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News Digest

Al-Badr Militant, 2 Aides Held: Police

Srinagar: Government forces have busted a module of Al-Badr militant outfit by arresting a militant and his two associates in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Friday. The Al-Badr module, involved in grenade throwing incidents at Police Post Warpora in Sopore area of the north Kashmir district, was busted by arresting an uncategorized militant of the outfit, a police official said. He said the militant was identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Pandith, a resident of Bunpora Dangerpora. **● P-02**

Mild Tremor Felt In J&K

Srinagar: An earthquake measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale occurred on Friday in Jammu and Kashmir with its epicentre at the India-Pakistan border region, the Met said. The tremors were felt at 1.53 a.m. at 33.03 degrees north and 73.63 degrees east at a depth of 10 km inside the earth. Kashmir is situated in a highly vulnerable seismological region. Earthquakes have wrought havoc in Kashmir in the past. A temblor measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale occurred in the valley in October 8, 2005 in which over 80,000 people were killed on. **● P-02**

CBI Arrests BCAS Officer With Bribe

Srinagar: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday arrested an Assistant Director, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) Jammu and Kashmir, for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs. five thousand from a complainant. According to a statement, a CBI spokesperson said that a case was registered on a complaint against an Assistant Director, BCAS under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) on the allegations of demanding a bribe of Rs 10,000 for granting entry passes to the employees of the complainant who were **● P-02**

Youth Falls From Moving Tractor, Dies

Srinagar: A youth on Friday was killed after he fell from a moving tractor in Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 20-year-old Mehraj Ahmed Mir of Potshai fell off from the trolley attached to the tractor driven by his brother near Gungboub, some one kilometer from their house, officials said. Mir was shifted to Sub District Hospital Sogam where doctors declared him brought dead on the arrival. A police officer told news agency GNS that a case has been registered in connection with the incident.

Cash Looted From Mosque, Shrine

Srinagar: Unidentified burglars struck a mosque and a shrine in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and decamped with cash, reports said Friday. The burglars broke open the shrine of Ziyarat-e-Shiekh Jamal Sahib at Sehpora and a Jamia Masjid at Wafil Mominabad in Ganderbal on Thursday night and looted the cash inside the chests, news agency KNT reported Friday. The report said that the matter came to light few villagers learned about the loot and called up police. On being informed, police reached the spot and started an investigation into the **● P-02**

China Sets Up Military Base At Pangong Lake, Cutting Off Indian Army

Agencies

NEW DELHI: China has set up a military base near Finger 5, in the north bank of Pangong Lake, completely cutting off the Indian Army.

The north bank of the lake is divided into 8 Fingers (fingers are mountain spurs jutting into a lake in military parlance) that are contested by both sides.

India claims the Line of Actual Control at Finger 8 and had been holding on to area till Finger 4 but in a clear alteration of status quo, the Chinese have been camping at Finger 4 and have set up fortifications between Finger 5 and 8.

Two months ago, Indian intelligence agencies flagged that cranes, concrete mixture trucks, and other building construction machineries were spotted near Finger 5. They had also flagged that China is making military barracks and offices. Sources said China has stationed hundreds of thousands of troops as well materials at these bases. They have placed tanks, artillery guns and other military armaments at Finger 5.

At Finger 8, troops from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) have set up barracks and constructed underground tunnels. They have set up huge military infrastructure at Finger 8.

Till last year, there was no military infrastructure work carried out in these disputed areas and Indian Army troops used to carry out patrols. There have been regular face-offs between the two armies between Finger 4 and Finger 8, a distance of eight kilometres, on the northern bank of the lake.

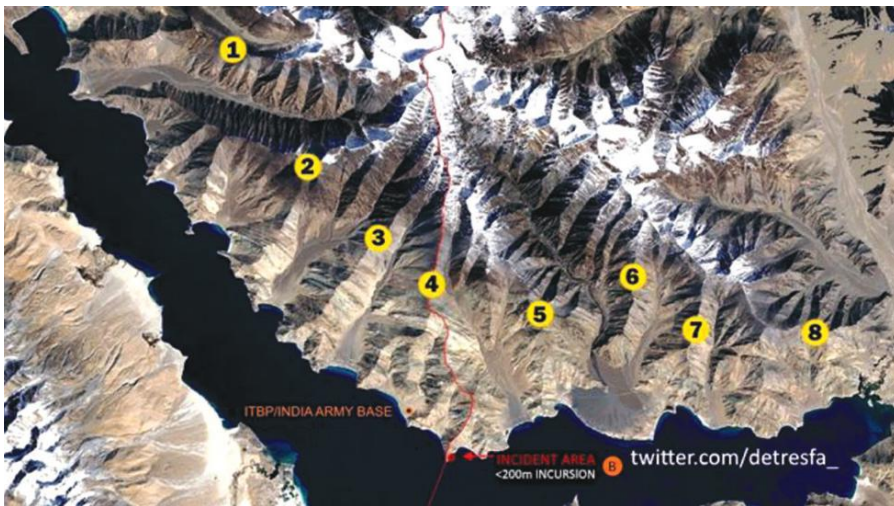
Indian Army Spokesperson Colonel Aman Anand was unavailable for comments.

Now, the Indian Army is unable to move ahead of Finger 4 as PLA troops have occupied some heights there.

As a precautionary measure, Indian troops have occupied some heights overlooking the positions occupied by the PLA.

The movement of Indian Army troops beyond Finger 4 is completely cut off, sources said, owing to provocative Chinese military movements.

India and China are engaged in a four-month-long standoff **»PAGE 02**



India Ready For Any Eventuality: Rawat Tells MPs

As tensions between the India and China continues to simmer in Ladakh, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on Friday told the Parliament's Standing Committee on Defence that Indian Armed forces were ready for any eventuality. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence is chaired by BJP leader Jai Oram. Members who attended the meeting on Friday included Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. This is probably the first time Rahul Gandhi is attending this committee's meeting since being nominated to the panel last year after Lok Sabha elections. Rawat told the committee that the armed forces had taken adequate steps and measures to thwart any attempt **● P-02**



DM Holds Meet With NSA, Top Military Brass

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and top military brass on Friday deliberated on the five-point agreement reached between India and China on de-escalating tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, government sources said. The deliberation was attended by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria and Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh among others, they said. The meeting also carried out a comprehensive review of the security scenario in eastern Ladakh in view of fresh confrontation by two sides in the southern bank of Pangong lake earlier this week, the sources said. **● P-02**



In Moscow India, China Agree On 5-Point Plan

India and China have reached a five-point consensus to resolve the four-month-long military standoff in eastern Ladakh agreeing to "quickly disengage" troops, avoid any action that could escalate tensions and take steps to restore peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The agreement in which the two countries said the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side was finalised during the "frank and constructive" talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow on Thursday evening. The talks on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet lasted two-and-a-half-hours. **● P-02**



High Speed Internet Restoration Under Consideration: LG



Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Days after ban on 4G internet was extended in Jammu and Kashmir except two districts, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha said on Friday that the restoration of high speed internet was under consideration and the present dispensation has taken up the matter "very seriously"

Addressing his maiden press

conference at the Raj Bhawan here on Friday, Sinha said that the time has come for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to move forward.

"This UT (J&K) is mostly in discussion because of wrong things.

LG Launches Health Insurance Scheme, Grievances Portal

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday announced a universal health insurance scheme, on the lines of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat, to cover the entire population of the Union territory at an annual expenditure of Rs 123 crore. The scheme will provide **● P-02**

Time has come to move ahead of that for achieving the stars of development," he said.

Sinha, who assumed office after the transfer of GC Murmu as J&K LG on August 6, said that **»PAGE 02**

10 More Die Of Covid-19 In J&K, Toll 858

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least ten more people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of deaths due to Covid-19 in the Union Territory to 858.

While six deaths were reported from Jammu division, four other victims of the deadly disease were residents of the Kashmir valley—two from Budgam and one each from Srinagar and Baramulla districts, official sources said.

Among the victims from Jammu, the officials said included a 63-year-old woman from Vikas Nagar, who was admitted to

GMC Jammu on September 9. "She was diagnosed sepsis with acute gastroenteritis, uremic seizures, Hypothyroid with fresh onset seizure," a doctor at GMC Jammu said. "She was detected covid-19 positive on rapid antigen testing and died at 2:00 am," the doctor said.

A 60-year-old man from Narwal also died at GMC, a week after he was admitted there and diagnosed with hypertension, Hypothyroidism and Bilateral Community Acquired Pneumonia.

A 50-year-old man from Kachi Chawani, died at GMC at around 11:50 pm. last night, hours after he was admitted. **»PAGE 02**

SHE WAS DETECTED COVID-19 positive on rapid antigen testing and died at 2:00 am," the doctor said.

