



Maximum : 30°C SUNSET
Today 06:46 PM
Minimum : 15°C SUNRISE
Humidity : 49% Tomorrow 06:10 AM



News Digest

Grenade Attack On CRPF Camp In Tral

Srinagar: Suspected militants on Tuesday evening hurled a grenade on CRPF camp in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Suspected militants on Tuesday evening lobbed a grenade towards the camp of CRPF 180 battalion in Nowdal, Tral, a senior police officer said. However, the grenade, he said exploded outside the camp with a bang. "However in this incident no loss of life or injury has" **P-02**

Soldier Hurt After Vehicle Overturns

Srinagar: An army man on Tuesday was injured after the vehicle carrying him turned turtle in Gund area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The soldier identified as P-Bodalay of army's 29 RR was injured when the vehicle he was travelling in, turned turtle near Gadrilal in Gund area along the Srinagar-Leh highway this morning, officials said. The injured soldier, officials said was removed to army's hospital in Wusan for treatment. His condition is said to be stable.

2 Held For Issuing Fake Travel Passes

Jammu: Police on Tuesday arrested two persons for allegedly issuing fake movement passes in lieu of money from people entering Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The movement passes are necessary for inter-state and inter-provincial movement in Jammu and Kashmir since the outbreak of coronavirus in March. The duo was arrested at Lakhampur corridor along the Jammu-Pathankot highway, police officials said. "They were" **P-02**

Absconder Held After 11 Years

Jammu: A man accused of cheating people by cloning their credit cards was arrested on Tuesday from the TallabTillo area here after being on the run for the last 11 years, police said. Haritesh Sethi was arrested by the Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police during a raid in the area, they said. He was involved in a 2009 case of fraud and cheating through swiping machines by misusing counterfeit, cloned and illegally acquired credit cards, police said. Sethi was evading arrest despite a court issued warrant against him, they said.

CASO Carried Out In Budgam

Srinagar: State forces on Tuesday resumed cordon and search operation (CASO) in Kawoosa village of central Kashmir's Budgam district after it was halted late Monday night due to darkness. Officials said that search operation has resumed in Kawoosa village in the morning. Earlier, a joint team of police, army and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in Kawoosa area of Narbal on Monday afternoon based on a specific input about the presence of militants in the area. "As the joint team of" **P-02**

4.4 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Kargil

An earthquake of magnitude 4.4 on the Richter scale jolted Kargil in Ladakh on Tuesday, according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The earthquake occurred 435-km north-northwest of Kargil at 5.47 am.

Firearms Used On Ladakh LAC After 45 Years

Armed With Spears And Clubs, Chinese Troops Attempts To Close In On Indian Position

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI/BEIJING: India on Tuesday said Chinese troops attempted to close in on its position in eastern Ladakh a day earlier and fired shots in the air, in a rapid escalation of tensions where firearms were used along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) after 45 years.

The fresh confrontation in Rezang-La ridgeline in eastern Ladakh on Monday evening where the soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) carried clubs and spears erupted three days after the defence ministers of India and China held talks in Moscow, and ahead of an expected meeting between their foreign ministers in the Russian capital on Thursday.

As India and China accused each other of firing in the air near the Pangong lake at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh on Monday, the Indian Army said that despite the 'grave provocation' its troops exercised 'great restraint' and behaved in a mature and responsible manner.

In the instant case on September 7, it was the PLA troops who were attempting to close-in with one of our forward positions along the LAC and when dissuaded by own (Indian) troops, PLA troops fired a few rounds in the air in an attempt to intimidate own troops, the Army said in a statement. An identical statement was also issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The previous instance of shots being fired at the de-facto border was in 1975. Provisions of an agreement of 1996 and another inked in 2005 mandate the two sides not to use firearms during any confrontation.

The statement by the Indian Army came after the PLA late on Monday night alleged that the Indian troops crossed the LAC and 'outrageously fired' warning



File Photo

India Must Stop 'Dangerous Actions': China

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: As a fresh border confrontation erupted between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh, China on Tuesday said that India has been asked to immediately stop its "dangerous actions", withdraw the people who crossed the line and discipline its front-line troops and those who fired the warning shots and then make sure won't happen again.

Echoing the PLA's comments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian

at a media briefing sought to blame Indian troops for firing warning shots first on Monday.

Asked about Indian allegations that it was Chinese troops which took provocative steps first, he read out the statement of the PLA's Western Theater command spokesman on Monday alleging that Indian troops illegally crossed the LAC and outrageously fired warning shots on Chinese border patrol soldiers forcing them to take countermeasures.

I also want to stress in this incident, the Indian **PAGE 02**

PLA Has Found 5 Missing Arunachal Youths: Rijiju

China's People's Liberation Army has confirmed that five youths missing from Arunachal Pradesh have been found by them and their handing over process to Indian authorities is being worked out, Union minister Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday. The five youths had gone missing on Friday from the Sino-Indian **P-02**

shots near the Pangong lake. 'At no stage has the Indian Army transgressed across the LAC

or resorted to use of any aggressive means, including firing. It is the PLA that has been blatantly

violating agreements and carrying out aggressive manoeuvres, while engagement **PAGE 02**

IN THE INSTANT CASE ON SEPTEMBER 7, IT WAS THE PLA TROOPS WHO WERE attempting to close-in with one of our forward positions along the LAC and when dissuaded by own (Indian) troops, PLA troops fired a few rounds in the air in an attempt to intimidate own troops,'

J&K Glaciers Melting At 'Significant' Rate, Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- Glaciers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are melting at a "significant" rate, according to a first-of-its-kind study which used satellite data to find that over 1,200 glaciers in the Himalayan region saw an annual reduction in mass of 35 centimetres (cm) on average between 2000 and 2012.

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, was carried over the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh region, including areas across the Line of



File Photo

Control (LoC) and Line of Actual Control (LAC), and in all 12,243 glaciers were studied for thickness and mass changes.

"In general, it was observed that

the glaciers in the Pir Panjal range are melting at the higher rate — more than one metre per year — while as the glaciers in the Karakoram range are melting **PAGE 02**

Two More Youth Go Missing From Pulwama

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Two more youth, including a student has gone missing from south Kashmir's Pulwama district sparking fears of them of having joined militant ranks.

Mohsin Amin Bhat of Chursoo village of Awantipora has gone missing from August 29 and since then his whereabouts remain unknown, his father Mohammad Amin said Tuesday. He said after failing to find his son for three days, the family lodged a missing report on September 1 at the concerned police station.

Bhat, according to his father was pursuing his BA degree from

3 Lashkar OGWs Held In Bandipora: Police

Three "overground workers" of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) have been arrested in north Kashmir's Bandipora district and incriminating materials found in their possession, police said **P-02**

Islamia College of Science and Commerce here in this capital city. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic and **PAGE 02**

Monitoring Cell To Check Timely Redressal Of Grievances In J&K

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration will set up a monitoring cell to compile and forward all public grievances to deputy commissioners concerned in districts to ensure their timely redressal, officials said Tuesday.

The cell is being launched on the direction of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to address public grievances related to different sectors.

The implementation of different schemes needs to be monitored uniformly and effectively across all districts to ensure their timely completion Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam said, chairing a meeting with all the deputy commissioners here. **P-02**

Barring 2 Districts, 4G Internet Ban In J&K Extended Till Sep 30

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday extended 4G internet ban in all but two districts till September 30, asserting that "it is absolutely necessary so to do in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India."

In pursuance of the recommendations by the Special Committee in its meeting dated August 10 for considering calibrated casing of restrictions in limited and "comparatively less sensitive geographical areas" the government ordered restoration of high speed mobile data services in Ganderbal and Udhampur on trial basis while in rest of the districts, the speed was directed to con-

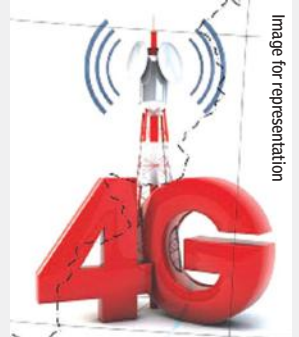


Image for representation

tinue to be restricted to 2G only.

As per an order issued by Shaleen Kabra (IAS), Principal Secretary to the Government Home department here, the directions were reviewed by the Review Committee on August 21 and September 01. **PAGE 02**

THE COMMITTEE, WHILE TAKING note of the assessment made by the law enforcement agencies that no reports of misuse of high speed internet services in the Districts of Ganderbal and Udhampur had been reported, observed that the situation needed to be monitored closely,"

Covid-19 Claims 12 More Lives In J&K, Toll 818

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least twelve people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, raising the death toll due to virus in the Union Territory to 818.

While six deaths were reported from Kashmir valley, the remaining were confirmed by officials from the Jammu division, officials said. Among the victims in the Valley, two were Srinagar residents and one each from Anantnag, Kupwara, Pulwama and Kulgam districts.

The fatalities from Srinagar include a 70-year-old from Tengpora Batamaloo who was admitted on August 24 at SMHS hospital

J&K Sees Record 1355 Covid-19 Cases In A Day Jammu and Kashmir witnessed its biggest single-day spike of 1,355 COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, pushing the Union Territory's infection tally to 45,925. It was for the sixth **P-02**

and diagnosed as a case of bilateral community acquired pneumonia (CAP) while other was a 75-year-old Shivpora who was admitted to the hospital on 25th of last month.

"Both of them died during wee hours," **PAGE 02**

CEO Anantnag Seeks Nod For Open Air Classes

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The authorities of education department in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday sought permission from the administration to start class work in open fields while following the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's).

Chief Education Officer (CEO) Anantnag, Abdul Rub Shad said Tuesday that the education department has sought permission from district administration to start class work in open fields followed by the prescribed SOP's.

"We have asked the district administration that if any school ad-

ministration wants to conduct class work, they have to hold it in the open fields followed by the prescribed SOP's," Shad said.

He said that as of now only community classes were going on in upper belts of Anantnag district.

"The far flung areas of the district wherein internet facility is unavailable or the areas wherein the students san smart phones, the local teachers are holding community classes in open fields," Shad said.

He also said that if any student wants to take classes in those community schools, they can take part in it by observing the SOP's.

Pertinently, the government ordered closure of schools **PAGE 02**

In FOCUS / 'Filla Nepal': Kashmir's Jolly Advocate Who Bravely Fought Double Cancer

Auqib Javed

As critically-ill patients became captives in their home in the Covid-plagued spring of 2020, an affable advocate missing two of his crucial therapies in lockdown broadcasted a beseeching appeal on his social media handle: "Need your dua only." Four and a half months later, he bid an adieu with the same message: "Alwidaa Dosto. Dua me yaad Karna."

