



Maximum : 25°C  
Minum : 17°C  
Humidity : 81%

SUNSET  
Today 06:52 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:07 AM

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## News Digest

### Shooting Stones Disrupt Highway Traffic

Srinagar: The traffic on Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with outside world, continues to be disrupted amid shooting stones near Panthyal in Ramban district on Thursday. A senior traffic police officer said that traffic movement "continues" to be disrupted on the thoroughfare due to "intermittent shooting" stones at Panthyal. The traffic was disturbed since early morning due to the shooting stones, mainly at Panthyal. As per officials only LMVs were to be allowed from Srinagar to Jammu today. However, HMVs were to be allowed from Udhampur towards Srinagar, as per the notification by the traffic department.

### Man Gets 1 Year Jail For Cheque Bounce

Srinagar: A local court has awarded one-year simple imprisonment to a man in a cheque-bounce case. Convicting the accused for the commission of offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instrument Act, Sub-Judge Forest Magistrate Srinagar also directed the accused to pay a compensation of Rs 6 lakh to the complainant and in case default of payment of fine amount, the accused shall further undergo the simple imprisonment of one year. Sub-Judge Forest Magistrate Srinagar, Manoj Parihar according to news agency KNT directed police to lodge the convicted fellow at District Jail Srinagar. In a complaint, Muhammad Shareef Yatoo of Rambir Garh Srinagar, who is a timber merchant, stated that the accused Nazir Wani of Lawaypora Srinagar had approached him in 2013 for the supply of timber (poplar trees) for Rs 30 lakhs. The complainant had paid Rs 4.30 lakh in advance but the accused

### Srinagar Man Untraceable From 3 Days

Pulwama: A family from Churso area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district has appealed general public to help them in tracing their missing son. Mohsin Amin Bhat (19) has been missing since 29 August. "His ailing mother is in utter shock and is bed ridden since then. Also, the condition of his brother who is already suffering from multiple ailments has been hospitalized and seems unable to bear the shock of this sudden disappearance," Muhammad Amin the father of the missing youth said. The family appealed their son to return home for sake of his ailing mother and brother. "We also appeal general public, Police and all other government agencies to kindly help us in tracing our son," they said adding anybody having information about Mohsin may contact on 9682193547, 8494088584. Meanwhile, a 32 year old man

### Shepherd Drowns In Bandipore Nallah

Bandipora: A shepherd drowned here in North Kashmir's Bandipora district, while rearing cattle on the bank of Zalwan Nallah. Police sources said that a shepherd was rearing cattle when he slipped into Zalwan Nallah and got drowned. Efforts are on to retrieve his body, sources added. The shepherd has been identified as Bagh Hussain Khatana son of Mukhna Khatana, a resident of Tanghat Bonakoot area of Bandipora district.

## Army Chief in Ladakh, IAF Chief in Arunachal as LAC Tension Heats Up

General Naravane Lands In Ladakh To Review Operational Preparedness

NEW DELHI: With Line of Actual Control in Ladakh on a knife edge following latest flare up, Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane landed in Ladakh on a two-day visit Thursday to review the latest operational situation. The military tensions with China flared up after Indian soldiers occupied heights on the southern bank of Pangong Tso under Chushul sector in eastern Ladakh last week.

In the meanwhile Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria travelled to the eastern sectors of the LAC for the ground assessment of the Chinese threats on the other front.

General Naravane not only carried out a comprehensive review of the security situation overseeing the deployment of the troops but also visited the Chushul sector near the southern banks of the Pangong lake where Indian troops have occupied the heights in the latest move.

Air Chief, on the other hand,



### China Deploys Militia Squads In Eastern Ladakh

China has deployed five militia squads for rapid response at the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh. It has done so to "consolidate the border" and "stabilise Tibet region", IANS quoting sources reported on Thursday. "Militia is basically a reserve force of the Chinese's"

reviewed the border situation from the airbases in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and asked the air force to maintain a high level of alert considering the evolving

situation in eastern Ladakh. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava earlier said the Indian Army has strengthened its presence in at

### Gen Rawat Issues Warning To Pakistan

India's armed forces are capable of handling aggressive Chinese actions in "best suitable ways", Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat said on Thursday. His remarks came against the backdrop of China's attempts to change the status quo in certain areas in eastern Ladakh. In an interactive session at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, Gen Rawat said India's policy of engagement,

least three strategic heights in the southern bank of Pangong lake.

Some "readjustments" in deployment of troops were also carried out on the

**SEVERAL COMPANIES OF THE SSB HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED TO MOVE** towards the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. The Indian Army started deploying its troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since last night. Additional troops are being brought from other parts of Kashmir as well.

## LOAN MORATORIUM

## SC Breather For Distressed Borrowers

Says Accounts Not Declared NPA As On Aug 31 Not To Be Declared NPA For Further Two Months

### Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court of India on Thursday passed an interim order saying that the accounts not declared as non-performing asset (NPA) as on 31 August shall not be declared as NPAs till further notice.

"Accounts not declared NPA as on August 31 not to be declared NPA for two months," the court directed. It said it will hear the matter again on September 10.

Considering the economic impact of the lockdown imposed to fight the coronavirus crisis, the RBI had on March 27 said that banks would be allowed to grant a moratorium of three months on payment of all installments due between March 1 and May 31. On May 23, it said that banks can extend the moratorium until August 31. However, the RBI had said it would be imprudent to go for a forced waiver of interest, risking the financial via-

bility of the banks it was mandated to regulate and putting the interests of the depositors in jeopardy.

The case was heard by a bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah. Bhushan said in his order that banks should take no action against borrowers that is coercive.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre and the RBI, said that the steps needed to be taken by the authorities had to take note of three key points: the reduction of immediate pressure of payment of installments, the revival of all possible sectors and the restructuring of stressed assets.

Mehta added that the idea of a loan moratorium was to defer re-payment with the aim of easing the financial burden caused by the coronavirus and not to waive-off any interest. "The effort is that those who are affected by Covid and facing distress get the benefit and those who are defaulters are not able to take benefit," he told the top court. The solicitor general added that the coronavirus had a different impact on every sector.

Bhushan told Mehta that the main grievance of the petitioners was that they had not

**ACCOUNTS NOT DECLARED NPA AS** on August 31 not to be declared NPA for two months," the court directed. It said it will hear the matter again on September 10.

## J&K Police Files Case After 'Hit List' Appears On Social Media

### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday said an FIR has been registered after a list was posted on social media containing names of political workers and 'informers', warning them of severe consequences.

Giving details a police statement said, on 29th August and 2nd of September 2020, militant leaders "acting under instruction from across, conspired with some of their over-ground associates and other anti social elements" and prepared hit lists containing names and details of civilians, activists, political workers and security force personnel.

Such hit lists were uploaded and with the help of cyber OGWs and that they were circulated widely to instil a sense of fear among the civilians and

also pass a direction to other militants operating elsewhere and their associates to target these persons.

"Separately, but connected, a fake image depicting a young boy joining the militant ranks too was created and uploaded to spread negativity and also harm the boy variously," the statement reads.

It further said the police has taken cognizance of the matter and an FIR has been registered and a full-fledged criminal investigation backed by technical teams has been initiated.

Efforts, he said, are afoot to identify both the original offenders who created the content as well as others who are allowing their connections and accounts to maintain the communication systems of the militant networks.

"It is to be borne in mind that in the event of harm coming

## LG Tours Budgam, Pays Obeisance At Charar-e-Sharif

Directs Officers To Ensure Seamless Issuance Of Domicile Certificates

SRINAGAR: 'Inclusive socio-economic development of all the districts across J&K is the top priority of the government', Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks during his visit to district Budgam today. He also visited Char-e-Sharif and paid obeisance at the shrine of Sheikh Noorudin Wali.

LG promised efficient administration and doorstep delivery of public services during his day-long visit to the district.

The visit was the latest in a series of continuous district and



### Probe Delay in Building Charar Khanqah: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday ordered an inquiry into the delay in construction of a mosque at the shrine of revered Kashmiri Sufi saint Nooruddin Wali at Charar-e-Sharif. "The Lt Governor has ordered for a comprehensive enquiry to ascertain the reasons for delay in construction of Khanqah (Mosque) at Charar-i-Sharif and also the unwarranted delay in execution of developmental works in the holy Hazratbal"

## J&K Reports Biggest Single-Day Spike Of 1079 In Covid-19 Cases,

### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday reported 1079 new COVID-19 cases, the highest single-day count so far, taking its tally to 39943.

Among the cases 622 were reported from Jammu division and 457 from Kashmir valley.

Giving district-wise break, they said, Srinagar reported 139, Baramulla 14, Pulwama 33, Budgam 63, Anantnag 27, Bandipora 49, Kupwara 30, Kulgam 17, Shopian 28, Ganderbal 57, Jammu 484, Rajouri 15,

Kathua 21, Udhampur 16, Samba 26, Ramban 6, Doda 14, Poonch 8, Reasi 10 and Kishtwar 22.

A number of these cases in Kashmir were confirmed at CD and SKIMS laboratories.

The CD cases include male (32) from Indra Nagar, male (28) from Parimpora, male (NA) from HMT Srg, male (50) from Lal Bazar, male (25) from Matipora, female (35) from Sindoo Shirmal, male (27) from Uplona Camp, male (37) from Soura Srg, female (NA) from Chattabal

### 11 More Die Of Covid, Toll 745

Jammu and Kashmir reported 11 more Covid-19 related deaths in last 24 hours and among them includes a retired ASI of police, taking the fatality count due to the pestilence to 745 in J&K, officials said on Thursday. They said eight fatalities were reported

Srg, male (33) from Srinagar, two males (40, 37) and three females (60, 39, 06) from

## First PDP Meeting In 13 Months Disallowed

Freedom Of Political Leaders Is As Fake As Narrative Of Normalcy: PDP

SRINAGAR: Authorities Thursday barred Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leaders from attending a party meeting here. PDP meeting was scheduled to be held at party headquarters on The Bund, Srinagar but hours before the scheduled meeting, police informed senior PDP leaders that they were not allowed to venture out of their houses.

Several PDP leaders including former minister Nayeem Akhtar posted videos on Twitter showing how policemen on their gates stopped them from venturing out from their houses. Iltija Mufti who operates the twit-

### HC Calls For Urgent Halt On Private Practice By Govt Doctors

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has called for "urgent halt" to the private practice by the doctors of government hospitals and directed the administration to seriously "examine" it.

Hearing an application, a bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta ordered it while observing that "judicial notice" can be taken of the fact that employment opportunities in J&K are by far extremely few and large numbers of people are without financial resources while health facilities are either not available or insufficient.

The court passed the directions and made the observations after the counsel for the applicant said that the working of the Government Dental College Srinagar, and Associated Hospitals of

### PDP's Foiled Meet Exposes Govt: CPI (M)

While condemning the police action to disallow PDP leaders from moving out of their houses for a party meeting CPI(M) Thursday said it has once again exposed the hollow claims of the BJP government about normalcy in Kashmir. In a statement, CPI (M) spokesman said

ter handle of her mother Mehbooba Mufti tweeted that

## In FOCUS

### Swati Joshi

AS military convoys are once again rumbling on Srinagar-Leh highway, the native voices are amplifying their concern on the Dragon's sudden cravings for the 'godforsaken land' known for its strategic significance. Ladakh's ex-lawmaker, Deldan Namgyal, believes that the redrawn political map of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh post the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A has "provoked China to intensify its incursions". "The recent stand-off between

the China's PLA and Indian Army is very threatening and the situation is very serious in the area," the Ladakhi politician said, while holding New Delhi responsible for "failing to keep good diplomatic ties" with the neighbouring country.

Even experts believe that the last summer's unilateral step has further aggravated the complex strategic environment of South Asia, the region believed to be the most militarized zone on the planet where two nuclear opponents, India and Pakistan, are competing for an arms race.

Kashmir being a pending political dispute in the region, many believe, is

only pitting nuke-armoured nations against each other and threatening the peace of the entire South Asia.

### Stance of 'Iron Brothers'

With the scrapping of semi autonomous status of the region partly ruled by New Delhi, Islamabad and Beijing, the already strong relations between the two "all-weather friends" and "iron brothers"—Pakistan and China—have apparently become sturdier.

Apart from joint-military drills, the two countries have accelerated progress on the ambitious and strategically-significant China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) since last year.



