



Maximum : 28°C
Minimum : 18°C
Humidity : 73%

SUNSET
Today 06:57 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:04 AM



News Digest

4.3 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Leh

LEH: An earthquake of magnitude 4.3 on the Richter scale occurred at 342 km of east-north-east of Leh, Ladakh on Monday, according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The earthquake occurred at 7:13 pm today. "Earthquake of magnitude: 4.3, occurred on 31-08-2020, 19:13:29 IST, Latitude: 35.31 and Longitude: 81.05, Depth: 230 Km, Location: 342 km ENE of Leh, Ladakh, India," the NCS said.

8 People Missing After Mishap In Ramban

Banihal/Jammu: Eight people have gone missing when their vehicle skidded off a highway and fell into the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Monday, officials said. The tempo, which was going to Ramban from Udhampur with around nine passengers on board, skidded off the highway rolled down a cliff into the Chenab river near Ramban, they said. Police and Quick Response Teams launched a rescue operations and saved one passenger. According to them, the other passengers could not be traced. "One person was rescued while eight to nine others are missing," SSP Ramban Haseeb Ur Rahman said.

LG Condoles Mukherjee's Demise

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday conveyed his heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Former President of India and Bharat Ratna, Pranab Mukherjee, who passed away today at an army hospital in New Delhi. Describing him as a statesman par excellence and a wonderful human being, the LG observed that the former President will always be remembered as an astute administrator who created benchmarks with ● P-02

PDP Pleads To Meet Mehbooba

Srinagar: Four senior Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leaders on Monday asked authorities to allow them to meet the party's incarcerated president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, who was jailed under the Public Safety Act following the abrogation of Article 370 last year. In a letter to District Magistrate, Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary, the PDP leaders said that Mehbooba ● P-02

Arms Recovered In Uri: Police

Srinagar: State forces on Monday recovered cache of arms and ammunition in Dudran forest area of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said. Two AK-47 rifles along with as many magazines, 74 AK rounds, a pistol with 38 rounds, 10 hand grenades, two wireless sets and a pouch were recovered from Dudran forest area of the border town Uri, a police official said. He ● P-02

Mortar Shell Defused In Rajouri

Jammu: Government forces on Monday defused a live mortar shell and averted a tragedy in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. A suspected object was found by some labourers who were digging a trench in Nowshera area and they informed the police, the officials said. Police and army identified it as a live mortar shell and the bomb disposal squad defused it safely, they said.

China Tries To Cross LAC In Ladakh Again

Army Says Chinese Bid To Change Status Quo 'Unilaterally' Foiled

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In a fresh confrontation in eastern Ladakh, the Chinese army carried out "provocative military movements" to "unilaterally" change the status quo on the southern bank of Pangong Tso lake on the intervening night of August 29 and 30 but the attempt was thwarted by the Indian troops, the Army said here on Monday.

Army Spokesperson Col Aman Anand said troops from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) "violated" the consensus arrived at during military and diplomatic engagements on the ongoing stand-off in eastern Ladakh, and carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo. Government sources said a sizeable number of Chinese troops were moving towards the southern bank of Pangong Tso lake in an attempt to occupy the area but the Indian Army quickly made significant deployment to foil the bid. The sources said there was no



AN ARMY CONVOY heading towards Ladakh on Monday as tensions between India and China continues to rise. KO Photo Abid Bhat

physical clash between the troops of the two sides during China's attempt to open a new front.

The two sides were engaged in a confrontation on the northern bank of Pangong Tso lake but it

was for the first time such an incident occurred on the southern bank, they said. ● PAGE 02

China Threatens To Escalate Border Tensions With India

The Xi Jinping regime on Monday evening threatened that China-India border tensions will "surely escalate this time," since India had "crossed the LAC and purposely launched provocations."

The statement issued in Chinese state-run Global Times came after India on Monday morning revealed that it had pre-emptively thwarted Chinese intentions to unilaterally change the status quo on the southern bank of Pangong Tso in ● P-02

Leh Highway Closed For Civilian Traffic

The authorities on Monday closed Srinagar-Leh Highway for civilian traffic to allow army convoys to ply on the strategic road following escalation in tension between India and Chinese troops in Eastern Ladakh. The civilian vehicles on way to Ladakh were stopped at Manigam and Sumbal-Sonawari area early Monday morning, a local news agency KNT reported. Quoting an official, the report said that no vehicle was being allowed to move ahead of Sonamarg. The Srinagar-Leh Highway, however, will remain open ● P-02

Army Officer Dies Loading Combat Vehicle

An Indian Army officer died in Ladakh on Sunday in an accident that took place during the loading of an infantry combat vehicle, Army sources said. Capt Dikshant Thapa died on the spot, they said. The sources said while the infantry combat vehicle was being loaded, a civil truck rammed into the trailer due to which it toppled. The infantry combat vehicle toppled from the trailer on Thapa and he succumbed to his injuries, they said. The incident took place near Karu in Ladakh, the sources said..

LG Mathur Discusses Situation With MoS Home

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh R K Mathur on Monday met Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy, amidst fresh tension between the Indian Army and China's PLA. The details of the meeting were not known immediately but sources said the prevailing situation along the Line of Actual Control was discussed. The meeting came hours after the Indian Army said it thwarted "provocative" military movements by Chinese troops on the intervening night of August ● P-02

Highway Blocked Again, 100's Of Vehicles Stranded

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU- Landslides and mudslides triggered by heavy rains blocked the 270-km-long Srinagar-Jammu national highway at several places in Ramban district on Monday, officials said.

Over 300 vehicles were stranded at several places on the highway, the only all-weather road connecting Kashmir valley with the rest of the country.

The men and machines of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) have started clearance of the landslides to restore the traffic on the highway, they said.

However, the Srinagar-Kargil-



Leh road, which connects UTs of J-K and Ladakh, is open for traffic. The Mughal road, connecting Shopian district of Kashmir valley with Poonch district of Jammu region, is through for vehicles carrying essentials, mostly trucks and oil tankers, they said.

The traffic on inter-district Kishtwar-Paddar road has been restored on Monday after clearance of landslides, which blocked the road 3 days ago, they said. ● PAGE 02

CBI Raids JMC To Probe Graft Complaints

NEW DELHI- In a crackdown on grassroots level corruption, the CBI on Monday carried out surprise checks at the Jammu Municipal Corporation after receiving complaints of rampant corruption in the award of tenders and other public services, officials said.

The checks were conducted in coordination with the vigilance officer of the civic body to verify the allegations, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) teams are checking various points of public dealing in the Jammu Municipal Corporation from where the complaints of bribery were received, ● P-02

Omar Says, Use Of Force On Muharram Procession Against All Norms

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Monday condemned the use of force on Shia mourners during an Ashura procession, saying the unprecedented crackdown goes against all norms in a civilised society.

Our unequivocal condemnation of the completely unwarranted use of force, including pellets, against Muharram mourners. This unprecedented crack down goes against all norms that a civilised



society would expect, Omar wrote on Twitter.

The NC leader was reacting to the use of force on the Shia mourners in some parts of the city here on Sunday. Police fired tear smoke shells and pellets on the mourners leading to ● PAGE 02

8 More Die Of Covid-19 In J&K, Toll 705

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least eight more people, including an army porter succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, raising the number of fatalities due to Covid-19 in the Union Territory to 705.

While four deaths were reported from Kashmir valley, the remaining four were confirmed by officials from the Jammu division.

In Jammu, a 46-year-old woman from Bakshi Nagar, at present Raj Pura Magotri, died a day after she was admitted to the Government Medical College hospital Jammu.

"She was suffering from hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypothyroid bilateral CAP with respiratory distress," a doctor at GMC said, adding, "she died at 12.40 a.m." The doctor said a 65-year-old woman from Gangyal who was admitted on August 28 died at GMC hospital Jammu. She was diagnosed with type

2 diabetes mellitus, Hypothyroid and community acquired pneumonia (CAP) with respiratory distress, a doctor at the hospital said.

A 45-year-old woman from sector no. 7 Upper Ploura Janipur who was suffering from "hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus with bilateral infiltrates" died at 8.10 a.m. today at the hospital, the doctor said.

A 38-year-old man from Mir Pur Khour died 13 days after he was admitted to the hospital with "Type 2 diabetes mellitus, acute on CKD, pleural effusion pyrexia with Covid-19 positive."

Among the four deaths reported from Valley included a 25-year-old army porter from Macchil Kupwara.

He died at army hospital where he had a surgery some days back, news agency GNS reported. He had tested positive subsequently, the report said.

Late last night, they said, an elderly person from Kralgund ● PAGE 02

Newborn, 67 Travellers Among 535 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 535 new cases of coronavirus, including 67 travellers, a new born baby and over a dozen security personnel, taking the total number of people infected by virus in the Union Territory to 37698. Officials said Kashmir valley reported 290 fresh cases of Covid-19, while remaining 245 were reported from Jammu division. Among the cases include four CRPF, two-month baby, three persons from BB Cantt, as many from DPL, four BSF, a JK Bank Employee, two Employees ● P-02

Ex President Pranab Mukherjee Passes Away At 84

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Former president Pranab Mukherjee died on Monday in an army hospital here, his son Abhijit said. He was 84.

Mukherjee was admitted to hospital on August 10 and a health bulletin this morning said he was in a deep coma and on ventilator support.

"With a Heavy Heart, this is to inform you that my father Shri Pranab Mukherjee has just passed away in spite of the best efforts of Doctors of RR Hospital and prayers ● PAGE 02

J&K Govt Announces 7-Day Mourning

Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday announced seven-day mourning, as a mark of respect to Former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee who passed away in New Delhi. The seven day mourning will be held from August 31 to September 6, an official spokesperson said. ● P-02

7 Injured In Twin Grenade Attacks In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: At least seven civilians were injured on Monday in twin grenade attacks in north Kashmir's Baramulla and Sopore towns.

Suspected militants on Monday afternoon lobbed a grenade towards an army convoy when it was passing through Azad Gunj bridge, a police official said Monday. The grenade, however missed the intended target and exploded on the roadside with a bang.

In the grenade blast, the police official said seven civilians were injured. All of the injured were removed to the nearby district hospital for treatment. Their condition is said to be stable.

Soon after the attack, contingent of SOG of police and army reached the spot and launched a search operation.

"Police continues to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime incident. ● P-02

In 7 Months, 8 Security Men Among 23 Killed In Pak Firing: RTI

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: At least 23 people, including eight security personnel have been killed, and over 100 injured in firing by Pakistani troops in Jammu and Kashmir during the first seven months of this year, an RTI query has revealed.

The RTI application filed by activist Raman Sharma also found that in the past two years and seven months, 8,571 ceasefire violations have taken place with the casualty figures being 119 dead (including 56 security personnel) and 608 injured, 300 of them security personnel.

As per the data, Pakistani troops have violated ceasefire 13.89 times per day in the past seven month till July.

"Till July 2020 (this year), 2,952 ceasefire violations were done by Pakistan troops in which 15 civilians, 8 security force personnel were killed and 62 security force personnel and 38 civilians were injured, Director Ministry of Home Affairs, Sulekha, said in the reply to the Right to Information query.

During the last three years, people living near the International Border and the Line of Control areas of Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed on an average at least nine ceasefire violations by Pakistan daily, causing loss of lives and property.

In 2018, there were 2,140 ceasefire violations (nearly six a day) in which 59 persons including ● PAGE 02

Syrups To Stomach Pills: 5 Drugs Kashmir Consumed 'Most' In Lockdown

Swati Joshi

WHEN US President Donald Trump proclaimed that Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) might be the cure for COVID-19, Faizan Ahmad swiftly stockpiled what was touted as the "wonder drug".

In a time of despair, the announcement by Trump regarding HCQ gave the lockdown-laden populace including Ahmad some hope.

Soon the sale of HCQ skyrocketed, even when there was a little evidence about the effectiveness of the drug. In many health centres of the valley, angry attendants

roughed up medicos for not making the medicine available for their ailing family members gasping for breath. It prompted the administration to stockpile the drug and make it available free of cost.

"In the initial days, the sale of Hydroxychloroquine increased but then it halted," said Ahmad, a worker from North Point, a pharmaceutical products wholesaler in Srinagar. "I still have the stock left with me."

According to the data compiled by AWACS, a market research wing of the All India Organization of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD),



India sold over Rs 22 crore HCQ tablets in the first three months when the pandemic hit the country (March, April, and May) against 24 crores in 2019.