Between the two messages was the searing suffering and struggle of a man, who fought the killer disease like a brave-heart.

"I don't lose till I lose," advocate

Bilal Ahmad popularly known as Filla Nepal posted the telling comment on his Facebook profile in April 2020.

His peers reckon that the quote complimented the defiant man's character—known for taking things head-on in his 51-summer-long life.

But what amazed many was the timing of this public post.

"Here was the man literally being consumed by the cancer and yet he stuck to his old defiant guns—the trait that always set him apart in his tribe," said Gulzar Bhat, an acquaintance who knew Filla from their college days.

"The dreaded disease had already



reared its ugly and was now spreading in his body parts and yet the vintage Filla was daring his enemy, this time an invisible one, like he always did."

But after fighting hard that saw

him getting haggard, pale and skinny, the advocate finally lost the battle of his life on September 7, 2020. His passage evoked massive condolences and tributes.

Much of the reaction had to do with the deceased's "larger than life" image.

"Words can give little consolation to relieve grief," advocate Nasir Qadri said in his tribute to a man whom he called remarkable for his exemplary grit. "Brother Bilal, Filla Nepal, your humor, hope was an inspiration to me."

As a public figure known for his sway and social contacts, Filla came from Srinagar's Dalgate area.

Right from the word go, his friends recalled, the late advocate cut a daredevil image for himself. As a no nonsense person, his fiery campus activism would later propel him to take law as his profession.

"He was a hardcore pro-Kashmir man," Showkat Ahmad, his childhood buddy, told Kashmir Observer. "As a friend and mentor, he would go out of his way to help people." He was equally a Samaritan and philanthropist, taking care of destitute sections of the society, his friend informed.

The deceased, he said, left behind two wives and five kids.

"He was called Filla Nepal **PAGE 02**

BJP, RSS Playing Communal Politics: Farooq Abdullah

Press Trust Of India

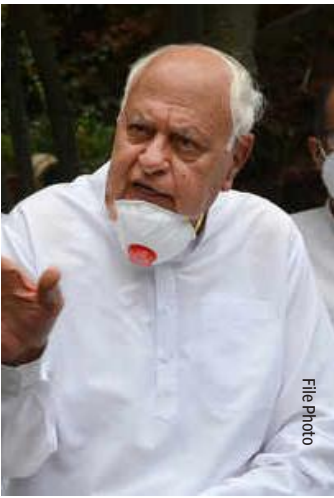
SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday accused the BJP and RSS of indulging in the "game" of communal politics.

"If anybody is playing communal politics today, it is BJP and RSS. We have never played this game. They are playing and they will sink in this game," Abdullah said.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function held here to pay tributes to his father and NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his 38th death anniversary.

Abdullah, Member of Parliament from Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, was asked to comment over BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav's reported remarks that "Gupkar leaders are resorting to that dangerous game once again, this time in the name of Islam".

On August 22 this year -- a year after the stripping of J-K's



special status -- six political parties including the NC, Peoples Democratic Party and the Congress announced that they stood by the 'Gupkar declaration' announced on August 4 last year, hours before the Centre's move of revoking Article 370 of the Constitution.

The parties said they will jointly fight for the restoration of J-K's special status under Article 370. Abdullah said the National Conference has always remained secular in character.

"National Conference has never indulged in politics in the name of religion. Never...it is our history. What was the slogan of Sher-e-Kashmir (Sheikh Abdullah)? He said there was unity among Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. Wasn't it?"

"And he turned Muslim Conference into National Conference because he knew all were involved in it. In suffering and in poverty, there are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists and Christians. Then how did we become communal today?" he asked.

The NC president was flanked by several leaders of the party including its vice president and his son Omar Abdullah. The leaders paid tributes at the grave of Sheikh Abdullah at Hazratbal on the banks of Dal Lake.

Firearms Used On Ladakh...

at military, diplomatic and political level is in progress,' the Army said. Government sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the top echelons of the government have been apprised about the situation in eastern Ladakh and the Army has been told to maintain the highest level of alert along the LAC in Ladakh. On Monday evening's incident, they said Chinese troops carried rods, spears, clubs and pole weapons called 'Guan dao' in aggressively trying to close in on an Indian position in Mukhpari area of Rezang-La ridgeline. The sources said around 50-60 soldiers of PLA approached the Indian post in the southern bank of Pangong lake area at around 6 PM but the Indian Army personnel posted there strongly confronted them, forcing their retreat.

It may be recalled that the Chinese troops had mounted a savage attack on Indian soldiers with stones, nail-studded sticks, iron rods and clubs during the Galwan Valley clashes in eastern Ladakh on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed.

The sources said the Chinese army may have planned to engage Indian troops on Monday evening in a way similar to the clashes in Galwan Valley as its soldiers were seen carrying rods, spears, clubs and 'Guan dao'.

The sources said Indian troops did not use any firearm, adding the attempt of the Chinese troops was to remove Indian Army from the strategic heights in Mukhpari peak and Rezang-La areas.

The sources said Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a standoff at a location near North of Rezang-La ridgeline around the southern bank of Pangong lake and the number of PLA personnel was around 40.

Senior Colonel Zhang Shuili, a spokesperson of PLA's Western Theater Command, in a statement on Monday night alleged that Indian troops illegally crossed the LAC and 'outrageously fired' warning shots on Chinese border patrol soldiers who were about to negotiate.

Chinese troops were forced to take countermeasures to stabilize the situation, he said without elaborating.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian hoped that disengagement of troops can be achieved as soon as possible through mutual consultations, flagging approaching harsh winter in the region. He spoke about disengagement when asked at a media briefing about restoration of the status quo by disengaging the troops.

India Must Stop 'Dangerous...

side fired shots to the Chinese border troops first. This is the first time since 1975 that the tranquility is interrupted by the shots. And the Chinese side always stresses that both sides should peacefully settle our differences through dialogue and consultations. Confrontation won't benefit either, he said.

Asked about what kind of consultations and countermeasures Chinese troops have taken, Zhao said through diplomatic and military channels we have made stern representations asking the Indian side to immediately stop its dangerous actions, immediately withdraw the people who crossed the line and discipline its front-line troops and those who fired the warning shots and then make sure won't happen again.

Currently I have no further information for you. I believe I made China's position clear on this, he said when asked whether the PLA troops fired back.

However, Zhao hoped disengagement can be achieved as soon as possible through mutual consultations, flagging approaching harsh winter in the region.

The Indian Army said Chinese troops fired shots in the air and attempted to close in on an Indian position in eastern Ladakh on Monday as it rejected charges by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) that it transgressed across the LAC.

The remarks by the Army came after the PLA late on Monday night alleged that the Indian troops crossed the LAC and "outrageously fired" warning shots near the Pangong lake.

The use of firearms along the LAC marks a serious escalation in border tensions as the previous instance of shots being fired at the de-facto border was in 1975.

Spokesman Zhao spoke about disengagement when asked at a media briefing about restoration of the status quo by disengaging the troops. You have a good wish. We all hope our troops get back to their camping area and there won't be any more confrontation in the border areas. You know that place has a very bad natural condition and it is above a height of 4,000 metres, he added.

In winter this is not good for humans to live. So we hope, through diplomatic and military channels and through consultations on the ground we can achieve disengagement as soon as possible and reach consensus."

India has already called on China to work jointly for complete disengagement and de-escalation on the LAC, saying the future of the bilateral relationship is dependent on the situation along the border.

This is the first time in the four-month-long border standoff that China has officially acknowledged the harsh conditions of the mountainous Ladakh region in winter where the temperatures plummet to minus 30 degrees Celsius posing major health hazards to the thousands of troops mobilised by the two armies.

Reports from the area said both sides were making arrangements for a long drawn out faceoff especially at the Pangong lake area where the troops were positioned eyeball to eyeball with heavy weapons and armoury.

PLA Has Found 5 Missing...

border in the Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. "China's PLA has responded to the hotline message sent by Indian Army. They have confirmed that the missing youths from Arunachal Pradesh have been found by their side. Further modalities to handover the persons to our authority is being worked out," Rijiju tweeted. Rijiju, the Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, hails from Arunachal Pradesh and is an MP from the state.

The incident of five missing youths came to light when two members from their group, who had gone for hunting in the jungle together, returned home and informed the families of the five that they had been

whisked away by the Chinese troops from Sera-7, an Army patrol zone located about 12 km further north of Nacho. Nacho is the last administrative circle along the McMahon Line and is around 120 km from the district headquarters Daporijo. Those who were allegedly kidnapped by the Chinese army have been identified as Toch Singkam, Prasat Ringling, Dongtu Ebiya, Tanu Baker and Ngaru Diri.

An Army official said, "As a result of persistent efforts of the Indian Army, five missing hunters from Indian side of LAC in Upper Subansiri, who had inadvertently crossed over to other side on 02 Sept 2020, were traced. The Chinese Army on September 8 responded on Hotline and confirmed that the missing Indians have been found on their side. Formalities for their early transfer is being coordinated with the Chinese Army."

On Monday, China brushed off questions over the whereabouts of the five youths and needed India, saying it has never recognised Arunachal Pradesh which it claims is part of south Tibet.

"China's position on the east sector of the China-India boundary, or Zangnan (the southern part of China's Xizang (Tibet)), is consistent and clear," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a media briefing in Beijing, adding the Chinese government has never recognized the so-called Arunachal Pradesh".

"I'm not aware of the situation you mentioned," the spokesperson said when asked about any updates about the missing Indian nationals. The development comes at a time when the Indian army has enhanced its deployment along the 3,400 km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in view of the tense border situation with China in eastern Ladakh.

In March, a 21-year-old man was abducted by the PLA from Asapila sector near the McMahon Line.

While his two friends managed to escape, Togley Sinkam was taken away at gunpoint, his family had said.

He was released by the Chinese army after 19 days in captivity. The Indian Army had on September 2 provided food, warm clothes and medical assistance to three Chinese citizens who had lost their way in sub-zero temperatures at an altitude of 17,500 feet in a border area in North Sikkim.

The Indian Army personnel deployed in the area also guided the Chinese citizens, including a woman, to return to the Chinese side and reach their destination.

Barring 2 Districts, 4G Internet...

"The Committee, while taking note of the assessment made by the law enforcement agencies that no reports of misuse of high speed internet services in the Districts of Ganderbal and Udhampur had been reported, observed that the situation needed to be monitored closely," the order said.

