



Maximum : 28°C  
Minimum : 17°C  
Humidity : 74%

SUNSET  
Today 06:54 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:06 AM

# OBSERVER

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## News Digest

### Govt Bans 118 More Mobile Apps

New Delhi- The government on Wednesday blocked 118 more mobile applications, including popular gaming app PUBG, terming them prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and defence of the nation. The banned apps include Baidu, Baidu Express Edition, Tencent Watchlist, FaceU, WeChat Reading and Tencent Weiyun, besides PUBG Mobile and PUBG Mobile Lite, according to an official statement. All these banned apps have Chinese links, sources said. The Centre had earlier banned a number of Chinese apps, including TikTok and UC Browser. "Government blocks 118 mobile apps which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity" **● P-02**

### Release Mourners, Stop Which-Hunt: ASS

Budgam: Anjuman Sharie Shiayan Wednesday castigated authorities for detaining Shia mourners and booking them under Unlawful Activities Act. The spokesperson of the organization said that the brute force applied on the mourners has no justification in today's world. He said mourners were not only beaten up, but slapped with frivolous charges, while dozens are lying in the hospitals for the injuries inflicted on them by police. The spokesperson said that Anjuman Sharie will provide all legal aid to those who have been arrested for taking part in Muharram processions. **● P-02**

### Four Militant Associates Held In Budgam

Budgam: Budgam Police on Wednesday morning claimed to have arrested four militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) during Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in Beerwah area of the district. Officials said that a joint team of Budgam Police and Army's 53 RR arrested four militant associates of LeT during CASO in Pethkoot area of Beerwah Budgam. "On a credible input, Budgam police along with 53 RR arrested four militant associates identified as Shakil Ahmad Wani, son of Ghulam Ahmad Wani," **● P-02**

### 45-Yr-Old Man Drowns In Wullar Lake

Bandipora: A 45-year-old man drowned after he slipped into Wullar Lake while he was grazing sheep in Zalwan area of Nasou in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday evening. Police said that a man identified as Hussain Ahmad Khatana, son of Makhna Khatana of Tanghat Pathkoot slipped into Wullar Lake near Zalwan area of Nassou. Soon after the incident, the local volunteers and police have launched a search operation to trace out the man. The searches were going on when the report was last filed.

### Man Traveling On Fake ID Held At Airport

Budgam: A non-local was detained by police at Srinagar Airport for travelling on a fake Identity Card. KNT reported that a person from Bijnore, Uttar Pradesh was intending to board a 'Go Air' G8-204 flight from Srinagar to Delhi on a fake Identity Card. The man, a painter by profession was identified as Muhammad Nasir son of Sabir Ahmed. Sources said on 'Boarding Gate' security men found his name doesn't match with his ID. His ID revealed his name as Muhammad Nasir. Accordingly, he was **● P-02**

## Urdu's 131-Year Reign In Kashmir Ends

Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi Added As Official Languages In J&K

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** In a significant move the Union cabinet on Wednesday announced that Jammu and Kashmir will now have five official languages, ending Urdu's 131-year reign as the only official language of the ethnically diverse and politically fraught region.

As of now, the official language of Jammu and Kashmir is Urdu and Kashmiri is recognised as a regional language.

Announcing the decision at a news briefing, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the

Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020 will be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming Monsoon Session.

"Union Cabinet has approved the introduction in Parliament the Jammu & Kashmir Official Languages Bill 2020 in which 5 languages Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi & English will be official languages," Union Minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters.

This, he said, has been done based on public demand. Javadekar didn't share more details about the bill.

The Bill received the Cabinet nod on Wednesday at a meeting

presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The bill is expected to be tabled in Parliament during the coming session. The Monsoon session of Parliament is slated to begin from September 14.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said the government has accepted the long pending demand of the region for the inclusion of Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri as official languages in J-K.

"It is not only a fulfilment of a long-pending public demand of the region but also in keeping with the spirit of equality which was ushered in after **►PAGE 02**

**UNION CABINET HAS APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION** in Parliament the Jammu & Kashmir Official Languages Bill 2020 in which 5 languages Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi & English will be official languages,"

### New Official Languages Will Ensure Ease Of Governance: Jitendra

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister Jitendra Singh Wednesday said the Cabinet's approval to a bill that adds Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi as official languages in Jammu and Kashmir will end the grievances of discrimination on the basis of language.

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the bill under which Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi, apart from the existing Urdu and



English, will be the official languages in Jammu and Kashmir. It was an anomaly that the

three languages -- Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri -- which are spoken by nearly 70 per cent of the population of Jammu and Kashmir were not approved for use in official business.

"The Cabinet decision today will not only bring ease of governance, but also ease of citizen participation in governance in the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," **►PAGE 02**

## Covid-19 Claims 14 More Lives, J&K Toll 734

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported 14 more covid-19 related deaths in last 24 hours, taking the fatality count due to the pestilence to 733 in J&K.

Official sources said that among the deaths, nine were reported from Kashmir Valley and five from Jammu division including three from winter capital of the J&K and one each from Kathua and Udhampur.

Regarding the victims from Valley, they said, three were residents of Srinagar, two from Kulgam while one each were from

Pulwama, Anantnag, Kupwara and Ganderbal.

They said a 65-year-old woman from Lalbazar Srinagar who was admitted on August 30 died this evening at SKIMS Soura.

They said a 65-year-old from Wandhama Ganderbal died a week after he was admitted to SKIMS Soura. His age mate from Mittergam Pulwama, who was admitted on August 27 died last night at the tertiary care hospital. Also, a 65-year-old **►PAGE 02**

**2 Doctors Among 641 New Covid-19 Cases**  
Two doctors and fifty-six travellers were among 641 new novel coronavirus cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir in last 24 hours, taking the overall tally of the Covid-19 infected to 38864 in J&K. Among the fresh cases, sources said 274 were from **● P-02**



**SCENIC SRINAGAR-Ladakh highway** these days is witness to increased military movement with its usual commuters, nature lovers and picnickers confined to their homes. Pix Abid Bhat

### India, China Hold Another Round Of Military Talks

**NEW DELHI-** Days after China's "provocative actions" in Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh, the situation in the region remained sensitive on Wednesday while army commanders from both sides held another round of talks to defuse tensions, government sources said.

The army of the two countries held Brigade Commander-level talks in Chushul with a focus on bringing down tensions in the Pangong lake area, they said, adding similar dialogue on Monday and Tuesday, each lasting over six hours, did not produce any "tangible" **● P-02**

### 'Outdated Agenda Item'

## India Calls For Removing J&K Issue From UN

**LAST MONTH, AS INDIA MARKED THE** first anniversary of ending the special status to Jammu and Kashmir, Beijing again called for a discussion on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in the Security Council under "Any Other Business".

**United Nations: India at the UN has called for permanently removing the issue of Jammu and Kashmir under the "outdated agenda item" of the "India-Pakistan question" from the Security Council's agenda, saying such "irrational exuberance" has no takers in a dignified world.**

In a veiled attack on Pakistan, India said that there is a delegation that repeatedly attempts to rebrand itself as contributing to international peace, but unfortunately fails to recognise that it is globally known for being the fountainhead of international terror and the hub for terror syndicates.

During a virtual informal meeting of the plenary on the annual report of the Security Council, Pakistan's UN envoy Munir Akram had raked up the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and said that the Security Council has also been found lacking in implementing its own resolutions and decisions on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He added that the Council has met thrice during the last one year to consider the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.



UN Security Council

India, without naming Pakistan, said in a statement on Monday that "there is a delegation that repeatedly attempts to rebrand itself as contributing to international peace, but unfortunately fails to recognise that it is globally known for being the fountainhead of international terror and the hub for terror syndicates."

"This delegation keeps pushing for discussions on an outdated agenda item in the Council, which for all matter needs to be removed from the Council's agenda permanently. Such irrational exuberance has no takers in a dignified world," India said on the 'Report of the Security Council for 2019'.  
An August 3, 2020 **►PAGE 02**

## HC: Let JeI Chief Watch' Daughter's Marriage Online

Rejects Wife's Plea To Allow Him Attend Ceremony After Govt's Statement

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday rejected an application by the wife of Jama'at-e-Islami J&K chief Abdul Hameed Ganaie, seeking his release on parole to attend the marriage ceremony of their daughter on September 3.

However, a bench of Justice Tashi Rabstan directed jail authorities in Kathua, where he is lodged under Public Safety Act since August 5 last year, that arrangements be made for him to watch the marriage ceremony

of his daughter on September 3 "through virtual mode."

The court's rejection of the application followed government's opposition against the release.

Senior Additional Advocate General B.A.Dar submitted before court that a representation was submitted by Mrs Lateefa Bano to the Government for release of her husband on the parole which was "not considered".

The Senior AAG produced a copy of the communication bearing (no.CID/BR/H-02/2019/BUD/1476) dated 31st **►PAGE 02**

## Heavy Shelling Rattles Gurez Valley

4 Houses, School Damaged In Cross LOC Shelling

**SRINAGAR:** At least six structures, including four residential houses, a government high school and a madrasa were damaged in heavy overnight shelling from across the Line of Control in Bagtore area of Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Reports reaching here said that Indian and Pakistani troops traded heavy fire and many mortar shells fired by Pakistani side landed in Tarabal area hitting four residential houses, government high school and a madrasa.

However, he also said that no casualties or injury were report-

### Army Officer Killed In Pak Firing

A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Indian Army was killed on Wednesday, amid ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Lt Col Devender Anand, PRO (Defence) Jammu, confirmed the killing of the JCO. The officer was posted at a forward location in Tarkundi area and had suffered fatal injuries. Pakistan had reportedly resorted to firing and shelling from across the LoC and the army had retaliated strongly, defence sources said. This was the second such **● P-02**

ed during the shelling.

Police said the Pakistani forces violated the ceasefire along the LoC last evening and targeted forward

defence locations in Tarabal area.

They added that the Indian Army has given a "strong and befitting" response to the ceasefire violation.

## Rifle Snatcher Declared Mentally 'Unsound', Let Off

**SRINAGAR:** The youth who was apprehended after he allegedly tried to snatch the service rifle of a CRPF jawan in Nowhatta area of Srinagar city has been bailed out by court on the grounds that he is mentally unsound. The youth was released on Wednesday.

Reports said the family through their counsel produced medical records of the youth declaring him 'mentally unsound' after which he was bailed out.

Pertinently, a young man tried to snatch the service rifle of Head Constable Simrandar Singh of 21 Battalion D-Company CRPF in Nowhatta area on 28th of August. The youth was later identified as 28 year old **● P-02**

## In FOCUS

Swati Joshi

**I**T'S a "bumpy ride" for teenager Basit Bashir to reach his examination centre, 70 kilometres away from his hometown Kulgam, in Srinagar's Rajbagh area.

Starting early morning journey from restive south Kashmir region—dotted with military installations, patrolling parties and checkpoints—is nothing short of a highway horror for him and his student tribe, he says.

"One cannot rely on public transport for such a crucial drive," Basit says. "And being a Kashmiri student appearing for exams, we've to be al-

ways ready for the times ahead of us."

Like thousands of the lockdown-weary students, this Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) aspirant has been pleading hard for the postponement of the exams for long now.

But despite the protest by some students and opposition parties, the JEE Main exam for admission to engineering colleges started on Tuesday.

As precautionary measure, temperature of the students was checked before allowing them enter for the examination centre.

JEE and NEET exams have been postponed twice because of the CO-

VID-19 pandemic. While JEE Main was scheduled from April 7 to April 11 and then from July 18 to July 23, NEET was scheduled for May 3 and then for July 26.

Currently, JEE and NEET are scheduled from September 1 to 6 and September 13 respectively.

As on September 1, Jammu and Kashmir had reported 7980 active Covid cases with 703 deaths. The Valley was trying to come out of a political lockdown since last August following abrogation of Article 370, before the pandemic hit and curtailed its education calendar.

The Internet which plays a sig-



nificant role in the preparation of competitive exams was reduced to

2G in Kashmir.

"The concept which I can under-

stand within half an hour from videos take around 2-3 hours with a slow internet connection," Basit says.

"Being anxious, I'm not able to focus like earlier," the aspirant continues. "In the current scenario the exams should be postponed."

Netizens, especially students, have also thrown their weight behind the JEE-NEET aspirants by trending hashtags like #ManKiNa-hiStudentsKiBaat, #StudentsDislikePMMModi, #PostponeJEEAndNEET.

Despite the fact that the JEE is already being conducted, Zullkar Nain, a NEET aspirant from An-

antnag, feels the exams should've been postponed.

On being asked about his preparation for the exam, he says, "Kashmir is unable to access 4G internet from last one year. So, obviously, my preparation isn't at par with the rest of students all over India."

Students recently showed their rage against the exam decision by massively disliking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Man Ki Baat'.

The recent episode of the radio program received 986k dislikes. Amid raging reactions, Subramanian Swamy, a Rajya Sabha member, objected New Delhi's decision to conduct JEE and NEET.

In one of his tweets, Swamy said that he would try to talk to the Prime Minister and **►PAGE 02**



From Front page...

# LoC Trade: NIA, IT Deptt Conduct Raids In Srinagar, Kupwara

**SRINAGAR:** The NIA and sleuths of Income Tax Department assisted by police and CRPF carried out searches at multiple locations in Srinagar and Kupwara against some businessmen in connection with now suspended cross-LoC trade.

The purpose of the raid was not immediately known, how-

ever, sources said that raids were conducted with regard to 'militant funding' case.