Covid-19 Crosses 50000 Mark With 1578 New Cases

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir crossed 50000 mark on Friday as the Union Territory reported 1578 Covid-19 cases, including 73 travellers. This is for the ninth day in running that J&K has witnessed over a thousand cases daily. **● P-02**

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire For 3rd Day

JAMMU: For the third consecutive day Friday, India and Pakistan armies exchanged heavy gunfire and mortar shells along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistan Army on Friday opened heavy fire and shelled mortars at forward areas along the LoC in Poonch district, officials said.

"At about 0830 hours, Pak initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms & shelling with mortars along LoC in Mankote sector in district Poonch," a defence spokesman said. The Indian Army retaliates befittingly, he added.

On Thursday, the Pakistan Army had opened fire with small arms and shelled **● P-02**

Militant Found Dead 4 Days After Budgam Gunfight

SRINAGAR: The body of a militant, who was injured in an encounter in Check Kawoosa village of central Kashmir's Budgam district, was recovered from a stream near the site of the gunfight last night, police said on Friday.

A senior police officer said that the body was recovered after four days with the help of Marine commandos from Sukhnag Nallah in which the militant had jumped after suffering bullet injury in his neck during the brief encounter.

The encounter had **● P-02**

2 Soldiers Injured In LOC Blast Two army officers including a major were injured in a mine blast during patrolling in a forward post along the Line of Control in Nowshera sector of **● P-02**

KPs Meet LG, Demand One Place For Settlement In Valley

Press Trust of India

JAMMU- A delegation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and demanded one place for their settlement in Kashmir, constitution of a welfare board for the community and a trust to protect temples in the valley.

The delegation was headed by All Parties Migrants Coordination Committee (APMCC) chairman Vinod Pandit, the organisation representing Kashmiri Pandits said here.

Pandit, who presented framed pictures of Sharda Peeth and Harmukh-Gangbal shrines to the Lt Governor, raised the community's long-pending demands for reopening the Sharda temple in

Pakistan controlled Kashmir (PcK) and creating a welfare board for Kashmiri Pandits.

He also raised the issues of one place-settlement of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley, constitution of a trust for the upkeep and protection of temples and shrines in Kashmir, increasing the number of special PM employment package, setting up of apex committee on issues of the community, construction of transit accommodations for KP employees and resolving issued of community employees serving in the valley.

Sinha assured the delegation that he would look into the demands.

Sharda Peeth, an abandoned Hindu temple located in Sharda village, is situated **»PAGE 02**

Azad Removed As Congress General Secretary

Observer Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday was removed by the party from the post of General Secretary.

Besides Azad, senior leaders Motilal Vora, Ambika Soni, Mallikarjun Kharge and Luizinho Faleiro from their posts as General Secretaries in a major organizational reshuffle by the party, NDTV reported Friday.

"The party whole-heartedly appreciates the contributions of outgoing General Secretaries Ghulam Nabi Azad, Motilal Vora, Ambika Soni, Mallikarjun Kharge and Luizinho Faleiro," said a letter signed off by Sonia Gandhi. Azad and Soni, however, continue in



the reconstituted working committee.

The report further says that the reshuffle comes a month after a group of 23 party leaders, in a stunning act of revolt, wrote a letter to Sonia Gandhi calling for an overhaul of the party, internal elections and a "full-time, visible leadership". The letter also suggested that the Gandhi family would always be a part of collective decision-making. **»PAGE 02**

In FOCUS In Unemployment-ridden J&K, Barely 4% Students Opt For Technical Courses

Swati Joshi

WITH a 73.3 percent literacy rate, Jammu and Kashmir has secured 13th rank according to a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey. Kerala with a 96.2 percent literacy rate has once again topped the survey while Andhra Pradesh with 66.4 percent is at the bottom.

The report on 'Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey - from July 2017 to June 2018' objective is to "build indicators on the participation of

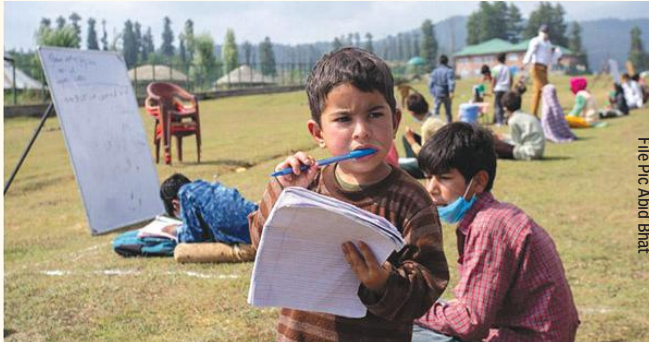
the persons of age 3 to 35 years in the education system, expenditure incurred on the education of the household members and various indicators of those currently not attending education".

The NSO surveyed 64,519 rural households from 8,097 villages and 49,238 urban households from 6,188 blocks in the erstwhile state.

Literacy rate

The literacy rate is defined as the percentage of literates among persons age 7 years and above. A person who can read and write in a simple language with understanding is counted as literate by the survey.

The overall literacy rate of J&K



File Pic: Anil Datta

is 77.3 percent. The literacy rate amongst males and females of J&K is 85.7 percent and 68 percent respectively in rural and urban areas.

While the gap between male and female literacy rate is 12.8 percent in urban areas, the gap is widened in rural areas to 18.9 percent.

Overall, the difference between male and female literacy rates combining rural and urban areas is 17.7 percent.

The educational level

The highest level of education in males in rural areas of J&K is till middle school (24.1 percent) whereas a majority of females (39.8 percent) are not literate.

Only 8.4 percent and 2.8 percent of males and females respectively are graduate and above in rural areas.

While it is assumed that in urban areas more focus is given on women's education, the trend in J&K tells a different story. Even in urban areas, a majority of women (27.7 percent) are not literate. The highest **»PAGE 02**

China Hails Pak ‘Sacrifices’ In Fighting Terror

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: China on Friday staunchly defended Pakistan's record in fighting terrorism, saying its all-weather ally has made "tremendous efforts and sacrifices."

India and the US in a joint statement after the 17th meeting of the India-US Counter Terrorism Joint Working Group and the third session of the India-US Designations Dialogue held on September 9-10, denounced the use of terrorist proxies and strongly condemned cross-border terrorism in all its forms.

New Delhi and Washington told Islamabad to expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks,

including the 26/11 Mumbai strike and the Pathankot airbase attack.

Asked for his reaction, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian during a media briefing here said that terrorism is a common challenge faced by all countries and Pakistan has made tremendous efforts and sacrifices in fighting terrorism.

The international community should fully recognise and respect that China opposes all kind of terrorism. All countries on the bases of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit engage in anti-terrorism international cooperation to jointly safeguard the international peace and security," he said.

On the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Zhao said that the ter-

ror attack brought many challenges to global security.

Now, the counter-terrorism situation is still severe and has posed risks to all countries," he said.

"China opposes all kind of terrorism and we believe that the UN should play a leading role and we oppose double standards on counter-terrorism and we oppose the attempt to link the terrorism to any specific country," he said.

He emphasised that all countries should work together to prevent and fight terrorism and safeguard world's peace and stability.

"So on this very special day, I would like to say that we hope the US won't forget terrorism and COVID-19

are common enemies to all mankind. And China and Pakistan are not the enemies of the US," he said.

About the meeting between Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow on Thursday on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), he said Wang assured that China will continue to provide Pakistan with anti-epidemic support until Pakistan completely overcomes the COVID-19 pandemic.

"China will like to work with Pakistan in advancing the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and further agricultural cooperation, which will deliver benefits to people," Zhao said.

India has objected to the USD 60 billion CPEC as it is being laid through Pakistan- controlled Kashmir (PcK).

We believe that with the joint efforts of both sides, the corridor will play a greater role in Pakistan's economic development and people's welfare," he said.

China will continue working with Pakistan, firmly supporting each other on international multilateral occasions to uphold international fairness and justice, he said.

Next year is the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. We will build on our friendship, plan for the future, and make new progress in our bilateral relations, Zhao said.

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire...

mortars along the LoC. On Wednesday, they had targeted Malti and Degwar sectors along the LoC in Poonch with mortar bombs. On September 2, a JCO was killed in a ceasefire violation by the Pakistan Army along the LoC in Kerri sector of Rajouri.