"The law enforcement agencies have furnished credible inputs that the (militant) modules operating in various parts of J&K, with active support from across the border as well as separatists/anti-national elements from within, are making sustained efforts to provoke sentiments of the gullible youth and lure them into (militant) organizations to fill the vacuum created by the killing of many (militants)," it added. The order further read that the agencies have reported infiltration attempts by militants along the LoC and the IB, and apprehension of facilitation of these attempts if high speed mobile data services are restored.

The order said that they have also indicated potential of misuse of high speed data services in disturbing public order.

"Considering the reports of the law enforcement agencies, inter-alia bringing out the necessity of speed related restrictions on mobile data services, and upon assessment of the available alternatives, I Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department, being satisfied that, it is absolutely necessary so to do in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India...hereby order that the directions indicated at para 1 above shall continue to remain in force till 30th September, 2020, unless modified earlier."

The order said the IGP's, Kashmir and Jammu, who are the authorized officers in their respective areas of jurisdiction, shall ensure communication of these directions to the service providers forthwith and their implementation in letter and spirit. (GNS)

Covid-19 Claims 12 More Lives...

officials said. A 65-year-old man from Awoora Kupwara, admitted on September 4 as a case of "T2DM, HTN, CKD and bilateral CAP," also died at a hospital here, they said.

A 36-year-old man from Vailoo kokernag in southern Anantnag district, who was admitted to the hospital on August 20 died at a hospital here, they said and added that the other two victims were from Kulgam and Pulwama districts.

Among others, the victims from Jammu include a 65-year-old woman from Digiana who was diagnosed with hypertension, bilateral community acquired pneumonia and died at GMC Jammu.

Also, a 27-year-old accident victim who was admitted initially at District Hospital Udhampur died at the Govt Medical College Hospital Jammu, they said. With these deaths, officials said, 818 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far. Among them, they said, 705 were from the Valley while 113 others from Jammu division. Srinagar district with 242 deaths tops the list followed by Baramulla (108), Budgam (66), Pulwama (60), Anantnag (53), Kupwara (55), Jammu (68), Kulgam (40), Shopian (29), Bandipora (26), Ganderbal (25), Kathua (10), Rajouri (10), Doda (8), Poonch (6), Udhampur (4), Samba (5), Kishtwar and Ramban (1). (With GNS inputs)

J&K Sees Record 1355 Covid-19...

time in as many days that the number of fresh COVID-19 cases crossed the 1000-mark in a 24-hour period.

Among the new cases, 785 were from the Jammu region, while 570 were from the Kashmir valley.

Jammu district reported the highest number of 483 new cases, followed by 210 in Srinagar district, the officials said. There are 11,859 active COVID-19 cases in the UT, while 33,2501 pa-

Good Governance Prime Focus Of UT Admin: LG

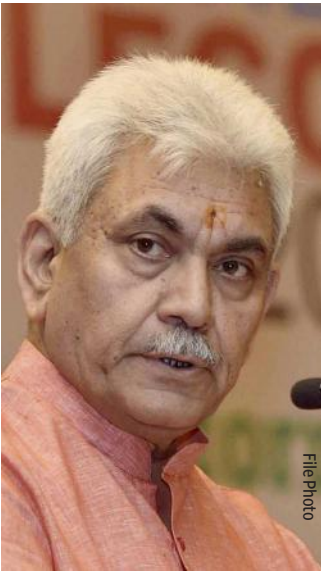
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said the people-centric and good governance with hassle-free and smooth public service delivery is the prime focus of his administration.

He was speaking at a meeting during his visit to Udhampur district where he also reviewed progress on the developmental activities and interacted with scores of public delegations to take stock of their issues and developmental needs of the area, an official spokesman said.

The Lt Governor also e-inaugurated various developmental projects worth Rs 23.40 crore and laid the foundation for projects of water supply schemes costing Rs 5.17 cr in the district.

Reiterating the government's commitment for prompt redressal of people's grievances, Sinha directed the officers concerned to take comprehensive measures to improve public service delivery and adopt a proactive approach for ensuring more responsive public grievance redressal.

Laying special focus on the saturation of schemes run by the central and the UT adminis-



tration, he directed the officers to take all the requisite measures to ensure 100 percent coverage of eligible beneficiaries under the centrally-sponsored and individual beneficiary-oriented schemes being implemented in J-K.

For ensuring saturation of various beneficiary oriented schemes, he directed the officers to roll out a comprehensive

tients have recovered from the infection so far, they said.

J&K Glaciers Melting At ...

relatively at slower rate, around 10 cms per year," noted Professor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, corresponding author of the study.

"Some glaciers are even advancing or stable in the Karakoram range. In other mountain ranges like the Greater Himalayan range, Zaskar range, Shamabari range, Leh ranges, the glaciers are undoubtedly melting but the rate of melting is variable," Romshoo, Dean of Research at the University of Kashmir in Srinagar, told PTI.

The research team, including Tariq Abdullah and Irfan Rashid, both from Geoinformatics Department, University of Kashmir, used two satellite observations made in 2000 by NASA and in 2012 by German space agency DLR.

They employed this data to determine the glacier thickness changes over the entire Upper Indus Basin, comprising of over 12,000 glaciers. "There is no such data (satellite observations) available in the world after 2012. This is a first of its kind study in the region and provides a very good idea about what is happening to the glaciers in the region," Romshoo explained.

Till date, he said, only six to seven glaciers have been studied in the region for thickness and glacial mass changes using field observations. The researchers noted that while glacier melting is a continuous process and the shrinkage in area of the glaciers is being estimated routinely, thickness and mass changes are not possible always because of the lack of satellite data.

There are also limitations and challenges associated with field based studies in the mountainous Himalaya, they said.

The team noted that during one decade of observation in this study, the region has lost about 70.32 gigatonne of glacier mass, which is "quite significant."

Romshoo noted that the continued melting of glaciers will have significant adverse impacts on every sector of economy in the region and beyond, particularly in the downstream areas which are already water scarce.

"It is pertinent to mention here that the waters emanating from this region are shared between the neighbouring countries in the south Asia," the professor at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir, added.

The knowledge generated about the glacier thickness changes across different mountain ranges in the data-scarce Himalayan region is vital for determining the sustainability of water resources in the south Asian region, according to the researchers.

Melting of the glaciers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is going to impact the water, food and energy security with the consequent adverse effect on the dependent livelihoods, they noted.

The researchers explained that the main drivers of the glacial melt in the Himalayan region are increasing temperatures and decreasing snow precipitation, resulting from greenhouse gas emissions from industrialisation and increasing use of fossil fuels the world over.

Romshoo noted that though there is "almost no industrialisation" in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Himalaya, the mountainous region is facing the brunt of climate change happening globally.

A study, published in the journal Climatic Change on July 29, found that Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh may witness a temperature increase of up to 6.9 degrees Celsius by the end of the century due to climate change, warning that the glaciers in this Himalayan region could shrink by 85 per cent if the projections come true.

The latest study was conducted as part of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) research project "Centre of Excellence for glacial research in the western Himalaya."

Two More Youth Go Missing ...

subsequent lockdown, Amin said his son used to stay home and would hardly venture out.

"He never took part in street protests and was never arrested," Amin said, adding "My wife and two sons are under deeply worried about Mohsin's safety."

According to Amin, his wife was suffering from heart ailment while his another son was also not keeping well.

"We request everyone, every organization and agency to kindly return him back as his mother and brother are very ill," Amin added. Pertinently, four youth including a BUMS student from same village have joined militant ranks in last two months. Among them, one was killed and another was arrested during Shopian encounter last week. Meanwhile, another youth identified as Khawar Sultan of Drangbal, Pampore, has also gone missing on September 02.

His father Mohammad Sultan said that Khawar was working as a labourer at a Poultry farm in Khrew-Shaar area of Pulwama and on September 02, he left home for Shaar but didn't return.

"We called all relatives and his friends but failed to get any information about him, forcing us to lodge his missing report," said Sultan.

A truck driver by profession, Sultan said that his son was working with him as a conductor after passing his class 12th examinations "However after lockdown, he started working at a poultry farm," said Sultan.

His family members including his parents, grandmother, two brothers and sister have requested him to return back.

Local news agency KNO reported that the duo seems to have joined militancy but official confirmation was awaited.

Quoting an unnamed senior police official, the report said that police have received missing complaints and were making efforts to trace the duo.

3 Lashkar OGWs Held In...

on Tuesday. A police official said information was received on Sunday about miscreants hoisting Pakistani flags at the behest of active LeT militants at the main market of the Hajin area of the district in north Kashmir. "The flags were hoisted with a view to create a fear psychosis and incite anti-national feelings among the common people of Hajin town," he said.

The official said police registered a case under relevant sections of the law, and an investigation was initiated.

During the probe, three people -- Mujeeb Shamas, Tanveer Ahmad Mir

mechanism to take the benefit of the Jan Abhiyan programme for mass contact, which is being held from September 10 to 30.

He also set September 30 as the deadline for 100 percent Aadhaar Seeding of ration cards and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) registrations, besides directing for the mandatory payment under MGN-REGA within 15 days.

On noticing delays in the completion of some projects, the Lt Governor directed the officers and the executing agencies to expedite important projects so as to meet the fixed timelines.

"To achieve the goal of holistic development, all the projects must be completed within the stipulated time frame," he added.

The Lt Governor met scores of delegations including political leaders from various parties like National Panthers Party, BJP, Congress, National Conference, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institution and urban local bodies, besides traders and lawyers.

Sinha also said his government is committed to provide all possible help to the youth by

facilitating and nurturing their capabilities.

Interacting with this year's civil services qualifiers at the Raj Bhavan here, he said the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the youth, are extremely talented and have excelled in every field.

"All they need is to realise their true potential," Sinha said adding "the government is committed to provide all the hand-holding to them by facilitating and nurturing their capabilities".

Majid Iqbal Khan from Nowgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and Abhishek Augustsya, Devahuti, Sunny Gupta and Shubham Kundal hailing from Jammu met the Lt Governor.

Sinha congratulated them for their entry into the prestigious services and wished them success in their future endeavours.

"The young inspirational figures like you are the pioneers of change and a guiding light for many. Your achievement would motivate many from the Union Territory to take the country's prestigious civil service examination in future," Sinha maintained.

and Imtiyaz Ahmad Sheikh, all residents of Mir Mohalla area of Hajin -- were arrested, he said.

The trio admitted that they were involved in the incident, the official said. A hand grenade, a piece of cloth, a sewing machine and other incriminating materials used in making the flags were found in their possession, he said, adding that further investigation is underway.