After slashing the funding for CPEC projects by 60 percent in its budget, Islamabad on August 8, 2019—three days after the abrogation of Article

370—announced plans to set up a body to accelerate projects under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Islamabad also approved the framework of Gwadar Special Economic District and the formation of the National Coastal Development Authority, which would construct tourist resorts near Gwadar. A centerpiece of CPEC, China is clearly desiring a greater role in Kashmir," Manoj Kewalramani, a policy analyst at Chinese Studies at the Takshashila Institution, Bangalore, told Kashmir Observer.

"It's also evident by the 2019 August meetings of Chinese foreign minister with his Indian and Pakistani counterparts."

### Kashmir in South Asia

As a self-avowed "Ambassador of Kashmir", Prime Minister Imran Khan has already put Kashmir issue in front of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAA-RC) Nations Coronavirus Conference in March this year.

And since Kashmir dispute is the pivotal point of Indo-Pak rivalry which, according to researcher Dr. Syed Shahbaz Hussain, has further aggravated the complex strategic environment of South Asia, Islamabad is counting on Beijing to press New Delhi over the Kashmir issue. And it seemed to be



## Army Chief in Ladakh, IAF...

northern bank of the Pangong lake on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as part of precautionary measures, the sources said. Latest reports from the area said the Indian Army has started repositioning its troops even in the "Finger area" on the northern banks of Pangong Tso to "up the ante" against the Chinese army which intruded into the area in early May.

India and China have been engaged into border standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh since early May. It has even led to a violent clash between troops of the two countries in the Galwan valley on June 15, which left 20 Indian soldiers dead.

ITBP put On High Alert

Amid the standoff in Ladakh between India and China, the Indian government has put the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) soldiers on high alert. India is also strengthening its position in Arunachal Pradesh.

Several companies of the SSB have reportedly been asked to move towards the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh. The Indian Army started deploying its troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since last night. Additional troops are being brought from other parts of Kashmir as well. Strategic locations have been taken over by the Indian Army to thwart any attempt if the Chinese personnel again try to change the status quo along the LAC.

## China Deploys Militia Squads...

People Liberation Army. They are deployed during war time situations and help the PLA in its military operations," said a senior government officer.

The officer also explained that Chinese militia conducts independent operations and provides combat support and manpower to replenish the PLA. "It is an irregular mix of mountaineers, boxers, members of local fight clubs and others. Most of the members are raised from the local population," said the officer.

It was after their deployments across the LAC that China started making incursion attempts into Indian territories.

China had made provocative military movements to change the status quo at Pangong Tso. However, Indian soldiers were already present at those heights to thwart the PLA's land-grabbing bid.

On the intervening night of August 29 and August 30, 2020, PLA troops had violated the previous consensus agreed in military and diplomatic engagements during the ongoing standoff in eastern Ladakh and carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo.

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

The Indian Army also stated that they are committed to maintaining peace and tranquility through dialogue, but are also equally determined to protect its territorial integrity.

India has also found that the Chinese side has started troop, artillery and armour build-up in three sectors of the LAC – western (Ladakh), middle (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh) and eastern (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh).

## Gen Rawat Issues Warning...

if not backed by credible military power and regional influence, would imply acknowledging China's pre-eminence in the region.

The former Chief of Army Staff said India faced the most complex threats and challenges spanning a full spectrum of possible conflict – from nuclear to sub-conventional – but asserted that the armed forces were ready to deal with them.

"Of late, India has been seeing some aggressive actions by China but we are capable of handling these in the best suitable ways," Gen Rawat said at the online event.

In a warning to Pakistan, he said the country would suffer "heavy losses" if it attempted any misadventure against India taking advantage of the border row with China.

The Chief of Defence Staff spoke extensively about how Pakistan has been engaged in a proxy war against India and pushing terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir, attempted to spread terrorism in other parts of the country.

He also touched upon a host of other issues, including India's vision for the Indo-Pacific region, importance of defence and security ties with the US and the government's focus on self-reliance in defence manufacturing. PTI

## SC Breather For Distressed...

been given the adequate relief amid the coronavirus crisis. "The main grievance of the petitioners is that they have not been given the adequate relief and the National Disaster Management Act and the Disaster Management Act has not been active to give relief," Bhushan noted. Mehta told the court that in a circular on August 6, the RBI has detailed a plan on restructuring of loans, which takes care of the concerns raised by the petitioners. He added that an expert committee will come up with sector-specific guidelines on September 6.

On Wednesday, Mehta had argued that a number of banks were dealing with various loans and borrowers, reported The Hindu. The push is to revive the economy and the sectors, he said, adding that most of the Indian economy runs on small enterprises.

"We cannot look at recovering the economy by ignoring the banking sector, so that they do not become financially unstable," Mehta said, according to Live Law. "This is indeed a difficult way forward."

The bench was hearing petitions challenging the interest component of the moratorium circular.

On Wednesday, advocate Rajiv Dutta, appearing for petitioner Gajendra Sharma who had taken a loan from a bank, told the bench of justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah that the interest on loan would continue to accrue during the moratorium period and would be added to the principal, Bar and Bench reported.

Advocates also appeared for CREDAI, an association of real estate developers, its Maharashtra wing, the Association of Power Producers and the Shopping Centres Association of India. The petitioners argued for relief from repayment of loans with interest under the Disaster Management Act.

Advocate Ranjit Kumar, representing the Shopping Centres Association of India, said that malls and shopping centres have not done good business during the lockdown, unlike the pharmaceutical, FMCG and information technology sectors. He added that after August 31, all unpaid loans became non-performing assets by default, as the moratorium period ended.

Advocate KV Vishwanathan, appearing for CREDAI, said that the doctrine of proportionality should be used in the matter. He asked whether the court would ask banks to forego their profits in the light of the extraordinary situation created by the pandemic. Vishwanathan said the RBI's March 27 circular postponed the burden on the customer, but does not ease it at all.

## J&K Police Files Case After...

to any of the persons in these lists, persons propagating these lists by way of forwarding or copying and reposting shall be equally liable variously for murder, grievous injuries, kidnapping and criminal intimidation," added the spokesman, while seeking help from the general public to identify the miscreants.

## J&K Reports Biggest Single...

Ladhoo Khrew, male (26) and female (58) from Bagi Mehtab Srg, female (26) from Bohu, female (35) from Nowpora, female (26) from Chandgam, male (20) from Beighpora, male (20) and female (38) from Dadsara, female (31) from Buchpora Srg, male (33) from Srinagar, female (45) from Batamaloos Srg, male (60) from Hazratbal Srg, female (15) from Nawakadal Srg, male (NA) from Lal Bazar Srg, female (65) from Lolab Kupwara, three females (60) and male (63) from Koil Red Zone, female (25) from Batapora Magam, male (50) from Tral, male (25) from Saidpora Tahab, male (32) from Sonasomil, male (45) from Seer, male (53) from Khiram, two males (38, 38) from Iqbal Abad, two males (64, 52) and three females (58, 30, 45) from Damnhall, male (65) from Srinagar, female (45) from Budgam, female (75) from Iddgah, female (45) from Kupwara, thirteen males (35, 38, 28, 27, 25, 36, 22, 24, 24, 39, 38, 36, 30) from BB Cantt Srg, female (25) from Chattabal Srg, female (33) from Baghi Mehtab Srg, female (16) from Nehru Park Srg, two females (37, 07) from Noorbagh Srg, male (50) from Anantnag, male (36) from Dalgate Srg, male (60) from Soura Srg, male (47) from Bemina Srg,

# J&K On Course To Host Global Investor Summit

## LG Asks For 20 Investment Projects For Immediate Grounding

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha took a review of the Industries and Commerce Department at Raj Bhavan, here today to assess the activities taken up by the department in strengthening the investment ecosystem in the Union Territory of J&K.

A detailed presentation was given by Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Manoj Kumar Dwivedi outlining the current Industrial scenario in the Union Territory including setting up of Industrial estates.

During the presentation, Commissioner Secretary Industries

and Commerce department listed out the steps taken by the department in building state of the art Industrial Infrastructure in the Union Territory which includes Textile Parks, Food processing parks, Export Oriented zones, IT parks, Biotech Parks, etc. He also briefed about the upcoming medical device park and establishment of Private Industrial Parks in the Union Territory.

The meeting was informed that the government has already identified 6000 acres of land for industrial development in the UT, out of which around 3000 acres has already been acquired by the

department. Further, 14 Sector-specific policies were drafted out of which 11 have been approved by the Administrative Council and rest are in the final stages of approval. These policies cover major thrust areas of the J&K like Agriculture, Tourism, Education, Horticulture, Silk, Hydro and renewable energy, IT, etc.

Moreover, the upcoming Land allotment policy exclusively meant for Industrial purpose and the new Industrial Policy for MSME and Large Industries are in final stages and will be notified soon. Government is also working towards Ease of Doing Business

(EoDB) measures in the Union Territory and aims to achieve 100% compliance in implementing District and State level reforms in the current financial year.

The Lt Governor was also appraised that the Union Territory is on course to organize the first of its kind Global Investor Summit which is on hold due to the prevailing COVID situation. In run-up to the Global Investor Summit, the UT government has already signed 281 MoUs with different business houses through roadshows organized in 6 major cities across the country.

said, and reordered in its order submissions by the counsel for applicant that this permission is used by medical practitioners to build large private practices by diverting patients from Government hospitals to their private clinics.

However Shah Aamir, Additional Advocate General, refuted the contentions and the allegations and seeks time to file the reply.

"If what is submitted by the applicant is correct, it suggests the adverse manner in which health services would be made available to patients seeking treatment in Government Hospitals and facilities," the court said, adding, "The contended disservice to the residents of Jammu and Kashmir and prejudice to the public interest is a serious matter and the permissibility of permitting private practice to Government Doctors and employees deserves to be seriously re-examined."

It cannot be denied, the court said, that it is patient care and public interest which has to be placed on the highest pedestal and optimized. "Government doctors and professionals cannot be permitted to use their employment and public facilities for building private practices and commercial exploitation," the court said as per Global News service, adding, "Attending to lucrative private practices has to resultantly diminish and detract from the attention which a professional would pay to his salaried public position as a government doctor."

It further said: "Judicial notice can be taken of the fact that employment opportunities in the Jammu and Kashmir are by far, extremely few, large numbers of people without financial resources and health facilities either not available or insufficient. Such practices as complained by the applicant need to be urgently brought to a halt."

The court ordered that a copy of the application and observations made in its order be served upon the Chief Secretary of J&K "to ensure that the above issue is examined."

"The competent authorities shall examine the practices which are prevailing in other States and Union Territories on this aspect, of course, after taking into account the limitations on medical facilities available in J&K," the court said. (GNS)

## LG Tours Budgam, Pays...

public outreach meetings initiated by the Lt Governor for taking the first-hand appraisal of the peoples' issues and the development scenario therein, an official spokesman said.

During the visit, the LG also laid e-foundation stone of seven projects worth Rs 27.87 crores and dedicated 12 developmental projects worth 58.51 Cr for public welfare.

LG was accompanied by advisor Baseer A Khan and CS Subrahmanyam besides Divisional Commissioner PK Pole and others.

A detailed district profile with vital information with details of projects and expenditures of the district was also given by the Deputy Commissioner. Implementation of welfare schemes status of Health and education system running in the district, the status of priority sectors like Agriculture, PHE, R&B, PDD, I&FC, PMGSY, RDD, Social Welfare and other sectors was also put forth through this presentation.

In a review meeting with district officials, the Lt Governor directed the Deputy Commissioner to review all upcoming developmental projects and to fix reasonable timelines for their completion.

Taking stock of the power sector, the Lt Governor sought details regarding the implementation of schemes of the Union Government like the IPDS and SAUBHAGYA. He took note of the high rate of failure of power transformers in the district and passed strict directions to improve the rate.

Issuing explicit instructions regarding 100% saturation of Aadhaar linkage of beneficiaries with various social welfare schemes for DBT, the Lt Governor directed that the same should be achieved by September 30, this year. The Lt Governor further added that IT related issues regarding issuance of Domicile Certificates should be sorted out at the earliest to ensure hassle-free delivery of certificates.