However, with the announcement of lockdown on March 24 and closure of Out Patient's Department (OPD), anxious people started stockpiling drugs anticipating shortages. Kashmir Observer talked to 15 pharmacies located in Srinagar, Ganderbal, Baramulla, and Budgam to know about the drugs which are in demand in the valley since March when the lockdown was implemented. ● PAGE 02

Par Panel Would Like To Be Apprised Of Impact Of J&K 4G Suspension: Tharoor

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Congress leader and chairman of Parliamentary standing committee on Information and Technology ShashiTharoor has written to the LokSabha Speaker that the panel would like to be apprised of the impact of the suspension of internet services on Jammu and Kashmir, while examining evidence from

other central and state representatives on the issue, as the matter is no longer sub-judice.

However, as per the latest updated agenda of the parliamentary panel meeting on September 1, the reference to Jammu and Kashmir in the topic related to the suspension of internet services has been dropped.

Tharoor had written to LokSabha Speaker Om Birla on August 27 in

response to his letter to parliamentary panel chairmen asking them to adhere to rules and avoid taking issues that were sub-judice, while the agenda of the panel's meeting was updated on August 28.

In his letter to Birla, the Congress leader said, "We will examine oral evidence provided by a number of central and state government representatives on the subject of Suspension of Telecom

Services/ Internet and its impact'. Naturally, the Committee would like to be apprised of the impact of the aforementioned subject in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, given its importance and the widespread impact of existing suspensions on fellow citizens."

On the question of suspension of internet services in Jammu and Kashmir, this particular is-

sue was previously being considered by the Supreme Court and "the Committee is happy to proceed with the knowledge that the issue is no longer sub-judice and there is no contravention with the convention on sub-judice matters", he said.

Citing the rules, Tharoor further said if any part of the subject is sub-judice, the committee would de-hyphenate it and only examine

the part that is not sub-judice.

However, Tharoor said at present, to the best of his knowledge and that of the Secretariat, there is no such subject before the committee.

Tharoor has been under attack from BJP members of the panel for taking up internet suspension in Jammu and Kashmir and calling up Facebook India executives, following a Wall Street Journal report that claimed that

the social media giant refused to apply hate speech rules to certain ruling party politicians.

He reiterated in the letter that Facebook has been summoned for 'discussion on safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms'. The subject was squarely within the committee's mandate and the social media giant has been summoned in the past.

India Strengthens Military Presence At All Strategic Points In Pangong Lake Area: Sources

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army has significantly strengthened its presence on a number of "strategic heights" and enhanced deployment of troops and weapons at key points around the Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh following an unsuccessful attempt by the Chinese PLA to unilaterally change the status quo in the area, authoritative sources said on Monday.

The Army has also further bolstered overall surveillance mechanisms in all areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh after foiling China's fresh attempt to occupy an area on the southern bank of Pangong lake, they said.

Earlier in the day, Army Spokesperson Col Aman Anand said the Chinese military carried out "provocative military movements" to "unilaterally" change the status quo on the southern bank of Pangong lake, they said.

on the southern bank of Pangong lake on the intervening night of August 29 and 30 but the attempt was thwarted by the Indian troops.

Top military and security brass has already reviewed the entire situation in eastern Ladakh. Separately, Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane held a meeting with top military officials over the fresh confrontation, the sources said.

"The Army has occupied strategic heights and strengthened deployment of troops and weapons in all key points on the southern bank of the Pangong lake area," said a source, adding the fresh deployment will provide India greater advantage in the region.

India has also deployed troops from special operations battalions in the area, it said.

The sources said a sizeable number of Chinese troops were moving towards the southern bank of Pangong lake in an attempt to occupy the area but the Indian Army quickly made a significant deployment to foil the attempt

They said the Indian Air Force (IAF) has also been told to enhance its surveillance on increasing Chinese air activities along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

There have been reports that China has deployed J-20 long-range fighter jets and several other key assets in strategically located Hotan airbase which is around 310 kms from eastern Ladakh.

In the last three months, the IAF deployed almost all its frontline fighter jets like Sukhoi 30 MKI, Jaguar and Mirage 2000 aircraft in the key frontier air bases in eastern Ladakh and elsewhere along the LAC.

The IAF carried out night time combat air patrols over the eastern Ladakh region in an apparent message to China that it was ready to deal with any eventualities in the mountainous region.

The IAF has also deployed Apache attack choppers as well as Chinook heavy-lift helicopters to transport troops to various forward locations in eastern Ladakh.

The fresh attempt by China to change the status quo in the Pangong lake area is the first major incident in the area after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed.

China also suffered casualties but is yet to make the details public. According to an American intelligence report, it was 35.

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

The two sides began a process of disengagement on July 6, a day after a telephonic conversation between National Security Advisor AjitDoval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on ways to bring down tensions in eastern Ladakh. However, the process has not moved forward since mid-July.

The PLA has pulled back from Galwan Valley and certain other friction points but the withdrawal of troops has not moved forward in Pangong Tso, Depsang and a couple of other areas.

Cong Demands Criminal Investigation Into Affairs Of Facebook In India

NEW DELHI: Stepping up its offensive on Facebook for its alleged interference in India's electoral democracy, the Congress on Monday demanded criminal investigation into the affairs of the social media giant in India.

It also urged the government to put all pending approvals and licenses for Facebook and WhatsApp on hold until the investigations are completed.

Addressing a joint virtual press conference, Congress leader in LokSabhaAdhirRanjanChowdhury along with Praveen Chakravarty and Rohan Gupta said the expose of Facebook's interference and assault on India's electoral democracy is a criminal offence.

They highlighted a recent article by the Wall Street Journal on Facebook having colluded

with the ruling BJP and how questions were raised by Facebook employees on its India team's neutrality.

"Facebook and WhatsApp's role in subverting India's democracy is now unquestionable...Their complicity in propagating fake news to favour the BJP in elections.

"What makes it worse is that Facebook's global leadership team was well aware of the biases and partisanship of their India leadership team but were willing participants, as the latest Wall Street Journal article reveals," Chowdhury said.

The Congress has written two letters to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg seeking action against its India team and an independent probe into their functioning and replacing them.

China Tries To Cross LAC...

It is the first major incident in the area after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed. China also suffered casualties but it is yet to make the details public but according to an American intelligence report it was 35.

In a statement, Col Anand said the Indian Army thwarted the Chinese intentions to "unilaterally" change facts on ground and undertook measures to strengthen Indian positions in the area.

"On the night of 29/30 August 2020, PLA troops violated the previous consensus arrived at during military and diplomatic engagements during the ongoing standoff in Eastern Ladakh and carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo," he added.

"Indian troops pre-empted this PLA activity on the Southern Bank of Pangong Tso Lake, undertook measures to strengthen our positions and thwart Chinese intentions to unilaterally change facts on ground," the Army spokesperson said.

A Brigade Commander-level meeting was underway at Chushul to resolve the issues, he said.

The spokesperson further said the Indian Army is committed to maintaining peace and tranquility through dialogue, but is also equally determined to protect India's territorial integrity.

Government sources said the top strategic and military brass including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and the three service chiefs were briefed about the Chinese attempt in detail. China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian claimed its border troops always strictly abide by the Line of Actual Control(LAC) and never cross the line.

Chinese border troops always strictly abide by the Line of Actual Control (LAC). They never cross the line. Border troops on the two sides have been in close communication regarding the issues on the ground, the spokesperson said at a media briefing in Beijing in response to a question by a Japanese journalist about the fresh incident at Pangong Tso lake.

Asked if there was any meeting underway to resolve the issue, he said: "What I said is that the two sides through diplomatic and military channels maintain close communication. As to specific meetings and talks, if there is anything we will release it in a timely manner."

In Delhi, people familiar with the developments said India has taken the Chinese attempt "seriously" and the Army has further increased its deployment of troops and weaponry in and around southern and northern banks of the Pangong Tso lake following the Chinese attempt.

They said the attempt reinforced the assessment by the Army that China has not been serious in disengaging its troops from the friction points as it was still trying to change the status of the LAC in the new area.

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

The two sides began a process of disengagement on July 6, a day after a telephonic conversation between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on ways to bring down tensions in eastern Ladakh.

However, the process has not moved forward since mid-July.

The PLA has pulled back from Galwan Valley and certain other friction points but the withdrawal of troops has not moved forward in Pangong Tso, Depsang and a couple of other areas.

At the five rounds of Corps commander-level talks, the Indian side has been insisting on complete disengagement of Chinese troops at the earliest, and immediate restoration of status quo ante in all areas of eastern Ladakh prior to April.

The face-off began on May 5 following violent clashes between the two armies in the Pangong lake area.

The incident in Pangong Tso was followed by a similar incident in north Sikkim on May 9. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long LAC that stretches from the Ladakh region in the north to Sikkim.

Prior to the clashes, both sides have been asserting that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Even as both sides were engaged in diplomatic and military talks, the Indian Army stepped up its strength in all key areas along the LAC to deal with any eventualities.

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

The tension between the two sides escalated manifold after the Galwan Valley clashes.

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

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

China Threatens To Escalate...

eastern Ladakh. India's Ministry of Defence said that People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops had violated the previous consensus arrived at during military and diplomatic engagements during the ongoing standoff in eastern Ladakh and carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo.

"Indian troops pre-empted this PLA activity on the Southern Bank of Pangong Tso Lake, undertook measures to strengthen our positions and thwart Chinese intentions to unilaterally change facts on the ground," the Chinese government said.

The Indian Army is committed to maintaining peace and tranquility through dialogue, but is also equally determined to protect its territorial integrity, the statement said.

A brigade commander-level flag meeting was held on Monday at Chushul to resolve the issues.

However, China rejected the Indian statement, claiming that instead, Indian troops had "illegally crossed the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on Monday, which is a severe violation of the consensus reached before at the multi-level talks between the two countries," the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Western Theatre Command said on Monday night.

The PLA Western Theatre Command urged India to withdraw its troops that crossed the LAC and strictly restrain frontline forces. "Such blatant provocations lead to tensions on the border," the statement said.

Quoting experts, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party of China (CPC) regime said, "Indian action this time will definitely escalate tensions, as China has been forced to be tough and would take action; otherwise the Indian provocation would be endless."

About 70 per cent of respondents to a recent survey conducted by the Global Times and China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) agree that the Chinese government should be tough in fighting back against India's provocations, and 89.1 per cent support military retaliation, with 50.4 per cent of them "strongly supporting" self-defence and counter-attacks, the report said.

Admitting that the "negotiations held by the both sides since June 15 have achieved limited progress, as the Indian stance remains tough," the Chinese experts said that they had "even urged Chinese troops to retreat from some locations within Chinese territory, which China has refused."

Leh Highway Closed For...

for the movement of army convoys, the official added.

Eyewitnesses said that only armoured vehicles were seen plying on Srinagar-Leh highway.

However, a top police said the highway was closed for weather reasons.

He said inclement weather prompted authorities to close the Srinagar-Leh highway for civilian traffic.

The closure of civilian traffic on the Srinagar-Leh highway was also reported by India Today.

The report said that the highway has been closed for the civilians with immediate effect in view of the fresh "provocative" military movements by the Chinese troops on the intervening night of August 29-30 in eastern Ladakh.

"The road will remain open only for the defence forces and vehicles," the report added.

LG Mathur Discusses Situation...

29 and 30 to unilaterally change the status quo on the southern bank of Pangong Tso Lake area in eastern Ladakh.

8 More Die Of Covid-19 In J&K,...

area of the district died at SMHS hospital here where he was admitted.

A 65-year-old from Baghi Sundar Bala Chattabal and died four days after being admitted to SMHS hospital with "HTN and CPD," they added.

With these deaths, officials said, 705 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far. Among them, they said, 638 were from the Valley while 67 others from Jammu division.

Srinagar district with 221 deaths tops the list followed by Baramulla (100), Budgam (60), Anantnag (50), Kulgam (35), Pulwama (49), Shopian (28), Kupwara (48), Jammu (45), Bandipora (25), Ganderbal (21), Rajouri (5), Doda (4), Udhampur (2), Ramban (1), Samba (2), Poonch (4), and Kathua (3). (With GNS inputs)

Newborn, 67 Travellers Among...

at Tehsil Office, one RDD Employee, three RR men from Panzgam and one from IRR.

Giving district-wise details of the cases, officials said, Srinagar reported 90, Baramulla 16, Pulwama 52, Budgam 25, Anantnag 18, Bandipora 38, Kupwara 19, Kulgam 7, Shopian 7, Ganderbal 18, Jammu 139, Rajouri 13, Kathua 33, Udhampur 27, Samba 6, Ramban 1, Doda 9, Poonch 3, Reasi 6 and Kishtwar 8.

Meanwhile, officials said 505 more COVID-19 patients have been recovered and discharged from various hospitals—110 from Jammu Division and 395 from Kashmir Division.