Monitoring Cell To Check ...

Regarding the proposed public grievance redressal system, the Chief Secretary said a monitoring cell would be set up at the secretariat which will compile reports from the districts.

However, all matters pertaining the districts will be pushed through a specifically designed portal to the deputy commissioners who would receive, consolidate and redress the grievances in a systematic way. The Chief Secretary also stressed that an effective monitoring system is being put in place, through a series of scheme-specific formats which would help the deputy commissioners monitor all important schemes at the district level.

He added that the data would be further compiled at the higher level so that the performance with respect to each scheme could be monitored at one glance.

Further, a 21-day Jan Abhiyan will begin across the union territory from September 10 to energise government functioning after COVID-19 induced lockdown by infusing greater enthusiasm, responsiveness and accessibility to government machinery, the Chief Secretary added. The Jan Abhiyan will redress public grievances through weekly Block Divas, whereby officers of all departments will proactively visit every Block and ensure doorstep delivery of all important documents and public services.

CEO Anantnag Seeks Nod...

in March-2020 to prevent spread of COVID-19 infection and ordered to start holding online classes.

However, in certain areas of Kashmir valley wherein the internet facility was not available, some teachers started holding community classes in remote areas--(KNO)

'Filla Nepal': Kashmir's Jolly...

as he was a well-to-do businessman in Nepal,' Showkat said. "He came back in late 2000 and started his court practice." Bilal was the classmate and friend of another famous advocate of Kashmir, Shafqat Hussain--the lawyer known for his juvenile justice courtroom campaign.

"Filla and Shafqat were great friends," Showkat continued. "While Bilal was a firebrand, Shafqat was calm and composed person. They complimented each other very well. But alas, we lost both these gems to death!"

Recalling Filla Nepal as a "full of life" person, Hilal Ahmad, his another childhood friend, said the deceased was a jolly man who never gave any dull moments to his friends.

"His company would delight everyone," Hilal said. "He was an uplifting man, always cracking jokes and spreading smiles."

It was four years ago, Hilal informed, when his advocate friend was diagnosed with Prostate cancer. "He fought the killer disease like a warrior," he said. "He was a fighter who never gave up till his last breath." But two years ago, when he had almost won the critical health battle, he suffered from another terminal illness: colon cancer.

"He would joke about it saying 'people normally get one cancer, I got two'."

Still, Hilal said, his friend fought hard without losing heart, before Covid proved to be the final offensive. "He missed two crucial therapies in Covid lockdown," Hilal said. "This aggravated his health condition."

Before his demise, one of Filla's friends had video-chatted with him and found him grown extremely weak to the extent that he didn't even have the energy to talk. "[Yet] he told me that he has not given up and he will fight," the friend recalled.

But as he finally lost his battle to tumour, a torrent of condolences only sent Srinagar into the abyss of mourning.

"Rest in Peace, Zinda Dil Filla Nepal. The real fighter: He fought with the Cancer from many years with real living spirit and inspired many Cancer patients throughout his journey how to live life in very hard situations," Majid Maqbool, a friend recalled his association with the fallen. "Aap ho na ho, aap ka charcha zaroor hoga."

"Although we were colleagues since 2008 but we became friends just two years ago," Babar Qadri, a well-known advocate and TV debater, said.

"I started to understand Filla Nepal and found him very pure from his heart, yes of course his slang was entirely different and unique. Although I had very bitter working relations too in the past with him but of late I found him entirely different and brotherly. I will miss him very much being a brother, colleague and of course he will be remembered for his unique style. May Allah bless you Jannat."

Grenade Attack On CRPF...

been reported," he said. Soon after the attack, the state forces launched a cordon and search operation to nab the attackers.

2 Held For Issuing Fake...

accepting money for making illegal dispatch passes for persons entering the Union Territory. A number of dispatch slips were recovered from their possession," they said.

A case under relevant sections of law was registered against them and further investigation is on, the officials said.

CASO Carried Out In Budgam...

forces approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them, triggering an encounter," the official said.

Meanwhile, officials said that boats were pressed into service to trace whether any militant had drowned in the nearby stream during the initial shootout.

"Boats were pressed into service and searches were on throughout the day. But no body was found," he said--(KNO)

Govt issues guidelines for effective conduct of B2V-3

21 day public campaign to focus on service delivery, development & grievance redressal

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 8: Jammu and Kashmir Government today issued detailed guidelines for effective implementation of Jan Abhiyan starting across the UT from September 10, 2020 - twenty one days ahead of the Back to Village phase III programme.

As per an order issued by GAD, the twenty one day public campaign will broadly focus on three essential components viz delivery of essential services, development needs & grievance redressal.

"The B2V3 shall be preceded by a build-up of 21 day Jan Abhiyan/ Awami Muhim, which includes implementation of its three essential components viz; Adhikar Abhiyan/ Muhim Barai-e-Haqooq, Unnat Gram Abhiyan/ Dehi Taraqiyyati Muhim and the Jan Sunwai Abhiyan/Awami Sunwai Muhim" the order stated.

The Adhikar Abhiyan or the Muhim Barai-e-Haqooq provisions that the district administration shall identify the target population for every service, individual beneficiary schemes and various certificates in order to ensure that 100% of target population is covered.

Special camps shall be held for the purpose at District/Sub-division/Tehsil/Block/ GP Levels. The services to be provided shall

include (but not be limited to) issuance of Domicile, SC, ST, RBA, ALC, OBC certificates, Pensions, scholarships, Aadhar cards, KCC, Gold Cards, 3K health Scheme Cards, MGNREGA wage payments, PMAY sanctions and PMKISAN, Labour Cards, PM Matrutva Vandana Yojana, Ladli Beti, Construction Workers' Welfare Board benefits etc; MVD services like driving license, registrations etc; Any other important public oriented scheme or services to be covered such as revenue documents which a Deputy Commissioner may consider doable.

For students, provision of SC/ST/Other Certificates and application for scholarships shall be 100 percent. No child should be left out.

Detailed report regarding the target population and the coverage with specific emphasis on achievements during JAN ABHIYAN/AWAMI MUHIM period shall be prepared and handed over to the visiting officer before B2V3.

Unnat Gram Abhiyan/Dehi Taraqiyyati Muhim aims for a mega push towards development activities by taking up of maximum possible MGNREGA works on ground, commencement of works already approved under the 14th FC plan, execution of District

& UT plan works and also implementation of other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The main components would be 14th FC works and their payment; MGNREGA works and their payment; B2V works and their payment; CSS/ PMDP/ District Plan/ State Plan works and payments; PMAY payments and completion of houses Special thrust shall be laid on follow up of B2V1 and B2V2 for each panchayat which may include; Taking up, completion and payment of at least two priority works identified during the two earlier phases for which money shall be separately released to the districts; Closing all complaints/ problems/ administrative issues raised during the earlier phases satisfactorily; Ensuring long term activities are prioritised and accommodated under UT plan/ CSS by concerned administrative department; Preparation of an ATR regarding the B2V1 & B2V2 based on the above; Panchayat wise format for ATR mentioning Problems, Public Requirements and Complaints for earlier two phases.

Each Deputy Commissioner shall prepare a district level plan based on an activity or product such as dairy, horticulture, tourism, village industry, mining which will boost economic activity or income levels in

the district. This shall be a private sector lead activity with very limited government intervention and little or no financial support by the government.

The Jan Sunwai Abhiyan or Awami Sunwai Muhim will focus on to improve service delivery and redressal of public grievances by getting together all functionaries at pre-determined times and places and under the supervision of a senior officer.

The Deputy Commissioner and senior District Officers shall draw up tour rosters to ensure that each and every block is visited by Deputy Commissioner alongwith the District Superintendent of Police personally and at least one more senior officer (other than Nodal Officer) over the three week Jan Abhiyan/Awami Muhim Period.

Youm-e-Block/ Block Diwas shall be held on the three Wednesdays i.e. 16th, 23rd & 30th of September, 2020, falling in the period of Jan Abhiyan/Awami Muhim.

The Youm-e-Block/ Block Diwas shall focus at on the spot redressal of grievances and providing of services. Concerned Block Level Officers/Officials of each Department shall be present at the designated location for the purpose.

JK gets second entry route after Lakhanpur

Kathua: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday got its second entry corridor as authorities in Kathua district of Jammu division opened the historic Atal Setu Bridge for entry in Jammu and Kashmir.

The bridge is situated on Dunera (Pathankot)

to Basohli road and was built to improve connectivity between Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

The bridge was closed after imposition of lockdown due to Coronavirus in the month of March this year.

Reports said that af-

ter reviewing the situation, the authorities have thrown open the bridge for vehicular movement, thus giving J&K a second entry corridor as earlier only Lakhanpur in Kathua district was the entry corridor in Jammu and Kashmir.

Advisor to hold public meet in Srinagar

SRINAGAR : Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan will meet people at Lieutenant Governor's Grievance Cell Church Lane, Sonawar here on September 10 (Thursday) from 10 am to 12 noon.

It is further informed that the deputations, delegations, individuals or other people who want to meet the Advisor have to seek a prior appointment from his office on phone numbers: 9622749350, 7006166569. All such people who will be visiting the venue are requested to follow all health guidelines and protocols and the deputations should not exceed more than 3 members in order to contain the

Div Com takes stock of Revenue matters of North Kashmir

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 08: With an aim to take appraisal of various revenue matters of North Kashmir comprising three districts of Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, P K Pole today visited Baramulla and chaired a meeting to discuss various issues and matters pertaining to Revenue department.

The meeting also discussed the progress of digitization of land records being carried out under Digital India Land Records Modernization

programme (DLRMP).

On the occasion, DC Baramulla presented a detailed PowerPoint Presentation (PPT) wherein he briefed the chair about the current status of various revenue matters viz updation work of jama-bandis, scanning and uploading of revenue papers and other issues of vital significance.

He also highlighted various issues and bottlenecks and sought the personal intervention of the Divisional Commissioner for the timely redressal of the said issues.

NC Remembers Sheikh Abdullah on 38th anniversary

Srinagar: National Conference president and MP from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah on Tuesday paid glowing tributes to prty founder and former chief minister Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah on his 38th death anniversary.

The party president

and vice president led the party functionaries, workers and delegates in offering glowing floral tributes and Fateh prayers at the final resting place of Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah.

"The spirit of secularism and tolerance possessed by Sher-e-Kashmir was the cumulative ef-

fect of the environment which generation after generation has fine-tuned the psyche of Kashmiris. Sher-e-Kashmir was not any different, he also exhibited the spirit of tolerance, mutual respect and camaraderie towards all religions, sects and creeds", Farooq said.