"The Lt Governor appreciated the enthusiasm shown by people applying for Domicile Certificates and directed the concerned officers to speed up the process of issuance and delivery of the same without much hassle. He also directed to ensure seamless issuance of Domicile Certificates for PRK holders without requiring additional documents," the spokesman added.

The LG took serious note of the low literacy rate in the district and impressed upon the concerned officers to pay special attention and efforts to ensure that the literacy ratio in the district is improved.

While reviewing the progress under Jal Shakti the Lt Governor directed the concerned to speed up the process of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission on mission mode to cover targeted households of the district. Similarly, under R&B, the Lt Governor said that macadamisation of all roads is prime priority and efforts are on to cover maximum of roads before the impending winter season.

On Back to Village programme, the Lt Governor exhorted upon the officers to ensure to complete at least two works in every panchayat across the district.

Earlier during the visit, the Lt Governor inspected Multipurpose Indoor Stadium, Budgam, being built under the Prime Minister Development Project (PMDP) and took a review of the pace of ongoing work. He directed the executing agencies to speed up the construction so that the stadium is dedicated to the local youngsters and sports enthusiasts as early as possible.

During his visit, the Lt Governor met with various delegations and discussed their issues at length. The delegation of Municipal Committee Budgam demanded a community hall and submitted a memorandum of their other demands. Municipal Committee Charai-i-Sharif also submitted a memorandum and demanded that public amenities at Charai-i-Sharif Ziarat.

The delegation of Sarpanchs and BDO raised the issue of vacancies on various positions of BDO in several blocks of the district. Delegation of political leaders also raised issues of public interest, particularly about the need upgradation of road network and issue of water shortage in certain areas among others.

Taking note of the various vacant posts of BDOs, the Lt Governor issued on spot directions to fill up the same on priority. He also assured that recruitment drives by the Army, Police and other paramilitary forces shall also be conducted soon.

The projects dedicated to the public include PHC, Siobugh, Budgam (Rs 11.90 crore) under PMDP; NTPHC at Parisabad (Rs 3.55 crore) under Langushing Projects; NTPHC at Lalpora (Rs 3.55 crore) under Langushing Projects; 1x18 Span Steel Girder Bridge at Sebdan (Rs 2.06 crore) under Langushing Projects; 2x20 Mtr. Span Steel Girder Bridge at Khag (Rs 3.64 crore) under Langushing Projects; Upgradation of roads PMGSY which include Shanipora Khanshab Road (Rs 7.24 crore), Budgam-Hayatpora Road (Rs 7.91 crore), Aripantnan-Malpora Road (Rs 7.72 crore), Khoipora-Khag Road (Rs 2.77 crore), Yechgam- Aarampora Road (Rs 1.79 crore) and Khag-Abandara Road (Rs 2.06 crore); and Evacuation Of Power 33KV Level For 132/33KV Grid Station Budgam (Rs 4.3 crore) under Langushing Projects.

The projects for which e-foundation stone was laid by the LG include 100 Bedded Girls' Hostel at Khanshabih, Narbal and at BK Pora (Rs 3.06 crore each) under Samagra Shiksha; PHC, Nasrullahpora, Budgam (Rs 3.99 crore) under State Sector; Play Field at Sikhnambal, Rangreth

(Rs 5.71 crore) under Langushing Projects; Fruit & Vegetable Market, Kremshore (Rs 612 crore) under Langushing Projects; and 10 MVA Receiving Station At Rangar, Chadoora (Rs 2.87 crore) under PMDP Urban.

## Probe Delay in Building Charar...

Complex under PRASAD scheme," an official spokesman said.

Sinha visited the revered Charar-e-Sharif shrine and prayed for lasting peace in the valley during a tour of Budgam district, the spokesman said.

The official said Sinha interacted with the locals there and took a round of the complex where he directed officers to provide the best possible facilities to the devotees.

## First PDP Meeting In 13...

government seems afraid of PDP. "Why are we the only party that is not being allowed to meet? Why only our leaders are under house detention? Why PSA is extended only against our leader Mehbooba ji," she tweeted.

"Shameful that J&K admin along with police physically prevented PDP leaders from leaving their homes in Srinagar today. They shamelessly lie to courts that these people are free to move & then have the audacity to detain them illegally at home," she said in another tweet.

She said BJP and other parties are allowed to hold meetings. "But for some reason, the same freedom isn't given to PDP. GOI's claim of setting all political leaders in J&K free is as fake as their narrative of normalcy." Nayeem Akhtar too took to twitter and said: "Despite being free on paper and in govt submissions in HC and SC, PDP leadership continues to be under illegal detention, without any official orders.

Earlier, PDP had said that it's leader Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura will convene a meeting at party headquarters in Srinagar. "Remains to be seen if J&K admin will allow leaders under illegal house arrest to attend this meeting," party had said.

Hanjura later said that they were not allowed to meet at one place. He said like him other party leaders were not allowed to move out from their houses.

The party had written to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, IGP Security, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, SSP Srinagar and SSP security informing them about scheduled meeting, however, party leaders said there was no response from any government quarter to their letter.

"Since only the senior leaders are participating, it won't be a huge gathering and we would ensure that the measures and protocols with regard to Covid-19 pandemic are adhered to," PDP had written in its letter written on September 1.

Party youth leader Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra said: "A year of unfreedom & many claims later we were told we are free now. But when we try to attend the first party meet post Aug 5 they told us we are under detention. Question now is how choking our space in the name of law & order is contributing to the so called 'peace.'"

## PDP's Foiled Meet Exposes...

that it is highly astonishing that the BJP government is even afraid of allowing a political party to hold a meeting.

"For more than one year, the BJP government has been lying about normalcy in Kashmir. If that is the case then why were senior leaders of a political party placed under house arrest and not allowed to meet?" said the spokesman.

"The fact is that the only thing the revocation of Article 370 has achieved so far is a complete abrogation of democracy in J&K and an unconscionable suppression of civil and democratic rights," he said.

"The government must release all political prisoners, including PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, without any further delay," said CPI (M) spokesman said.

## Beyond Beijing's Advances...

working, experts say, since the United Nation Security Council took up developments in Kashmir after China called for repeated meetings since last year.

Beijing, many say, got activated and involved following New Delhi's hard stand on the disputed region.

On August 6, 2019, while moving a resolution in the Lok Sabha for abrogating Article 370, Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Mr. Speaker, I want to put this in record that whenever I say the state of Jammu & Kashmir in the House then both PoK and Aksai Chin are a part of it."

He also mentioned that the boundaries of J&K mentioned in the Constitution of India and also in the Constitution of Kashmir included Pakistan administered Kashmir and Aksai Chin.

"The claim over Aksai Chin by India was a communication to the outside world with words," believes Ahsan I. Butt, Associate Professor at Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University. "And now China is communicating with force. But it's all part of the same conversation."

In a perfect world, Prof. Butt told Kashmir Observer, there're many flexible options like semi-sovereign status for Kashmir where free movement and trade is allowed with peacekeeping on the borders by the Indian and the Pakistani government.

"You could be as creative as you want, but without political will, nothing is possible," emphasized the professor.

A New Strategic Shadow

After the insistent Sino-India Ladakh faceoff, Uncle Sam's Afghanistan departure is likely to cast a new shadow on Kashmir.

With the withdrawal of American forces from five bases in Afghanistan, experts say, there're chances of some implications in the valley—the event which Islamabad has been forecasting since long now. The historic Kabul-Kashmir ties only seem to compliment the claim.

When Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, many Afghan war veterans entered Kashmir and powered insurgency against New Delhi's rule. "If the present regime falls in Kabul," said Rajesh Rajagopalan, Professor of International Studies, at Jawahar Lal Nehru University, "it will once again become a training school for new crop of insurgents."

Since people don't seem to have a say in the decisions in current India, Prof Rajagopalan told Kashmir Observer, the whole concept of Kashmir has changed.

"What used to be Kashmir as a whole, has now become different regions – Jammu, Ladakh, Aksai Chin. And this is where it has become too complicated."

Dialogue Way Forward

The best possible thing for Kashmir is to start a dialogue with Pakistan, believes Ashok Swain, Professor of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, Sweden.

"India needs to go back to Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh formula to solve the issue prevailing in the valley," Prof Swain told Kashmir Observer.

He stressed that New Delhi should start a democratic process in Kashmir as the local unionist leaders have lost their popular support after the abrogation of Article 370.

"The government should try to create an environment where Kashmiri people do not feel that they are losing their state and identity," suggested the professor.

## Man Gets 1 Year Jail For...

failed to supply the timber. The accused resorted to dilly dally tactics and finally to discharge his liability, the accused Nazir Wani issued a cheque for an amount of Rs 1.50 lakh. When the cheque was sent for encashment at Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank, it was dishonoured as there was no cash in the account of the accused.

The complainant thus filed a complaint against the accused alleging that from the beginning, Nazir Wani had no intention to pay the amount outstanding towards him.

During trial, Advocate Tasaduk Hussain argued there was an outstanding amount that was to be paid by the accused and the documents regarding the payment from accused proved that the cheque he issued was dishonoured.

After hearing the arguments, the court held the accused guilty and sentenced him to undergo one-year simple imprisonment.

## Srinagar Man Untraceable...

identified as Nisar Ahmed Dar son Ghulam Hasan has gone missing from Eidgah locality of Srinagar city.

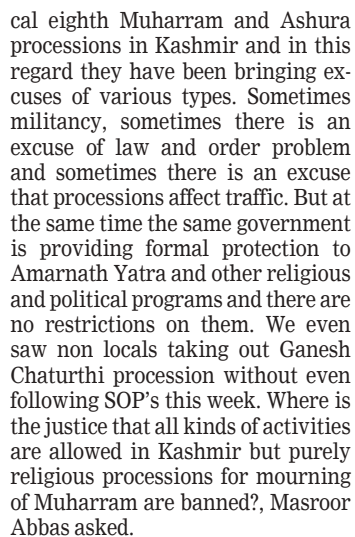
The family has lodged a missing report in police post Noor Bagh stating that Nisar Ahmed, a resident of Baner Mohalla Safakadal living at present in Wanganpora Eidgah is missing from past 3 days.



## Says, Pro-Establishment Shia Leaders Responsible For Confusion in Community

Observer News Service

It said the Department of School Education referred 2154 posts in the year 2017 vide letter no.EDU-I/322/2009 dated 15-12-2017 with 2154 posts of General Line Teacher, Science/Math Teacher & Urdu Teacher for 14 districts (Anantnag, Baramulla, Baramula, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Kupwara, Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi & Rajouri) to the J&KSSB for recruitment in accordance with rules.



“You know that for the last thirty (30) years, the administration has unjustifiably banned histori-

The Lt. Governor expressed his satisfaction on the progress of works on the project. He also directed the Principal Secretary to ensure bottlenecks, if any, are removed with alacrity.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Sheikh Ab Aziz inaugurated the event, he was also the chief guest on the occasion.