Teams of the National Investigation Agency, along with state police and paramilitary forces, swooped on the locations this morning to gather evidence, the officials said.

Official sources said that raids were conducted in Mandar Bagh and Batmaloo areas of Srinagar while a raid on the shop and house of an LoC trader was also conducted in Kandi Khas area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

In Srinagar raids were conducted in the houses of Ghulam

Ahmad Dar, Ishfaq Ahmad Dar and Muhammad Ayoub Matta at Danderkha Batamaloo and Mushtaq Ahmad Khan at Mandar Bagh Srinagar.

Police sources said that those who were raided are affiliated with LoC trade. The son of Mush-taq Ahmed khan is doing MBBS

in Pakistan administered Kash-mir from past two years.

In Kandi Khas area of Kupwara, the shop and the house of one Ghulam Rasool Magray were raided. Magray was also involved in LoC trade but his family said that he disassociated from the trade last year and now he is running a provi-

sional store. An official claimed that incriminating material has been seized from his shop and the house.

Pertinently, last year NIA and Income Tax team had raided the house of Tanveer Wani, president of Cross-Line of Control (LoC) Traders' Association's in South Kashmir's Pulwama.

The NIA had earlier said in a statement that large scale transfer of funds from Pakistan to India has been taking place via the cross-LoC trade mechanism.

LoC trade is in suspension mode since the abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir. (KNT)

## Body Of Youth Exhumed For Autopsy Month After Burial

**BUDGAM:** After Budgam Administration permitted the exhumation of the body of a youth who died in the first week of August last month, a team led by Naib Tehsildar in presence of police exhumed the body amid protest in Surisyar Chadoora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Pertinently, on 5 August last month, a youth namely Sajad Ahmad Dar son of Muhammad Sidiq Dar of Surasyar area of Chadura died at his home after playing cricket whole day with his friends. He was buried at his native graveyard in Surasyar. After his death, family doubted that his friends might have forced him to consume some

drugs and that might have resulted in his death.

To ascertain the cause of his death, they wanted the body to be exhumed so that a postmortem could be conducted on it.

The family had approached District Development Commissioner Budgam with a request to exhume the body. They in an application had stated that they have strong suspicion over his two friends, one is a driver who hails from Sursyar and another is from Gund Chadoora.

Sources said that in order to ascertain the cause of death, the District Development Commissioner had granted permission and today a team of doctors along with forensic experts in

presence of civil and police ad-ministration exhumed the body.

The body was taken to PHC Chadoora where medical team and FSL teams conducted post mortem.

Sources said that the relatives and family members of the deceased youth staged a protest when the exhumation process was in progress. The protesters blocked Kralpora-Chadoora road and accused police of inaction. They demanded immediate arrest of the accused. Police and civil administration officials rushed to spot and pacify the protesters assuring them action will be initiated only after the outcome of the post mortem report.

## Sustainability: Coconut And Palm Oil Industries At Loggerheads Over Environmental Impact

**Agencies**

A report highlighting the harmful environmental impact of coconut oil production by a researcher with links to the palm oil industry has sparked a heated debate over coveted green credentials in the multibillion dollar industries.

The palm oil industry has received international negative attention, including consumer boycotts, in recent years for clearing biodiversity-rich tropical rainforests in Southeast Asia in its production process.

Coconut oil, conversely, has been increasing in popularity

as a healthy superfood with fewer cultivation concerns.

But a study published in respected scientific journal 'Current Biology' in July appeared to upend that dichotomy, highlighting the impact on native animal species because of coconut oil production deforestation.

The paper said that coconut cultivation threatens 18.6 species per million tonnes of oil produced, nearly five times more than its palm cousin.

The coconut industry, however, was more interested in the lead author of the report, Erik Meijaard, who has carried out work for the global palm oil sustainability body and an Indonesian palm

company. Meijaard continues to head the oil palm task force of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

"In the coconut community, [Meijaard's] article was initially not taken seriously," Indonesian Coconut Processing Industry Association (HIPKI) secretary-general Donatus Gede Sabon told Reuters. "However, they clearly intend to sneak in a negative campaign against coconuts."

Indonesia is heavily invested in both industries - it is the world's biggest grower of palm oil, followed by Malaysia, and is also the world's second biggest coconut producer, after the Philippines.

Both products are found in

everything from cookies to soap, but palm is more widely used as it is cheaper and more versatile. Global sales for palm oil were about \$43 billion last year, with coconut oil sales lagging at around \$2.72 billion, according to Reuters' estimates.

"Production of both crops is destructive when it originates from the wrong areas, such as forests, peatland and high conservation value areas," said Chandra Panjiwibowo, Rainforest Alliance Indonesia Country Director. "For now, there is much more palm than coconut cultivated globally, and its production is growing much faster, so palm undoubtedly has more impact."

### Urdu's 131-Year Reign In...

August 5 last year," he told reporters.

On August 5 last year New Delhi scrapped the semi-autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir and divided it into two union territories. Urdu in India is largely associated with Muslims and the Hindu rightwing has for long been pushing Hindi as a national language, a move resisted by several states.

In the undivided Jammu and Kashmir state, various ethnicities spoke Kashmiri, Pahari, Gojri, Ladakhi, Dogri, Balti and Punjabi as their mother tongues. Urdu and Hindi had become a means for inter-community communication. In 1889, Maharaja Pratap Singh, the third ruler of the Hindu Dogra dynasty, replaced Persian with Urdu as the court language.

The latest decision is seen here by many as part of policy aimed at dismantling everything that can be associated with the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, like separate flag and constitution.

### New Official Languages Will...

the Minister of State for Personnel said.

He said this will remove the feeling of alienation among different communities and address the grievances of discrimination on the basis of language.

The minister said the government has accepted the long-pending demand of the region for the inclusion of Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri as official languages in J-K.

"It is not only a fulfilment of a long-pending public demand of the region but also in keeping with the spirit of equality which was ushered in after August 5 last year (when provisions of Article 370 were repealed)," said Singh, who is also the Lok Sabha member from J-K's Udhampur constituency.

Addressing a press briefing, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020 will be introduced in the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

### India, China Hold Another...

outcome". Sources said India has achieved tactical gains in eastern Ladakh in the last few days by occupying a number of strategically important hill tops and locations.

On Monday, the Indian Army said the Chinese military carried out "provocative military movements" to "unilaterally" change the status quo 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.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava on Tuesday said the Chinese PLA was engaged in "provocative action" again on Monday when the ground commanders of the two sides were holding talks to ease the situation following China's attempt to change the status quo in the Pangong lake area two days back.

"The situation in the area remained sensitive," said a source.

The two sides were earlier engaged in a confrontation on the northern bank of Pangong lake but it was for the first time such an incident occurred on its southern bank, they said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday carried out a comprehensive review of the situation in eastern Ladakh at a high-level meeting attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane and Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria.

It was decided at the nearly two-hour meeting that the Indian Army will continue to maintain its aggressive posturing in all sensitive areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to effectively deal with any Chinese "misadventure", the sources said.

They said the Indian Army has further bolstered its presence around the Southern Bank area of Pangong lake by deploying additional troops and bringing in more weaponry including tanks and anti-tank guided missiles.

A battalion of the Special Frontier Force was also deployed in the area. The sources 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 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.

### Soz Demands White Paper...

people would like to know as to who constituted the crucial remaining 1% of the beneficiaries?

"The people of the State are entitled to know the particulars of the persons who were not Permanent Residents, yet they got the Domicile certificates", he said.

He said the JK Administration has explained further that these certificates have been issued for jobs only. It means that UT the administra-

tion has no objection for giving the Domicile Certificates to non-state subjects also!

"Since the UT Administration has issued the Domicile Certificates to such a big number in hot haste, the process must have involved the recklessness of sorts", senior Congress leader said in his statement.

The statement added that the perception of the people is that the UT Administration is a stopgap arrangement and that the Centre should not have amended the Domicile Law in the absence of public support.

He urged upon JK UT Administration to issue a 'white paper' indicating particulars of those who are not state subjects, yet they got the certificates! That procedure alone can allay the fears of the people of the state, reads the statement.

### India Calls For Removing J&K...

summary statement by the Secretary-General of "matters of which the Security Council is seized" listed 'The India-Pakistan question' among those items that have not been considered by the Council at a "formal meeting" during the period from January 1, 2017 to August 1, 2020.

The agenda item 'India-Pakistan question' was first taken up by the Council at a formal meeting on January 6, 1948 and was last considered on November 5, 1965.

Pakistan, backed by its 'all-weather ally" China, has been repeatedly seeking to have a discussion on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in the Security Council.

The Council had held closed consultations on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir on August 16 last year after China asked for the "closed consultations" to discuss the matter. That meeting had ended without any outcome.

In January this year, China, on behalf of Pakistan, had again made an attempt to raise the Kashmir issue under "other matters" during closed consultations in the Security Council Consultations Room. Then too, China stood alone in the Pakistani corner to get the Security Council to focus on the Kashmir issue.

Last month, as India marked the first anniversary of ending the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two union territories – Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Beijing again called for a discussion on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in the Security Council under "Any Other Business".

All these meetings ended without any outcome, as many other members of the Security Council have underlined that Jammu and Kashmir is a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti had told PTI that contrary to what Pakistan may claim, Islamabad has not been successful in trying to put Jammu and Kashmir on the UN agenda.

"Frankly, the attempt by Pakistan to try and internationalise, what is a bilateral issue, is nothing new," he had said.

Tirumurti had pointed out that contrary to what the Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi asserted, "there has been no formal meeting of the Security Council on the India-Pakistan issue even once for the past 55 years, let alone three times!"

Pakistan, backed by China, has only been able to bring up the issue of Jammu and Kashmir informally and in closed door meetings under what is called 'Any Other Business", a category where literally any item can be brought for discussion by anyone. These meetings have no records and there is no outcome.

Mr Tirumurti had pointed out that even UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in his statement last August, clearly referred to the 1972 bilateral Simla Agreement.

### Covid-19 Claims 14 More Lives,...

from Budgam who was admitted to SMHS hospital on August 28 with hypertension and type 2 diabetes among other ailments succumbed this morning, they said.

A 70-year-old man from Mughlalpora,Kupwara, admitted on August 27 as a case of bilateral Community Acquire Pneumonia died at SMHS. Among other victims include a 65-year-old woman from Buchpora Srinagar, an 85-year-old woman from Kanimazar Srinagar, a 45-year-old man from Check Ashmuji Kulgam, a 40-year-old man from Nawbal Batpora Kulgam and a 65-year-old woman from Ahoom Shangus.

Regarding Jammu fatalities, they said, a 65-year-old man from Chenani Udhampur, who was admitted to GMC hospital Jammu on August 21 and diagnosed "Old CVA, Hypertension and Bilateral CAP". "He died at around 07.19 a.m. today," a senior doctor at GMC Jammu said.

Sources said a 45-year-old from Simbal Camp R S.PURA was brought dead to GMC last night and tested positive later.

A 55-year-old man from Billawer Kathua who was admitted on August 31 and diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension, COPD and CKD died last night at GMC, they said.

A 55-year-old woman from Bage-Bahu Jammu, admitted on August 31 and diagnosed with hypertension, pyrexia and acute respiratory distress besides

Bilateral community acquired pneumonia died last night, they added.

With these deaths, officials said, 734 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far. Among them, they said, 659 were from the Valley while 75 others from Jammu division.

Srinagar district with 226 deaths tops the list followed by Baramulla (100), Budgam (63), Anantnag (51), Pulwama (55), Kupwara (49), Jammouri (50), Kulgam (37), Shopian (28), Bandipora (26), Ganderbal (24), Rajouri (5), Doda (4), Poonch (4), Kathua (4), Udhampur (3), Samba (2) and Ramban (1). (GNS)

### 2 Doctors Among 641 New...

Jammu Division and 367 from Kashmir Valley including two doctors, six CRPF men, five cases from BB Cantt, BDO Mattan, eight RDD Mattan employees, one pregnant woman and 11 from P/L Reshipora. Giving breakup of the cases, they said, Srinagar reported 131 cases, Pulwama 16, Budgam 56, Baramulla 22, Anantnag 30, Bandipora 27, Kupwara 18, Kulgam 11, Shopian 2, Ganderbal 54, Jammu 167, Rajouri 14, Kathua 19, Udhampur 8, Samba 14, Doda 8, Poonch 14, Reasi 16 and Kishtwar 7. A number of cases were confirmed at CD and SKIMS Soura diagnostic labs, they said.

**SKIMS cases**

The Anantnag cases include female (60) from Deetho Anantnag. The Srinagar cases include female (30) from Maharaj Gunj, three males (26, 24, 22) from Dalgate, male (24) from Elahibagh, male (42) from Khankhai Mohallah, female (34) from Soura, two males (34, 27) from Hyderpora, female (45) from Eidgah, male (32) from Lal Bazar, female (38) from Alamgiri Bazar, female (48) and male (19) from Nehru Park, female (50) from Rainawari, male (40) from Safa Kadal, male (50) from Sanath Nagar, male (29) from Nehru Park, male (50) from Qamarwari, female (32) from Hyderpora, two male (23, 23) from SKIMS Soura, female (62) from Fruit Mandi, male (70) from Awantipora, male (79) and female (67) from Chanapora, female (50) from Dalgate Srinagar.