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

Tender Notice for Annual Rate Contract (2020 -2021) for Sanitary Items

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 5/- are invited from the interested and eligible firms/authorised dealers/suppliers and manufacturers for **Annual Rate Contract (2020-2021)** for supply of sanitary items as mentioned in the **Annexure-I** of the tender to the Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora. The tender document can be obtained from the office of **Assistant Registrar (Procurement & Stores)** or can be downloaded from the University website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in

The tender document should be accompanied with DD of **Rs. 500/-** (non-refundable) as cost of tender document, favouring Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora Pulwama (J&K) . The last date for submission of tenders shall be **18-09-2020 (2.00 pm)**. Terms and Conditions apply.

No. IUST/Reg/P&S/Tender/20/318
Dated: - 08-09-2020

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar (Procurement & Stores)

Rizvi Family Bereaved

With immense grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Mrs Syed Yousuf Rizvi of Alamgari Bazar. She passed away on 08th September Tuesday 2020,19th Muharram-ul-Haram,1442, in the wee hours of the morning. She was a pious lady, God fearing, with down to earth attitude and staunch believer of Ahlulbait a.s. May Allah bless the departed soul by bestowing her place in Jannat ul Firdous give patience to the bereaved family for this irreplaceable loss.

Due to present COVID-19 pandemic conditions, no congregational prayers would take place at graveyard or at home. It is requested to all the well wishers to recite Surah Fatiha for the blessing of the departed soul from their respective places.

Bereaved:
Sadaat Rizvi Family
9469217611, 01942423518

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR


NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Yousuf Bhat S/o: Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o: Khanda Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E-4992 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Finance B/U Awantipora .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1414
Dated 08-09-2020



Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar.

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender
e-NIT No. MICD/64 of 2020-21 all dated: 07-09-2020

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in two cover reputed Electrical work shop holders/ experienced workshop holders for following works respectively. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. **Cover '1st'** –Tender fee and Earnest Money details, Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. **Cover '2nd'** - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

| e NIT No. | Name/ Particulars of the work | Name of Division | Estimated Cost (In Rs.) | Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs.) | Earnest money (In Rs.) | Validity of Rates |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| MICD/64 of 2020-21 Dated: 07/09/20 | Repairs to 525 KW Liquid resistance Starter of unit no. 06 at LIS Rafiabab. | Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar | Rs35,000/- | Rs 100/= | Rs700/= | 02 days |

Position of funds: ARD Approved.
Key/critical Dates

| Date of Hosting In Website/ Publish date | | 07/09/2020 (1600Hrs) | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Document download/sale start date | | 07/09/2020 (1600 Hrs). | |
| Bid submission start date | 07/09/2020. (1600Hrs) | Bid submission end date | 14/09/2020 (1600 Hrs) |
| Bid opening date | | 15/09/2020 (1600 Hrs) | |

Each tender should be accompanied with an Earnest Money/Cost of tender document in the form of CDR, FDR/DD as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer MICD Srinagar In absence of Earnest Money, the Tenders shall be rejected out rightly. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.

*Executive Engineer,
Mech. Irri. Const. Division,
Srinagar.*


DIPK-5234/20

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081


AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311




RAILWAYS


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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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





HIJRI CALENDAR

20 Muharram
1442

PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|--------|
| FAJR | 4: 47 |
| ZUHR | 12: 31 |
| ASR | 5:58 |
| Magrib | 6:53 |
| ISHA | 8:15 |

This Day In History

1000 - Battle of Svolder, Baltic Sea. King Olaf on board the Long Serpent defeated in one of the greatest naval battles of the Viking Age.

1493 - Battle of Krbava field, a decisive defeat of Croats in Croatian struggle against the Ottoman Empire invasion.

1513 - Battle of Flodden Fields; English defeat James IV of Scotland

1591 - Battle at Flores Azores: Spanish beat English

1753 - 1st steam engine arrives in US colonies

1830 - Charles Durant, 1st US aeronaut, flies a balloon from Castle Garden, NYC to Perth Amboy, NJ

1881 - Egyptian military coup under colonel Arab "El Wahid"

1908 - Russia takes part of Poland boxing title

1911 - 1st European airport (Hendon to Windsor, England)

1912 - J Verdrines becomes 1st to fly over 100 mph (107 mph/172 kph)

1913 - Association for Study of Negro Life & History organizes in Chicago

1914 - 12] Belgian offensive from Antwerp

1914 - Boston Brave George Davis no-hits Philadelphia Phillies, 7-0

1914 - First fully mechanized unit in the British Army created - the Canadian Automobile Machine Gun Brigade (WWI)

1914 - Meeting held at Gaelic League headquarters between Irish Republican Brotherhood and other extreme republicans; initial decision made to stage an uprising while Britain is at war

1915 - Association for study of Negro Life & History forms by Carter G Woodson

1918 - Dutch government of Ruijs de Beerenbrouck forms

1919 - Boston's police force forms strike

1921 - Guatemala, Honduras, and San Salvador agree to Central American Union

1922 - St Louis Brown "Baby Doll" Jacobson hits 3 triples beating Tigers 16-0

1922 - Turkish troops conquer Smyrna/murder Greek citizens

1942- 1st bombing on continental US soil at Mount Emily, Oregon during WWII by Japanese planes

1943 - US, British & French troops land in Salerno (operation Avalanche)

1944 - Bulgaria liberated from Nazi control (National Day)

1945 - Japanese in South Korea, Taiwan, China, Indochina surrender to Allies

1954- Earthquake strikes Orleansville Algeria: 1,400 killed

1965- Tibet is made an autonomous region of China

1967 - 1st successful Test flight of a Saturn V

1967 - Uganda declares independence from Great Britain

1969 - Allegheny 853 collides with Piper Cherokee above Indiana, kills 82

1969- Seaplane crashes at Indianapolis, kills 83

1978 - Iraqi Ayatollah Khomeini calls for uprising in Irani army

1983- Radio Shack announces their color computer 2 (Coco2)

1985- President Reagan orders sanctions against South Africa

1990- George H. W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Helsinki & urge Iraq to leave Kuwait

1993 - PLO recognizes state of Israel

1994- Space shuttle STS 64 (Discovery 20), launches into orbit

2001- Ahmed Shah Massoud, leader of the Northern Alliance, is assassinated in Afghanistan

2012- 100 people are killed and 350 injured after a wave of attacks across Iraq

2015- Queen Elizabeth II becomes Great Britain's longest-reigning monarch at 63 years and seven months, beating the previous record set by her great-great- grandmother, Queen Victoria

2015- Apple unveils the iPad Pro and new iPhone 6S in San Francisco

From KO Archives

DD Kashir Runs Into Rough Weather

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI- The much-hyped Kashir channel of the Doordarshan has run into rough weather. The union ministry of home affairs (MHA) is understood to have declined to foot the bill for running the channel. Even as the channel has allegedly become a money spinner for some Mandi House officials and a handpicked coterie of Kashmiri migrants.

According to reliable sources, the MHA had 'promised' to provide the financial support required to run the channel which was launched, for the third time in June this year, with a big fanfare. Two plane loads brought several Bollywood celebrities besides the union minister of information and broadcasting, Arun Jaitley, with hundreds of ministry officials in tow to grace' the occasion 'The gala function held at the city's Grand Palace hotel is believed to have cost the exchequer a fabulous Rs two to three crore.

Sources said no new Kashmiri programmes were likely to be produced for the channel. Proposals submitted by Kashmir producers, mostly Kashmiri pandits, were being returned due to non-availability of funds. Sources said 148 proposals, were approved by the Mandi House last month. However, some 'stale' programmes provided gratis by Star, Zee TV Sahara and some other private channels may be telecast from the Kashir channel.

Kashmir Observer, September 09, 2000

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Pak and India should talk

On Saturday, one army personnel lost his life while two others sustained injuries during an exchange of fire along the Line of Control in Nowgam sector of North Kashmir. The firing across the LoC has also taken place along the LoC in Poonch district. In fact, the LoC skirmishes have now become too routine to attract notice beyond a point. Recurrence of these exchanges has also been acknowledged by the defence ministry whose statements in Jammu and Srinagar indicate that the LoC has witnessed constant exchange of fire since June. Also, according to an estimate, the first six months of this year had witnessed a 75 per cent spike in ceasefire violations along the LoC as compared to the corresponding period last year.

Incidentally, the recurrent tension along the LoC is being complemented by the stand-off with China along the Line of Actual Control. Recent days have witnessed a serious escalation in the situation with China. External affairs minister S Jaishankar has termed the situation in Ladakh "very very serious" that calls for "deep conversations at political level" to be addressed. Border with China and Pakistan makes up two-thirds of India's total border and to have it come simultaneously alive at a time when the country is grappling with rising Covid-19 cases can be too much to handle for any country.

This calls for the situation to be handled with care. If left unaddressed, things could only go from bad to worse and possibly lead to dangerous consequences. And to start with, India could try and improve the relations with Pakistan. There is certainly the need for the two countries to reach out to each other and pull the situation back from the brink. With dialogue already suspended and tensions rising high, India and Pakistan can ill-afford to let the ongoing border skirmishes go on unchecked and escalate into a conflict alongside the one going on with China.

True, the ruling BJP has invariably contended that even 70 years of the talks with Pakistan have not achieved any desired result, so there is no merit in the argument that the engagement would help. While the argument has some surface plausibility, it is specious. A dialogue will only succeed when the two sides engage in it meaningfully with an intention to resolve the lingering issues. But incase of India and Pakistan, the issues are so complex and the positions of both the countries are so rigid that each wants a solution on the maximalist terms possible. Result is the continuing hostility between the neighbours. The frequent exchange of firing along the borders in Kashmir and the consequent loss of lives is one of the most visible facets of it. And it is a tragedy. The people of India and Pakistan deserve better. More so, the people of Kashmir who have been at the receiving end of the seven decades of India and Pakistan hostility.

OTHER OPINION

Signs of Recovery

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's global Food Price Index (FPI) has risen for a third successive month in August and reached its highest value since February. This indicates two things. The first is a steady demand recovery after the slump on account of the novel coronavirus-induced lockdowns imposed in most countries, which sent the FPI crashing to a 48-month low in May. The current recovery is primarily led by China, which saw its consumer food inflation soar to 13.2 per cent year-on-year in July, with prices of the politically-sensitive pork up 85.7 per cent. Chinese imports — the country has been buying up huge quantities of soyabean, corn, wheat and feed barley, including (and perhaps ironically) from the US — and a weak dollar (in which most world trade is denominated) are fuelling what seems to be a renewed surge in international prices.

