-19 differ from those in classical ARDS.

They used a robotic probe to perform a “bubble study,” which is a non-invasive and painless scanning technique using very high frequency sound waves.

“The benefit of using this particular system was that automated monitoring allowed providers to assess cerebral blood flow while minimising the potential for exposure to Covid-19,” said study co-author Alexandra Reynolds from Mount Sinai Hospital.

During this study, they injected salt solution with tiny microbub-

bles into the patient’s vein and used the robotic scan device to determine if those microbubbles appear in the blood vessels of the brain.

Under normal circumstances, the scientists said these microbubbles would travel to the right side of the heart, enter the blood vessels of the lungs, and ultimately get filtered by the pulmonary capillaries since the diameter of the bubbles is bigger than the diameter of the tiny blood vessels in the lungs.

If the microbubbles are detected in the blood vessels of the brain, it implied that either there is a hole in the heart, so that

blood can travel from the right to the left side of the heart without going through the lungs, or that the capillaries in the lungs are abnormally dilated, allowing the microbubbles to pass through, the study noted.

In the pilot study, the scientists assessed 18 mechanically ventilated patients with severe Covid-19 pneumonia using the bubble study method.

According to the researchers, 15 out of the 18 (83 percent) patients had detectable microbubbles, indicating the presence of abnormally dilated blood vessels in their lungs. The scientists said the number of

microbubbles detected by the device correlated with the severity of lack of oxygen, indicating that the dilation of the blood vessels in the lungs may explain the disproportionate hypoxemia seen in many patients with Covid-19. The study noted that the number of these microbubbles does not correlate with the severity of low oxygen levels, implying that dilations in the lung blood vessels are not a major mechanism in classical ARDS.

“It is becoming more evident that the virus wreaks havoc on the pulmonary vasculature in a variety of ways,” said study senior author Hooman Poor from

Mount Sinai Hospital.

“This study helps explain the strange phenomenon seen in some Covid-19 patients known as ‘happy hypoxia,’ where oxygen levels are very low, but the patients do not appear to be in respiratory distress,” Poor said.

If the findings are confirmed in larger studies, the scientists believe the microbubble transit may potentially serve as a marker of disease severity, or even a proxy endpoint in therapeutic trials for Covid-19 pneumonia. “Future studies that investigate the use of pulmonary vascular constrictors in this patient population may be warranted,” Poor said.

developmentidak@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Mission Directorate Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Schme (RWBCIS)

Lalmandi, Srinagar, 190008, J&K.

Agricultural Insurance Company of India Limited
Tokio, General Insurance Company Limited
Bajaj Allianz, General Insurance Company Limited.
Lombard General Insurance Company Limited
ERGO General Insurance Company Limited
Future General India, General Insurance Company Limited
SBI General Insurance Company Limited
Tata AIG General Insurance Company Limited
Reliance General Insurance Company Limited
Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited
Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Limited
Shriram General Insurance Company Limited
United India Insurance Company Limited
National Insurance Company Limited
Oriental Insurance Company Limited
New India Assurance Company Limited
Bharti Axa General Insurance Company Limited
Royal Sundaram General Insurance C

APD'S communication vide no. Agri/PC
Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)
Kashmir for a period of Three (03) Years w. e. f. invitation of Bids/offers thereof.

Bids are invited from the empanelled Implementing Agencies (IAs)/ Insurance Companies (ICs) for submission of District
ise financial Bids to the office of for carrying out Implementation of
financial bids on the prescribed format should reach this office by or before
to be implemented for a period of Three (03) Years (

. The terms and conditions are detailed in the Bid document
The IAs can approach the designated/con ers (Director Agriculture,
clarification/data requirement, if any. The information is also available on our websites
are requested to adhere to the timeline as provided in the Bid document. The division wise/crop
J&K has been notified vide Govt. Order No.

The details of Crops/Area coverage/Targeted Area

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

In this connection, all the service providers/Empanelled Insurance Companies are being informed through the medium of this
communiqué regarding participation in the process by submitting closed bids in accordance with the terms and conditions menti
the Bid document. The IAs shall submit their bids preferably tered or speed post for speedy/timely evaluation of
Bids/Offers by the Bid evaluation committee as approved by SLCCCI.
Further it is also to inform that the Scale of Finance/Sum Insured would be as per the latest SOF decided by the respective
o separate Bid notice will be sent to the bidders.
A generous response thereof is solicited in the interest of farmer welfare.