I have lost my Driving license bearing DL No: JK0120190001498 FROM Waniyar Noor Bagh to Maloora Srinagar. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-  
Engineer  
in Ind  
nagar

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

## JAL SHAKTI PHE DIVISION CHADOORA.

### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e  
contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt., for the following

Cover System) are invited from approved and eligible

	Earnest Money /Security Deposit	Cost of T/DoC (In Rupees)	& Date Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of Funds	Position
<b>Annual Maintenance/repairs and other emergent works for WSS Golpora, WSS Rakhshalina, Karewa Damodar and adjoining areas for the year 2020</b>			2020 (11:00am)				
<b>Annual Maintenance/repairs and other emergent works for WSS Pohroo, WSS Kultreh Wanpora, WSS Baghi Shukershah and adjoining areas</b>							
<b>Annual Maintenance/repairs stabilization of existing pipe network and other emergent works for WSS Padshahibagh, WSS Nowgam and adjoining areas for the year 2020</b>							
<b>Annual Maintenance/repairs and other emergent works for WSS Wathora, WSS Bugam Doonwari, WSS Kanipora Kalidar for the year 2020</b>							
<b>Maintenance/repairs and other emergent works for WSS Suthsoo, WSS Chattergam, WSS Kuzwera, WSS Bagl Mehtab and adjoining areas for</b>							

**The contractor will have to quote rates as per unit rate as advertised for each item in (BoQ), considering quantity as one for every item and comparative shall be generated for sum total of all items to arrive at L1, L2 & L3 in the overall and shall be accor negotiated with successful bidder to arrive at a reasonable**

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:

<b>Download start date</b>					
<b>Bid submission start date</b>					
<b>Bid submission end date</b>					

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid  
To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology 2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual  
The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital  
Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (4&5) of the above table. Bid security will be  
**Executive Engineer, PHE Division Chadoora**  
and the cost of tender document shall be deposited  
(Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan /  
Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in containing documents as under:  
i. **Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Earnest Money Deposit**  
ii. **s submitted by the bidders in the**  
Besides above the bidder should also upload the following documents from " area required under "Other Important Documents"  
i) **Scanned copy of Valid Registration**  
ii) **Scanned copy of GST**  
Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid and no d of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies  
The original instrument in respect of and relevant attested copies of Technical Bid Documents as specified above must be submitted by Lowest Bidder (L1) to **Executive Engineer, PHE Division Chadoora**  
by hand or by speed registered post before the allotting of work or as and when demanded. If the bidder fails to produce the prescribed time period, he will be debarred from taking part in tendering process in this div  
No financial bid will be accepted in physical  
The bid shall be deposit in electronic format only on the web site of (jktenders.gov.in) till the end date mentioned in bid  
The bid(s) shall be opened online on above mentioned date or any other subsequent date in presence of the bidders who may wish to be  
**No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload t avoid any technical snags in last**  
The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason whatsoever claimed by the  
a) the tender documents.  
b) all roads and dismantling same after completion & making same  
c) diversions etc. as per site conditions and as directed by the temporary diversions of streams/Nallahs/Canals, maintenance of all  
d) Dewatering & construction of Ring bunds  
e) The rate shall include the Charges for Submission of progress photographs (digital), vedliographic and progress reports in soft copies and hard copies for works register & office record. Taking levels by Auto Level / ETS bef  
Preparation of work abstract of executed work, preparation of Bills. The information and data stated and incorporated document elsewhere is for the General guidance only and may vary as a result of more detailed construction drawings and as pe  
f)  
Any other information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office  
All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD form

DIPK-4972/20

Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora

- 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

## SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



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



ISHA 8:22

- 1260 - Battle at Montaperti, Tuscany, between rival factions the Guelphs and Ghibellines
- 1682 - English astronomer Edmond Halley observes the comet named after him
- 1862 - General Lee invades the North with 50,000 Confederate troops during Maryland Campaign (US Civil war)
- 1870 - The Third French Republic proclaimed as French overthrow Emperor Napoleon III (who ironically was the elected president of the Second French Republic) after his defeat by Prussia at Sedan.
- 1904 - Dalai Lama signs treaty allowing British commerce in Tibet
- 1914 - General von Moltke ceases German advance in France
- 1914 - France, Russia, and Britain agree in a Pact of London that none will make a separate peace.
- 1919 - Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who founded the Republic of Turkey, gathers a congress in Sivas to make decisions as to the future of Anatolia and Thrace.
- 1936 - Franco's troops conquer Irun & Talavera de la Reina, Spain
- 1939 - Netherlands & Belgium declare neutrality
- 1940 - Nazi collaborator Mussert puts the fate of Netherlands in Hitler's hands
- 1943 - British 8th Army lands at Taranto, South Italy
- 1944 - Finland breaks diplomatic contact with Nazi Germany
- 1951 - US President Harry Truman addresses opening of Japanese Peace Treaty Conference.
- 1964 - NASA launches its 1st Orbital Geophysical Observatory (OGO-1)
- 1967 - 6.5 earthquake of Kolya Dam India, kills 200
- 1968 - Nigerian troops conquer the city of Aba, Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War
- 1975 - The Sinai Interim Agreement relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict is signed.
- 1976 - Palestinians hijack KLM DC-9 to Cyprus
- 1979 - Sunil Gavaskar scores 221 in India's 8 for 429 chasing 438 in drawn 44th cricket Test v England at The Oval; England win series 1-0
- 1979 - Iran army conquers Baneh
- 1982 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1994 - Kansai International airport officially opens
- 1998 - Google is formally incorporated by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, two students at Stanford University.
- 2000 - England wins 5th cricket Test v West Indies by 158 runs at The Oval for first series win (3-1) over WI since 1969; Windies captain Courtney Walsh's 132nd and final Test.
- 2012 - 25 people are killed at a funeral suicide bombing in Nangarhar, Pakistan
- 2012 - 42 people are killed and 25 injured as a passenger bus falls down a ravine in Morocco
- 2012 - Carpet that can help prevent falls in elderly by warning them after detecting unusual footsteps is developed
- 2014 - Monsoon rains begin and cause flooding over a sustained period that kills over 400 people in India & Pakistan
- 2014 - Archaeological remains of a Viking fortress from the 900s CE, the Valløe Borgring, is discovered in Denmark
- 2016 - Mother Teresa canonized by Pope Francis in a ceremony at the Vatican

# Hizb Asks Centre To Clarify Stand On Kashmir

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

He said Pakistan's involvement in the talks was not being insisted under any pressure but due to the fact that it had a role in the state's future.

(Kashmir Observer, September 04, 2000)



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Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsviewer.net

## Troubled region

**T**he fresh flare up along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh has plunged the India-China relations to their lowest since 1962 war. In recent days, in a pre-emptive bid to halt fresh incursions by China, India has captured a few heights at Pangong Tso, China has strongly objected to this and termed it an occupation of its area. This has taken the situation to the brink. There is every possibility of an escalation. India's action followed after the Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat's statement last month that Delhi has "military options" to deal with Chinese incursions. By also occupying some areas, India is bolstering its negotiating position with China and forcing it to pull back from the areas it has occupied since April. As things stand, it seems unlikely that China will budge from the areas occupied by it. It sees them of strategic value and necessary to secure its core military and economic interests. If the recent media reports are anything to go by, China is in occupation of around 1000 square kilometres along the LAC. And it seems unlikely to let go of it, forcing New Delhi to also resort to military action to try and gain a similar advantage over China.

This makes the current stand-off along LAC very complex in nature. At the same time, India is also engaged in a perennial confrontation with Pakistan along the Line of Control. This has further complicated the matters. In fact, India, Pakistan relationship has become irreconcilable following the revocation of Article 370 in August last year. So, if there has to be a stable South Asia, it will involve a broad reconciliation among the three major powers of the region: China, India and Pakistan. And this would need resolving the existing differences and reconciling the contending interests of the three countries which essentially keep the region destabilized.

Needs is for a broader regional approach to work for an integrated solution to the conflicts and the competing interests that in turn trigger the recurrent conflicts. Neglecting this objective assessment of the situation is certain to aggravate the rivalries, especially the one between India and Pakistan. Dividing the two countries since their founding is the festering issue of Kashmir.

So far there has hardly been a regional effort that works to resolve issues in a cooperative framework. Each neighbouring country is looking to secure their respective interests rather than work together for a solution. The only way that the current destabilizing situation can be effectively tackled is for the regional powers including India and Pakistan to cooperate and find a comprehensive solution to the issues dividing them. And for such a solution to materialize it has to first address the core concerns of the neighbouring countries and take care of their respective interests.

### OTHER OPINION

## Releasing Kafeel Khan

**T**he Allahabad High Court has done well to set aside the detention of Kafeel Khan, a doctor at Gorakhpur's BRD Medical College and Hospital, under the National Security Act and order the UP government to release him "forthwith". Khan has been in jail for nearly seven months, after the NSA was slapped on him for delivering an allegedly "provocative speech" at a protest by students against the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act and the proposed National Register of Citizens in Aligarh Muslim University in December last year. The High Court said the speech was "a call for national integrity and unity", and did not mirror "any effort to promote hatred or violence". The two-judge bench described the doctor's detention under NSA, imposed two months after the speech was delivered, as "bad" in law, and based on "selective reading and selective mention of few phrases from the speech ignoring its true intent". A complete reading of the speech does not disclose any effort to promote hatred or violence, the Court said.

Clearly, due process was violated in Khan's arrest, in the subsequent slapping of the NSA, and his extended detention. Unfortunately, this is part of a building pattern — of draconian laws being mis-used by the state to cramp the citizen's right to free speech and dissent, even as a quiescent court mostly looks on, or away. In KedarNath Singh, 1962, the Supreme Court had ruled that incitement to public disorder or violence was key to judging a speech as seditious. Yet, in recent times, state authorities have frequently invoked the provision to criminalise free speech and clamp down on dissent, with the judiciary, especially the lower courts, more often than not giving the state the benefit of doubt and delay.

The Allahabad HC deserves credit for breaking this disquieting pattern. Its order provides a template for other courts to follow in cases that involve the fundamental rights of citizens and their encroachment by a state armed with repressive and outdated laws. This is especially crucial in times when the spaces for dissent are seen to be imperilled and in need of protection.

*The Indian Express*

Riyaz Wani

**According to the delimitation, that in normal course was due to be held in 2026, seven new seats are being added to the Assembly, most of which, if not all, are expected to go to Jammu. This has the potential to shift the region's political centre away from Kashmir Valley to Jammu, turning in the words of J&K's former finance minister HaseebDrabu, "a demographic majority into a political minority"**

# Is Jammu the New Political Capital?

Other than the main aim of eradication of separatist struggle, the withdrawal of J&K autonomy and the legislative changes introduced since then are understood to have a larger civilisational objective



**E**ver since the NarendraModi government stripped J&K of its semi-autonomous status in August last, the decision has invariably been explained as the outcome of the BJP's push to fulfil its longstanding ideological agenda and electoral promise. It was certainly about that but only in a rhetorical sense.

In its implementation on the ground since then, the decision has come across as an elaborate and minutely-thought-through plan of action that seeks to fundamentally alter the facts on the ground to end the lingering conflict on this side of the Line of Control. And in that sense, the withdrawal of the former state's special status and the actions undertaken over the past year form an ambitiously envisioned alternative settlement formula for Kashmir.

This formula is not about resolving the Kashmir issue as we know it: a dispute between India and Pakistan going back to Partition and the one arising from a decades-long separatist struggle in the region.

There is no plan underway to talk to Pakistan or to the dissenting political and militant groups in J&K to arrive at a solution. On the contrary, the effort is to enforce a unilateral solution — a merger of J&K into India — without taking Kashmiris or Pakistanis on board.

And this solution, if we go by the constitutional and legal changes ushered in over the last year, operates along two axes: one, a demographic shift being brought about by throwing J&K open to settlement by outsiders and another by altering the nature of the political representation through the delimitation of the constituencies that has already been initiated.

According to new domicile law, issued on April 1, anyone who has been a resident of Kashmir for 15 years will get the residency rights. The law applies retrospectively. For central government officials, the period is 10 years and for students it is only seven years.

According to the 2011 census there are 28 lakh migrant labourers in J&K other than lakhs of security personnel and thousands of central government employees, a significant number of whom have become eligible for residency rights should they wish to settle down in the former state.

As for the delimitation, the BJP

has made no secret of its desire to enhance the number of Assembly seats in Jammu region.

Before J&K's bifurcation into two Union territories — J&K and Ladakh — its Assembly had 87 seats of which predominantly Muslim majority Kashmir Valley had 47 seats, Hindu majority Jammu 37 and the now separated Ladakh with a slim Muslim majority four seats.

Now according to the delimitation, that in normal course was due to be held in 2026, seven new seats are being added to the Assembly, most of which, if not all, are expected to go to Jammu.

This has the potential to shift the region's political centre away from Kashmir Valley to Jammu, turning in the words of J&K's former finance minister HaseebDrabu "a demographic majority into a political minority".

Of the 13.6 million living in J&K, according to Census 2011, 68.3 per cent are Muslim and Hindus are 30 per cent. While Kashmir is 97 per cent Muslim, Jammu is 65 per cent Hindu and 31 per cent Muslim.

The simultaneously applied twin policies of the progressive dilution of the existing demographic composition and the shift in political representation away from Kashmir Valley to Jammu is geared to contain and eventually stamp out the separatism in Kashmir.

First, a demographically altered J&K evenly split between Muslims and Hindus and slowly on the way to becoming a Hindu majority is deemed to commensurately reduce the footprint of separatist resistance, marginalising it to a point of little more than a pinprick.