The Budgam cases include male (32) from Baripora Nagam, male (33) from Brinjan Nagam, male (30) from Lahori Check, female (33) from Lawaypora, male (26) from Wagar, male (62) from Nowgam Bashrat Colony, male (45) from Bkpora Baghimehtab, female (30) from Chat-tergam Banipora, two females (34, 28) from Kulbugh, male (35) from Lone Mohalla Ompora, male (45) from Wulina Ichigam, female (47) from Kulibag, male (62) from Beerwah, three females (32, 23, 59) and two males (19, 25) from Manhama Magam, female (55) from Narbal Wani Mohallah, male (55) from Pinjpora, male (37) from Magam Bihar, male (55) from Chichilora Budgam, female (30) from Labartal Budgam. The Pulwama cases include female (28) from New Pulwama.

The Ganderbal cases include female (65) from Bakoora Ganderbal, female (27) from Malshaibagh Ganderbal, female (40) from Manigam Ganderbal.

The Baramulla cases include male (25) from Tangmarg, female (50) from Uri Baramulla.

The Kupwara cases include male (23) from At - Spg - Dist - Kupwara, female (40) and male (45) from Kandi, male (55) from Gabra, female (38) from Kandi, female (35) from Budwan, two females (45, 20) from Hajinar, male (14) from Khawarpara, two males (75, 32) and female (50) from Hurdoona, female (40) from Gazriyal Kralpora Kupwara, male (56) from Lolab Kupwara.

The BB Cantt cases include male (29) from BB Cantt Srinagar.

The CRPF cases include male (32) from Ch BSF Humhama Srinagar, five males (43, 57, 46, 51, 26) from Gc Crp Rambagh Srinagar.

The CD cases include male (48) from Saibugh Budgam, two males (20, 35) from Humhama Budgam, female (45) from Beerwah, female (80) Budgam, female (62) from Lal Bazar Srg, male (46) from BDO Mattan, eight males (52, 38, 48, 42, 43, 42, 47, 49) from RDD Mattan, male (55) from Katsoo, female (31) from Maduna, male (50) from Simoo, female (23) from Awantipora, female (30) from Midoora, female (40) from Rohmoo, female (35) and male (25) from Lassidaban, male (30) from Khaigam, male (24) from Astanpora Red Zone, male (33) from Noor-pora, two males (65, 59) and female (30) from Ratnipora, male (40) from Lajurath Kakapora, female (30) and male (12) from Narwa Pulwama, male (50) from Trenz, female (18) from Keegam, female (35) from Kral check, seven males (25, 32, 35, 16, 19, 28, 30) from Imamsahib, male (NA) from Bemina, male (40) from Srinagar, male (NA) from P/S Bemina, male (42) from HMT Srg, male (26) from Uplona Camp, male (32) from Chandosaa Baramulla, female (60) from Handwara Sopore, male (34) from Sopore Shalpora, female (50) from HMT, male (16) and female (49) from NA, four males (54, 45, 40, 24) from BB Cantt Srg, female (70) from Chanapora Srg, female (40) from Nigeen, female (48) from Hawal, female (65) from Bemina Srg, female (74) from NA, male (25) from Ganderbal, female (40) from Nishat, male (40) from Bemina Srg, male (42) from Muiggund Srg, male (26) from Bemina Srg, female (27) from Soura Srg, male (60) from Kupwara, two males (28, 33) from Eidgah Srg, male (35) from Parimpora Srg, male (48) from Saibugh Budgam, male (NA) from Bemina Srg, female (70) and male (44) from Lal Bazar Srg, female (NA) from Trlal, female (20) from Nawakadal Srg, male (56) from Sumbal, two males (20, 35) from Humhama Budgam, female (70) from Humhama Srg, female (65) from Bemina Srg, female (45) from Beerwah, female (70) from Handwara, female (18) from Kupwara, female (80) from Budgam, male (65) from Hajin, female (58) from Naid Khai Bandipora, female (35) from Bakshipora Srg, female (50) from Natipora Srg, male (45) from Banihal, male (40) from Panthachowk Srg, male (45) from Kargil, female (55) from Chanapora Srg, female (27) from Pattan Baramulla, female (57) from Rawalpura Srg, male (33) from Chanapora Srg, female (35) from Check Treean, male (55) from Mang-loora Kunzer, female (84) from NA, male (45) from Pudsoo, female (24) from Sharatpora, four males (34, 40, 30, 35) from Chanchmarg, male (28) from Wachi, eleven males (36, 28, 51, 52, 35, 35, 36, 40, 35, 35, 34) from P/L Reshipora, male (17) from Sopore Baramulla, female (52) from Khawaja Bagh Baramulla, female (34) from Sheeri Baramulla, female (68) from Jadedee Baramulla, male (29) from Azad Gunj Baramulla, female (50) from Kokernag, male (54) from Gassipora, male (75) from Baramulla, male (37) from Bonagund Verinag, male (50) from Dessu, male (38) from Hiller, male (70) from Gawran, male (23) from Larnoo. Moreover 595 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals, they said. Among them, they said, 92 were from Jammu Division and 503 from Kashmir Valley.

### HC: Let Jel Chief Watch'...

August 2020 before the court. "Perusal whereof reveals that a representation filed by Mst Lateefa Bano for release of detenu on parole, has not been considered," the court observed according to Global News Service, adding, "In view of above, application on hand is rejected."

However, the court said that the Superintendent District Jail Kathua, shall make arrangements to enable the detainee (Ganaie) to watch the marriage ceremony of his daughter on September 3 "through virtual mode, WhatsApp mode or any other mode that would be available to the concerned authorities."

In this connection, the court asked Ganaie's Counsel to provide telephone number(s) to B.A.Dar, Senior AAG, so that he is in a position to forward the same to the concerned authorities for making the arrangements. (GNS)

### Army Officer Killed In Pak Firing

incident in the past four days.

On August 30, a JCO was killed in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district. This is the ninth soldier killed in exchange of fire along the LoC in Poonch and Rajouri in the last three months, reports said.

Indian side says Pakistan has violated the ceasefire over 3,000 times along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far.

### Rifle Snatcher Declared...

Tehreen Ahmed Dar son of Shabir Ahmed Dar, a resident Umarabad Peerbagh area of Srinagar. Shortly after the incident, a joint party of police and CRPF conducted search of his house but found nothing objectionable while his parents had informed search party that their son was 'mentally unsound'.

Police Station Nowhatta had registered an FIR vide number 40/2020 under section 392, 511 in this regard

### 'Bumpy Ride' In Viral Times...

postpone the exams beyond Deepawali.

Likewise, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, a Rajya Sabha member from Jammu and Kashmir, has also written to the Education Minister, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, to postpone the exams, so that "health and lives of lakhs of students from across the country is prevented from being in danger". But then, not everyone is supporting the motion.

Shakir Mantoo, an aspirant, feels that if proper Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are followed in the JEE and NEET exams, they should not be postponed.

Mantoo was enrolled in a coaching institute in Aligarh, and unlike other students in Kashmir, he's not struggling for study material.

"Further postponement of the exams will affect my continuity and I wish to be done with the paper as soon as possible," Mantoo says.

Inash Rashid, a NEET aspirant from Anantnag, seconds Mantoo's views. "The postponement of the exam has already caused anxiety amongst students, some are even depressed," says the anxious student.

"If the exams are further postponed, we will lose one year."

### Govt Bans 118 More Mobile Apps

of India, defence of India, security of state and public order," it said.

It said the IT Ministry had received complaints from various sources, including several reports about misuse of some mobile apps available on Android and iOS platforms for stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users' data to servers outside India.

"The compilation of these data, its mining and profiling by elements hostile to national security and defence of India, which ultimately impinges upon the sovereignty and integrity of India, is a matter of very deep and immediate concern which requires emergency measures," the statement said.

### Release Mourners, Stop...

"Both civil and police administration failed to implement the 'model' that we had proposed to them to contain Covid-19 infection. Instead, they used brute force and dealt ruthlessly with the mourners," he said adding that property too was damaged by police during Muharram processions.

"A large number of mourners have been arrested from Zadibal, Bemina, Budgam and other areas and their relatives who wait outside different police stations are being humiliated."

"Anjuman Shari demands the immediate release of these mourners and urges police and civil administration to stop witch-hunting," the statement concludes.

### Four Militant Associates Held...

Showkat Ahmad, son of Abdul Rashid both residents of Pethkot Beerwah, Aqib Maqbool Khan, son of Muhammad Maqbool Khan resident of- Chedbug budgam and Ajaz Ahmad Dar, son of Asadullah Dar of Cherwani Charashariel", officials said.

They said arms, ammunition and other incriminating material have been recovered from their possession.

As per the police records, they were involved in providing logistic support and shelter to the active militants of LeT operating in the area.

In this regard, officials said a case under FIR number 225/2020 at Police Station Beerwah under relevant sections of UAPA is registered against them and further investigation is in progress.

### Man Traveling On Fake ID...

handed over to police post Humhama for questioning.



## Info Dept says prompt in payments

SRINAGAR: The Information Department has contested news regarding withholding of payments to the newspapers claiming that the bills of advertisement payments are being cleared from time to time.

Joint Directorate of Information and Public Relations has clarified that in Kashmir division alone, an amount of Rs 8.61 crore has been disbursed to newspapers including national dailies during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic and phase-wise lockdown. The department has cleared previous year's liability and has asked newspaper organizations to furnish bills to the department for further payment. The department in a statement said that DIPR has made adequate funds available to both its divisional offices for making payment to newspapers and publications on account of their advertisement bills and an amount of Rs 11 crore each has already been released to Kashmir and Jammu divisions during the current financial year up to ending August 2020.

The bills received by the department are being verified and reconciled and it is expected that payments would be released to the newspapers within one week, reads the statement.

## Dashora takes over as Chief Postmaster General

JAMMU Shailendra Dashora, a senior officer in the Department of Posts, Government of India, today joined as new Chief Postmaster General, Jammu and Kashmir Circle.

An Indian Postal Service (IPoS) Officer of 1989 batch Shailendra Dashora, was today welcomed by Gaurav Srivastava, Director Postal Services (Headquarters), J&K on his new assignment in the Jammu and Kashmir Circle.

Soon after taking over as Chief PMG J&K Circle, Dashora reviewed the functioning of the Postal Department in Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh. He expressed confidence that the Department of Posts will continue to work as an arm of the Central Government in implementing various government schemes across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh besides providing the savings & traditional postal services.

# LG Tours Pulwama, Says Govt Committed to Adding Value to People's Lives

## Meets public delegations, reviews developmental projects

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 02: The UT Government is committed to adding value to the lives of people in J&K. The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks during his visit to Pulwama District as a part of the continuous developmental review and public outreach programme for taking the first-hand appraisal of the issues of the people and making an overall assessment of the developmental needs of the District.

The Lt Governor was accompanied by Rajeev Bhatnagar and Baseer Ahmad Khan, Advisors and BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary besides others.

During his visit, the LG met scores of public delegations and e-augmented 20 developmental projects worth Rs 40.86 crore and laid e-foundation stone for seven projects of public importance worth Rs 13.47 crore. Maximum projects inaugurated today were aimed at accentuating the overall road connectivity in the District.

LG chaired a meeting to review the developmental scenario in the District. He also sought vital statistics pertaining to various government schemes and initiatives.



The DDC apprised the Lt Governor regarding the exponential increase in revenue generation through the e-auctioning of minor mineral beds. He also underscored the replication of Organic farming clusters throughout the District and briefed about the judicious utilization of Kacharie land compensation funds for creating public amenities like installation of CT Scan machine at District Hospital Pulwama, Bulk Chilling Milk Plant at Awantipora and Trauma centre at PHC Awantipora.

While reviewing the progress on the projects under Jal Shakti, the Lt

Governor directed the concerned officers to speed up the process of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission and other Water Supply Schemes to cover targeted households of the District.

On Back to Village works, the Lt Governor exhorted upon the officers to ensure that minimum two works in each Panchayat should be executed across the District.

While continuing with the UT Government's extensive public outreach programme, the Lt Governor met delegations of BDC & ULB representatives, Panches and Sarpanches,

representatives of political parties, traders and members of Civil Society Tral, who projected their concerning issues and demands.

Delegations of Saffron growers, Fruit growers and vegetable growers projected demand for the introduction of market intervention schemes. They also put forth their demands regarding e-marketing of saffron for increased market access, establishment of Saffron viewpoints along National Highway, transportation, waiving off of KCC loan, exposure tours, separate organic Mandis etc.

## Over 100 demolitions conducted in fortnight: SMC

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 2: Acting on a number of complaints against violators Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has carried out over 100 demolitions for the last fifteen days in various areas across the city.

The areas where these illegal constructions were demolished include Hamdania colony Bemina, Hyderpora, Sanatnagar, Rawalpura, Soura, Lal Bazaar, Zakura, Khanyar, Batamalo, Chanpora, Padshahi Bagh and Mehjoor Nagar.

The SMC officials have also stopped the work on all those structures at a very initial stage which had deviations in sanctioned building plans and the structures coming up without permission.

The unauthorised constructions were both commercial and residential in nature.

The demolition drive is being carried out strictly as per the directions of Commissioner SMC, Gazanfar Ali after he had directed the enforcement wing to act promptly in getting the illegal structures demolished on spot where ever found.

