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News Digest

Pak Violated Truce In Poonch: Army

Jammu: Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire on Wednesday by firing and shelling on forward posts and villages in three sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, a defence spokesperson said. The Indian Army gave a befitting reply and the cross-border shelling between the two sides was going on when the last reports were received, he added. The spokesperson said Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing from small arms and shelling with mortars in Shahpur, Kirni and Qasba sectors around 6.50 pm. There was no report of any casualty on the Indian side, he added.

Electric Shock Kills Youth In Ganderbal

Srinagar: A youth died on Wednesday after suffering an electric shock in Lar area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Sameer Ahmad Khan of Thune Kangan received an electric shock when he was repairing wire at the house of his brother-in-law in Benhama area of Lar in the district, officials said. The youth as per the official was an electrician by profession. He was rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Youth Stabbed To **Death In Pampore**

Srinagar: A youth was allegedly

stabbed to death by his cousin brother amid altercation between two families over some property issue in Pampore area of Pulwama district on Wednesday. 22-year-old Aadil Ahmad Dar of Chandara Pampore was allegedly attacked with knife by his cousin brother Aiyaz Ahmad this evening, news agency GNS reported. Dar was critically injured in the incident and was shifted to local Sub District Hospital where he died. Meanwhile, a police officer said that the accused has been arrested while a case under relevant section of law has been registered in this regard.

Sopore Woman Dies Of Burn Injuries

Srinagar: A woman from north Kashmir's Sopore died of burn injuries at a hospital here on Wednesday, a day after she allegedly set herself ablaze. The woman had set herself ahlaz pouring kerosene oil over her body at her home in Naseerabad area of Sopore on Tuesday, news agency KNO reported. Her husband reportedly managed to douse the fire but not before both of them received severe burn injuries. She along with her husband was rushed to hospital where from they were referred to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at SMHS hospital in Srinagar where she succumbed to her injuries today, the report said. • P-02

IAF Rescues Stranded Man In Rajouri

Jammu: The Indian Air Force on Wednesday claimed to have rescued a civilian who was left stranded on a marooned island in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said. Heavy rains battered most parts of Jammu region, including Rajouri, over the past two days, leaving the water bodies swollen. A message was received in the evening regarding an individual stranded on a marooned island following overflowing river south of Naushera. An Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter of the Helicopter Unit captained by Squadron • P-02

Ladakh Stand-Off 'Most Serious' Since 1962 War: Jaishankar

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A solution to the border row with China must be predicated on honouring all agreements and understandings without attempting to alter the status quo unilaterally. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, in a clear assertion of India's position on the issue.

Jaishankar called the situation in Ladakh the "most serious" after the 1962 conflict, adding the quantum of forces currently deployed by both sides at the Line of Actual Control(LAC) is also "unprecedented". At the same time, he noted that all border situations were resolved through diplomacy.

"As you know, we are talking to the Chinese both through military channels and diplomatic and understandings. And not atones. In fact, they work in tan-tempting to alter the status quo book that was written "PAGE 02"



dem," the external affairs min- unilaterally," he said. ister told Rediff.com in an interview ahead of the release of his book 'The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World'.

"But when it comes to finding protocols for border management a solution, this must be predicated on honouring all agreements

India has been insisting that the border standoff with China must be resolved in accordance with the existing agreements and

between the two countries. Asked how he envisaged the future of India-China ties in the

AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE TALKING TO THE CHINESE BOTH through military channels and diplomatic ones. In fact, they work in tandem," the

external affairs minister told Rediff.com in an interview ahead of the release of his book 'The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World'.

Kashmiri Youth Held In Delhi On Suspicion

SRINAGAR: Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel arrested a Kashmiri youth outside the Parliament House in the Indian capital when he was allegedly roaming in suspicious circumstances, reports said Wednesday.

The youth from Rathsuna area of Budgam was roaming around Vijay Chowk, when CRPF men apprehended him on the allegations that he has made a couple of rounds around the Parliament House, DNA reported.

The report said that two identity cards - one Aadhar card and a driving license - have been also been recovered from his possession

"Both the IDs have different names. While the driving license is in the name of one Firdaus, the name mentioned in the Aadhaar Card is Manzoor Ahmed Ahanger," the report claimed.

Quoting unidentified CRPF officials, the report says that the arrested youth has been changing his statements which aroused further suspicion about him.

"First, he said that he had come to Delhi in 2016. Then he said that he had come to the national capital during the coronavirus-induced lockdown. He told the CRPF officials that he has been staying in Delhi since then. The man, whose identity is not clear yet, said that he first stayed in Jamia locality, then near the Jama Masjid area in Nizamuddin," the report added.

Meanwhile, the family of the detained youth said that he had gone to Delhi before lockdown to retrieve money grabbed by a fraudster.

"My son is innocent. ● P-02

15 More Deaths Take Covid-19 Toll In J&K To 664

SRINAGAR: As many as fifteen people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, raising the number of fatalities caused by Covid-19 across the **Union Territory to 664**

While Kashmir valley reported 11 more fatalities on Wednesday, four victims of the deadly disease were residents of Jammu division, officials said.

A 70-year-old man from Fateh Kadal died at CD hospital here, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients in the Valley, they said. Having underlying ailments, the septuagenarian was admitted to the hospital

on August 19 and died due to swab was taken for covid-19 cardiac arrest, they said.

Observer Monitoring Desk Old Barzulla who was suffering from multiple ailments died at SKIMS Soura, eight days after

> to the tertiary care hospital. A 55-year-old resident of Old City's Nowhatta also died at the hospital, six days after he was admitted there for

he was admitted

A 65-year-old man from Saderbal who was admitted to SKIMS Soura died late Tuesday evening, they said.

multiple ailments, they said.

Also, a 61-yearold woman from Rainawari was admitted to SKIMS on August 24 died at 5 a.m. and her

which tested positive after her A 75-year-old man from death, they said. »PAGE 02

CPI Supports

Gupkar Declaration

SRINAGAR: A Communist Party

of India delegation on Wednes-

day called on National Confer-

ence President Farooq Abdullah

at his Gupkar residence and

extended the party's support for

The CPI delegation led by Ab-

dur Rehman Tukroo expressed

complete unison with the party

president in his efforts towards

the restoration of what was

snatched from the people of J&K

the Gupkar Declaration.

704 New Cases Include 23 Security Men, 3 Minors ammu and Kashmir recorded on Wednesday 704

new cases of coronavirus, including 96 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 34,480. While Kashmir Valley recorded 509 new cases of Covid-19, the remaining 195 were confirmed by the

officials from the Jammu division, official • P-02

Cancel Meet On J&K Internet Suspension: BJP MP To Tharoor

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: BJP MP and member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology Nishikant Dubey on Wednesday appealed to the panel's chairman and Congress leader Shashi Tharoor to cancel a meeting on suspension of Internet services in various states and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir.

Dubey's letter came a day after all parliamentary panels asking wrote in his letter to Tharoor. them to strictly adhere to rules and regulations while conducting committee meetings.

ing a political slugfest between BJP

and opposition members of the parliamentary panel on information technology over taking up the issue of suspension of Internet services in Jammu and Kashmir and summoning Facebook before the committee in its next meeting.

"Since this issue is presently pending before the Supreme Court of India, any further deliberations on this would again be a violation of the relevant rules/ directions as well as disregard-Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is- ing the recently issued advisory sued an advisory to chairmen of of the Lok Sabha Speaker," Dubey

Tharoor has been under tack from BJP MPs who have demanded his removal as the Birla issued the advisory follow- chairman of the panel. Referring to the Lok Sabha >> PAGE 02

Muharram Procession Met With Force In Budgam

Police Lob Teargas, Fire Warning Shots To Disperse Mourners

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday lobbed tear smoke shells and fired warning shots in central Kashmir's Budgam district to break-up a Muharram procession.

Hundreds of people on Wednesday afternoon took out a Muharram procession from Zurigund area of the district, witnesses told Kashmir Observer. Chanting "Labaik Ya Hussain", the protesters were marching towards Îmam Bargah located in the main town.

However as the process reached Hur near the main town, witnesses said the police deployed in the area in advance, intercepted

Arrests After Azadi Slogans **During Muharram Procession**

olice on Monday arrested two youth for allegedly chanting pro-freedom slogans during a Muharram procession in Hokersar area of the Srinagar outskirts. The arrests came after a video went viral showing hundreds of mourners in a Muharram procession in Hokersar • P-02

it. However, the mourners, they smoke shells and fired shots in air said offered stiff resistance and to disperse the youth. The mourntried to make their way ahead.

tion, eyewitnesses said, some of Ahmad, an eyewitness said. the youth in the procession resorted to vociferous pro-freedom and

anti-India sloganeering. "The cops fired dozens of tear spite police using a >> PAGE 02

ers regrouped and tried to march Angered by the police interventowards the Imam Bargah," Altaf

> He said the area was filled smoke as the mourners repeatedly tried to reach their destination de-

on August 5th last year, a party spokesperson said. The visiting delegation, he said discussed various facets of unprecedented developments that took place last year and its

far-reaching repercussions on the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The visiting delegation re-

jected the status quo on the issue and appreciated the party president's call for forging unity to work towards the P-02

Thousands Of Vehicles Stranded On Kashmir Highway

Press Trust Of India

BANIHAL/JAMMU: The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained closed for the second day on Wednesday as heavy rains triggered fresh landslides at different places in Ramban district hampering road clearance operation, officials said. The highway, the only all-weather

road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was closed for vehicular traffic early Tuesday after a massive landslide damaged a portion of the road at Dalwas leaving thousands of vehicles, mostly trucks, stranded on the either side. Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic, National Highway, PAGE 02



Man Dies As Rains Wreak Havoc Across Jammu ncessant rains on Wednesday wreaked havoc in parts of Jammu region where in a bridge collapsed here at city

outskirts and mud houses were partially damaged in Poonch and Rajouri districts. Number of vehicles damaged and houses partially due to continuous rains in Jammu and other parts of the region. In Jammu, rain water entered many houses • P-02

Supporters of Gupkar Agenda Are Pak Backers: BJP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Tuesday lashed out at its rival parties in the Union Territory on their resolution to fight for the restoration of special status to the erstwhile state and said supporters of Gupkar Agenda are supporters of Pakistan.

Addressing the party's working committee meeting at its head-quarters here, JK BJP President Ravinder Raina launched a scathing attack on the mainstream parties especially the National Conference and the Congress for their Gupkar declaration last week.

Supporters of Gupkar Agenda are supporters of Pakistan they are carrying on an anti-national agen**Ram Madhav To Visit Kashmir Today**

hartiya Janata Party BJP) General Secretary Ram Madhav is scheduled to visit Srinagar on Wednesday to meet the party leaders and to take stock of the situation. Madhav will arrive in Srinagar tomorrow morning and right away chair party workers meeting to P-02

da and are responsible for all the bloodshed in the region, he said.

The meeting was attended by several national leaders including Union minister **→ PAGE 02**

Indian in Germany Goes On Trial For Spying On Kashmiris

FRANKFURT: An Indian national accused of spying on Sikh and Kashmiri communities in Germany for New Delhi's secret services went on trial in Frankfurt on Tuesday.

The suspect, identified as 54-year-old Balvir S, is accused of working for the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's foreign intelligence agency, since at least January 2015.

Prosecutors say he "obtained information about figures in the Sikh opposition scene and the Kashmiri pro-freedom activists and their relatives ● P-02

Govt Panel For Business Revival To Meet Traders, Industrialists

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A government constituted panel to revive business sector in Jammu and Kashmir will be meeting delegations and deputations of the business, industries and commerce fraternity of the Union

Territory for two days from Friday According to an official spokesperson, the committee members will be meeting delegations and deputations of the business, indus-Union Territory on Friday 28th August from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Banquet Hall Srinagar and from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Udhyog Bhawan Jammu on Saturday 29th August.

The decision regarding it, the of-

ficial spokesperson said was taken in the second meeting of the committee held under the Chairmanship of Advisor to Lt. Governor, K.K Sharma. The meeting was also attended by its members including Financial Commissioner Finance, Arun Mehta, Commissioner/Secretary Industries and Commerce, Manoj Kumar Diwedi, Chairman Jammu Kashmir Bank, R.K Chibber and other senior officers.

"The meeting decided that by inviting suggestions from different tries and commerce fraternity of the stakeholders would ensure making suggestions broad -based and in tune with the local needs and demands of the business fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir," the official spokesperson said.

He said it was also >> PAGE 02

Whopping Loss In Lockdown: Global Tourism Going Kashmir Way?

Swati Joshi

n his latest policy briefing and video address, Antonio Guterres, the United Nation (UN) Chief, said that the world tourism sector lost USD 30 billion in exports in the first five months of the year and more than 120 million jobs are at risk.

"It (tourism) employs one in every 10 people on Earth and provides livelihoods to hundreds of millions more," he said.

According to Guterres, it is a "major shock" for richer developed countries "but for developing countries, it is an emergency, particular-

ly for many small island developing states and African countries."

But before the UN Chief would detail the global tourism meltdown, Kashmir had registered massive losses on tourism front.

According to the preliminary loss assessment report by Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries, service sector including Tourism took the biggest cumulative hit since last summer when Kashmir was plunged into lockdown.

By the end of 2019, with the internet closed, tourist receipts were down 71 percent, according to government figures.



mated 144,500 jobs lost in the tour- tourism industry over the last five ism and handicrafts sector alone. Losses suffered by Kashmir's

months of coronavirus lockdown amount to Rs. 1,292 crore, accord-

ing to a report released by Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA). The tourism trade today has

tumbled, said Saif Ahmad, who is associated with the paragliding ompany, Karakoram Explorers.