Second, a J&K government where Hindu majority Jammu is an equal stakeholder and later probably a majority partner will be decisively aligned against separatism, unlike the existing Kashmir-dominated political structure that is largely perceived to be playing to separatist sentiment in the Valley and parts of Muslim dominated areas of Jammu.

Other than the main aim of eradication of separatist struggle, the withdrawal of J&K autonomy and the legislative changes introduced since then are understood to have a larger civilisational objective: to reclaim, what some observers in the Valley contend, Kashmir from Islam. In RSS imaginary, the seven

centuries of Muslim history are an aberration and it is time the region returned to its civilisationalmother-ship.

These are ambitious aims and the BJP knows it. That is why it revoked Article 370 within the first three months of its second term so that it gets the sufficient time to implement the plan. Over the past year, the Modi government has been in a tearing hurry to bring one after another legislative and administrative measure to cast Kashmir in a premeditated image, the PM Modi has called Naya Kashmir.

In its way, however, will be the anticipated lingering resistance in the Valley, Pakistan's recurrent roadblocks and many geopolitical complications. But after going the whole hog with erasing the former state's autonomy and bifurcating it into federally administered areas — J&K and Ladakh — there will possibly be no looking back for New Delhi under Modi.

Its goal will be to lead its Kashmir project to its logical conclusion in the remaining period of its term. So, contrary to expectations among some sections of people in Kashmir, the statehood for J&K may not be restored anytime soon.

The reason is this gives the central government a direct control over the region and, in turn, freedom to make any administrative or legislative changes to accomplish its goal within the timeframe of its on-going tenure.

On July 20 last year, just a fortnight before the withdrawal of Article 370 that granted J&K its semi-autonomous within India, defence minister Rajnath Singh on his visit to Kargil War Memorial in Drass sector declared that the resolution of Kashmir issue was on the cards and that "no power on the earth can stop it".

the time Singh shared no details about this solution. But the situation since has made it amply clear what he meant. The BJP is out to execute its own extreme version of Kashmir solution in the teeth of Pakistan and resistance in Kashmir.

And if its actions over the past year are anything to go by, it seems to have already covered a lot of ground.

*Riyaz Wani is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer*



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

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## Unlock 4.0 and Kashmir's Economic Predicament

**J**ammu and Kashmir's economy has slumped on account of 12 months of lockdown owing to the political condition as well as the Covid-19 pandemic. In July 2020, the state's average unemployment rate at 17.9 percent was twice that of the national average at 9.5 percent. The situation is expected to worsen with the Indian government granting domicile certificates to immigrants, thus allowing them to be eligible for government jobs.

All sectors have experienced huge losses and there is no respite in sight. The pandemic has also hindered any

efforts that the people could have taken on their own. In the presence of a global pandemic, individual efforts are also bound to fail. Therefore, there's a dire need for institutional government support and policies to redress J&K's economic downfall.

To this end, the center should provide substantial fiscal stimulus packages and facilitate interest subvention to boost consumption. It must also spend more on projects under implementation and invest substantially in healthcare as well.

Additionally, the government must also turn its attention towards

the unorganized sector and ensure that they get benefits of economic schemes and packages launched by government. It must also ensure that such measures reach workers from unorganized sectors.

Fortunately, the Indian government's decision to remove most of the restrictions has provided much-needed relief to businesses — large and small. Despite this, the demand scenario is expected to remain weak for most of the current financial year. But it could make a comeback next year. The resumption of normal economic activity will drive much of the growth

and households will also spend more in comparison with the cautious and limited spending amid the Covid-19 outbreak. Firms are also expected to restart delayed investments.

As consumption revives, credit rating agencies expect UT's economic growth to rebound. While that enormous challenge looms like an unsurmountable challenge; some experts and economists believe a recovery could be on the cards in the next six to nine months. However, it may not appear straightforward.

*WasiqYousufBhat  
wasiqyousuf2020@gmail.com*



# Are Husbands the “Rulers” of Household?

Our understanding of Islamic married life is often tainted by misconceptions which overshadow the true egalitarian spirit of a marriage encouraged by Islamic principles

Mugees Ul Kaisar

“The word qawwaam used for husband in the Quran has been loosely translated as ruler. If one attempts to be truly faithful to the text, one is forced to concede that the word qawwaam used in the context of marriage relation is closer to the word caretaker rather than ruler.

A very fine balance needs to be struck between two possible case scenarios when it comes to marriage relationships. On the one hand there are radically flexible “friendship relationships” in the name of marriage, gaining popularity in the modern world owing to rising individualism leading to failure of commitment. As love in essence is expansion of Being; bringing the other within the horizon of your own self and thus breaking free of selfish ego cocoon. No wonder therefore that in the times of rising ego-centric sensibility, marriage relations based on love are facing drastic erosion. In complete contrast on the other hand there are overly formalistic, robotic, institutional, bossy relationships choking on the space for any kind of true love and understanding. In Islam, marriage clearly is not a mere “friendship relation” with no foundational contract and societal authorization. It is an institution in itself devised to ensure proper upbringing of the next generation with authorized, protected and recognized rights. This is because one of the maqaasid/objectives of Shariah is the protection of family and children rights. This is how normally any other legal universe operates. There is a foundational legal philosophy which guides all subsequent legislation. Laws are framed in view of attaining certain predefined ends. To ensure protection of family system, marital institutions are carefully designed and protected in addition to banning extra marital affairs. This clarification is important to appreciate Islamic marital institution as a part of a larger meaningful whole.

Although being institutional in nature, Islam does not warrant radical formalistic robotic marriage relationships. A family cannot function in such an environment. Let’s briefly address some of the misconceptions that are prevalent in some of the popular muslim discourse on family and marriage relationships. To start with, it is very important to take note of the language we use. The word qawwaam used for husband in the Quran has been loosely translated as ruler. If one attempts to be truly faithful to the text, one is forced to concede that the word qawwaam used in the context of marriage relation is closer to the word caretaker rather than ruler.

No doubt in Islamic system of marriage, man is given the charge of the family for reasons well justified. He signs a socially recognized contract authorized by Prophetic Shariah to accept responsibility of a newly created institution. It is more of a responsibility rather than a privilege. But having said that the problem arises when we confuse the role of qawwaam with that of a ruler. Obsessive use of the idiom “ruler” and “ruled” creates problems. Reducing wives down to mehkoom/the ruled is a joke. Quran in its word usage is never obsessive of such a paradigm. A family cannot work under this obsession. It will become artificial and fail. A family can only sustain under love, appreciation and understanding. No surprise that it invites mutiny



from “the ruled” against the “ruler”. This is bound to happen. This language that we have been using is quite serious. It has affected both men and women and their respective attitudes. Caretaker symbolism has been overshadowed by politicizing the family structure. Almost all the time the Muslim discussion on marriage misses the informal constitution which is intrinsically built up in such a relationship. It is extremely crucial to be responsible and careful enough in applying a formal structure on an institution which is fundamentally informal (the family). Hence, the talk of arriving at the right balance that we briefly touched upon in the beginning, attains central importance.

Quranic position is that the man takes care of his family. He is one with them. He takes charge of the situation in the moments of crises in particular (because he has signed a foundational contract which binds him to do that). He never sees his family as his mehkoom. A family is not an office. Not even animals live like that. What happens is that we formalize our discussions on marriage too much. We remove ourselves from practical realities. Ironically, family is the most informal institution that human beings have ever come up with. It is not the case that a husbandlike a king asks his family to decorate his throne so that he could rule over them and then acts like one. Such people are the ugliest of husbands and fathers. Is this going to be our example? We need to remind ourselves how the Prophet of God was as a husband and as a father/guardian. Our popular notions fall flat when it comes to Rasoolullah. Our obsession with the paradigm of haakim-mehkoom fails to apply on Prophetic Sunnah.

Many muslims drawing inference from the

Quranic assertion of men being awarded one darajah/degree over and above women, claim that men are better than women. However within Quranic context it only refers to the responsibility a husband fulfills in his own family relationship. No man/husband is superior to any other distant woman that he has no relation with at all. It is not a general rule of superiority that men enjoy over women. It is purely in context of marriage relation for institutional purposes. One can ask who enjoys superiority in the relationship of a mother and her son. If the above assertion is to be construed as a general rule then clearly the son as a man should have higher darajah than his mother who is a woman. But we know that is not the case at all. Thus it is clear that the above assertion does not qualify to be a general rule of superiority. It is a “husband” who enjoys higher darajah over “his” own wife and not men in general over all other women. And this darajah has nothing to do with human or spiritual status of superiority. Quran is amply clear on that. It is purely an “organizational setup” ideally established with the consent of two people. Anomalies if found are misapplications by human beings which is a pervasive phenomenon in all other human institutions. Rather than calling for obliteration of the whole familial institution we should focus on educating and transforming human beings who are the real source of goodness and corruption.

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The author is a student of Religion,  
Philosophy and Metaphysics and can be reached  
at mugees.kaisar@gmail.com

## Getting A Flu Shot This Year Is More Important Than Ever Because Of COVID-19

Libby Richards

With the coronavirus still spreading widely, it’s time to start thinking seriously about influenza, which typically spreads in fall and winter. A major flu outbreak would not only overwhelm hospitals this fall and winter, but also likely overwhelm a person who might contract both at once.

Doctors have no way of knowing yet what the effect of a dual diagnosis might be on a person’s body, but they do know the havoc that the flu alone can do to a person’s body. And, we know the U.S. death toll of COVID-19 as of Aug. 17, 2020 was 170,000, and doctors are learning more each day about the effects of the disease on the body. Public health officials in the U.S. are therefore urging people to get the flu vaccine, which is already being shipped in many areas to be ready for September vaccinations.

Flu cases are expected to start increasing early in October and could last late into May. This makes September and early October the ideal time to get your flu shot.

But there’s reason to be concerned that flu vaccination rates could be lower this year than in past years, even though the risk of getting seriously ill may be higher because of widespread circulation of the coronavirus.

In an effort to avoid getting sick, millions of Americans avoided seeing their health care provider the past few months. Social distancing and stay-at-home orders have resulted in a decreased use of routine medical preventive services such as vaccinations. Many employers that often provide the flu shot at no cost to employees are allowing employees to work from home, potentially limiting the number of people who will get the flu shot at their jobs.

As a health care professional, I urge everyone to get the flu vaccine in September. Please do not wait for flu cases to start to peak. The flu vaccine takes up to two weeks to reach peak effectiveness, so getting the vaccine in September will help provide the best protection as the flu increases in October and later in the season.

A lifesaver in previous years, but more so now



“The flu vaccine takes up to two weeks to reach peak effectiveness, so getting the vaccine in September will help provide the best protection as the flu increases in October and later in the season.

Both COVID-19 and the flu are contagious respiratory illness that present with similar symptoms. Both viruses can impact the elderly and those with certain chronic conditions, such as heart and lung disease, the hardest.

Data on flu vaccination rates from 2018-2019 show that only 49% of Americans six months of age and older received the flu vaccine. The vaccine’s effectiveness varies each season, with early data from the 2019-2020 flu season indicating a vaccine effectiveness rate of 50% overall, and 55% in youth.

While some may think this effectiveness rate is low, the flu vaccine remains the single best way to prevent the flu and related complications. For example, during the 2018-2019 flu season, flu vaccination was estimated to prevent 4.4 million flu illnesses, 53,000 flu hospitalizations and 3,500 deaths. Early data from the 2019-2020 flu season estimates there were 39-56 million flu illnesses, 18-26 million flu-related medical visits, 410-740,000 hospitalizations and up to 62,000 deaths. Much of this disease burden is preventable from higher flu vaccination rates.

It is now quite apparent that COVID-19 will still be circulating during flu season, which makes getting a flu vaccine more important than ever. As schools, our communities and our economy continue to reopen, it is vital to get the flu vaccine for personal, family and community protection.

Severe cases of both COVID-19 and the flu require the same lifesaving medical equipment. This highlights the importance of getting the flu vaccine for not only your own personal health but also the health of your community. Receiving the flu vaccine will help reduce the burden of respiratory illness on our already very overstretched health care system. By increasing flu vaccination rates, we can reduce the overall impact of respiratory illnesses on the population and hence lower the resulting burden on the health care system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because flu vaccination protects against one of these respiratory illnesses, the CDC recommends everyone (with few exceptions) six months of age and older get an annual flu vaccine. While the flu vaccine will not protect you against COVID-19, the flu vaccine will reduce your risk of developing the flu as well as reduce your risks of flu-related complications including hospitalization and even death.