Ex President Pranab Mukherjee ...

duas and prarthanas from people throughout India! I thank all of You Folded hands," his son Abhijit Mukherjee tweeted.

The former president was admitted to the hospital in Delhi Cantonment on August 10 and was operated the same day for removal of a clot in his brain.

He later developed a lung infection.

Mukherjee was the 13th president of India from 2012 to 2017

J&K Govt Announces 7-Day...

"The tricolor shall fly at half-mast during the mourning period on all buildings and places throughout the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir where it is flown regularly and there will be no official entertainment," he added.

CBI Raids JMC To Probe Graft...

like the birth and death certificate issuance office, sanitation office, vehicle hiring, petrol bills clearance among others, they said.

The teams are scrutinising documents from the civic body and if any corruption is detected, the agency may start filing FIRs in these matters, they said.

On August 10, the probe agency had carried out a similar surprise check at the Jammu and Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation after businessmen had complained of corruption in the award of tenders, they said.

Omar Says, Use Of Force On...

injuries to several of them.

Meanwhile, in a statement, the NC said showering pellets on Muharram mourners was a "new low".

The party expressed outrage over the indiscriminate use of pellet guns on mourners observing Youm-e-Ashura—the tenth day of the 10-day mourning period -- and condemned subjecting of the mourners to brute force by police.

The party termed the action of the police unwarranted, inhuman and discriminatory

The brutality on mourners in terms of arrests, torture, raining of pellets and baton charging is unacceptable and that the party unequivocally condemns it, the NC's provincial president, Kashmir, Nasir Aslam Wani said in the statement.

He said denying people to perform their religious activities was a new low which unfortunately has become a new normal in J&K.

The administration was already aware of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram, on that account it was supposed to chalk out a programme with different religious groups, try to bring them onboard to ensure necessary safety measures in view of the prevailing pandemic situation. Despite the barbarism of police, the mourners didn't indulge in any violent act. Actions like these are giving a lie to the commitments of the government on zero tolerance for human rights violations, he said.

Wani said the use of pellet guns, canes and teargas shells on the mourners shows how unfeeling the civil administration and local police is.

7 Injured In Twin Grenade...

Case FIR No. 147/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Baramulla and investigation taken up," a police spokesperson said.

Later in the day, suspected militants fired a rifle grenade and opened fire upon a police post in Sopore, reports said. However, no one was injured in the attack.

Following the attack, senior police and CRPF officers rushed to the spot and a search operation was launched to nab the attackers.

In 7 Months, 8 Security Men...

30 civilians were killed, and 259 including 143 civilians injured.

The year 2019 witnessed nine ceasefire violations per day, totalling 3,479, in which 37 people including 19 security personnel were killed and 249 people including 122 security personnel injured.

The MHA reply also discloses that as compared to 2010, the incidents of such aggression by Pakistan at border in Jammu and Kashmir increased around 50 times in year 2019.

While there were only 70 such incidents in 2010 killing two civilians and five force personnel in 2019, 3,479 such incidents were reported in which 18 civilians and 19 security personnel lost their lives.

The RTI reply further says that from 2010 to till date, Pakistan violated the peace pact on borders at least 11,572 times by resorting to cross-border fire in J&K, killing 240 Indians -- including 122 civilians and 118 security force personnel and leaving 673 civilians and 594 force personnel injured.

"Every year, the crossborder shelling incidents by Pakistan on border areas are increasing, the reply said.

Syrups To Stomach Pills:...

HQ:Azithromycin Combination

A majority of the pharmacists mentioned Azithromycin and HCQ when asked about the most prominent drugs purchased in Kashmir from March 2020.

An antibiotic, azithromycin is used to treat bacterial infections including pneumonia and bronchitis. Available in liquid and tablet form, the drug stops the growth of bacteria.

On the other hand, Hydroxychloroquine is a disease-modifying anti-arthritis drugs (DMARDs) known for the treatment of malaria.

Indian firms Ipca Laboratories and ZydusCadila are the world's largest producer of HCQ. The drug modifies the immune system to reduce inflammation.

"The sale of antibiotics has increased after the onset of the pandemic and peo-

ple are stocking it," said Baba Faizan, owner of Baba Pharmacy at Ganderbal.

Vitamin C

According to pharmacists interviewed, Vitamin C tablets have seen a tremendous increase in the sale in Kashmir since March.

Since the water-soluble vitamin is not produced in the body, people are advised to get it from citrus foods. However, many people prefer supplements, said Malik Shabir Hussain, owner of New Sunrise Medicate, Tapper Baramulla.

Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant and helps to build up a strong immune system as it protects the cells from free radicals (harmful molecules). The accumulation of free radicals causes oxidative stress which is linked to many chronic diseases.

According to a research titled 'The Role of High-dose Liposomal Oral Vitamin C Treatment for Covid-19', high dose of oral liposomal vitamin C in a drink along with nutritious food helped patients hospitalized with Covid-19 recover faster.

Insulin

Another common drug sold by a majority of the pharmacists during pandemic is Insulin.

It's the hormone made in the human body by Pancreas, a gland located behind the stomach. Insulin helps to maintain blood glucose levels in the body.

"Diabetes does not increase the chances of getting COVID but people with diabetes who get infected are at a higher risk of severe disease, complications and death," mentioned a paper by a consortium of leading Indian diabetologists and endocrinologists.

"The sale of insulin has increased from March as people were skeptic about its shortage in the lockdown," said a worker at Mahboob Pharmacy.

Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI)

PPI helps to prevent acid-related conditions like esophageal and stomach ulcers. It reduces the production of acid by restricting the enzyme in the wall of the stomach.

Stomach acid plays a significant role in digestion but the excess of it can cause inflammation in the esophagus.

"There is a demand for medicines like Pantop and Pantoprazole for stomach problems," said Malik Shabir Hussain of New Sunrise Medicate, Tapper Baramulla. Working for last 25 years, Hussain said he has observed many people suffering from stomach problems in Kashmir.

Cough Syrup

While people with minor symptoms of cough are getting medicines due to the fear of COVID, more and more people are switching to Codeine phosphate cough syrup, said Dr. Shakir Ahmad Khan, posted in Government Medical College, Srinagar.

The growing demand has made cough syrup one of the most-sought after drugs in Kashmir during pandemic, the medico informed.

Codeine is used to treat dry cough and upper respiratory infection which occur due to allergies or the common cold.

Codeine phosphate also has a sedative property due to which many people are purchasing it illegally above the market price, said Dr. Khan.

LG Condoles Mukherjee's...

his high standard of work. "Shri Pranab Mukherjee was an inspirational figure and his great services to the nation can never be forgotten. His demise is a huge loss to the nation," LG, as per an official spokesperson said.

In his message, Sinha extended sincere condolences to the bereaved family members and well-wishers and prayed for the eternal peace to the departed soul.

PDP Pleads To Meet Mehbooba

has a right to receive visitors as per the Constitution of the country.

"PDP chief and ex-CM JK Ms Mehbooba Mufti has been jailed since August 2019 after the illegal abrogation of Article 370 and subsequent bifurcation of the JK into two UTs. Unfortunately, the state administration has not allowed us to meet her since then, despite repeated attempts," Ghulam Nabi Lone, Abdul Rehman Veeri, Khurshid Alam and Ajaz Mir said in their letter. The leaders said that despite being detained at her Fairview residence, which has been declared a subsidiary jail, the PDP president has certain rights as a political detainee, which cannot be taken away.

"Apart from legal aid and adequate medical facilities, these also include visitations at least twice a week and I am sure we agree that these are rights Ms Mufti is entitled to per constitution," they said in the letter.

The PDP leaders said the former chief minister has not been allowed to meet any party members since her detention.

"One cannot stress enough the need to allow Ms Mufti, a political leader illegally detained and deliberately cut off from public since 2019, access to her party members," they said and urged the district magistrate to consider their request for allowing them to meet Mehbooba Mufti.

Mehbooba's daughter Iltija, posted on her mother's Twitter handle, that "throughout her illegal detention, Ms Mufti hasn't been allowed to meet anyone except immediate family."

"PDP members wrote to DC Srinagar today urging the administration to allow them to visit her. Even as a political prisoner, she is legally entitled to visitation rights that can't be violated," she tweeted.

Arms Recovered In Uri: Police...

said that grenades have been destroyed.

He said that a case (FIR No 59/2020) under section 7/25 I A ACT has been registered in police station Boniyar and further investigations taken up.

Officer for Critical Interventions to Restore Mughal Gardens

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 31:Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad Monday asked the officers that the restoration works of all these culturally significant landmarks need continuous attention as the same is of fragile nature.

Fayaz was speaking at a meeting held to review the renovation and restoration of Mughal gardens of Kashmir valley.

Commissioner Secretary Tourism and Culture, Zubair Ahmad also attended the meeting and gave his recommendations and suggestions regarding the same.

Director Floriculture, Farooq Ahmad Rather, representatives of Tourism, Archives and Archeology departments were also present in the meeting.

Fayaz asked the officers that the restoration works of all these culturally significant landmarks need continuous attention as the same is of fragile nature. He further urged them that originality of the structures has to be maintained at every cost as it only will ensure recognition of these gardens as World Heritage Sites.



Zubair advised the department that all the critical interventions necessary to be taken for restoration of these cultural monuments should be sent to Archives department for their suggestions and guidance. He said that these works should be in line with the requirements of UNESCO heritage list standards.

The Archives department was asked to provide their expertise and guidance for restoration and renovation works

of critical nature in Mughal gardens while keeping intact their cultural and historic ethos.

A committee of officers from all the concerned departments and consultant was decided to be framed for studying all the works of emergent nature and the way of completing them aesthetically.

It was given in the meeting that 6 mughal gardens namely Nishat, Shalimar, Cheshmashahi, Pari Mahal, Achabal and

Veeringan are currently under tentative world heritage list of UNESCO. The meeting further discussed that few works like repairs of boundary wall, restoration of structures inside these gardens, conservation of water channels, water bodies, restoration of terrace toe walls, fixing of devri stone pavers etc. has to be undertaken for restoring the glory of these gardens.

The meeting was called in a run up to the one taken earlier by Baseer Ahmad Khan Advisor to Lt. Governor of J&K during which directions were given to the Floriculture department to prepare a white paper on preserving the Heritage Gardens.

Pertinent to mention here that government has already hired a consultant for preparation of a dossier for onward submission to UNESCO through GoI so that these tentative sites are empanelled as World heritage sites permanently by this international body. This is believed to put them on the international tourist map and grab the attention of tourists visiting valley all over the globe.

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

12 Muharram
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 37
ZUHR	12: 32
ASR	5:08
Magrib	7:02
ISHA	8:26

Gypsum Mining Project JKPCB conducts Public hearing at Village Barias Kothiyar

DODA, AUGUST 31: J&K Pollution Control today conducted Public hearing with regard to Gypsum Mining Project, here at Barias Kothiyar village.

A large number of people of the affected areas, Senior Citizens, Sarpanchs, Panchs of Kothiyara, Kudgrawn and adjoining villages attend the public hearing.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Kasier Ahmed Bhawani, Divisional Officer J&K PCB, Mukesh Singh Bali, DMO J.S Kapoor, Tehsildar Assar, Farid Ahmed Sheikh, SHO Mushtaq Ahmed Jaral and Consultant of the Project Abhinav Mishra interacted with the villagers.

At the onset, Divisional Officer J&K PCB welcomed the participants and threw light on the importance of conducting public hearing in accordance with the guidance of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, in connection with the execution of a project.

Abhinav Mishra, consultant of the Project gave a detailed account of the importance of the project with respect to the employment opportunities & Socio-Economic development of the area. He also described the salient features and layout plan of the project.

The public representatives including Sarpanchs, Panchs and other affected persons put forth their queries regarding local aspects of the project especially with respect to employment opportunities besides the measures for overall development of the area.

The ACR laid stress on generation of employment opportunities for local unemployed youth of the affected areas. He called for absorbing the local youth in the project work and conducting plantation drive in the vicinity of the area without fail.

Family lodges report after Srinagar youth goes missing

Srinagar: A 20 year old youth from Srinagar city has gone missing while family has lodged a missing report in the police station.

Sources said that Haris Bashir Sofi left his home on 13 August and didn't return back.

The youth hails from Al-Noor Colony of Chattabal area of Srinagar city. Sources added that family has lodged a missing report at police post Qamarwari.

A police official confirmed that youth is missing and a report was registered after her sister reported at police post Qamarwari.