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION NO**  
**SULIMAN COMPLEX DALGATE SRINAGAR**

**Notice Inviting e-Tendering**  
**Gist of e-NIT No: Mech/17 of 2020-21**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, U.T of J&K e-tenders are invited from registered Electro-Mechanical Contractors and work shop holders having sufficient experience in repairs, maintenance and replacement of electro-mechanical equipments in Dewatering Stations and Sewage Treatment Plants STP's for the following work:

S. No	Name of work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of maintenance
1	Routine and breakdown maintenance of 17.08 MLD STP at Brari-Numbal along with IPS Khanyar and Bagwanpora for a period of One year (01 Year). In accordance with the scope of work described in annexure X and list of equipments described in annexure A, B & C of this e-NIT	50.68	2500/=	101360/=	One Year
2	Operation, routine and breakdown maintenance contract for 8 No. Intermediate Pumping Stations around Dal-Periphery for a period of One year (01 Year). In accordance with the scope of work described in annexure Y and list of equipments described in annexure IP1 to IP8 of this e-NIT	46.60	2300/=	93200/=	One Year

**IMPORTANT DATES:-**

1	Date of publishing	31/08/2020
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	31/08/2020 from 4:00 PM to 21/09/2020 up-to 4:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	31/08/2020 from 4:00 PM
4	Bid submission End Date	21/09/2020 up-to 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	24/09/2020 at 11:00 AM or any other convenient date.

Tender Receiving Authority : Executive Engineer S&D Division I<sup>st</sup>  
Sulaiman Complex Dalgate Srinagar

No: SDDI/CC/1009-18  
Dated: 31/08/2020

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
S&D Division I<sup>st</sup>  
Srinagar

DIPK-4903/20

**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
**AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.**  
Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

**EXTENSION NOTICE**

It is notified for information of all the concerned that the last date for submission of online application forms alongwith deposition of application fee for admission to the various programmes advertised vide Admission Notification No. 01 of 2020 dated: 21-08-2020 has been extended upto **21<sup>st</sup> of September, 2020.**

For admission to B.Tech. Programmes, candidates who have appeared in JEE-2020 (January) exam can fill the details in online application form accordingly and those candidates who have appeared or are appearing in JEE-2020 (September) shall update their details as and when the result of JEE 2020 (September) are declared. Queries, if any, can be made on (01933) 247954/247955 (Ext: 1109) & can also be mailed on [admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in](mailto:admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in)

No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/20/439  
Dated: 02-09-2020

Sd/-  
Deputy Registrar, Academics

**University of Kashmir,**  
NAAC accredited A+  
Hazratbal, Srinagar 190006

**Admission Notification (Under Choice Based Credit System Semester Scheme) for Under-Graduate 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Semester of 2020 (Regular)**

It is notified for the information of all concerned candidates of B.A/B.SC/B.COM/B.C.A/B.B.A/B.M.M.M.C/OCMIL/FAZILA OCMIL (CBCS) Batch 2019 that the completion of all formalities for subject choice of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Semester in the affiliated Colleges of the University shall be for (15) fifteen working days from **29-08-2020 to 15-09-2020**, on the following terms and conditions:-

- The candidates who have sought admission in the Under Graduate Courses (Semester Scheme) batch 2019 are eligible for B.G. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Semester admission and shall visit the Information Cell of the College concerned.
- The candidates of Batch 2016 to 2018 & Annual Scheme, who have not sought admission for 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester yet, shall have to submit the Online Form available on the University Website. In case of any discrepancy related to online form submission, the candidate shall visit the Information Cell of the College (with all Original documents) in which he/she intends to seek admission.
- For (a) Confirmation of subjects (assigned online by the College ) and (b) Submission of requisite fee,  
The candidate is required to check **MyFormStatus** page (available on University Website [www.kashmiruniversity.net](http://www.kashmiruniversity.net)).
- The candidate shall enter his/her University Registration Number (OR) Board Registration Number and confirm subjects. If the subjects shown are not as per the choice of candidate, he/she shall visit College Information Cell for subject correction within stipulated time (before Fee submission).
- Afterwards, the candidate shall opt the mode of Fee Payment as available. No subject changes whatsoever shall be allowed after Fee submission.
- The fee payment through **Receipt Mode** can be deposited at any Finacle Branch of J&K Bank.
- The candidates have to submit requisite admission and examination fee for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Semester in the College concerned as per fee structure in vogue.

Principals of all affiliated Colleges shall forward the information/report along-with prescribed fee in the office of the undersigned within 10 days after closure of admission.

[Signature]  
Mrs. Yasmeen  
Assistant Registrar  
(Registration)

No: - F (BG-3rd-4<sup>th</sup> Adm)Reg/KU/20/Gen-93  
Dated: - 28-08-2020

**J&K TOURISM**  
Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir**  
Tel:0194-2315378, e-mail: [dtreg123@gmail.com](mailto:dtreg123@gmail.com)

**Subject: - Grant of registration for Guest House with Restaurant under the name and style "Easton Grand" situated at Haripora Kangan District Ganderbal.**

**Public Notice**

Whereas, Mst. Nabla Begum W/o Mr. Abdul Samad Sheikh R/o Haripora District Ganderbal has approached this office for grant of registration of her building as Guest House with Restaurant under the name and style of "Easton Grand" situated at Haripora, Kangan under the provisions of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act/Rules 1978/82/2011/2012;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted Character Certificate from Police, Labour certificate, Affidavit, NOC of Divisional Forest Office, Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal, NOC of PDD/PHE, PCB Consent, State Subject, NOC of Fire and Emergency Services Department, Food Certificate, Site Plan and other related documents;

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011 before effecting registration of said unit as Guest House with restaurant, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations etc. for purpose of seeking objections, if any. The same should reach to this office within period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection/s beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and request of the applicant shall be considered for grant of registration of the above mentioned guest house with restaurant after submission of all requisite documents.

Sd/-  
Deputy Director Tourism,  
Registration

DIPK-4876/20

No.Reg/UP-89/1649/DTK  
Dated:-01.09.2020

### DIAL-EMMA



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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



### RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- 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**  
14 Muharram  
1442

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 38
ZUHR	12: 32
ASR	5:07
Magrib	7:01
ISHA	8:25

## This Day In History

- 1650 - Battle of Dunbar; Oliver Cromwell's English New Model Army defeats Scottish force in surprise attack
- 1683 - Turkish troops break through defense of Vienna
- 1725 - Britain, France, Hannover & Prussia sign Covenant of Hannover
- 1752 - Britain and the British Empire (including the American colonies) adopt the Gregorian Calendar, losing 11 days. People riot thinking the government stole 11 days of their lives
- 1777 - Flag of the United States flown in battle for the 1st time at Cooch's Bridge, Delaware, a skirmish during American Revolutionary War
- 1791 - French Revolution: The new French Constitution, declaring France a constitutional monarchy, is passed by the National Assembly
- 1798 - Battle of St. George's Caye: Week long battle begins between the Spanish Empire and Great Britain off the coast of Belize
- 1864 - Battle of Berryville, Virginia, Confederate forces retreat in face of Union strength
- 1882 - French/Vietnamese/Chinese battle at Hanoi, 100s die
- 1900 - Russian troops now control both sides of the Amur River on the Russo-Manchurian boundary
- 1917 - 1st night bombing of London by German aircraft back across Hindenburg Line
- 1919 - President Woodrow Wilson set out on a tour of the USA to rouse public opinion behind the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations
- 1924 - Civil war breaks out in China (Gen Tsi moves to Shanghai)
- 1934 - Tunisia began its move for independence
- 1939 - World War II: Britain declares war on Germany after invasion of Poland. France follows 6 hours later quickly joined by Australia, New Zealand, South Africa & Canada
- 1940 - Adolf Hitler orders an invasion of Great Britain for Sept 21 (Operation Seelöwe/Sealion)
- 1943 - British 8th Army lands in Southern Italy (Messina)
- 1944 - Canadian troops liberate Abbeville, France
- 1944 - French troops liberate Lyon
- 1944 - Prince Bernhard appointed supreme commander of Neth Domestic Arm Force
- 1944 - Tank division of British Guards free Brussels
- 1945 - World War II: Japanese forces in the Philippines surrender to the Allies
- 1971 - Qatar regains complete independence from Britain
- 1972 - Great Britain's Mary Peters sets a new world record of 4801 points to win the Munich Olympics pentathlon gold by just 10 points from Heide Rosendahl of West Germany
- 1978 - Crew of Soyuz 31 returns to Earth aboard Soyuz 29
- 1985 - 20th Space Shuttle Mission (51-I)-Discovery 6-returns to Earth
- 1995 - Soyuz TM-22, launched into orbit
- 1996 - Slowinski & Gage discovers 2'1257787-1 (34th known Mersenne prime)
- 1997 - A Vietnam Airlines Tupolev TU-134 crashes on approach into Phnom Penh airport, killing 64.

## From KO Archives

## India launching global media blitz on Kashmir

WASHINGTON: India is launching what has been described as "a global-scale media blitz" against Pakistan projecting the Indian interpretation of the 'reality' in Kashmir.

The multi-pronged campaign launched through print, electronic and cyberspace media in some 20 languages will coincide with the UN's millennium session. The idea is to embarrass Pakistan during General Musharraf's visit to New York and to help Indian PM Vajpayee plead India's case.

Full-page colour advertisements are being sought to be published in leading publications like The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Chicago Tribune, The Times (London), The Straits Times (Singapore), The Bangkok Post, The Jerusalem Post, The Japan Times, The Sunday Times (London), The International Herald Tribune, the Economist, Time, Newsweek, The Financial Times and BusinessWeek, says a report in rediff, an online newspaper. It claims that 1 funds for the campaign are being raised from Indians the world over through contributions.

However, a multi-million dollar campaign at this level cannot be launched without the support of the India government, say observers.

The campaign is likely to accelerate the ongoing India-Pakistan conflict to feverish heights, extending it to cyber warfare. The advertisements will project the theme 'jehad' for Pakistan, agony for India' and portray 'peace-loving' India's patience even in the face of increasing casualties on its side in J&K, says report.

Also in the pipeline are advertisements in French, German, Swedish, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, Finnish, Turkish, Malay, Bahasa Indonesia, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Bengali, Korean, Norwegian/Thai, Sinhalese and Arabic. The report says this will be complemented with campaigns in cyberspace via an exclusive Web site, [agonyofindia.com](http://agonyofindia.com) & e-mails.

The full-page advertisements quote the utterances of Pakistan's Chief Executive General Pervez Musharraf to prove Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir militancy.

Reportedly, The financial Times has expressed reservations about publishing the advertisement. It is claimed that leading ad agencies have been hired in New York and other major cities of the world to handle the latest campaign in multiple languages.

(Kashmir Observer, September 03, 2000)



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## Faltering fight

With daily positive cases crossing 80,000, India is on course to become the world's new Coronavirus capital. The total number of cases have already gone past 36 lakh and the number of deaths is over 60,000. At this rate of growth, India is soon going to overtake Brazil and subsequently even the US. India is already ahead of Mexico in terms of Covid-19 deaths worldwide. The virus has only just made inroads into the vast countryside after overrunning the major cities. And if it does take root in the villages, it will wreak havoc and start a second wave of infection in the country. Already, unlike Brazil and the US, India has yet to witness any reduction in the number of daily cases.

At the same time, if we compare the size of population of India with that of Brazil and the US, then the record growth of India's cases is still not a reason for alarm. India's population is almost thrice the combined population of Brazil and the US and much more densely scattered. But India can hardly afford to let the contagion spread as it can lead to skyrocketing of the number of cases. And this, in turn, can overwhelm the already depleted economy.

As per provisional estimates released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday India's Gross Domestic Product for the April-June quarter slipped by a sharp 23.9 per cent, owing to a strict nationwide lockdown due to the novel coronavirus. Last year, the GDP had expanded by 5.2 per cent in the comparable quarter.

The government can thus hardly afford to go for yet another lockdown. At the same time, it can't afford to let its guard down as far as the strict implementation of the measures to prevent the Covid-19 from spreading deeper into the society. It is a tightrope walk for the government. It has far fewer options as far as enforcing strict measures to arrest the spread of Covid-19. And it has also little fiscal space to pump more money into the economy to help resuscitate it. So, it is unlikely that the economy will get back on track anytime soon.

This means that the lakhs of jobs that have been lost will not be created in near future. For that to happen, the economy will have to kickstart again. And this, in turn, will not be possible on a sustainable basis until the vaccine is developed. This would mean probably a wait of three to six more months. Government will need to display some ingenuity to keep the number of new Covid-19 cases at a manageable level. And what's more important, ensure that the economy is not halted further.

### OTHER OPINION

## Studying dinosaurs

It could be said that we live in the age of the dinosaurs. It is, of course, 66m years since a great extinction wiped out three-quarters of the animals on Earth, including non-avian dinosaurs. The first fossil was described in scientific literature around two centuries ago, and Richard Owen coined the term dinosaur, or terrible lizard, soon afterwards. The scientific "dinosaur renaissance" of the 60s renewed public interest.

But in the last 25 years, the pace of palaeontological discoveries has accelerated to dizzying speed. Over the last five years, a new dinosaur has been identified every week on average – including, this month, a theropod from the Isle of Wight, already nicknamed Dinosaur Island thanks to the haul of treasures from its shores. Though the bulk of the new species come from China, Mongolia, Argentina and the US, the new theropod – Vectaerovenatorinopinatus, or "unexpected air-filled hunter" – demonstrates that striking finds are being made all over the world. They range from crow-sized creatures to giants more than 30 metres long.