DIPK-4430/20

Director Agriculture Kashmir,
Mission Director, PMFBY/RWBCIS (J&K)

Eat Broccoli And Cabbage To Reduce Heart Attack Risk

Agencies

Higher consumption of cruciferous vegetables, such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cabbage, is associated with less extensive blood vessel disease such as heart attack or stroke in older women, say researchers.

Blood vessel disease is a condition that affects our blood vessels (arteries and veins) and can reduce the flow of blood circulating around the body. This reduction in blood flow can be due to the build-up of fatty, calcium deposits on the inner walls of our blood vessels, such as the aorta.

This build-up of fatty, calcium deposits is the leading cause of having a heart attack or stroke.

"In our previous studies, we identified those with a higher intake of these vege-



tables had a reduced risk of having a clinical cardiovascular disease event, such as a heart attack or stroke, but we weren't sure why," said study author Lauren Blekkenhorst from the University of Western Australia.

"Our findings from this new study provides insight into the potential mechanisms involved," Blekkenhorst added.

For the study, published in the British Journal of Nutrition, the research team used data from a cohort of 684 older Western Australian women.

The researchers found that those with a diet comprising more cruciferous vegetables had a lower chance of having an extensive build-up of calcium on their aorta, a key marker for structural blood vessel disease.

"We have now found that older women consuming

higher amounts of cruciferous vegetables every day have lower odds of having extensive calcification on their aorta," she said.

"One particular constituent found abundantly in cruciferous vegetables is

vitamin K which may be involved in inhibiting the calcification process that occurs in our blood vessels," Blekkenhorst explained.

Women in this study who consumed more than 45g of cruciferous vegetables every day were 46 per cent less likely to have an extensive build-up of calcium on their aorta in comparison to those consuming little to no cruciferous vegetables every day.

"That's not to say the only vegetables we should be eating are broccoli, cabbage and Brussels sprouts. We should be eating a wide variety of vegetables every day for overall good health and wellbeing," the study author wrote.

The research team said it was important to note the study team was very grateful to these Western Australian women, without whom these important findings would not be available for others.

"While observational in nature this study design is central to progressing human health," they noted.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow , we inform the demise of Rayeesa Mir w/o Bilal Ahmad Mir R/o Karan Nagar Srinagar. She left for heavenly abode around 5 :PM on Saturday after prolonged illness. Her Congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on Wednesday around 10:AM at her house near Goal Market, Karan Nagar Srinagar. Due to Covid Pandemic, people are requested to avoid gathering and pray for the departed soul from their respective homes.

Bereaved Family
Bilal Ahmad Mir
9797053555

Study Reveals How Skin Can Regenerate After Severe Burns

Agencies

Researchers have made an exciting leap forward in understanding how skin heals, which could lead to drug treatments to vastly improve wound healing.

According to the study, published in the journal Cell Stem Cell, people who suffer severe burns or extensive skin injuries are often left to live with the skin that feels chronically tight and itchy.

"We identified a specific

population of progenitor cells that reside within the dermis, the deep connective tissue of the skin," said lead author Jeff Biernaskie from the University of Calgary in Canada. Progenitor cells are unique in that they are able to undergo cell division and generate many new cells to either maintain or repair tissues.

"Following injury, these dermal progenitors become activated, proliferate and then migrate into the wound where they generate nearly all of the new tissue

that will fill the wound, both scar and regenerated tissue," Biernaskie explained.

This study offers new knowledge on why certain dermal cells are able to regenerate new skin, rather than disfiguring scar tissue.

Using cutting-edge genomics techniques to profile thousands of individual cells at different times after injury, the research team compared scar-forming versus regenerative zones within skin wounds.

Greece pushing migrants back to sea, says UNHCR

Agencies

ATHENS: The UN refugee agency on Friday said it was deeply concerned by "credible reports" that Greek authorities had towed migrant ships back out to sea or just left them adrift.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement there were testimonies about "people being left adrift at sea for a long time, often on unseaworthy and overcrowded dinghies, waiting to be rescued".

The UN body said it was "particularly concerned" about an increasing number of reports since March that some migrants who disembarked on Greek shores "have thereafter been towed back to sea".

A third area of concern for the UNHCR were reports of migrants being informally returned to Turkey immediately after reaching Greek soil or territorial waters in recent months.

On Wednesday Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis denied claims of illegal pushbacks of asylum-seekers

sodes, and cited additional evidence from independent watchdogs, two academic researchers and the Turkish coastguard.

