



Maximum : 33°C
Minimum : 19°C
Humidity : 59%

SUNSET
Today 07:06 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:00 AM



News Digest

Police Officer Dies Of Heart Attack

Srinagar: A police officer died on Monday after suffering a heart attack in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. ASI Abdul Gani Naikoo complained of chest pain following which he was rushed to nearby hospital for treatment, report said Monday. The doctors there, the report said referred him to Srinagar hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead on arrival. The deceased cop was a resident of Kanilwan Bijbehara. According to the reports, the reason behind the cop's death was a heart attack. A police officer told news agency KINS that a case in this regard has been registered and further investigation has been initiated.

Car Falls Into Gorge In Reasi, 2 Killed

Jammu: A woman was among two persons killed, while her husband and two minor daughters were injured when a car skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Monday. The accident took place at Daggan top when the driver of the car lost control due to dense fog late Sunday evening while moving from Gool to Judda Arnas, a police official said. He said the car fell into a 60-feet gorge, resulting in the death of its driver Reyaz Ahmad (24) and Sameena Akhter (28). Akhter's husband Mohammad Shakeel and daughters – six-year-old Myra and eight month-old Mehar – were rescued in an injured condition and rushed to hospital, the official said.

Electronic Motor Blast Kills Soldier

Baramulla: A soldier from army's 11 Mahar unit, who was injured on Sunday due to electronic motor blast in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, succumbed to his injuries on Monday, officials said. Officials said that a soldier sustained critical injuries due to an electronic motor blast at Jaggu Post of 11 Mahar on 23 August. He was shifted to 92 Base Military Hospital Srinagar in critical condition for treatment, where he has succumbed to his injuries ● P-02

Man Held With 90 Stolen Cellphones

Srinagar: Police on Monday arrested a man after recovering 90 stolen mobile phones from his possession in central Kashmir's Budgam district. A police team arrested Muhammad Amin Ganai of Sadipora, Beerwah and recovered 90 stolen cellphones and 3 watches from his possession, news agency KNT reported. Quoting a police official, the report said that a case under FIR number 218/2020 under section 380, 457 has been registered at police station Beerwah in this regard.

Teen Among 3 Injured In Bear Attack

Srinagar: A teenage girl and two other women on Monday were attacked and injured by a bear in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The trio were busy in their agricultural fields near the power house, Kangan when a bear appeared there and attacked them, officials said. In the surprise attack, all the three women were injured, including a teenager. Officials said one among the women has sustained critical injuries. They identified the injured as Shaheena Begum, Jabeena Begum and Nusrat Jan, all residents of WaniMohallaKangan. They further added that the injured were brought to Sub District Hospital ● P-02

LADAKH STAND-OFF

India Ready For Military Action, If Talks Fail: CDS Rawat

NEW DELHI: India's armed forces are prepared to look at any military option if the extensive talks to restore status quo ante along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) did not yield any positive result, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat has said on the prolonged border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

Gen Rawat, who has been part of the top military brass strategising on the Sino-India border issue, said a "whole of government" approach is being followed to peacefully resolve the row.

The armed forces are always prepared for military actions if all efforts to restore status quo ante along the LAC don't "fructify," the CDS said when asked about the over three-month-long border row.

Gen Rawat, who was the Chief of Army Staff from December 2016 to December 2019, said the transgressions take place along the LAC because of varying perceptions about it by the two countries.

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 for a resolution to the border standoff.



File Photo

China Launches Advanced Warship For Pak Navy

China has launched first of the four advanced naval warships it is building for Pakistan, amid deepening defence ties between the two all-weather allies. The launching ceremony for the first warship was held at the Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in Shanghai on Sunday. Pakistan-China defence ties turn a new chapter with ● P-02

On Thursday, the two sides held another round of diplomatic parleys 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.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Gen Rawat and the three service chiefs are regularly meeting to review India's military ●PAGE 02

Sinha Wants J&K Special Status Restored

SRINAGAR: Former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Yashwant Sinha on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir must get the statehood again and Article 370 and 35-A that were scrapped on August 5 last year, should be brought back.

In his twitter post, the former union minister, who is also the member of the Concerned Group of Citizens (CGC), welcomed the resolve of the local political parties here in Jammu and Kashmir to insist on the restoration of the status quo ante.

He stated that he stands with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and J&K must get Statehood again. The Articles 370 and 35-A must be brought back and in fact ● P-02

India, Pak Troops Exchange Fire Along LoC

JAMMU: After a brief lull, India and Pakistan troops on Monday traded heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a defence spokesperson, the Pakistan Army on Monday violated ceasefire twice by targeting forward areas in different sectors along the LoC in the district. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, he said.

He said there was no immediate report of any casualty on the Indian side. The firing and shelling from across the border first started in Sunderbani sector at 1.30 pm and was followed in Nowshera ● P-02

8 More Covid-19 Deaths In Kashmir, J&K Toll 633

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least eight more people died of coronavirus in Kashmir on Monday, raising the number of fatalities due to the deadly disease in the Union Territory to 633.

Among the victims, official sources said that three were residents of Kupwara, two from Budgam, as many from Pulwama and one from Bandipora.

They said a 70-year-old woman from Noor pora Tral in Pulwama district died during wee hours at SMHS hospital, 13 days after she was admitted and diagnosed with bilateral community acquired pneumonia.

A 65-year-old man from Lapora Kupwara, they said, was brought to SMHS hospital in wee hours and doctors declared him death on arrival. He was a cov-

Infant, 4 Pregnant Women Among 428 New Cases

At least 51 Defence and paramilitary personnel, four pregnant women and an infant were among 428 new cases of coronavirus reported in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday thus taking the number of people infected across the Union ● P-02

id positive and was referred to the hospital from GMC Baramulla, the sources said.

A 70-year-old woman from Lolab Kupwara who was admitted as a case of bilateral community acquired pneumonia, hypertension and ARDS died two weeks after she ●PAGE 02

Experts Say Kashmiri Women At Equal Death Risk From Covid-19

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Contrary to the belief that more men die of Covid-19 than the opposite sex, the health experts Monday said that coronavirus disease has caused deaths at the same rate among men and women in Kashmir.

Dr Rouf Hussain Rather, In-charge Data Analysis section at Divisional Covid-19 Control Room Kashmir said Monday that 563 Covid deaths have been re-

corded in Kashmir. Among these, he said include 368 men out of a total of 16796 male positive cases and 195 women out of a total of 8191 female positive cases.

"The crude mortality rate is 2.1 % among men and 2.3% among women, which after statistical analysis appears similar. The apparent 0.2% more mortality among females has been found statistically insignificant," he said.

The Health Expert observed that the more positive ●PAGE 02

Speed Up Issuance Of Domicile Certificates, Jammu DCs Told

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has directed the Deputy Commissioners in Jammu province to expedite the process of issuance of domicile certificates in their respective districts.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma on Monday passed these instructions to the DC's while chairing a meeting convened to review the progress in the issuance of domicile certificates and progress on NRHM recruitments in the districts, an official spokesperson said.

The Deputy Commissioners, he said apprised him about the

certificates issued so far in their respective districts.

"It was informed that process of issuance of domicile certificates is in full swing in all the districts of the division," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the meeting was told that 82 thousand domiciles certificates have been issued in the Doda district through offline and online mode while in Rajouri a total 94 thousand domicile certificates have been issued so far in the district, and the process was on to clear pendency at the earliest.

The Div Com also reviewed the status of various schemes and asked the DCs to link ●PAGE 02

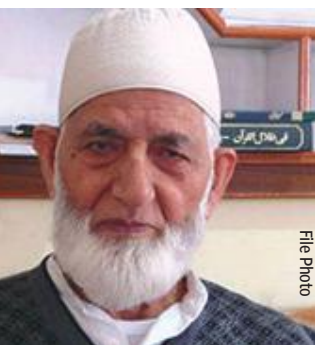
Fabricated Letters In Geelani's Name Affecting His Health Badly: Family

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Expressing concern over what it called a "vicious campaign by the vested interests" family of Syed Ali Geelani said on Monday that "repeated and fabricated letters" issued in the name of the veteran Kashmiri leader were affecting his health badly.

In a statement issued to the media, the family said, it was time to give ailing leader some amount of relaxation and his family, a space to attend him in a better position at this critical juncture.

"Geelani is in advanced age with multiple ailments. He needs round



File Photo

the clock medical as well as personal attention. Geelani throughout his life faced hardships, both physically and mentally, for his beliefs

and conviction. His recent health condition has stressed people especially his family. Therefore, it is time to give him some amount of relaxation and his family, a space to attend him in a better position at this critical juncture. Health condition of Geelani demands family to be careful, focussed and attentive, more so amid the pandemic.

"Geelani is a public and political figure and everyone reserves a right to be concerned about his personal as well as political status. The prime responsibility of his close family is to attend him. We will keep the people updated regarding his health and his representative, ●PAGE 02

Police Break-Up Midnight Muharram Procession In Old City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police used force and allegedly thrashed mourners to break up a mid-night Muharram procession in Zaidal area of the old city, witnesses said Monday.

Around 12:00 am Monday night, a sizeable number of mourners, mostly women and children, took out a procession from Khushal Sar locality in the interiors of Zaidal as per traditional practice, witnesses said. The procession was joined by more people as it passed through the narrow lanes of the lo-



File Photo

cality towards the shrine of Hazrat Mir Shamsuddin Araki.

"All the mourners were following

SOPs, maintaining social distance and wearing masks. When the procession reached near the ●PAGE 02

Civil Secretariat Employees Told To Deposit ID Cards On Transfer, Retirement

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday directed its employees working in Civil Secretariat to deposit their identity cards in the office of Senior Superintendent of Police (Security) within the complex on transfer or retirement.

The direction was passed in a circular issued by Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Manoj Kumar Diwedi.

"It has been observed that all the officers/officials working in the Civil Secretariat, J&K do not deposit their Identity Cards in the office of

Senior Superintendent of Police, (Security), Civil Secretariat on their transfer outside the Civil Secretariat or at the time of retirement.

"The matter has been considered and it has been felt that the failure to do so is fraught with serious consequences which may compromise the security of the Civil Secretariat," Diwedi said in the circular.

He said it is, accordingly, impressed upon all the administrative secretaries to direct the officers/officials under their control to deposit their ID cards in the office of SSP, (Security), ●PAGE 02

Panel Proposes Separate Board For Ladakh Schools

KARGIL: A committee on Monday proposed establishment of a new territorial board in Ladakh, emphasising that the schools in the Union territory be affiliated to a board which fulfills the realistic needs of the students as per the natural conditions of the region.

The committee for review of educational boards for schools in Kargil met under the chairmanship of Executive Councilor for Tourism and Zanskar Affairs, Phunsog Tashi here, officials said.

It also suggested equal representation from both Kargil and Leh districts in the new 'Ladakh Board of School Education' in order to make the process more inclusive in the larger interest, they said.

It was also pointed out ● P-02

Noted Arborist of Kashmir M S Wadoo No More

SRINAGAR: Noted Arborist Mohammad Sultan Wadoo passed away here on Sunday. He was 90.

Author of some twenty books on forestry and related subjects M S Wadoo has written extensively on the subject for Kashmir Observer. Wadoo served as Assistant Conservator of Forests J&K and has received several awards during his service. He was also associated with several UN programmes for conservation of forests. Wadoo has the ● P-02



After Ladakh, Cracks Now Surface In JKPC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Days after two senior Congress leaders in Ladakh resigned from their party posts citing observance of August 5 as 'Black Day', the Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress party have trained guns at "incapable" president Ghulam Ahmad Mir, seeking his removal from the party top brass

According to the reports, a section of Congress leaders have shot a letter to All India Congress Committee President, Sonia Gandhi seeking ouster of incumbent Jammu and Kashmir Congress President Ghulam Ahmed Mir removed from the post of president.

The rebel group reportedly led by former MLC, Advocate Ghulam Nabi Monga in a communiqué to Sonia

Gandhi have vehemently appealed to her to remove Mir from the president post claiming that he was not only 'incapable' but was also unable to motivate grass root level workers due to his 'tainted' past and his 'involvement' in infamous sex scandal.

"Before taking up this matter with you, we had already conveyed our reservations to in-charge General Secretary Ambika Soni and Ghulam Nabi Azad but nothing changed on the ground. Workers are leaving the party and it is the right time to save the Congress party from further deterioration," the signatories in the letter have written.

The signatories include former minister and General Secretary Congress Kheem Lata Wakhloo, ●PAGE 02

'FB Values Commercial Interests Not Human Lives': Ex-Civil Servants

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A group of prominent former civil servants on Monday flayed Facebook for 'failing to implement its own policy' of discouraging hate speech in India.

"That this seems to have been done to protect Facebook's commercial interests is even more reprehensible", a group of 53 former diplomats, police officers and bureaucrats who have gathered under the banner of 'Constitutional Conduct Group' wrote in an open letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

"Commercial interests at the cost



File photo credit: Danish Siddiqui/Reuters.

of human lives? If these are the crass calculations Facebook indulg-

es in, it is no surprise that the calculus of hate is spreading ●PAGE 02

HC Dismisses Challenge To E-Stamping System In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The High Court on Monday dismissed a plea challenging the process of switching over to e-stamping system in Jammu and Kashmir.

The plea was filed by 'Srinagar Stamp Vendors Association' who had challenged government orders dated 25th March 2013 and 16th September 2013, sanctioning initiation of process of switching over to e-stamping system in Jammu and Kashmir and appointing stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL) (SHCIL) to function as Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) on the terms and conditions fixed by the IFCL and also issuing formal mandate to the SHCL for the purpose.