While it may seem like there is so much out of our control during this pandemic, getting the flu vaccine, practicing proper hand washing, social distancing and wearing face coverings are within our control and will protect not only you but also your family and community.

If you are not getting the flu vaccine from your employer, think about alternative sources now. Vaccines should be available in most areas by Sept. 1.

- Call your doctor’s office to ask how you can get a flu shot.
- Call your local public health department.
- Consider getting a vaccine while you are grocery shopping or picking up prescriptions.

Mainly, make sure you take advantage of this potentially lifesaving vaccine. Get it on your calendar for early September now. And remember, the flu shot cannot give you the flu.

By arrangements with  
The Conversation





# GENEROSITY

## Is The Key To Live Longer

“WHAT IS NEW ABOUT OUR STUDY IS THAT for the first time we have combined transfer payments from state and family and evaluated the effect”,

**Agencies**

A new study published in the journal PNAS now suggests that humans that are generous or those who share more live longer. In their analysis, Fanny Kluge and Tobias Vogt found a strong linear relationship between a society's generosity and the average life expectancy of its members. The researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany, concluded that people are living longer in societies whose members support each other with resources. "What is new about our study is that for the first time we have combined transfer payments from state and family and evaluated the effect", said Fanny Kluge. The researchers used data for 34 countries from the National Transfer Accounts project. For all countries, state and private transfer payments received and given by each individual over his or her lifetime are added up and presented in relation to lifetime income. Societies in Western European countries share a lot and live long Sub-Saharan African countries such as Senegal share the lowest percentage of their lifetime income and have the highest mortality rate of all the countries studied. Those who share little die earlier. Although South Africa is economically more developed than other African countries, few resources are redistributed; here too, the mortality rate is relatively high. In these countries, the mortality rate of children and young people up to the age of 20 is also higher than in the other countries studied. "Our analyses suggest that redistribution influences the mortality rate of a country, regardless of the per capita gross domestic product," said Fanny Kluge. Societies in Western European countries and Japan transfer a lot to the youngest and oldest and mortality rates are low. The countries studied in South America also have high transfer payments. There, people share more than 60 per cent of their average life income with others. The mortality rates are lower than in sub-Saharan Africa but higher than those of Western Europe, Australia, Japan and Taiwan. In France and Japan, the two countries with the lowest mortality rates of all the countries studied, an average citizen shares between 68 and 69 per cent of their lifetime income. Here, the risk of dying in the coming year is only half as high for people over 65 as in China or Turkey, where between 44 and 48 per cent of lifetime income is redistributed. "What I find particularly interesting is that the relationship between generosity and lifetime income that we described does not depend on whether the benefits come from the state or from the wider family," said Fanny Kluge. Both of these factors cause the population to live longer compared to societies with fewer transfer payments.



# ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: [www.islamicuniversity.edu.in](http://www.islamicuniversity.edu.in).

### ADMISSION NOTIFICATION NO. 02 OF 2020

On-line applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to Ph.D. in **Watson-Crick Centre for Molecular Medicine** for the Academic Session 2020-21 as per following details:

S. No	Deptt./Discipline/Subject	No. of Vacancies
01	Molecular Medicine	02

The candidates are advised to go through Admission Notification thoroughly to check eligibility criteria/ other details before filling & submitting their Application Forms.

**I) Important Dates:**

Availability of Online Application Forms	05-09-2020
Last Date for submission of Online Application Forms	21-09-2020
Last Date for deposition of application fee	22-09-2020

**II) Eligibility:**  
Candidates having Master's degree in Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Clinical Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Molecular Medicine, Microbiology, Cell Biology, Immunology, Genetic Engineering and Genetics from a recognized University with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) shall be eligible for admission to Ph.D. in molecular medicine.

**OR**

An equivalent degree from a foreign educational institution accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions. The certificate of equivalence issued by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in such case shall be required.

**III) Duration of the Programme:** The duration of the programme shall be Minimum: 3 Years and Maximum 6 Years.

**IV) Procedure for Admission:**

a) Candidates with JRF (UGC/CSIR/ICMR) shall be eligible for direct admission and shall appear for synopsis presentation before the DRC. However, if the number of applicants with JRF is more than the available vacancies, the selection among such applicants shall be made on the basis of their merit in the viva/presentation.

b) In case of any vacancy after admitting JRF applicants all candidates with NET/SET, are exempted from the written test shall be called for viva/presentation irrespective of any ratio. The selection among such applicants shall be made on the basis of their performance in the viva/presentation with 50% as qualifying marks.

c) In case any vacancy still remaining after implementing procedure a) and b), it shall be filled from the non-NET/SET applicants on the basis of their performance in the entrance test to be conducted by the University (having two components - Research Methodology & Subject Specific with 40 questions from each component) and viva voce having a weightage of 80 and 20 respectively. For each vacancy three candidates shall be shortlisted (1:3) for viva/presentation from among the candidates who have qualified the written test (obtained 50% or above marks).

d) The candidates exempted from appearing in the Entrance Test or having qualified the Entrance Test, shall be required to appear before the DRC to ascertain i) student interest ii) inclination iii) research aptitude iv) area of specialization/interest and DRC shall finalize the list of selected candidates and their supervisors.

e) Mere appearance in the list of qualified candidates shall not entitle a candidate to the final selection, if he/she is found otherwise in-eligible.

**V) How to Apply:** The candidates are advised to follow the below mentioned steps for filling the details in their On-line Application Forms:

**Step-1:** Login to University Website [www.islamicuniversity.edu.in](http://www.islamicuniversity.edu.in) and follow the link Admissions 2020.

**Step-2:** Read the instructions carefully and click on "Proceed" tab.

**Step-3:** Click the Programmes tab and select the desired Programme.

**Step-4:** Enter the required details very carefully, upload latest passport size photograph/ signature, Master's Degree Marks Card, NET/SLET/SET/CSIR-JRF/ICMR-JRF certificate (if applicable). **Note:** The photograph/certificates to be uploaded must be in image file format (.jpg, .jpeg, .png).

**Step-5:** Check all the details and status of uploaded documents once again and then click the "Submit" tab. On the successful submission of form, an Acknowledgement Message will be generated.

**Step-6:** Once the form is submitted choose the payment option for deposition of application fee of Rs. 500/- as:

**Online:** Proceed as per the fee instructions on the screen      **Offline:** Take a printout of the fee receipt and deposit the amount in any branch of J&K Bank Ltd.

**VI) Important Notes:**

a) The University reserves the right to fill all the available vacancies or limit to any number depending on the overall performance of the applicants/ infrastructural facilities available.

b) Research Scholars admitted shall be entitled to receive Research Assistantship of Rs 7000/- as per the existing University scholarship scheme. The other terms and conditions are reflected on the University Ordinance for award of Ph.D. available on the University website.

c) The date for University Entrance Test (if required) shall be notified separately.

d) The candidature of applicants who fail to upload all the required documents, submit required fee etc. with the online Application Form shall be rejected.

e) Syllabus for entrance test is available on University website or can be had from concerned centre.

f) Candidates are advised to remain in touch with the University to collect the Admit Cards / Roll Number slips (if required) and for other updates.

g) For any further query/information, the candidates may contact: **EPABX: 01933-247954/247955 Ext.::, 1109 Email ID: [admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in](mailto:admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in)**

**No:** IUST/Acad/Adm\_Notification\_2/20/454  
**Dated:** 03-09-2020

**Sd/-**  
**Deputy Registrar (Academics)**

# Depression, Anxiety Spike Amid Coronavirus Outbreak And Turbulent Times

**Agencies**

**WASHINGTON-** Mental health therapists' caseloads are bulging. Waiting lists for appointments are growing. And anxiety and depression are rising among Americans amid the coronavirus crisis, research suggests.

In the latest study to suggest an uptick, half of US adults surveyed reported at least some signs of depression, such as hopelessness, feeling like a failure or getting little pleasure from doing things. That's double the rate from a different survey two years ago, Boston University researchers said on Wednesday in the medical journal JAMA Network Open.

The study did not ask about any diagnosis they might have received, and for many people, the problem is mostly angst rather than full-blown psychiatric illness.

But experts say the feeling is genuine and deserving of professional help.

For some people, it stems from lost loved ones and the financial distress and social isolation the outbreak has caused. Experts say Americans are also feeling anxiety over the racial and political upheaval of the past few months, though the BU study was conducted before the recent tumult.

"There is no question that many people in the US and worldwide are experiencing real and often distressing emotional reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic and, in some cases, to contracting the virus," said psychiatrist Dr Ronald Pies, a retired professor at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

The global outbreak has caused more than 850,000 deaths and almost 26 million confirmed infections. US cases total 6 million, with about 185,000 deaths.

The crisis has also thrown millions out of work, crippled the economy and forced shutdowns of bars, restaurants, theatres and gyms.

Calls from March through July to the US government-funded Disaster Distress Helpline, which offers counselling and emotional support, surged 335 per cent from the same period last year.

Helpline counsellors have reported callers expressing feelings of isolation and interpersonal concerns related to physical distancing such as being cut off from social supports, said Hannah Collins, a spokeswoman for Vibrant Emotional Health, a group that runs the helpline.

While not all calls are COVID-19-related, many people have sought help for anxiety and fear about getting the virus, distress over being diagnosed, or anguish over the illness or death of a loved one, she said.

The BU study involved a survey of 1,440 US adults questioned about depression symptoms in early April. Symptoms were most common in young adults, low-income participants and in those who reported several outbreak-related troubles, including financial problems, lost jobs or COVID-19 deaths of relatives.

Almost 1,000 participants had experienced at least of three such struggles.

The study results echo research from China early in the outbreak, and studies done during the Ebola and SARS crises and after major hurricanes and 9/11, said lead author Dr Sandro Galea, a BU public health expert.

The survey was done before the US spike in civil unrest, including the May 24 death of George Floyd, who authorities say was killed when a Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck for several minutes.

But Galea said that other studies have shown increases in depression symptoms after traumatic events and that it is likely the unrest has contributed to American angst.

At Cityscape Counseling in Chicago, the new client caseload jumped from 95 to 148 over the past two months, said executive director Chelsea Hudson. The group's 17 therapists see about 500 clients a week, and Hudson said she has hired two more therapists to deal with the increased demand.

We see a lot of single young professionals. I think it's been especially tough on them. The isolation, lack of connection, often enhances depression, she said.

Hudson said many clients are distressed about social justice issues. With more free time, she said, they are paying more attention to the news, and Chicago has been hit by vandalism and protests over killings by police.

Todd Creager, a Southern California therapist who specializes in relationship troubles, has upped his weekly workload from 22 hours of therapy to 30 to handle increased demand.

He is seeing anxiety, depression and stress related to financial woes brought on by the pandemic. And in some cases, virus-related shutdowns have amplified existing strife.

"In the past, people could get distracted by going to concerts and dinners. Now their problems are kind of staring them in the face," he said. "I've heard people say, 'This pandemic has made me realize how toxic my relationship is.'" (AP)





## Iran intends to send its astronauts to space for the first time

Agencies

BEIRUT: The head of the Geo-Spatial Research Center in the Iranian Ministry of Science, Fathallah Ami, announced preparations to send a person to space.

The Mehr Agency quoted Fathallah Ami as saying that Iranian astronauts will be trained in cooperation with an unnamed allied country before they are sent to space.

He mentioned Iran's previous success in sending living organisms to space in 2012, which was repeated again in 2013 when they sent a monkey to space for 15 minutes, as an example of the Islamic Repub-

lic's technological advances. The agency explained that the launch of the bio-probe was described, at that time, as an experiment with a greater purpose, which is to send humans

to Earth's orbit. But the project has so far remained silent for several reasons, among them a lack of funding. On the project of sending a living creature to outer space, Fathallah Ami confirmed that the project to send a monkey to space has been completed, and currently, the Al-Jawfudha Research Center is conducting studies on sending a person to space in two stages. Send the astronaut to a layer under orbit and into Earth orbit in the second stage.

Ami pointed out that the date of implementation of the project to send a person to space is linked to the financ-



lic's technological advances.

The agency explained that the launch of the bio-probe was described, at that time, as an experiment with a greater purpose, which is to send humans

ing of the project, provided that it will be implemented until 2025, and before that the project of sending a person to a layer under the orbit will be implemented.