Most of the pilots hired by him were from Himachal Pradesh and they were paid four-month salary in advance. He had to send them back after the lockdown. He also had to refund the amount to his customers who canceled their bookings.

He started his paragliding venture in 2015. From discovering a site for takeoff to calling experts for testing the flights, it took >> PAGE 02

"It was a nightmare," admitted Saif.

Delhi Records Highest Single-Day Spike In Cases In 45 Days; Daily Covid-19 Tests To Be Doubled

Delhi will be doubled to 40,000 the number of coronavirus cases caseload has been in five digits. in the city, Chief Minister ArvindKejriwal said on Wednesday as briefing, the chief minister said the national capital recorded its it is not that the intensity of the highest daily spike in cases in the infections had increased and aslast 45 days.

The city recorded 1,693 fresh COVID-19 cases on Wednesday taking its total caseload to 1,65,764. Seventeen fatalities last few days, the Delhi governin the last 24 hours pushed the ment will not allow the situation death toll to 4,347.

The tally of active cases rose to 12,520 from 11,998 the preup from 654 on Tuesday to 716 on Wednesday.

Official data also shows a steady increase in the number of active cases since August 5, except on

Delhi had 9,897 active cases on

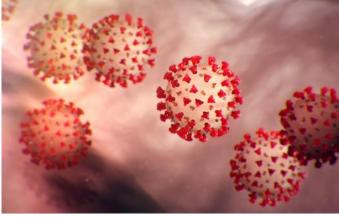
per day within a week since there August 4, which rose to 10,072 the has been a "marginal" increase in next day. Since then, the active

Addressing an online media serted that the COVID-19 situation is completely under control.

Although there has been a marginal increase in cases in the to deteriorate, Kejriwal said.

At present, 20,000 tests are being conducted in the city daily, he said, vious day, as did the number of adding, "We are going to double the containment zones in the city, tests to 40,000 tests daily within a week. Our strategy against the coronavirus will remain aggressive testing and isolation."

The chief minister appealed to the people to get tested if they three days when the city recorded have COVID-19-related symptoms a marginal fall in instances of the and cautioned against complaviral disease compared to the pre- cency, which, he said, may lead to



a rise in the number of cases.

"We are getting cases where seven to eight people from one family are infected, and this is because one person did not get testsymptoms and infected others."

"So, if anyone suspects COV-ID-19 infection, he or she should public places, he added. immediately get tested at gov-

ernment hospitals and dispensaries free of cost," he said.

Kejriwal informed the reporters that his government has issued directions for stringent enforceed for many days even after having ment of COVID-19 guidelines. Everyone should wear a face mask and maintain social distancing at

About the fluctuating figures in

daily coronavirus tests in Delhi in people and those with mild August, experts pointed out that symptoms feel they will recover. tient still suffers from low oxyreduced fear of COVID-19 among People will severe symptoms the public coupled with festivities only come for tests," she said. and heavy rains led to lesser number of people coming for tests.

coming to hospitals. But now, same period in July. they think that if they have mi-There is also some taboo attached to it."

will paste a sticker outside their while the figure between July 16 home and their neighbours will come to know," he said.

Genestrings Lab, concurred with ters and oxygen concentrators to Sharma, saying earlier the number of people coming for tests in case they need those again. in a day was 350 but now it has come down to 170.

According to government data, the number of tests in Delhi DrManoj Sharma, Senior Con- witnessed a decline in August sultant, Medicine and Incharge compared to July. The authoriat Medeor Hospital Qutab Insti-ties conducted over 2.58 lakh tutional Area, said, "Earlier, there COVID-19 tests in Delhi between was a lot of panic and even for August 1 and 15, whereas the figminor symptoms people were ure stood at over 3.13 lakh in the

Between July 16 and 31, over nor symptoms, they will recover. 2.96 lakh tests were conducted in Delhi. Between August 16 and August 25, the total number of "They think that authorities tests stood at over 1.71 lakh, and July 25 was 1.92 lakh.

Kejriwal said his government DrAlpanaRazdaan, Lab Head at has decided to provide oximethose discharged from hospitals,

A new trend has been noticed that even after a COVID-19 pa-"The fear has reduced among tient recovers and goes home,

gen level and breathing issues, he said.

"A few patients have also lost their lives because of a fall in oxygen level. Our Health Minister Satyendar Jain had recovered from coronavirus, but took a few days to fully recover and get back to normal." the CM added.

Asserting that the COVID-19 situation has been under control for the past one-and-a-half month and all the parameters were fine, he said, "There has been a decrease in the number of daily deaths. Also, the recovery rate is over 90 per cent and the number of patients in hospitals has come down."

There was a time when the number of deaths was around 100, but now it is below 20 and on some days, it was even below 10. The government is working to ensure zero COVID-19 fatalities, he added.

Ladakh Stand-Off 'Most...

before the border row erupted, the external affairs minister said it is "an extremely consequential relationship for both and it requires a strategy and a vision".

"What I have said is that the ability of India and China to work together could determine the Asian century. But their difficulties in doing so may well undermine it. So, this is an extremely consequential relationship for both. It has its fair share of problems and I have been forthright in acknowledging them," Jaishankar said.

"We need honest conversations on this, among Indians and between India and China. That is why this relationship requires both a strategy and

Referring to the impact of the border row on the rest of the relationship, Jaishankar said India has conveyed to the Chinese side "clearly" that peace and tranquility in the border areas are the basis for the relationship.

"If we look back at the last three decades, this is quite self-evident, Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a tense standoff in eastern Ladakh for over three-and-half-month despite multiple rounds of diplomatic and military talks. The tension escalated after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in the Galwan Valley clash in which Chinese military also suffered ca-

"This is surely the most serious situation after 1962. In fact, after 45 years, we have had military casualties on this border. The quantum of forces currently deployed by both sides at the LAC is also unprecedented," Jais-

The external affairs minister also referred to previous episodes of border tensions with China including in Doklam, affirming that India will do what it takes to secure its borders.

"If you look back over the last decade, there have been a number of border situations -- Depsang, Chumar and Doklam. In a sense, each one was different. This one surely is. But what is also common is that all border situations were resolved through diplomacy," he said.

"I am not minimising either the seriousness or the complex nature of the current situation. Naturally, we have to do what it takes to secure our borders," Jaishankar added.

In the course of the interview, the external affairs minister touched upon a wide range of issues including India's ties with the US and Russia, relevance of Jawaharlal Nehru's non-alignment approach, major burdens from the past and historic global events that influenced India's diplomacv since 1977 when he joined the Indian Foreign Service.

Asked about Indian thinking in achieving its strategic goals in the 21st century, Jaishankar said, with a billion-plus civilisational society, the country is poised to occupy a much more prominent place in the world. "That puts us in a pretty unique position. Only China can claim something similar." he said.

On the impact of an inward looking approach of the US and its 'America First' policy, Jaishankar said India should take a "clinical view" of its own

interests and not get entangled in the debates of others. "We have a broad spectrum of support in the US. These relations have progressed through multiple administrations. And that tells us that the

convergences are getting deeper and broader by the day," he said.

"Like everybody else, both India and the US are coming to terms with the changing world and are obviously discovering the merits of doing more

On ties with Russia, he said the relationship has been remarkably consistent even though the world has seen dramatic changes over the last three decades and that the convergences are "very strong" in many areas. "But popular sentiment and leadership efforts have also given these ties an exceptional character. Its growing economic content and cooperation in Russia's Far East are new facets that have strengthened it recently,"

Asked about the burden from the past, he identified the result of Partition, a 15-year gap in ushering in economic reforms compared to China and stretching of the nuclear option.

"Whatever the causes, the result of Partition was a reduction in India's geo-political significance and global standing. As for the economic reforms, I would compare our moment of change with that of China. There is a 15-year gap, which has huge implications," he said.

Jaishankar further said: "As for stretching the nuclear option -- that we finally concluded in 1998 -- it unnecessarily prolonged the hyphenation with Pakistan."

"People may debate the compulsions and merits of each of these factors. But no one can deny that they had a serious impact on our strategic prospects," he added.

Kashmiri Youth Held In Delhi...

The Delhi police can verify his innocence from everyone here. He son went to Delhi only to retrieve his money from a fraudster and return it to the people he has borrowed from," mother of the detained youth said. She said her son had also decided to work in the Indian capital to earn some money and return to the borrowers after he was told by the traders that his money is stuck with a scoundrel.

15 More Deaths Take Covid-19...

Earlier in the wee hours today, a 60-year-old woman of Littar Pulwama who was admitted on August 22 as a case of bilateral pneumonia died at SMHS hospital, the official sources said.

A 65-year-old man from Narbal Budgam died at SKIMS Bemina, 17 days after he was admitted there for having multiple ailments.

A 60-year-old from Naik Pora Padshahibagh here who was admitted to SMHS hospital on August 23 as a case of bilateral CAP died this evening. The other three deaths from the Valley include a 40-year-old woman from Kanchan, Gandarbal, a 75-year-old man from Gopalpora Anantnag and a 75-year-old man from Panzer Shopian, they said.

Regarding four deaths from Jammu division, they said one of them was a 70-year-old man from ward 4 of Rajouri town who died at GMC Associated Hospital Rajouri during the intervening night of August 25 and 26. The other victim was a 58-year-old man from Nagbani Jammu who died at GMC hospital Jammu, five days after he was admitted there.

A doctor at GMC Hospital Jammu said that the man was suffering from hypertension, diabetes mellitus, CKD and respiratory distress with altered sensorium.

According to government bulleting two more persons died in Jammu since overnight, taking the number of people succumbing to virus in Jammu district to 37. The other victims include a 62-year-old man from New Plot and 60-year-old from Shopping Centre.

With these deaths, 664 people have died in Jammu and Kashmir-54 from Jammu division and 610 from Valley. (With GNS inputs)

704 New Cases Include 23...

sources said. Among the fresh cases, they said included 96 travelers, twenty three paramilitary CRPF and BSF men besides three minors and

With these cases which also include some soldiers and seven policemen take the overall tally to 34480 in J&K.

Giving district-wise breakup of the cases, they said Srinagar reported 198, Baramulla 16, Pulwama 55, Budgam 64, Anantnag 47, Kulgam 9, Shopian 9, Kupwara 49, Bandipora 22, Ganderbal 40, Jammu 98, Rajouri 17, Kathua 27, Udhampur 15, Ramban 3, Samba 12, Doda 7, Poonch 7 and Kishtwar 9.

Meanwhile, 599 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals-126 from Jammu Division and 473 from

Cancel Meet On J&K Internet...

speaker's instructions, Dubey said the advisory has clearly stated that the proceedings of the committee shall be treated as confidential and the panel may not take up those issues for examination which are pending

"Therefore, (I) appeal to your good-self that the sitting of the committee on information technology convened for the aforementioned purpose may be immediately revoked," the BJP MP said.

He also requested Tharoor to not take up those issues for deliberation in the committee which are of national importance as otherwise, the panel would again be showing discourtesy to the desire of the Speaker.

Underlining that conducting the affairs of parliamentary panels' meeting lie on the shoulder of the chairman, the BJP MP said that not just he, but other members of the IT panel too has experienced that the "agenda of our meetings are being decided in front of media and camera glare/bite." The subjects which were selected by the panel after intensive deliberations have been put on the back burner while "small issues, which may hit the news headlines for a while" are being taken up in the committee deliberations, Dubey said.

"This gives an impression that the platform of the Committee on Information Technology is being used for gaining political mileage and raising baseless controversies, one after the other," he said.

Muharram Procession Met...

considerable amount of force to stop them. Due to the clashes, he said many people sustained minor injuries.

Taking to Twitter, National Conference leader, Ruhullah Mehdi lashed out at the alleged rogue behavior of Kashmir police.

"The @ImuKmrPolice Budgam's today's behaviour in Budgam is completely unacceptable did not go unnoticed. I may have my own opinions about processions and SOPs related to it. But this rogue behaviour in shape on flexing mussels and firing on mourners is un expectable," he

Despite repeated attempts, the district police officials did not attend phone calls from the Kashmir Observer.

Arrests After Azadi Slogans...

chanting vociferous pro-freedom and anti-India slogans, police said. "On surfacing of a video in social media in which mourners were found chanting pro-Azadi slogans in a Muharram procession, Parimpora police station has taken cognizance," a police statement said. It said the police acted swiftly in identifying the location of the incident

and the persons involved. The youth have been booked under the sedition law. Two persons have been arrested while more arrested were expected, it said.

"It has been revealed that some youths from adjoining areas in Budgam district led by Sajad Hussain Parray, Arif Ahmad Dar and Raja Mehboob took advantage and raised the slogans," the police said.

Thousands Of Vehicles...

Ajay Anand said the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is working on the Dalwas landslide to make the road trafficable but fresh landslides and shooting of stones from the hillocks overlooking the highway at various places including Panthiyal, Monkey Morh, Maroog and Kunfer-Chanderkote overnight hit the restoration work.

The men and machines are on the job to clear the road of the debris despite inclement weather but there are very little chances of road being made trafficable today, he said.

The weather office had forecast moderate to heavy rainfall till Thursday in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said the restoration work at Dalwas was also affected for several hours on Tuesday following a protest by a group of people whose houses were damaged in a landslide in the same area in March.