Based on its research, the Times said more than 1,000 asylum-seekers had been "dropped at sea" since March.

More than a million migrants and refugees arrived in Greece in 2015 and 2016, according to the UN refugee agency. There are now around 120,000 in the country.

More than 25,000 asylum-seekers live in camps on the five Aegean islands that were originally built to handle just 6,095 people.

UNHCR Representative in Greece Philippe Leclerc acknowledged on Friday that "Greece and its people have shown immense solidarity and compassion with thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers who have sought safety in the country since 2015".

However, he added that "safeguarding Greece's borders and protecting refugees are not mutually exclusive.



at sea and accused Turkey of peddling "misinformation" about his country's "tough but fair" border management.

The New York Times on August 14 said Greece was "abandoning" migrants at sea for the Turkish coastguard to rescue.

It said it had interviewed survivors from five such epi-

Both are and should be possible. This is not a dilemma but a balance that must be struck".

The UNHCR called for an investigation into the reports, without delay, "given the nature, content, frequency and consistency of these accounts" and urged Greece to refrain from "such practices".

Afghanistan: At least 14 security forces killed in three attacks

AGENCIES

KABUL: At least 14 security forces have been killed in three attacks across Afghanistan, as violence keeps the country in its grasp and the start of the peace talks remains delayed.

At least nine security forces were killed and one wounded when the Taliban attacked a checkpoint in the northern Takhar province on Saturday, the police chief spokesman for the province said.

Taliban attacks in the northeastern province of Badkshan also left four security forces dead, that province's spokesman said.

Three magnetic bomb explosions in the Afghan capital, Kabul, killed one and wounded at least four people, including a civilian, the city's police spokesman said.

There was no claim of responsibility for the attack in Kabul which has recently seen a surge in sticky bomb explosions, which were regularly

being attached to security forces' vehicles.

On Friday, the Afghan National Army (ANA) said in a statement at least 114 Taliban fighters were killed in air and ground offensives in the past 24 hours.

A delay in the prisoners' release programme has delayed the start of highly expected intra-Afghan peace talks.

The Taliban repeatedly said it will not enter into peace talks with the government until the remaining Taliban prisoners are freed.

Kabul has released 80 of a remaining group of 400 Taliban prisoners after securing the approval of a traditional grand assembly on August 9.

Following the initial release, Australia and France officially asked Kabul not to let out Taliban prisoners convicted of killing their citizens.

Afghan authorities say diplomatic efforts are under way to agree to a compromise with both nations.



13 Of 15-Member UN Security Council Oppose US Push For Iran Sanctions

Agencies

United Nations: New York: The United States was further isolated on Friday over its bid to reimpose international sanctions on Iran with 13 countries on the 15-member U.N. Security Council expressing their opposition, arguing that Washington's move is void given it is using a process agreed under a nuclear deal that it quit two years ago.

In the 24 hours since U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he triggered a 30-day countdown to a return of U.N. sanctions on Iran, including an arms embargo, long-time allies Britain, France, Germany and Belgium as well as China, Russia, Vietnam, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Indonesia, Estonia and Tunisia have already written letters in opposition, seen by Reuters.

The United States has accused Iran of breaching a 2015 deal with world powers that aimed to stop Tehran developing nuclear weapons in return for sanctions relief. But President Donald Trump described it as the "worst deal ever" and quit in 2018.

Diplomats said Russia, China and many other countries are unlikely to reimpose the sanctions on Iran. Pompeo again warned Russia and China against that on Friday, threatening U.S. action if they refuse to reimpose the U.N. measures on Iran.

The United States acted on Thursday after the Security Coun-

cil resoundingly rejected its bid last week to extend an arms embargo on Iran beyond its expiration in October. Only the Dominican Republic joined Washington in voting yes.

Dominican Republic has not yet written to the council to state its position on the sanctions snap-back push.

Under the process Washington says it has triggered, it appears all U.N. sanctions should be reimposed at midnight GMT (8 p.m New York time) on Sept. 19 - just days before Trump is due to address world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly, the annual meeting that will be largely virtual because of the coronavirus pandemic.

What Now?

A 2015 Security Council resolution enshrining the nuclear deal states that if no council member has put forward a draft resolution to extend sanctions relief on Iran within 10 days of a non-compliance complaint, then the body's president shall do so within the remaining 20 days.

The United States would be able to veto this, giving it a cleaner argument that sanctions on Iran have to be reimposed.