The association had contended that they are contrary to Section 74 of the Act of 1977 and the Rules framed thereunder for purchase, sale and supply and use of stamps.

As per 25 March 2013 order, the government had ordered initiating the process to switching over to e-stamping system in the then State of Jammu and Kashmir;

It had appointment of the stock Holding Corporation of ●PAGE 02

From Front page...

‘Op Jamia Masjid’ Was Aimed At Stifling Voice Of Mirwaiz Farooq’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Anjuman Auqaf, Jamia Masjid led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said on Monday that the “operation Jamia Masjid” of August 25, 1989 was aimed to hurt the sentiments of Muslims and to stifle voice of Mirwaiz Moulana Muhammad Farooq from championing the rights of the people of Kashmir

In a handout issued here, an Auqaf spokesperson said that the ‘infamous operation’ during which Jamia Masjid was raided and desecrated, was aimed to weaken the centrality of the Grand Masjid, hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims and to cow down the then Mirwaiz Moulana Muhammad Farooq to desist from championing the rights of the people of Kashmir.

“But Shaheed-e-Millat was a courageous leader whose rock-solid resolve could not be shaken by such conspiracies, and till date the pulpit of Jamia Masjid Srinagar continues to raise the voice of Haq and represent the aspirations of



the people of Kashmir,” the spokesperson said. He said it was highly unfortunate that since the “infamous operation”, the successive governments have been trying to weaken the centrality of this spiritual and religious centre of Muslims by time and again forcibly closing it for weeks and months together.

“Soon after the Operation Jamia Masjid, the desecration of religious and sacred places including

Aasaar-e-Shareef Hazratbal, Astaan-e-Aalia Chraar Shareef, Khanqah-e-Faiz Panah Tral, Astaan-e-Aalia Khanqah, etc took place in succession and the motive was to break the unity of Muslims and hurt their re-

ligious sentiments,” the Auqaf spokesperson said.

He added that despite “repression” and other challenges, the Mirwaizeen have been discharging their duties or raising voice for the religious, social and political rights of the people of Kashmir.

“And that the pulpit of the Jamia Masjid Srinagar will always represent the sentiments and aspirations of the people,” the Auqaf spokesperson said.

The Auqaf demanded immediate release of its incarcerated Chief Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq so that he resumed his duties at the Jamia Masjid as the Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir.

Scientists Say Hong Kong Man Got Coronavirus A Second Time

HONG KONG: University of Hong Kong scientists claim to have the first evidence of someone being reinfected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

Genetic tests revealed that a 33-year-old man returning to Hong Kong from a trip to Spain in mid-August had a different strain of the coronavirus than the one he'd previously been infected with in March, said Dr Kelvin Kai-Wang To, the microbiologist who led the work.

The man had mild symptoms the first time and none the second time; his more recent infection was detected through screening and testing at the Hong Kong airport.

It shows that some people do not have lifelong immunity to the virus if they've already had it. To said. We don't know how many people can get reinfected. There are probably more out there.

The paper has been accepted by the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases but not yet published, and some independent experts urged caution until full results are available.

Whether people who have had COVID-19 are immune to new infections and for how long are key questions that have implications for vaccine development and decisions about returning to work, school and social activities.

Even if someone can be infected a second time, it's not known if they have some protection against serious illness, because the immune system generally remembers how to make antibodies against a virus it's seen before.

It's not clear how different a virus needs to be to trigger illness, but the new work suggests that COVID patients should not be complacent about prevention measures and should continue social distancing, wearing masks and other ways to reduce infection. To said.

Two experts with no role in the work agreed.

We've always known reinfection was a possibil-

ity and I think this is highly suggestive that it occurred in this case, said Dr Jesse Goodman, a former US Food and Drug Administration chief scientist now at Georgetown University.

If there is a reinfection, it suggests the possibility there was residual immunity ... that helped protect the patient from getting sick again, Goodman said.

However, if immunity wanes from natural infection, it could be a challenge for vaccines and may mean booster shots are needed, he added.

Julie Fischer, a microbiologist at CRDF Global, a non-profit health group in Arlington, Virginia, said the study

gives convincing evidence that reinfection can happen.

The real question is what this means for severity of disease if that occurs, and whether such people can infect others, she said.

One expert saw the report as good news. Dr Paul Offit, a vaccine expert at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, said it's encouraging the reported reinfection was without symptoms.

That's a win as far as I'm concerned because it suggests a first infection may protect a person from moderate to severe disease the second time around, he said in an interview streamed by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

US: Police Shooting Of Black Man Stirs Unrest In Wisconsin City

KENOSHA : Kenosha became the US' latest flash-point city in a summer of racial unrest after police shot and wounded a Black man, apparently in the back, as he leaned into his SUV while his three children sat in the vehicle.

Protesters set cars on fire, smashed windows and clashed with officers in riot gear Sunday night, while Democratic Governor Tony Evers and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden immediately condemned the shooting of 29-year-old

Jacob Blake, who was hospitalised in serious condition.

Police in the former auto manufacturing centre of 100,000 people midway between Milwaukee and Chicago said Blake was shot while they were responding to a call about a domestic dispute.

They did not immediately disclose the race of the three officers at the scene or say whether Blake was armed or why police opened fire, and they released no details on the domestic dispute.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, representing Blake's

family, said Blake was simply trying to do the right thing by intervening in a domestic incident.

The officers were placed on administrative leave, standard practice in a shooting by police, while the state Justice Department investigates. And Kenosha County imposed an 8 pm curfew to try to head off another round of violence Monday night.

The shooting happened around 5 pm Sunday and was captured from across the street on cellphone vid-

eo that was posted online. Kenosha police do not have body cameras.

In the footage, Blake walks from the sidewalk around the front of his SUV to his driver-side door as officers follow him with their guns pointed and shout at him. As Blake opens the door and leans into the SUV, an officer grabs his shirt from behind and opens fire while Blake has his back turned.

Seven shots can be heard, though it isn't clear how many struck Blake or how many officers fired. During the shooting,

a Black woman can be seen screaming in the street and jumping up and down.

While we do not have all of the details yet," the governor said in a statement, "what we know for certain is that he is not the first Black man or person to have been shot or injured or mercilessly killed at the hands of individuals in law enforcement in our state or our country.

Biden called for an immediate, full and transparent investigation and said the officers must be held accountable.

India Ready For Military...

preparedness in eastern Ladakh as well as to take measures in sync with the evolving situation in the region.

At the military talks, the Indian Army has been strongly insisting that restoration of the status quo ante of April this year by China is the only way to resolve the row, according to government sources.

There is a growing view in the Army that the Chinese military is not serious about the resolution of the border conflict as it is resorting to "back and forth" negotiations while the Indian side has very clearly conveyed about its position on the matter.

Sources said notwithstanding the border row, India has been carrying on with the work on laying new roads in the Ladakh region besides developing other key infrastructure.

"Our road construction is not in response to PLA infrastructure development but based on our requirements and those of our people," said a source.

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 PLA 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 are engaged in diplomatic and military talks, the Indian army is making elaborate preparations to maintain its current strength of troops in all key areas in eastern Ladakh in the harsh winter months.

Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane has already conveyed to all the senior commanders of the Army, overseeing operation of the frontline formations along the LAC, to maintain a significantly high state of alertness 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 degree 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.

China Launches Advanced...

the launch of the first ship of Type-054 class frigate, Pakistan's state-run AFP news agency reported.

The Type-054 class, equipped with the latest surface, subsurface, anti-air weapons, combat management system, and sensors will be one of the technologically advanced surface platforms of the Pakistan Navy fleet, the report said.

Pakistan signed a contract with the China Shipbuilding Trading Company Ltd. (CSTC) for the delivery of two Type-054 A/P frigates in 2017. Last year, the Chinese official media reported that under a major arms deal between the two all-weather allies, China would build four advanced frigates for Pakistan Navy.

The terms of the deal and the price of the ships were not revealed. The launching of the ship coincided with the 2nd strategic dialogue between Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi held at the Chinese holiday resort of Hainan on August 21.

Sinha Wants J&K Special...

become the basis for more powers to all states, he said.

"I welcome the resolve of the political parties in J&K to insist on the restoration of the status quo ante. J&K must be a state again, Article-370 and 35A must be brought back and in fact become the basis for more powers to all states. I stand with the people of J&K," Sinha tweeted

India, Pak Troops Exchange...

sector at 4.45 pm, the spokesperson said.

"Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars in both the sectors," he said.

8 More Covid-19 Deaths...

was admitted to the hospital, they said.

Also a covid-19 positive man from Kralpora Kupwara having underlining ailments died at the hospital in Srinagar, officials at Kupwara said.

A woman from Khanda Budgam died three days after she was admitted to SKIMS Soura and her swab sample was detected as positive for covid-19 at the diagnostic laboratory of the hospital, they said. An 87-year-old man from Chadoora Budgam died today, nine days after he was admitted to SKIMS Soura

Sources said that a 45-year-old man Pinglen Pulwama died five days after he was admitted to the CD hospital, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19.

Officials said that one person from Bandipora also died due to covid-19.

With these deaths, 586 people have died in Kashmir Valley and 47 from Jammu. (With GNS inputs)

Infant, 4 Pregnant Women...

Territory to 33075. While Kashmir Valley reported maximum cases of 274, the remaining 154 new cases of coronavirus were confirmed by the officials in Jammu division, official sources said.

Giving district-wise breakup of the cases, they said Srinagar reported 78, Baramulla 9, Pulwama 14, Budgam 27, Anantnag 14, Kulgam 11, Shopian 6, Kupwara 25, Bandipora 65, Ganderbal 25, Jammu 65, Rajouri 12, Kathua 14, Udhampur 19, Ramban 6, Samba 15, Doda 4, Poonch 12, Reasi 2 and Kishtwar 5.

Meanwhile, moreover 373 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—95 from Jammu Division and 278 from Kashmir.

Experts Say Kashmiri Women...

cases and subsequently more deaths among men was due to their frequent movement for work and other activities.

Hussain stressed upon use of face mask, cough and sneezing etiquettes, social distancing, not touching the face and nose with unclean hands and frequent hand washing.

Speed Up Issuance Of Domicile...

Adhar of farmers with Prime Minister Kisan Saman Nidhi to clear variations/errors and ensure cent percent coverage/ enrollment of farmers to facilitate eligible beneficiaries to avail the benefits of the scheme.

"He also asked the DCs to ensure regular payments of MGNREGA in the districts," the official spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the Div Com reviewed the progress on recruitment of staff nurses and other paramedical staff under NRHM.

According to the official spokesperson, it was informed that the district administrations have issued advertisements for filling of all vacant posts in the districts.

"The Div Com asked the health functionaries and district administrations to speed up the process and fix the timeline to complete the process of recruitment. The Divisional Commissioner also directed the DCs to initiate the process of discussing revised stamp duty rates in the districts," he added.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu, DNO, NHM and other concerned officers, while Deputy Commissioners, along with other concerned officers, attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Police Break-up Midnight...

shrine, a posse of policemen led by SHO appeared there and resorted to baton charge. Cops also burst a tear smoke shell and fired pellets," alleged one Mohammad Sadiq, an eyewitness.

He said that the police action led to a melee and stampede leading to minor injuries to many mourners, including women and kids.

"There was absolute chaos. The cops attacked the procession while shouting and screaming. They even barged into residential houses looking for boys," he added.

Sabia Hussain, another witness said that the cops also entered the shrine and baton charged whosoever they came by. She said that the cops didn't even spare women and children.

"The police action was unwarranted and uncalled for. The procession was about to conclude at the shrine when the cops came out charging from their vehicles," she said.

Sabia also alleged that the police was rounding up heads of the families for holding planned night long majalis at their respective places.

The alleged police action also triggered outrage on social media after a 1.52 minute video clip showing police beating mourners went viral. In the short duration video, the mourners were seen screaming and engaging in a heated argument with the policemen.

"You cannot do this. This is our religious practice. And it was a peaceful procession," a woman mourner can be heard shouting.

"How dare they beat me up? How can you touch women? Were we shouting Azadi slogans?" shouts another woman at cops.

Earlier reports said that flags of Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah hoisted at various places in the old city were seized by the police. When contacted, SHO Zaidal Mr Javed refused to comment on the allegations of highhandedness levelled against his men.

"At lower level, we are not allowed to talk to media. Only senior officers can speak about it," he said.

Despite repeated attempts, SP Hazratbal Sudhanshu Verma did not attend phone calls by Kashmir Observer.

Fabricated Letters In Geelani's

Abdullah Gilani, will respond and react to his political issues,"the statement issued by Geelani's sons Dr Nayeem Geelani, Dr Naseem Geelani and son-in-law Zahoor ul Haq Geelani added.

"Past few months have been very hard for all of us. On one hand we are busy dealing with his health condition and we have been consumed physically as well as mentally. On the other hand continuously dragging the family into his political affairs has taken a heavy toll on our personal as well as domestic life," they said.

"It is unfortunate that people with vested interests have launched a vicious campaign to malign the stature of Geelani. Repeated and fabricated letters in his name, posts, comments and imaginary stories is disturbing

him and affecting his health very badly. The unnecessary social media campaigns and hounding of family only adds to our already stressful life," they added.

They urged all including those in media fraternity or otherwise not to circulate any information about his health, and similarly, any communication of political nature on his behalf without his representative's authentication.

"We humbly request and appeal people to pray for speedy recovery and long life of Geelani," they said.