The protesters were demanding compensation for the 40 families whose houses suffered damages in the previous landslide, they said, adding that the matter was later resolved following intervention by the district magistrate of Ramban

In March, a massive landslide damaged 28 houses and a 500-metre portion of the highway. The officials said over 500 vehicles, mostly trucks, remained stranded

in Banihal-Nashri sector and will be cleared on priority once the road is made traffic-worthy. Thousands of trucks are also stranded on the highway in Anantnag-Qazi-

gund sector in Kashmir and Jammu-Udhampur sector in Jammu region,

Man Dies As Rains Wreak...

and shops in Canal Road, Krishna Nagar, Bhagwati Nagar, Talab Tillo and other low lying areas. People rued and criticized the Jammu Municipal Corporation for not taking measures in advance in view of the monsoon

They alleged that many nallahs and drains overflow due to heavy rains and the dirty water entered their houses. Many household items were also damaged due to rain water in parts of Jammu

Local residents criticized local Jammu Municipal Councillors and former MLAs and Ministers for not taking appropriate measures in addressing their grievances.

However, a bridge collapsed and washed away in Babilana area here on the city outskirts. The bridge used to connect border villages with Jammu city. Locals slammed the district administration alleging that years have passed but no permanent solution was found so far with regard to connectivity of border villages with the rest of the city.

Reports from Mendhar said that one Mohammad Shokit, 35, resident of Kaller Mora, Mendhar at present Gola Nari Kotli Kalaban, Manjakote, Rajouri died after cattle shed collapsed while in Sangiote village, many cattle stuck due to cattle shed collapse. Meanwhile power supply remained snapped since night in most of the

parts of Jammu region as electric wires and high tension lines also suf-

In Mendhar 33 KV line completely broke down. Men and machinery have been pressed into service for early restoration of the electricity across the region.

lammu-Srinagar national highway remained closed after a fresh landslide triggered due to heavy rains following which over 1400 trucks and other vehicles remained stranded along the roadside.

Supporters of Gupkar Agenda... litendra Singh through video conferencing,

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government for taking a strong decision of abrogating provisions of Articles 370 and Article 35A, the BJP president said Pakistan's hue and cry in the UN on the issue

proves that these laws were furthering the country's agenda in India. On August 22, six regional and national parties unanimously resolved to fight for the restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir as it existed before August 5, 2019, saying the measures taken were "spitefully shortsighted" and "grossly unconstitutional".

However, Raina said Tuesday, The Articles (370 and 35A) murdered the human rights of communities like Gujjar-Bakarwals, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Pahari, women, Valmikis and West Pakistani Refugees. All the residents of J&K have robustly welcomed the abrogation of these controversial Articles.

He said when the Congress and others incorporated these Articles, it was opposed strongly by all the nationalists.

Now with the abrogation of these controversial Articles, J&K will progress, he said, adding the first anniversary of last year's decision was observed with the hoisting of the tricolour in every corner of J&K.

A Party spokesperson said the meeting passed political and economic resolutions, which focused on issues like restoration of statehood, initiation of political process, job creation, economic reforms, eradication of corruption and new projects and industries.

The centre has already promised restoration of statehood and initiation of political process. The resolution was meant to reassure the public on these issues. Raina told PTI. BJP National Vice-President and J&K in-charge Avinash Rai Khanna, in

his address, focused on the extensive working of party leaders in every single booth of the region. National General Secretary Anil Jain said the BJP is the only party which has worked continuously for the public welfare during the COVID-19

The dream of nationalists to have 'Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan' (one flag, one constitution, one leader) has been realised under the leadership of Modi and the 'Kalank' (black spot) on Maa Bharti has been removed, Jain said.

National General Secretary Murli Dhar Rao said that the whole of India has a special emotional bond with J&K and every activity in this region is keenly observed by every nationalist.

Pandit Nehru himself termed article 370 temporary, but still the Congress carried on with its anti-national agenda which suited evil designs of Pakistan, he said.

He said with the abrogation of Article 370, the centre has opened new gates of development for the region. Kashmir is not complete without Kashmiri Pandits, he said, adding the

BJP, with support from all regions and all religions, is striving to establish a perfect ecosystem of true secularism in the Union Territory. Union Minister Jitendra Singh informed the meeting about various measures taken by the Centre to control the pandemic efficiently.

He also highlighted works under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme.

Ram Madhav To Visit Kashmir... check the party pulse, a senior party functionary said.

"He will chair workers meeting and take fresh feedback from the party workers over the prevailing situation in Kashmir and party related activities," he said.

This will be the second visit by Madhav after the July 8 killing of BJP leader Waseem Bari, his brother and his father at Muslimabad area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Madhay, he said will also receive feedback from the party workers, lead-

ers and activists over the situation post abrogation of Article- 370. The BJP leader's visit also comes at a time when party leaders are celebrating a month-long program in connection with the first anniversary of abrogation of special status and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories-Ladakh and J&K.

The senior party leader also said that Madhav will also review the security arrangements made for the party workers, and panchayat representatives at their respective district headquarters and accordingly apprise the party high command and police top brass in case there is any change or further measures needed. (KNO)

CPI Supports Gupkar Declaration reversal of measures undertaken last year on august the 5thby GOI," the

party spokesperson said. "The General Secretary of the CPI Mr. D Raja has also expressed his unequivocal support for the objectives of the Gupkar declaration which endeavors to strive peacefully for the restoration of rights of the people that

were stripped on 5th of August," he said. The party president speaking to the delegation said the changes done on August 5th were spiteful and unconstitutional, directly redefining the very identity of the people of J&K. He said the peace loving people of J&K have withstood the unabated repression and coercion following the

drastic and unconstitutional changes. "These are testing times for us. It is elevating to see CPI support the Gupkar Declaration. I appreciate the CPI leadership for lending support to a common cause and for raising the concerns of the people of J&K at various forums nationally in an unadulterated manner," he said

Indian in Germany Goes On...

in Germany, and passed this on to his handlers who were working at the Indian consulate general in Frankfurt". A total of 10 hearings before the regional superior court are scheduled,

with the trial due to conclude on October 29.

The same Frankfurt court convicted an Indian couple of spying on the same communities last December. The husband was handed a suspended prison sentence of 18 months for acting as a foreign intelligence agent and his wife fined 180 days' wages for aiding him.

India and Pakistan have disputed Kashmir since they became independent in 1947, with the nuclear rivals fighting two out of three wars over

Frankfurt is of particular interest to the Indian secret services because western Germany is home to the largest Sikh community in the country, estimated at between 10,000 and 20,000 people, and one of the largest

Govt Panel For Business...

decided that different departments like horticulture, agriculture, industries, tourism and other related sectors would also provide the requisite inputs within the shortest possible time.

According to the official spokesperson, the advisor while addressing the meeting said the government by constituting the committee is exploring the means of reviving the business sector in the UT which has taken a serious hit like other parts of the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "He said that the requisite suggestions would be formulated and sent to the concerned for undertaking the necessary interventions for revival of business in Jammu and Kashmir," the official spokesperson said.

"The Committee also discussed in detail suggestions received from different business organizations, Industrial Associations of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Whopping Loss In Lockdown:...

him three years to get the license from the tourism department. And now, with frequent internet curbs in the valley, Karakoram Explorers that used to be in the top rank on Google got shifted.

"I was not able to renew my website license for four months last year amid clampdown, resulting in lowering of my rank," Saif lamented. Umar Malik, promotional manager at Green Kashmir Travels, said that before 2019 they used to receive an average of 30-35 calls daily but cur-

rently, they just get one or two calls in a month. "The calls are not for booking," he said, "but to inquire about the state of

According to Malik, tourism has been declining in the valley since 2016. From 2008 to 2016, "the profits were always going up and there was always a tight booking during peak seasons".

In winter season, they receive only corporate clients and couples. But

since last year, even that clientele has fallen, said the promotional man-Sailing in the same boat, Saysta Ramzan, the owner of MTB, an organization that organizes cycling expedition between Srinagar and Ladakh, had

bookings for six groups in August last year which got canceled due to the abrogation of Article 370 and subsequent lockdown in the valley. "We have purchased six cycles for five lakhs in 2019 for the expeditions but they are not used till now," said Ramzan, who had started her busi

ness in 2017, hoping for a good turnout. Hopeless and distressed by the conditions in the valley, she said that whatever we hoped, never gets fulfilled, "so we've given up thinking

about anything good in the future". Another distressed tourism player of the valley is Sahil Ramzan, who was freelancing as a ski instructor in Gulmarg till 2013, the year he opened his own company, Kashmir Ski Tours.

The company had a good number of clients until it was hit by the successive lockdowns

Sahil Ramzan who used to receive 50 clients per year received only five clients this year. Even the bookings he received during February 2020 were canceled owing to the coronavirus outbreak. Due to internet curbs in the valley, the owner spent almost six months

in Chandigarh to manage the bookings. "When I came back to Kashmir,

there were many foreign bookings," he said. "But I was not able to check it due to slow internet.' Unable to follow up with the leads, the businessman lost many impor-

Interestingly, listing five points to tourism aid recovery, the UN Chief said the world has to focus on mitigating the socio-economic impacts of the crisis, building resilience across the entire tourism value chain, maximizing the use of technology in the tourism sector, promoting sustainability and green growth and fostering partnerships to enable tourism to further support the Sustainable Development.

But in Kashmir, Arif, who is in the rafting business, said that the tourism sector is likely to stay an distressed and disturbed.

"When lockdown was enforced early this year, my rafts and vehicles were at a different location," he said. "I was afraid that the rats might attack the rafts and I would have to face another loss but luckily everything

The travel agent has taken loans to purchase the rafts and vehicles to carry them. But with no business, he is uncertain how he would pay off the loan. Everyone in his company is dependent on him. From drivers to guides, he has to look after everyone. I don't know about the future, but I'm praying to Allah, hoping he will be

showering his blessings on us soon," said Arif.

Sopore Woman Dies Of Burn...Meanwhile, Station House Officer (SHO) Sopore, Azim Khan said that the investigation is on to ascertain as to why the victim had taken this

"A case has been registered in Police Station Sopore," he added.

IAF Rescues Stranded Man...

Leader Ganesh Prasad Honakuppe was immediately pressed into service to rescue him, the spokesman said. He said the helicopter reached the spot at 6.15 pm. The crew quickly selected an appropriate spot to position the helicopter close to the ground since no suitable space was available for landing. Two Garudspecial forces commandos were then lowered onto the island and reached the individual who was in shock and was unresponsive, the spokesman said. The man was then evacuated to the nearest landing ground available at Naushera Army area and handed over to the authorities for further treatment, he said.

The IAF responded swiftly and rescued the individual before the water level could rise to dangerous levels during the night. The overall mission was very closely coordinated by Group Captain Sandeep Singh, the spokesman added.

JKPDC- Rs 1276 Cr Works Plan for Yr 2020-21 Gets Nod

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 26: In the 75th Board of Directors meeting of J&K State Power Development Corporation (JK-SPDC) chaired by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan a works plan of Rs 1276.69 crore has been approved today.

The members who participated in the meeting include Financial Commissioner Finance, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta: Principal Secretary Power Development and Information Departments, Rohit Kansal; Director General Budget, Mohammad Yaqoob Itoo besides other corporation officers and officials.

The Board consented for an ambitious working plan for the year 2020-21 with an outlay of Rs 1276.69 crores for creation, renovation and maintenance of assets of the Corporation.

The Board decided that from here onwards the directors would meet every three months. They further decided that all the accounting issues should be cleared within a month and balance sheets prepared and tabled in the next meeting.

The BoD further maintained that hydropower is the most promising revenue generating sector of J&K and exploiting it optimally could address many of the woes of UT of J&K. They asked the Corporation that works on all the ongoing projects should be expedited besides putting their best to take other projects in hand forthwith.

The ongoing Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) for which funds have been proposed in this work plan include 37.50 MW Parnai HEP (Rs 155.36 crore), 12 MW New Karnah HEP (Rs 44.59 crores), Dah-Hanu transmission line (Rs 70.20 crore), 9 MW Dah HEP (Rs 11.86 crore), and 9 MW Hanu HEP (Rs 11.81 crore). These projects are going to help in tiding over the energy crisis in the UT's of J&K and Ladakh to a

The BoD also approved capital works to the tune of Rs 172.45 crore for Renovation Modernization & Uprating (RMU) of many operational HEPs. It includes Baglihar-II HEP (Rs 24.90 crores), Sewa-III (21.53 crores), Lower Jehlum HEP (Rs 16.53 crore), Upper Sind HEP-II (Rs 18.34

crores), Chenani-I HEP (Rs9.98 crore), Chenani-III HEP (Rs 9.35 crores). Besides funds for the same purpose have been assigned for 11 other HEPs.

Further an amount of Rs. 333.81 crore has been proposed for new projects to be taken in hand in the current work plan. These include New Ganderbal HEP (Rs 80.00 crore), Kirthai-I HEP (Rs 31.84 crore). Kirthai-II HEP (Rs 33.90 crore), Lower Kalnai HEP (Rs 38.06 crore). Be sides, an amount of Rs 150.00 crore for PMDP projects is also part of this plan.

The plan has also kept an amount of Rs 269.22 crore for meeting the operation & maintenance (O&M) costs of its already created assets and projects. These include Rs 132.80 crore for BHEP-I and Rs 111.60 crore for BHEP-II. Funds for some 18 other HEPs has also been proposed under this head.

The Corporation is anticipated to generate a revenue of Rs 2676.31 crores from different activities and loans. An amount of Rs 1368.98 crores is expected to be realized from the sale of power by the Corporation. The same amount has also been contemplated to be expend on different activities including on works programme (2020-21) and repayment of loans and interest servicing.

Under Corporate Social Responsibility the Board has earlier provided a bus to a school in Ladakh and renovated another school building at Basholi incurring a total cost of about Rs 19 lakhs.

In this meeting the Board confirmed the insurance cover for Rs 2050 crore of Baglihar HEP stage I & II at a premium of Rs 37.14 crores for the year 2020-21. It also discussed the action taken report on the decisions made in its 74th Board meeting.