However, the 2015 resolution also says the council would "take into account the views of the states involved." Given the strong opposition, some diplomats say the council president - Indonesia for August

and Niger for September - would not have to put up a draft text.

"Faced with this very strong view of a majority of Security Council members that the snap-back process has not been triggered, as the presidency they are not bound to introduce the draft resolution," said a U.N. Security Council diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Pompeo and outgoing U.S. Iran envoy Brian Hook signaled that Washington expects Indonesia or Niger to put a text to a vote. Another U.S. option is to put forward the draft itself or ask the Dominican Republic to do so.

The United States argues that it can trigger the sanctions snap-back process because the 2015 Security Council resolution still names it as a nuclear deal participant.

However, in a joint letter to the Security Council on Thursday hours after the U.S. submitted it complaint, Britain, Germany and France said: "Any decisions and actions which would be taken based on this procedure or on its possible outcome would also be devoid of any legal effect."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres distanced himself from the showdown in the Security Council.

"Security Council members will need to interpret their own resolution," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters. "It's not the Secretary-General."

China will own the US if Joe Biden is elected, says Trump

Agencies

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Friday said China will own the US if his Democratic rival Joe Biden is voted to power in the November 3 presidential elections.

On the final day of the four-day virtual Democratic National Convention on Thursday, Biden (77) accepted the Democratic Party's nomination as the presidential candidate to challenge incumbent 74-year-old President Trump, a Republican, in the presidential election.

Trump said the biggest thing about his challenger's speech was the issues that he did not talk about, including China.

"It's time to reject the anger and the hate of the Democrat Party. We have the biggest election



coming up of our lifetime. No party can lead America that spends so much time tearing down America. But, the biggest part of last night's speech was what Joe Biden didn't talk about. He didn't talk about law enforcement. He didn't talk about bringing safety to Democrat-run cities that are totally out of control and they have no clue," Trump said in his address to the

2020 Council for National Policy.

"China was never mentioned in any way, shape, or form. China will own our country if he gets elected. They will own our country and we're not going to let that happen. You've seen the intelligence reports. China very much wants Joe Biden to win. That would be very insulting if they wanted me to win. I don't think so," he said.

Israel bombs Gaza, tightens blockade

Agencies

GAZA CITY: Israeli warplanes bombed the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip on Friday, as Palestinians fired rockets and launched fire bombs into southern Israel, the army said.

Israeli planes launched raids against Gaza shortly after midnight on Thursday and then again later on Friday morning.

Israel said the bombs were in response to seven rockets launched from Gaza, six of which were intercepted by its

tercepted damaged the roof of a house in Sderot, but did not cause any casualties, a photographer said. Israel has bombed Gaza almost every night since August 6 in retaliation for the launch of balloons fitted with fire bombs, or less frequently, rocket fire, across the border.

The number of rockets fired from Gaza was the largest number in a day since the latest round of exchanges began two weeks ago.

Israel has also tightened its blockade of Gaza's two million inhabitants. It has banned



air defence system. Witnesses in Gaza said rockets were launched towards the town of Sderot, just across the border.

The rocket that was not in-

Gaza fishermen from going to sea and closed its goods crossing with the territory, prompting the closure of Gaza's sole power plant for want of fuel.

Father of Kamala Harris reveals how he lost contact with his daughters

Agencies

Washington: Donald Harris, father of Indian-origin senator and Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris, has said close contact with his daughters "came to an abrupt halt" after a contentious custody battle, according to a media report.

The New York Times report said the Jamaican-born economics professor expressed regret that the custody battle brought an end to the contact with his daughters.

Harris' mother Shyamala Gopalan, a cancer biologist, came from India to the US at the age of 19 to pursue her dream of curing cancer.

In her speech at the Democratic National Convention, Harris spoke fondly and profusely about her mother but had limited words for her father.

She said her mother met her father, who had come from Jamaica to study economics, at the University of California Berkeley, and "the two fell in love in that most American way while marching together for justice in the civil rights movement of the 1960s".

"My mother instilled in my sister, Maya, and me the values that would chart the course of our lives. She raised us to be proud, strong Black women. And she raised us to know and be proud of our Indian heritage," Harris, 55, said in her acceptance speech on Wednesday.

"When I was 5, my parents split and my mother raised us mostly on her own. Like so many mothers, she worked around the clock to make it work, packing lunches before we woke up and paying bills after we went to bed. Help-

ing us with homework at the kitchen table and shuttling us to church for choir practice," said the Indian-American senator from California.