## Pakistan's bid to designate 4 Indians as terrorists in UN Security Council fails

Press Trust Of India

Washington: The UN Security Council blocked a move by Pakistan to get four Indian nationals listed under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee, with India asserting that Islamabad's "blatant attempt" to politicise the UN procedure on terrorism has been thwarted.

Pakistan had submitted the names of Angara Appaji, Gobinda Patnaik, Ajoy Mistry and Venumadhav Dongara for

given by Pakistan in its case to get the four individuals listed.

"Pakistan's blatant attempt to politicise 1267 special procedure on terrorism by giving it a religious colour, has been thwarted by the UN Security Council. We thank all those Council members who have blocked Pakistan's designs," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti tweeted on Wednesday.

Last month, India had laid



designation under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.

However, Pakistan's attempt was thwarted as the US, UK, France, Germany and Belgium blocked the move in the Council. Sources pointed out that a request by Pakistan containing names of Mistry and Dongara had been blocked earlier around June/July and another attempt with the remaining two individuals was blocked on Wednesday. They added that no evidence was

bare a lie by Pakistan about Indian nationals in the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions List of the UN Security Council. In response to the remark by Pakistan that it submitted names of the four Indians to be proscribed under the Sanctions List, India had said the Sanctions List is "public and the world can see none of these individuals are in it. The 1267 Committee works on the basis of evidence and not random accusations thrown in to divert their time and attention".



A man reads a speech as Iraqis gather to commemorate the 4th day after Ashura in the holy city of Najaf — AFP

## WHO's "Strong Recommendation" For Steroid Use On Critical Covid Patients

Agencies

London: Treating critically ill COVID-19 patients with corticosteroid drugs reduces the risk of death by 20%, an analysis of seven international trials found on Wednesday, prompting the World Health Organisation to update its advice on treatment.

The analysis - which pooled data from separate trials of low dose hydrocortisone, dexamethasone and methylprednisolone - found that steroids improve survival rates of COVID-19 patients sick enough to be in intensive care in hospital.

"This is equivalent to around 68% of (the sickest COVID-19) patients surviving after treatment with corticosteroids, compared to around 60% surviving in the absence of corticosteroids," the researchers said in a statement.

The WHO's clinical care lead, Janet Diaz, said the agency had updated its advice to include a "strong recommendation" for use of steroids in patients with severe and critical COVID-19.

"The evidence shows that

if you give corticosteroids ... (there are) 87 fewer deaths per 1,000 patients," she told a WHO social media live event. "Those are lives ... saved."

"Steroids are a cheap and readily available medication, and our analysis has confirmed that they are effective in reducing deaths amongst the people most severely affected by COVID-19," Jonathan Sterne, a professor of medical statistics and epidemiology at Britain's Bristol University who worked on the analysis, told the briefing.

He said the trials - conducted by researchers in Britain, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Spain, and the United States - gave a consistent message throughout, showing the drugs were beneficial in the sickest patients regardless of age or sex or how long patients had been ill.

The findings, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, reinforce results that were hailed as a major breakthrough and announced in June, when dexamethasone became the first drug shown to be able to

reduce death rates among severely sick COVID-19 patients.

Dexamethasone has been in widespread use in intensive care wards treating COVID-19 patients in some countries since then.

Martin Landray, a professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Oxford who worked on the dexamethasone trial that was a key part of the pooled analysis published on Wednesday, said the results mean doctors in hospitals across the world can safely switch to using the drugs to save lives.

### CLEAR BENEFITS

"These results are clear, and instantly usable in clinical practice," he told reporters. "Among critically ill patients with COVID-19, low-dose corticosteroids ... significantly reduce the risk of death."

Researchers said the benefit was shown regardless of whether patients were on ventilation at the time they started treatment. They said the WHO would update its guidelines immediately to reflect the fresh results.

## China Seeks To Set Up Military Facilities In Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar: Pentagon

Agencies

Washington: China is seeking to set up more robust logistics facilities in about a dozen countries, including three in India's immediate neighbourhood, to allow the Chinese PLA (army) to project and sustain military power at greater distances, according to a Pentagon report.

In addition to the three neighbours of India - Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar - the other countries where China is considering to base its military logistics and infrastructure facilities are Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Seychelles, Tanzania, Angola and Tajikistan, the report said today.

In its annual report "Military and Security Developments Involving the People's

Republic of China (PRC) 2020" that was submitted to the US Congress, the Pentagon said these potential Chinese military logistics facilities are in addition to the Chinese military base in Djibouti, which is aimed at supporting naval, air and ground forces projection.

"A global PLA (People's Liberation Army) military logistics network could both interfere with US military operations and support offensive operations against the United States as the PRC's global military objectives evolve," the Pentagon said in the report.

China has probably already made overtures to Namibia, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands, it said, adding the known focus areas of PLA planning are along the Seal Lines of Communication from China to the Strait of Hormuz, Africa, and the Pa-

cific Islands.

Similarly, the Pentagon said, Beijing uses the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative to support its strategy of national rejuvenation by seeking to expand global transportation and trade linkages to support its development and deepen its economic integration with nations along its periphery and beyond.

"OBOR projects associated with pipelines and port construction in Pakistan intend to decrease China's reliance on transporting energy resources through strategic choke points, such as the Strait of Malacca," it said.

China leverages the OBOR to invest in projects along China's western and southern periphery to improve stability and diminish threats along its borders, the report said.

## Non-bailable arrest warrant issued against former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif

Agencies

Lahore: A Pakistani court on Thursday directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to execute a non-bailable arrest warrant against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in a 34-year-old land allotment case, according to media reports.

During the plot allotment hearing, Model Town Police Inspector Bashir Ahmed told Lahore Accountability Court's Judge Asad Ali that Sharif was not at his residence.

Last month, the accountability court had issued a bailable arrest warrant and served a summons at all known addresses of the three-time prime minister, who is the currency in London for medical treatment.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMN-N) leader Ata Tarar confirmed to the court on Thursday that the 70-year-old party chief Sharif had been abroad for six months, the Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Responding to this, Special Prosecutor Harris Qureshi, appearing on behalf of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), asked the court to issue a non-bailable arrest (NBA) warrant against Sharif.

The court issued the NBA warrant and directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to execute the arrest through the Pakistan High Commission in London, the report added.

Jang/Geo media group owner Mir Shakilur Rehman is also facing charges in the case and was arrested in March. The court on Thursday extended the judicial remand of the veteran journalist, The Nation newspa-

per reported.

The NBA warrant against Sharif comes two days after the Islamabad High Court gave a "last chance" to the former



prime minister to surrender and appear before it on September 10 in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills graft case.

Sharif has been in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treating a heart disease and an immune system disorder. The three-time premier was sentenced to seven years in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills case. The Pakistan government has already declared Sharif an "absconder" and approached the UK government for his extradition.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Accountability and Interior Shahzad Akbar, last week, said Sharif's four-week bail on medical grounds had expired in December last year.

Akbar had said the government would task the National Accountability Bureau to pursue Sharif's extradition. In a recent interview with ARY News, Prime Minister Imran Khan said his government "regretted" the decision to lift the ban on Sharif.

## Pakistanis Stranded In India Amid Lockdown Return Via Attari-Wagah Border

Agencies

Attari-Wagah (Punjab): Several Pakistani nationals, who were stranded in India due to the ongoing COVID-19 lock-

days for the renewal of my passport and got stuck here due to lockdown. I also faced some problems, but finally, I am going home today. I thank



down, crossed over to the neighbouring country through the Attari-Wagah border on Thursday.

One of the Karachi residents, Salma Chaudhary, who was stranded in India said that she faced a lot of problems due to the pandemic and lockdown but thanked the Ministry of External Affairs and Pakistan High Commission for helping her.

"I came on March for 15

MEA and Pakistan High Commission for helping me," Ms Chaudhary told ANI.

The Karachi resident said that she is an Indian married to a Pakistani national.

"My family, including my husband and seven-year-old son, lives in Pakistan. I am feeling quite excited as I am going back home after months and am going to meet them," she added.

## "Do We Have Enough Soap?": Children Ask Norway PM About Virus

O slo: Prime Minister Erna Solberg told Norwegian children on Thursday she was confident a vaccine against the novel coronavirus will be found and that the disease could become one of the many diseases kids are vaccinated against.

She spoke at her third news conference held specially for children, with adults not allowed to ask questions, since the crisis began. At the first such briefing on March 16, Solberg told children it was "OK" to feel scared about the pandemic.

"I think we'll be able to find a vaccine and that means that corona will continue to exist but because we will be vaccinated we will not become ill or not so ill from it," Solberg said, adding that, when



she was little, she was sick with measles.

"That is a disease that almost all children in Norway are vaccinated against now, but that was a very dangerous disease when I was little ... Now it (the coronavirus) will be like with the measles or rubella."

Other questions asked by children and sent in advance via children's TV programme Supernytt included: "Do we have enough

soap?", "Does Norway have any money left after the pandemic?" and "Could we have Antibac that smells nice?"

"It would be nice, wouldn't it, if it smelled like flowers," said Solberg.

"But the most important is that it works ... And sometimes you find Antibac that smell better than others."

Norway would have enough supplies of soap to cope with the pandemic, Kjell Ingolf Ropstad, the Minister for Children and Family, told the same news conference.

Schools in Norway reopened from April 27 and resumed as normal after the summer holidays on Aug. 17. Pupils do not need to wear face masks but they must try to keep socially distant during breaks.

## Door "Nailed Shut": Parents Lock Up Children For Months Over Virus Fears In Sweden

Stockholm: Three children in Sweden have been removed from home after their parents locked them up for four months fearing they might catch the coronavirus, the youngsters' lawyer said on Wednesday.

Between March and early July, the children, aged 10 to 17, and the family "were prohibited from leaving the apartment", lawyer Mikael Svegfors told AFP. The children were not allowed to see each other, locked in their own rooms and ate their meals there, said the Jonkoping administrative court in southern Sweden.

In addition, the door to the home had been "nailed shut" so no one could go out, the court found.

The parents deny locking in the children against their will and plan to appeal the ruling, local radio reported.

Unlike many other European countries, Sweden did not impose a strict lockdown and kept schools open for children under 16.

The Scandinavian country has one of the world's highest Covid-19 death tolls relative to population, with 575 deaths per million.



The parents "come from another part of the world" and do not speak Swedish fluently, lawyer Svegfors said. "They couldn't really understand the news here. They kept following the news feed over internet from their old country" which had imposed much stricter confinement measures.

## Salman Khan to earn INR200 mn per episode for 'Big Boss 14'

Aside from giving blockbusters on the box-office, Bollywood's Salman Khan seems to have the same impact on the viewers of the small screen - especially when it comes to his reality TV show Big Boss.

Despite the hyper-dramatic influence the show has, Khan's hosting-stint soars TRPs, the evidence of which is provided by the weekend episodes as TRPs peak when the Bajranghi Bhaijaan actor appears on screen, according to Filmfare.

However, this year raised speculations about his fee for Bigg Boss season 14 and now according to a leading daily, the actor has struck a deal worth INR4.5 billion (450 crores) with the makers.



## India's Services Sector Activity Shrinks For 6Th Straight Month



The downturn in India's services sector activity eased significantly in August but remained in the contraction zone as COVID-19 pandemic-induced restrictions continued to adversely impact client demand and business operations, a monthly survey said on Thursday. The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index rose sharply from 34.2 in July to 41.8 in August, the highest since March, before the escalation of the pandemic.

However, the Indian services sector activity contracted for the sixth successive month in August. A print above 50 means expansion and a score below that denotes contraction, as per the IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

"August highlights another month of challenging operating conditions in the Indian services sector. Sustained periods of closure and ongoing lockdown restrictions in both domestic and foreign markets have weighed heavily on the health of the industry," said Shreeya Patel, Economist at IHS Markit.

New business and output continued to contract at marked rates, albeit slower than the records seen in April

and May, the survey said, adding that restrictions also contributed to a record increase in outstanding business.

"Output and new work continue to fall at solid rates, while restrictions meant that firms were often unable to complete projects. Backlogs of work accumulated to the greatest extent in almost 15 years of data collection," Patel said.