The meeting also deliberated upon framing of important committees like Management & Finance Committee, Audit Committee and CSR Committee for running the affairs of the Corporation smoothly. On the occasion new members were inducted into the Chenab Valley Power Projects Corporation Limited for brining in more professionalism and diversity in the Board.

Asia's Biggest Handmade Carpet Show Concludes

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26: The first Virtual Edition of 40th Indian Carpet Expo. an exclusive trade fair for Handmade carpets and other floorcoverings, organized by Carpet Export Promotion Council concluded here today.

This initiative of CEPC was aimed at to bridge the gap between Indian products and demand of Handmade Carpets and floor coverings across the globe in the post pandemic era. The 1st Virtual Edition of 40th India Carpet Expo has received overwhelming response from around 364 overseas buyers from 61 countries and 191 Buying Representatives from across the world.

During the Expo, Council orga-

راولپوره سرینگرمور خه 25اگست 2020 بروز منگلوار کوختص

(انالله وانا اليه راجعون)

الله تعالی مر هوم کو جوار رحمت میں جگه عطا کریں۔موجود ہ

وبائی صورتحال کے پیش نظر کوئی جہارم نہیں ہو گا۔ تعزیت صرف تین دن تک رہے گی۔

مر ہوم کے آبائی مقبر ہمگرمل باغ منعقد ہو گی اور اختتا می ڈعائیاں کبلس و تک پر اختتام پریر ہوگی۔

سوگواران

محترم نذيرا حمدؤار بمحترم سعيداحمد ذار محترم مشاق احمد ذار محترم بمبودا حمرسا گراور دخرانم رفيق به

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البية اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 28 اگست 2020 بروز جمعتہ المبارک دن کے 02:30 بج

علالت کے بعد داعی اجل کولبیک کہہ گئے .

nized 2 Webinars for the benefit of the participants and Member-Exporters. First Webinar was held on 14th August, 2020 on New Techniques of Packaging for Carpet Industry in association with Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai keeping in view the fact that in the changing scenario of world business packaging of product is an important segment for the

quality business. Dr. Tanweer Alam, Director (I/c), Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai made a presentation on "New Techniques of Packaging for Carpet Industry". Nowadays packaging is a combination of Science and Art & Technology and can increase the brand value of the

Whereas an application has been re-

cieved from one. Shri: Ahmad Ali Bhat

S/o: Mohammad Abdullah Bhat R/o:

Karipora Budgam owner of vehicle bear-

ing Registration No: JK04E-4063 for

cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank Ltd B/u Budgam. .

Now therefore it is notified for the in-

formation of the general public that

tion of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/BUDGAM.1333

Dated 26/08/2020

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL

TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire

purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office

of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publica-

Assistant Regional Transport

officer Budgam Kashmir

product and is considered as a silent salesman of any product.

Praveen Kumar, Director, Department was the chief guest on the first Webinar.

Meanwhile, the second Webinar was conducted on 19th August, 2020 on Colour, Design & Trends Forecast in association with National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), National Institute of Design (NID) & Buying Agents Association (BAA) keeping in view the fact that Colour and Design forecast plays an important role in the present market scenario and help the manufacturers and Exporters to assess the requirement of the consumers/ market and their taste.

Gen (Retd) Ata chairs 6th CUK Court meeting

anderbal, Aug 26: The 6th meeting of the Court of Central University of Kashmir (CUK) was held in both offline and online mode on Wednesday with Chancellor, Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain in chair. Addressing the participants, Chancellor, Lt Gen (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain, said that despite pandemic, the university has been successful in managing the academic affairs and conducting the offline examinations of student at their respective district headquarters across the Jammu and Kashmir and the Vice Chancellor and his whole team need to be applauded for upholding the excellence in academics despite torrid times. He

said that although the university is doing reasonably well in academics but it is always open and welcome to the suggestions and advice from the members of the Court who are great intellectuals and educationists from across the country, for further improvements.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER S&D DIVISION Srinagar

xen_sewerageueed@yahoo.com **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Bid Identification

Dead line for submission of Bids:

to 1800 Hours

treatment of wastewater flowing in drains/nallahs out

Organization/Company's/Firms/Technology providers having license/tie up/collaboration with institutes like IITs, CSIR and Govt. Institutes, for technologies in the field of

water of nallahs/drains wastewater/ sewage successful execution of same technology in India along with License/Collaboration certificates/enlistment certificate from NMCG's

			Organization/Company's/Firms license/tie up/collaboration with institutes like IITs, CSIR

The bidding documents consisting qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set other details can be seen / downloaded from

Availability of Bid Document on e	
ast Date and Time for Submission of Bids online	
Date and Time of Opening of online Bids (Pre	
Date and Time of Opening of online Bids	
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	days from the date of opening of the financial Bid.
lard copy (Original) of Bids from L1/successful	

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Cost of Tender Document (Rs	The bidder will furnish tender fee in shape of Treasury Receipt / RTGS in
(100% Exemption for MSME Registered	Executive Engineer S&D Division 1st Srinagar
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with single window registration receipt.)	,,,
,,,,,,,	Note: DD will not be accepted
	Micro & small enterprises if registered with any Govt, bodies specif
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	India are exempted for submitting the tender fee and earnest money deposit
	(EMD) it will be applicable for those bidders who shall produce their own goods
	provide their own services and not applicable for trading purposes. No entrepreneu
	or memorandum of application form is acceptable.
	Department, (100% Exemption for MSME Registered
	firms for exemption. The bidder has to attach the Valid registration certificate of
	NSIC with single window registration receipt 1

Chief Engineer J&K U.E.E. Department Transport Nagar Narwal Jammu

DIPK-4588/20

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213
 - FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155
 - CAPD: 18001807011

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

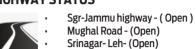


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AIRPORTS

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- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
 - PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



CALENDAR

07 Muharram 1442

PRAYERS FAJR 4:30 **ZUHR** 12:33 **ASR** 5:14 7:09 Magrib

8:33

This Day In History

663 - Battle of Baekgang: Tang Chinese and Silla Korean forces defeat Korean Baekje forces and their Yamato Japanese allies on the Geum River in Korea. Last Japanese invasion of Korea for

ISHA

- 1799 British invasion army lands in North Holland
- 1813 Battle of Dresden; Napoleon defeats Austrians
- peace talks . 1828 - The Russians defeat the Turks at the Battle of Akhalzic. 1883 - Krakatoa volcano, west of Java in Indonesia, erupts with a force of 1,300 megatons and kills approximately 40,000 people.
- der general Louis Botha 1913 - Swedish engineer Gideon Sundback of Hoboken applies to

1900 - Battle of Bergendal: General Buller defeats the Boer un-

- patent all-purpose zipper 1916 - Romania declares war on Austria-Hungary
- 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact, 60 nations agree to condemn 'recourse to war for the solution of international controversies'.
- 1941 Shah of Iran Rez Sh h Pahlavi abdicates throne in favour of his son Mohammad Reza Pahlavi
- 1942 Cuba declares war on Germany, Japan & Italy 1945 - US troops land in Japan after Japanese surrender
- 1955 "Guinness Book of World Records" 1st published 1958 - USSR launches Sputnik 3 with two dogs aboard
- 1962 Mariner 2 launched; first probe to fly by Venus 1962 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1979 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and last Viceroy of India, is killed along with three companions, two of them children by the IRA when his boat is blown up near
- 1982 Soyuz T-7 returns to Earth
- 1984 USSR performs underground nuclear test 1984 -War Against Indiscipline is launched by the Buhari regime
- 1985 20th Space Shuttle Mission (51-1)-Discovery 6-launched
- 1985 General Ibrahim Babangida overthrows Major General Muhammadu Buhari's regime in Nigeria
 - 1990 Market prices plunge as OPEC nears informal agreement to increase output to cover shortfall due to invasion; cash market trading experiences abrupt decline. 1991 - Moldavia declares independence from USSR
 - 2003 Mars makes its closest approach to Earth in nearly 60,000
- years, passing 34,646,418 miles (55,758,005 km) distant. 2006 - Comair Flight 5191 crashes on takeoff from Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky, bound for Hartsfield-Jackson
- International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia killing 49 of 50 on the first African-American to be nominated by a major political
- party for President of the United States 2012 - First interplanetary human voice recording is broadcast
- from the Mars Rover Curiosity
- 2018 UN releases report saying Myanmar military leaders should face genocide and crimes against humanity charges for violence against Rohingya

From KO Archives

Officer shifted for 7th time, goes on leave

Observer News Service

rinagar - The principal secretary, revenue, Sonali Kumar, has proceeded on leave following the recent ransfers and postings in the state administration. The high-ranking bureaucrat has been transferred for the seventh time in the changes announced yesterday.

During the two-and-a-Half year tenure of the coalition government, Kumar has been shifted \$ax times from her posts. Before the coalition government[^] came to power, Sonali

Kumar had been made the commissioner secretary, education,

Soon after the new government took over, she was transferred to the technical education department as commissioner secretary in November

2003. In February the next year, she was transferred to industries and commerce, and four months later, in July 2003, to the higher and technical education department

After serving on that post for one year, she was transferred again in July 2004, and made the principal secretary of the forest department. The government shifted her again in April 2005, this time to the health and medical education department.

Yesterday's revamp, which made her the principal secretary of the revenue department, was the sixth time she was transferred in 2-and-a-half years.

Fed up with the repeated transfers and postings, Sonali Kumar, has gone on leave in protest, sources told the KNS. She has asked the government to grant her leave till October.

Kashmir Observer, August 27, 2000

Kashmir University of **Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir** Estates Wing, Shalimar Campus cover system) are invited from approved and eligible contractors whose cards are valid up to 31 state/central Govt. departments for the following work: Addition, Alteration of Existing Hall of L.P.T of Construction of Bricks Masonary counters, tile flooring SKUAST Construction of Main Entrance Gate Complex including Security Hut and other allied works at Faculty of Fisheries Rangil Construction of Tin Shed for Housing Machinery to Division of Food Science & The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions other details can be downloaded from the departmental website Date of issue of Tender Notice Date of start of downloading Further information can be had from the Office of the undersigned DIPK-NB-1999/20

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Fraught regional environment

he deepening of alliance between China and Pakistan has become a cause of some concern in India. More so, at a time when China has staged incursions along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh and is refusing to vacate the area occupied by it. Earlier last week, the "iron brother" issued a joint statement following their second annual strategic dialogue in which Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left over from history and called for its peaceful resolution according to "the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements". China also opposed any unilateral actions that complicated the situation. In response, India "categorically" rejected the reference made to Jammu and Kashmir. Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava said the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is an "integral and inalienable" part of India and that it expected the parties concerned not to interfere in the country's internal matters. Pakistani reaction was also predictable: it termed India's statement that Kashmir is its integral part as a "laughable fiction".

If anything, this bitter exchange reflects the abysmal state of the prevailing relations of New Delhi with its two neighbours. With Islamabad, the relations have been in freefall since the revocation of Article 370 in August last year. And Beijing at the time had also taken exception to change of status of Ladakh. Going forward, it looks unlikely that the ties with Pakistan and China can be improved anytime soon. What is more. New Delhi has also suffered reverses in its relations with Nepal and Bangladesh. But it is the relationship with Pakistan and China that is of critical importance to India. They are our biggest neighbours and we share two-third of our border with them. Any further deterioration in the ties with the two hardly bodes well for the regional peace.

In response, however, India has taken countermeasures by bolstering its defences along the LAC and LoC. The country has also received the first batch of Rafale fighter jets from France. But while military preparedness is paramount for a country to counter the aggression, a state of no war and no peace with neighbours can be more detrimental to the interests of a country in the long term. So a serious and meaningful engagement with Pakistan and China is the urgent need of the hour. To start with, it is important that India and Pakistan get back to dialogue and pick up thread from where they left off in 2008. This could go a long way to reduce the prevailing state of uncertainty in the region and open up some possibility of peace in future.

OTHER OPINON

UAE-Israel deal

wo months ago, Yousef Al Otaiba, the UAE's ambassador to Washington, laid out for Israelis a vision for a more peaceful Middle East. "Greater security. Direct links. Expanded markets. Growing acceptance,' he wrote in an opinion piece for a daily newspaper in Tel Aviv. "This is what normal could be."

It is a very different path from the one Israel had been heading down since its March election, in which the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to mount an illegal annexation of occupied Palestinian territory.

Annexation, as Mr Al Otaiba pointed out, would be the opposite of normal; it would be a provocation for large sections of the Arab world that yearn for a more stable and prosperous future. Israel's response to these aspirations "would be an unmistakable signal of whether it sees it the same way"

This evening, Israel made its decision. In a landmark agreement between the UAE, Israel and the US, the Netanyahu government agreed to halt its annexation plans in exchange for the establishment of bilateral ties with the Emirates.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zaved, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, confirmed that "the UAE and Israel also agreed to co-operation and setting a roadmap towards establishing a bilateral

Provided the Israeli government upholds the agreement, the end result will be the establishment of a multitude of ties, including diplomatic outposts, trade and co-operation in technology sectors. The two nations will also work together in addressing food security and climate change – areas that will have far-reaching consequences for quality of life throughout the region.

The deal is an historic moment in decades of diplomatic efforts to preserve the contours of a future Palestinian state through a negotiated, two-state solution. It is also a moment of which the Emirates, which has long sought to ensure the dignity of Palestinians, can be exceptionally proud. The spectre of annexation, which remains illegal under international law, was not only an affront to that dignity in the present moment; it was a negation of all that a Palestinian state could be. The suffering Palestinians have endured over the past seven decades is immeasurable, but equally limitless is the potential that Palestinians have to build for themselves a country that could be the envy of the Middle East. A deal that seeks to protect their resources and territorial integrity is a crucial starting point from which that future can begin.