"She made it look easy,



though I know it never was. She taught us to put family first, the family you're born into and the family you choose," Harris said.

The New York Times article said her father Donald, 81, is long retired from teaching and has remained mostly silent even as his daughter "has stepped into the national spotlight."

The report cited a 2018 essay by Donald, in which he says his early, close contact with his daughters "came to an abrupt halt" after a contentious custody battle.

"This early phase of interaction with my children came to an abrupt halt in 1972 when, after a hard-fought custody battle in the family court of Oakland, California, the context of the relationship was placed within arbitrary limits imposed by a court-ordered divorce settlement based on the false assumption by the State of California that fathers cannot handle parenting. Nevertheless, I persisted, never giving up on my love for my children or reneging on my responsibilities as their father," he wrote.

B O T T O M

Despite Virus, Pilgrims Pour Into Iraq's Karbala Ahead Of Ashura

Shia pilgrims poured into the Iraqi shrine city of Karbala on Friday for the rites of the holy month of Muharram, despite calls to stay home as Covid-19 spreads.

The pilgrimage is expected to be one of the largest religious gatherings in the Muslim world since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, which already forced Saudi Arabia to hold the smallest Haj in modern history.

Usually, millions of Shia pilgrims from around the world flock to Iraq to commemorate the birth of their faith, praying, eating and reflecting together.

But this year, authorities in Iraq, Iran and beyond have repeatedly urged their citizens to forgo real-life pilgrimages due to the high risk of contracting the coronavirus.

Shia-majority Iran is the hardest-hit Middle Eastern country with more than 20,000 coronavirus deaths. Iraq is second with more

than 6,200.

Still, by Thursday night, thousands of pilgrims were already en route to the gates of the golden mausoleums in the holy city of Karbala, some masked and gloved but others proceeding shoulder-to-shoulder as they always had.

'Dramatically different'

Enormous tents have been erected as usual to host pilgrims in Baghdad and Basra as well as Karbala, but with a new twist — an attempt at social distancing.

On the ground, stickers of footprints or large crosses suggest how far worshippers should stay from one another.

"It's dramatically different from other years," said Salim Mahdi, a tent manager in Basra near the Iraq-Iran border.

"People are disinfecting themselves as soon as they enter the tent, then positioning themselves far away from one another and dis-



infecting themselves again."

Iraqis respect social distancing due to the coronavirus pandemic as they gather to commemorate the start of Muharram ahead of Ashura, in the central city of Najaf. — AFP

In neighbouring Iran, reform-

ist newspaper Arman called it "the most astonishing Muharram of the century".

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the health ministry banned the usual marches, musical performances and banquets, and any ceremonies indoors.

Some worshippers adapted quickly: Ali Moadab, who writes funerary chants traditionally recited during Muharram, told AFP he would perform the hymns live on Instagram.

At home, he said, "I will read to my family books telling the story of Imam Husain."

In Lebanon, powerful Shia movement Hezbollah announced that no large tents would be installed this year and families were urged to observe at home.

People in the Bahraini capital Manama watched televised and on-line commemorations, as access to mosques was severely restricted.

"We are used to being there in person, and before Muharram starts we usually help with the placing of the black cloths. This year, it is heart-breaking," said Ali, a 22-year-old shopkeeper in Manama who was watching prayers online.

Big flags, small crowds

Without the throngs of people worshipping or marching outside, the only indications Muharram had begun were the ubiquitous black flags.

In Karbala, there were markedly smaller crowds under the grim banners of the Imam Husain mausoleum — and for the first time nearly all were locals, as entry to the province had been banned for non-residents.

Iraqis from other provinces managed to sneak into the city, using unmarked roads to circumvent checkpoints.

Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, the top cleric for many of the world's Shias, had called for all ceremonies to be broadcast live and for the faithful to pray at home or to wear masks and keep their distance if praying in public.

Other religious figures appear to have thrown caution to the wind, directing their followers to gather in large numbers as usual throughout the first 10 days of Muharram.

Ensure No Restrictions On Inter-State, Intra-State Travel: Centre To States And UTs



NEW DELHI: The Centre has asked all states to ensure that there should be no restrictions on inter-state and intra-state movement of persons and goods during the ongoing unlocking process.

In a communication to chief secretaries of all states and Union Territories, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said there were reports that local level restrictions on movement were being imposed by various districts and states.

Drawing attention to the Unlock 3 guidelines, Bhalla said such restrictions are creating problems in inter-state movement of goods and services and are impacting supply chains, resulting in disruption in economic activity and employment.