Public Notice

I have lost my Marks Cards of MBBS 1st year And MBBS Prefinal bearing Roll no 12210100078, Registration no 2560-MC-2012. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office Certificates Kashmir University within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Javeed iqbal mughal
S/O Abdul Rashid mughal
R/o Gool dist Ramban

AJ KO

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Whereas an application has been received from Shri M/s J&K Ply Agency R/o Humhama Budgam as transferor) and Shri Farooq Ahmad Haroon S/o Ghulam Mohammad Haroon R/o Salfia Colony Batmaloo



Srinagar as transferee) for transfer of 3/Wheeler load carrier carriage route permit no x covering vehicle No JK04F 1869 . As well as Cancellation of Hire Purchase with JK Bank Ltd B/o Humhama is also required in respect of above mentioned vehicle (Three Wheeler Load Carrier)

Now, therefore , it is notified for general information on that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit Vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam along with objection if any for cancellation of Hire Purchase within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representative of M/S Namley

No: JK RTO /1373/ARTO/ Budgam
Dated: 31/08/2020

MCB

Sd/- Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Budgam

INDEED WE BLONG TO ALLAH INDEED WE RETURN TO HIM



Haji Ghulam Mohammad Mukhdam, R/O Gousia Colony Bemina opposite Modern Bakery left for heavenly abode on 30 August 2020. May Allah grant him Jannat-ul-Firdous.

The Congregational Fateh Khawani will be held at their Ancestral graveyard Budshah Zain-ul Aabideen Sahib Zaina Kadal on Wednesday September 2, 2020 at 10.30 am.

Bereaved family/friends
7006309046/ 7006959168

INF

Heroine recovered from UP man

Awantipora: Police in a recent action against drug dealings in Awantipora have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession. Officers at a checkpoint established near Ladermud crossing of Awantipora intercepted one person identified as Aqeel Ahmad Ansari resident of Barkhan, Nawab Gung Bareli U.P. During search officers were able to recover 250 grams of Heroin from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to police station Awantipora, where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, case FIR No. 118/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Awantipora and investigation has been initiated. Preliminary investigation reveals that the accused person is involved in transportation/selling of psychotropic drugs among the youth in Awantipora area.

Community members are requested to come forward with any information regarding drug peddlers in their neighbourhood. Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt as per law. Police have resolved to deal robustly with drug peddlers.

Missing HMT Resident Found Dead in Bemina

Srinagar: The body of a middle aged man who had gone missing from HMT Khushipora area of Srinagar outskirts was found in a flood channel in Bemina area of Srinagar city on Monday.

40 year old Ghulam Rasool Wani was missing since 24 July last month.

Family members of the slain had staged multiple protest demonstrations seeking his whereabouts.

Wani had gone for jogging around Sharifabad area of HMT in the morning hours of 24 July and since then he was untraceable.

The deceased was the maternal uncle of Kashmir cricketer Manzoor Pandav.

Pandav said that they found a bag of heavy stones attached with the back of Ghulam Rasool Wani. "Prima facie, it seems a murder and we want police to investigate the matter thoroughly," he said.

The deceased was a driver by profession.

A police official said that a missing report has already registered at police station Parimpora. "Investigation has been taken up," he added.

Masroor Abbas released from house detention

Srinagar: Authorities have released Shia cleric and separatist leader Molvi Masroor Abbas Ansari from house detention on Monday.

Ansari, who is the president of Ittehadul Muslimeen was detained three days ago on the eve of Ashura-e-Muharram.

Sources said that police per-

sonnel deployed outside his house at Nawakadal were removed and he was set free. Authorities had placed various Shia leaders including Aga Syed Hasan under house detention to prevent them from leading Muharram processions even as they had announced cancellation of the same this year in view of Covid-19.

In memory of slain militant brother, student distributes 100 cricket uniforms

Srinagar: In a bid to boost morale of the youth and enrich sports culture in restive South Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir People Association's Kashmir Coordinator and student activist, Syed Tajamul Imran distributed over 100 cricket uniforms among cricket lovers.

Tajamul Imran says there are almost no recreational facilities for the youth living in southern districts. "I am doing my bit to encourage youth and all I do in the loving memory of my brother Syed Ruban who lost life in a gunfight with government forces in the dense forest of Charar-e-Sharif area in January 2019," he

said.

Tajamul said that he has distributed cricket uniforms in villages like Nazeenpora, Pinjora, Shopain, Kakapora Pulwama and other hamlets. "I distribute these cricket uniforms as this was my brother's favourite game. He was a talented cricketer, admired by his friends for his love for the game and talent he had got," he said.

Tajamul is supported by his family and close friends in this endeavor.

"My family has always been my hope and friends are the best partners you can ever have, they provide monetary assistance to me", Tajamul added.

Tajamul is of the belief that the youth in Kashmir has potential in every field than in any part of the world but the conflict is taking away everything these people possess.

"We should encourage them lest they may fall for drugs and other social evils. Rest they are free to choose whatever field they like", Tajamul further added.

"It's really a nice feeling when I get phone calls from youth who need such uniforms. I am thankful to people who have been encouraging me. I will keep this going and whatever possible I can do, I will," he said adding that his ultimate desire is to keep the name of his brother alive.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Muharram curbs

On Saturday and Sunday, the Government forces once again fired shotgun pellets and tear gas in Kashmir, this time to break up hundreds of Muslims participating in a Muharram procession, injuring dozens, pictures of some of whose pellet-riddled bodies and faces went viral on social media. According to Police the mourners violated prohibitory orders that restrict all religious processions to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. But mourners contend they followed all Standard Operating Procedures in performing their religious obligation. It is also correct that this is not because of the Covid-19 pandemic that the administration didn't allow the Muharram processions to go ahead. They continue to be banned since the eruption of militancy in 1990, as authorities maintain that the religious gatherings have been used for propagating separatist politics. Or that it triggers violence.

In Srinagar, the vulnerable areas like AbiGugar, LalChowk, Regal Chowk, Aali Masjid, Shaheed Gunj, Guru Bazaar and Hawal were placed under a tight security restrictions to foil large gathering of people. Government justified the extreme measures citing the possibility of violence in the city. This has been a stock government explanation for prohibiting the Muharram religious processions over the past three decades. And such explanations are generally independent of the context and the circumstances prevailing at the time. The government always invokes dire prospects of mass disturbance disregarding the calm in Valley.

Such justifications for strict security curbs are ironically at variance with the otherwise routine official parading of peace in the state. But one misses the basic point about the prevailing normalcy in the state. If Kashmir is normal it is not because of government, but because people themselves choose to be peaceful. Yes, there is a chance that the situation can deteriorate but that often happens when government messes things up and uses disproportionately more force than the situation warrants. During 2016 unrest, it was the killings of youth on a daily basis that became a distinct factor in keeping the situation on boil. And it was only when killings stopped that situation slowly returned to normal.

The point is not that government is to blame for everything but that in its obsessive effort to maintain peace it sometimes encourages the trouble. The disruption of the religious events like Muharram prevents people in Valley from practising their faith which in turn engenders anger against government, a source of violence. It is Government's responsibility to allow Ashura procession. Of course, there should be adequate security in place but it should not be there to impede but facilitate the occasion.

One more thing, this time around, there have been attempts to instigate sectarian trouble on social media from outside the state too. Among them was a tweet that even blamed J&K Police for acting on sectarian lines but no action has been taken against the culprit. This is ironical, considering the local police is quick to act against social media posts in the Valley, many of them having evidently nothing wrong about them.

OTHER OPINION

Relook at NEET, JEE entrances

Plus, education mandarins have come out backing the move to go through with them and over 17 lakh have downloaded admit cards. At this stage, any uncertainty entails putting students through fresh psychological stress, and the education minister has cried foul.

To him, this newspaper would like to ask if it is fair play to conduct the exams at a time when a significant proportion of the candidates, especially in flood-ravaged Bihar, UP, Assam and West Bengal, will be unable to find transport to reach the venue or be forced to travel jam-packed with no physical distancing and risk infection of the virus and its spread? These examinees, being young, will be accompanied by parents.

The virus is an "anti-Robinhood", says Raghuram Rajan, former RBI governor, and in the crisis that it has sparked, it is the poor who are hit the hardest. So also it is with these exams. By going ahead with them, the government will have created a new crisis in which the poor will be hit the hardest and the most.

It can, therefore, no longer hold the high moral ground that it supports an examination system that assures a level playing field in which merit is the sole criterion for success. And for this, it must be urgently held accountable.

A perhaps equally urgent question would be to ask if the conduct of the exams would not result in the coronavirus epidemic finally spiralling completely out of control.

To the adamant parents who insist their children take the exams and who won't even let them take part in symbolic protests inside their homes, too, the newspaper would like to highlight that even climate warrior and role model Greta Thunberg, who has incidentally called the holding of these exams "unfair", has taken a gap year herself.

It would advise parents in this regard to take a leaf out of the West, which encourages this practice as a means of self-determination, and rid themselves of their obsession over "year loss", more so because these are extraordinary times that call for introspection on their parts.

Extraordinary times also call for extraordinary measures. Hence the collective review petition of the Supreme Court order planned by the Opposition and state CMs.

Are some hypothetical family goals regarding the careers of the next generation more important than the ideal of equal opportunity to all and the health and safety of 1.37 billion?

Are they more important than the student's own health and life? These are a few questions the government must reckon with at some point, and that point will arrive sooner rather than later.

Deccan Chronicle

Do Indian Muslims Need A Separate Media House?

The abysmal response of the Muslims across India, to some new media initiatives by the members of the community, forces one to question the sagacity of starting one

Asad Mirza

Before starting any Muslim owned media house, the community can test the waters. We all should resolve to promote Urdu, a language that has been labelled as a Muslim language. If we resolve to subscribe and increase the circulation and readership of Urdu newspapers, then very shortly, these newspapers will be able to attract more advertisers



On 26th August 2020, a slickly produced documentary was premiered on YouTube. Jamat-e Islami Hind's commissioned documentary tried to explain the origin, development and work of the premier organisation of educated Muslims across India during the last 72 years.

Earlier in May 2020, another leading Muslim organisation, Jamiat Ulema-e Hind had also premiered a documentary on the genesis, history and contribution of the organisation, marking its centenary.

Using the social media tools, in order to reach a large audience, both endeavours are to be appreciated. In fact, it is through a judicious use of social media that minorities can try to challenge the fake narrative being aired by various TV channels and vernacular press of the country, and reject the fake national discourse, besides voicing their concerns and reactions to various political and social developments in the country.

But on the other hand, the cause of concern was the utter lack of response from the community members. Though the teasers of the Jamaat's documentary and invitation messages to watch the premiere on 26th August were being shared on various social media tools from last fortnight, what surprised were the actual numbers. In all, 151 people attended the premiere. Out of a community of 14 million individuals, only 151 had the time and will to watch the premiere. Further, so far only 13.5K individuals have watched the Jamaat documentary, which was released 4 months back.

Both the organisations have channels on YouTube, but the subscriber base for them is too low. Jamaat's channel has 64.6K subscribers and Jamaat's channel has 35.3K subscribers. If this is happening to the initiatives of the two largest Muslim organisations of the country, which claim a member base running into lakhs, one can very well hazard a guess as to the reaction of any new initiative by a new entity. This is the response, at a time, when Muslims are being pushed into a corner in the country. So one can assume

what may happen to such initiatives when everything is hunky dory for the community.

A Muslim Media House

During the lockdown period, when the TV channels and vernacular press were creating a false narrative against the Muslims in India, numerous appeals to start a Muslim media house were shared on various social media platforms. Both politicians and businessmen of the community were eager to start a Muslim media house. Politicians wanted to further their own political line and the businessmen wanted to start a profitable venture, and both wanted to be seen as messiah for the community. These plans sparked a huge debate in the Urdu newspapers across the country, by journalists of every hue.

Out of the many plans aired, one plan saw the light of the day on 15th August, when it launched a YouTube channel, with a promise of a new website soon; all funded through community contribution. In the last 11 days the channel has been able to air 4 interviews of two politicians and currently enjoys a subscriber base of 2.43 thousand only.

Perhaps these low figures of subscribers for various media initiatives by the Muslim community would make you realise the futility of any such initiative when the community itself does not seem bothered.

However, before arriving at the above decision, it would be better to analyse some facts and related explanations, both for and against the decision to be made.

First, we have to make a conscientious decision on whether we want to start a media house owned by Muslims only or for all the minorities of the country? Secondly, we should decide whether we want it to be a commercial venture or a philanthropic one? Thirdly, we should decide on the route to take, whether it should be through social media platforms or through web portals? At present, to start a new TV channel owned by Muslims may not be an easy task and may daunt and dampen the spirit of new entrants.

Secondly, the entrepreneurs should realise that any such en-

terprise should not be focussed on making a quick profit. In fact, they should learn by the endeavours of our elders who started many newspapers during the freedom struggle of the country facing various adversities but they were able to stand the vagaries of time and fate and turn into profitable ventures, due to the quality of the content, their persistence and support of the community.