Civil Secretariat Employees...

Civil Secretariat in the event of their transfer outside the secretariat or at the time of their retirement.

Panel Proposes Separate...

during the meeting that there is a provision in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 for continuing with the same board -- J&K State Board Of School Education (JKBOSE) -- but since the erstwhile state has been bifurcated into two Union territories, it would be difficult to manage the administrative affairs of the board.

Hence, the committee stated that an alternative plan should be placed for the future, they said.

"The committee members emphasised that schools in the Union Territory of Ladakh should be affiliated to a board which can fulfill the realistic needs of the students in every respect according to the natural conditions of the region which affect the academic session," officials said. The committee members also asserted that given the tough criteria laid down by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for affiliation, most of the schools cannot fulfill those criteria in real terms.

However, they said certain aspects from CBSE which may suit the purpose for establishment of a new board in Ladakh can be adopted.

The meeting proposed that it would be better if necessary steps are taken for establishment of a new territorial board in the form of Ladakh Board of School Education. However, the exit points for students presently studying under JKBOSE should remain the same, officials said.

The panel also suggested that local aspirations and values be given due space in subjects like social studies and literature to make the students aware about the local culture and ethos.

It was also advocated that the curriculum for the new board be framed according to the span of time affected by the climatic conditions of the region, they added.

Noted Arborist of Kashmir...

distinction of discovering the largest Chinar of the Kashmir valley. He visited the entire length & breadth of Kashmir, measured girth of thousands of Chinar trees and later presented comparative analysis.

Family sources said M S Wadoo was not keeping well for some time and passed away peacefully at his home in Buchpora Srinagar.

Condolence will be received in limited numbers at his ancestral residence Firdous Colony, Lane 2, Buchpora Srinagar till 25th August 2020 Tuesday, family said.

After Ladakh, Cracks Now...

Vice President JKPC G.N.Monga, Muhammad Anwar Bhat, BDC Chairman Aftab Beigh, Mushtaq Bazaz, District President Pulwama Fayaz Ahmed, Engineer Maroof, Abdul Rehman Magray and State Secretary Imtiyaz Khan.

These leaders have written that they respected the decision of party high command in 2015 when Ghulam Ahmed Mir was installed as President despite the fact he remained in jail for 8 months in infamous sex scandal and also who had never worked in the organization even at Block Level. These leaders have requested Sonia Gandhi to bring a change in the leadership in the interest of the Congress Party.

When contacted, one of the signatories of the letter confirmed the development saying removal of Ghulam Ahmed Mir is the only way to save the party in Jammu and Kashmir from doldrums. (KNT)

‘FB Values Commercial...

like a virus in many parts of the world. To blame the algorithms of artificial intelligence is both to evade corporate responsibility and to deny the human agency involved in the framing of those very algorithms", the letter, a copy of which was sent to Kashmir Observer, reads.

Referring to the article published in the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) on August 14th, 2020, the former civil servants write that most democratic countries assure their citizens of several basic rights and freedoms. Both the United States, the country of which you are a citizen, and India, do the same.

Noting down hate speech defined by Facebook, the signatories write that as per the social networking website hate speech is a direct attack on people for characteristics such as "race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, sex, gender or gender identity and serious disabilities or diseases."

"Given this clear definition in your own policy, we are surprised that Facebook did not take action against some clear and serial offenders in India -- persons like T Raja Singh and a few others -- for their derogatory comments against people belonging to a different religion, accusing Muslims of spreading Covid 19, indulging in 'love jihad' and various other misdemeanors," the letter reads.

"What is striking about Facebook's leniency towards these persons is that all of them happen to be members of the political party in power.

That Facebook did consider the posts to be offensive is apparent from the fact that these posts were deleted on Aug 17, after the WSJ wrote to Facebook seeking its comments. We are dismayed to learn, again from the WSJ article, that the Public Policy Head of Facebook India consciously opposed applying Facebook's hate speech rules to members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) because doing so would adversely affect the company's business prospects in India," it added.

The letter further says that the signatories have written only to the government and government institutions whenever the democratic rights of Indian citizens were being violated, but have not written to any non-Indian body

"We are writing to you now, in a departure from our usual practice, because certain actions (or the absence of certain actions) by Facebook in their operations in India have thrown into danger some of the fundamental rights of the people of India," the letter reads.

The letter also mentions about the recently passed Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), coupled with the proposed National Registry of Citizens (NRC), that "threatens to take away the citizenship of hundreds of thousands of Muslims and other minorities in India and put them in detention centers."

"You cannot also be ignorant of the communal riots that took place in Delhi in February 2020, in which 53 persons were killed, two thirds of them Muslims. Several cases of lynching and torture, primarily of Muslims and Dalits (oppressed castes and groups), have also occurred in India in recent years," the signatories write.

The letter also brings up the issue of 'cow vigilantism' into the notice Zuberger.

"Many of these crimes have been instigated through hate speech spread through various communication channels, such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter. Despite being aware of this, Facebook has failed to implement its own policy of discouraging hate speech in India, or has implemented it in a clearly partisan manner. That this seems to have been done to protect Facebook's commercial interests is even more reprehensible. We note that such behaviour on Facebook's part has become a subject of debate in other countries as well," the former civil servants add in the letter.

Urging serious effort to audit the implementation of Facebook's hate speech policy in India, the signatories say that while such an audit is underway; it must be ensured that the present Public Policy Head of Facebook, India, is not in a position to influence the investigations.

"We also fervently hope that in future, you will not let your company's business prospects stand in the way of implementing your own policy against hate speech and posts which can lead to hate crimes. This is a sure way of demonizing minorities and inflicting violence upon them while undermining the democratic and secular basis of the Indian Constitution," the letter adds.

HC Dismisses Challenge To...

India Limited (SHCL) to function as the Central Record keeping Agency (CRA) on the terms and conditions, fixed by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Limited of the Union Ministry of Finance; Formal mandate was given to the Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL) for the purpose, and Commissioner Stamps (Commissioner, Commercial Taxes Department) acting as the Nodal Officer of the e-stamping project and to Co-ordinate between various stakeholders i.e. Department of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Revenue Department, Finance Department and Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL) for the switching over to e-stamping.

On the 16th September 2013, the Government implemented e-stamping system in the erstwhile State initially in the Districts of Srinagar and Jammu on pilot basis.

The association had said that people associated with it are in the job of selling stamps from the time of Maharaja Gulab Singh. They have been earning revenue for the Government even when life in the Valley had come to a standstill during the period of turmoil, the association said.

"The Government is now throwing them on roads. Members of association having spent best part of their life in stamp vending, they cannot, therefore, seek employment anywhere," they had said.

After hearing association and the government, a bench of Justice Tashi Rabstan dismissed the plea.

"Nevertheless, (government) is required to take into account the plight of members of petitioner-association qua their livelihood, which is the sole ground that is to be looked into and considered by (government) , the court said, adding, "for that matter all that is required to be done by (government), should be undertaken, including imparting training to members of petitioner-association to come up at par with the niceties of e-stamping procedures as contemplated under Rules of 2020, and subsequently grant them permission/licences for sale of stamps, so as to enable them to earn their livelihood and sustain their respective families." (GNS)

Electronic Motor Blast Kills...

this afternoon.

An official identified the deceased soldier as Sepoy Manish of 11 Mahar. A case been registered in this regard and further investigation has been taken up, he said.

Teen Among 3 Injured...

(SDH) Kangan for treatment where from Shaheen Begum has been referred to SKIMS Soura for specialized treatment

All Jamabandies To Be Prepared By Sep End

E-stamping would help govt save Rs 30 cr: Kotwal

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 24: Principal Secretary and Financial Commissioner Revenue, Dr Pawan Kotwal, today asked the revenue officials to gear up for the new system of land measurement that is more prompt and highly accurate.

Pertinently, Continuous Operating Reference Station (CORS) is the modern system of measuring land that is equipped with a dish antenna linked with a satellite to get accurate coordinates. Measurement of land, as said, is accomplished in minutes along with producing an accurate map of the land.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary; and Mohammad Qasim, Regional Director Survey & Land Records (RDSL) Srinagar while Deputy Commissioners of other districts of Kashmir division along with respective RDSLs participated through video conferencing.

Dr Kotwal directed the officers to complete the digitization of all the quadrennial Jamabandies before the initiation of new measurement process. He asked them to work extraordinarily so that the same is accomplished before the initiation of land measurement through CORS.

Principal Secretary asked the concerned to correlate the quantum of each measured field with the official records so that no dichotomy creeps into the newly created records. He maintained that the results of this process are highly scientific and accurate. Therefore the records created thus are more reliable and would have greater utility.

Dr Kotwal urged upon all the Deputy Commissioners to complete the process of making of quadrennial Jamabandies by September this year so that their titization is taken in hand forthwith. He asked the Regional Directors to authenticate all the Jamabandies well before the deadline.

Dr Kotwal underscored the need of clearing all the pendencies regarding the issuance of domicile certificates before 10th of September as per the orders of the Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K. He further asked them to expunge all the illegal entries from the revenue records besides accelerating the process of eviction from kahcharai/state land.

Dr Kotwal asked the officers to provide the geo-coordinates of identified land plots for creation of revenue infrastructure like Niabats and Patwarkhanas thereon. He directed them to install signboards on all such plots so that these are notified for people once the assets are created over them. He exhorted upon them to work for getting the images and details of all the water bodies in their respective areas as per GoI guidelines by using the already provided gadgets to them. He revealed that same is necessary to preserve

and protect them for posterity.

Principal Secretary was informed that near about 6.7 crore of revenue documents have been digitized till date including almost all documents from the record rooms. He was further informed that all the Jamabandies will be ready by the end of September this year.

The meeting was also apprised that some 51748 old revenue maps and 1747 new village maps have already been digitized. Besides, 3895 ground control points and 5855 GPS points stand already verified for hastening the process of measurement under previous system.

It was informed in the meeting that about Rs 30 crore would be saved by the government on printing of stamp papers by adopting e-stamping mechanism.

The meeting was informed that 32286 registrations has been done up to 20.08.2020 and Rs 30.42 crore have been realised from the same. It was further said that entire registration process is planned to be computerized and made online adopting the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) shortly.

LMD Penalizes Retailers for inadequate Labeling on Face Masks

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 24: On Monday, The department of Legal Metrology (LDM) Srinagar unit said that it booked and penalized 26 drug stores and departmental stores/retailers in the current financial year 2020-21 for over-charging/ labeling norms and collected penal sum of over Rs. 50,000.

Due to Covid19 pandemic, Government of India, under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 declared Hand Sanitizers, 2 ply and 3 ply surgical masks and N-95 masks as essential commodities in the month of March 2020 for a period of 100 days

in order to prevent their hoarding, black-marketing and profiteering.

It also added, the prices of Hand Sanitizers/ 2 ply and 3 ply surgical masks were notified by the Ministry of Consumer affairs GOI, however, N-95 masks were not brought under price-control as its quality parameters are differential.

The quality standard of face-masks is monitored by Drug Control organization and the labeling norms on the pre-packaged face-masks is within the mandate of the Legal Metrology Department.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Rafiq Ali S/o: Mohammad Sultan R/o: Hamzah Colony Wanabal Rawalpura Sgr (Transferor) of LMV Wagon R. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04B - 8863. Chassis number 446068 Engine no. 7175047 Model 2012. In favour of Shri.. Faheem Rafiq S/o. Rafiq ali R/o H No. 05 Rawalpura Sanat Nagar Sgr (Transferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Srinagar Times.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1309
Dated 24/08/2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer

MCB

S.P MODEL HIGHER SECONDARY INSTITUTE M.A ROAD SRINAGAR

In this notice claimed to have lost his original Provisional-Cum-Character Certificate of class 12th issued by the S P higher secondary institute under Registration No. N15300590002 with following particulars

Name: ARIF AHMAD NAJAR
Parantage: MUSHTAQ AHMAD NAJAR
Class: 12th
Class Roll No. : 2611
Exam Roll No. 8168212
SECTION: 2018
R/O: Gurpora rainawari

Now the candidate has applied for the DUPLICATE PROVISIONAL-CUM-CHARACTER CERTIFICATE. Anybody having my objection may file the same before undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

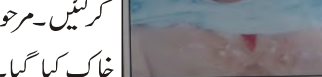
ABD-KO

آہ! جاجی نہ رہیں

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ عبدالحمید بیٹ (جاجی) ساکنہ بھگتہ بیگم کرا لیا رمتصل ویٹو اہماری کالج مختصر

علامت کے بعد 12 اگست 2020ء رات 1 بجے صورہ ہسپتال میں انتقال کر گئیں۔ مرحومہ کو پریم آنکھوں کے ساتھ سپرد خاک کیا گیا۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جوار رحمت

میں جگہ دے۔ مرحومہ نہایت ہی مفسار، نیک صفت، خوش اخلاق، خوش مزاج، شریف انش صفت سے سرشار تھیں۔ مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی بروز جمعرات صبح ساڑھے نو بجے فٹ بال میدان ملکہاہ میں واقع قبرستان میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ انشاء اللہ



سوگواران

اہل خانہ

7006189224, 7006907004, 6005302492

نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ مشروبات وغیرہ نہ لائیں

GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U.T)
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Demarcation Forest Division Kashmir, Srinagar
Landline/Fax No.0194-2485297
Office Address: Sheikh Bagh Lal Chowk Srinagar
Email: demarcationkashmir7@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT NO: - 03 OF 2020 DATED: - 22-08-2020