The unlock guidelines clearly state that there shall

be no restrictions on inter-state and intra-state movement of persons and goods, he said in the letter.

The guidelines also stated that no separate permission, approval or e-permit will be required for movement of persons and goods for cross land border trade under treaties with neighbouring countries.

The home secretary said restrictions amount to violation of guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs under provisions of Disaster Management Act, 2005.

The letter requested that no restrictions be imposed and it should be ensured that the unlock guidelines are followed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had first announced lockdown with effect from March 25 to combat the coronavirus pandemic which was subsequently extended till May 31.

Since June 1, the unlock process began with the opening up industrial activities and offices across the country.

Amid Leadership Debate, Congress Working Committee To Meet Next Week: Report

NEW DELHI: Amid an ongoing debate over the issue of leadership of the Congress, the party's highest decision-making body, the working committee, is slated to meet virtually next week.

Sources said that the formal Congress Working Committee meeting can happen as early as Monday or later and it is a precursor to a trial meeting of the party members on Saturday.

The trial meeting is to familiarise them with a new digital platform, WebEx, which the party will henceforth use for all its virtual interactions, they said.

The switch has come in view of the government issuing advisories regarding data privacy concerns about Zoom which the Congress was using earlier.

The CWC meeting comes close on the heels of Congress president Sonia Gandhi completing one year as



interim party chief, a post which she accepted last year after her son Rahul Gandhi stepped down.

A debate is again raging in the Congress over uncertainty related to its leadership, with a section of party leaders, including some MPs, asking Rahul Gandhi to return to the helm.

In an official party briefing two days ago, the Congress said party workers across the country want Rahul Gandhi to assume Congress leadership.

Mahatma Gandhi's Iconic Glasses Sold For \$340,000 In UK



LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM: A pair of gold-plated glasses worn by Mahatma Gandhi has sold in Britain for 260,000 pounds (about 288,000 euros, \$340,000), the auction house said.

"We found them just four weeks ago in our letterbox, left there by a gentleman whose uncle had been given them by Gandhi himself," East Bristol Auctions wrote on Instagram after the sale late Friday.

"An incredible result for an incredible item! Thanks to all those who bid."

Mahatma Gandhi was known for giving out old or unwanted pairs to those in need or those who had helped him.

The non-violent protester gave the glasses to the vendor's uncle while he was working for British Petroleum in South Africa during the 1920s or 30s, said the auction house.

The sale price smashed the original estimate of around 15,000 pounds.

Auctioneer Andrew Stowe told Sky News earlier this month that the vendor had told him: "If they're no good, just throw them away."

When he suggested they might be worth 15,000 pounds, "I think he nearly fell off his chair."



BAKERWALS, Kashmir's nomadic tribe has started moving back to warmer planes earlier than usual this year

Mumbai HC's Biting Remarks On FIRs Against Tablighi Members 'Foreign Attendees Of Tablighi Event Made Scapegoat'

MUMBAI: The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court has said that the foreign nationals, who had attended the Tablighi Jamaat event held in Delhi in March this year, were made "scapegoats" and allegations were levelled that they were responsible for spreading COVID-19 in the country.

A division bench of Justices T V Nalawade and M G Sewlikar made the observations on August 21 while quashing the FIRs filed against 29 foreigners, who had attended the event.

The bench also noted that while the Maharashtra police acted mechanically in the case, the state government acted under "political compulsion".

The 29 foreign nationals were booked under various provisions of the IPC, the Epidemic Diseases Act, Disaster Management Act and Foreigner's Act for allegedly violating their tourist visa conditions by attending the Tablighi Jamaat congregation held at Nizamuddin in the national capital.

The bench in its order noted that there was a big propaganda against the foreigners who had come to the Markaz in Delhi.

"A political government tries to find the scapegoat when there is pandemic or calamity and the circumstances show that there is probability that these foreigners were chosen to make them a scapegoat," the court said in its order.

"The propaganda against the so-



called religious activity (Tablighi Jamaat) was unwarranted. The activity was going on for more than 50 years and it is there throughout the year," it added. It said that the circumstances and the latest figures of infection of COVID-19 in India show that such action against the petitioners should not have been taken.

"It is now high time for the concerned to repent about this action taken against the foreigners and to take some positive steps to repair the damage done by such action," the court said. In its order, the bench noted that many Muslims from across the world come to India and visit the Markaz Masjid in Delhi as they are attracted to the reform movement of Tablighi Jamaat. "It is a continuous process and it appears that there are arrangements of stay also made by the Muslims at Markaz Delhi," it said.