While skeletal remains grab public attention, traces of footprints (like the 170m-year-old stegosaur tracks on the Isle of Skye that were documented this spring) and even coprolites – fossilised dinosaur dung – are shedding light on how creatures lived and interacted. New technologies are as essential as the unearthing of new specimens. Cat scanning has allowed palaeontologists to see inside skulls. The fast-evolving field of paleocolour is giving us a much better idea of how dinosaurs looked.

discoveries are intrinsically fascinating. But they are also transforming our understanding of what these creatures were. The very term dinosaur has become a slur describing someone out-of-date, irrelevant and unable to adapt. In his book The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs, the palaeontologist Prof Stephen Brusatte recalls being taught, as a child, that these were "big, scaly, stupid brutes so ill-equipped for their environment that they just lumbered around, biding their time, waiting to go extinct ... These stereotypes are absurdly wrong

The work of the last two-and-a-half decades – from the discoveries of feathered dinosaurs in China – suggests that these animals were smarter, more diverse, more interesting and important than we realised. They thrived for 150m years; modern humans are closer in time to T rex and triceratops than those creatures were to the stegosaur. They are the ancestors of animals including birds, our modern day dinosaurs. Prof Brusatte suggests we might take a humble interest in their ability to survive and adapt through dramatic climate and environmental change.

They seem, perhaps, especially appealing now. The pandemic has left us in what feels like an endless present; our lives feel suddenly smaller. Dinosaur discoveries are an inspiring glimpse of the broadest temporal horizons, allowing us to contemplate the rich, complex and ever-changing nature of life on Earth.

Guardian

Women in Kashmir are given a certificate of excellence if they exercise this and only this aspect of their religion. Women who struggle with it are hardly given a benefit of doubt. They're ousted from the sacred circles of self-styled citizens of heaven

Tooba Towfiq

# Being a Muslim woman in Kashmir

In the Valley, womanhood is still attached to ideals that uphold a patriarchal order

It is a truth universally acknowledged that domesticity is hardly a marker of a woman's identity in today's world. But one mustn't dare to use obsolete hierarchical binaries between a womanhood that is restricted to the private sphere and dismiss it in favour of the public one. This is especially true for women in Kashmir, who tread the thread between the two very precariously albeit with grace.

Many discussions, especially local, often use the word "conservative" to describe Kashmiri society. It is bold of us to use this world to chastise ourselves. Not that there isn't any truth to it but in a world where the west exercises hegemony to delineate what is progressive and what is not; we run the risk of stereotyping our own ways of life. This is especially true of us in the age of global islamophobia.

However, in a bid to protect our authentic ways of being, we must not legitimise problems within our communities and shy away from reform. In Kashmir, womanhood is still attached to ideals that uphold a patriarchal order. This impulse is sustained through a problematic use of religion and through an insistence on traditional values that do not pass the test of rights.

Our ideas about women are still deeply problematic. We tend to put women on a pedestal when asked about the "status of women" in our society. This is far removed from how the same society views women. They're defined in a sense that they cannot define themselves. Our society has labels that still adhere to castigating women who do not fit its model of an ideal womanhood. How then can we claim to have "let" our women exercise agency?

As muslim women, modesty is an integral part of our belief systems. However, this ideal has also been used to shame women who do not adhere to it or do not adhere to someone else's definition of it. In the context of religion, women in Kashmir are given a certificate of excellence if they exercise this and only this aspect of their religion. Women who struggle with it are hardly given a benefit of doubt. They're ousted from the sacred circles of self-styled citizens of heaven; increasing their sense of alienation.

However, it is an absolute need of the hour for us to regurgitate and reassess our ideas. This is not because one has to do away with one's religious beliefs but because there's a need to have an unproblematic understanding of it. For instance, our ideas of religion are largely tainted by biases that are not islamic but south asian. Islam was chided by the Arabs when it was brought to them by our beloved



Prophet because they thought it was too "progressive". Shift the scene to our social milieu and you'd find this impulse missing. This isn't because non-muslim models of womanhood are better but because our understanding of religion has been a casualty of traditions that it had set out to correct.

Womanhood as defined by Islam needs no amendments. Infact, it is us who need to have the critical awareness to avoid maligning religious principles to oppress someone. It is only with a clear, just and unproblematic knowledge of religion that we can truly preserve our ways of being and our belief systems.

Muslim scholars in the west have already started teaching religion through the prism of social justice as they observed that in a world which offers desirable alternatives which seem better off in their commitment to rights; religion ran the risk of being abandoned.

In Kashmir, given the political situation, the need to reach out with the right understanding of religion is direr. In the presence of narratives that justify violence against people; we cannot afford to be callous with an understanding or an articulation of our beliefs. In simple words, we cannot afford to mess up. This is most true in the case of our perceptions about women and their roles.

Historically, upper class western feminist movements have been criticised for their part to play in propagating racism and rationalising colonialism. This was because they held the power to define acceptable models of womanhood that were not intersectional. In India, this has been the case with upper caste feminists who are also defining "ideal" and "progressive" models of womanhood and demonising others like Dalits, tribals and muslims. In the existence of discourses that delegitimise and colonise, we do not have the liberty to make mistakes.

However, as Kashmiris, we do not have a reason to despair as well. Women in Kashmir have always

been stakeholders in the cause of our economic, political and social progress. Working women are not an unusual scene here and it has never been that way. Here, women exercise their agency in both public and private spheres.

Hijab clad women are not indoctrinated as the progressive liberals would have us believe.

Muslim women in Kashmir cannot be characterised into categories that are borrowed from other South Asian cultures. For instance, the use of the word "pardah" and "ghoonghat" are used interchangeably by progressive liberal groups to criticize these practices. This is done without historicising the merits of such criticism. Pardha and hijab have evolved in meaning in the 21st Century. Even as they must remain in essence, a submission to God; they are now a challenge to the onslaught of hypersexualising commodity culture and western modernity as well.

Ideas of progress, liberation and freedom are being redefined by muslimworldover and Kashmiri women occupy the frontlines by example. Those of us who identify as muslims are reasserting our rights to practice our beliefs without being shamed for them. We're also subverting the hierarchies that place some women over others. More and more, we're also recognising that a woman's role in the domestic sphere is as appreciable as her role in the public working sphere and vice versa. We're also pushing back the forces within our cultures that try to dictate us.

As a society, we must now encourage forces of reform and justice that are already playing out in our everyday lives. It is also required that we understand problems of women in Kashmir while being sensitive to a matrix of their identities. This implies the need to be sensitive to differences of region, religion, sexuality, class and caste. There's a vacuum that can only be filled with collaboration and not confrontation.



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## Online classes: A challenge and an opportunity

The Government has instructed all schools to conduct online classes. During these sessions, the teachers are connecting with the students remotely and giving lectures and providing study material by using technological aids like Microsoft Teams, Zoom app, YouTube tutorials and WhatsApp broadcasts.

The online classes had started in the first week of April 2020. These virtual classes are being held structurally by following a proper time table which is presided by the school administration.

I want to share the experience of online classes as the concept is new for students living in J&K. In particular to those areas that still don't have internet access.

### Poor Connectivity and Resource Crunch

First and foremost difficulty in online classes is that not every student has got a mobile phone or a tab or in other words they simply cannot afford such education.

Second the Internet connectivity here is not such that the desired objectives are achieved in time. It costs a day on 2G where it would cost only an hour on 4G.

The internet in J&K is the most

vulnerable. As per the recent study, the majority of internet shutdowns come from the erstwhile state of J&K. This is the biggest problem as of now students have to face. As the internet remains suspended for security issues or any other reasons for days to weeks to months to sometimes even for a year. Given the situation it is hard to cope up with the same. For some students, the convenience of online courses can encourage poor study habits. Without a set class schedule, as students would have in a traditional course, the temptation to procrastinate may be stronger. With no in-person interactions with the instructor or with fellow students, it can be easy to forget assignments and deadlines unless the student keeps organized. Online courses often require just as much work as traditional college classes, so putting off coursework can leave students struggling when important deadlines approach. This really results in mental harassment to a student.

Online classes are a nightmare for primary students as well. It is the worst experience for them. The lack of in person face-to-face interaction has affected the proper understanding of facts for them. They sometimes don't even know what they are writing, yet

they are compelled to do so in order to complete the syllabus and the burden their teachers face.

### Challenge for teachers

Online classes are not less than a challenge for the teachers itself. As it is not an easy job to compile the material and prepare hours long video lectures and then post them without proper internet speed. Often they have to go through disruptions due to some technical issues like application malfunction, slow internet or no internet at all. The applications or software that are being used by teachers to deliver online classes are not fully safe. Even the administration itself has to provide guidelines for safe usage of some apps that caused privacy issues during their usage. This adds to the problems that every teacher experienced and they ultimately have to look for some other alternatives.

### Are kids actually learning through this mode?

For children to really get benefited by these classes' concentration and parental support is essential. Online teaching is an arduous task. We need to appreciate a teacher's role as well. They are trying their best to make children understand but then there are pros and cons of everything. To

shift learning from offline to online mode wasn't an overnight task. Our valley has been under 2 consecutive lockdowns, the education sector has suffered the most. But luckily this time internet services are working. Our children have been out of schools for about 400 days so they are already lagging behind. For them to cope up with other states our valley schools also introduced online classes. We need to consider both pro's and con's of online education. Firstly, something is better than nothing. A parent can't afford to risk his child's life by allowing him to join offline classes. So in that case it's better a child learns something at home. It's easily accessible. They remain in touch with their syllabus and don't lose their 'student' identity. They still have a routine they need to follow and be available for their online classes and response to the asked queries. But there are still many parents who don't have smart phones for their children and can't afford it either. Their children are not able to grab this opportunity of learning online in this pandemic. They lag behind further, these are mostly children from backgrounds who anyway need a head-start because of lack of resources.

Shahid Bhat and Hudaiba Jeelani



# The Temptation of Disbelief

*“The greatest question of our time is not communism versus individualism; not Europe versus America; not even the East versus West. It is whether men can live without God.”*

Will Durant

Our evening tete-a-tete turned into a solemn conversation-when a friend remarked,“I am waiting for someone to return from his grave and set me free”; in response to my question – “Are you sure there is no God?”

The terse conversation makes manifest the ambivalence and the curiosity of humans befuddledwith the question of God. Is there some supernatural intelligent design at work or are we left in lurch in a godless pit? Perhaps, the thought of the supernatural and its denunciation is as old as thought itself. But historians of ideas trace the origins of disbelief from the 6th century BC Ionian or Milesian-philosophers likeThales, Anaximander and Anaximenesof Miletus – one of the Ancient Greek colonies on the coast of Asia Minor. They are called physical philosophers as they rejected everything else which was beyond the natural and tangible confines of this universe. Their ideas led them to ask some of the big questions that confront human mind, like the ultimate origin of this world and two centuries down the time’s lane their ideas ended up in the atomistic theories of Leucippus and Democritus. These Milesian philosophers’ iconoclastic worldview was in sharp contradiction to the traditional mythological writers like Homer. They are believed to be the first to have rejected the mythological explanations and instead put their weight behind the naturalistic worldview. If earlier, the workings of this world were explained by the nitty-gritties of mythology, the Ionian philosophers believed that the world wasa self-sufficient system working in accordance with the laws intelligible enough for the human mind. No longer was the unrequited love the undoing of Aphrodite, no longer did a man act reckless because Athene willed it, and no longer did Zeus take away anyone’s wits. Many centuries later, this naturalistic view would echo in the words of Richard Dawkins, in his book - The God Delusion, where he describes an atheist as someone who “believes there is nothing beyond the natural, physical world”.

This pre-Socratic period could be said to have commenced the scientific outlook, though not in the current experimental sense. However, this radical turn of thought did not replace mythology by science only, rather it was replaced with a rational explanation in general. For instance,Herodotus’ History is populated with mythology so that the gaps are plugged while Thucydides wrote perceptible history dotted with facts or in Bernard Williams’ words, the history of Thucydides aimed at “telling the truth” plainly. So, we could argue that what supersedes myth is rationality. So that there is only room for reason, evidence and opinions which are wide open to rational scrutiny. Therefore, the naturalism of Milesian philosophers stems from rationalism which in turn is the fundamental basis of Atheism.

Through the Islamic Lens  
The Islamic word for Atheism is Il-haad, which literally means “deviation”. The word Ilhaad is derived from an Arabic root word lahad, which is used to describe the grave where a trench is dug straight into the ground and then a side pocket is carved for the deceased. The side pocket marks a deviation from the main trench. So, in this sense Atheism is considered a deviation from the natural or straight path. From the Islamic perspective, Atheism could be said to have emerged from the 8thcentury Dahriyy-



National Geographic, September 1999, Kashmir: Trapped in Conflict

amovement, who were empiricist thinkers believing that only through empirical means could knowledge be acquired. They reasoned that everything in this universe always existed as it is, hence there is no need for the inclusion of a creator. Faraj al-Isfahani in his book Kitab al-Afghani mentions Abu Hanifa, the famous Islamic jurist and the founder of one of the Islamic schools of thought, who debated many Dahriya in the 8th century and intellectually confronted their claims. There were many other Islamic scholars like Al-Ghazali, Ibn al-Jawzi, Muhammad Shabab, Abu Isa al-Warraq, IbnQutaybaetc, who responded to the Dahriyya claims of disbelief. In his book – KimiyaiSa’adat (The Alchemyof Happiness), Al-Ghazali has described Dahriyya as reductionists bereft of any holistic understanding of the universe and its purpose. He compares them with ants on a piece of paper that cannot lift their eyes from the ink and thus fail to see the writer who holds the pen.