Militant Found Dead 4 Days...

broken out on Monday after state forces launched a cordon and search operation in Kawoosa area of the central Kashmir district following specific information about the presence of militants there. Soon after the initial exchange of firing, clashes broke out near the encounter site as groups of youths pelted stones at the forces personnel who chased away the protesters by firing tear smoke shells. While the gunfight stopped after a while, the state forces continued the search operation and after four days of searches in the area, a militant's body was recovered, the official said. The militant has been identified as Aqib Ahmed Lone, a resident of Aglar area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Lone was affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), the official said. He said the state forces have also recovered a bag containing some arms and ammunition including a fully-loaded AK magazine, 13 Chinese grenades, 14 knives, 25 mobile phones and a 'pheran' (Kashmiri cloak) during searches in the stream.

2 Soldiers Injured In LoC Blast...

Rajouri district, officials said on Friday. They said the explosion that took place on Thursday noon in a forward location of Nowshera sector of Rajouri resulted in injuries to Major Varun Khajuria and Subedar Ishwar Singh of 16 grenadiers. The duo has been airlifted to Command Hospital Udhampur for treatment.

High Speed Internet...

the Union territory has been in 'scary' headlines due to which genuine grievances of people were unheard. Replying to a question over the high speed internet, the LG said that the restoration of 4G internet services across J&K was under consideration and present dispensation has taken up the matter "very seriously". He added that people will be informed soon about the future of 4G internet services across UT. Pertinently, prior to LG Sinha his predecessor GC Murmu had advocated restoration of high-speed internet services in the J&K. However, according to the reports his opinion had not gone well with Ministry of Home Affairs has been opposed to the restoration of the internet over fears of "misuse". In an interview, Murmu had said that he is "not afraid how people of Kashmir will use" the internet. He had said the J&K administration had been making representations for restoring 4G internet services which have remained suspended for a year. "We have been representing this thing (restoration of 4G). It will not be a problem," Murmu had said in an interview to The Indian Express. Replying to another query from a journalist, Sinha said that there was no restriction on media and the journalists can come to meet him anytime. The LG was flanked by Advisor Farooq Khan, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar and Naseer Ahmad Khan, Advisors to the Lt Governor; Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Simrandeep Singh, Secretary, Public Grievances and other senior officers.

LG Launches Health Insurance...

health insurance cover free of cost to all residents and shall include the serving and retired employees and their families as well, he said. "Today, we have approved an important public health benefit proposal which is probably the first of its kind in the entire country. The Jammu and Kashmir Health Scheme will provide universal health coverage to nearly 70 lakh residents of the Union territory who are not covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme," Sinha told reporters here. The LG invited suggestions from the public for naming the JK Health Scheme. "We would like the name to be suggested by the people. A committee will be formed which will select the best name," he added. Giving details, Administrative Secretary in the Health department Atal Dulloo said the JK Health Scheme will have the same benefits as Ayushman Bharat, and beneficiaries can avail cashless treatment at all hospitals empanelled under the central scheme across the country. Dulloo said the annual financial implication of the insurance scheme would be to the tune of Rs 123 crore.

"The registration for the scheme will start within a week's time, but the scheme will be implemented only after a formal launch," he said. Sinha also launched a pilot project for a public grievance redressal system in three districts of the Union territory -- Srinagar, Jammu and Reasi.

"I believe that one of the most important things is to listen to the people and resolve their daily problems. We have launched JIGRAMS (Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring Mechanism) -- a revamped and decentralised grievance redressal system," he said.

The LG said while people can file and track their grievances in this system, the portal is linked with the CPGRAMS, in which grievances pertaining to the Union government can be forwarded to the Centre. "In the revamped system, the deputy commissioners of respective districts will be the primary level of receiving, disposing and monitoring grievances. This will be a major step towards reform and decentralisation," he added.

The LG said monitoring dashboards will be with him and the chief secretary as well. "We may call some people to check the veracity of the official reports about disposal of grievances," he added. Sinha also announced that all deputy commissioners and superintendents of police would be available in their offices from 10.30 am to 11.30 am every day, except for Wednesdays and Sundays, to hear public grievances.

"Similarly, divisional commissioners and IGs have also fixed timings twice a week exclusively for public hearings," he added

Azad Removed As Congress...

In a token move, the report says another leader who was among the 23 letter-writers, Mukul Wasnik, has been made a general secretary in charge of Madhya Pradesh.

The report said that Mukul Wasnik has also been named among the six leaders who are to "assist the Congress president in organizational and operational matters as expressed by her in the CWC meeting on August 24". The others are AK Antony, Ahmed Patel, Ambika Soni, KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala.

According to the report, Randeep Singh Surjewala is among the biggest gainers of the shuffle. He has been named general secretary in charge of Karnataka, he is in the special committee and continues as chief spokesperson.

"The dissent letter was seen to be a veiled attack on the Gandhis, es-

SOP Issued For Conducting Exams Amid Covid-19

NEW DELHI- The government has issued a revised SOP for conducting examinations amid the COVID-19 pandemic, removing the provision that allowed symptomatic candidates who insist on taking an exam to do so in isolation. According to the revised document by the Health ministry, in regular course, a symptomatic candidate should be referred to the nearest health centre and given an opportunity to undertake the examination through other means, or the university or educational institution shall arrange for taking the exam at a later date when

the student is declared physically fit.

"However, if a student is found to be symptomatic, the permission or denial thereof, in such cases shall be granted as per the policy already enunciated on the issue by the Examination Conducting Authorities," the revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) said. The ministry had on September 2 issued guidelines as per which staff and examinees from containment zones shall not be permitted to be physically present at exam centres and there will be alternative arrangements for such students

pecially Rahul Gandhi, who quit as president last year over the Congress's election defeat. Over the past few months, the Congress has been sharply divided with the veterans ranged against what is known to be Rahul Gandhi's core group, which is rooting for his return to the top job," the report added.

In Unemployment-ridden J&K,...

level of education by males in urban areas is till middle schools (20.7 percent).

The average number of years completed by people of 15 years and above in formal education in rural and urban areas is 9.6 years and 10.8 years respectively and the overall average number of years is 9.9 years. For a person of age 25 years and above, the average number of years completed in formal education is 9.6 years. The enrollment status of persons of age 3 to 35 years, currently attending education is 48 percent in rural areas and 49.3 percent in urban areas.

Distance to nearest school

School infrastructure is the basic need among students and parents for a better education. Schools at short distances play a significant role in promoting parents to admit their children to schools.

According to the survey, in rural areas of J&K, 86.5 percent of schools having primary level classes are at a distance of less than 1 km from the households.

76.2 percent of primary/middle level schools and 29.5 percent of secondary level schools are at a distance of less than 1 km from the household.

A majority of secondary schools in rural areas of J&K are at a distance of 1 km or more but less than 2 km.

The trend is different in urban areas where a majority of secondary schools (56.2 percent) lies at a distance of less than 1 km from the household.

For primary and middle schools, the trend in urban is almost aligned with that of rural schools.

Net attendance ratios (NAR)

NAR is the ratio of the number of persons in the official age-group attending a particular level of education to the total number of persons in that age-group.

The NAR in the primary and upper level is more in rural areas (91.9) as compared to urban areas (89.2). The same trend is followed in the higher secondary level.

In post higher secondary level, NAR is more in urban areas (35.6) as compared to rural areas (27.7).

Type of institution

A majority of students in J&K in both rural and urban areas prefer general courses than technical/professional courses.

96.2 percent of rural students prefer a general course and only 3.8 percent go for technical/professional course, while as 94.1 percent students in urban areas opt for a general course and 5.9 percent go for technical/professional course.

The vast difference between fees of general and technical/professional courses might be one of the reasons why students are opting for the former. The average expenditure for a general course is Rs 9,720, whereas for a professional course, it is Rs. 30,466.

Access to the internet

Access to the internet plays a significant role in disseminating and assimilating knowledge. From news to grocery shopping, the internet has become one of the basic necessities.

The survey considered "any person above the age of 5 years who used the internet to find, evaluate, and communicate information via any device," as the use of the internet.

A wide gap is visible between rural and urban areas in the internet facility.

Only 28.7 percent of rural people have internet facilities. However, in urban areas, it is more than double (57.7 percent).

Overall, only 21.8 percent of persons of age 5 years and above can use the internet in both rural and urban areas of J&K.

KPs Meet LG, Demand One...

along the Krishenganga (Neelam) river in PcK near the Line of Control. It was a major centre of learning on par with the ancient seats of learning -- Nalanda and Takshila.

Meanwhile, Apni Party general secretary and former chief secretary, Vijay Bakaya called on Sinha on Friday to discuss various issues of public concern.

Bakaya suggested that in order to provide a forum for redressal of problems of displaced Kashmiri Pandit migrants, an apex body as was set-up in the past, be constituted again comprising representatives from various recognised organisations of KPs and from all two room tenement camps and political parties.

Bakaya, who is a former MLC, mentioned the recent controversy about Panjbakhtar temple and was informed that an enquiry has already been ordered.