Due to poor response regarding this office eNIT No.02 of 2020-21 (item No.01) Dated: 24-07-2020, fresh tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State / Central Government Organizations for the following Govt work: -

S. NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In Lacs)	E/M (Rs. In Lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of TD. Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Construction of 98 No. demarcation boundary Pillars as per approved design along the Forest Demarcation line [stretched upto 20.5697 kms mainline only] as per the map/ Tafseel-i-burjiyaat (description of boundary pillar) and as per latitude and longitude found out by GPS in Sheikhpora Saller Forest (Co.55/L to Co.56/L) of Lidder Forest Division.	6.04	0.12	C&D	300	17 days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website:- <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

Scheme: CAPEX Budget (Head 4406-State Sector)
Position of Funds: 50% funds released.
Position of AA/TS: Accorded
Receiving/ Opening Committee: Tender Opening Committee

Publishing Date:-	22-08-2020
Download Start Date:	22-08-2020
Bid submission Start Date:	22-08-2020 from 04:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	31-08-2020 upto 04:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bids through online:	01-09-2020 at 11:30 AM in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Demarcation Forest Division Kashmir Srinagar at Sheikh-Bagh Srinagar.
Date of opening of Price Bids:	To be opened (Online) after Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website:- <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Divisional Forest Officer Demarcation Forest Division Kashmir Srinagar. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- In case the bid of lowest / successful bidder is found unbalanced then he has to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee from scheduled bank valid till completion of work before issuance of contract allotment as per details given below:-
 - Up to and including 15% below rate over advertised cost NIL
 - Greater than 15% up to and including 20% below rate over advertised cost 5% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.
 - Greater than 20% up to and including 25% below rate over advertised cost 10% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.
 - Greater than 25% up to and including 30% below rate over advertised cost 15% of advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.
- Greater than 30% below rate over advertised cost. 20% in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical / hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e CDR, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current year 2020-2021, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan (cost of Tender Document).
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

DIPK-4491/20

No. Dem/Estt/2020/15-22/NIT

Dated: - 22-08-2020

Divisional Forest Officer,
Demarcation Forest Division,
Kashmir-Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER JKPC UNIT 8th, BARAMULLA.

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh NIT No.13/e-tendering of 2020-21/DGM/8th/Bla/JKPC Dated: 22-8-2020

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, J&KPC Ltd e-tenders (in Double Cover System) are invited from approved eligible and registered with J&K Govt (U.T.)/CPWD/Railway & other state /central Govts. for the following work:-

S No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T / DOC (In Rs)	E/M (In Rs.)	Time In Class	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	9
01	Water supply & sanitary fitting including disposal system for construction of indoor stadium at Mirgund Pattan	21.50	800.00	43000	45 working days	BEE/CEE Call 4 th

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

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	22-8-2020
02.	Date of uploading Tender notice	22-8-2020
03.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24-8-2020 (2.00 P.M) to 31-08-2020 (2.00P.M)
04.	Bid submission start date	24-08-2020 from (2.30 P.M)
05.	Bid submission end date	31-08-2020 upto (4.00 P.M)
06.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	01-09-2020 at (2.30 P.M) in the Office of the Dy.GENERAL MANAGER J&KPC Ltd 8 th Baramulla
07.	Earnest money deposit	Pledged to Dy. General Manager, JKPC Ltd unit-8 th Baramulla.
08.	Cost of tender document	Financial Controller, JKPC Limited Account No: 0084010100002408
09.	Bid validity period	120-days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Penalty for delay in completion:- In case of delay in completion of work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty of Rs.1000/- per day shall be imposed to the maximum of 10% of the contract value.
- The piece worker shall provide experience certificate in sanitary works from competent authority.

DIPK-NB-1955/20

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager,
Unit-8th, J&KPC Ltd,
Baramulla

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
- BIBHERA: 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**
05 Muharram
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 30
ZUHR 12: 33
ASR 5:15
Magrib 7:10
ISHA 8:35

This Day In History

- 1580- Battle of Alcantara, Spain defeats Portugal
- 1609- Galileo demonstrates his 1st telescope to Venetian law-makers
- 1628- Assault on sultan of Mantarams of Batavia
- 1654- Battle of Arras: Louis de Bourbon, Prince of Condé, failed to take Arras and withdrew to Cambrai.
- 1689- Battle at Charleroi: Spanish & English armies chase French
- 1804- Alice Meynell becomes 1st woman jockey (England)
- 1814- British forces destroy Library of Congress, containing 3,000 books (War of 1812)
- 1825- Uruguay declares independence from Brazil (National Day)
- 1830- Belgium revolts against Netherlands and begins the Belgian Revolution
- 1886- 1st international polo meet (US vs England)
- 1894- Japanese scientist Shibasaburo Kitasato discovers the infectious agent of the bubonic plague and publishes his findings in The Lancet
- 1912- 1st time an aircraft recovers from a spin
- 1920- Russia suffers a final decisive defeat in the Battle of Warsaw against Poland
- 192- US signs peace treaty with Germany
- 1932- Amelia Earhart completes transcontinental flight
- 1937- Japanese fleet blockades Chinese coast
- 1940- Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia incorporated into Soviet Union
- 1941- British & Russian troops attack pro-German Iran
- 1943- Lord Louis Mountbatten appointed Supreme Allied Commander in SE Asia
- 1944- Paris liberated from Nazi occupation (Freedom Tuesday)
- 1955- Last Soviet forces leave Austria
- 1981- Voyager 2's closest approach to Saturn (63,000 miles/100,000 km)
- 1983- US & USSR sign \$10 billion grain pact
- 1988- Iran & Iraq begin talks to end their 8 year war
- 1988- NASA launches space vehicle S-214
- 1989- After 12-year, 4-billion-mile journey, Voyager 2 flies over cloudtops of Neptune & its moon Triton, sending back photographs of swamps
- 199-1 White-Russia declares its independence
- 1991- Linux was born when Linus Torvalds sent off the email announcing his project to create a new operating system.
- 2012- 330 people are killed as a result of conflict in the Syrian civil war
- 2012- 85,000 people are displaced by severe floods in Myanmar
- 2012- 39 people are killed and 80 are injured after a gas leak in North Venezuelan refinery
- 2012- Voyager 1 spacecraft, enters interstellar space (launched in 1977), - first spacecraft to do so

From KO Archives

Villagers thrashed, shops looted as SF run amok

IED Blast Wounds 5 Soldiers, 2 Women

Ghulam Muhammad

SOPORE: Tension gripped the highway village of Patukah 6 km from here; after security forces allegedly went berserk injuring civilians, smashing vehicles and ransacking shops and houses following an IED explosion in which five of their men and two local women were injured this morning. Vehicular - traffic on the highway was disrupted for several hours while the villagers and shopkeepers have fled from the spot out of fear.

According to reports, five army jawans of 29 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) were injured, some of them seriously, when suspected militants detonated a powerful improvised Explosive device (IED) planted in a bag under handcart near filling station eat Patukah at about 11 an today. It was believed to have been triggered through a remote control device. Two local women, identified as Shamima w/o Bashir Ahmad Hallam and Misra w/o Abdul Ahad, were also injured. A CNS report said the Hizbul Mujahideen had claimed responsibility for the blast.

Eyewitnesses said the impact of the explosion was such that the one tonne vehicle the army jawans were travelling in was hurled a distance of several yards and smashed into a moving civilian truck. The vehicle as well as the truck, bearing registration No JKC 3908 and carrying timber, suffered extensive damage. Those injured in the incident were immediately rushed to hospitals. While two of the injured soldiers were discharged after first aid, the other three were stated to be out of danger. However, a KPS report said two of the injured soldiers succumbed to injuries at the base hospital at Badamibagh, Srinagar.

Soon after the incident, according to reports, troops in strength swooped on the village and allegedly ran amok, beating everyone they could catch hold of. They smashing the petrol pump belonging to Feroz Ahmad Pandit s/o Habibullah Pandit of Sopore and his Maruti car bearing registration No JK 04 / 2757. Pandit was injured due to thrashing by the securitymen.

A little ahead, the jawans beat a bandsaw owner; Ghulam Muhammad Khuroo, and his labour, Muhammad Hannan Hajjam, resulting in serious injuries to both. They were rushed to Srinagar in a critical condition. A horse cart puller, Muhammad Arif r/o Inzar, Shrakawara, fractured his leg due to severe beating and he too was rushed to Srinagar. Several others were also beaten. Meanwhile, reports said, all the villagers deserted their homes and hearths in panic while the shopkeepers left their shops. The security forces immediately laid siege to the village and allegedly went about looting and ransacking the shops with gay abandon. They also conducted house-to-house searches to flush out the suspects.

Kashmir Observer, August 25, 2000

KASHMIR
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Congress crisis

A letter by over twenty senior Congress leaders to the interim Congress president Sonia Gandhi has plunged the party into a deep crisis. It is learnt now that Sonia Gandhi is set to resign to pave the way for the election of a non-Gandhi president. But the letter has split Congress down the middle with Gandhi family supporters and opponents at loggerheads with each other. Among the Gandhi family supporters, however, are incumbent chief ministers like Amarinder Singh, Bupesh Baghel and Ashok Gehlot. However, the letter marks a break from the passivity of the last six years with the party apparently seeming to have resigned to its current lot. But it won't also be easy to elect a non-Gandhi president. And the party has its own reasons for this: a Gandhi not being at the helm will run the risk of breaking the party up. Also, in the present circumstances, Congress doesn't boost of many a mass leader -albeit, there are many senior politicians who can be worthy successors to Gandhi. Gandhi's term at the helm has shown that he is not just up to the task.

The situation is not any better among other parties. The country's secular opposition is in tatters and fighting over scraps. There is no major pan-India leader to take on the overarching persona of Modi. While Rahul Gandhi and many others look like minions, the likes of Mamta Banerjee and Mayawati who once showed signs of shaping up into credible rivals have too paled into significance. The caste based parties in Uttar Pradesh who were only hope to stop Modi's juggernaut have bitten the dust. And they are unlikely to recover from the beating they have taken in polls after polls.

It is now clear that the Modi wave remains alive and kicking. After a few reverses here and there over the past six years, Modi's appeal has only grown stronger. He is now certain to win many more Assembly polls, more so, the upcoming election in West Bengal unless Congress and wider opposition gets its act right. If no credible opposition emerges from the shadows in the near future, a prospect which looks bleak.

The deft blend of ideology and the grassroots organization under Modi's charismatic leadership is expected to help the BJP triumph in future polls. While the opposition is reeling from the defeat over the past some years the BJP is busy setting up its base in the states where it lacks the presence. With some pushback brewing within its ranks, there is hope that Congress can set its house right by electing a full-time leader who is able to take on the might of Modi. This alone can get it back in reckoning.

OTHER OPINION

A deepening alliance

There were no dramatic announcements from the meeting between the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, late last week in the Chinese island province of Hainan. It was about the further consolidation of the all-weather partnership between Islamabad and Beijing across a broadening range of issues —from economic and commercial to the political and security. What makes this round of Sino-Pak strategic dialogue significant is the rapid deterioration of India-China ties amidst the unresolved military standoff in eastern Ladakh. India has had to cope with the consequences of the China-Pak partnership that can be traced back to the mid 1950s. Yet, Delhi has continuously underestimated the deepest sources animating it. To make matters worse, Delhi has always over-determined the prospects for its own partnership with China and its ability to transcend the Sino-Pak alliance.

For Delhi, the immediate concern is about intensive Sino-Pak political coordination on Kashmir. China has lent strong support to Islamabad's efforts to mobilise international condemnation of Delhi's constitutional changes in Kashmir since late last year. The joint statement issued after the talks between Wang and Qureshi saw China reaffirm its criticism of India's "unilateral actions" in Kashmir. As part of the commitment on both sides to support the "core interests" of the other, Pakistan expressed support for China's repression of the majority Muslim community in Beijing's far western province of Xinjiang. The point here is not about Pakistan's double standards in raising human rights concerns about Kashmir and supporting China in Xinjiang. Hypocrisy is very much part of international relations. The real story is about the deep foundations of the Sino-Pak alliance that transcend religion and are tied to shared interests of the two nations in containing India.

India, however, has been reluctant to confront this central reality — which continues to express itself in multiple ways. These range from the construction of the Karakoram Highway through Kashmir in the 1970s to the expansive China-Pakistan Economic Corridor of the present and from Beijing's nuclear and missile assistance to Pakistan in the 1980s to the integration of Pakistani naval forces and bases into China's ambitious Indian Ocean strategy. Even as it fends off their co-ordinated attempt to put India in the international dock on Kashmir, Delhi must prepare for a full range of other contingencies — from Sino-Pak joint support to insurgent groups in India's Northeast to probing India's other internal, regional and international vulnerabilities. Recognising the challenge of the Sino-Pak alliance is necessarily the first step in any Indian strategy to cope with it in the days ahead.