Beginning of Avowed Atheism  
Historians agree that the first use of the term Atheism could be traced down to the Greek scholar John Cheke in his translation of Plutarch’s – On Superstition. However, many historians are of the opinion that the avowedatheism did not emerge up until late in the 18th century. David Berman, in his book - A History of Atheism in Britain, writes that the first avowedly atheist work is Baron d’Holbach’sThe System of Nature published in 1770 and first such writing - Dr. Priestley’s Letter to a Philosophical Unbeliever was published in Britain in 1782, the authorship of which is still disputed. James Thrower in his book Western Atheism – A short History also unambiguously states that while some works of Democritus and Lucretius are atheistic, D’Holbach was the ‘first unequivocally professed atheist in the Western Tradition’. Hamza Andreas Tzortzis has mentioned the 17th century Polish thinker KazimierzLyszczyńskias having denied the existence of God in his De non existential deiwherein he writes that God is a creation of man and that humans created the concept of God to oppress others. Similarly, in 1674, Matthias Knutzen produced such atheistic writings and in 1700s Atheism saw the emergence of the intellectual promulgation in the likes of David Hume and Voltaire. Voltaire claimed deism accepting the existence of a creator while rejecting the revelation or word of God. For Hume, the idea of an omnipotent God was incomprehensible given all the suffering and evil in this world. The question of suffering and evil has led many generations of thinkers to ponder and question the existence of God. Professor Bernard Schweizer, after scrutinizing a number of literary works of many prominent writers like Zora Neale Hurston, Peter Shaffer, Philip Pullman, Elie Wiesel, Charles Swinburn,

Rebecca West et al, comes to a conclusion that there is one common thread running throughout these profound works – that all of them seem to be struggling with the idea of a merciful god in a world full of suffering. He says that the Misotheist (one who hates God) is psychologically troubled and it is ‘quite true that the psychologically, emotionally, and physically wounded are most likely to turn away from God’. Another avowed proponent of atheism was the 19th century member of British parliament – Charles Bradlaugh who fought for atheism to be acceptable for society. In his essay – Humanity’s Gain from Unbelief he defends atheism and charges society of bearing prejudices against atheists and those who are falsely suspected of atheism.

The Four Horsemen  
The currents of atheism were flowing subtly underneath without too many people heeding to the rhetoric of its proponents. And suddenly 9/11 happened and the fear and anger it created culminated in the prolonged War on Terroroccupying the US and its allies in a protracted war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most importantly, it provided a renewed impetus to the emergence of a political manifestation of atheism. To describe this new brand of atheism, Gary Wolf, in 2006, while writing a column for Wired, a British magazine, hit on a catchy slogan - New Atheism. Its protagonists were a group of three men who had attracted tremendous media attraction with their bestsellers. Sam Harris with his book The End of Faith (2004), Richard Dawkins with The God Delusion (2006), and Daniel Dennett with Breaking the Spell (2006).And in 2007, the movement secured a new hero when Christopher Hitchenspublished his book God is Not Great. All these books are first and foremost fueled with raging anger against religion and very much sustained by the events of 9/11.

“The New Atheist will not let us off the hook simply because we are not doctrinaire believers. They condemn not just belief in God but respect for belief in God. Religion is not only wrong; it’s evil.” wrote Garry Wolf.

And precisely four days after the 9/11 attack, Dawkins wrote an article in The Guardian in which he mounts a scathing criticism on Religion writing:

“To fill a world with religion, or religions of the Abrahamic kind, is like littering the streets with loaded guns. Do not be surprised if they are used.”

It is certainly true that the Four Horsemen, named in reference to the biblical image of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (Revelation 6.1-8), seen as a portent of the end times, sufficiently capitalized on the events of 9/11 and suddenly everyone was talking about religion and their writings gained a new relevance. God was thought to be vanishing from this world, never to come back

from eternity.The Economist, in their millennium issue, had even wrote an obituary of God. But soon afterwardsfelt a genuine need for a volte-face in their 2007 issue – In God’s Name, writing that The Economist was “so confident of the Almighty’s demise that we published His obituary in our millennium issue’. This is reminiscentof the moment when Time magazine, in their 1980 issue, announced God’s comeback by writing:

“God? Wasn’t he chased out of heaven by Marx, banished to the unconscious by Freud, and announced by Nietzsche to be deceased? Did not Darwin drive him out of the empirical world? Well, not entirely. In a quiet revolution in thought and argument that hardly anyone could have foreseen only two decades ago, God is making a comeback.”

Temptation of disbelief in Kashmir  
While writing about any kind of dissociation from religion in the valley, it’s important to note that there is a lack of comprehensive survey in this domain. Also, given the conservative religious society, there is almost no history of avowed atheism. Therefore, the writer has sought responses from different people with different backgrounds and varied beliefs to see where Kashmir stands on the issue of disbelief.

Mohd Yusuf, a self-professed atheist, after completing his masters in Urdu, gained a keen interest in religious philosophy and he started reading from an eclectic trove of writings. It has been twenty years now, since he and his small circle of friendsstarted sifting through the esoteric works of philosophy. He says that over a period of 10 years they met the highly educated people in universities and colleges, doctors and other professionals and found that out of these 20 to 25 percent were those who openly dissociated themselves from any religion. His further opines that about 10-15 percent of overall population in the valley might be irreligious and it could be more as most-people fear to express their disbelief. The reason, he states, is the highly orthodox-society and the intolerant clerics who issue fatwas on the slightest of suspicion.

Assistant Professor of comparative religion at the Central University of Kashmir, Dr. Nazir Ahmad Zargar, is of different opinion. He wrote in response to me:

“I think atheism is newly born in Kashmir as a fruit of modern western education. Religious contradictions caused by pseudo street preachers, plethora of baseless opinions, posts, lectures on social media, unreal tussle between religion and reason, random reading, moral degradation, being religious meaning backward, and above all materialistic education system and jumping to conclusions without knowledge, are some of the reasons for getting astray”

Saqib Ahmad, who did his masters in Philosophy from Aligarh University, commented thataccording to his own experience, atheism or skepticism is a growing trend among young generation who have uncensored access to the internet. SajadAhmad, assistant Professor of Mathematics and an autodidact in philosophy of religion, is also of the opinion that many young people, especially in humanities discipline, are getting liberalized with an unconventional outlook towards religion.

These are all free conjectures drawn from personal experiences of some curious persons. However, the exact figure is unknown for want of a substantial survey. Whatever the cause, belief and disbelief would play simultaneously till eternity. As Christopher Hitchens himself acknowledged in his book, though ruefully, that religion is “ineradicable”.

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## To Move Forward In Life, Learn To Give Back

Shilpa Bhasin Mehra

In social psychology, reciprocity is a social rule that says people ought to repay, in kind, what another person has provided for them; that is, people give back (reciprocate) the kind of treatment they have received from another. By virtue of the rule of reciprocity, people are obligated to repay favours, gifts, invitations, etc. in the future. If someone receives a gift for their birthday, a reciprocal expectation may influence them to do the same on the gift-giver’s birthday. This sense of future obligation associated with reciprocity makes it possible to build continuing relationships and exchanges. Reciprocal actions of this nature are important to social psychology as they can help explain the maintenance of social norms.

### The importance of reciprocal relationships

While most of us would agree on the importance of reciprocal relationships, we don’t consciously think about this idea of reciprocity when it comes to friendships and long-term relationships. Reciprocity is a mutual exchange of actions, goods, energy, time, emotion, etc. between two people. Reciprocity is similar to a game of tennis or ping pong. There’s a rhythm or a flow of a back and forth exchange. When someone reciprocates our efforts, it can leave us feeling validated in our choices and friendship, energised to keep going in this friendship or relationship and give more, and leaves us with this overall sense that we are valued and appreciated. Meaningful friendships and relationships require investment, and reciprocity can be the gauge of whether or not the investment is worth it. Reciprocity cannot be mea-

sured in all relationships, for example a parent/child relationship. There is nothing reciprocal about being a parent. You love your child unconditionally often expecting and receiving nothing in return. Assessing reciprocity is not about ‘tit for tat’, it is about taking an honest look at the dynamics in your relationships and assessing the investment on each side.

Your time is valuable, and so is what you bring to your relationships. It’s okay to be selective in how and who you spend your time with. Who is worth your time? Who is worth investing in? Not every relationship will be worth it, and not every relationship is meant to last forever. Certain relationships are meant to fill a specific purpose and time in your life.

We all need people in our life who contribute to our growth in some way. Whether it’s simply by being support in a time of need, or someone who chal-

lenges us to expand our way of thinking, regardless of what it is, it’s important and healthy to have people around you that help you thrive and grow. When we allow people in who do not add to our life in any way, or simply take without giving back, we are susceptible to stagnation, burnout, or even a poor sense of self. To really take inventory of the quality of your relationships with the goal of eliminating any non-reciprocal or toxic relations, means we value ourselves enough to believe we deserve better, we deserve to be treated the way we treat others.

Reciprocity is a central concept in much of international relations, particularly international law. The idea that states should respond to one another in kind is deeply ingrained in how we think about international politics, on topics from the use of force to trade liberalisation. Empirical work has shown broad patterns of reciprocity in state

interactions. Agreements to cooperate are generally believed to be enforced by threats of reciprocal retaliation against defections from the agreement. International institutions, including international law, are believed to aid in reciprocal enforcement in a variety of ways.

In a wider sense, for years we have used, misused, abused and exploited our natural resources. And now that we are seeing the hazards of it, be it in the form of global warming or deforestation, there is an urgency to make things right. There is a panic to undo the harm we have caused. We have to reciprocate for all of nature’s bounty bestowed on us for centuries. That is the law of nature. Nothing is meant to be a one way street. So well said by Oprah Winfrey- Life is a reciprocal exchange. To move forward, you have to give back.

Khaleej Times







## Mike Pompeo Hopeful China's Confucius Institutes In US Shut By Year-End

Agencies

Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday he was hopeful that Chinese Confucius Institute cultural centers on US university campuses would all be shut down by the end of the year.

"I think everyone's coming to



see the risk associated with them," Pompeo told Lou Dobbs on the Fox Business Network, accusing the Chinese-government funded institutes of working to recruit "spies and collaborators" at US colleges.

"I think these institutions can see that, and I'm hopeful we will get them all closed out before the end of this year."

Last month, Pompeo labeled the center that manages the Confucius Institutes in the United States "an entity advancing Beijing's global propaganda and malign influence" and required it to register as a foreign mission.

David Stilwell, the top US diplomat for East Asia, said at the time that the dozens of Confucius Institutes on US campuses were not being kicked out, but US universities should take a "hard look" at what they were doing on campus.

Pompeo was asked about a warning last month by the Chinese government's top diplomat, Wang Yi, about the need to avoid a new Cold War, an apparent reference to escalating tensions between China and the United States.

Pompeo said "the Cold War analogy has some relevance," but the challenges with China were different.

"This is different from the Cold War in that we are challenged by a country with 1.4 billion people," he said.

"The challenges are different, they are economic challenges."

Pompeo referred to actions the Trump administration has taken to restrict the activities of Chinese firms like Huawei Technologies Co and said further moves could be expected.

"And now you'll see a broader effort, they'll be announcements, I think, in the coming days and weeks we will see the United States confront this in a very serious way, all for the benefit of the American economy," he said.

## PIA sacks 74 more employees for fake degrees and other malpractices



Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has sacked 74 more employees for having fake degrees, engaging in drug smuggling and for poor performance, according to a media report.

Of the 74 employees sacked by the national carrier last month, 27 were dismissed for fake degrees, 31 for unauthorised measures, six for not following rules, four for damaging property, one for involvement in drug trafficking and three for stealing government records, PIA officials told the Express Tribune newspaper. Another two employees were removed for 'illegal activities'.

Apart from the sacked personnel, four employees were demoted, and 11 others were

penalised for various disciplinary issues, the report said.

Now, the number of employees sacked in the airline in the last three months stands at 177, according to the report.

The PIA has taken up a so-called 'cleaning up' exercise of its staff following Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan's probe report into the May 22 Karachi plane crash.

The domestic flight from Lahore to Karachi crashed in a residential area near the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi.

The aviation minister's probe report blamed the pilots and the air traffic control for the tragedy that killed 97 people. The report called for wholesale changes in the operations of the airline. PTI

**Of the 74 employees sacked by the national carrier last month, 27 were dismissed for fake degrees, 31 for unauthorised measures, six for not following rules, four for damaging property, one for involvement in drug trafficking and three for stealing government records, PIA officials told the Express Tribune newspaper**



## Saudi Arabia Opens Airspace to Israeli Flights for First Time

Agencies

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia announced Wednesday that it would allow any flights going to and from the United Arab Emirates to fly over its territory, a move that would give Israel access to some of the kingdom's airspace for the first time.

The announcement, made at the request of the United Arab Emirates, came days after the first direct flight from Israel to the emirates — a symbolic move as the two nations begin normalizing relations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, in a video statement delivered while standing in front of a map of the region, called the announcement a "tremendous breakthrough."

"Flights will be cheaper and shorter, and it will lead to robust tourism and develop our economy," Mr. Netanyahu said, while tracing the route between Tel Aviv and Abu Dhabi with his finger on the map. He also said the route

would allow Israelis to save time and money when traveling east to Asia.

"These are the benefits of a peace that is genuine," he said.