The bench added that the visits of these foreigners to Masjids in India were not prohibited and there are arrangements on record to show that this activity is prohibited permanently by the government. "The activity of Tablighi Jamaat got stalled only after the dec-

laration of lockdown in Delhi and till then it was going on," the court said.

The bench further questioned as to whether the people in India are really acting as per its great tradition and culture of welcoming guests.

"During the situation created by COVID-19 pandemic, we need to show more tolerance and need to be more sensitive towards our guests, particularly like the present petitioners. Instead of helping them, we lodged them in jails by making allegations that they were responsible for violation of travel documents and that they are responsible for spreading the coronavirus," the court said. The bench noted that the Maharashtra police acted mechanically in the present matter and the state government acted under "political compulsion".

"The government cannot give different treatment to citizens of different religions of different countries," the court said. Apart from the foreign nationals, police also booked six Indian nationals and trustees of the Masjids for giving shelter to the petitioners.

The bench was hearing three separate petitions filed by the accused foreign nationals, who belong to the countries like Ghana, Tanzania, Benin and Indonesia.

At the end of the judgement, Justice Sewlikar said that while he agrees with the quashing part of the order, he has differing views on a few observations made by Justice Nalawade. However, he did not specify which observations.

After Massive Backlash, Bloomsbury India Says It Won't Publish Book On Delhi Riots

Bloomsbury India, on Saturday, announced it has withdrawn itself from publishing a book on the Delhi riots of February after outrage over a virtual pre-publication launch, which it said was being organised without its knowledge.

The publishing house faced massive backlash online on Friday after a purported advertisement of the book launch on Saturday with BJP leader Kapil Mishra as a guest of honour did the rounds on social media.

There have been allegations that several leaders, including Mishra, made inflammatory speeches targeting anti-citizenship law protesters before the violence broke out in northeast Delhi on February 23.

Bloomsbury India issued a statement saying it strongly supports free-



dom of speech but also has a deep sense of responsibility towards society. "Bloomsbury India had planned to release 'Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story' in September, a book purportedly giving a factual report on the riots in Delhi in February 2020, based on investigations and interviews conducted by the authors.

"However, in view of very recent events, including a virtual pre-publi-

cation launch organised without our knowledge by the authors, with participation by parties of whom the publishers would not have approved, we have decided to withdraw publication of the book. Bloomsbury India strongly supports freedom of speech but also has a deep sense of responsibility towards society," the statement said.

The event went ahead as scheduled. BJP National General Secretary Bhupendra Yadav also participated in it. The authors of the book are Sonali Chitalkar, Prerma Malhotra and Monica Arora.

Communal violence broke out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after citizenship law supporters and protesters clashed with each other in the area, leaving 53 people dead and nearly 200 injured.

India Records Highest Single-Day Spike Of 69, 874 COVID-19 Cases

With a record spike of 69,874 infections in a day, India's COVID-19 tally increased to 29,75,701, while the recoveries rose to 22,22,577 pushing the recovery rate to 74.69 per cent on Saturday, according to the Union health ministry data.

The death toll climbed to 55,794 with 945 fatalities being reported in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate has declined to 1.87 per cent, it said. There are 6,97,330 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises



23.43 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7. A cumulative total of 3,44,91,073 samples have been tested up to August 21 with 10,23,836 samples being tested on Friday, the highest done in a day so far, Lokesh Sharma, scientist and media coordinator at ICMR said.

NCLT Begins Bankruptcy Proceedings Against Anil Ambani



MUMBAI: The NCLT has directed to initiate insolvency proceedings against Reliance Communications Chairman Anil Ambani to recover Rs 1,200 crore under the personal guarantee clause of the bankruptcy law.

Anil Ambani had given a personal guarantee to the loans given by State Bank of India (SBI) to Reliance Communications and Reliance Infratel in August 2016.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai in its order on August 20 said both RCom and RITL committed default in repayment in and around January 2017.

The accounts were retrospectively declared as non-performing account (NPA) with effect from August 26, 2016, even before loan agreements had been entered into.

"Such retrospective declaration seems rather incongruous, akin to the adage 'putting the cart before the horse'. While debt and default have remained undisputed, the incongruity of the declaration of NPA, has not been raised and contested by the Respondent.

"Besides, reappraisal of the declaration of the NPA by this Authority would not fall within the ambit of the provisions of the Code, under which the instant Applications have been made," the order said.