Indian Express

Khalid Bashir Ahmad

When a group of youth owing allegiance to Muslim Conference arrived at the Mujahid Manzil, workers and leaders of the National Conference were present there. Prominent among them was the party president, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. As the youth attempted to take control of the building Abdullah and his associates pelted stones on them, injuring many and forcing them to retreat

When Sheikh Abdullah pelted stones

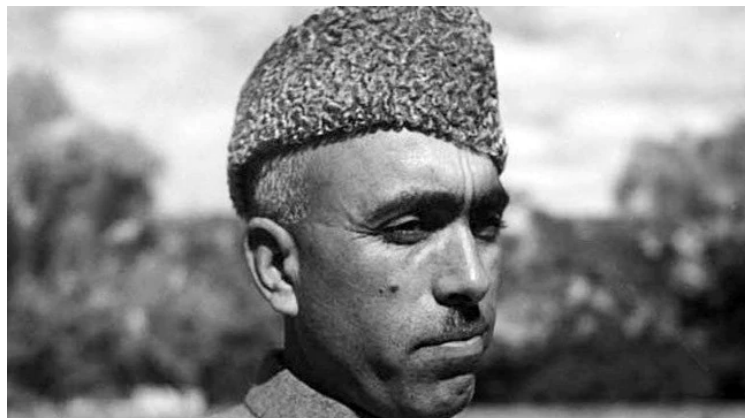
The event was recorded by Molvi Mohammad Shah Sa'dat in his daily diary, Tareekh-i-Kashmir Ki Rozana Dairy

Seven years after its birth, the Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference was converted into a new political party — the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference — on 11 June 1939 to, what its President, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah claimed, pursue nationalistic politics. The development caused dissension among the Muslims of Kashmir, resulting in perennial enmity, which, though, had started years earlier, between the supporters of Abdullah and Mirwaiz Mohammad Yusuf Shah, who opposed the conversion. For years, the two ideologically divergent groups fought out their differences on the streets of Srinagar city and gave each other bloody noses and broken bones.

On the basis of his mass support, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the founder President of the Muslim Conference, was able to bulldoze the dissenting voices and formalize its conversion to a 'nationalist party' inviting into its fold the minority communities. Eight decades down the line, analysts suggest that demolition of the Muslim Conference, not the Partition of 1947, laid the foundation of the Kashmir problem that has bitterly engaged two neighbouring countries of South Asia for the last over seven decades. That being a subject for researchers to further work on, let us now come to a different point linked with the dissolution of the Muslim Conference and birth of the National Conference.

A year after the Muslim Conference was launched, the foundation stone of a building named the Mujahid Manzil (Abode of Warriors) was laid, on 6 November 1933, on the left bank of the Jhelum opposite the famous Muslim shrine of Khanqah-e-Moulla, to serve as the party's headquarters. Post-11 June 1939 decision, the Mujahid Manzil was taken over by the National Conference as its party headquarters. However, there were others who believed it was the property of the Muslim Conference and, therefore, of the Muslims. On 16 June, barely five days after the formation of the National Conference, some youth went to Hazratbal shrine and hoisted a green Islamic flag on the shrine building. Buoyant with their act, they now marched to the Mujahid Manzil in order to wrest the building from the National Conference and unfurl their flag on it.

When the group of youth arrived at the Mujahid Manzil, there were some workers and leaders of the National Conference present there. Prominent among them was the party President, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. As the youth attempted to take control of the building, the National Conference leaders led by Abdullah resisted them. There erupted a clash between the two sides. Abdullah and his associates pelted stones on the invading youth, injuring them and making them to retreat. It was quite an interesting scene where, both literally and figuratively, the tallest leader of Kashmir and the President of its largest political party was engaged in 'kani jung' or hurling stones on his opponents. The event is the first recorded in-



cident in the turbulent history of Kashmir when a political leader of Abdullah's stature had resorted to stone pelting. On the following day, the police arrested some workers of the National Conference in connection with the incident.

The event was recorded by Molvi Mohammad Shah Sa'dat in his daily diary, Tareekh-i-Kashmir Ki Rozana Dairy. Sa'dat, we are told, was admitted by Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Hindu Maharaja of Kashmir, to his Darbar as a historian. Noted historians, G. M. D. Sufi and Munshi Muhammad Din Fauq, authors of Kashmir and Tawarikh-i-Kashmir, respectively, have drawn from his works. A year after the stone pelting incident at the Mujahid Manzil, a group of educated youth had a meeting at Badam Waer (The Almond Alcove) on 26 March 1940 where they raised pro-Muslim Conference slogans and made speeches. After their meeting, they marched to the Mujahid Manzil and hoisted a flag atop the building. Molvi Mohammad Sayeed Masoodi, General Secretary, National Conference, who was present there, had the youth thrashed and the flag removed. Between 1953, when Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was dismissed as the Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir and arrested, and 1975 when he returned to power after mending fences with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the Mujahid Manzil served as the party office of the Jammu & Kashmir Plebiscite Front, a political party launched by Abdullah's lieutenant, Mirza Mohammad Afzal Beg and others to launch a peaceful agitation for demand for plebiscite while the former remained incarcerated. Abdullah's return to power also saw the return of the Mujahid Manzil as the party headquarters of his National Conference. On 27 December 1994, the historic building was reduced to rubble in an incident of fire. In the earlier phase of rivalry between the followers of Abdullah and the Mirwaiz, Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, a right hand man of Abdullah, who later staged a successful coup against him in 1953 to become the Prime Minister, was beaten to a pulp by the Mirwaiz supporters at Genz Khod in old city on 8 September 1933, as a result of which he lost consciousness. Later, in 1942, the two sides hurled stones at each other after the supporters of Abdullah tried to stop the Mirwaiz from delivering Eid sermon at the historic Eidgah. In the violent clash, hundreds of people were in-

jured. In 1944 and 1945, respectively, public meeting of Mohammad Ali Jinnah and river procession of Jawaharlal Nehru were thrown stones at by the rival sides. In the later incident, among others, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan was injured. In 1939 and 1967, agitating Kashmiri Pandits resorted to stone pelting while protesting against the takeover of the Durganag Temple by the Dharmarth Trust and conversion of a community girl, Parmeshwari, to Islam and marriage to her Muslim colleague, respectively. On 5 November 1973, the vehicle of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who was then out of power, came under a shower of stones when he had arrived at the Government College for Women, Maulana Azad Road to attend as chief guest a function to rename the college after Jawaharlal Nehru.

Stone pelting has been a weapon of protest in Kashmir for long and those caught in the act are severely dealt with by the police. In recent times, especially since August 2019 after the revocation of the Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that guaranteed internal autonomy to Jammu & Kashmir, stone pelting youth were booked under the draconian Public Safety Act and, after amending the law, several of them were lodged in jails outside Jammu & Kashmir.

TAILPIECE: There is an interesting ritual associated with stone pelting with religious sanction observed in village Dhami, near Shimla, in the north-Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. As per tradition, on the second day of Diwali, a major Hindu festival, people of the village divide themselves into two groups and pelt stones at each other. In the process, the blood of the first injured person is used to perform tilak (coloured mark worn by Hindus on the forehead) on the deity, Bhima Kali. The legend has it that once the ruler of the area was killed in a fight and, following the then prevalent custom, his wife committed sati. Before jumping on the funeral pyre of her husband, she took a pledge from the villagers that they would stop offering human sacrifice at the Bhima Kali Temple and instead form themselves into two groups and throw stones at each other. The blood thus spilled should be offered to the deity.

Khalid Bashir Ahmad is a historian. His recent book is "Kashmir: Exposing the Myth behind the narrative"



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All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Kashmir's Covid Catch-22

Kashmir is currently exhibiting a double burden of poverty exacerbated by the allied physical, social and psychological impacts of COVID-19 itself. Many estimates predict a worsening of the situation. A yearlong lockdown has placed Kashmir in a catch-22 situation where we're having to choose between what might be considered "right" and what might be the "needful". In any case, one can't take a puritan position and advocate complete lockdowns to protect life. One has to find a strategic way out of the calamity Kashmir has been facing for over a year now.

Kashmir's workforce thrives on the informal sector to a larger extent, yet the mitigation plan from the government has totally neglected this sector. In fact, the plight of day labourers

in Kashmir is only the tip of a larger humanitarian crisis. Even migrant workers in Gulf have lost their livelihood. Small businesses based in Kashmir have suffered huge losses and have exhausted savings for further investments in business. It is the same with manufacturing labourers who work in factories, workshops or even at home. One of the many sectors which has incurred huge losses is the public transport sector, which has also faced the brunt of a yearlong crisis in Kashmir.

If the lock down continues even intermittently, these groups might have to skip meals, take loans or liquidify household items as their meagre income would not go long. Remittances, which contribute a lot to the GDP, have already experienced a sharp decline. Many expatriate workers who

had temporarily travelled to the Gulf nations and Southeast Asia for skilled work, have returned in the past months and the government is under pressure to take them back. As remittances are one of the main source of Kashmir's revenue, the decline has put a serious drain on the economy.

Additionally, India's agriculture sector depends hugely on export orders, which have drastically decreased due to the rise of the novel coronavirus cases around the world, including in-country transportation. This has also affected agriculture based entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in the agrarian sector in Kashmir.

But hunger and poverty have not been the only implications of the lockdown. Many other social and psychological issues have crept up. The lockdown is taking a heavy toll on women

and children. There are multiple reports revealing increase in domestic violence cases against women and children especially in the urban areas. This increase in violence within domestic spaces has also put others like elderly, sick or differently abled people at risk.

It is quite baffling that little has been done or planned to address these issues strategically. Only NGOs and philanthropists are trying to do their best to reach out to as many people as possible. However, in the absence of policies and systematic plans from the government; scattered and individual good Samaritans can only do little to bring Kashmir out of the mess.

Ateeb Ahmad Parray
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Kashmiri Dida’s Comedy of Cultural Conciliation

Arbeena Shah

Addressing the taboos and social issues prevalent in the society in a humorous manner, a poised Kashmiri Pandit woman is delivering sermons of unity and communal brotherhood to bring Kashmiris together.

Supporting a signature mid-length hair and a traditional wear, a jovial Kashmiri woman has captured the hearts of thousands of netizens with her profound humorous acting and dialogue delivery blended with applaudable punches.

Perhaps spreading smiles comes naturally to MeankaHandu, the contemporary Kashmir’s celebrated comedian who has never been to any acting school. It was her pure love for Kashmir, its culture, people and the unfortunate known fact of dying Kashmiri language which motivated her to go online.

She addresses her audience via her YouTube channel ‘AsvunKoshur’ in a typical Kashmiri language whisked with a comic ingredient and brings a wide smile on every face that listens and watches her.

In April 2017, she posted her first video on YouTube in her mother tongue and the overwhelming response that followed encouraged her to take this riveting and constructive step further.

Meanka’s central comic character Dida makes her deeply rooted to her homeland, its culture and language. The rib-tickling character is a name given to a Kashmiri Pandit woman. She brings every Kashmiri together and makes them laugh regardless of their religious faith or political opinion.

Dida plays the role of a much older woman who is the mother of two kids—18-year-old Sheen and 16-year-old Nabad; while as JiggaMasi and her daughter Cherry Didi are the villainous fictional characters.

Meanka performs all these roles single-handedly. She receives several messages from her female audience since they relate themselves with the name Dida.

“I’ve received messages from some Kashmiri Muslim girls who are called Dida at home,” says Meanka. “I believe my audience relates to this name and character.”

Since her school days, Meanka used to receive bunch of plaudits for her unique sense of humour. And ergo, she decided to mix her gift with euphonious Kashmiri language. And hence, the name ‘AsvunKoshur’ came into being which means a smiling Kashmiri.

With 40k subscribers to her YouTube channel, Meanka seeks to teach Kashmiri in an informal way often loaded with proverbs and old sayings of Sufi saints and Rishis such as LalDedand Nund Rishi.

She addresses the taboos and social issues prevalent in the society in a humorous manner, thereby, making a humble effort to raise awareness among the people and at the same time accentuating Kashmiri language.

She firmly believes that mother tongue is the backbone of any culture that needs to be preserved and revitalized.

“Kids are not encouraged to speak Kashmiri at homes or even in schools,” says Meanka. “Hence, I started my YouTube channel which caters to this cause.”

Speaking in one’s native language creates an immense impact on maintaining its zenith, and Meanka steadfastly believes that it is one’s identity which indigenous people must love, encourage, preserve and take pleasure in speaking.

“I take great pride in the fact that I can fluently speak in my mother tongue, so should every Kashmiri,” the witty woman continues.

Also, she reckons, there’s no better way to give out the message of oneness, communal harmony and brotherhood than in an amusing and familial manner.



erhood than in an amusing and familial manner.

“Even if a handful of people are able to shun bitterness, I will consider my job done,” she smiles.

In addition to YouTube, she has approximately 85k and 15.5k followers on Facebook and Instagram respectively.

Apart from Kashmir, her whacking followers include non-Kashmiris from Delhi, Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. They admire her efforts and comic style.

Currently residing at Noida, Meanka was born in a well-educated Kashmiri Pandit family in Rainawari, Srinagar. However, her parents had to leave following the mass migration of her community in 1990. Her father, Virender Prakash, runs a trekking company, while as her mother, RaajHandu, has been a teacher all her life.

“My dad always taught me the difference between education and literacy, encouraged me to read newspapers and books, and didn’t let me restrict myself to academic syllabus only,” Meanka says. “My parents have always been supportive and I shared my first video with them and few close friends, who actually stood by me in my thick and thin.”

She completed her schooling from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Noida, and later did her engineering in Information & Technology from University of Mumbai. However, she craved for something that offered her creative freedom.

As such, she took Learning and Development as her profession. Having worked in MNCs for almost eight years, she now works as a freelancer and helps emerging companies set up training functions.

So far, her three years of online journey has made her more humble and empathetic because of the people who jam-pack her inbox with gratifying notes. Also, she has learned to respond rather than react to any kind of obnoxious text thrown at her.

“When I go through some hateful messages, I tell

myself this is what I don’t have to do to anyone. I think hundred times before writing or saying anything to any person,” says Meanka.

But on professional front, she handles and manages all the technical aspects—writing, directing, executing, recording, editing—without relying on anyone.