The LG assured Bakaya that due consideration would be given to the suggestions made by him.

Delegations of Kashmiri Pandit community including KP Sabha, Jammu, led by its president K K Khosa apprised the Lt Governor of various issues confronting the community including recruitment under PM Package, accommodation for PM Package Employees; maintenance and upgradation of facilities at Jagti township; protection of shrines; protection of land and properties of KPs in Kashmir.

Al-Badr Militant, 2 Aides...

area of Sopore. Two of his associates, Abdul Majeed Dar and Mubashir Ahmad Dar, both residents of Dangerpora Sopore, were also arrested, the official said. He said more arrests are expected in the case and further investigation is in progress.

Mild Tremor Felt In J&K...

the both sides of the Line of Control

CBI Arrests BCAS Officer...

engaged in providing manpower services at the Jammu Airport. "The accused was allegedly pressurizing & harassing the complainant to pay the bribe and when the complainant refused to do so, his application was rejected. CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs. Five thousand from the complainant," the statement said.

The CBI spokesperson further said that searches were being conducted at the residential & official premises of the accused in Srinagar (J&K) & Shahjahanpur (U.P.).

It added that the accused is being produced before the Court of Special Judge for CBI Cases, Jammu

Cash Looted From Mosque,...

matter. Quoting locals, the report said that there was unaccounted cash in the treasuries of mosque and Shrine which has been looted.

They alleged that this is the sixth such loot in the district and police have not arrested any accused in this connection so far.

Tipper Knocks
Biker to Death
on Baramulla
Highway

Baramulla: A 29-year-old biker was killed while the pillion rider sustained injuries in the Delina area of Baramulla district on Friday afternoon.

Reports said that a bike rider was hit by a speedy tipper, resulting in his on the spot death at Delina on Srinagar highway.

Police while divulging the details identified the deceased as Mudasir Ali Gani, son of Ali Muhammad Ganaie of Kanipora Sumbal of Bandipora district.

They said the pillion rider has sustained injuries, who has been shifted to District hospital Baramulla for further treatment.

Police said that driver of the car has fled from the spot while a case in this regard has been registered at Police Station Delina

Woman dies of
electrocution
in Uri

Baramulla: A 35-year-old woman was electrocuted to death in Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Officials said that a woman identified as Khalida Begum, wife of Muhammad Ashraf Sheikh of Uri Town came in contact with a live electric wire as some construction work is going on at her home and died on spot.

She was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared her brought dead on arrival, the health officials said.

Govt. Drawing Sadistic Pleasure
from 4G Ban: Apni Party

SRINAGAR : Apni Party provincial vice president Kashmir on Friday said the continuation of ban on 4G high speed mobile internet services belies the government claims about its seriousness in addressing the suffering of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here, Raina said at a time when people of J&K are facing immense hardships because of COVID pandemic, the government is unfortunately drawing sadistic pleasure from extending the inhuman restrictions on internet services in this part of the world.

"The government's security apprehensions may be true to some extent but they are completely unjustifiable for continuous suspension of the 4G internet services," Raina observed, adding that in this time of health crisis, the J&K youth are unable to work from home or avail online classes because of

snails speed provided by 2G internet services. "The situation has turned grimmer because of limited fixed line internet penetration in J&K."

Apni Party leader remarked that



a number of youth who had shifted back to their homes from various parts of the country or outside India because of CIVID are compelled to return because of the inaccessibility to the high speed internet services in their homes.

"I know it personally that many

youth including our near and dear ones have left their homes amid this deadly pandemic only because they are not able to do work from home or avail online classes of their colleges and universities," Raina added.

The Apni Party leader said that it is highly ironic that the government has continued with high-speed internet facility in Ganderbal and Udhampur districts and in rest of the J&K, it is applying different yardsticks. "While it is appreciable that 4G internet has not been snapped in Ganderbal and Udhampur after so called trial basis; suspending this facility in other districts is a cruel joke with the people," he said.

Raina urged the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to take a call on the matter in light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court directions and order restoration of 4G internet services in entire J&K so as to redress the miseries of people.

Mobile Theft Racket in City
Busted: 3 Delhi Residents Held

Police recovers stolen cell phones worth Rs 25 lakh

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir police Friday said it has busted a mobile phone theft racket by arresting three persons, all residents of Delhi, and recovered stolen mobile phones worth Rs 25 lakh from their possession.

Addressing a press conference at District Police Office (DPO) Srinagar, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Dr Haseeb Mughal said that on July 4, a complaint was received by the police station Nowhatta, Srinagar about theft in a mobile shot. "The thieves had cut the shutter of the shop in the dead of the night and stole mobile

phones worth lakhs," he said.

He said when investigations were taken up, CCTV footage was obtained but no clue was found. "After almost two months of investigations, we found no clue other than the one that rag pickers were roaming in the area. This was the only clue," said SSP Srinagar.

He said that after analyzing towers and other electronic surveillance, one of the stolen mobile phones was put on in New Delhi. "Simultaneously, a police team from north zone (Srinagar) was sent to Delhi and they arrested one person Abdur Razak



from JJ Coloney Bhawna and from his possession 112 stolen mobiles were recovered.

"Razak was shifted to Srinagar and after questioning him, he named two more persons who are also from Delhi but

were working in Anantnag district as labourers. The three were acting as rag pickers, and had done reece in Nowhatta. They were waiting for the arrival of consignments of mobiles and then stealing from the same shop," the

SSP Srinagar said.

He said in the arrest of three accused, Delhi police also helped. "The arrest of two persons from Anantnag who are also Delhi residents led to recovery of 11 stolen mobiles," Dr Mughal said.

He said that in total Rs 25 lakh worth mobiles were recovered and three persons, all from Delhi were arrested. "The investigation is on and more arrests are likely to be made," the SSP said, adding that traders should take precautions while receiving consignments and watch out for a suspect in the vicinity

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10th Pass Marks Card bearing Reg. No: N17441730018 , Roll No: 3137240 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the JKBOSE within a period of seven day from the date of publication of this notice. A fter that no objection shall be entertained.

Yawar Abass Sofi
S/o Ghulam Mohiuddin Sofi fko

SAD DEMISE



We inform with profound grief the sad demise of Haji Ghulam Rasool Mir S/O Haji Mohammed Subhan Mir of Chralipora, Padshahi Bagh on 10/09/2020.

Congregational Fateha will be held on Monday Sep 14 at our residence, Padshahi Bagh - Srinagar.

BEREAVED

Jalal-ud-Din Mir, Nisar Ahmad Mir,
Riyaz Ahmad Mir (Sons)
Ghulam Hassan Mir (Brother)
Bashir Ahmad Mir (Nephew) ko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Directorate of Rural
Sanitation, J&K, Jammu
Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

Ph./fax 0194-2470559 (summer)
Ph. 0191-2438269 (winter) Email: drsjk47@gmail.com

Subject: Implementation of Guidelines for Environmental Management of Dairy Farms and Goushalas as per order passed by Hon'ble NGT on 20.05.2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Hon'ble NGT directions dated: 20.05.2020 in original Application No. 46/2018 titled Nuggehalli Jayasimha Versus Government of NCR of Delhi, to protect environment, it is enjoined upon all the persons running Dairy Units and also the stock owners within the limits of all Gram Panchayats of UT of J&K having animals for individual sustenance to approach their respective Gram Panchayat Offices for registration of their units immediately. In case of non-compliance strict action will be initiated which may end up in closure of such units. The license and renewal fees to be charged by the Gram Panchayats will be notified separately by concerned Gram Panchayats. The requisite format can be downloaded from the official website of Directorate of Rural Sanitation, J&K (www.drsjk.jk.gov.in)

No: DRS/2020-21/1078-112
(Tariq Hussain Ganai)KAS
Dated:10-09-2020
Director
Rural Sanitation, J&K
DIPK-5463/20

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS



- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 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
23 Muharram
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 50
ZUHR	12: 31
ASR	5:55
Magrib	6:50
ISHA	8:12