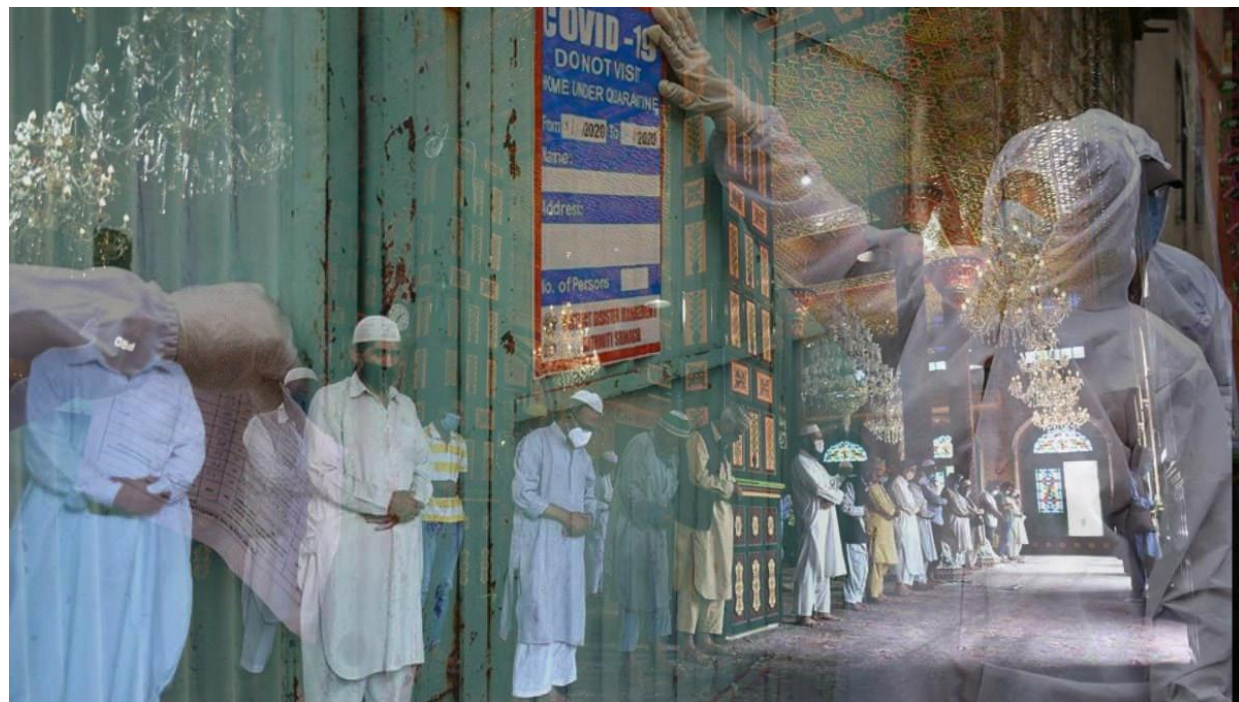
That links up with the second point. The FPI had actually hit a 61-month-high in January, which was reflective of supply tightness building up across many commodities — from palm oil and sugar to rice and skimmed milk powder — following a prolonged period of low producer realisations. In a sense, what is now being witnessed is a resumption of a trend that was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As economic activity is restored, howsoever gradually, the previous looming shortages could assert themselves in some form.

What should the response of the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) be? Rising global prices would, on the face of it, be a worry when domestic consumer food inflation was already at 9.62 per cent in July. The RBI's task is complicated by the fact that food items constitute 45.86 per cent of the all-India consumer price index, which makes it difficult to keep overall inflation within the central bank's 4 per cent comfort level. But on the positive side, the rupee has appreciated against the dollar — from 75.03 to 73.34 since August 20. That, along with the RBI's own recent change of strategy to allow the rupee to strengthen, should somewhat offset any imported inflationary pressures. Right now, the only performing sector of the Indian economy is agriculture. Global food prices looking up would help more than hurt.

The Indian Express

Public At The Forefront

For the fight against coronavirus to succeed in the Valley, give people their agency back



RIYAZ WANI

An effective fight against Covid-19 needs the administration and the public to work in tandem, not the former trying to do it through thoughtless government decrees that achieve little more than throwing the lives of people upside down.

When Altaf Rasool (name changed), his wife and a daughter developed a sore throat and a mild cold around mid-July, they preferred not to tell anyone and self-quarantined. Rasool sent his old mother and the son to his brother's home to ensure they didn't catch infection.

"We hid our condition, didn't test, certain in the belief that we had contracted the Covid-19 infection," said Rasool who lives at Rawalpura in uptown Srinagar. "We started self-treating, taking antibiotics and anti-pyretics and gargling several times a day. Mercifully we recovered after a quarantine of 14 days".

As J&K's daily toll of confirmed positive cases shows a steady upward trend, with the caseload crossing 1300 a day, it doesn't reflect the unknown number of symptomatic people like Rasool hiding away in their homes. If these people are also assumed to be positive, the daily caseload in the union territory will turn out to be disproportionately higher than it is now. And it is a troubling state of affairs for a region with a population of just 13 million.

The exponential rise in cases has already overwhelmed the healthcare infrastructure in the union territory, forcing the administration to ask the infected people to quarantine in their homes. The hospitals are now only for the people with an advanced illness, who need oxygen or ventilator support.

This state of affairs has come to pass despite the fact that J&K, more so, Kashmir Valley was under the longest Covid-19 lockdown. The Valley was uninterruptedly closed for 70 days unlike in the rest of the country where unlock started earlier. What's more, the Covid-19 lockdown was put in place after the Valley had already been under a seven month long lockdown following the revocation of Article 370 on August 5 last year. The administration has since been intermittently imposing short duration lockdowns, some of them localised, but to little effect.

The Covid-19 caseload has only gotten bigger and bigger. And in the process the economy which was already reeling from month-long security lockdown and communications blockade has been wrecked. According to an estimate by the local business bodies, the Valley's economy has so far suffered a loss of over Rs 40,000 crore. Its fallout on the ground has been grim: thousands of people have lost their jobs. Sectors of economy like tourism, handicrafts, hotel industry, IT, transport among others have been crushed. People have been forced to shut down their old unviable businesses and start new ones. In one poignant case, a handicrafts shop on Boulevard was converted into a wazwan outlet.

In such a situation, resorting to more lockdowns is suicidal. It is tantamount to deliberately pauperizing the people especially when there's now a big question mark over the beneficial outcome of such a draconian measure. Or if at all the lockdown had any salutary impact, its returns are diminishing by the day. With all indications that the community transmission has set in at many places in Kashmir, the contagion has long outgrown the utility of a lockdown to address it.

So what should the government be doing instead?

Many things other than an easy recourse to lockdown. For one, there's an urgent need to enforce the safety precautions in order to contain the pandemic. And to start with, there has to be an aggressive campaign to enforce the use of masks. More alarmingly, the masks are conspicuously absent from the faces of most of the people walking on the streets or those of the passengers using public transport. And none of these violators are taken to task.

This is strange. The government is ready to lock everything down at the drop of a hat, but it shirks from implementing the law when it comes to ensuring that the people observe precautions during the unlock period.

The administration needs to urgently work on two fronts:

one, run an earnest awareness campaign alerting people to the deadliness of coronavirus and the urgency of observing safety precautions. Second, take strict action against the people who go out without masks or participate in large gatherings. These are the only pragmatic and hopefully helpful tools to tackle the contagion. That too, with least damage to the economy.

We also need to involve the community in the effort, including youth, Mohalla heads and most importantly religious preachers who will be tasked to exhort people to observe safety guidelines in their respective areas. This should have been done much earlier.

In Kashmir over the past year, the administration has obsessively regulated and dictated the public lives of people in such a manner that the latter have almost forgotten to mind them on their own. This is starkly reflected in the way the fight against Coronavirus has been carried out. The administration has taken to controlling the situation in a way that is no different from the security management of the situation arising out of the repeal of Article 370: This has denied people a sense of agency to act in their own interest.

This partly explains the indifference to Covid-19 safety protocols among people as they see controlling of the runaway contagion as the exclusive remit of the administration. This should force the government to introspect. It is not when it takes each and every decision on behalf of the people and inflicts sweeping lockdowns but when it makes them a stakeholder in these decisions that any positive developments can be achieved. An effective fight against Covid-19 needs the administration and the public to work in tandem, not the former trying to do it through thoughtless government decrees that achieve little more than throwing the lives of people upside down.

The author is the Political Editor at the Kashmir Observer



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Progress Towards Universal Elementary Education (UEE)

Elementary education is the foundation of advanced learning. Keeping this in view, during the decade 1991-2000 centrally sponsored District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) was launched for Universalisation of Primary Education (UPE), whereas during 2001-2010 SarvaShikshaAbhiyan (SSA) was launched for Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). It was given legal status on 1st April 2010 when Right of children to free & compulsory education Act 2009 was implemented throughout the country. In 2018-19, SamagraShikshaAbhiyan has been launched to cover the children from Pre-Nursery to Class- XII for Universalisation of Education upto Secondary level.

Nearly 4.59% schools of the country are private aided whereas 18.50%

are private unaided. The percentage of government and government aided schools is as high as 74.32, which shows that eight out of every ten schools imparting elementary education in the country are funded by the government. As many as 162237 new primary and 78903 new upper primary schools have been opened since 2002-03, majority of which are located in rural areas and 99% of these have been provided a school building. Schools imparting elementary education across 680 districts had an average of 5.1 classrooms. However, a significant difference is noticed in average number in government (4.2 classrooms) and private managed (7.8 classrooms) schools. About 82% classrooms in primary schools are in good condition and remaining 18% need either minor or major repairs.

Availability of basic facilities in schools may not only attract more children but also help in improving retention rate. Of the total schools about 96.76% have drinking water facilities, 97.07 percent boy's toilets, 97.58 percent separate toilets for girls and nearly 64.89 percent schools have boundary walls. Computer education facility is available in 25.97 percent schools in the country. Ramps have been provided in 61.83 percent schools to attract physically challenged children. Providing nutritious food to all children under the mid-day meal schemes is one of the ambitious programme of the government. For this purpose, kitchen shed have been constructed in nearly 80.02 percent schools. The percentage of primary schools having attached pre-primary section is only 10.72%. But most of such schools are in urban areas.