“Hours of hard work and mental preparation goes on in the background before the act is delivered to the people which just comes out as a 10-15 minutes of work,” she says.

As a person, Meanka is an action-oriented woman and believes in taking practical steps to deal with any problem or situation.

“My life and career have always been driven by a strong passion to support and bring about a change,” she says.

She balances her professional and personal life gracefully despite it becoming hectic for her at times. However, her love and commitment towards her work and the numerous fans looking forward to hear from her provide her strength and motivation amidst her incessant schedule.

She has also started her online shop on her official Facebook page that deals in coffee mugs, t-shirts, and hand-painted wooden accessory boxes for females.

But amid virtual laughter and faraway real life, she often gets drifted to mountains and yearns for the grape creepers, walnut tree, kitchen garden, clear blue sky, and twilight chirping of birds in her ancestral home.

Despite not being able to spend much time at her native place, she feels a strong connection with Kashmir and someday in future she desires to come back.

She believes that Kashmiris who had to leave Kashmir and those who continued living there have suffered regardless of their religion and community. Hence, both must overcome the enmity and rise above it.

“I truly believe we all need to acknowledge each other’s pain and rise above hate,” Meanka concludes.

How an “Early Marriage” Empowered Me

Faakhirah Junaid

It’s been almost a year since I’ve been married to the most wonderful human being. I married him at an age many would deem “too young” for a woman with ambition. In my pensive moments, I would wonder if that were true. I was often overcome with the fear that my life would halt as an individual and start as someone’s wife. But I took the leap, knowing well, that I shall set my own terms.

In our society, discussions about marriage are always scaled on a timeline. There’s a consensus on what should be deemed too early, early, the right age, late or too late. This timeline is redundant as it does not take into account the lives of women per se. All women are different by virtue of their personal as well as professional lives. How then can we have one timeline for all? Why must we have a timeline at all?

I grew up and worked my way in environments where my opinion was respected and asked for. I was always passionate about my professional life. There had been days when, like many, I had also perceived marriage as a hindrance to my career. However, it was my parent’s marriage which had kept my faith in the institution. For many, this has not been the case and the institution has rightly been seen as a problematic one. However, I had been privileged this way and in many others ways. This is why, when the right person came around, I wasn’t hesitant to get married.

For many, the age of getting married isn’t their discretion and many are pushed into one without having a say in it. This is an unfortunate reality of our society and one which I am aware of. However, as an educated woman from a privileged background, I had the apprehension of a different kind of stigma — that of marrying “too early”.

Nonetheless, the realisation that I still own my destiny and identity as a human came to me after realising that men in my family had gone on to faring well in life even after becoming husbands and fathers. While they were able to do that because they were men; I had the opportunity to change that for myself. With the right mindset, I could make right choices for myself and my husband was one of the many I have made in the direction. When I first met him, the first thing I noticed that he loved about me was my ambition. I decided to get married to him not because I felt he completed me but because I could see myself growing as an individual with him.

The society judges us and our decisions as women because we are not yet ready to realise that women aren’t owned by their husbands or fathers. In the past year, a couple of my colleagues and friends have come up to me and mocked my decision to settle down. But why can’t I have it all like the men before me had? Why can’t I have crazy ambition and an amazing family life? Why can’t I as a woman have kids as well as patents?

The question here is not about marriage but about a person’s agency. Most women in our society face hurdles in exercising their agency. However, that needs to change. We must let women decide their own journeys. We as women must also remember that the picture can’t



always be painted for us. We’ve got to choose our own scenery and develop it.

However, our society has to change to make itself conducive for women to exercise our agency. We need to change narratives around marriage to accommodate those who want to marry, do not

want to marry and even those who do not believe in the institution of marriage.

But for it to become easy for women to make decisions easily, we must also have allies.

I have had the privilege of growing up in a supportive environment where I had many allies. My father-in-law pushed me to go for a project that would keep me away from home. My husband and my mother-in-law have also ensured that I have an environment where I can actively choose my own professional path and enjoy my family life as well. My mother and father have been my primary role models who made way for me to chart my own destiny.

We, as a society, need to find a way out of our conventional expectations from marriage. We must strive to create an environment where no choice is stigmatised. No one gets to decide what empowerment looks like. For some women, it may be fulfilling to work as a home maker and others might find fulfillment outside their domestic spheres. We need to let women decide for themselves without keeping on them the ever looming threat of stigma and judgment. Society might not change too quickly and will continue to quantify women through our performances as wives, working women or through our looks. However, the only person a woman needs to satisfy emotionally, spiritually, physically and professionally, is no one but herself.

Faakhirah Junaid is a lawyer and works as a policy and legal associate

The realisation that I still own my destiny and identity as a human came to me after realising that men in my family had gone on to faring well in life even after becoming husbands and fathers.



OUR APPROACH COULD PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT insights into real-world vehicle behaviours," says Dr Zhaoya Gong, corresponding author on the study.

RESEARCHERS FIND ROUTING APPS CAN DELIVER REAL-TIME INSIGHTS INTO EMISSIONS

Agencies

Routing apps such as Google Maps or Nokia's Here platform could offer a cost-effective way of calculating emissions hotspots in real-time, say researchers at the University of Birmingham.

These apps routinely capture detailed information as motorists use the GPS technology to plan and navigate routes. This data could be invaluable for researchers and planners who need to better understand traffic flows on busy roads, according to new research published in *Weather*, the journal of the Royal Meteorological Society.

Current emissions data from road transport is collated from a number of different sources by the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory and this is fed into annual reports to demonstrate compliance with emissions targets. Many of these traditional air quality models rely on the assumption that traffic is freely flowing at

the legal speed limit -- whereas in many areas, traffic flow will vary through the day. These models also overlook finer-grained detail from individual roads or junctions that might be emissions hotspots at particular times of the day.

Although more detailed information might be available to city planners when designing new road layouts or traffic improvement schemes, it requires costly modelling by consultancies.

Making use of the crowd-sourced data from routing apps could, the researchers argue, provide a low-cost and highly effective alternative to both high level and localised modelling.

Helen Pearce, a PhD researcher at the University of Birmingham's School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, led the study. She says: "A lot of guidelines and policy on air quality management are based on hourly time snapshots and on the average amount of traffic on a typical day of the year. The difficulty is

that traffic can vary an enormous amount within that time window and along individual roads, so in order to make decisions that really work 'on the ground', we need to be able to access and make use of this finer-grained detail."

The approach suggested by the team was tested on roads in Birmingham's busy city centre. Information on the time taken to travel a series of road links was obtained via a map provider's API (application programming interface). This is conceptually similar to the approach that an individual would take to calculate the time of a journey, but using the API the researchers were able to obtain information for multiple roads and at multiple times of the day.

Following a successful preliminary study, the team scaled up their trial to include 920 major road links across Birmingham city centre, extracting information about these roads at hourly intervals. The researchers found they were able to clearly demonstrate the changes in

traffic flow between typical weekdays, weekends, and also the effects of specific social events.

Speed related emissions could then be calculated using a combination of sources including Defra's speed-related emission function database, and traffic count data from the Department of Transport. This information also helped the researchers take into account the relative splits between petrol and diesel engines.

"Our approach could provide significant insights into real-world vehicle behaviours," says Dr Zhaoya Gong, corresponding author on the study. "As we start to see more electric and hybrid vehicles on the road, the emissions picture starts to get more complicated because there will be fewer exhaust emissions, but we will still see pollution from brakes, tyres and road surface wear -- all these will vary significantly according to the speed of the vehicle so this sort of data will be vital for developing accurate emissions models."

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Subject: Corrigendum to ENIT No 04/e-Tendering/2020 dated 08/08/2020, for Fixation of ARC for supply of Printed Machine Laminated Bags for Compost Packing.

Due to technical error in No 04/e-Tendering/2020 dated 08/08/2020 for Fixation of Annual Rate Contract for supply of Printed Machine Laminated Bags for Compost Packing has been retendered and fresh dates for uploading of bids are as under:-

1. Uploading of Bids = 24-08-2020 upto 02-09-2020
2. Dated of opening of Bids = 03-09-2020 upto 04:00PM

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in Fresh ENIT No 04/e-Tendering/2020 dated 08/08/2020.

Sd-
DIPK-NB-1962/20
**Purchase & Procurement Officer,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.**

**No: SMC/PPS/678-681
Dated: 22/08/2020**

Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE, Ground Water Divn., Bagh Ali Mardaan Nowshera, Srinagar Kashmir

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e tenders are invited in 02 Cover System for Construction of Exploratory Test Bore Well and Construction of production tube well at the following location/site from registered water well drillers/contractors as per the details given in tender document.

Site	Cost of Tender Document	Cost of EMD	Estimated Cost	Time of completion	Validity of Rates	Programme
Construction of Production Tube Well at W.W.S. Brenthi Batpora, Constituency Shangus, District Anantnag	Rs.1000/-	Rs.50000/-	Rs.25.00lacs	30 Days	180 Days	NABARD
Construction of Production Tube Well at W.S.S.Zewan-Payeen Constituency Sonwar, District Srinagar	Rs.1000/-	Rs.55000/-	Rs.27.50 lacs	30 Days	180 Days	Languishing LUP 2363
Construction of Production Tube Well at Poshpathri Khonmoh.	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 61000/-	Rs.30.50 lacs	30 Days	180 Days	CAPEX
Construction of Production Tube Well at Mohanpora District Shopian	Rs.1000/-	Rs. 50000/-	Rs. 25.00 lacs	30 Days	180 Days	Languishing LUP 2363

Critical Dates / Information.	
1 Publishing Date	24-08-2020
2 Period of Downloading of Bids	24-08-2020 (9:00 A.M) to 02 -09-2020 (4:00 P.M)
3 Period of Submission of bids	24-08-2020 (9:00 A.M) to 02 -09-2020 (4:00 P.M)
4 Date of opening of Tender.	03-09-2020 at (11:00A.M)
5 Tender Receiving Authority:	Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.
6 Document Cost for an amount shown in Gist of NIT against each well tender is Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) on account of (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)	
7 Earnest Money: for an amount shown in Gist of NIT against each well tender in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar 190011.	
8 Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	

Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water

Scientists Decode How Lungs Are Damaged In Severe Covid-19 Using Novel Imaging Technique

Press Trust Of India

Using a novel technique which enables high resolution imaging of damaged lung tissues, scientists have found the changes caused by severe COVID-19 in the structure of the organ's blood vessels and air sacs, findings that may support the development of new treatment methods against the disease.

In the study, published in the journal *eLife*, the scientists developed a new X-ray technique which enables high resolution and three-dimensional imaging of lung tissues infected with the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

Using the new method, the researchers, including those from the University of Göttingen in Germany, observed significant changes in the blood vessels, inflammation, and a deposition of proteins and dead cells on the walls of the lungs' tiny air sacs called alveoli.

They said these changes make gas exchange by the organ either difficult or impossible.

According to the scientists, the new imaging approach allows these changes to be visualised for the first time in larger tissue volumes, without cutting and staining, or damaging the tissue.

They said it is particularly well suited for tracing small blood vessels and their branches in three dimensions, localising cells of the immune systems present at inflammation sites, and measuring the



thickness of the alveolar walls.

Due to the three-dimensional reconstruction of the lung tissues, the researchers said the data could also be used to simulate gas exchange in the organ.

Since X-rays penetrate deep into tissue, they said scientists can use the method to understand the relation between the microscopic tissue structure and the larger function of an organ.

"Based on this first proof-of-concept study, we propose multi-scale phase contrast X-ray tomography as a tool to unravel the pathophysiology of COVID-19," the researchers wrote in the study.

The scientists believe the technique will support the development of treatment methods, and medicines to prevent or alleviate severe lung damage in COVID-19, or to promote recovery.

"It is only when we can clearly see and understand what is really going on, that we can develop targeted interventions and drugs," said Danny Jonigk, a co-author of the study from Medical University Hannover in Germany.

Heart Rate Monitoring Tool Now In 60% Smartwatches Globally



Agencies

The smartwatch space remains a popular consumer device segment for tracking health and the heart rate monitoring feature is now available in 60 per cent smartwatches globally.

According to a Counterpoint Research report, fall detection and blood oxygen (SPO2) are the features that should see mass-adoption in future smartwatch models.

"The massive leaps in battery life and processing power are helping to better track overall health as continual heart rate, sleep and other monitoring can be done instead of the device sitting on a charger," said Research Director Jeff Fieldhack in the latest report.

Samsung has activated the ECG (electrocardiogram) functionality on the newly-launched Galaxy Watch3 in the US.

Taking on Apple Watch that is currently the best health wearable in the market, the Galaxy Watch3 offers blood oxygen and fall detec-

tion tools and would include blood pressure (BP) monitoring and ECG readings in markets where these features have been authorised.

According to Fieldhack, the leaps in solar charging technology will also help OEMs concentrate on better monitoring.

"We expect to continue to see a focus on fitness and wellness applications," he said.

Google WearOS continues to account for 10 per cent of the total smartwatch market, behind Apple WatchOS.

"Huawei's Lite OS and Amazfit's Amazfit OS are growing fast. Further, the cellular-capable smartwatch is becoming more popular and accounts for more than one in four smartwatches shipped, benefiting the likes of Qualcomm," the Counterpoint report said.

Square form-factor accounts for almost two-thirds of the smartwatches globally as the form factor is helping to better fit additional sensors and needed battery footprint, it added.