This Day In History

- 1213 - Battle at Muret: Crusade of Simon de Montfort beat Pedro II of Aragon
- 1217 - French prince Louis & English King Henry II sign peace treaty
- 1635 - Sweden & Poland sign ceasefire Treaty of Stuhmsdorf
- 1683 - Austro-Ottoman War: Battle of Vienna - several European armies join forces to defeat the Ottoman Empire
- 1703 - English army under arch duke Charles of Austria lands in Portugal
- 1722 - Russian troops occupy Baku & Derbent in Persia
- 1829 - Greek War of Independence ends after 8 years and 6 months
- 1909 - World's first patent for synthetic rubber granted to German chemist Fritz Hofmann
- 1918 - WW: US forces launch an attack on German-occupied St Mihiel
- 1919 - Adolf Hitler joins the obscure German Worker's Party as its seventh member, agreeing not with worker's rights, but with its German Nationalism and antisemitism
- 1928 - Hurricane in Florida, kills 6,000
- 1938 - Adolf Hitler demands self-determination for Sudeten Germans in Czech
- 1940 - Italian troops enter Egypt
- 1941 - 1st German ship in WW II captured by US ship (Busko)
- 1942 - Battle of Edson's Ridge begins at Guadalcanal
- 1942 - Free Poland & Belgium asks pope to condemn nazi-war crimes
- 1943 - Free French lands on Corsica
- 1944 - US Army troops entered Germany for 1st time
- 1948 - Invasion of the State of Hyderabad by the Indian Army on the day after the Pakistani leader Jinnah's death.
- 1949 Theodor Heuss elected 1st President of the German Federal Republic (West Germany) with Konrad Adenauer the 1st Prime Minister.
- 1961 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 to 34,840 m
- 1961 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1968 - Albania announces it is withdrawing from the Warsaw Pact
- 1970 - Soviet unmanned spacecraft Luna 16 launched to the moon
- 1980 - Military coup under General Kenan Evren in Turkey
- 1991 - Space shuttle STS 48 (Discovery 14) launched
- 1992 - STS-47 (Endeavour 2) launches
- 1997 - The UN passes a resolution allowing Iraq to reach the \$2.14 billion oil sales limit under its oil-for-food program

From KO Archives

Census held Up

Div com cajoles union leader

Observer News service

SRINAGAR: The second and final Phase of the census operation in Kashmir, scheduled to begin today, failed to take off with most government employees detailed for the purpose not reporting for duty following militant threat to eliminate those taking part in the exercise.

Director census of Jammu and Kashmir Feroz Ahmad said he had not received any information about the progress of the operation till 1500 hours , today. He said the operations had begun in Jammu and Ladakh regions. "I can't say if the operation had begun in Kashmir valley. I can't even say that the operation had not begun at all", he told reporters.

However, he said the job of the directorate of census is to dispatch the material to the concerned wards which has been completed in time. In Srinagar, the material had not been received by the staff in 15 segments. He said the position would become dear in a few days .

Officials reports reaching here said the employees did not receive the material and did not take part in the operation.

But officials in the divisional commissioner's office here claimed, that, employee turned up to collect the census material in Budgam, Anantnag and Kupwara districts.

"The exact information from all over the Kashmir valley is not known, especially in Srinagar", the officials said adding the director-of-census has been summoned to obtain information about progress of the operation.


A PTI reporter who visited the directorate of census and other areas in the city found that out of 98 employees in Brain-Nishat in ward number one, only five employees turned up to receive the material for the area.

Two prominent government employees unions, State Employees Conference and Employees and Workers Confederation had directed the staff not to endanger their lives by participating in the operation in view of militants' threat to train their guns on those taking part in the exercise.

Over 22,000 enumerators were trained to conduct the census, to be concluded on September 30, he said adding the first phase was undertaken from May 16 to June 5 this year. House listing with the civic and other amenities available at the household and locality levels was done during the first phase which, however, went off without any problem.

An official handout issued here today said the divisional commissioner had a detailed discussion with the representatives of some employees' organisations and assured them the government would take all possible steps to ensure their security. The J statement claimed the representatives informed the divisional commissioner that "they had neither issued any statement to boycott the census duty nor have intention to do so".

(Kashmir Observer, September 12, 2000)



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Green Campus, Ganderbal

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR B.Tech. CS & E PROGRAMME (CUKAT-2020)

Central University of Kashmir invites online Applications from the eligible candidates for admission to below mentioned programme of the University for the academic session 2020-21:

S.No	Programme	Eligibility
01	B.Tech CS&E	1. 10+2 with at least 50% marks in aggregate or its equivalent on Grading scale of respective Boards/Universities (45% for SC/ST/OBC/PWD/EWS candidates) with Physics, Mathematics and chemistry/Biology as main subjects. 2. Positive score of JEE (Mains) 2020

Selection criteria for B.Tech CS&E programme:

Final selection shall be based on merit secured in JEE.

Number of Seats:

- Forty Four
- Reservation of SC, ST, OBC and EWS as per GOI norms
- One supernumerary seat is reserved for PWD candidates

Important Dates:

Opening of Online application forms	05.09.2020
Last date for submission of Online Application forms	30.09.2020

Application form details:

Application fees

OM	500/-
Reserved Categories (SC, ST, OBC, PWD, and EWS)	250/-

1. Application Form, Guidelines for Submission of Form, online payment of application fees, etc. are available on the University Website: www.cukashmir.ac.in

For further details/guidance, please contact us on the e-mail at academics@cukashmir.ac.in or contact 7889575375, 7889575376.

No. CUK/Acad/CUKAT-20/778/20/ 5721

Dated: 03 .09.2020

Sd/-

Prof. Parveen Pandit

Director Admissions

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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NO HOLDS BARRED



The fact that India could well be facing something more dire than a skirmish with China is given short shrift and still responded to as a threat by flinging self-serving clichés.

Kangana's Kangaroo Court Cannot Milk KP Tragedy

Gowhar Geelani

This clever and cunning parallel that she has drawn between a tragedy of a community and partial demolition of a portion of her office is fundamentally erroneous. It also belittles the tragedy that many dispossessed families of the Pandit community have witnessed, especially those who lost home and hearth after the unfortunate flight of several families of the population in January, 1990.

The history of Indian Hindi cinema, aka Bollywood and formerly referred to as Bombay cinema, is a mixed bag. The film industry has produced several legendary lyricists, actors, script writers, musicians, directors, and producers. Sadly, the Hindi-language film industry based in Bombay (now Mumbai) has also produced bigots, clowns, opportunistic wannabes and ideologically bankrupt bhakts of those wielding influence and power with the aim to join politics.

On the one hand, you have a legendary actor of Naseeruddin Shah's calibre. And, on the other hand, you also have an actor like Kangana Ranaut.

Like a conflict entrepreneur, Ranaut aims to milk someone else's tragedy for her personal ambition. Without going into the details of the latest controversy involving her, which eventually resulted in the demolition of a portion of the actor's allegedly "illegally" constructed office in Bombay; it is important to take note of her language and terminology in her vitriolic tweets and vicious commentaries.

The actor is trying to play victim. Her main line of argument is the narrative of victimhood. But is she really a victim in the latest case? Or, is she trying to milk the tragedy of the Kashmiri Pandit community to her advantage and for her own career benefit?

Soon after a portion of her office structure was bulldozed, Kangana recorded a video message, perhaps in a fit of anger. She accused the Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray of demolishing her office building in collaboration with the "film mafia". "Today, my house is broken. Tomorrow, your ego will be crushed," she said in an emotional tone.

But then she said something outrageous. "Now I realise what Kashmiri Pandits might have endured. Today I have realised. I want to make a pledge to my fellow countrymen that not only will I make a film on Ayodhya (a site in Uttar Pradesh where a centuries-old historical Babri mosque was demolished by the Right-Wing mobs in the early 1990s), but also on Kashmir (Kashmiri Pandits) to spread awareness (about their plight)."

This clever and cunning parallel that she has drawn between a tragedy of a community and partial demolition of a portion of her office is fundamentally erroneous. It also belittles the tragedy that many dispossessed families of the Pandit community have witnessed, especially those who lost home and hearth after the unfortunate flight of several families of the population in January, 1990.

As a headline hunter Kangana's objective was achieved. She succeeded in cementing the binaries and divisions on communal lines. That is when it became obvious that the actor was indulging in



divisive politics. She may be a brilliant film actor, but she also demonstrated that there is a potential politician in her who was ready to pounce on any given opportunity in a charged atmosphere.

In one of his brilliant essays titled Politics and the English Language, George Orwell concluded that, "Political language — and with variations this is true of all political parties, from Conservatives to Anarchists — is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

Sadly, Kangana accomplished success in highlighting the many fissures and fault-lines within the Pandit community as well. Predictably, the rabid representatives of the community such as Ashoke Pandit have come forward to lend their support to the actor. Ashoke is the same producer who some years ago during the crisis at an engineering college based in Hazratbal described J&K Police personnel as, "terrorists in uniform" and working on the, "payrolls of the Pakistani spy agency, ISI."

That said, Kangana received sharp criticism from one of the many Pandit representatives like Rahul Pandita. Rahul in a series of tweets requested Kangana to, "...stop taking our name in vain. We refuse to be pawns in your battles of puny egos. Do not belittle our tragedy..."