One of the essential requirements to achieve UEE is to retain students in the education system. This is also reflected in the retention rate at primary level which estimated to be 84.21 percent and drop-out rate has come to just 4.13 percent. The transition from primary to upper primary level has improved significantly to 90.14 percent.

After implementation of RTE or Right to Education, changes in various norms of SSA have been done. Emphasis on construction of school building and recruitment of qualified teachers has been given and more funds have been ensured for that. It is hoped that in coming years, significant improvement will be noticed in the field of elementary education in India.

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Schindler’s Amnesia

Tooba Towfiq

“To exercise a monopoly over the meaning of truth, we compromise on the possibility of truths. Many are ready to kill others for a difference of opinion. Bigotry rules the roost.”

“I pardon you “, said Amon Goeth.

Lisiek, his young Jewish servant walked down the stairway to ground, in a moment of mercy and escape. Goeth had pardoned him for his sins. Yet, the luxury of the powerful mustn’t be intruded. As soon as Lisiek’s soul descended to the earth of reality, he was warned by a shot towards his left. Up he looked and then above at Goeth — with faith. He walked forth, only to hear a shot towards his right. Yet he moved on with a disappointed hope. We see him last, dead on the ground. “As flies to wanton boys are we to th’ Gods/They kill us for their sport”. Itzhak Stern, the man alive, walks past the dead. Every hour had numerous Lisieks being killed. Every day was death to a Jew in the Nazi occupied Germany.

I sat in the AV room of our college, a naïve fresher, silenced by the grim visuals of Steven Spielberg’s “Schindler’s List” (1993). Each scene triggered in me a memory of violence — seen and heard. Conscience was evoked and sympathy rekindled, for the dead and the alive.

I closed my eyes at the sight of the innocent body on the movie screen and the blackness inside my closed eyes took me into an event of colours. Purple mountains, blue lake and red blood. Every summer the world has tried to ignore the new streams of blood that flow into the turbulent history of Kashmir. Even as there is a sense of pathos which humans are naturally devised to feel; it is still inadequate.

We have no sense of the shared roots which bore us. Our common goals clash in irony. To exercise a monopoly over the meaning of truth, we compromise on the possibility of truths. Many are ready to kill others for a difference of opinion. Bigotry rules the roost.

In India, Dalits and Muslims have been the first casualty of hatred. Communal crimes are the order of the day in a country which could not have been delineated into a “majority”, “minority” and the “others” only less than a century ago.

In every sense, power has made us into subjects who play by the rule books of those who it benefits. Our ideas and identities are used to either oppress others or they become the means for us to get oppressed.

However, in a world where power ex-



ercises a monopoly over meaning, it has become all the more important to reassert marginalised narratives and work on subaltern histories.

In the movie, some of the Jews are saved by a German industrialist, Oskar Schindler. The Jews present Schindler with a token of gratitude for saving their lives. He is given a ring with an inscription in Hebrew .It is said of the verse that it is from Talmud, one of the Holy Books of Jews. Itzhak starts reciting the meaning, “Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire”, as I complete it in my head and add, “And Whoever Kills a soul, it is as if he had slain mankind entirely”. The verses that my heart added were from Quran, the holy book of Muslims. As I felt the heard and the uttered melting into each other, I was shaken. Why don’t we stop? Why can’t we see the ironical similarities in our differences?

It reminded of the Israeli occupation of Palestinians. The words of the survivors of Christchurch terrorist attack reverberated in my head. The footage of Jacob Blake being shot in front of his children ran through my eyes as I jumped in the anxiety of the un-

fortunate pervasiveness of racism, after all these years.

Some of us have learnt to be uncomfortable. We’ve tried to raise our voices which tremble under the pressure of censorship, legislations and policies. We stop to protest but stop in silence —out of fear.

It was said of the Schindler’s List which saved the enlisted Jews,” This list is an absolute good, the list is life. All around its margin lies the gulf”. Today, in this world full of hatred and malice, it is important for us to stand with those who are “othered”. We must ensure that even if our beliefs clash with beliefs of others; the principle of justice must never be compromised.

When any part of the creation is bruised, let us refuse to move on. Let’s us be good allies to all who face marginalisation and let us all pledge to never compromise on anyone’s right to be who they want to be.

The author does not support the inconsistencies in Spielberg’s take on Schindler’s List and does not endorse infantilisation of Jews in the movie.

Loneliness and Risk of Social Isolation

Karra Harrington | Martin J. Sliwinski

Physical pain is unpleasant, yet it’s vital for survival because it’s a warning that your body is in danger. It tells you to take your hand off a hot burner or to see a doctor about discomfort in your chest. Pain reminds us all that we need to take care of ourselves.

Feeling lonely is the social equivalent to feeling physical pain. It even triggers the same pathways in the brain that are involved in processing emotional responses to physical pain.

Just like feeling physical pain, feeling lonely and disconnected from others is also a signal that we need to take care of ourselves by seeking the safety and comfort of companionship. But what happens when we are unable to find companionship and the loneliness persists?

As scholars at the Center for Healthy Aging at Penn State, we study the impact of stress on the aging body and brain, including how it can worsen cognitive decline and risk for dementia. The social isolation older adults are experiencing now amid the coronavirus pandemic is raising new mental health risks, but there are things people can do to protect themselves.

The health consequences of loneliness

The COVID-19 pandemic has put many older adults’ social lives on hold, leaving them at greater risk for loneliness. They know they face a higher risk of developing severe symptoms from COVID-19, so many are staying home. Restaurant closures and limits on visitors to assisted living centers have made it harder to see family and friends.

Research has shown that prolonged loneliness is associated with increased risk for premature death, similar to smoking, alcohol consumption and obesity. Other health consequences are also associated with loneliness, including elevated risk for heart disease and stroke, and it is associated with increased physician visits and emergency room visits.

Loneliness can affect brain health and mental sharpness

Older adults who are socially isolated or feel lonely also tend to perform worse on tests of thinking abilities, especially when required to process informa-



“Loneliness is a common and normal human experience. An important first step is to recognize this and accept that what you are feeling is part of being human”

tion rapidly. And those who feel lonely show more rapid decline in performance on these same tests over several years of follow-up testing.

It is thought that loneliness may contribute to cognitive decline through multiple pathways, including physical inactivity, symptoms of depression, poor sleep and increased blood pressure and inflammation.

Loneliness has also been found to increase the risk of developing dementia by as much as 20%. In fact, loneliness has an influence similar to other more well-established dementia risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension, physical inactivity and hearing loss.

Although the underlying neural mechanisms are not fully understood, loneliness has been linked with the two key brain changes that occur in Alzheimer’s disease: the buildup of

beta-amyloid and tau proteins in the brain. Other indicators of psychological distress, such as repetitive negative thinking, have also been linked with the buildup of beta-amyloid and tau in the brain. Theories suggest that loneliness and other psychological stressors act to chronically trigger the biological stress response, which in turn appears to increase beta-amyloid and tau accumulation in the brain.

How loneliness can contribute to disease

The evidence suggests that prolonged feelings of loneliness are detrimental to health. So, how do those feelings get converted into disease?

Feeling lonely and socially isolated can contribute to unhealthy behaviors such as getting too little exercise, drinking too much alcohol and smoking.

Loneliness is also an important so-

cial stressor that can activate the body’s stress responses. When prolonged, that response can lead to increased inflammation and reduced immunity, particularly in older adults. Inflammation is the body’s response to fight off infection or heal an injury, but when it continues unchecked it can have a harmful impact on health. Stress hormones play an important role in making sure that inflammation doesn’t get out of control. But, under chronic stress, the body becomes less sensitive to the effects of the stress hormones, leading to increased inflammation and eventually disease.

In healthy older people, loneliness is related to a stress hormone pattern similar to that of people who are under chronic stress. This altered pattern in the stress response explained why people who were lonelier had poorer attention, reasoning and memory ability.

Social activity can buffer against the decline

Maintaining high quality relationships may be a key for protecting brain health from the negative impacts of loneliness. Older adults who feel more satisfied in their relationships have a 23% lower risk of dementia, while those who feel their relationships are supportive have a 55% lower risk of dementia, compared to those who feel dissatisfied or unsupported in their relationships.

Maintaining social activity also buffers against decline in thinking abilities, even for those who live alone or who have signs of beta-amyloid accumulation in their brain. One reason for these benefits to brain health is that maintaining strong social ties and cultivating satisfying relationships may help people to cope better with stress; people who feel better able to cope with difficulties or bounce back after a stressful event show less buildup of tau protein in their brains.

This is good news because, with the importance of social distancing for controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, how people manage their feelings and relationships is likely more important for brain health than the fact that they are spending time physically apart.

Strategies for coping with loneliness

Loneliness is a common and normal human experience. An important first step is to recognize this and accept that what you are feeling is part of being human.

Rather than focusing on what’s not possible at the moment, try to refocus your attention on what you can do to stay connected and make a plan to take action. This could include planning to reach out to friends or family, or trying new activities at home that you normally wouldn’t have time for, such as online classes or book clubs.

During times of high stress, self-care is essential. Following recommendations to maintain regular exercise and sleep routines, healthy eating and continuing to engage in enjoyable activities will help to manage stress and maintain mental and physical health.

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S Jaishankar Holds Talks With Iranian Counterpart In Tehran

Agencies

New Delhi: On his way to Russia, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday made a stopover in Tehran and held talks with his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif, covering various aspects of bilateral relations and regional developments.

Mr Jaishankar described the meeting as "productive".

"A productive meeting with FM @JZarif during a stopover in Tehran. Discussed strengthening our bilateral cooperation and reviewed regional developments. Thank him for his gracious hospitality," he tweeted.

A productive meeting with FM @JZarif during a stopover in Tehran. Discussed strengthening our bilateral cooperation and reviewed regional developments. Thank him for his gracious hospitality. pic.twitter.com/Ec9sqO516U

— Dr. S. Jaishankar (@DrSJaishankar) September 8, 2020

The Iranian foreign ministry, in a tweet, said the two sides emphasised on their will to further expand bilateral ties in "all aspects".

It is learnt that the Chabahar port project as well as the situation in the Gulf region figured in the talks.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh too made a stopover in Tehran on Saturday on his return journey from Russia, and held talks with his Iranian counterpart Brigadier General

Amir Hatami.

Mr Jaishankar is travelling to Moscow on a four-day visit to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on September 10.

On the sidelines of the SCO meet, he is expected to hold a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. Both India and China are members of the influential regional bloc that primarily focuses on security related issues.