Thirdly, as I have opined before, it would be in the larger interest of the community, if we are able to start a monitoring and research unit, which could monitor media across India, to counter the false narratives based on research and reality. Community spokespersons who are trained in the art of media handling and proficient in English, Hindi and the respective languages of their state should further present this common narrative.

Before starting any Muslim owned media house, the community can test the waters. We all should resolve to promote Urdu, a language that has been labelled as a Muslim language. If we resolve to subscribe and increase the circulation and readership of Urdu newspapers, then very shortly, these newspapers will be able to attract more advertisers, which in turn would help them to improve their content and quality, and voice the concerns of the community effectively.

Besides being heard in the corridors of power, as the powers that be, will have to bow down to the numbers and power of the Urdu media. If we are successful in increasing the power and influence of the Urdu newspapers, then they may ultimately be galvanised to start a TV channel for the community, which would be more sustainable.

More importantly, as a community we have to start building the community's common consciousness or psyche, which the other minorities in India possess. At present, Indian Muslims are divided into many groups and can't take a uniform stand on issue, without dissent. First, we should have our house in order, to stand united.



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

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Jobless Engineering Graduates

In Kashmir, Engineering continues to be one of the most sought after degrees. Every year, lakhs of students appear in the entrance examination for institutions like the IITs and the NITs but only a few of them manage to clear it. Those of the students who do not manage to clear these examinations, either drop another year for yet another shot or they knock the doors of private colleges.

While everyone is busy in the race to secure an admission, rarely anyone stops to gauge the merits of an Engineering degree in India. According to the data by HRD Ministry,

about 1.5 million students graduate with an engineering degree every year. Out of these million, only about 20% find employment in their core domains. Over the years, many other surveys have reiterated the lack of employability of Engineering graduates from India. A study carried out by Aspiring Minds had revealed jaw dropping figures which claimed that 95% of Engineering graduates from India were not fit for employment especially in software development jobs. The same data has been authenticated number of times by leading employers especially the MNCs.

It is the lack of skills from graduate engineers which has led to their

unemployment. How can an obsolete syllabus equip graduates with the skills to work in a rapidly transforming technological world? Theories with little attention to innovation and application can do little to teach someone the necessary skills to cater to the needs of an employer and their clients.

In Kashmir, the situation is even direr. There aren't many avenues for employment for engineering graduates which has forced many to work as private teachers, bank employees or lecturers in the same college or university where they studied.

Recently, the government abolished the self-help group of engineers which has left thousands jobless. In-

stead of generating jobs, the government is taking them away.

The only saving grace for this profession can now come from an up gradation of the syllabus to meet new market needs. The government should also announce new schemes and release new posts. It should be a matter of pride for us to have many aiming to pursue engineering degrees. However, it has only brought us shame because of the subpar education system and limited avenues for employment.

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Neither a ritual of friendship, nor
the etiquette of enmity
Both are worded similarly
in your city.

-KhatirGaznavi

To write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric, Adorno is supposed to have said. Yet in the case of Kashmir, where Auschwitz occurs every day, if not in scale but in tenor, poetry continues to be written. Social media stands as testimony that poetry is being written in Kashmir on an unprecedented scale, not only in English but also Urdu and Kashmiri.

This is partly true of the whole world, if not the subcontinent alone, and attributable to the ease and audience social media, especially Facebook, has engendered. However, in case of Kashmir, there is more than meets the eye. For most poetry written from Kashmir in any language reflects a certain monopoly, for want of a better term, of themes – for the most part contemporary poetry from Kashmir is a catalogue of the collective trauma of living under turmoil.

This is the poetry that passes off as resistance poetry, which is largely understood as a transparent chronicle of the lived realities of Kashmir. Hence, the motifs of a wailing mother, concertina wire, curfew, blood, weeping, martyrs, brute force, winter and mourning can be identified as common motifs in our poetry. Moreover, it is largely assumed that since such poetry is ‘resistance poetry’, and stems from an impulse to chronicle rather than please, it is exempt from metaphoricality and multiplicity that is expected from poetry. While this assumption is not entirely misplaced, it is my belief that this carte blanche accorded to poetry from Kashmir is detrimental both to the development of the poetry scene, but more importantly does little justice to the manifesto of poetry from Kashmir.

However, it is imperative to define the term and its genesis, before one delves into the phenomenon of resistance poetry in particular, and resistance literature in general in context of Kashmir. The term ‘Resistance Literature’ originates not in the west, as most of the terms in academia have, but in the east, in Palestine to be exact. GhassanKanafani, the Palestinian novelist and activist coined the term to indicate the literature written by Palestinians in Israeli occupied territories. In effect, this literature is not literature of exile, but a literature that is borne out of forcible dissociation between the land and its people.

Moreover, Kanafani proposed another important criterion apart from subjugation of the occupied people - the occupier must actively intervene in the cultural production, and try to create new narratives that legitimize its existence. In other words, the occupier aims to appropriate the existing narratives and put a new spin to them to suit its vested interests.

Literature emerges as an instrument to remedy this dissociation, a medium of expressing lived realities of struggle and alienation in an environment essentially hostile and inimical to the existence of the people who seek to express their realities in defiance of censorship.

Resistance Poetry draws from the same impulse of defiance, and relies on the power of poetry to mobilize people for collective action. By contesting the legitimacy of this imposition, such poetry seeks to reclaim the control of the subjugated over their collective historical memory. Why is it important to reclaim

Resistance Poetry In Kashmir

Huzaiifa Pandit



this control? The answer lies in the immense power of this memory, as a control over the collective memory implies a control over the collective experience and knowledge. This control allows the subjugated to determine the subjects and content of the memory. In other words, the subjugated don't depend upon the occupier to shape their history, and draw their identity, rather their identity is shaped by their collective belief in a shared identity and land.

It is easy to contextualise from this definition and function a majority of contemporary poetry and indeed literature as a whole produced from Kashmir whether in Urdu, Kashmiri or English. Poetry emerges from this innate impulse of being implicated in the collective identity shaped by collective complicated grief. However, while such poetry is a defence of a personal memory of a life lived and lost under siege, it is also a commencement of a Kashmiri genesis. It is a subversion of the sustained erasure of the memory of an entire people. Poetry from Kashmir is thereby invested in an endangered memory.

Resistance then becomes an existential question, and rather than remaining restricted to an opposition, mourns the relentless march of ruinous time which has gradually reduced Kashmir to a simmering cauldron of despair, resignation and uncertainty.

Poetry from Kashmir draws from this very fragility of Kashmiri survival.It is scarred by the trauma of routine of injury, death and loss, and therefore finds itself performing both a commemorative function, as well as resisting the erasure of local histories. In the absence of authentic histories, poetry provides a blueprint of the semiotics of everyday subversions and gestures of dissent. In other words, while all poetry is to some degree an account of lived experience, it is the very lifeblood and most prominent marker of Resistance poetry.

The question of function having been settled, the question of aesthetics remains. For Barbara Harlowe, who brought the term into academia, resistance poetry is decidedly anti-metaphorical. She considers such poetry to be devoid of ornamentation, which refuses conformity to the romantic ideal of inspiration and composition, since it is neither concerned with aesthetic pleasure, nor invokes the ideal of tranquility. She avers that since such poetry is composed not in the pleasant solitude of a poetic bower, but in crises, and tumult, often composed in the battlefield to commemorate the fallen, and defeated. This process of poetic production alludes back to the original debate on the function of literature – pleasure or instruction. Resistance Poetry, she points out, tilts heavily

towards instruction, even as it can provide pleasure in its own right by its formal finesse. Its aesthetic is the aesthetic of subversion, and transgression, which mandates the adoption of clear ideological positions to counter subjugation.

This is often mistakenly assumed to be an endorsement of a transparent reproduction of the lived experience of Kashmir. Poetry of Resistance is thought to faithfully archive the existing realities of turmoil and trauma. Naturally, this blurs the distinction between prose and poetry, and poetry becomes a poor cousin of the news report. This is excused by the ground that since this poetry is generated in Kashmir, and is as such exempt from the requirements of craft and expressivity. Poetry is seen as a vehicle of protest, and protest is only conceived as a direct and vocal opposition to statist narratives. Therefore, it is presumed that Resistance Poetry must draw on this vocabulary of confrontation, and narrate it faithfully while trying to preserve some modicum of form or best symbol. Nothing could be further from the truth. Resistance poetry like any species of poetry achieves poignancy and effect if it conforms to the requirement of expressivity, and multiplicity of meaning, the feature Ghalib called maaniafreeni.

The grief of Kashmir is neither new, nor undocumented, nor are strategies and vocabularies of resistance unknown and unexplored. What then is the role of the poet, and what makes him different from a historian, a pamphleteer or a politician? A historian can better record the histories and chronicle the realities of the era having been trained in it, and a pamphleteer or a politician can whip up emotions better? How then can poetry resist?

To answer the question, one must approach the question from defining resistance differently other than conformation. Rather, resistance must also be thought of as subversion of narratives. This means that rather than offering a singular and oppositional narrative, it offers a complicating function. Poetry offers no single way of thinking about the nation, because the metaphor offers not clarity, but introduces another object for comparison. As a result, both levels of meaning exist concurrently. Further, this duality introduces a richness of meaning and interpretation. Accordingly, poetry of resistance that seeks to code lived experiences, offers a vision of a counter-movement that cannot be plotted along a single line. It offers varied and intersecting models of a nation, which refuses to be understood as a single idea.

This ultimately is the act of resistance, for it truly reflects not only the diversity of ideas and identities that are resident within the geographical area that identifies itself as a nation, but also resists the attempts to thwart this multiplicity. The resistance of poetry then is not in offering a roadmap of a nation-state, but moving beyond the nation-state for nation-states are invariably based on the presumption of uniformity and conformity.Poetry that resistsrebels against this presumption, and it is only fitting, therefore, that this could be one of the guiding principles of our poetry, presuming poetry can be guided. Resistance poetry seeks no utopias, rather depicts the transformative potential of dystopia that Kashmir manifests.

Huzaiifa Pandit is the author of the recently published Green is the Colour of Memory, which won the first edition of Rhythm Divine Poets Chapbook Contest 2017. He holds a PhD on poetry of resistance from University of Kashmir.

Kashmiri Architecture: From Syncretism to Dilapidated Edifices

‘The transition from a mud and wood house to cement and brick at the expense of vernacular architecture has consumed the valley in its grip, although this step was in direction for structural stability.’

Salika Rashid

The aforementioned lines of Frank Gehry, a Canadian-born American architect, profoundly enunciate the primacy of architecture. Architecture not only aids in illustrating myriad facets of time and history but also assists in discerning the trajectory of its pattern. It has perpetually demanded care and maintenance because art has to survive in order to demonstrate the past to the present.

Rajeev Bhargava, a noted Indian political theorist, has aptly propounded, that it “contributes to and enhances our collective self-understanding; it touches our identity, evokes strong feelings and is the source of pride”.

It seems true that it is like a kaleidoscope with which one can decipher numerous colors of history whether custom, values or civilization; hence one can comprehends world view with a single lens.

It echoes the stories of a particular time period and accentuates the experience of being human. It is in this context one can recall the artistic valley enveloped by natural pegs - Kashmir.

Kashmir is a treasure house not only to the prominent snow-capped mountain range, ‘margs’, flora, and fauna, but is also home to a unique culture-curated wazwan (Kashmiri feast) or the diaphanous pashminas, the rich heritage and vibrant architecture.

It has remained a “melting pot” for a multitude of traditions and cultures in the past. It is a testament to blended traditions and beliefs of ancient Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam; thus has truly exhibited a specimen of tolerance and pluralism of a diverse society.

The amalgamation occurred due to the Silk Route which connected Kashmir with Central Asia as it brought with it its diverse aesthetics. This inclusivity has remained a key trait of Kashmir; it has been under various rules, which include -Buddhist, Hindu, Turkish, Mughal, Afghan and Dogra rule.

Furthermore, the rulers of their respective periods maintained unprecedented influence over art and architecture.

Historical background

The Buddhist rule which commenced in the 3rd century AD set its mark on the stone architecture in the form of monasteries, stupas, etc.

From 4th to the 11th century, that is, during the period of medieval architecture, Hindu rule began

and it promoted stone architecture, mainly in the form of temples.

Later, Turkish rule (from the 14th to the 16th-century) left its impressions on brick and wooden architecture (pinjirakari, hammam,etc), generally seen in shrines and mosques.