Author Khalid Bashir Ahmad in Kashmir: Exposing the Myth Behind the Narrative talks about how the late Sheikh Abdullah, former Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, described Kashmiri Pandits as "The Fifth Columnists" and "Instruments of Tyranny". Khalid quickly adds that "The sweeping portrayal of a community by a person accused of having handed over Kashmir to India on a platter to answer the wishes of this minuscule minority looks incredible."

In Kashmir: The Vajpayee Years, India's former spymaster and former head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) Amarjit Singh Dulat writes that, "most of our offices on the ground (in Kashmir) were Kashmiri Pandits, who lived among the ordinary Kashmiri folk, and they made for easy targets." It is imperative to mention that when the R&AW was formed on September 21, 1968, the late Rameshwar Nath Kao, a Kashmiri Pandit, became its first chief during Indira Gandhi's stint as India's Prime Minister.

Though the community formed merely four per cent of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir's population, it wielded influence and enjoyed proximity with the power corridors throughout history. According to Khalid's account, "The Kashmiri Brahmins became the eyes and ears of the Mughal imperialism in Kashmir. While we hardly find any Kashmiri Muslim notable mentioned in the Mughal history of Kashmir, there are references to many a Kashmiri Brahman such as Tota Ram, Miru Pandit, Bulaqi Pandit, Makund Pandit, Pandit Mahadeo, Mahesh Shankar Das and Mukund Ram Khar serving the Mughals at positions of influence."

Pandits had quickly learned Persian, the official language of the restive region at the time, and it helped them a great deal during the Mughal rule. And during the Dogra rule over Kashmir they quickly learned Urdu when it was made the official state language, replacing Persian, in 1889 by the third ruler of the Dogra dynasty, Maharaja Pratap Singh.

Even in the cabinet of Indira Gandhi, her most important and trusted men were a group of Kashmiri Pandits. According to Indira's biographer Katherine Frank, "the epicentre of what came to be called Indira's 'Kashmir mafia' was not a cabinet minister or any other elected office-

bearer, but rather a senior civil servant, the head of the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the author of her 'stray thoughts' on economics and her main policy formula-tor." This person was Parmeshwar Narain Haksar. D.P. Dhar and R.N. Kao were Indira's other two close confidants from the KP community. They were also instrumental in the fall of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, in 1971.

Obviously, it is unproductive to expect Kangana to know the history of KPs or the vibrant cultural confluence between KPs and Kashmiri Muslims in J&K. What she also may not know is the fact that several interfaith marriages have taken place in Kashmir: The Parmeshwari-Ghulam Rasool matrimony and other marital tie-ups between KMs and KPs. The actor wouldn't know about the London-based Kashmiri academic Nitasha Kaul, anthropologist Mona Bhan, filmmaker Sanjay Kak, academic and poet Suvir Kaul, doctor U Kaul, academic Nitasha Trisal and many other KPs who would abhor the idea of Kangana representing them or their aspirations in any way. Kangana wouldn't know that in the Bijbehara civilian massacre in south Kashmir in the early 1990s, one of those slain was a member of the KP community. He was a minor.

Unfortunately, the Kashmiri Pandits bearing allegiance with Right-Wing groups like Panun Kashmir and Roots in Kashmir claim that their community faced an 'ethnic cleansing' and 'genocide'. In March 2010, the Jammu and Kashmir government said on the floor of the Legislative Assembly that "219 Kashmiri Pandits were killed" in J&K. Human rights bodies put the number of those killed in J&K since 1989 at close to 100,000, majority of the slain belong to the majority Muslim community. A total of 38,119 Kashmiri Pandit families were registered with the government, of which 24,202 migrated in January 1990. According to official figures, the total number of Pandits stood at 1.5 lakh at the time of migration.

There are several representatives of various migrant and displaced communities who accuse the Kashmiri Pandit community of "exaggerating their tragedy" by drawing flawed comparisons with undeniable humanitarian tragedies of colossal nature like Holocaust (extermination of Jews) in Adolf Hitler's Germany or ethnic cleansing and genocide of Muslim community in Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

However, that is not the point. Pain cannot be quantified. This is not the US versus THEM debate. Actors like Kangana and narrative pushers like Ashoke Pandit play to the gallery with the aim to sow seeds of discord and milk situations to their advantage. It is time to stop them from spreading hate.

Gowhar Geelani is an author-journalist and a political commentator

Media on trial: India's love affair with trivia is dangerous

Bikram Vohra

In later years social anthropologists will speak of an India whose intellectual synapses were singed to a crisp by a cacophony of noise in a script dictated by the lowest common denominator

India's current affection for trivia is best expressed in its morbid fascination with the film actor Sushant Singh's murder oblique suicide. This unhealthy trend emphasised by a lower and lower middle class society being allowed entry via cheap and affordable audio-visual options into high society has now reached a pathetic crescendo. In later years social anthropologists will liken it to Nero fiddling while Rome burned. They will speak of an India whose intellectual synapses were singed to a crisp by a cacophony of noise in a script dictated by the lowest common denominator. It will also speak of how a nation of 1.3 billion people in which the majority have been sidelined by poverty and denial for centuries are now easy prey for a brain-washing by liquid sleaze.

How else will you explain that the screaming madness over this case totally eclipses the 90,000-odd cases of Covid every day and the act that India is fast tracking to become the worst-hit nation in the world. The caring has slipped greasily and there is no pressure from the public to do anything about it. As social distancing and the wearing of the mask become a laughable addiction more to be mocked at than taken seriously, the numbers cross four million and at this rate

should double by the end of next month.

As popular media's banshee call for revenge and retribution make a large swathe of society feel good about their grey lives (nice to see someone else being railroaded), the sponsorship of such drive rises like a toxic tide thereby ensuring that even the commercial world has no qualms about endorsing cerebral sludge so far as the TRPs stay buoyant.

The Indian economy is dropping like a stone from a cliff, over 120 million have lost their jobs this year, the professional cadres are frosted, the medical frontliners are hugely stretched, and yet these issues are not put on the front burner.

On this canvas there is an even more searing dragon breathing fire. The fact that India could well be facing something more dire than a skirmish with China is given short shrift and still responded to as a threat by flinging self-serving clichés. That think tanks have even indicated to make itself relevant once again and

sidetrack the convulsions within her borders, it suits China to engage in a protracted conflict with India. At least three weeks. As the political firmament attempts to plug the leaks in this not so happy relationship the chest thumping bravado is not a defence. While India might be strong on supply lines and a road network that is a construction miracle and her soldiers sculpted in unalloyed courage years of neglect have left her armament and her gunnery weak and suspect. Yes, India's weaponry and her arsenal are not enough to take on an army of 2.8 million soldiers serving the state.

Much the same bravura marked the 1962 war where misplaced jingoism, a false premise of abundance as against the reality where troops in T-shirts and vests with .303 obsolete weapons that froze in the icy temperatures were literally drowned in wave after wave of Chinese foot soldiers.

It all began in a military garrison town called Ambala when India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Ne-

hru's favourite son and fellow Kashmiri, Lt Gen BM Kaul, then commanding the legendary 4 Infantry Division invited Chinese premier Chou En Lai to inaugurate a military housing project called Amar. At the railway station that morning in 1958, the slogan Hindi-Chini bhai bhai (Indians and Chinese are brothers) was given birth and shouted out lustily by schoolchildren.

As the friendship grew Kaul had the ambitious overreach to take over from an agreeable Nehru and run the country. His idea mushroomed into a decision to engage in conflict with China in the Jalep La and Nathu La areas as well as Aksai Chin and come out heroic. Somewhere along the way things got snarled up and Indian troops went a bridge too far. Brigadier Jai Dalvi called it the Himalayan Blunder. With India on the back foot and her troops still bravely fighting rearguard against fearful odds, Kaul's gambit failed.

Has a lesson been learnt from that six-decade-old blood-soaked escapade? Of course Indian troops are way better inoculated against the cold and relatively better armed. But there is little refuge in repeating the mantra that this is not 1962.

India has to wake up and get ready for any eventuality and her media if it must engage in trials must now try itself for a dereliction of duty. -bikram@khaleejtimes.com

Khaleej Times

Why is J&K Highway Prone to Landslides?

Part 1

It is important to understand landslides to predict their locations and avoid damage and loss.
This first part of the series is going to give a general overview of the science behind it

Dr Afroz Ahmad Shah

Even as it is largely predictable to mark the locations of future landslide sites, the unfortunate loss of people and disruption due to landslide is still a continuous affair. This clearly suggests that landslide hazards are a major problem that must be resolved.