"Fundamentally, our initiative is not to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Anwar Gargash said of the announcement. "This is left to the Palestinian and Israelis - rather it is to contribute to defusing a time bomb that was threatening the two-state solution".

With good faith from the Israeli side, it could also be a starting point for a new chapter in history. The Middle East is a region with too many fractures in too many places. With this agreement, one of its deepest may soon begin to heal

Their Kamala, Not Ours

The comparison to Kamala Harris's political rise in the US has to be with the shrinking space today for Muslim politicians in India, and the lack of all kinds of diversity in non-political arenas as well.

Nirupama Subramanian

Senator Harris's Indian Tamil mother and her dad, a black Jamaican, both foreigners in the US, met as participants during the **Civil Rights Movement** that was sweeping the country in the 1950s and 1960s. Leave aside the counter-factual that had they been deported to their respective countries for participating in a protest, as a German student at IIT-Madras was last year for marching with others in the campus against the Citizenship Amendment Act, there would have been no Kamala Harris to

he nomination of Kamala Harris for vice-president on the Democratic ticket in the US presidential elections has sent India into raptures. Indians, Tamils, Tamil Brahmins, even AIADMK party men, have gone wild with joy. In their book, she has won already. Chitthis of the world are ecstatic at being under the spotlight. Soon, even the Beasant Nagar A-block Residents Welfare Association may pass a resolution that all ex-residents of this south Chennai neighbourhood, now in the US, must stand with her.

The predominant sentiment is of pride in "our girl". Even the strategic community believes she is going to be "good for India", for H1B visas, for trade, and generally for India-US relations, never mind that the elections are still ahead. As for Joe Biden, the presidential candidate, he is a footnote in all the debate about Harris and her Indian family.

What will certainly not be discussed at all, or as much, are the home truths about India that Senator Harris's nomination and her extraordinary journey serve to highlight. For one, a majoritarian democracy like the one India has become in the 21st century could not have produced a Kamala Harris

As a woman, and a member of a racial and ethnic minority in the US, Harris's rise to the top levels of the American polity, like President Barack Obama's, was possible because of a system that recognises and accepts diversity. True, the recent protests in the United States have demonstrated that America's oldest fault line is not just alive, it has grown wider and deeper in many respects. But the country's democratic instincts run deep too. What has also been evident over the last few months is an acute awareness about the dangers of white supremacism, and the institutional, political, media and civil society pushback to prevent its rise, and President Donald Trump's own attempts to fan it.

Black political representation is not a rarity. Data on the Pew Research Centre site shows that despite uneven progress, Black political leadership in the US has risen over the last 50 years, and is today at par with the share of blacks in the population. In 2019, there were 52 black representatives, the highest number since 1965, comprising 12 per cent of the House — about the percentage of blacks, the largest racial minority in the US, whose share in the population is about 13.5 per cent. While there are only three black senators (including Harris) and no black governors, overall, the trend is more representative than less. This is the ecosystem in which Harris grew as a politician. Notwithstanding her Tamil Brahmin ancestry, the comparison to Harris's political rise in the US has to be with the shrinking space today for Muslim politicians in India, and the lack of all kinds of diversity in non-

political arenas as well In India, Muslims, who are the largest religious minority and form about 15 per cent of the population, are comparable in size to the black community in the US. But their political representation has been sliding over the decades, since the highest tally of 49 Muslim Members of Parliament elected in 1980. In 2019, 27 Muslim members were elected to the Lok Sab-



ha, 4.97 per cent of the total 543 elected. The BJP fielded just six Muslim candidates. All of them lost. The 16th Lok Sabha had 23 Muslims. None of them were from the BJP. The party, the political vehicle of Hindutva and Hindu majoritarianism, has fielded a total of 20 candidates over the last 40 years and only three of them have won (Christopher Jaffrelot and Gilles Verniers, IE, July 30, 2018). As of date, the 242-member Rajya Sabha has 16 Muslims, or 6.6 per cent. Non-Hindutva political parties are also increasingly fielding fewer Muslim candidates as they play catch up with the BJP.

Senator Harris's Indian Tamil mother and her dad, a black Jamaican, both foreigners in the US, met as participants during the Civil Rights Movement that was sweeping the country in the 1950s and 1960s. Leave aside the counter-factual that had they been deported to their respective countries for participating in a protest, as a German student at IIT-Madras was last year for marching with others in the campus against the Citizenship Amendment Act, there would have been no Kamala Harris to celebrate from Chennai to Delhi. Marriages between Indians and black Americans are rare, frowned upon by Indian parents. Mississippi Masala, the Mira Nair film, is nearly 30 years old. While attitudes to interracial marriages across groups in the US have loosened much over this time, among Indians, marriage to a black person continues to be discouraged and looked down upon by family and community. To understand this, people are treated in check how black India, not just those who self-identify as black, but also those who are darkskinned. Marrying a Dalit or a Muslim is enough to set off group violence.

Communalism is now so normalised in India that all too many people no longer deem it necessary to hide their bigotry, and even the lynching of Muslim men in the name of Ram and cows has not provoked the outrage it deserved. Communal "othering" is so pervasive that most Indians seem to have no problem with the Centre's use of authoritarian tactics, including the longest internet ban in the world, to roll out constitutional changes in the Muslim-majority Jammu & Kashmir, without giving the people there a chance to express themselves on these

dramatic changes that includes changing the rules to enable demographic change. Kamala Harris, on the other hand, is the Other and represents the othered, identifying herself primarily as a black person, so much that few in the US knew she was half-Indian until last year.

Her nomination speaks to the recent Black Lives Matter campaign. Despite the divide between black and brown in the US, the participation of Indians in the protests over George Floyd's murder by a policeman was a development noted for its potential for blurring the constructed political separateness of the two. In India, many see police brutality as a necessity to rein in lawlessness, never mind if the police themselves break every law in the book while doing so. The policemen who killed the alleged rapists of a woman in Telangana were showered with flower petals. The UP chief minister has been seen to encourage "encounters" such as the one in which the dacoit Vikas Dubey was killed last month. Movies are made about socalled "encounter-specialists", making heroes of them.

In her speech accepting her nomination on August 19, Harris spoke about the "the promise of equality, liberty, and justice for all", and how her mother Shyamala Gopalan had taught her two daughters "to be conscious and compassionate about the struggles of all people. To believe public service is a noble cause and the fight for justice is a shared responsibility".

She spoke of "a vision of our nan as a Beloved Community – all are welcome, no matter what we look like, where we come from, or who we love. A country where we may not agree on every detail, but we are united by the fundamental belief that every human being is of infinite worth, deserving of compassion, dignity and respect. A country where we look out for one another, where we rise and fall as one, where we face our challenges, and celebrate our triumphs - together. Today... that country feels distant."

She might as well have been referring to India, where a nomination of a person like her would have been swiftly denounced as minority "appeasement" and her party accused of "minorityism".



OBSERVER

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand 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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Covid-19: Some Recommendations

he novel Coronavirus has impacted the whole world in one way or the other. In South-Asia the average death rate is approximately 1.14% (Afghanistan 3.54%, India 2.03%, Bangladesh 1.31%, Sri Lanka 0.38%, Nepal 0.32%, Maldives 0.39% and Bhutan 0%). As per the government, with around 1400 diagnostic labs at place, the systematic and coordinated implementation of 3-T strategy (Test, Track and Treat) by the Centre, states and Union Territories has proven effective. India has also recorded the lowest, 30 deaths per million compared to the global, 91 deaths per million.

In Kashmir, there are approximately 24,000 confirmed cases of COV-ID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir, among which 30% are active, 67% have recovered and 1.87% have deceased, as per the government data. These figures are in synergy with the overall situation in India. Compared with the population level, the situation seems to be under control but at the ground level,

the situation appears to be worsening. While, quarantine centres have been a subject of criticism since the beginning; health facilities are also facing shortage of beds, ventilators and supplies. There has also been constant criticism about faulty data vis a vis true/actual number of COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir.

Therefore, while our health care is already overburdened, we do not even know the true estimate of the situation and the potential of it worsening. With so much ambiguity, we as a community must stay prepared and alert to avert the dangers of this disease. The most important factor in preventing the spread of the virus locally is to empower citizens with the right information and taking precautions as per the advisories being issued by the ministries and public health directorates.

Due to continuous coverage and reporting of COVID-19 related updates, an inundation has been caused. In such a case, getting our facts right is extremely important. Since COVID-19 is a new disease with many unknown inferences, it is causing a bizarre stigma against COVID-19 in the community which is in turn driving people towards hiding their illnesses and delaying seeking treatment. Therefore, it is also extremely pertinent to destigmatizatise COVID-19 workers and recovered patients.

Now is the time to build trust in reliable health services, show empathy to those who are affected and adopt effective behavioural measures. Healthcare workers spend hours in a single piece of protective gear, because there's scarcity of PPEs. As a result, they can't leave the infected area for hours. There are visuals of health workers leaving the hospitals dehydrated and exhausted. They are always on-call and are doing their best to de-escalate the situation with the limited resources they have. So, the wit lies in cooperating with them and

amplifying their voices. Awareness and appreciation can be also achieved through the involvement of religious leaders, celebrities, politicians in the campaign against COVID-19 and to promote preventive measures and discourage gatherings. Moreover, these desperate times also call for "ethical journalism" which encourages recommended practices, runs case narratives on COVID-19 warriors and promotes content around basic infection prevention practices, symptoms and the information to know when to seek medical assistance.

In addition to the obvious threat to health and life, Covid-19 has also brought with it other humanitarian issues such as poverty and domestic violence. Therefore, we must encourage young people to volunteer in every aspect. The involvement of youth is needed now more than ever. This war can only be won with unity and cooperation on all sides.

> Ateeb Ahmad Parray ahmad.ateeb101@gmail.com

Kashmir's 'War on Drugs'Sends Out a Clear Message: 'No Hope in Dope'

Swati Joshi

Efforts are being made behind the scenes in the valley today to save young and restless from becoming victims of substance abuse. But even as the syndicate of Samaritans is working tirelessly, the deep influx of drugs is only making it a tough task at hand.

ood turned militant in the backand winding alleys of Downtown Srinagar's MakhdoomSahab locality last yearwhen the community members doubled as street vigilantes. Armed with sticks, they fortified theirlanesto keep the sneaky drug-peddlers at bay. The self-styled street patrolling was perhaps one of the first conspicuous community mobilization efforts in the recent years and a shot in the arm in Kashmir's 'war on drugs'drive.

For years, the unruffled path passing through their residences would be frequented by unassuming addicts and 'dope-men'. The alleged "drug cartel"—purportedly used as a votebank by some local unionists—nearby has remained a "pain in the neck" for locals and the civil society members.

The vigilantes acted on "credible reports" that felons come in luxurious vehiclesafter sundown to supply drugs like heroin, brown sugar, cannabis and recreational drugs like Diazepam, Alprax and among others.

"Some people living in Sheikh Colony have been identified who are part of the deep-rooted nexus," Syed BasharatAndrabi, general secretary ofMohallaMakhdoomSahab welfare committee—that decided to go for social boycott of these families—had alleged.

Surging drug menace in the area had enforced a new order. In nearby schools, the girl students were quietly dropping out. "Due to presence of drug addicts, movement of people especially females is hindered," Andrabi said. "If some elderly persons try to stop youth from consuming drugs, it results in a scuffle."

Efforts are being made behind the scenes in the valley today to save young and restless from becoming victims of substance abuse. But even as the syndicate of Samaritans is working tirelessly, the deep influx of drugs is only making it a tough task at hand.

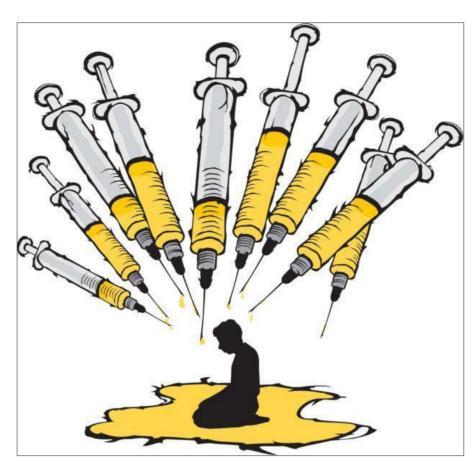
Streets to Surveys

The community campaign came when cops are everyday seizing contrabands and sending the peddlers behind the bar across the valley.

Reports say the number of addictsvisiting Drug De-addiction Centre of Government Medical College in Srinagar has gone up to 5000, from earlier 500, patients annually.

According to a survey conducted by the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP), around 70,000 people in Kashmir consume drugs.

Another survey done by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) in February 2019 found out that 600,000 people of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir use opioid drugs,



while 80 percent of the drug addicts in Kashmir use heroin and morphine.

A study done by the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) found out that the number of drug addicts in Srinagar and Anantnag districts has increased to 17,000. Roughly, the study says, Rs 3.7 crore is spent every day on drugs by addicts in these two districts.

Of late, these growing numbers and cases have prompted the community response, to "separate the grain from the chaff". This approach has already activated multiple counseling centresinthe valley today.

Inside Counselling Centre

Mir Zubaircould clearly tell an upsurge in dope cases in Kashmir when even 9-year-old Kashmiri child walks in for an emergency counseling session along with his distraught family members. He terms such cases as an 'innocence gone wrong'.

As a counselor at Concerned About Universal Social Empowerment (CAUSE), the non-government organization "working for the betterment of society", Zubair along with his welfare bodyhas been organizing drug de-addiction awareness programs at Srinagar's Central Jail for four years.