The art of naqashi (painted lacquer) and khatamband(woodcraft in which wooden pieces are fitted into one another) was initiated by Persian and Central Asian craftsmen in Kashmir. The wooden and stone architecture (khatamband,pinjirakari) was also emphasised by the Mughal and Afghan rule. But not much architectural work was witnessed under Dogra rule.

The transition from a mud and wood house to cement and brick at the expense of vernacular architecture has consumed the valley in its grip, although this step was in direction for structural stability. Even insulation and comfort were trampled for “cold modernity”.

Hence, it is palpable how numerous rules in Kashmir embellished its syncretic beauty.

The robust edifices configured as shrines, temples, mosques, houses and houseboats illustrate the lambency of art and architecture in the valley.

The well-known shrine ChararSharief which is in Budgam district of Kashmir was built to commemorate a renowned poet and Sufi saint of Kashmir, Sheikh Noor Din, also known as NundResh.

This shrine illustrated architecture in the form of PinjraQari, Zoone Dab (a cantilevered balcony designed to view the moon).

Another notable structure, JamaMasjid, which is situated in Srinagar, is Indo-Saracenic style architecture.

This structure depicts the medley of two cultures, that is, it has been erected in Persian style but its minar is topped with umbrella-shaped finial, which is in similitude with Buddhist pagodas.

One can learn that unlike Islamic mosques of the world which are designed as domes and minarets, this mosque is adorned with pyramidal roof.

Another captivating mosque in the old city of Srinagar is Khanqah-i-Maulla; it represents wooden architecture and is decorated with papier -mache. It resembles Buddhist chaitya halls. LikeJamaMasjid it is structurally conical on the top of the roof while the wooden columns are used for substantiating the ceiling; something similar was seen in temples of medieval Kashmir.

Not only prominent structures were testifying the

traditions of time, but even common houses and “palatial floating houses” vouched “a moving diorama of architecture soaked in the past”.

Every house had a wooden balcony attached with a room called dub. Taq, DhajjiDewari, wood, mud and bricks (including khaamseari) were prominently representing the magnificence of architecture.

Likewise, houseboats echo the detailed designs of Kashmiri architecture which entail double arched wooden cloisters with pinjra-kari (geometric wooden latticework) screens and khatamband(wooden pieces fitted into one another) ceilings.

Therefore, one can assume that all the shrines

like KhanqahiMualla, NaqshbandSaheb, DastgirSaheb including mosques, temples, houses, houseboats symbolise the intricate and refined testimony of architectural styles.

Where are we at present?

One will concede with the fact that Kashmiri architecture is at the verge of extinction.

As we have inferred that art speaks about time but when it is perishing, it can't even speak for itself.

One recognizes the concoction of faith and culture in consensus with each other. Furthermore, ignorance and disconnection with history have profoundly amounted in ravaging Kashmiri art and culture.

Ostensibly, one can assert that we are lagging behind in imbibing and cherishing our intriguing culture and heritage just because of our silo mentality.

Modernization and technology have been the primary factors for the shift in taste among the natives. The transition from a mud and wood house to cement and brick at the expense of vernacular architecture has consumed the valley in its grip, although this step was in direction for structural stability. Even insulation and comfort were trampled for the “cold modernity”.

According to the study titled “Financial evaluation of different space heating options used in the Kashmir valley”, published in the International Journal of Ambient Energy, modern houses in the Valley had “poor insulation levels and loose-fitting doors and windows, thereby contributing to huge heat loss-

es”, and which, in turn, leads to the long-term costs of heating during the harsh winters.

The alteration also took place amongst prominent architectural structures. Saleem Beg, convener of the Kashmir chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), lamented while referring to the reconstruction of the Charar-i-Shareif shrine. He called it “inappropriate interventions” and “perennial infirmities” to the structure.

Natural calamities such as floods, earthquakes, water logging due to heavy rainfall, snowstorms, and windstorms too account for obliterating the heritage of the valley.

The other issues faced by these edifices include theft, burglary, vandalism, deterioration due to age, electrical hazards, and decay due to lack of maintenance.

For instance, Khanqah-e-Moula was damaged in 2017 due to fire. Chaar -e -sharif was gutted to ashes in 1995. The traditional pattern of the shrine was altered with a concrete structure which had no similarity with the old one.

At many places, Mehrabs had been replaced with glass in the wooden frame and even paintings, carvings were battered due to new layers of paint. Temples are also in a shabby condition.

The construction of modern structures by totally dismissing the rich culture is a gigantic boondoggle. It is imperative for the people to re-analyze what they are trading for their syncretic beauty because Kashmir, according to many, is a place which teaches the world about the balance of life with nature.

Our smidgen effort to mitigate the lacuna created by us can be valuable in resuscitating our heritage. We have to focus on 3R’s—Restoration, Resurgence and Resurrection—in order to reconstruct our art and architecture.

Our lives will be barren and desolate if we continued with the same attitude without any compunction. There is a dire need to address and come up with the measures for rebuilding our regional gem. Government and we as individuals should collaborate to bring our spiritual and vibrant Kashmir back.

We know the fact that if history gets erased, one loses one's identity. Therefore, it is crucial for us to rejuvenate our pride. And it is worth mentioning what Leonardo da Vinci has propounded, “Beauty perishes in life, but is immortal in art”.

The author is a student of Delhi University's Indraprastha college for women, Srinagar-native Salika Rashid is pursuing her graduation in Political Science and Economics.

FEAR
OF MISSING OUT
IMPACTS PEOPLE OF
ALL AGES,
STUDY FINDS

WE'RE NOT ALL EQUALLY PRONE TO THE
Fear of Missing Out, but for those who are, social media can exacerbate it. Social media allows you to witness what other people are doing and what's going on in their lives. If there's already concern about missing out, then there will be distress at seeing that on social media."

Agencies

Fear of missing out (FOMO) -- the social anxiety that other people are having fun without you -- can have an impact on any, irrespective of age.

In fact, not age, but aspects of self-perception--namely loneliness, low self-esteem, and low self-compassion--were more closely associated FOMO, according to a recent study by Washington State University researchers published in the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships.

"FoMO is not an adolescent or young adult problem, necessarily. It's really about individual differences, irrespective of age. We expected FoMO to be higher in younger age groups, particularly because of the tremendous amount of social development happening at those times, but that's not what we found," said Chris Barry, a WSU psychology professor and the lead author on the study.

Barry and co-author Megan Wong, a WSU undergraduate student, conducted a survey of more than 400 people across the United States from different age cohorts ranging from 14 to 47, asking a range of questions related to self-perception, life satisfaction, and social media use.

The researchers found that social media use was not a good predictor of FOMO. For instance, two people with the same social media engagement may be affected quite differently: one might have a few negative feelings about seeing their friends' activities while the other might find it upsetting.

"We're not all equally prone to the Fear of Missing Out, but for those who are, social media can exacerbate it. Social media allows you to witness what other people are doing and what's going on in their lives. If there's already concern about missing out, then there will be distress at seeing that on social media," said Barry.

For people experiencing this kind of distress, Barry suggested that it may be good to reduce social media use or cut it off altogether for a period of time.

The study did find one silver-

lining: while FoMO can have negative impacts, it did not appear to relate to the respondents' sense of life satisfaction. Barry said this indicates that FoMO is not overwhelming social anxiety.

The researchers suggest that those who want to reduce their feelings of FoMO should try addressing their negative self-perceptions such as practicing better self-compassion by viewing personal setbacks as opportunities for growth, taking steps to reduce loneliness, and shifting focus away from the distant experiences of others.

"To do something about FoMO, individuals can foster a greater sense of real connectedness to others which will lessen feelings of isolation. You can also try being more in the moment, concentrating on what is in front of you as opposed to focusing on what else is going on out there," Barry said.

‘Nomophobia Is Associated With Poor Sleep Health In College Students’

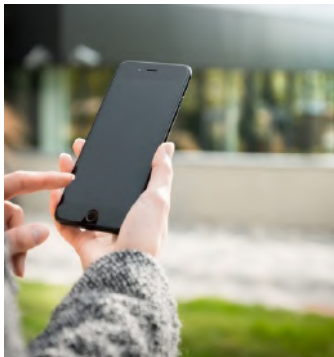
Agencies

The fear of not being in contact with a mobile phone -- "nomophobia" -- is extremely common among college students and is associated with poor sleep health, according to a new study.

Preliminary results show that 89 per cent of a sample of college students had moderate or severe nomophobia. Greater nomophobia was significantly related to greater daytime sleepiness and more behaviors associated with poor sleep quality.

"We found that college students who experience more 'nomophobia' were also more likely to experience sleepiness and poorer sleep hygiene such as long naps and inconsistent bed and wake times," said lead author Jennifer Peszka, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas.

While Peszka anticipated that nomophobia would be common among the study participants, she



was surprised by its high prevalence.

"Because our study suggests a connection between nomophobia and poorer sleep, it is interesting to consider what the implications will be if nomophobia severity continues to increase," she said.

The study involved 327 university students with a mean age of 20 years. Participants completed several questionnaires, including the Nomophobia Questionnaire, the Epworth Sleepiness Scale, and the Sleep Hygiene Index.

Peszka also noted that one common recommendation for improving sleep habits is to limit phone use before and during bedtime. However, she said that for people who have nomophobia, this recommendation could exacerbate bedtime anxiety and disrupt sleep, rather than improve it.

"The recommendation to curtail bedtime phone use, which is meant to improve sleep and seems rather straightforward, might need adjustment or consideration for these individuals," she said.

The research team included co-investigators David Mastin, Ph.D., and Bruce Moore, Ph.D., from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where the other co-authors are undergraduate student researchers: Shalonda Michelle, Benjamin T. Collins, Nataly Abulimeh, Monnar Quattom, Maya Henderson, Madison Sanders, and Jeremiah Critton.

The research abstract was published recently in an online supplement of the journal Sleep.

Respiratory Vaccines May Reduce Heart Failure Deaths

Agencies

Researchers, including one of Indian-origin, have found that influenza and pneumonia vaccinations are associated with fewer hospital deaths in patients with heart failure.

Respiratory infections such as influenza and pneumonia make heart failure worse, and annual vaccinations are recommended.

According to the study, presented at ESC Congress 2020 - The Digital Experience, one out of five individuals will suffer heart failure in their lifetime. An estimated 26 million people are affected worldwide.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has shone the spotlight on the importance of vaccination to prevent respiratory infections, particularly for people with diseases like heart failure," said study author Karthik Gunguntla of the University of Connecticut in the US.

While it is known that inoculations protect against respiratory infections and that these infections exacerbate heart failure,



few studies have compared outcomes of vaccinated versus unvaccinated patients.

The research team examined whether immunisation had any link with the risk of heart failure patients dying while in the hospital.

The study included 2,912,137 patients with heart failure who had a hospital admission from 2010 to 2014 and the average age was 70 years.

Just 1.4 per cent of the patients in the study had the flu vaccine and 1.4 per cent had the pneumonia vaccine.

The researchers compared in-hospital death rates between heart failure patients who received flu and pneumonia vaccinations that year and those who did not.

The rates of in-hospital mortality were significantly lower in patients who received the flu

vaccine (1.3 per cent) compared to those who did not receive the flu vaccine (3.6 per cent).

Similarly, rates of in-hospital mortality were significantly lower in patients inoculated against pneumonia (1.2 per cent) compared to those who were not inoculated (3.6 per cent).

"Our study provides further impetus for annual immunisations in patients with heart failure. Despite advice to do so, uptake remains low," said Gunguntla.

He noted that serious reactions to flu and pneumonia vaccinations are very rare, happen within a few hours, and can be effectively treated.

"Pneumonia and flu vaccines are vital to preventing these respiratory infections and protecting patients with heart failure," Gunguntla said.

"Although many people have rejected common and safe vaccines before Covid-19, I am optimistic that the pandemic has changed perceptions about the role of immunisations in safeguarding our health," the study author concluded.

Agencies

Older people who eat plenty of vitamin C -- commonly found in citrus fruits, berries, and vegetables -- have the best skeletal muscle mass, according to new research.

Published in the Journal of Nutrition, the study was led by the University of East Anglia (UEA).

This is important because people tend to lose skeletal muscle mass as they get older -- leading to sarcopenia (a condition characterised by loss of skeletal muscle mass and function), frailty, and reduced quality of life.

Lead researcher Prof Ailsa Welch, from UEA's Norwich

Vitamin C Is The Key To Better Muscles In Later Life: Study

Medical School said: "As people age, they lose skeletal muscle mass and strength. People over 50 lose up to one per cent of their skeletal muscle mass each year, and this loss is thought to affect more than 50 million people worldwide. It's a big problem because it can lead to frailty and other poor outcomes such as sarcopenia, physical disability, type-2 diabetes, reduced quality of life, and death."