Landslides are frequent in Jammu and Kashmir region. Even as it is largely predictable to mark the locations of future landslide sites, the unfortunate loss of people and disruption due to landslide is still a continuous affair. This clearly suggests that landslide hazards are a major problem that must be resolved. Therefore, the motivation of writing this article is intended to educate people about the science of landslides, and the subsequent articles will look at the problem from a scientific perspective with a focus on Jammu and Kashmir, and how to avoid the future disasters.

Landslide is the movement of a mass of rock or debris down a slope. The dimensions of a landslide may be very small or huge, and its movement can be sluggish or very swift. There are various reasons for such movements; for example precipitation (rainfall), topography, geology (rock and soil types) and human activities, can all trigger landslides. Anything affecting slope conditions can cause slope failure, potentially in an area, which is prone to landslides. This includes human induced slope failures, especially during construction, mining etc. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions also contribute to these mass movements.

One of the recent examples of a large-scale earthquake induced landslide occurrence was mapped in Muzaffarabad in Pakistan, when a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck this region in 2005. It is estimated that more than 86000 people lost their lives and several millions were rendered homeless. This has affected an area of more than 30,000 Kilometre square and triggered thousands of landslides.

The landslide risk has potentially increased because of the post-seismic landslides and avalanches. Such a risk remains high during wet seasons and particularly in places like Muzaffarabad, Balakot, Garhi and Dopatta. There are several rivers, which are dammed. This could also cause hazard, if not managed properly. Generally, during an earthquake such a situation can occur, if a fault crosses a river. Artificial lakes, dams, waterfalls can form during such a process. This happened during the Kashmir earthquake and was seen in many other places.

Any future town planning must take care of these risks, which are extremely important to save lives and property. This must be particularly done in places like Jammu and Kashmir where earthquake hazards are high, and conditions are right for mass sliding during earthquakes.

Gravity, the driving force

Slopes are generally unstable over a long period of time and therefore, they tend to stabilise by moving to a new and stable condition. This is achieved through the force of gravity, which is the driving force and will always act on the slopes to drag them down. There is always a tug of war between the driving force (gravity) and the resisting force, which is the strength of the



rock-mass to uphold against the gravity. A slope may fail, if the driving force exceeds the resisting one.

Gravity makes it possible for us to walk on the surface of Earth. When a surface is flat, it is quite easy to walk, because the gravity acts perpendicular to our feet. However, if the surface is inclined, it is hard to walk, because the force of gravity in this condition has two components. These two components act on a slope: one is parallel to its surface and the other one is perpendicular. The slope parallel component will always try to make anything resting on its surface inherently unstable and will cause a shear stress parallel to the slope, which pulls the object in the downward direction. However, the perpendicular component of gravity helps to hold the object in place on the slope.

Friction and Cohesion

The forces resisting movement down the slope are grouped under the term shear strength which includes frictional resistance and cohesion among the particles that make up the object. For example, when we want to push an object over a slope, we need some force to do that and that applied force must overcome the resistance due to friction (which is the area of the object in contact with the sloping surface).

In natural conditions, the applied force is from the gravity and it has to overcome the friction and the cohesion among the particles. If the surface is rough, the friction will be more because the particles of the object are tightly held to the surface. However, when a surface is slippery or polished, it is easy to slide down.

One of the reasons why there is more sliding in wet seasons is because water makes slopes slippery, reduces friction and facilitates the sliding. Cohesion is the force that keeps material (e.g. a rock) intact. When you pick a rock and look at it carefully, you can observe that it is made-up of a number of minerals of different colours. These are held together or interlocked by the forces of cohesion.

When the frictional and cohesive forces become smaller than the shear stress, the object on a slope slips down. Alternatively, when the cohesive forces, which hold rock particles or soil together are weaker than the shear strength, the rock will fall apart under the influence of gravity.

Slope stability can be assessed through the Safety Factor, which is the ratio of the resisting force (Shear Strength) to the driving force (Shear Stress).

$$F_s = \text{Shear Strength} / \text{Shear Stress}$$

If this ratio is slightly more than 1, the slope is close to being unstable, however, if it is significantly greater than 1, (1.5 or 2), then the slope is stable, because the shear strength (resisting and cohesive forces) is much greater than the driving force.

Author is an Assistant Professor of Structural Geology at the Department of Geosciences, University Brunel- Darussalam. He can be reached at: afroz.shah@ubd.edu.bn

Covid-19, Carbon and Climate Change

Pep Canadell and Rob Jackson

The Paris climate agreement seeks to limit global warming to 1.5 this century. A new report by the World Meteorological Organisation warns this limit may be exceeded by 2024 – and the risk is growing.

This first overshoot beyond 1.5 would be temporary, likely aided by a major climate anomaly such as an El Niño weather pattern. However, it casts new doubt on whether Earth's climate can be permanently stabilised at 1.5 warming.

This finding is among those just published in a report titled United in Science

The report also found while greenhouse gas emissions declined slightly in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they remained very high – which meant atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations have continued to rise.

Greenhouse gases rise as CO emissions slow

Concentrations of the three main greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O), have all increased over the past decade. Current concentrations in the atmosphere are, respectively, 147%, 259% and 123% of those present before the industrial era began in 1750.

Growth in CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel use slowed to around 1% per year in the past decade, down from 3% during the 2000s. An unprecedented decline is expected in 2020, due to the COVID-19 economic slowdown. Daily CO₂ fossil fuel emissions declined by 17% in early April at the peak of global confinement policies, compared with the previous year. But by early June they had recovered to a 5% decline.

We estimate a decline for 2020 of about 4-7% compared to 2019 levels, depending on how the pandemic plays out.

Although emissions will fall slightly, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations will still reach another record high this year. This is because we're still adding large amounts of CO₂ to the atmosphere.

Warmest five years on record

The global average surface temperature from 2016 to 2020 will be among the warmest of any equivalent period on record, and about 0.24° warmer than the previous five years.

This five-year period is on the way to creating a new temperature record across much of the world, including Australia, southern Africa, much of Eu-



While greenhouse gas emissions declined slightly in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they remained very high – which meant atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations have continued to rise

rope, the Middle East and northern Asia, areas of South America and parts of the United States.

Sea levels rose by 3.2 millimetres per year on average over the past 27 years. The growth is accelerating – sea level rose 4.8 millimetres annually over the past five years, compared to 4.1 millimetres annually for the five years before that.

The past five years have also seen many extreme events. These include record-breaking heatwaves in Europe, Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, major bushfires in Australia and elsewhere, prolonged drought in southern Africa and three North Atlantic hurricanes in 2017.

1 in 4 chance of exceeding 1.5°C warming

Our report predicts a continuing warming trend. There is a high probability that, everywhere on the planet, average temperatures in the next five years will be above the 1981-2010 average. Arctic warming is expected to be more than twice that the global average.

There's a one-in-four chance the global annual average temperature will exceed 1.5 above pre-industrial levels for at least one year over the next five years. The chance is relatively small, but still significant and growing. If a major climate anomaly, such as a strong El Niño, occurs in that period, the 1.5 threshold is more likely to be crossed. El Niño events generally bring warmer global temperatures.

Under the Paris Agreement, crossing the 1.5 threshold is measured over a 30-year average, not just one year. But every year above 1.5 warming would take us closer to exceeding the limit.

Arctic Ocean sea-ice disappearing

Satellite records between 1979 and 2019 show sea ice in the Arctic summer declined at about 13% per decade, and this year reached its lowest July levels on record.

In Antarctica, summer sea ice reached its lowest and second-lowest extent in 2017 and 2018, respectively, and 2018 was also the second-lowest winter extent.

Most simulations show that by 2050, the Arctic Ocean will practically be free of sea ice for the first time. The fate of Antarctic sea ice is less certain.

Urgent action can change trends

Human activities emitted 42 billion tonnes of CO₂ in 2019 alone. Under the Paris Agreement, nations committed to reducing emissions by 2030.

But our report shows a shortfall of about 15 billion tonnes of CO₂ between these commitments, and pathways consistent with limiting warming to well below 2 (the less ambitious end of the Paris target). The gap increases to 32 billion tonnes for the more ambitious 1.5 goal.

If emission reductions are large and sustained, we can still meet the Paris goals and avoid the most severe damage to the natural world, the economy and people. But worryingly, we also have time to make it far worse.

By arrangements with The Conversations

Battery-Powered Face Mask Seeks To Fight COVID And Foggy Glasses



urge the public use of face masks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, manufacturers have turned their attention to making such gear more comfortable without compromising safety.



concern when it comes to wearing a face mask and disposable masks come with a huge environmental cost." Choi Yoon-hee, a senior official at LG Electronics' air solution product team, told Reuters.

The mask comes with a case that charges the battery and disinfects the mask with UV light.