Mr Jaishankar's trip to Moscow comes days after Defence Minister Singh visited the Russian capital to attend a meeting of SCO defence ministers.

On Friday, Mr Singh held an over two-hour meeting with Chinese Defence Minister Gen Wei Fenghe on the escalating border row between the two countries in eastern Ladakh.

Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs said Mr Jaishankar will be attending the meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of SCO to be held in Moscow on September 9-10.

It will be the third CFM meeting that India will be attending as a full member of SCO.

"India has been taking active part in various SCO dialogue mechanisms under the Chairmanship of the Russian Federation in this year. The SCO Summit will be held in the near future," the MEA said in a statement.



UN on Saudi Khashoggi Ruling Punishment Doesn't Fit The Crime

Agencies

United Nations: The United Nations has condemned the disproportion between a Saudi court ruling on the 2018 assassination of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi and the enormity of the crime.

"This is case where there has not been proper transparency in the justice process, those responsible should be prosecuted and given sentences commensurate with the crime," UN Spokesman Rupert Colville told a Geneva briefing on Tuesday.

"There is a whole issue of transparency and accountability in the case," he added, a day after a Saudi court sufficed to jailing eight people for between seven and 20 years over the atrocity.

Khashoggi was killed and dismembered at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on October 2 2018 after entering the premises to collect documents for a planned wedding.

The Washington Post, for which he was a columnist, reported in November 2018 that the CIA had concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had personally ordered his killing by a hit squad at the consulate.

The victim used to criticise bin Salman's policies, including the deadly war the

kingdom is leading against its impoverished southern neighbor Yemen.

Khashoggi's family ironically pardoned the alleged perpetrators four months before the ruling.

This is case where there has not been proper transparency in the justice process, those responsible should be prosecuted and given sentences commensurate with the crime

Khalil Jahshan, from the Arab Center in Washington, DC, a friend of the Khashoggi family, told Al Jazeera, "According to legal practice in Saudi Arabia, the family has a right to commute any sentence, and the family has issued such a declaration - most probably under duress. I don't think it was done freely, knowing the crime."

He noted the Saudi Prosecutor's Office has said that the ruling "closes the case for

ever," while the critic's body was still missing.

US intervention

Observers say the crown prince, who, himself, has acknowledged that the murder took place "under my watch," would not have been able to avoid accountability for the crime without the United States' support.

Some analysts say letting the royal get away scot-free would require a payback from Riyadh, speculating that the Saudi kingdom would normalize its relations with Israel as a token of appreciation.

According to Israel's Ha'aretz paper, bin Salman, in order to endear himself with the US after the killing, has been allowing the Zionist regime to attain the status of an intermediary between the Arab world and Washington.

Last month, the United Arab Emirates and Israel announced a deal that laid the groundwork for full normalization of their relations. The US-brokered agreement was met with uniform condemnation from all Palestinian factions, who called it a "stab in the back" of the Palestinians and sheer betrayal of their cause. Saudi Arabia and Bahrain next opened their airspace to UAE-Israel flights.

Jamal Khashoggi's Fiancee Calls Saudi Court Verdict "Farce"

Agencies

Istanbul: The Turkish fiancée of dead journalist Jamal Khashoggi on Monday branded a Saudi court ruling overturning five death sentences in his 2018 murder a "farce".

"The ruling handed down today in Saudi Arabia again makes a complete mockery of justice," Hatice Cengiz said in a statement posted on Twitter.

"The international community will not accept this farce".

The Saudi ruling came after Khashoggi's sons announced in May that they had "pardoned" the killers, paving the way for a less severe



punishment in a case that tarnished the reputation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

None of the defendants were named in what was de-

scribed as the final court ruling on the case.

"The Saudi authorities are closing the case without the world knowing the truth of who is responsible for Jamal's murder," said Cengiz.

"Who planned it, who ordered it, where is the body? These are the most important questions that remain totally unanswered," she wrote.

Khashoggi, 59, was an insider-turned-critic who wrote for The Washington Post before he was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018 where he had gone to obtain documents for his wedding to Cengiz.

India Receives Offer For Russian Vaccine Trial, Manufacture: Official

Agencies

India has received an offer from Russia to conduct a trial and manufacture its "Sputnik-V" COVID-19 vaccine, with several Indian companies currently studying the proposal, an Indian government official said on September 8.

"The government of India attaches great importance to this offer of partnership from a friend," said NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul.

The outcome of discussions on the offer were expected soon, he added.

Russia completes early trials: Ifax

Meanwhile, Siberia's Vector virology institute on September 8 completed early-stage human trials, known as Phase II, of a second potential Russian vaccine against COVID-19, the state consumer safety watchdog

was cited by the Interfax news agency as saying.

Russia registered its first vaccine candidate, developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Institute, in August. Late-stage trials of this vaccine, due to involve 40,000 participants, were launched last week.

Human trials of the second potential COVID-19 vaccine, a peptide-based jab, began on July 27 and involved a group of 100 volunteers, Interfax cited watchdog Rospotrebnadzor as saying.

"Today...the final group of 20 volunteers was released from hospital," said in a statement. "All 100 volunteers were vaccinated with two doses and have completed a 23-day monitoring period in hospital. The volunteers are feeling good."

Results are due to be published on Sept. 30, Interfax said.

First batch of Russian vaccine produced for civilian circulation

Agencies

Moscow/New Delhi: In some good news for millions living in hope for a COVID-19 vaccine shot, the Russian Health Ministry said on Tuesday that

shown no serious side effects and elicited an immune response in early human trials.

Russia last month registered the "Sputnik V", becoming the first country to approve a COVID-19 vaccine.



the first batch of Sputnik V vaccine has been produced for civilian circulation.

The supplies of the medication to the Russian regions were expected soon, the Health Ministry told reporters, reports Tass news agency.

"The first batch of the vaccine for preventing the novel coronavirus infection, Gam-COVID-Vac (Sputnik V), developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Health Ministry passed the required quality tests and was produced for civilian circulation.

"In the near future, the supplies of the first batches of the vaccine to the regions are expected," the Ministry said.

Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko earlier explained that civilian production at this stage meant vaccination of citizens from the risk groups, mainly teachers and doctors.

Earlier this month, a study published in the peer-reviewed journal The Lancet said a Russian COVID-19 vaccine has

On August 15, the Russian Health Ministry announced the launch of the vaccine production.

The Lancet study's authors also held that large, long-term trials, including a placebo comparison, and further monitoring are needed to establish the long-term safety and effectiveness of the vaccine for preventing COVID-19 infection.

The Indian government said late last month that New Delhi and Moscow were in communication regarding the Sputnik V vaccine.

Addressing a press conference, Health Ministry Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said: "As far as Sputnik V vaccine is concerned, India and Russia are in communication, some initial information has been shared and some detailed information is awaited."

Earlier, the CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, Kirill Dmitriev, had said Russia was looking for a partnership with India to produce the COVID-19 vaccine.

NEWS MAKERS

India, US, Israel collaborating in 5G tech: Official

India, Israel and the United States have begun collaboration in developmental area, and in next generation of emerging technologies, including a transparent, open, reliable and secure 5G communication network, a top official has said.

The branching out of this trilateral initiative in development and technological arena is a result of the people-to-people collaboration, in particular those by Indian diaspora in the US and Israel, that was initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his historic visit to Israel three years ago in July 2017, community leaders said.

A collaboration in 5G is a just tip of the iceberg and a first step, according to US Agency for International Development (USAID) Deputy Administrator Bonnie Glick.

"Because we'll collaborate in science and research and devel-

opment in coming up with the next generations of technologies, things that the likes of you and the rest of us on the phone can't even imagine what they might be.



But by partnering by officially, affirming the importance of this relationship, we'll advance it," Glick told PTI in an interview after the US-India-Israel forum featuring discussions on strategic, tech and development/water cooperation held last week.

"We are thrilled to work with these partners to solve the world's development challenges," she

said in her keynote address to the virtual US-India-Israel summit that focused on trilateral partnerships in the strategic, technology and development arenas.

The summit was also addressed by Israeli Ambassador to India Ron Malka and his counterpart Sanjeev Singla.

"One area we've been cooperating on is digital leadership and innovation, particularly in next generation 5G technology," Glick said.

"In July, I chaired a roundtable discussion with several like-minded donors on 5G and digital development. To me, it was extremely important that India and Israel be part of that conversation. And the discussion was richer because of their contributions," she said.

Silicon Valley, Bengaluru and Tel Aviv have all earned reputations as leading, innovative technology hubs, and rightfully so, according to Glick.

'Kidnapped' Belarusian opposition activist resists expulsion at border

A leading opposition activist in Belarus was held on the border Tuesday after she resisted authorities' attempt to force her to leave the country.

Maria Kolesnikova, a member of the Coordination Council created by the opposition to facilitate talks with long-time leader President Alexander Lukashenko on a transition of power, was detained Monday in the capital, Minsk, along with two other council members.

Early Tuesday, they were driven to the Ukrainian border, where the authorities told them to cross into Ukraine. Kolesnikova refused, and remained on the Belarusian side of the border in the custody of the Belarusian authorities.

Two other council members, Ivan Kravtsov and Anton Rodnenkov, crossed into Ukraine. The authorities have applied similar tactics to other opposition figures, seeking to end a month of demonstrations against the re-election of Lukashenko in a vote the protesters see as rigged, Sviatlana



Tsikhaneuskaya, the main opposition challenger to Lukashenko, left for Lithuania a day after the August 9 vote, under pressure from the authorities.

On Saturday, a top associate of Tsikhaneuskaya, Olga Kovalkova, moved to Poland after the authorities threatened to keep her in jail for a long time if she refused to leave the country.

Belarusian prosecutors have opened a criminal probe against members of the Coordination Council that opposition activists set up after the election to try to negotiate a transition of power. Several council members were arrested and some others called for questioning.

US soldier disappears from Gulf

BEIRUT: The U.S. Fifth Fleet announced on Sunday, the disappearance of one of its sailors in the northern Arabian Sea.

The U.S. Fifth Fleet said, in a statement via Twitter, that the aircraft carrier (USS Nimitz) and the guided missile cruiser (USS Princeton CG 59) are currently conducting searches in the northern Arabian Sea after the soldier disappeared.

The statement said that "the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) & guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59) are currently conducting search & rescue operations in the North Arabian Sea following reports of a missing U.S. Navy Sailor, Sept. 6."

They would add: "The Sailor has been listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown on board aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. The Sailor's name is being held in accordance with U.S. Navy policy. Updates will be provided as they become available."

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