"When we started working around 2010, there was denial at the administration as well as ground level on drug deaddiction," Zubair told Kashmir Observer. "But now the scenario has changed. There's more awareness amongst people in Kashmir."

The holistic reason for drug addiction in the valley is the social-political disturbance. "I usually receive patients in the age group of 12 and 25 years," he continued. "But at times, when a nine-year-old walks in for counseling, it takes everybody by surprise."

Why do they Drug

For Arif, it all started with peer pressure. The trader taking trips to other cities would take heroin with his friends until one day his daughter saw him consuming it. She was shattered and started crying which triggered him to visit a drug de-addiction centre in Srinagar.

He was admitted for two months there, and started showing improvement, AatiraAhad, who was interning at the centre that time, told Kashmir Observer. "We provided him medication and emotional therapy which motivated him to leave heroin."

Like Arif, when Junaid, 23, started taking drugs, he didn't know that it would be difficult to give it up. He resorted to drugs due to peer pressure, and when he thought of quitting, the withdrawal symptoms didn't let him do it.

Unsuccessful in getting positive results from therapists in Kashmir, he went outside to seek help but there was no re-

His parents lost hope and started suspecting him of finding reasons to use drugs, but the corporate employee was actually struggling with the withdrawal symptoms

When Junaid finally visited Dr. ArifMaghribi, a Srinagar-based mental specialist, he first talked about his family's 'no drug history'.

Dr. Maghribiwasn't surprised by his statement, since for many people it's a stigma in the valley to talk about drug addiction. The mental specialist treated him and also talked to his family about the issue

"He was quite reluctant to bring his family in the initial days,"Dr. Maghribi told Kashmir Observer. But after some days when the family realized that Junaid was working hard to give up his addiction, they accompanied him to the mental specialist.

Currently, Junaid is working with a multinational company (MNC) and is living outside India. "His case makes it clear that family counseling is very important in a drug abuse case," Dr. Maghribi said.

But unfortunately, the mental specialist said, many parents lock their children in rooms with a religious book to de-addict them. The outcome of such steps, he warned, may adversely impact the addict and even result in his death.

"People may start drugs due to peer pressure, depression, loss of loved ones, but once they become addict it is very tough to get out of the cycle," the doctor said.

"It's like, first you consume drug, then the drug consumes you."

Beyond MakhdoomSahab

What started in MakhdoomSahab last year hasn't remained confined there only.

As awareness about drug and its destructive consequences is growing, many localities in Kashmir areacting as community watchmen.

"As a community, we can't behave like ostriches that bury their heads in sand to avoid problems," said Ghulam-Hasan Khan, a resident of Galwanpora village in Budgam district.

A month before the abrogation of J&K's special status, Khan along with others held a massive protest against the rampant "drug trafficking" in their village. The protestors alleged that the drugs are being cultivated on over twenty kanals of land and is being sold out to even minors.

"We can't let drugs to devour our children," Khan said. "We must come together to spread the message that there's no hope in dope."

oday, there are various schools of thought each of which claims to represent the real Islam or the spirit of Islam. There is essentially nothing wrong with groups claiming to be the truest representatives of religion, as each is entitled to its own opinion and interpretation.

However, matters get problematic when adherents of violent philosophies, who resort to mass murder and bloodshed to impose their beliefs on others, start masquerading as the true representatives of Islam. And many ordinary Muslims, taken in by their frequent recourse to quoting scripture and other outward displays of faith, start accepting that these individuals and groups actually know Islam better than anyone else.

This is troublesome as it not only distorts the message of Islam, but also creates acceptance—driven by fear and ignorance—of militant schools of thought, as many ordinary people, as well as some of those who claim to be religious scholars, start condoning or justifying atrocities committed in the name of religion. The militant thus sanctifies his bloodshed under the cloak of religion.

However, in this writers view there is a very simple way to avoid falling prey to such confusion. Those claiming to represent Islam must be judged by some criteria; without this, we open the door to allowing individuals to mislead the public and abuse religion. And perhaps the single most emphatic criterion cutting across sectarian and doctrinal boundaries to judge who is abiding by Islamic values and who is not is Karbala and the heroic struggle of Imam Husain bin Ali.

Centuries after Imam Husain took the field against the Syrian forces, Karbala is a byword for strength of character, bravery and steadfastness. And if these virtues are absent, one can easily differentiate between those who are inspired by faith, and those seeking purely worldly aims in the name of religion.

While many of us are familiar with the epic of Karbala the sufferings of Imam Husain, his family and companions, the barbarity of the Syrian horde and the valour of Husain on the battlefield we must ponder over what led him to leave his hometown of Madina and make his way with his family and small band of supporters to the desert of Karbala.

Some have argued that Imam Husain was motivated by political considerations to take the caliphate from Yazid. However, this appears to be a very superficial analysis. For if Husain's aim was conquest, he

The Criterion Of Karbala

Qasim A. Moini



Let us refer to Karbala as a criterion for what Islam and humanity is truly all about. For at Karbala, Husain took a stand for righteousness, braving hunger and thirst, sacrificing all that he held dear and prostrating before the Almighty as the ruthless Syrian horde fell upon him after he had been left alone in the field.

would not have taken the field with a force of under a hundred, which included women, children and the elderly. Instead, he would have gathered a large army to confront the Syrians.

Imam Husain's decision to confront the Yazidi force was motivated by much loftier aims. In Husain's

own words, as quoted by acclaimed scholar Ayatollah Murtaza Mutahhari, he sought to enjoin what is good and forbid what is evil and follow the traditions of my grandfather and my father. This was Karbala's mission statement

n statement. Imam Husain further clarified his intentions in a sermon at Mina, en route to Karbala: O God! You know that everything we did was not prompted by rivalry for political power, nor for a search for wealth and abundance; rather it was done to demonstrate to men the shining principles and values of Your religion, to reform the affairs of Your land, to protect and secure the indisputable rights of Your oppressed servants, and to act in accordance with the duties You have established and the norms, laws, and ordinances You have decreed.

In this passage, Husain beautifully encapsulated the core values of Islam. Obedience to Allah, reformation of society and struggle for the rights of the oppressed are the main features of religion as taught by Husain, and it was for the protection of these values that Husain faced the Syrians at Karbala.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Yazidi force was motivated by purely base concerns, ie pleasing the ruler of the day while casting aside all moral, spiritual and ethical ideals.

So today, when militants or extremists claim to fight for the glory of Islam, we must ask if they are living up to the Karbalai ideals. The answer is self-evident. For at Mina, Imam Husain castigated the scholars saying they had neglected the rights of the oppressed and the lowly . Today s holy warriors care little for the oppressed and lowly, slaughtering them in bazaars, mosques, imambargahs and churches.

Let us not be fooled by outward appearances. Let us refer to Karbala as a criterion for what Islam and humanity is truly all about. For at Karbala, Husain took a stand for righteousness, braving hunger and thirst, sacrificing all that he held dear and prostrating before the Almighty as the ruthless Syrian horde fell upon him after he had been left alone in the field.

The name Husain is symbolic of liberation and freedom, and perhaps the divine plan is to rouse the conscience of all the world's oppressed through the retelling of Imam Husain's struggle year after year. In the words of renowned exegete of the Quran Abdullah Yusuf Ali, delivered at a Muharram majlis in London in 1931, Imam Husain's blameless and irreproachable life was in itself a reproach to those who had other standards. They sought to silence him, but he could not be silenced.

Perhaps that is why the tyrants of the day still brutally target all that symbolises Husain and his struggle.



Scientists Decode How Severe Viral Infection Causes Immune System 'Exhaustion'

Press Trust Of India

ral infections, an advance that called immune 'exhaustion'. may lead to the development of novel therapeutics for diseases including those from the Univer- cells lost their function slowly, and

journal Nature Immunology, MELBOURNE: Scientists have noted that severe viral infections identified mechanisms behind cause impairments to some comthe deterioration of the immune ponents of the immune system system in response to severe vi- such as the T cells in a process

According to the researchers,

patients with severe COVID-19. They said overcoming immune

exhaustion is a major goal for the development of new therapies for severe viral infections.

While earlier studies had shown that during severe infections, T

impaired within just a few days.

In the research, the scientists also identified several new mediators of immune exhaustion that maybe targeted in new therapies.

"This is an exciting finding, particularly in the context of CO-VID-19 as one of the big questions sity of Melbourne in Australia, this over long periods of time, the curis why some people get severely

The study, published in the process has also been reported in rent study found that they can be sick, while others experience identified striking differences mild disease," said study co-author Daniel Utzschneider from the University of Melbourne.

"We looked at both mild and severe viral infections in humans, their function within days. early after onset of disease, and

at the molecular and functional level," Utzschneider said.

The researchers demonstrated that in response to overwhelmoverwhelming Lymphocytic Cho- ing infections that are difficult riomeningitis Virus infections in to eliminate and may become mice, which serves as a model for chronic, T cells down-regulate

However, they said the T cells

responding to a weaker infection remained highly functional. These findings are extremely

Our data show that T cells could be manipulated during early stages of severe viral infection to improve their activity," said Axel Kallies, another co-author of the study

Chemotherapy May Accelerate Aging Process In Young Cancer Survivors

new study examines the treatment on the aging process and finds that the expression of a gene associated with aging is higher in young patients with cancer after treatment with chemotherapy and in young cancer survivors who are frail.

The findings are published early online in CANCER, a peerreviewed journal of the American Cancer Society (ACS).

Previous research has shown that a protein called p16INK4a, which slows cell division, is produced at higher levels by cells was higher in survivors than in not in young adult survivors,' as a person ages. Using the expression of the gene that codes for p16INK4a as a marker of age, Andrew Smitherman, MD, MSc, level of expression compared lina at Chapel Hill's Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, acceleration. and his colleagues examined agnosed with cancer.

The team first analyzed cells treatment. from 60 survivors and compared them with cells from 29 agematched individuals without a lymphocytes has been described aimed at mitigating the early aghistory of cancer. Expression of in older adults following chemothe gene that codes for p16INK4a therapy, but prior to this study, he said.



controls, representing a 25-year age acceleration. Nine survivors of the University of North Caro- with survivors who were not frail, representing a 35-year age

The researchers also found immune cells circulating in the that in the nine children and ad- evated p16INK4a expression as a blood of young adult survivors olescents in the study who had a of childhood cancers and of chil- new diagnosis of cancer, expresdren and adolescents newly di- sion was higher after treatment developing frailty and functional with chemotherapy than before

> "Higher expression

said Dr. Smitherman.

"This study is important as we were frail, and they had a higher try to understand the biological mechanisms underlying the manifestations of early aging in this population," added Smither-

> Dr. Smitherman noted that elmarker of aging may help identify cancer survivors at risk for disability.

"Additionally, expression of of p16INK4a may prove useful as p16INK4a in peripheral blood a measure to study treatments ing effects of cancer treatment,"

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer, Floriculture Department Srinagar Kashmir.

GIST OF SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. (27) of 2020-21 Dated: 26 .08.2020.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Sealed tenders affixed with Rupee stamps are invited for below mentioned work from approved contractors class of whom shown which should reach to the office of the undersigned through registered post/courier/speed post by or before 03.09.2020 upto 02:00 PM on the prescribed tender documents which can be obtained from the office of the undersigned up to 01.09.2020upto 04.00 PM. In case of holiday etc. the tenders will be received on next working day up to 12.00 PM.

Providing of					
protection Shelter to					ı
Panel Board of					
fountain system at					
Polo ground Srinagar					

Note:

- The card holder who is interested to participate in the tendering process should attend the office personally along with GST Regd/Pan Card and Latest GST clearance certificate along with CDR of required amount without which the tender documents cannot be issued.
- Tenderer before applying for obtaining the tender documents should read carefully the detailed tender notice in the office of the undersigned.
- The CDR/FDR of unsuccessful/un-casted contractors will be released after 15 days from the date of opening of tenders or issuance of allotment order which is earliest,
- If during the course of execution any new item (s) of work felt necessary to be executed, the same shall be paid as per J&K SSR of 2012 with contractor, depreciation / appreciation.

DIPK-4604/20

Executive Engineer, Department of Floriculture

No: EE/FD/900 Dated: 26 /08/2020

Study Links Living At Higher Altitudes To Higher Levels Of Child Stunting

hildren living at high altitudes are found to be than peers residing at lower altitudes, according to a new study.

Residing at higher altitudes is associated with greater rates of stunting, even for children living in "ideal-home environ-International Food Policy Redis Ababa University.

sight into the relationship be- the study, Kalle Hirvonen. tween altitude and undernutri-

live at 1,500 meters above sea level or higher, with two-thirds of them in Sub-Saharan Africa, co-a uthored by Hirvonen and environment if they were born zation (WHO), but only until ments" according to a new and Asia. These two regions host Addis Ababa University Associ- to highly educated mothers, about 500 meters above sea levstudy from researchers at the most of the world's stunted chil- ate Professor Kaleab Baye, was had good health-service cover- el (masl). After 500 masl, averdren so it is important to under- published in the Journal of the age and high living conditions. age child height-for-age signifi-

The study provides new insearch Fellow and co-author of analyzed height-for-age data children living in such environght into the relationship bethe study, Kalle Hirvonen. of more than 950,000 children ments have the same growth

"If children living at altitude tion and the additional efforts are, on average, more stunted more stunted, on average, needed to ensure policy inter- than their peers at sea level, ventions are appropriately tai- then a more significant effort to tion and Agriculture (AReNA) lored to high altitude contexts. address high altitude stunting "More than 800 million people is needed," Hirvonen added.