The professor added: "We know that Vitamin C consumption is linked with skeletal muscle mass. It helps defend the cells and tissues that make



up the body from potentially harmful free radical substances.

Unopposed these free radicals can contribute to the destruction of muscle, thus speeding up age-related decline. But until now, few studies have investigated the importance of Vitamin C intake for older people. We wanted to find out whether people eating more Vitamin C had more muscle mass than other people."

The research team studied data from more than 13,000 people aged between 42-82 years, who are taking part in the EPIC (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition) Norfolk Study.

They calculated their skeletal muscle mass and analysed their vitamin C intakes from a seven-day food diary. They also examined the amount of vitamin C in their blood.

Dr Richard Hayhoe, also from UEA's Norwich Medical School, said: "We studied a large sample of older Norfolk residents and found that people with the highest amounts of vitamin C in their diet or blood had the greatest estimated skeletal muscle mass, compared to those with the lowest amounts.

"We are very excited by our findings as they suggest that dietary vitamin C is important for

muscle health in older men and women and may be useful for preventing age-related muscle loss. This is particularly significant as Vitamin C is readily available in fruits and vegetables, or supplements, so improving intake of this vitamin is relatively straightforward," Dr Hayhoe said.

Adding further, the researcher said: "We found that nearly 60 per cent of men and 50 per cent of women participants were not consuming as much Vitamin C as they should, according to the European Food Safety Agency recommendations. We're not talking about people needing mega-doses. Eating citrus fruit, such as orange, each day, and having a vegetable side to a meal will be sufficient for most people."

Lebanon Names Mustapha Adib, Its Germany Envoy, As New Prime Minister



Agencies

Beirut: Lebanon named its envoy to Germany, Mustapha Adib, as the new premier Monday to steer the country through a deep crisis after the Beirut explosion compounded a sharp economic downturn.

The presidency made the announcement in a televised statement as Adib arrived at the palace in Baabda near Beirut to meet President Michel Aoun and parliament speaker Nabih Berri.

Riots In Sweden After Politician Blocked From Quran-Burning Rally: Cops

Agencies

Sweden: At least 10 people were arrested in southern Sweden and several police officers were injured in violence which broke out after an anti-Muslim Danish politician was blocked from attending a Quran-burning rally, police said Saturday.

Protesters threw stones at

years. He was later arrested near Malmo.

"We suspect that he was going to break the law in Sweden," Calle Persson, spokesman for the police in Malmo told AFP.

"There was also a risk that his behaviour... would pose a threat to society."

But his supporters went ahead with the rally, during



police and burned tyres on the streets of Malmo late Friday, with violence escalating as the evening wore on, according to police and local media.

The demonstration of about 300 people was connected to an incident earlier in the day in which protesters burned a copy of the Islamic holy book, police spokesman Rickard Lundqvist told Swedish tabloid Expressen.

Between 10 and 20 protesters were arrested late Friday and "have all been released," police spokesman Patric Fors told AFP.

The violence had subsided by Saturday morning. Rasmus Paludan, who leads the far-right Danish anti-immigration party Hard Line, was due to travel to Malmo to speak at Friday's event, which was being held on the same day as weekly prayers for the Muslim sabbath.

But authorities pre-empted Paludan's arrival by announcing he had been banned from entering Sweden for two

which six people were arrested for inciting racial hatred.

Paludan later put up a scathing message on Facebook.

"Sent back and banned from Sweden for two years. However, rapists and murderers are always welcome!" he wrote.

Paludan last year attracted media attention for burning a Koran wrapped in bacon -- a meat that is anathema for Muslims.

Rasmus Paludan, who leads the far-right Danish anti-immigration party Hard Line, was due to travel to Malmo to speak at Friday's event, which was being held on the same day as weekly prayers for the Muslim sabbath.



First-ever flight: Plane with US, Israeli officials lands in UAE

Agencies

Abu Dhabi: High-level delegations from Israel and the US have arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), via the first-ever commercial flight between the Middle Eastern nations, to put final touches on a controversial pact establishing open relations.

Top aides to US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were on board the direct flight from Tel Aviv to the UAE capital Abu Dhabi on Israel's flag carrier El Al on Monday.

Flight LY971 flew over Saudi Arabia after Riyadh agreed to the Israeli request on Sunday - also a first.

The plane carrying the US and Israeli delegations to Abu Dhabi has the word "peace" written on it in English, Hebrew, and Arabic.

It is also named after Kiryat Gat, a Jewish settlement built on the remains of two ethnically cleansed Palestinian villages, Iraq al-Manshiyya and al-Faluja.

Announced on August 13, the "normalisation" deal is the first such accommodation between an Arab country and Israel in more than 20 years and was catalysed largely by shared fears of Iran.

Palestinians were dismayed by the UAE's move, worried it would weaken a long-standing pan-Arab position that called for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory and acceptance of Palestinian statehood in return for normal relations with Arab countries.

'Historic flight'

Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner and National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien head the US delegation. The Israeli team is led by O'Brien's counterpart, Meir Ben-Shabbat.

Kushner voiced hope for a more peaceful era in the region.

"While this is a historic flight, we hope that it will start an even more historic journey in the Middle East and beyond," Kushner said before boarding the El Al aircraft.

Officials will explore bilateral cooperation in areas such as commerce and tourism, and Israeli defence envoys are due to visit the UAE separately.

The Trump administration has tried to coax other Arab countries concerned about Iran to engage with Israel. The most powerful of those, Saudi Arabia, has signalled that it is not ready.

But in what could presage a more relaxed posture by Riyadh, the El Al plane will be allowed to overfly Saudi territory to cut flight time.

On Sunday, Israeli TV channel Kan reported there was Israeli concern that Riyadh may revoke permission to use Saudi airspace at the last moment. If the flight is allowed, it would mark the first time an Israeli commercial plane uses Saudi territory for an overflight. There was no comment from Saudi officials.

More Arab and Muslim countries were likely to follow Abu Dhabi's move." Robert O'Brien

Israeli officials hope the two-day trip will produce a date for a Washington signing ceremony, perhaps as early as September, between Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

That could give Trump a foreign policy boost ahead of his re-election bid in November.

In Jerusalem on Sunday, Kushner called the UAE-Israel deal a "giant step forward".

"To have played a role in its creation, and I say this as the grandson of two Holocaust survivors, it means more to me and to my family that I can ever express," Kushner said.

Israel holding secret talks with 'many more Arab leaders': Netanyahu claims

Agencies

Jerusalem: Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Tel Aviv is currently engaged in "secret talks" with many more Arab leaders for normalizing bilateral relations, days after a much-condemned agreement on normalization between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was publicized.

There are many more unpublicized meetings with Arab and Muslim leaders to normalize relations with Israel," the Israeli premier claimed on Sunday, on the eve of Israel's first commercial flight to the UAE.



was publicized.

There are many more unpublicized meetings with Arab and Muslim leaders to normalize relations with Israel," the Israeli premier claimed on Sunday, on the eve of Israel's first commercial flight to the UAE.

The Israel-UAE agreement "will pave the way for other countries to normalize their ties with Israel," Netanyahu added.

The development came after Abu Dhabi and Tel Aviv announced on August 13 that they had reached an agreement that would lead to a full normalization of diplomatic relations between the two sides.

The highly controversial deal, which has since been widely condemned across the occupied Palestinian territories and the Muslim world, was brokered by US President Donald Trump, who has attempted to paint it as a big breakthrough.

Three Killed, Several Injured After Two Explosions At UAE Restaurants

Agencies

Dubai: Three people were killed and several others were injured on Monday in two separate explosions in the United Arab Emirates' capital Abu Dhabi and its tourism hub Dubai, the police and local media said.

The Abu Dhabi government media office said two people were killed in the blast in the capital, which the National daily reported had hit the KFC and Hardees restaurants on the city's Rashid bin Saeed Street.

The street is also known as a main road to the airport, where top aides to US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are expected to land, in a historic trip between Israel and another Arab country.

The police said the Abu Dhabi incident also caused several minor and moderate

injuries, and residents of the building and surrounding areas were evacuated. The Abu Dhabi government media office said the blast was caused by a "misalignment in the gas container fittings following refuelling".

Photos published on social and local media showed extensive damage to the two restaurants with a white plume of smoke rising from the ground floor of the building.

In Dubai, one person was killed when a gas cylinder exploded in a restaurant early on Monday, local media reported.

Abu Dhabi-owned The National newspaper, quoting a Dubai Civil Defence spokesperson, said the blast in Dubai had caused a blaze that damaged the ground floor of the building. The fire was controlled within 33 minutes, it added.



3 Pakistani soldiers killed in militant attack in northwest



Agencies

Peshawar: Suspected militants attacked Pakistani troops amid a search operation in a former Taliban and al-Qaida stronghold in the northwest near the Afghan border, triggering a shootout that killed three soldiers, the army said Sunday.

It said four soldiers also were wounded in the attack in South Waziristan, a district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The army provided no further details, but South Waziristan had served as a mili-

tant base until recent years when Pakistan said its operations there had cleared the area of the Taliban.

No group claimed responsibility, although Pakistani Taliban have been blamed for such previous violence in the region, where militants have a presence.

According to a recently released U.N. report, more than 6,000 Pakistani insurgents are hiding in Afghanistan, most belonging to the outlawed Pakistani Taliban group, which often attacks Pakistani military and civilian targets. --AP

NEWS MAKERS

New Zealanders wear face masks as Auckland lockdown lifted



Wellington: Schools and businesses reopened in Auckland on Monday after the lifting of a lockdown in New Zealand's largest city to contain the resurgence of the coronavirus, but face masks were made mandatory on public transport

across the country.

The Pacific nation of 5 million people had appeared to have succeeded in halting community transmission of COVID-19, but a fresh outbreak in Auckland prompted the government to place the city back in lockdown earlier this month.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern scaled back the restrictions in Auckland on Sunday, but made masks compulsory on public transport.

Ardern said on Monday that she was confident the new measure would be taken up across New Zealand, adding that "a bit of smiling with the eyes behind the mask" and kindness to Aucklanders in particular, would help get the country through the latest outbreak.

"We have a plan that we know will work. We just need everyone's compliance and help. If everyone sticks to those guidelines and rules, coupled together with all the public health measures that we have, we can make this work," Ardern, wearing a mask herself, told reporters in Auckland.

Students in Auckland returned to school after many weeks of disruptions.

Leadership Starts The Day You're Born: Kamala Harris To South Asian Women



Washington: Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris, the Democratic Party's vice-presidential candidate, has urged South Asian women to run for office and take up a leadership role in their communities.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his running mate Harris are challenging Republican incumbents President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence in the November 3 US election. "To all the young women who are watching this, I want you to know that leadership begins the day you are born. You are never too young or too old to be a leader," said Kamala Harris,

55, at an event on Saturday.

Harris has scripted history in US politics after she became the first Indian-American and Black woman to get a major party's vice-presidential nomination.

So get involved in your community, run for office. Whatever you do, it matters, so just lead," said the senator from California, in an audio message to the virtual event "South Asian Women in Leadership: Ushering a New Wave of Diversity in the Biden-Harris Era" which was organised by South Asians for Biden.

The event was co-hosted by the American Impact Fund and the Indians for Biden National Council.

Panelists at the event included Dr Sadaf Jaffer, the first Muslim woman to serve as a mayor in the US, Keshu Ram, the youngest Indian-American woman to be elected to statewide office and Dr Nina Ahmad, candidate for Pennsylvania Auditor General. Ahmed is vying to be the first woman of colour to hold statewide office.

Horse killing on rise in France

Paris: Armed with knives, some knowledge of their prey and a large dose of cruelty, attackers are going after horses and ponies in pastures across France in what may be ritual mutilations.

Police are stymied by the macabre attacks that include slashings and worse. Most often, an ear — usually the right one — has been cut off, recalling the matador's trophy in a bullring.

Up to 30 attacks have been reported in France, from the mountainous Jura region in the east to the Atlantic coast, many this summer, the agriculture minister said Friday. One attack was registered in February, according to the newsmagazine Le Point. With each attack, the mystery only seems to grow.

Treat Doctors Who Died Fighting Covid As "Martyrs": Medical Body To PM



NEW DELHI: The Indian Medical Association has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking that all doctors who have died of COVID-19 be treated at par with "martyrs" of the armed forces, and their dependents be provided government jobs in accordance with their qualifications.

In a letter to the prime minister, the country's largest body of doctors said only an "inclusive national solatium" for all doctors who have lost their lives fighting the pandemic would render justice to the sacrifice of their families.

The IMA cited government data and said 87,000 healthcare workers had been infected and 573 of them had lost their lives due to COVID-19.

However, the Centre has not officially released these figures.