The flight from Tel Aviv to Abu Dhabi on Monday passed through Saudi airspace, the first time the kingdom had explicitly allowed an Israeli commercial jet to pass over its territory. Air India had earlier received approval to fly directly to Israel, and in 2018 established a direct route from New Delhi to Tel Aviv that passed over the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia's decision to officially allow flights to and from Israel from the United Arab Emirates makes the route more commercially viable, cutting a nearly seven-hour journey in half.

Monday's flight was the latest sign of growing diplomatic and commercial ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates that some hope will lead to similar moves in other Arab nations that have long refused to recognize the Jewish state. A landmark

agreement came after six weeks of indirect talks between Israel and the emirates, with Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, playing a central role.

The two nations announced the accord last month after decades of stalemate. The United Arab Emirates is only the third Arab nation to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. Egypt signed a peace agreement with the country in 1979, and Jordan signed a treaty in 1994.

Mr. Netanyahu thanked Mr. Kushner and Mohammed bin Zayed, the crown prince of the emirate of Abu Dhabi, for the "important contribution" toward opening up the airspace, adding that there would "be a great deal more good news to come."

The Saudi announcement in the country's official press agency refers to allowing "all flights" to pass through its airspace, but makes no direct reference to Iran or Qatar, two nations currently banned from flying over the kingdom.

## Israel-UAE spy base on Socotra targets Iran, China, Pakistan

Agencies

ANKARA: The creation of an Israeli-Emirati intelligence-gathering base in the Yemeni island of Socotra aims at monitoring Iran, China and Pakistan, according to political and strategic experts.

JForum, the official site of the French-speaking Jewish community in Paris, revealed earlier that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel are working to establish a spy base in Socotra.

"This Israeli-Emirati spy base aims at monitoring the Iranian activities in the Gulf of Aden and curbing Tehran's relationship with Houthi rebels," Ibrahim Fraihat, a professor of international conflict resolution at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, told Anadolu Agency.

Socotra overlooks the strategic Bab al-Mandab Strait, a main shipping route that connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea.

The UAE has deployed hundreds of troops on the strategic island since May 2018, leading to a rift with the Yemeni government, which rejects the deployment.

"The creation of this base is an additional indicator that the Emirati-Israeli deal was meant for forging a solid alliance between the two countries, not just normalizing relations," Fraihat said.

On Aug. 13, the UAE and Israel announced a US-brokered agreement to normalize their relations, including opening embassies in each other's territory.

The Palestinian Authority and resistance factions have denounced the UAE-Israeli deal, saying it does not serve the Palestinian cause and ignores the rights of Palestinians.

Fraihat believes that the Israeli-Emirati spy base will also help keep China's economic activities under scanner.

"This base can provide

critical security services to the US regarding the Chinese economic activity, especially its trade with Europe," he said, citing US President Donald Trump's tense relationship with Beijing.

"Trump is engaged in a trade war with China and needs to monitor the Chinese commercial activities," he added.

**Iran already surrounded**

Sayed Mohammad Marandi, a political analyst and professor at Tehran University, said Iran is already surrounded by many US military bases in the region.

"Israel has no capability to attack Iran even if they have a joint military base with UAE in Yemen," he told Anadolu Agency.

Marandi argues that the Iranians are happy to see that bilateral relations between the UAE and Israel have become public after years of "secret cooperation".

## Macron Refuses to Condemn Charlie Hebdo Insulting Cartoons

Agencies

Beirut: Macron, speaking during a visit to Lebanon, said it was important for French citizens to be respectful to each other, and avoid a "dialogue of hate" but he would not criti-

as Charlie Hebdo, the target of a massacre by gunmen in 2015, said Tuesday it was republishing the controversial cartoons of the Holy Prophet to mark this week's start of the trial of alleged accomplices in the attack.



cize the satirical magazine's decision to republish the cartoon. His comments were reported on French broadcaster BFM TV.

Macron's remarks came

"Beyond the trial that will begin tomorrow, and I don't have to express myself on this point as president, we will have a thought for all those who fell," Macron said, DW reported.

## US study to track impact of COVID-19 among pregnant women in India, 6 other countries

Press Trust Of India

Washington: A top American scientific body has launched study to track the prevalence and impact of COVID-19 in-

er National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

At delivery, women enrolled in the study will receive



fection among approximately 16,000 pregnant women in seven countries, including India.

The study will follow women through pregnancy and 12 months after childbirth to compare maternal, fetal and newborn outcomes of participants who have been infected with the virus to those of pregnant women who have not been infected, the National Institute of Health (NIH) said, announcing the launch of the study on Tuesday.

The participating countries are India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Guatemala, it said.

The study will be conducted by the Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research, a group of clinical sites funded by the NIH's Eunice Kennedy Shriv-

er antibody test to determine if they have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, the NIH said in a statement.

Researchers hope to determine if infection increases the risk of complications such as preterm birth, fetal growth restriction, stillbirth, newborn death and birth defects.

They also hope to assess participants' knowledge and attitudes of COVID-19 during pregnancy, including safety, protective practices and prenatal care.

Women in the study will also be invited to participate in a follow-up analysis to determine if maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection influences infant outcomes such as cerebral palsy, developmental delays and hearing and vision abnormalities, the NIH said. PTI

N E W S M A K E R S

## Japan Carries Out First Successful Test Flight Of "Flying Car"

**T**okyo: It might seem like a flight of fancy, but a Japanese firm says it is one step closer to making flying cars a reality after testing a drone-like prototype.

Video from engineering company SkyDrive shows its manned compact vehicle using eight propellers to hover into the air and make its way — with a few wobbles — around a test field.

But while the clip may excite fans of "Blade Runner" and "Back to the Future", the test run leaves mankind far from a future of airborne vehicles whizzing into the sky to avoid traffic.

The company hailed "the first public demonstration of a flying car in Japan" and said the aircraft, around the size of two parked cars, had circled the testing field for four minutes.

"We want to realise a society



where flying cars are an accessible and convenient means of transportation in the skies," SkyDrive CEO Tomohiro Fukuzawa said in a statement Friday.

The firm said it wanted the vehicle to be available to buy in Japan by 2023, with reports suggesting it could cost upwards of \$300,000.

The car is not the first step humans have taken towards a brave

new world of airborne vehicles.

A German company tested a flying taxi in Singapore in October, saying it hoped its invention — also shaped like a big drone — would revolutionise travel in traffic-choked cities.

Volocopter had already tested its battery-operated, two-seater taxi elsewhere around the globe but the Singapore trial was the first in the heart of a city.

## New book 'Melania and Me' feeds speculations about First Lady

**A** new book released Tuesday dishes on the supposed icy relationship between Melania Trump and her stepdaughter Ivanka, fuel for gossips eager to speculate about first family rivalries.

Author Stephanie Winston Wolkoff says she was once a friend of the president's third wife, also acting as an advisor until 2018 when she fell out of favour after reporting revealed colossal spending on Donald Trump's inauguration, which she played a key role in organizing.

Anecdotes fill the 351-page book "Melania and Me: The Rise and Fall of My Friendship With the First Lady," purporting to lift the veil off the ex-model of Slovenian origin.

Often portrayed as enigmatic, Melania's pouty pursed lips are dissected on social media and at one point the slogan #FreeMelania painted her as the victim of a difficult husband.



Winston Wolkoff, a former Vogue events organizer, describes a much more aggressive figure, notably detailing how she and Melania choreographed every minute detail of the inauguration — and prevented Ivanka from appearing in key photos of the ceremony.

The 50-year-old first lady allegedly nicknamed her 38-year-old daughter-in-law "princess," calling her and her husband Jared Kushner "snakes."

## Head Of Khmer Rouge Torture Prison Dies Aged 77

**P**hnom Penh, Cambodia: The former chief interrogator and top torturer for Cambodia's genocidal Khmer Rouge regime died early Wednesday in hospital in Phnom Penh. He was 77.

Kaing Guek Eav, better known by his alias Duch, had served as the head of the infamous Tuol Sleng prison and was later convicted of crimes against humanity by a UN-backed war crimes tribunal for his role in the "Killing Fields" regime.

A spokesman for the tribunal, Neth Pheaktra, said Duch, who had been hospitalised since Monday, died shortly after midnight. He had been in and out of the hospital for years, and had "a serious lung problem", a source said.

Born in 1942, the former mathematics teacher became the Khmer Rouge's top torturer when the ultra-Maoist regime was in power from 1975-1979.



## Metro Services To Resume From Sept 7, Normal Operations From Sept 12: Puri

**NEW DELHI:** Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday said Metro services will resume in a graded manner from September 7 across the country and passengers will have to follow preventive measures against COVID-19 such as maintaining social distancing and wearing face mask.



Addressing an online media briefing, the Union housing and urban affairs minister said all Metro lines will become operational by September 12.

He said Metro stations in COVID-19 containment zones will, however, remain closed when services resume from September 7.

According to the ministry, Metro trains will not stop at

stations where passengers are found not maintaining social distancing.

Puri said wearing face mask will be mandatory during travel on Metro trains and added that masks will be provided to passengers on payment basis at stations.

Metro services were suspended in late March when the government announced a nationwide lockdown to check the spread of the novel coronavirus.

In the national capital, Metro services have been suspended since March 22.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) chief Mangu Singh said the Yellow Line from Samaypur Badli to Huda City Centre will be operational from September 7 and services on Airport Express Line will resume from September 12.

He said in the first stage, Delhi Metro services will operate in two shifts – 7-11 am and 4-8 pm.

In the second stage, trains will be available from 7 am to 1 pm and from 4 pm to 10 pm, he said, adding that normal operations will resume from September 12. — PTI

## Court Stay On Netflix's 'Bad Boy Billionaires' Over Satyam Founder Plea



**HYDERABAD:** A local civil court has issued an interim stay restraining Netflix from airing its web series "Bad Boy Billionaires-India" on a petition filed by B Ramalinga Raju who was convicted in the multi-crore accounting scandal of Satyam Computer Services Limited.

The XXV Additional Chief Judge B Prathima, while issuing notices to Netflix Inc in USA, Netflix Entertainment Services India LLP and Nodal Officer, Department of Electronics and Information Technology, posted the matter for further hearing on November 18 when the plea came up yesterday.

The web series, scheduled for release in India on Wednesday, is promoted by Netflix as an "investigative docuseries" that "explores the greed, fraud and corruption that built up - and ultimately brought down - India's most infamous tycoons."

Ramalinga Raju alleged that the so-called investigative Docuseries will infringe his rights of fair trial and privacy besides defaming and tarnishing his image across nations.

The petitioner requested the court to declare the proposed move to release the docuseries and action in releasing its trailer as amounting to defamation and conducting of media trial

pending the adjudication of case against him in the competent Courts of Law.

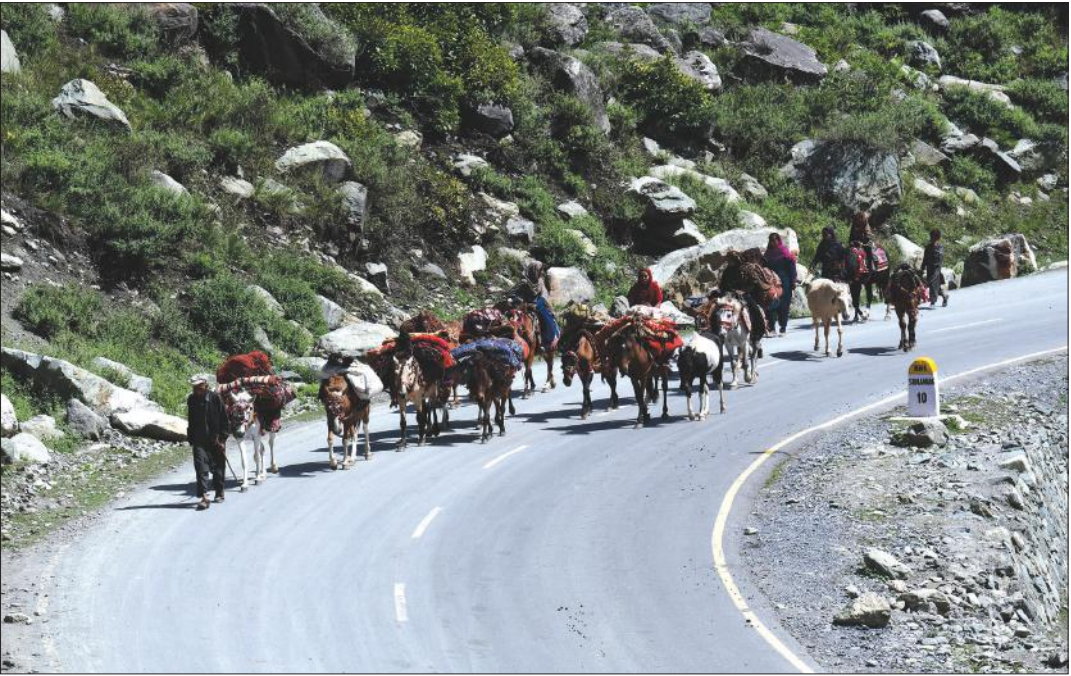
In April 2015, the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court (ACMM) here had awarded seven-year rigorous imprisonment to Satyam Computers founder B Ramalinga Raju and nine others in the over 7,000-crore accounting fraud in the erstwhile IT firm which came to light in 2009.

The ACMM court, which tried the Satyam case probed by CBI, had sentenced Mr Raju and others to rigorous imprisonment for criminal conspiracy and cheating among other offences.