On the employment front, reduced business activity saw the Indian service sector operating below capacity. As a result, firms reported job shedding for a sixth consecutive month.

On the price front, sustained revenue losses through the second quarter and increasing cost burdens led companies to raise charges for the first time since March.

Looking ahead, sentiment was neutral in August. Two-thirds of the panelists expected output in the year ahead to remain unchanged on current levels.

"That said, the survey showed signs of a potential recovery. Business sentiment was neutral after being negative in the previous three months and employment fell at the softest pace since March," Patel said.

Meanwhile, the Composite PMI Output Index, which measures combined services and manufacturing output, rose from 37.2 in July to 46 in August, and remained below the neutral 50 level, thereby signaling a fifth consecutive decline in private sector business activity.

## Do You Need Mask If Driving Or Cycling Alone? Health Ministry Official Says No Such Guidelines



**NEW DELHI:** The Union Health Ministry has not issued any guidelines recommending wearing of a mask if someone is driving a car or cycling alone, a top government official said on Thursday.

However, if someone is exercising, cycling or jogging in a group, they should wear masks and maintain social distancing so as not to infect each other, Secretary in the Union Health Ministry Rajesh Bhushan said at a press briefing.

A large number of people have complained of late about being challaned for not wearing a mask while being inside in their cars as the COVID-19 cases soared in the country.

Responding to a question if it is necessary to wear a mask while driving a car or cycling alone, Bhushan clarified:

"There are no guidelines from the Health Ministry on wearing a mask if a person is driving a car or riding a cycle alone."

"Of late there is an increased awareness among people about physical activity and you must have seen people cycling or jogging in groups of two or three. If you are cycling or jogging in a group you need to wear a mask and maintain social distancing so as not to infect each other," Bhushan said.

With a record single-day spike of 83,883 infections, India's COVID-19 caseload mounted to 38,53,406, while the death toll climbed to 67,376 with 1,043 people succumbing to the disease in a day, the Health Ministry's data updated at 8 am showed. PTI



A KASHMIRI nomad works on shearing his sheep in central Kashmir. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Air Chief Marshal Reviews IAF's Operational Preparedness In Eastern Sector

**NEW DELHI:** Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria reviewed the IAF's operational preparedness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim in view of the escalating border tensions with China, officials said on Thursday.

"Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria visited frontline air bases in Eastern Air Command (EAC) on Wednesday," an IAF spokesperson said without mentioning the names of the air bases.

The Eastern Air Command, headquartered in Shillong, looks after the aerial defence of sensitive areas along the LAC in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh as well as various other parts of the region.

The Army and the Indian Air Force have increased their alert levels in all key bases along the nearly 3,400-km LAC following China's fresh attempts to change the status quo in the Southern Bank of Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh.

The IAF spokesperson said the Chief of Air Staff was apprised about the "state of readiness" and operational preparedness of the combat units under the command.



"Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria also met and interacted with air warriors serving in these units during the course of his visit. He lauded the focussed efforts by the station personnel towards maintaining proficiency in all roles envisaged and urged them to continue performing their duty with due diligence," the official said.

The IAF Chief has been regularly visiting key air bases along the LAC since the border row broke out between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh in early May.

In June, Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria made a quiet visit to Ladakh and Srinagar air bases to review the IAF's overall preparedness.

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

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

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 People's Liberation Army (PLA) was engaged in "provocative action" again a day earlier when the ground commanders of the two sides were holding talks to ease the situation. — PTI

## "Very Dangerous" When Judges Act In Their Own Cause: Prashant Bhushan

**NEW DELHI:** Activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan, convicted and fined by the Supreme Court for contempt of court, said this power is sometimes misused or abused in an attempt to stifle free speech or discussion about the judiciary.

He called the contempt of court jurisdiction "very dangerous" and said it should be abolished.

"Every citizen in a democracy, those who are familiar with the working of the judicial system and the Supreme Court, should be able to speak freely but unfortunately that has also been treated as contempt of court by scandalising," he said.

"In this the judge acts as accuser prosecutor and as a judge," Mr Bhushan said at a webinar. "Freedom of Speech and The Indian Judiciary", organised by Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia.

"It is a very dangerous jurisdiction in which judges act in their own cause and that is why in all countries this power to punish has been

abolished. It is only continued in few countries like India," he said.

The top court had imposed a token fine of Re 1 on Mr Bhushan for his tweets against the judiciary. It asked him to deposit the fine by September 15, failing which he will attract a jail term of three months and debarment from law practice for three years.

He said that the power of contempt of court is sometimes it is abused or misused by the judiciary in an attempt to stifle free speech or free discussion about the judiciary.

"I am not saying that there are no vile or scandalous scurrilous allegations being made against judges. They are. But they are dismissed for what they are. People understand that these are scurrilous and unsubstantiated allegations. The respect for the judiciary does not stand on the ability of the court to stifle this kind of criticism even it is sometimes scurrilous and unfair," Mr Bhushan said.

Talking about his tweets, he said it was what he felt was role of the top court and not protecting democracy

in the last six years.

The lawyer said the contempt of court should be abolished and it was for this reason that he along with former Union minister Arun Shourie and veteran journalist N Ram filed a plea challenging the constitutional validity of a legal provision dealing with criminal contempt.

"Initially the matter was listed before Justice DY Chandrachud but later it was removed from him and sent before Justice Arun Mishra (retired Wednesday) whose views on this contempt are well known and earlier also he had accused me of scandalising and contempt of court just because I had told former CJs Justice JS Khehar, Dipak Misra and him that they should not hear a case due to conflict of interest," he said.

Mr Bhushan said that he is hopeful that this focus on the business of scandalising the court will lead to reform in the law and abolish this part of criminal contempt as it is an unreasonable restriction on freedom of speech.

## PM Modi's Twitter Account Hacked, Asked Followers For Donations Via Cryptocurrency

**NEW DELHI:** Twitter on Thursday said the account linked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal website was hacked, and it has now been restored.

"We're aware of this activity and have taken steps to secure the compromised account. We are actively investigating the situation. At this time, we are not aware of additional accounts being impacted. Advice on keeping your account secure can be found here," a Twitter spokesperson said in an emailed statement.

The compromised account has about 2.5 million followers.

After hacking the @narendramodi\_in Twitter account, which is the Prime Minister's personal website, the cybercriminal reportedly sent out posts seeking donations for the PM National Relief Fund for COVID-19 using crypto currency.

"Yes, this account is hacked by John Wick (hckindia@tutanota.com). We have not hacked Paytm Mall," another message had said.

On August 30, cybersecurity firm Cyble had said hacker group 'John Wick' was behind a data breach at Paytm Mall, the e-commerce unit of Paytm.

Paytm Mall had said it had not found any security lapses after investigating claims of a possible hack and data



breach.

Twitter on Thursday also said as per its investigation, the latest attack was not due to a compromise of Twitter's systems or service.

There is no indication or evidence of any correlation between this account compromise and the incident that took place in July, it said.

Accounts of high-profile users like Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Barack Obama, Jeff Bezos and others were compromised on July 15.

In an update on its blog on July 30, Twitter had said attackers had used credentials of some employees to access its internal systems and gain information about its processes.

The attackers targeted 130 Twitter accounts, ultimately Tweeting from 45, accessing the DM inbox of 36, and downloading the Twitter Data of 7 accounts, it had said.

## UNSC Blocks Pakistan's Bid To Get Two Indians Listed As Terrorists



**NEW YORK:** The UN Security Council blocked a move by Pakistan to get four Indian nationals listed under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee with India asserting that Islamabad's blatant attempt to politicise the UN procedure on terrorism has been thwarted.

Pakistan had submitted the names of Angara Appaji, Gobinda Patnaik, Ajay Mishra and Venumadhav Dongara for designation under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.

However, Pakistan's attempt was thwarted as US, UK, France, Germany and Belgium blocked the move in the Council. Sources pointed out that a request by Pakistan containing names of Mishra and Dongara had been blocked earlier around June/July and another attempt with the remaining two individuals was blocked on Wednesday. They added that no evidence was given

by Pakistan in its case to get the four individuals listed.

"Pakistan's blatant attempt to politicise 1267 special procedure on terrorism by giving it a religious colour, has been thwarted by the UN Security Council. We thank all those Council members who have blocked Pakistan's designs," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti tweeted Wednesday.

Last month, India had laid bare a lie by Pakistan about Indian nationals in the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions List of the UN Security Council. In response to the remark by Pakistan that it submitted names of the four Indians to be proscribed under the Sanctions List, India had said the Sanctions List is public and the world can see none of these individuals are in it.

The 1267 Committee works on the basis of evidence and not random accusations thrown in to divert their time and attention.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Convert Classes 1 To 6 To English Medium In All Schools: SC Notice To AP Govt

The Supreme Court Thursday issued a notice on Andhra Pradesh government's plea seeking to make English the medium of education from class one to six in its schools.

A bench comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and K M Joseph sought response of Srinivas Guntipalli on whose plea the Andhra Pradesh High Court had stopped the implementation of the plan in government-run Telugu medium schools.

In April this year, the high court had set aside the order for government schools to convert the medium of instruction from Telugu to English.

Senior advocate K V Vishwanathan, appearing for the state government, assailed the order during the hearing conducted via video conference. He said a majority of parents wanted English to be the medium of education and it was a progressive, forward looking measure in accordance with the Constitution. Senior advocate Gopal Shankarnarayanan, appearing for caveator who was the petitioner in the high court, accepted the notice and will have to file response in two weeks. The top court has now fixed the plea for hearing on September 25.

## Khap Panchayat Forces Man, Woman To Bathe Publicly To 'Wash Off Sins'

**JAIPUR:** A Khap panchayat, an unelected council of village elders, recently penalised a man and woman from the Sansi Community in Rajasthan's Sikar district by making them bathe publicly to wash their alleged 'sins'.

The nephew and aunt who were allegedly involved in an 'illicit' relationship, were asked to deposit Rs 31,000 and Rs 22,000 respectively by the Khap panchayat as penalty before they were allowed to return to the social fold.

On Tuesday, Sansi Samaj members submitted a memorandum to the Superintendent of Police, demanding stringent action



against the khap panchayat.

They said that the guilty should be put behind bars, the amount collected by the woman given back to her and those who gathered at the site booked for flouting social distancing norms.

Sikar SP Gagandeep Singla, meanwhile, said that a probe is underway and the team is recording villagers' statements. "Also, we are trying to get videos or pictures of the incident," he added.

The incident was reported on August 21 and as per the Khap panchayat, the man and woman were asked to wash off their sins by bathing in a public place. Hundreds of villagers gathered to look at the so-called punishment. A few onlookers even took pictures and made videos of the incident, but nobody came forward to help them. IANS

## Ambani Twins Feature On Fortune's 40 Under 40 List

**NEW YORK:** Reliance Jio Board Directors Isha Ambani and Akash Ambani, Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla and Byju Raveendran, co-founder of India's leading education technology company Byju's, are among the emerging leaders from across the world named by Fortune in its annual list of influential people under the age of 40.

The 2020 Fortune 40 Under 40 list highlights 40 influential people each in five categories of finance, technology, healthcare, government and politics, and media and entertainment from around the world.

Featured in the list are 28-year old Ambani twins, children of Reliance Chairman billionaire Mukesh



Ambani and Nita Ambani.

They say data is the new oil and when it comes to Reliance Industries, India's largest company, that's literally the case. The 47-year-old conglomerate amassed a fortune in petrochemicals before dominating India's mobile connectivity market with Jio, a low-cost wireless carrier it debuted in 2016, Fortune said.

It added that Akash joined the company in 2014 after receiving an economics degree from Brown University and Isha joined a year later, following stints at Yale, Stanford, and McKinsey.

As Jio board members, they helped seal the company's recent megadeal with Facebook \$5.7 billion for a 9.99% stake plus major follow-on investments from marquee

tech titans like Google, Qualcomm, and Intel. The flurry of investments lent the business an eye-popping \$65 billion private valuation, Fortune said.

The US publication added that the siblings, along with their younger brother Anant, 25 are training to take on their father's empire. A major proving ground will be e-commerce. Recently, Akash and Isha helped launch Jio Mart, a venture that aims to challenge Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart for command of India's massive and fast-growing online shopping market. The list names Raveendran, the 39-year old CEO of Byju's, India's biggest education technology company.