> The study, "Evaluation of Linear Growth at Higher Altitudes," in growth" said IFPRI Senior Re- (JAMA), Pediatrics. The study relies on the assumption that curve of the median child in

were compiled through the Advancing Research on Nutriproject funded by the Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation.

from 59 countries. The data potential, irrespective of genetic makeup or geographic location.

"The data clearly indicated that those residing in idealhome environments grew at the same rate as the median child in Children were classified as the growth standard developed having lived in an ideal-home by the World Health Organi-



the reference population," said growth deficits are unlikely to search Institute (IFPRI) and Ad-stand the role that altitude plays American Medical Association Global tracking of growth rates cantly deviated from the growth Hirvonen. The research further be due to common risk factors

shows that these estimated such as poor diet and disease.

"Polishing The Gun": China, US **Tensions Raise Taiwan Conflict**

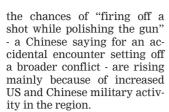
Agencies

Taipei/Beijing: Numerous Chinese and US military exercises, Taiwan missiles tracking Chinese fighters and plummeting China-US ties make for a heady cocktail of tension that is raising fears of conflict touched off by a crisis over Taiwan.

In the last three weeks, China has announced four separate exercises along its coast, from the Bohai Gulf in the north to the East and Yellow Seas and South China Sea, along with other exercises it said were aimed at "the current security situation across the Taiwan Strait".

Taiwan, Meanwhile claimed by China as its "sacred" territory, said its surface-to-air missiles had tracked approaching Chinese fighters - details Taiwan does not normally give - as US Health Secretary Alex Azar was visiting the island this month.

Addressing the Chinese exercises, Taiwan's defence ministry said on Tuesday the closer Chinese jets get to the island the "more actively" Taipei would respond, though it



"Neither side wants to start a conflict. The fundamentals have not changed much," said a Western diplomat looking into military activities across the Taiwan Strait.

"But the frequent activities do increase the chances of an accidental conflict," the diplomat said. China's defence and foreign ministries and its Taiwan Affairs Office did not respond to requests for comment, and neither did the Pentagon nor US State Department.

A senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that China was becoming more assertive and more aggressive in the region and there was concern its military could miscalculate, leading to unexpected consequences.

"This is an issue that is broader than Taiwan and broader than just the United



would "not escalate conflict" nor "trigger an incident".

The United States sent another warship through the Taiwan Strait this month, a few days after a US carrier group conducted an exercise in the disputed South China Sea, and this week China complained a US spy plane had observed Chinese live-fire exercises.

Chinese military expert Ni Lexiong, a retired professor at the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, said it was very rare and possibly the first time multiple Chinese exercises were taking place at the same time.

"By simultaneously conducting drills in the three seas, it means China is testing its ability to fight enemies coming from three directions at the same time - for example from Taiwan, from Japan and from the US from the south," he said.

"Historically frequent drills are a clear predictor of war.'

Dismay And Concern

Taiwan-based security and diplomatic sources say States," the official said.

"I would argue that there are many like-minded countries in the region that are viewing with dismay and increasing concern the trend lines coming out of Beijing."

To The Last Soldier

The Trump administration has been taking an escalating array of measures against China in the run-up to the US presidential election, adding to the uncertainty.

A hypothetical scenario spelled out in a recent essay by James Winnefeld, a former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Michael Morrell, former acting director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has made the rounds in Taiwan security circles.

In their suggested sequence of events, set out in the Proceedings of the US Naval Institute, a disputed US election gives China the opportunity to move on Taiwan while Washington and the world are distracted.

Covid Fears: Davos Not To Host 'Rich & Powerful' This Year

Agencies

Switzerland: The Geneva, World Economic Forum said Wednesday it would postpone the next Davos summit by several months because it would be unsafe to hold it early next year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"The World Economic Forum decided this afternoon to reschedule the annual meeting 2021 in Davos to early next summer," a spokesman said in a statement, adding that the decision had been reached after experts advised the meeting could not be held "safely" in January.



United Nations Blocks US Bid To Trigger "Snapback" Sanctions On Iran

Agencies

United Nations: The United Nations on Tuesday blocked a controversial bid by the US to reimpose international sanctions on Iran, with the Security Council saying it could not proceed with the disputed move.

The presidency of the Council, assumed in August by Indonesia, is "not in a position to take further action" on Washington's request, said Indonesian Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani.

In a video conference on the Middle East, he cited the lack of consensus in the UN's highest body on the US strategy as the main reason.

The Trump administration accuses Tehran of failing to comply with the terms of the historic 2015 Iran nuclear deal, and is demanding the Security Council reimpose sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Washington insists on its legal right to trigger the disputed procedure, called "snapback" -- despite pulling out of the deal two years ago.

The move threatens to torpedo the Iran accord and plunge the Council into crisis. while widening the gulf between the US and almost every other member on Iran policy.

Thirteen of the 15 Council members had written to the Indonesian presidency to reject its validity.

The US "is alone" in their approach, and "their ultimate goal is to destroy the nuclear agreement when they have already imposed (national) sanctions on Iran," one diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity told AFP.

Another said that, with the sound rejection of the US bid by almost the entire Council, "normally the matter is closed."

The US did not see it that way.

"We reminded members of our right under Resolution 2231 to trigger snapback, and our firm intent to do so in the absence of courage and moral clarity by the Council," stated US ambassador to the UN Kel-

Washington has previous-

ly accused Council members of "siding with the ayatollahs."

The move, never before used, comes after the US suffered a humiliating defeat at the Security Council earlier this month when it failed to arms embargo on Iran.

agreement, in which sanctions against Iran were lifted in exchange for it agreeing not to develop nuclear weapons, a notification that Tehran has broken its promise must in principle be followed by a draft resolution by the presidency of the Security Council.

tion by Indonesia was welcomed Tuesday by the majority of Council members.

According to diplomats, Washington could go so far as to table its own draft resolution, opening the way for even more confusion.

muster support for a resolution to extend a conventional

According to the 2015

The exclusion of this op-

In this case, said one ambassador, opponents in the Council could go as far as abstaining from the vote.

US Burns As 2 More Killed Over Fresh Black Shooting

Kenosha, United States: Two people were shot dead on Tuesday night in the US city of Kenosha, police said, as groups clashed during protests over the shooting of a black man.

Violence broke hundreds of protesters marched for a third night in the Wisconsin city in anger after Jacob Blake was seen in video footage being shot up to seven times at point-blank range by a white Kenosha police officer on Sunday.

The most recent police shooting of an African American has sparked outrage and protests in US cities, including New York and Minneapolis, as part of the huge Black Lives Matter movement.

The Kenosha police department said local officers. along with assisting agencies, responded to reports of shots being fired and multiple gunshot victims.

"The shooting resulted in two fatalities and a third gunshot victim was transported

running through the streets of Kenosha as gunshots rang out, while other videos



to a hospital with serious, but non-life threatening injuries," the department said in

a tweet, adding the investigation was "active and ongoing." Earlier, footage was

posted online showing people

showed wounded men lying on the ground.

The police statement said: "Investigators are aware of the social media videos being circulated regarding this inci-

Israel Uses F-16's To Punish **Gaza for Fire Balloons**

Jerusalem: Israeli aircraft struck posts belonging to the Lebanese group Hezbollah early on Wednesday after shots were fired from Lebanon towards its troops, Israel's military said.

Later in the day, Israeli warplanes also bombed Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip in response to Palestinians in the enclave launching incendiary balloons towards Israel, according to the military.

No Israeli troops were wounded in the firing from Lebanon, the military said. Soldiers deployed illumination flares, smoke shells and live fire after the shots from the Lebanese side of

the frontier, it said. "In response, overnight, IDF attack helicopters and aircraft struck observation posts belonging to the Hezbollah terror organisation in the border area," the military said in a state-

ment, referring to the Israel Defense Forces. There was no immediate

comment from Hezbollah.

Tension has been running high on the border. Last month, Israel said Hezbollah carried out an infiltration attempt, which the Iran-backed group denied.

The Israeli military said it lifted a curfew it had imposed

Almost nightly strikes on Hamas facilities

There were no reports of

casualties in the strikes that

Israel's military said targeted underground infrastructure belonging to Hamas, the Islamist group that rules Gaza.

amas has been trying to pressure Israel to ease restrictions on Gaza and allow more investment, in part by letting Palestinians launch helium balloons carrying incendiary material that have torched tracts of southern Israeli farmland in recent weeks.

Israel has struck Hamas facilities almost nightly for the past two weeks, saying it would not tolerate the balloons.

Anticipating Israeli attacks after balloon or rocket launch-



ings, Hamas routinely evacuates personnel from its sites.

With tension high, Israel has closed its only commercial crossing with Gaza, banned sea access and halted fuel imports into the coastal strip, leading to its only power plant shutting down last week.

Health officials have voiced concern that the power plant shut down could aggravate a novel coronavirus outbreak in Gaza, which is home to two million Palestinians.

Mediators from the United Nations, Egypt and Qatar have been working to restore calm.

US To Execute Only Native American On Federal Death Row For Murder

Agencies

Washington: The United States is set to execute Lezmond Mitchell, a convicted murderer and the only Native American on federal death row, on Wednesday, despite opposition from the Navajo Nation, which savs the government is infringing tribal sovereignty.

Mitchell, a Navajo, is set to be killed with lethal injections of pentobarbital, a powerful barbiturate, at 6 p.m. in the Departber in Terre Haute, Indiana.

His lawyers and Jonathan Nez, the Navajo Nation president, have asked U.S. President Donald Trump for clemency, and Mitchell has asked the U.S. District Court in Washington to delay the execution while this is considered.

On Tuesday night, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected his bid for a stay based on his lawyers argument that racial bias may have tainted the jury at his trial. Absent intervention, Mitch-

ell, 38, will become the fourth man to be executed by the U.S. government this summer after an informal 17-year hiatus. which was caused in part by legal challenges to lethal injection protocols and difficulties obtaining deadly drugs.

Mitchell and an accomplice, Johnny Oslinger, were convicted of murdering a 9-year-old Navajo girl, Tiffany Lee, and her grandmother Alyce Slim in 2001 on the tribe's territory, which spans four states in the U.S. Southwest. According to prosecutors,

the men stabbed Slim more than 30 times, put the body in the backseat of her car alongside the granddaughter as they drove elsewhere before killing the girl later and decapitating both bodies.

to death in an Arizona federal court over the objection of Navajo officials, who said the tribe's cultural values prohibited taking human life "for vengeance." At least 13 other tribes joined the Navajo Nation in urging Trump this month to commute Mitchell's sentence to life in prison.

Oslinger was a teenager at the time and ineligible for the death sentence.

Under the Major Crimes Act, the federal government has jurisdiction over certain major crimes occurring on Indian territory, including murder but usually cannot pursue capital punishment for a Native American for a crime on tribal land without the tribe's consent.

"Not Human, Not Even An Animal": New Zealand **Mosque Killer Told In Court**

hristchurch, New Zealand: The father of a three-yearold boy shot dead in last year's New Zealand mosque attacks told gunman Brenton Tarrant Wednesday that he was an "evil man" whose atrocity had failed in its goal to sow hatred and fear.

Australian white supremacist Tarrant is expected to become the first person in New Zealand imprisoned for life without prospect of parole when his sentence is handed down on Thursday at a Christchurch court. Aden Diriye, father to three-

year-old Mucaad Ibrahim, the youngest person to die in Tarrant's rampage, was among survivors and bereaved families giving testimony on day three of his sentencing.

Diriye told Tarrant to "know that true justice is waiting for you in

the next life and that will be far more

severe (than prison). I will never for-



give you for what you have done." Hasmine Mohamedhosen, whose brother Mohamed was killed, called Tarrant the "son of a devil" who she wanted to "rot in hell between the

four walls of your cell for eternity". Ahad Nabi, whose father Haji Daoud Nabi was killed in Al Noor mosque, called Tarrant a coward who should never be allowed to walk free.

"While you are in prison you will come to realise that you are now in hell and only the fire awaits you," he said. Tarrant, 29, has admitted 51 charges of murder, 40 of attempted murder and one of terrorism during the attacks at two Christchurch mosques on March 15, 2019. He has remained impassive throughout the hearing as members of the Muslim community confront him, some furious and demanding justice and others distraught.

'Remember his name' "You have killed my son and to me that is as though you have killed the whole of New Zealand," Diriye told Tarrant with a steady voice.

"I will never forget how he would play in the mosque and make friends with every worshipper who attended, young and old. He was adored by all.

"Your atrocity and hatred did not turn out the way you expected. Instead it has united our Christchurch community, strengthened our faith, raised the honour of our families and brought our

UK military considering ditching tanks and armored vehicles

n an extraordinary development it is being reported that British military chiefs have drawn up plans to mothball Britain's entire tank and armored fighting vehicle fleets.

MAKERS

According to the Times (August 25), the potential move is informed by a strategic shift in defense thinking with a desire to prioritize "other" military assets over heavy armor.

This paradigmatic shift, as demonstrated by the willingness to completely give up on heavy armor in the battlefield, is part of the government's integrated foreign policy, defense and security review, which is set to be completed in November.

The Times reports that the government is examining the "controversial idea" of ditching armor altogether as the cost of upgrading the UK's ageing fleet of 227 Challenger 2 tanks and 388 Warrior armored fighting vehicles has



The Ministry of Defense is reportedly partial to the idea of heavier investment in cyber warfare, space and artificial intelligence capabilities at the expense of the ageing fleet of Challenger 2 tanks and Warrior armored fighting vehicles which have been branded as "obsolete".

But the proposed paradigmatic shift in British defense planning has predictably divided the British defense and security community.