Hamas asks regional leaders to 'break silence' as Pompeo starts Middle East tour

AGENCIES

Jerusalem: As US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo started a Middle East tour in Israel on Monday, Islamist group Hamas called on regional leaders to "break their silence" on Israel's blockade of Gaza.

Israel has bombed the coastal Palestinian strip, which is ruled by the group, almost daily since August 6, while balloons carrying fire bombs and, less frequently, rocket fire have hit Israel from Gaza.

In retaliation for the balloon attacks and the widespread blazes on farms and scrubland they have caused, Israel has tightened its 13-year blockade of Gaza's two million inhabitants.

It has banned 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.

Hamas in a statement called the closure of the Kerem Sha-

Arab Emirates helps "maintain crimes and violations" against the Palestinians.

Pompeo touched down in Tel Aviv Monday morning to kick off a five-day trip to the Middle East.

His visit will focus on Israel's normalising diplomatic ties with the UAE, seen as a betrayal by many Palestinians, and urging other Arab states to follow suit.

Earlier Monday the Israeli army said it had again hit Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip overnight, in retaliation for incendiary balloon and rocket attacks launched from the Palestinian enclave.

An Egyptian delegation has been trying to broker a return to an informal truce.

"During the day, explosive and arson balloons were launched from the Gaza Strip into Israel," an army statement said.

"In response ... fighter jets, tanks and aircraft struck military posts and underground



lom crossing a "crime against humanity" and called on the international community and "decision-makers in the region" to "break their silence to bring an end" to the blockade.

Hamas also said that the normalisation of relations between Israel and the United

infrastructure" belonging to Hamas in the southern Gaza Strip, it said.

On Thursday night, Gaza militants fired a dozen rockets at Israel, which responded with air strikes on a rocket-manufacturing plant and underground infrastructure.

"Deep-Seated" Discrimination Of Religious Minorities Still Continues: UN

AGENCIES

United Nations: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has called for an end to discrimination against religious minorities and related hate crimes, pointing out that the coronavirus pandemic was accompanied by stigma and the racist discourse.

In his message for the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, observed on August 22, Mr Guterres said, "The right to freedom of religion or belief is firmly entrenched in international human rights law and is a cornerstone for inclusive, prosperous and peaceful societies."

He added that across the world "we continue to witness deep-seated discrimination against religious minorities, attacks on people and religious sites, and hate crimes and atrocity crimes targeting populations simply because of their religion or belief."

Noting that while societies have shown resilience and strength in the face of COVID-19, the pandemic has also been accompanied by a surge in stigma

and racist discourse vilifying communities, spreading vile stereotypes and assigning blame.

"As we commemorate the victims, we must do more to address the root causes of intolerance and discrimination by promoting inclusion and respect for diversity. We must also ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes are held accountable," Mr Guterres said.

The UN chief added that states have the primary responsibility to protect the right to freedom of religion and belief and he has also made this a priority through initiatives such as a Call to Action for Human Rights, a strategy on hate speech and a plan of action to safeguard religious sites.

"This extraordinary moment calls on all of us to work together as one human family to defeat a disease and put an end to hate and discrimination," he said.

The International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief was created by a UN resolution adopted in May 2019, in response to a rise of intolerance and violence based on religion or belief against individuals, which are often of a criminal nature.



Mike Pompeo "Hopeful" More Arab States Will Normalise Israel Ties

AGENCIES

Jerusalem, Undefined: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday praised Israel's normalisation of ties with the UAE and said he hoped to see other Arab countries follow suit.

"I'm very hopeful that we will see other Arab nations join in this," he said in Jerusalem, standing next to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu said the deal

with the Emirates, brokered by US President Donald Trump, "was a boon to peace and regional stability".

"I think it heralds a new era where we could have other nations join," he added. "I hope we'll have good news in the future, maybe in the near future."

Pompeo spoke of the opportunity awaiting future partners "to work alongside, to recognise the State of Israel".

It was the first day of a Mid-

east tour which the State Department said would also take Pompeo to Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

It said that he would meet Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok to "express support for deepening the Sudan-Israel relationship".

Pompeo will also meet Bahrain's Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa before meeting UAE foreign minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, it said.

Pompeo seeks to flood West Asia with arms, defies US own laws: Iran FM

AGENCIES

Tehran: Iran's foreign minister says his American counterpart, Mike Pompeo, is trying to "flood our region" with all kinds of US weapons even when his country's own laws prohibit such a measure.

Mohammad Javad Zarif's comments came in a Monday tweet after Pompeo said earlier the same day and following his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem al-Quds that the US will find a way to balance helping its military ally, the United Arab Emirates, without weakening Israel's qualitative military edge (QME).

Pompeo's remarks came amid controversy over whether the US will sell F-35 stealth jets to Abu Dhabi, after the Emirati officials unveiled their plan to totally normalize their country's relations with Israel.

"The US has legal requirements with respect to the QME, and we will respect that," Pompeo said, adding, "We have a 20-plus year security relationship with the UAE as well."

In response to the US secretary of state's comments, Zarif said, "Outlaw @SecPompeo has no qualms about violating his own country's laws" while alluding to Pompeo's meeting with the Israeli prime minister by adding,

"Standing next to World's #1 nuclear threat, he declares his desire to flood our region with

even more US weapons."

Iran's top diplomat further noted that the US officials' plan to flood the West Asia region with American weapons comes despite the fact that the administration of US President Donald Trump is, at the same time, "trying to impede lawful normalization of Iran's defense cooperation with the world."

To shed more light on the US administration's plan to sell more weapons to the West Asian countries, Zarif mentioned a July 24 article by the New York Times in which the prestigious American daily had revealed the Trump

Arabia and the UAE.

The article also stated that the US administration was trying to "bypass part of an international weapons export control agreement that the United States helped forge more than three decades ago."

Earlier this month, the US secretary of state defended Washington's arms sales to Saudi Arabia after a watchdog report said the State Department failed to "fully assess" the risk of civilian deaths in war-torn Yemen.

Pompeo said that his department "did everything by the book" in regards to arms sales to Riyadh in May 2019.



administration's plan to sell "large armed drones" to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The New York Times noted that the Trump administration's decision has been opposed internally by arms control officials and lawmakers trying to limit the proliferation of such drones, especially in countries like Saudi

"I am proud of the work that my team did. We got a really good outcome. We prevented the loss of lives," he claimed.

Last year, both US Republicans and Democrats opposed the sales, but Trump vetoed resolutions in July 2019 to block the transfers and there were not enough votes to override him.

WHO Says 172 Countries Engaging With Global COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

AGENCIES

Geneva/London: Some 172 countries are engaging with the COVAX facility designed to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, the World Health Organization said on Monday, but more funding is needed and countries need now to make binding commitments.

Countries wishing to be part of the global COVAX plan have until Aug. 31 to submit expressions of interest, WHO officials said, with confirmation of intention to join due by Sept. 18, and initial payments due by Oct. 9.

WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the facility was critical to ending the COVID-19 pandemic, and would not only pool risk for countries developing and buying vaccines, but also ensure prices are kept "as low as possible".

"Vaccine nationalism only helps the virus," he told a media briefing. "The success of the COVAX facility hinges not only on countries signing up to it, but also filling key funding gaps."

COVAX is co-led by the GAVI vaccines alliance, the WHO and the CEPI Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness



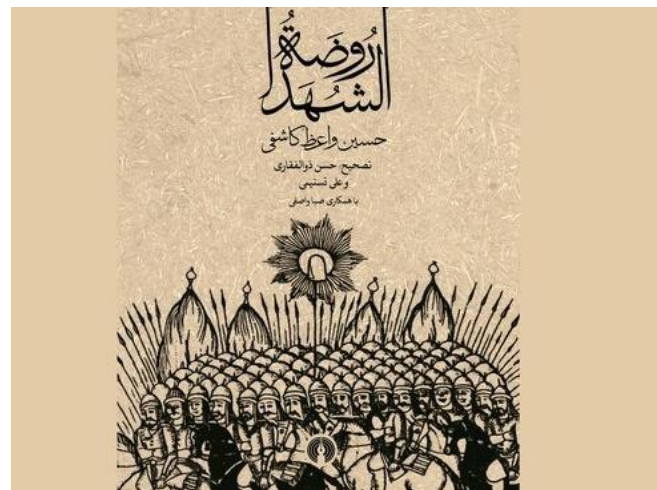
Innovations and is designed to guarantee equitable access globally to COVID-19 vaccines once they are developed and authorised for use.

It currently covers 9 candidate COVID-19 vaccines and its aim is to secure supplies of and deliver 2 billion doses across countries that sign up by the end of 2021.

"Initially, when there will be limited supply (of COVID-19 vaccines), it's important to provide the vaccine to those at highest risk around the globe," Tedros said.

He said this included health workers on the front lines of the pandemic, who were "critical to saving lives and stabilising the overall health system".

Book on tragedy of Ashura published after over 500 years



AGENCIES

TEHRAN – The Rawadat al-Shuhada (Garden of the Martyrs), a Persian book written over 500 years ago about the suffering and martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and other Shia martyrs at the Battle of Karbala on Ashura, has been published in its entirety.

Persian language scholar Hassan Zolfagari has made some corrections to the book, originally written by Mulla Husayn Waiz Kashifi (d. 1504).

Rawazah is an Arabic word that literally means garden, but following the release of the book in the late 15th century, Iranians began using this word to name a remembrance through recitations and chanting of the suffering and martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and other Shia martyrs "rawzah".

In addition, rawzah khani, narrative accounts of Imam Hussein's martyrdom, began emerging after the publication

of the book at that time.

Recitations are performed at various types of religious gatherings throughout the year, especially on the anniversaries of the martyrdom dates of the Imams and other saintly Shia figures such as Hazrat Fatima, the daughter of the Prophet Muhammad (S) and wife of Imam Ali (AS), the first Imam.

The book was later used by some other scholars as a major source to create maqals, reports of Imam's martyrdom, during the Safavid period and Qajar era.

Parts of the Rawadat al-Shuhada had been published earlier. The book also has recollections of other Shia saints' suffering during their lives.

The Battle of Karbala took place on Ashura, the tenth of Muharram in 680, during which Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions fought against the forces of the Umayyad Yazid, an illegitimate, oppressive usurper of the caliphate.

NEW SMAKERS

New Zealand Mosque Gunman Emotionless As Survivors Confront Him In Court

Christchurch, New Zealand: The white supremacist who murdered 51 Muslims in last year's New Zealand mosques shooting showed no emotion Monday as distraught survivors confronted him in court with harrowing accounts of the atrocity.

At the opening of the sentencing hearing in a Christchurch courtroom, prosecutors revealed chilling details of a meticulously planned attack in which Brenton Tarrant wanted "to have shot more people than he did".

With the Australian gunman face-to-face with the bereaved families and wounded for the first time, survivors told of hiding under bodies, of forgiving Tarrant, and of living with the sound of an automatic rifle ringing in their ears.

Held amid tight security with



snipers positioned on downtown rooftops, the hearing was told how on March 15 last year the heavily-armed Tarrant opened fire on men, women and children, ignoring pleas for help and driving over one body as he moved from one mosque to the next.

When he saw three-year-old Mucad Ibrahim clinging to his father's leg, Tarrant killed him "with two precisely aimed shots," prosecutor Barnaby Hawes told the court.

Tarrant has pleaded guilty to

51 charges of murder, 40 of attempted murder and one of terrorism after storming into two mosques in Christchurch, with the rampage ending when police stopped him as he travelled to a third.

Lawyers expect the 29-year-old to be the first person jailed for life without parole in New Zealand.

Wearing grey prison clothing and surrounded in the dock by three police officers, the 29-year-old remained silent, occasionally looking around the room, as Hawes delivered a chilling summary of facts.

"He admitted going into both mosques intending to kill as many people as he could," Hawes said.

"He stated that he wanted to have shot more people than he did and was on the way to another mosque in Ashburton to carry out another attack when he was stopped," he said.

Trump's sister calls him 'cruel' and 'liar': report

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's older sister described the US president as cruel and a liar whose lack of principles meant he could not be trusted, according to secretly made recordings published on Saturday.

It was the latest unflattering insider account to target the president, only instead of a jilted aide or business associate, it was from one of his closest relatives.

Maryanne Trump Barry, a former federal judge, slammed her brother over his immigration policy that saw children separated from their parents at the border and sent to detention centres.

"All he wants to do is appeal to his base," she said in recordings obtained by the Washington Post. "He has no principles. None."

"His goddamned tweet and lying, oh my God."

The recordings were secretly made by the president's niece Mary Trump,



who published last month a bombshell memoir of the "toxic family", who produced him.

The president's younger brother Robert, who died last week, went to court to try to block its publication — arguing that Mary was violating a non-disclosure agreement signed in 2001 after the settlement of her grandfather's estate, but to no avail.

Some 950,000 copies were sold the day of the memoir's release, with the White House calling it a "book of falsehoods".

TikTok to sue Trump over crackdown

NEW YORK: Video app TikTok said on Saturday it will challenge in court a Trump administration crackdown on the popular Chinese-owned platform, which Washington accuses of being a national security threat.

As tensions soar between the world's two biggest economies, President Donald Trump signed an executive order on August 6 giving Americans 45 days to stop doing business with TikTok's Chinese parent company ByteDance — effectively setting a deadline for a potential pressured sale of the app to a US company.

"To ensure that the rule of law is not discarded and that our company and users are treated fairly, we have no choice but to challenge the executive order through the judicial system," TikTok said in a statement.