In May 2015, a metropolitan sessions court here granted bail to Ramalinga Raju and nine others and suspended their seven-year rigorous imprisonment sentence after they filed appeals.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Wednesday refused to entertain a plea filed by Netflix against a Bihar lower court order restraining it from using the name of businessman Subrata Roy in its upcoming web series.

On August 28, the Delhi High Court had dismissed a plea by Mehul Choksi, an accused in the nearly USD 2 billion PNB scam, to conduct pre-screening of Bad Boy Billionaires".



**KASHMIRI NOMADS** have begun their seasonal migration towards warmer pastures to escape harsh winters of mountains. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## 'Will Trade Nikes For Chicken': Millions Stripped Of Jobs Barter Possessions For Food

**MANILA:** Struggling to make ends meet, Lorraine Imperio swapped a pair of Nike slip-on shoes for a whole dressed chicken on an online bartering site, one of dozens that have sprouted up during the Philippines' virus lockdowns.

With millions stripped of their jobs and many forced to stay home to slow the coronavirus spread, Filipinos have flocked to Facebook groups to exchange their possessions, including kitchen appliances, children's toys and designer handbags—mostly for food.

"It's so difficult nowadays. You don't know where you'll get the money to settle the bills for groceries," said Imperio, a mother of two whose husband works part-time at a doughnut shop in Manila.

His hours have been slashed because of the pandemic and he now only earns about 9,000 pesos (\$185) a month, half of which is used to pay the rent for the family's apartment.

Online bartering groups have provided a lifeline to the Imperios and other Filipinos hit hard by the country's months-long virus restrictions that started in March and have sent the economy plunging into a deep recession.

At least 98 groups, some with tens of thousands of members, are operating across the archipelago, according to an AFP tally.

Nearly all of them started during the pandemic as many Filipinos resorted to the ancient trading practice to feed their families.



Google search volume in the Philippines for the keywords "barter food" soared 300 percent in May from April, iPrice Group found in a recent study, as lockdowns squeezed household budgets and made travelling about difficult.

Its analysis of 85 popular Facebook barter groups, with more than two million members in total, found food and other groceries were among the most sought-after items.

People post photos and specifications of the goods they want to swap, indicate what they want in return and then negotiate via the comments section.

After successfully bartering baby bottles that she no longer needed, Imperio swapped a baby's down jacket and a Ralph Lauren hoodie for six kilogrammes (13 pounds) of rice.

While the Nike slip-on shoes were traded for a chicken, a second pair has not had any takers after three weeks.

"Old items are more difficult to sell," the 28-year-old said. "With bartering, it's easier to convert them into food."

**Swapping to survive**

Jocelle Batapa Sigue launched Bacolod Barter Community four

months ago out of frustration at not being able to go shopping and a desire to help others.

Her husband held the family's only quarantine travel pass, which people were required to carry when they left their homes during the lockdown.

"It's difficult for me to get what I want when I tell my husband to buy it," said Sigue, who is a lawyer in the central city of Bacolod.

The group has more than 230,000 members with more joining every day, she said.

Sigue estimates thousands of items—from shampoo and birthday cakes to mobile phones and eyeliner—change hands on her site daily.

"Without the pandemic, I don't think the barter community would be popular," she said.

An estimated 5.2 million Filipino families had experienced "hunger due to lack of food to eat" at least once in the previous three months—the highest in nearly six years, a survey in early July by pollster Social Weather Stations showed.

But it is not just cash-strapped people bartering their belongings. Others are taking the chance to dispose of goods they no longer need after quarantine measures upended normal life.

Chona de Vega, 57, traded her hair-straightener and electric kettle for a bag of groceries and now plans to dispose of her iron. "I have no use for it," said de Vega, who lives in Manila and spends most of her time at home because of travel restrictions.

## UP Government Can Frame Me In Another Case, Says Kafeel Khan After Release From Jail

**LUCKNOW:** The Uttar Pradesh government instead of doing 'Raj Dharma' was indulging in 'Baal Hatth' or childlike-stubbornness and could frame him in another case, Dr Kafeel Khan said after he was released from the Mathura jail late on Tuesday night.

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday quashed Khan's detention under the National Security Act and ordered his immediate release.

Following the court's order, Khan was released from Mathura jail late on Tuesday night. "Mathura jail administration informed at around 11:00 pm that Dr Kafeel will be released, and at around midnight, he was released," Khan's lawyer Irfan Ghazi told PTI.

Speaking to PTI after his release from the jail, Khan thanked the court and said, "I will always remain thankful to all my well-wishers, who raised their voice for my release. The administration was not ready for release, but because of the prayers (duaa) of people, I have been released."

"In Ramayana, Maharshi Valmiki



had said that the Raja (king) should act for 'Raj Dharma'. In UP the 'Raja' is not doing 'Raj Dharma' but is doing 'Baal Hatth' (being stubborn like a child)," Khan said.

He also said he was apprehensive that the government can frame him in any other case, and claimed that he and his family had to face many hardships as the state government was "after" him because of the oxygen issue in BRD Medical College.

Khan said he now wants to help flood-affected people in Bihar and Assam. The bench, comprising Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh, passed the order on a petition filed by Khan's

mother Nuzhat Parveen.

The petition alleged that Khan was granted bail in February by a competent court and he was supposed to be released on bail. However, he was not released for four days and the NSA was subsequently invoked against him. Hence, his detention was illegal, the petition argued.

Khan was in jail since January after he delivered an allegedly provocative speech at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests in December last year.

Kafeel Khan had hit the headlines for the first time in 2017 after the deaths of several kids due to lack of oxygen cylinders at Gorakhpur's BRD Medical College, where he worked as a paediatrician. Initially, he was hailed as a saviour for the children for arranging emergency oxygen cylinders. However, later, he faced action along with nine other doctors and staff members of the hospital, all of whom were released on bail.

## Average 381 Suicides Daily In India In 2019: Data

**NEW DELHI:** India reported an average 381 deaths by suicide daily in 2019, totalling 1,39,123 fatalities over the year, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

A 3.4 per cent increase was observed in suicides during 2019 (1,39,123 suicides) as compared to 2018 (1,34,516) and 2017 (1,29,887), the data showed.

The rate of suicide (incidents per 1 lakh population) rose by 0.2 per cent in 2019 over 2018, as per the data.

According to the statistics by the NCRB, which functions under the Union Home Ministry, the suicide rate in cities (13.9 per cent) was higher as compared to all-India suicide rate (10.4 per cent) in 2019.

West Bengal, 12,457 in Madhya Pradesh and 11,288 in Karnataka, accounting for 13.6 per cent, 9.7 per cent, 9.1 per cent, 9 per cent and 8.1 per cent of total such deaths, respectively.

These five states together accounted for 49.5 per cent of the total suicides reported in the country and the rest 50.5 per cent suicides were reported in the remaining 24 states and 7 UTs, the data showed.

Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state, reported comparatively lower percentage share of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 3.9 per cent of the total sui-

Suicide by "hanging" (53.6 per cent), "consuming poison" (25.8 per cent), "drowning" (5.2 per cent) and "self-immolation" (3.8 per cent) were the prominent means of committing suicides during the year, the data showed.



Family problems (other than marriage-related issues) were behind 32.4 per cent of suicides, marriage-related problems (5.5 per cent) and illness (17.1 per cent) together accounted for 55 per cent of the total suicides in the country during 2019, it stated.

For every 100 suicide deaths, 70.2 were male and 29.8 females, the NCRB, which collects data from police recorded cases, stated. Nearly 68.4 per cent of the male victims were married, whereas the ratio was 62.5 per cent for female victims, the data showed.

Majority of suicides were reported in Maharashtra (18,916), followed by 13,493 in Tamil Nadu, 12,665 in

cides in the country, it added.

Maximum cases of mass/family suicide were reported from Tamil Nadu (16) followed by Andhra Pradesh (14), Kerala (11), Punjab (9) and Rajasthan (7), the NCRB data showed.

In terms of education, 12.6 per cent victims of suicide were illiterate, 16.3 per cent up to primary level, 19.6 per cent up to middle level and 23.3 per cent up to matric level.

Only 3.7 per cent of total suicide victims were graduates and above, it showed.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that suicide is a serious public "health problem" and is "preventable" with timely, evidence-based and often low-cost interventions.

## Probe Agency Arrests Man In 20,000-Crore Money-Laundering Case In Delhi



**NEW DELHI:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested alleged "hawala" dealer Naresh Jain in a money-laundering probe linked to "hawala" transactions worth about 20,000 crore, officials said on Wednesday.

They said Naresh Jain has been arrested under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and will be produced before a court.

A maze of multiple shell or dubious firms and at least 600 bank accounts are under the scanner of the agency in the case, touted to be one of the biggest hawala and trade-based money-laundering cases of the country.

The officials said Naresh Jain and his associates are being probed for "hawala" or illegal financial transactions, including overseas ones, worth about 20,000 crore that have been carried out over the last few years.

The agency has also found out about the regular modus operandi of "generations of fake invoices for bogus import and exports" of the accused in the case, with Jain allegedly being the key player.

The Delhi-based businessman was under the scanner of probe agencies for long and in 2016, the ED had slapped a 1,200-crore notice on him for alleged contravention of the forex law.

According to the agencies, Naresh Jain has allegedly laundered and routed "hawala" funds for years, financed contraband networks and was also arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in the past.

The ED money-laundering case is based on this NCB complaint.

The agency has been on Naresh Jain's trail since 2009, after he moved his operations to India from Dubai.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Pranab Mukherjee's Daughter To Decide Whether To Publish His Diaries

**NEW DELHI:** Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee, who died on Monday, had made his daughter Sharmistha Mukherjee custodian of the diaries he wrote almost every day during his five-decade political career and authorised her to take a call on publishing them.

"He has left his diaries with me, and left it to my discretion whether to get them published or not," Sharmistha Mukherjee said.

The former President, who had tested positive for coronavirus, died on Monday, weeks after his brain surgery. The 84-year had died after being in hospital for 20 days. He came into politics in 1969 and subsequently served as minister for External Affairs, Defence, Finance and Commerce and then as India's 13th president.

Writing a diary every day was one of Pranab Mukherjee's ways to keep his famously encyclopaedic memory razor sharp until the very end, said his close friends.

"I once asked him what the fate of his diaries would be, and he had said he'd



given them to his daughter... because a lot of controversies can take place. In his diaries, he wrote whatever he thought... things that were off the record but he didn't want to publish it before his death," said veteran journalist Jayanta Ghoshal.

Mr Ghoshal, who had known the late politician since 1985, said Mukherjee was in the habit of writing diaries since his days as cabinet minister in the Indira Gan-

dhi government and continued to write them even after retiring as president.

In fact, the length of his entries had increased after he demitted the president's office, he said.

Gautam Lahiri, another senior journalist and long-time friend, added that the seven-time parliamentarian would write a diary every day, but the entry would be for events that took place two days earlier.

"I asked him once what the secret of his razor sharp memory was, and he told me that he wrote diaries not for the day's event but for what happened two days ago. I try to remember that," he said.

"So he would write diary entries every-day for events that happened 48 hours ago. In this way he would stimulate and exercise his mind," Mr Lahiri said.

One entry that Mr Lahiri knows of is a drawing by Pranab Mukherjee's granddaughter. This followed a conversation between Pranab Mukherjee, the child and then prime minister Manmohan Singh.

"After Pranab Mukherjee was elect-

ed as president, Manmohan Singh went to his house and Pranab da called his granddaughter and said, 'You were looking for a prime minister, he is a PM.' She didn't believe it and ran away.

"Later that day, his granddaughter drew a picture of Pranab da as PM. That picture is entered in his diary as a memory of the interaction between Manmohan Singh, his granddaughter and himself," Mr Lahiri recounted.

The entire interaction, the journalist explained, stemmed from the much talked about topic of how Pranab Mukherjee never became prime minister.

"Like most people, his family too felt that he should be made PM. He never aspired for that and he never told anybody. He believed that the president's and the PM's posts are so honourable that they can only be offered... one cannot go hankering after them. But his family members, even his grandchildren believed that one day day he would become PM," Mr Lahiri said.

## "Muted At Justice Arun Mishra's Farewell": Dushyant Dave To Chief Justice

**NEW DELHI:** Senior advocate and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Dushyant Dave shot off a critical letter to Chief Justice SA Bobde today expressing his disappointment at not being allowed to speak at the farewell of Justice Arun Mishra.

Advocate Dave, who has long been critical of the senior Supreme Court judge, said in his letter: "I will never again participate in any function being organised by the Supreme Court till my term as Supreme Court Bar Association President is over in December".

Advocate Dave said he had accepted an invitation to join the Ceremonial Bench of the Chief Justice of India, but was not allowed to speak.



He had alleged that his microphone was "put on mute" when Justice Mishra's virtual farewell started at the end of the hearing of day's cases through video-conferencing.

"I must confess, the Supreme Court has come to such levels where the Judges are afraid of the Bar. Please do remember, Judges come and go but we, the Bar, remain constant. We are the real strength of this great Institution because we are per-

manent," he said.

"I saw and heard all the proceedings clearly ... For some unknown reasons, I was being disconnected again and again, but I persisted and rejoined each time," Mr Dave said.

He further wrote that after an address by the CJ, Justice Mishra was invited to speak.

"At that stage, realising the game plan, I exited in the larger interests of the dignity of the Bar and Myself. But what is most important is that I messaged the Secretary-General asking why I was kept on mute and why was I at all invited... He responded (almost two hours later) saying he is instructing the Registrar to look into it, by which time it was too late.