Donald Trump "Wise Like An Ullu": Tomi Lahren

merican T.V host and Donald Trump supporter, Tomi Lahren posted a video on twitter where she praised The 45th president of the United States by stating that:

"Trump 2020 is all about keeping America great, because President Trump is wise as an owl, or as you say in Hindi, wise like an ullu,"

The video attempted to reach the Indian-American population the U.S. Social media users were quick to point out that in Hindi the word 'Ullu' was not used as praise but rather as an insult. "This is freaking brilliant. They calling Trump an ullu - which means idiot. And she's thanking them for it." said one Twitter user.

While another user tweeted "Lol, Tomi Lahren thanks her "fans in India" for helping make *America* great again. She says Trump is "wise like an owl," and then tries to translate the phrase, not knowing that the word owl ("ullu") is actually an insult in Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu,"

Further Delay In Conducting JEE, NEET Can Have Serious Repercussions: IIT Delhi Director



NEW DELHI: Any further delay in conducting entrance exams JEE and NEET will have "serious repercussions" on not only the academic calendar but also career of bright students, IIT Delhi Director V Ramgopal Rao said.

Rao's comments come in the wake of growing clamour for postponing the two crucial exams in the wake of rising in COVID-19 cases.

The consequences of postponing these exams any further can have serious repercussions on IIT academic calendars and for candidates. I fail to see how we can run two batches together. It will become a zero academic year for lakhs of students. Our academic calendars are too packed already and linked to too many other things. The delays can impact the careers

of so many bright students. "We have already lost six months. If we conduct the exams in September, we can at least start the sessions in Indian Institutes of Technology (could be online) in December. Tinkering with the examination pattern or admission processes in these times will also be detrimental and unfair for everyone," Rao said

in a social media post. He said coronavirus is not going to go away for at least a year and we cannot be perpetually in lockdown mode, and appealed to the students to "trust the institutions" and take the entrance tests while strictly following the COVID-19 safety guidelines.

"COVID is not going to go the COVID-19 pandemic.

away for another six months to one year. We all need to get used to this new normal. The earlier we realise that, the better it is for all of us. The last postponement of exams definitely helped us prepare well now.

"I feel sad for those serious students preparing for these examinations. I did receive a large number of emails from them. As if COVID-19 is not enough, this uncertainty about exam dates is further adding to the stress levels of students. Personally, I am for conducting these examinations by taking all precautions and following social distancing norms. Lockdown is not a solution to COVID. Lockdown was needed to prepare ourselves better," he said.

The IIT director also noted that the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) is now conducted multiple times a year.

"Incase some students cannot write the JEE Main this time, they can take the exam after six months again. I don't see any reason for concern. As the IEE Advanced organising institute. I assure everyone that IITs will do their best and put their best foot forward in organising the JEE Advanced examination," he said.

Rao said they will also be closely monitoring the situation and take necessary steps as required.

"Health of candidates is of utmost concern to all of us. We all have children and we can connect with the parents of candidates," he said.

The JEE Main and the Na-Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) will be conducted in September as scheduled, the Ministry of Education officials had on Tuesday said, amid a growing chorus for postponing the crucial tests in view of

Fair Distribution Of COVID-19 **Vaccine A Big Challenge: WHO Chief Scientist**

BENGALURU: Distributing COVID-19 vaccine around the world fairly without letting the rich countries corner the limited doses is going to be a big challenge, the World Health Organisation"s Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan said on Wednesday.

On vaccine development for the novel coronavirus, she said: "By early 2021, we should have some good news."

Then, there is the big challenge of being able to scale, distribute and allocate fairly around the world without letting the rich countries corner the limited doses, Ms Swaminathan said.

while addressing the valedictory of the XV international conference on public policy & management hosted by the Centre for Public Policy at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore in a going up in the second wave virtual mode, according to of the pandemic. This is

an IIMB statement. But India is in a good position because many companies are working on vaccine development, either on their own or in collaboration, she said, adding, the country is a man- Ms Swaminathan said.



The pandemic has exacerbated inequalities, and it has proved to be a learning opportunity to improve resilience and strengthen public health systems, according to her.

The focus needs to be on global collaboration when dealing with the virus diagnostics, therapeutics, behavioural and mental health concerns, She made the comments transmission, vaccine development, and how the disease impacts children (learning, cognitive development) with schools being shut, the statement quoted her as saying.

"The mortality rate is not probably related to demographics and other factors we do not yet know why South Asia and Africa have lower mortality rates than Europe and the Americas.'



Delayed GST Payment: Interest To Be Charged On Net Tax Liability From Sept 1

interest on delayed payment of goods and services tax (GST) will be charged on net tax liability with effect from September 1. The industry had earlier this year raised concern over the directive of recovery of about Rs 46,000 crore of unpaid interest on delayed GST payment. The interest was charged on gross tax liability.

The GST Council, comprising centre and state finance ministers, in its 39th meeting in March had decided that interest for delay in payment of GST to be charged on net tax liability with effect from July 1, 2017, and law would be amended retrospectively.

However, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on August 25, notified September 1, 2020, as the date from which interest would be charged on net tax li-

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said this notification seems to be in disconnect with decisions of GST Council wherein it was assured to the taxpayers that the said benefit would be available ret-

rospectively from July 1, 2017. "Prospective availability of this ben- gross GST liability increases the pay-



efit would mean that millions of taxpayers may be looking at demand of interest for over 3 years from the date of GST implementation. Businesses are expected to approach the High Courts again on this unjustified and illegal demand of interest basis the 'principle of estoppel"," Mohan said.

The CBIC had earlier said that GST law permits interest calculation on delayed GST payment on the basis of gross tax liability. This position has been upheld in the Telangana High Court"s decision dated April 18, 2019. Net GST liability is arrived at after deducting input tax credit from

gross GST liability. Hence, calculating interest on

EY Tax Partner Abhishek Jain said with the GST Council having approved a retrospective amendment to interest being applicable on net liability, businesses would now await retrospective prescription for this.

'The retrospective notification becomes all the more imperative to subside multiple notices which were issued by the revenue authorities demanding GST on gross liability,' Jain added.

Businesses, other than those under the composition scheme and quarterly return filers, registered under goods and services tax (GST) have to file returns (GSTR-1) showing tax liability by 11th of following month and pay taxes by filing GSTR-3B between 20th-24th (due date varies according to the state in which businesses are registered).

There have been cases where GST assessees have paid taxes after due date but did not pay the interest due on account of delayed payment.

There were doubts on whether the interest was to be paid on gross tax liability or net tax liability. Interest at the rate of 18 per cent is levied on

Lowest Possibility Of Covid-19 Infection Via Air **Travel: Official**

NEW DELHI: The possibility of getting an in-flight Covid-19 infection is negligible, as borne out by empirical data, a senior Civil Aviation Ministry official said.

Joint Secretary, Civil Aviation, Usha Padhee, told IANS that only about 2,000 passengers have been reported to be Covid positive after reaching their destination out of the over 6 million people, who travelled on domestic flights post resumption till August 24.

'This figure even includes individuals who have been identified via contact tracing," she said.

"If you see the empirical data, we can certainly say that air travel is the safest and fastest mode of travel." A total of 6.5 million passengers have travelled from May 25 onwards till August 24.

Currently, the Centre has permitted only 45 per cent capacity utilisation in the domestic sector with effect from June 27, post the initial re-start of operations of scheduled domestic flights, with effect from May 25.

In addition, special and chartered flights are operated with the government's permission for repatriating Indians and foreign citizens.

"As and when the situation improves, more capacity will be allowed. Till now, a sequential growth can be seen in passenger traffic," Padhee said.

"At present, on an average, over 90,000 passengers travel on a daily basis. This number will definitely rise. We have also instituted a fare band which is a win- to fly abroad." — IANS



well as the industry." Last month, the Centre had extended the time period for limited domestic passenger flight operations and the air fare cap till November 24.

In terms of the fare structure, air routes have been divided into seven sections based on travel time. Each such section has its minimum and maximum fare.

Padhee also said: "The regulator is also carrying out strict financial audits so that safety protocols are not scarified due to financial constraints.' Besides, she pointed out that the Centre has brought in bio-security or public health components in air travel via a multi-level approach.

Padhee also said domestic airlines will be encouraged to expand international operations and that they should use this period to gain experience in operating long-haul flights.

"There has been massive international expansion by some of the domestic airlines in this period. It is encouraging as post-Covid-19, in the new normal, more passengers will be flown out by Indian carriers," she said.

On whether or not these flights will be maintained post the commencement of normal international operations, she said: "These airlines have been designated

PNB Receives 24 CR Recovery From US In Nirav Modi Case



NEW DELHI: The central government on Tuesday said that Punjab National Bank (PNB) has informed the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) that it has received USD 3.25 million (the equivies in fugitive Niray Modi case from the USA.

"Upon liquidation of the debtors" assets by the US Chapter 11 Trustee, a sum of \$ 11.04 million (equivalent of 82.66 crore) is available for distribution to unsecured creditors including PNB. Further recovery therefrom is subject to other expenses and settlement of claims of other claimants,"

MCA said in a release. The Ministry also has initiated proceedings for disgorgement of monies from the perpetrators-- the entities promoted and/or controlled by Nirav Modi/Mehul Choksi.

"Punjab National Bank Limited in 2018 informed the MCA that three companies promoted by Nirav Modi, namely Firestar Diamond, A. Jaffee and Fantasy (all Inc) had filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection in the Southern District of New

York, United States of America," MCA said.

PNB requested the MCA to support and join the bankruptcy proceedings in New York, USA in order to help PNB realize its claims in the debtors" assets.

The US Bankruptcy Court of Southern District of New York, by its order dated July 26, 2018 recognized the claims of PNB in the proceeds of sale of assets of the properties of the debtor companies. It also authorized PNB to isalent of 24.33 crores) as sue subpoenas to compel the the first tranche of recover- examination of Nirav Modi, Mihir Bhansali and Bhansali under oath.

> Subsequently, on August 24, 2018, the Examiner appointed by the New York Bankruptcy Court submitted his report. The Report explains the modus operandi of the fraud and the manner in which the US-based employees of the debtors participated in the fraud.

> "One prominent feature of the fraud was the apparent facade of independent companies, which were, in reality, entities promoted and/ or controlled by Nirav Modi, that engaged in "roundtripping" of the diamonds amongst themselves," it said.

> Interpol has issued a red corner notice against fugitive Nirav Modi's wife, Ami Modi, in connection with the nearly USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case.

Centre Frames Draft Policy On Data Privacy Under National Digital Health Mission

NEW DELHI: To safeguard confidential health data collected from people under the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), the government has proposed a framework and a set of minimum standards for data privacy protection to be followed across the board in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The NDHM was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of 74th Independence Day.

The National Health Authority (NHA), the central agency responsible for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogva Yojana, which has been mandated to design and roll out NDHM in the country, has released the draft 'Health Data Management Policy' in the public domain.

The document has been put up on the official website of National Digital Health Mission seeking comments and feedback from the public till September 3.



The draft policy mainly seeks to set out a framework for "secure processing of personal and sensitive personal data of individuals" who are a part of the national digital health ecosystem.

Data collected across the National Digital Health Ecosystem (NDHE) will be stored in at the central level, the state or Union Territory level and at the health facility level, by adopting the principle of minimality at each point, according to the document.

The federated structure necessi-

tates the development of a framework that can be utilised throughout the NDHE to safeguard the privacy of confidential health data that has been collected from individuals in India, it stated. Indu Bhushan, the Chief Execu-

tive Officer of NHA said, "The Draft Health Data Management Policy is the maiden step in realising NDHM's guiding principle of 'Security and Privacy by Design' for the protection of individuals' data privacy. "It encompasses various aspects of

health data like data privacy, consent management, data sharing and protection among others," the officer said. The provisions of this policy shall

apply to the entities involved in the NDHM and those who are a part of the NDHE, that includes all entities and individuals who have been issued an ID under this policy, healthcare professionals, governing bodies of the Health Ministry, the NHA, relevant professional bodies and regulators.

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SATHU PAYEEN BAGHWANPORA, BARBARSHAH, SRINAGAR, KMR.

IAS Officer Tina Dabi Files Complaint On 10 'Fake' FB Accounts In Her Name; FIR Registered

BIKANER: IAS officer Tina Dabi has registered a complaint against unidentified persons for operating 10 fake Facebook accounts in her name.

An FIR was registered at Kotwali police station of Ganganagar district, Rajasthan, relevant under

C M Y K

sections of the Information Technology Act and Indian Penal Code (IPC) on Tuesday, police said.

Dabi, a 2016-batch officer, is posted as chief executive officer of Zila Parishad in Ganganagar. She was the topper of the 2016 Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

Odisha Woman Ends Life After Daughter's Morphed Obscene Photos Go Viral On Social Media

JAIPUR: A 48-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide in Odisha's Jajpur district after morphed obscene pictures of her daughter went viral on social media, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in Banapur village in Jajpur town police station area on Monday night, a police officer said. Based on a police com-

plaint lodged by the woman's family, two persons have been arrested for uploading the morphed obscene images on social media, he said. Main accused Subhan-

kar Dalei (24), a resident of

Boulanga area in Balasore

"When the girl refused to establish a physical relationship with Dalei, he allegedly morphed her photographs and uploaded them on Facebook by

district, was in a relation-

ship with the 17-year-old

girl, during which he had

clicked some photographs

of her, the officer said.

creating a fake profile in her name," Jajpur town police station officer-incharge, Manas Ranjan Chakra, said. After the images went

viral on social media, the girl came to know about it from a friend and then informed her family members, following which her mother allegedly hung herself from the ceiling of their house, he said.

The accused persons, including Jayadev Dalei who had allegedly assisted the main accused in committing the crime, have been booked under sections of the Indian Penal Code, IT Act and POCSO Act, the officer added. PTI