Hopelessness Engulfed J&K Due To BJP's Wrong Policies: CPI(M) Leader

SRINAGAR: CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Sunday said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is disappointing as hopelessness has engulfed the entire region due to the BJP government's "wrong decisions and policies".

"The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is disappointing and hopelessness has engulfed the whole region because of the BJP government's wrong decisions and policies," he said in a statement.

The Left leader said the joint resolution, now known as the Gupkar declaration, of six political parties, stating that they will strive for reverting to the

"We stand by the unity and diversity of the historic state of Jammu and Kashmir. Any division of the state is unacceptable to the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh," he said.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader said the foundations of the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the Union of India "were assaulted on 5th August, 2019 and it was accompanied by repressive measures meant to silence people and coerce them into submission".

However, the unanimity amongst political parties that the time has come to



pre-August 5, 2019 position, is a significant decision.

"It is the responsibility of the political parties to get the people out of this hopeless situation and it is a welcome step that they have initiated the process," he said.

Mr Tarigami said he expects more people from all regions and communities to join the process so that the dignity of Jammu and Kashmir is restored.

collectively struggle to get back the erstwhile state's special status and restore the constitutional guarantees forcibly taken away is a welcome step, he added.

The Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, on August 5 last year and bifurcated the erstwhile state into Union territories.

Sibal Withdraws Angry Tweet After Rahul Clarifies 'BJP Collusion' Remark

Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Monday withdrew his tweet hitting out at Rahul Gandhi and said the former party chief had informed him personally that he had never made the "colluding with the BJP" remark.

Sibal is among the 23 party leaders who had written to Sonia Gandhi seeking "full-time" leadership that is active in the field and "visible" in party offices, dissolution of powers to state units and revamping the Congress Working Committee (CWC) in line with the party constitution among other changes.

As the CWC meeting was under way on Monday and it was reported that Rahul

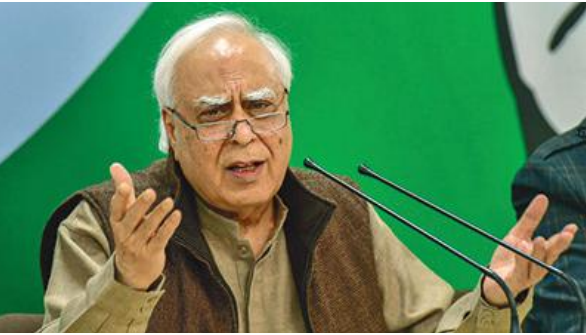
never made a statement in favour of BJP on any issue. Yet 'we are colluding with the BJP'!"

Sibal said a little later that he was withdrawing the tweet.

"Was informed by Rahul Gandhi personally that he never said what was attributed to him. I therefore withdraw my tweet."

He then deleted his earlier tweet hitting out at Rahul Gandhi.

Tagging Sibal's earlier tweet, Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala also tweeted, saying Rahul Gandhi hadn't said a word of this nature nor alluded to it.



Gandhi had lashed out at the letter writers, Sibal tweeted, "Rahul says 'we are colluding with BJP'. Succeeded in Rajasthan High Court defending the Congress Party. Defending party in Manipur to bring down BJP government. Last 30 years have

"Please don't be misled by false media discourse or misinformation being spread. But yes, we all need to work together in fighting the draconian Modi rule rather than fighting & hurting each other and the Congress," Surjewala said.



A POLICE OFFICER tries to stop a protest march of PHE daily wagers in Srinagar's Press Colony on Monday.

An Insincere Apology Would Amount To Contempt Of My Conscience: Prashant Bhushan

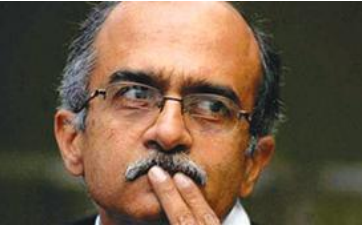
NEW DELHI: Activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan refused to offer an apology to the Supreme Court on Monday for his two tweets against the judiciary saying what he expressed represented his bona fide belief which he continued to hold.

An insincere apology would amount to the contempt of my conscience and of an institution, Bhushan said in his supplementary statement filed in the suo motu (on its own) contempt case against him by the top court.

An apology for expression of his beliefs, conditional or unconditional, would be insincere, he said.

Bhushan said as an officer of court he believes as a duty to speak up when he believe there is a deviation from its sterling record.

Therefore I expressed myself in good faith, not to malign the Supreme Court or any particular Chief Justice, but to offer constructive criticism so that the court can arrest any drift away from its long-standing role as a



guardian of the Constitution and custodian of peoples' rights," he said.

He said, My tweets represented this bonafide belief that I continue to hold. Public expression of these beliefs was I believe, in line with my higher obligations as a citizen and a loyal officer of this court. Therefore, an apology for expression of these beliefs, conditional or unconditional, would be insincere.

Bhushan further said that an apology cannot be a mere incantation and any apology has to, as the court has itself put it, be sincerely made.

This is especially so when I have made the statements bonafide and pleaded truths with full details,

which have not been dealt with by the Court. If I retract a statement before this court that I otherwise believe to be true or offer an insincere apology that in my eyes would amount to the contempt of my conscience and of an institution that I hold in highest esteem," he said.

On August 20, the top court had granted time till August 24 to Bhushan to reconsider his defiant statement refusing to apologise and tender unconditional apology for contemptuous tweets against the judiciary and rejected his submission that quantum of punishment be decided by another bench.

The apex court, on August 14, had held Bhushan guilty of criminal contempt for his two derogatory tweets against the judiciary saying they cannot be said to be a fair criticism of the functioning of the judiciary made in the public interest.

He faces simple imprisonment of up to six months or with a fine of up to Rs 2,000 or with both as punishment.

CWC Meet: Sonia Urges Party To Select New President

NEW DELHI: Interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Monday offered to quit, asking the Congress Working Committee to initiate the process for selecting a new party chief, sources said.

In her opening remarks at the meeting, called in the wake of a section of leaders seeking a "full time and visible" Congress president, Sonia Gandhi made the offer to quit saying she had given a detailed reply on the issue to AICC general secretary K C Venugopal. Former prime minister Manmohan Singh, who spoke after Gandhi, urged her to continue, so did former Defence Minister A K Antony, with both the veterans criticising the letter by some party leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Mukul Wasnik, who are a part of the CWC, the party's highest decision-making body. Sources said Sonia Gandhi referred to Azad and others twice during her brief address and the issues raised by them.

She also handed over a detailed reply to Venugopal, who read out its contents at the CWC meeting in which Gandhi sought to be relieved from the post. Sources added that Rahul Gandhi in his speech also questioned the timing of the letter, which was sent to Sonia Gandhi when she was in Gangaram hospital and under medication. "It is the CWC and not the media where we put out our thoughts and discuss," he learnt



to have said at the meeting, the sources said.

The crucial meeting of the Working Committee started here amid divisions in the party over the leadership issue.

The party is divided on the leadership matter with a section demanding collective leadership and another reposing faith in the Gandhi family. Around 20 party leaders had written to Sonia Gandhi demanding a full-time, visible president and overhauling of the organisational structure including elections to the CWC and reconstitution of the Parliamentary board. There has been a huge outpouring of support for the Gandhi with party leaders from across the country urging her to continue as party chief or appoint Rahul Gandhi to the post.

COVID-19: AICTE Allows MBA, PGDM Admissions Based On Marks In Qualifying UG Exams

Institutions offering MBA and PGDM courses have been allowed to admit students based on marks obtained in qualifying undergraduate exams as several entrance tests could not be conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) said. The council has directed institutions to select candidates based on merit in the qualifying UG exams if there are vacant seats available.



The technical education regulator has also clarified that the relaxation is being made available only for the 2020-21 academic session and should not be seen as a precedent for future academic years.

"All-India tests like CAT, XAT, CMAT, ATMA, MAT, GMAT and the Common Entrance Test of respective states are the qualifying tests for admission to MBA or the Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) course. In many states, some of these entrance tests could not be conducted due to the fear of coronavirus spread, and there is no indication as to whether these tests are postponed or likely to be held or cancelled," AICTE Member Secretary Rajive Kumar said.

"AICTE, being more a facilitator than a regulator, considered alternative proposition through which selection of the students could be made for admission to PGDM course which will benefit both the institutions as well as the students. Therefore, in the current scenario, the PGDM and MBA institutions are allowed to admit students on the basis of marks obtained in qualifying examinations by preparing a merit list in a transparent manner. However, first preference will be given to candidates who have appeared in any of the entrance tests and have qualified, irrespective of their marks secured at degree level as long as minimum marks are secured," Kumar added.

"The states may also use this relaxation while allotting seats through counselling. It may be noted that this relaxation to the PGDM and MBA institutions shall be applicable only for the academic year 2020-21, this cannot be taken as a precedent for the future academic years," Kumar said.

Universities and schools across the country have been closed since March 16, when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain COVID-19.

A nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 25. While several restrictions have been eased, schools and colleges continue to be closed.

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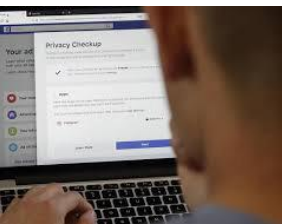
A nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 25. While several restrictions have been eased, schools and colleges continue to be closed.

Man Booked For Posting 'Derogatory Video' On FB

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday filed a case against an unidentified man for posting derogatory video against a particular religion on a social networking website.

According to a police spokesperson, police received an information that one individual has shared a post/video on his personal Facebook account in which one unknown person is seen using derogatory words against a particular religion.

"By sharing this post, sentiments of a particular community were hurt and there is every apprehension that this act will incite one community against the other in Srinagar city, particularly in Khanyar area," the police



spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said a case FIR No. 53/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in PS Khanyar and investigation into the matter has been initiated.

"General public is requested to refrain from sharing such posts on social media which can hurt religious sentiments of any community," the police spokesperson added.

NEWS MAKERS

Batting Legend Zaheer Abbas Inducted To Icc Hall Of Fame Along With Lisa Sthalekar

SOUTH HAMPTON: Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas, outstanding South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis and Australia women's star Lisa Sthalekar were all inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame on Sunday.

Zaheer, 73, a prolific run-scorer during the 1970s and 1980s with both Pakistan and English county side Gloucestershire, was nicknamed the 'Asian Bradman' in honour of Australia's Don Bradman, widely regarded as Test cricket's greatest batsman of all time.

"I feel privileged and truly humbled to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame of the class of 2020," said Zaheer, a former president of the global governing body and the only player from Asia to have scored a hundred first-class hundreds.

'Final recognition'

Zaheer scored a double-century and a century in the same first-class match on a record four occasions and was the first



batsman to score three successive centuries in one-day international cricket.

"I would like to say a special thanks to my family, my country Pakistan, my county Gloucestershire and many fans worldwide who helped me achieve and fulfil my dreams by playing this great game at the highest level," he said.

"Thank you, ICC, and the members of

the jury, for this special honour. It is a final recognition for any cricketer. This great game has made me the person I am."

Kallis, 44, is the only player to score at least 10,000 runs and take at least 250 wickets in both Test and ODI cricket.

The ICC player of the Year and ICC Test player of the year in 2005, Kallis is also South Africa's leading Test run-scorer, and currently third on the all-time list.

"It is something that I never expected when I started playing," said Kallis, the most capped South African player in both Test and ODI cricket. "I only wanted to win the games for whoever I was playing for."

'Pantheon of greats'

India-born off-spinner Sthalekar, 41, was the first woman to achieve the double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in ODI cricket. She was also a member of the Australia teams that won the ICC Women's World Cup in 2005 and 2013 and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2010 and 2012.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I believe that I would ever get to join such an illustrious group of players," said Sthalekar as she thanked her team-mates. Kallis is the fourth South African player inducted and Zaheer the sixth from Pakistan. Sthalekar is the ninth women's cricketer in the list.

In all, 93 players have been inducted so far under the system in which players become eligible five years after playing their last international match.

Hall of Fame members formed the majority of the adjudicating panel with representation from the media, ICC and Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA).

ICC chief executive Manu Sawhney: "These are all players with a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations for years to come."

"I congratulate Zaheer, Jacques and Lisa on their inclusion in the pantheon of cricket greats."

AN APPEAL RAMAKRISHNA MISSION, KOZHIKODE



The branch center of Ramakrishna Mission at Kozhikode, Kerala, called Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama, was started in 1930 and serves the local underprivileged community through its higher secondary school and a polyclinic. According to the rules framed by its founder, Swami Vivekananda, all the branch centers of the Ramakrishna Mission have to independently manage the sources of revenue for the operations of the branch with no financial support from its headquarters. Constantly struggling with scant resources, the polyclinic offers services in various departments like dental, pathology, ENT, general medicine, physiotherapy, and paediatrics. The treatment is provided at quite concessional rates. However, it is not sufficient to sustain the operations.

The higher secondary school caters to the underprivileged section of the local community and has more than 3000 boys and girls. The buildings have become many decades old and require extensive repairs and renovation. Added to this is the need for upgrading the school infrastructure to keep pace with the fast-changing technology.

We request you to kindly grant some financial assistance towards the running of the school and the polyclinic. Your assistance will go a long way in helping the local underprivileged by addressing their healthcare and education needs.

The donations can either be made by cheque favouring 'Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama' or deposited into the following account with an email to kozhikode@rkmm.org mentioning the donor's complete address and PAN:

Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama
State Bank of India
Branch: Kallai, Kozhikode
Account Number: 10261949274
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All donations to the Ramakrishna Mission are exempt from income tax under section 80G of the Income-tax Act, 1961.