Noting that the data has raised concerns all across the country, the IMA said its data for doctors alone has registered 307 deaths and a total 2,006 infected. It said 188 of those died are general practitioners who are the first point of contact for people.

"Doctors suffer a higher viral load and a higher CFR (Case Fatality Rate) as a community. IMA is constrained to point out that they could have stayed back at home during the epidemic safely. They chose to serve the nation in the best traditions of the medical profession," said the letter dated August 30.

The solatium approved by the government for their colleagues in government services in all fairness is deserved by the children of

these "martyrs" as well, the association said.

"All doctors who have laid down their lives in fighting this epidemic should be treated at par with the martyrs of Indian Armed Forces and acknowledged appropriately. The surviving spouse or dependent should be provided a government job as per their qualifications," the IMA said.

It also raised the issue that whatever solatium that is in place had failed to reach the beneficiaries due to the inadequacy of the chosen instrument and the "indifference".

"The scheme is reported to have been lapsed as well. There is a pressing need to reconsider the same on merit and create a dedicated system to administer," the IMA said.

A national scheme to support the "soldiers fighting a pandemic" cannot be allowed to degenerate into just another pecuniary benefit for government servants, it said.

"We once again appeal to your goodself that such a sacrifice by doctors needs to be acknowledged by the highest office of the nation irrespective of the sectors," the IMA said in the letter to PM Modi.

"We are also writing to you at this juncture since it has been predicted that India will top the world in number of cases in a few weeks. Healthcare manpower is precious. Uniform practices have to be put in place throughout the country," it said.

The IMA said substantial differences were noticed from district to district in how doctors and healthcare workers were deployed. It asserted that districts were not sensitive to the safety angle, and the concerns of stress and fatigue of the medical manpower.

Noting that the nation deserves a radical approach to the situation, the IMA appealed to the prime minister for the government to bring in appropriate reforms, which it said were long overdue.

Ban On International Passenger Flights Extended Till September 30



NEW DELHI: The suspension of scheduled international passenger flights has been extended till September 30, said Indian aviation regulator DGCA on Monday.

"However, international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case-to-case basis," noted the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in a circular.

Scheduled international passenger services continue

to remain suspended in India since March 23 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, special international flights have been operating under the Vande Bharat Mission since May and under bilateral air bubble arrangements with other countries since July.

The circular said the suspension does not affect the operation of international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by the DGCA.



STATE FORCES ON MONDAY restricted movement of civilian vehicles on the Srinagar- Leh highway following fresh tensions in Ladakh between the India and Chinese troops. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Top Court Lets Off Noted Lawyer with 1 Fine

'I Will Pay One Rupee Fine, But Will Not Give Up My Rights', Says Prashant Bhushan

Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan found guilty for contempt of court agreed to pay the Re 1 fine but said he will pursue legal remedies available against the verdict.

He was held guilty for tweets against the present CJI SA Bobde and six former CJIs.

"The case has inspired several citizens to raise their voice against injustice. My tweets were based on what I regarded as the highest duty of a citizen. What is very heartening is that this case has become a watershed moment for freedom of speech and seems to have encouraged many to stand up and speak out against the injustices in our society," Bhushan said on Monday.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra while reading out the verdict said, "Court's decisions can't be influenced by publications or opinions in the media."

The bench further added, Bhushan's statements to press, even before they were considered by this court, was to influence the proceedings.

The court also said that the press conference by four apex court judges in January 2018 was wrong and said, "Judges are not supposed to hold a press conference."

The bench while imposing fine of



Re 1 on Bhushan makes it clear that if he doesn't deposit the same by September 15, he will have to undergo 3-month imprisonment and be debarred from practice for 3 years.

On August 25, the top court was urged by senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan to show "judicial statesmanship" and not make Bhushan a "martyr" by punishing him for contempt over his tweets criticising the judiciary, after the activist-lawyer rejected fresh suggestions from the court for an apology.

Bhushan had filed a supplementary statement reiterating his position to stand by his tweets. He refused to apologise for the tweets for which he was held to be in contempt.

As the top court reserved its verdict on the sentence to be awarded to Bhushan, Justice Arun Mishra, who presided over a three-judge bench, at the fog end of the nearly three-hour-long hearing had asked

why he cannot seek an apology and what was wrong in using this word.

Justice Mishra will be demitting office on September 2.

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

On August 25, Dhavan, representing Bhushan, had suggested that the top court recall the August 14 verdict convicting him for contempt of court and not impose any sentence and urged it to not only close the case but also to bring an end to the controversy.

"This institution must have criticism and not just criticism but extreme criticism. Your shoulders are broad enough," Dhavan had said.

Justice Mishra observed: "Had it been someone else, it was easier to ignore but when Mr Bhushan says something, it has some effect."

Attorney General K K Venugopal urged the bench to let off Bhushan with a warning or reprimand. But Justice Mishra had asserted: "If a person says he didn't make a mistake and he won't apologize for it despite repeated opportunities, what will be the purpose of saying don't do it again. It is not about us or him. It is about the institution."

India Is Becoming The World's New Virus Epicenter

India is fast becoming the world's new virus epicenter, setting a record for the biggest single-day rise in cases as experts predict that it'll soon pass Brazil -- and ultimately the U.S. -- as the worst outbreak globally.

As many as 78,761 new cases were added Sunday, the most any country has ever reported in one day, while 971 deaths were reported on Monday, pushing the Asian country past Mexico for the third-highest number of deaths worldwide. At the current trajectory, India's outbreak will eclipse Brazil's in about a week, and the U.S. in about two months.

And unlike the U.S. and Brazil, India's case growth is still accelerating seven months after the reporting of its first coronavirus case on Jan. 30. The pathogen has only just penetrated the vast rural hinterland where the bulk of its 1.3 billion population lives, after racing through its dense mega-cities.

As the world's second largest country, and one with a relatively poor public health system, it's inevitable that India's outbreak becomes the world's



biggest, said Naman Shah, an adjunct faculty member at the country's National Institute of Epidemiology.

"It would not be surprising, regardless of what India does," said Shah, a member of the Indian government's Covid-19 task force.

From the Philippines to Peru, the novel coronavirus poses a unique problem to poor countries: the densely packed slums where millions of their citizens live present ideal conditions for the virus to spread, while their economic precariousness means that the shutdowns necessary to contain the pathogen are intolerable.

Across the developing world, economies have been forced to open up even with the virus still running rampant, quickly overwhelming un-

derfunded hospitals.

The list of worst-affected countries globally has accordingly shifted from rich to poor as the pandemic races around the world. Where once countries like Italy, Spain and the U.K. had the biggest outbreaks and highest death tolls, now the U.S is the only advanced economy in the top ten, among other developing nations like Mexico, Peru and South Africa.

Nowhere has the developing world's plight played out more viscerally than in India, where an ambitious national lockdown imposed in March was lifted after two months as joblessness, starvation and a mass migration of workers leaving cities on foot became too much to bear.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has since counseled the population to "live with the virus" while giving local officials freedom to impose restrictions on a state-by-state basis, which many have. The economy is projected to have contracted 18% in the quarter to June from a year ago, more than any other major Asian country.

Doctor Accused In 2012 Lashkar-e-Taiba Recruitment Case Arrested

BENGALURU: The anti-terror agency NIA has arrested an Indian doctor, brother of 2007 Glasgow bomber, after he was deported from Saudi Arabia where he was in custody for his alleged involvement in recruiting people in India for Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The accused, Dr Sabeel Ahmed, who worked at a hospital in Saudi kingdom, is the younger brother of aeronautical engineer Kafeel Ahmed, who was involved in the 2007 suicide attack at Glasgow airport in Scotland in the UK. His mission had failed and he died on August 2 after their bombs went off.

Ahmed, 38, who was in London at that time, was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) upon his arrival in New Delhi from Saudi Arabia where he had moved in 2010 and worked at King Fahad hospital.

He was deported from the kingdom after being detained for his alleged involvement in recruiting people for the LeT. A case was registered in connection with the case in Bengaluru in 2012 against 25 people. He is also an accused in the case.

A non-bailable warrant



and a look-out notice was issued against him.

The case was initially lodged by the Bengaluru police which had claimed that it was a plot to attack columnist Prathap Simha, who is now a BJP Lok Sabha member from Karnataka's Mysuru.

So far, 17 people have been arrested in the case out of whom 14 have been released after serving their sentence.

The NIA established Ahmed's identity in the case after the deportation and arrest of a Hyderabad resident from Saudi Arabia in 2015. Earlier, he was identified as "Motu doctor" in an initial charge-sheet filed by the NIA in 2015 in this case.

The NIA alleged that Ahmed was introduced to LeT recruitment plot by his brother-in-law Imran Ahmed, arrested in 2013 for travelling with a fake passport, and an engineer from Bengaluru Mohammed Shahid Faisal, who is still missing.

Delhi Riots: ED Arrests Suspended AAP Councillor Tahir Hussain



NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said that it has arrested suspended AAP leader Tahir Hussain in a money laundering case in relation to the northeast Delhi riots in February this year.

An ED official said that the agency arrested Hussain under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and has also got six days custodial remand from a Delhi Court.

Earlier in the day, he was brought to the ED headquarters for questioning, where he is being questioned about funding for the Delhi riots and the hawala operators with whom he was in touch.

The official added that he is also being questioned about his relations with Tablighi Jamaat chief Maulana Saad.

The ED official said that Hussain has been arrested by the agency for his role in money laundering and funding of anti-CAA protests and organizing riots in northeast Delhi in February.

The official said that the case is based on multiple FIRs registered by the Crime

Branch and Dayalpur Police Station, Delhi Police under several sections of the IPC, which are scheduled offences under the PMLA.

The official said that during the probe it was found that companies owned or controlled by Hussain and his relatives transferred huge amounts of money to dubious entities which was returned by them in cash.

"The cash received by Hussain was used to fuel the anti-CAA protests and Delhi riots. Probe also revealed involvement of Hussain and his companies in illegal laundering of money in the past too," the official said.

The ED said that searches at his and his family members' residential and business premises in Delhi and Noida and Greater Noida on June 23 led to the recovery of incriminating documents and evidence including fake invoices which were used for the fraudulent transfer of money.

Over the past few days, Hussain was interrogated by ED officers in Tihar Jail while under arrest by Delhi Police. Subsequently, he was arrested under the PMLA for his role in money laundering.

NEWS MAKERS

Scholar Par Excellence, Towering Statesman Who Always Blessed Me: PM's Tribute To Mukherjee

Expressing grief over former president Pranab Mukherjee's demise, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday described him as a scholar par excellence and a towering statesman who was admired across the political spectrum.

Modi said Mukherjee has left an indelible mark on the nation's development trajectory.

Mukherjee, 84, died on Monday in an army hospital in New Delhi, his son Abhijit Mukherjee said. He was admitted to the hospital on August 10.

In a series of tweets,

the prime minister said Mukherjee in his decades-long political journey made long-lasting contributions in key economic and strategic ministries and that he was an outstanding parliamentarian, always well-prepared, extremely articulate as well as witty.

The prime minister recalled that Mukherjee, as the then President when he became prime minister for the first time, always supported and guided him. "I was new to Delhi in 2014. From Day 1, I was blessed to have the guidance, support and blessings of Shri Pranab Mukherjee. I will always



cherish my interactions with him. Condolences to his family, friends, admirers and supporters across India. Om Shanti," Modi said.

In his tweets, Modi also

trapati Bhavan even more accessible to common citizens, Modi noted, adding that he made the President's House "a centre of learning, innovation, culture, science and literature".

His wise counsel on key policy matters will never be forgotten by him, the prime minister said.

"India grieves the passing away of Bharat Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee. He has left an indelible mark on the development trajectory of our nation. A scholar par excellence, a towering statesman, he was admired across the political spectrum and by all sections of society," he said.

6 Teenagers Held For Allegedly Raping 8-Year-Old Girl In Tripura

AGARTALA: Seven teenagers allegedly raped an eight-year-old girl after inviting her to play hide and seek with them in a village in Tripura, police said on Sunday.

Six of the accused who live at Tabaria in West Tripura district were arrested and one is absconding.

Four of them were sent to a juvenile home. Two others, who are around 12 years old, were hospitalised as they tested positive for coronavirus, police said.

"According to the complaint lodged by the victim's father, the accused boys called her to play hide



and seek with them and then raped her. The incident took place on Friday," sub-divisional police officer of New Capital Complex, Priya Madhuri Majumder, said.

The girl, a student of class 3, returned home and informed her parents of what had happened, the

police official said.

The accused boys, who were known to the girl, were arrested after the complaint was lodged on Saturday.

"A total of seven persons were named in the FIR. We have arrested six of them while one is absconding," the police official said.