The NCLT ordered the appointment of a resolution professional and asked SBI to take the necessary action.

Moreover, it maintained that it is wrong to assume that no action can be taken until a resolution plan is accepted.

"Sec 60(2) clearly provides for proceedings to be launched against personal guarantors, running parallel to CIRP (corporate insolvency resolution process). Fallacious to assume that no action can be taken against guarantors until the Resolution Plan is accepted," according to the order.

A spokesperson for Ambani said: "Mr Ambani is reviewing the order dated August 20, 2020, of the National Company Law Tribu-

nal, Mumbai Bench (NCLT), and is taking advice on filing an appropriate appeal before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal against the appointment of the resolution professional."

The NCLT has declined SBI's request for a restriction on Ambani from dealing or appropriating his assets, to the prejudice of the interest of SBI, the spokesperson said.

"The NCLT order directing appointment of the resolution professional does not constitute an admission of SBI's insolvency application by the NCLT. The resolution professional will examine SBI's insolvency application against Mr Ambani and submit a report to the NCLT."

The claim against Ambani, after verification and determination of maintainability, would be considered at a later date by the NCLT, the spokesperson said.

"The order of the NCLT will have no bearing on the operations of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, Reliance Power Ltd and Reliance Capital Ltd," the spokesperson added.

According to the order, around 2015-16, RCom had sought credit facilities of Rs 565 crore for repayment of certain existing financial debts and for credit facilities of Rs 635 crore for its sister concern RITL, also for the repayment of existing financial debts.

SBI on August 29, 2016, provided the amount as loan to RCom and RITL, the order said, adding that Anil Ambani provided personal guarantee under a Personal Guarantee Deed in favour of the Financial Creditor in respect of the credit facilities.

RCom filed for bankruptcy last year, consequently, its secured debt was estimated at around Rs 33,000 crore, while lenders submitted claims of around Rs 49,000 crore in August 2019.

Recently, in March the SBI board had approved a resolution plan for Reliance Communications (RCom) and Reliance Infratel (RITL) have already approved the resolution plans with 100 per cent voting in March 2020 and have been placed for the approval for the NCLT Mumbai.

NEWS MAKERS

Retired IAS Officer Rajiv Kumar Replaces Ashok Lavasa As Election Commissioner

NEW DELHI: Retired bureaucrat Rajiv Kumar was appointed the election commissioner on Friday in place of Ashok Lavasa, who has resigned.

President Ram Nath Kovind cleared Kumar's appointment with effect from the date of his assuming office. Kumar's appointment is in place of Lavasa, who resigned with effect from August 31.

Kumar, a retired 1984-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre, will have a five-year tenure and retire in 2025. He is likely to preside over the next Lok Sabha polls in 2024.

According to rules, an election commissioner has six years on the post or till he turns 65, whichever is

earlier. Kumar was born in February, 1960.

"In pursuance of clause (2) of Article 324 of the Constitution, the president is pleased to appoint Shri Rajiv Kumar, (IAS retired) as the election commissioner with effect from the date he assumes the office vice Shri Ashok Lavasa, election commissioner who has resigned with effect August 31," an official notification of the Ministry of Law and Justice said.

Kumar is currently the chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). His tenure, which started on April 29, was to end on April 28, 2023.

Kumar had earlier served as the finance secretary



from September 1, 2017 to February 29, 2020. He has served the finance ministry and other ministries of the central government since March, 2012.

Kumar has been credited with bringing in key reforms in banking and bu-

India, were in losses.

Kumar brought in fundamental changes in the banking sector and played a crucial role in merging 10 public sector banks into four, officials said.

During his two-and-a-half-year stint as the financial services secretary, several policy decisions were taken to promote responsive and responsible banking, they added.

A massive Rs 3-lakh crore recapitalisation of banks was undertaken during Kumar's tenure.

He was also instrumental in streamlining the promotion and appointments done by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), the officials said.

E-mail: tariqbhat72@gmail.com



Valley Associates

► SERVICES PROVIDED: E-FILLING, E TDS, INCOME TAX

► RETURNS, SALES TAX/ VAT RETURNS, BOOK KEEPING,

► ALSO SERVICE FOR PAN, TAN AND DIGITAL SIGNATURE

► CERTIFICATE (DSC) REGISTRATION

Cell: +91- :9419540025 / 9596020164 / 7006818341

SATHU PAYEEN BAGHWANPORA, BARBARSHAH, SRINAGAR, KMR.