The device will be available in the fourth quarter in select markets. LG is yet to set a price. LG said the mask has a battery life of about eight hours on low-power settings and two hours on its highest setting.

FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No: 79/MDB/4772-92 of 2020-21 DATED: 10.09.2020

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contract or	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Upgradation/Development of Borm by way of P/L of GSB course and Construction of R/wall at various required spots on Randakkaji Yarikah road under CRF	50.00 Lacs	1100/-	100000/-	60 days	AAY/BEE	CRF

(ii) Position of funds: Available

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 11.09.2020 4.00 PM |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 11.09.2020 from 4.00 PM. |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | 11.09.2020 from 4.00 PM. |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 18.09.2020 upto 4.00 P.M |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 19.09.2020 at 11.00 A.M in the office of
<u>Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division</u>
<u>Budgam</u> |

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **Treasury Challan** in favour of **Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam** (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to **Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam** (tender receiving authority).
 2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site **www.jktenders.gov.in** and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of **Executive Engineer Muffasil R&B Division Budgam** (tender receiving authority).
 3. The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan
 4. The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids**
 5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
 - a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Sd/-**

*Executive Engineer,
Muffasil (R&B) Division, Budgam*

To examine how emotion vocabulary depth corresponds broadly with lived experience, Vine and her team

"There's a lot of excitement right now about expanding people's emo-

"It is likely that people who have had more upsetting life experiences have developed richer negative emotion vocabularies to describe the worlds around them. In everyday life, these same people can more readily label nuanced feelings as negative which may ultimately affect their moods," noted James W. Pennebaker, Ph.D., professor of psychology at the University of Texas at Austin and an author on the project.

■ IT IS LIKELY THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD MORE UPSETTING LIFE experiences have developed richer negative emotion vocabularies to describe the worlds around them. In everyday life, these same people can more readily label nuanced feelings as negative which may ultimately affect their moods."

Circular No. 03JK(HE of 2020)
Dated:- 09-09-2020)

The AICTE during the year 2014-2015 had launched the 'Pragati and Saksham Scholarship Schemes to provide financial assistance for advancement of girls pursuing technical education and to support differently-abled students for technical education respectively. The scholarship amount has been increased considerably from Rs. 5000/- per annum to Rs.50,000/- per annum for the students of J&K from current academic year 2020-2021. The Brief details of the Scheme is as under-

The Scheme aims at providing assistance for advancement of Girls pursuing Technical education, empowering women with knowledge, skill and self confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. All girls of J&K State belonging to the families having income of Rs. 8 lac who shall be admitted in the AICTE approved institutions for the session 2020-21 shall be eligible under the Scheme. The host institution where the candidate is studying require to verify the online applications.

Accordingly, it is impressed upon all Principals of Engineering Institutes of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to get the girl students and specially-abled students pursuing technical education, registered on the NSP Portal of the government of India.

No: PS/CS/HED/AICTE Dated: 09-09-2020

DIPK-5467/20

: CAW(Acctts)SKA 350/Ins/2020

Lt.Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, sealed quotations affixed with companies to provide Insurance

involved are detailed hereunder.

	Limit Liability (each passenger)	
	a. b.	

<p>The quotations should reach to the accompanied by detailed terms and conditions of the over and must contain details of policy clauses (not merely lists of clauses).</p>		

etailed descriptions of clauses must be attached if not forming part of the main policy document. Quotations will be opened on _____ in presence of the quotationers who may wish to remain present at the time of opening of quotations. The incomplete and conditional quotations will not be accepted. The rates should be written in words as well as in figures without any overwriting/erasers. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any quotation without assigning reasons to the quotationer.

The successful quotationer is required to submit the insurance policy to the undersigned within one month from the date of receipt of premium. The delay in submission of the policy may lead to rejection of quotation at the risk and cost of the

undersigned on all working days.

DIPK-5450/20

NO.10705 NOTICE DATE_-10-09-020

Whereas joint application has been submitted by this office from Mr.Ghulam Nabi Wagay S/O Mohd Sultan Wagay R/O New Colony Harnag (Party No.1st) as Transfer, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd. No.KJ036-9262(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) over R/O H/RP M. No. Nil, and Mr.Mohd Shafi M/S S/O Ab Azmir S/O Hergam Sirihama (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) and existing in the name of Mr. G & A. The above noted Vehicle in the name of No.1st and the And. A Cancellation of the above agreement with Nil. If the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer / Any file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

NO.10704 **NOTICE** DATE_-10-09-020

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Asgar Ali Itoo S/O Ghulam Hassan Itoo R/O Larkipora Shivpora Qazigund (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle 120 Bearing Regd. No.KJ06-305 Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No. NilL and Mr.Abid Ahmad Dar S/O Bashir Ahmad Dar R/O Kanjigund Anantnag (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd, And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with NilL. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Army file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

NO.101/1807/ANG DATE_-11-09-020

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Ryeaz Ahmad Nanda S/O Ghulam Nabi Nanda R/O Khanabal Anantnag (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle LPT 1613 Bearing Regd. No.JK03B-287I (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No. 1494/G/ANG. and Mr.Mahraj ud din Kumar S/O Gb Nabil Kumar R/O Kocha Khrew Pulwama (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement of the said Vehicle with the Co-operative Bank Bijnbehara. After the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Any file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

Trump brags of saving Saudi Crown Prince over murder of Khashoggi

Agencies

Washington: US President Donald Trump brags he shielded Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the gruesome murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, according to an explosive new book.

Talking to journalist and writer Bob Woodward, Trump defended bin Salman over the assassination inside a Saudi consulate in Turkey.

"I saved his ass," Trump told Woodward for his upcoming book "Rage," according to an excerpt published on Thursday by Business Insider.

"I was able to get Congress to leave him alone. I was able to get

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

The victim used to criticize bin Salman's policies, including the deadly war the kingdom is leading against its impoverished southern neighbor Yemen.

Trump has said that he was "extremely angry and very unhappy" about Khashoggi's murder, but claimed that "nobody has directly pointed a finger" at bin Salman.

Trump has played down the Khashoggi murder case, and instead, repeatedly cited the profits that the US economy reaps from



them to stop," Trump said.

Khashoggi, who was a critic of bin Salman, was hacked to death and his body was dismembered at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018.

A UN report found that there was "sufficient credible evidence" to pin the murder on bin Salman and he should be investigated for it.

maintaining good business relations with the Saudis, particularly the Crown Prince bin Slaman.

Trump has described the Saudi crown prince as a "friend". "It's an honor to be with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, a friend of mine, a man who has really done things in the last five years in terms of opening up Saudi Arabia."

North Korea Issues Shoot-To-Kill Orders To Prevent Coronavirus, Says US

Agencies

Washington: North Korean authorities have issued shoot-to-kill orders to prevent the coronavirus entering the country from China, according to the commander of US forces in the South.

The impoverished North – whose crumbling health system would struggle to cope with a major virus outbreak – has not confirmed a single case of the disease that has swept the world since first emerging in China, the North's key ally.

Pyongyang closed its border with China in January to try to prevent contamination, and in July state media said it had raised its state of emergency to the maximum level.

US Forces Korea (USFK) commander Robert Abrams said that the border shutdown had increased demand for smuggled goods, prompting authorities to intervene.

The North introduced a new "buffer zone, one or two kilometers up on the Chinese border," Abrams told an online conference organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington on Thursday.

"They've got North Korean SOF (Special Operations Forces) out there. ... Strike forces,



they've got shoot-to-kill orders in place."

The border closure had effectively "accelerated the effects" of economic sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear programs, he added, with imports from China plunging 85 percent.

The isolated country is also grappling with the aftermath of Typhoon Maysak, with its state media reporting more than 2,000 houses have been destroyed or inundated.

As a result, Abrams did not expect to see any major provocations from Pyongyang in the near future, although he said it might show off a new weapons system at next month's celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the founding of Kim Jong Un's ruling party.

"The regime right now – the military – is focused principally on getting their country recovered and to help mitigate the risk of Covid-19," he said.



Beijing To Impose Restrictions On All US Diplomats in China

AGENCIES

BEIJING: Beijing will impose "reciprocal restrictions" on all American diplomats on Chinese soil in response to curbs on its embassy personnel in the United States, China's foreign ministry said Friday.

Relations between the world's top two economies have deteriorated in recent months, with both sides locked in fierce recriminations over trade disputes, human rights and the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

China's latest move comes days after Washington announced new restrictions on staff working for Beijing's foreign missions, such as a requirement to seek approval for university visits or meetings with local officials.

"The Chinese side has recently sent a diplomatic note announcing reciprocal restrictions on the US embassy and consulates," the ministry said in a statement.

It added that the unspecified countermeasures will apply to all US embassy and consulate staff, including the consulate-general in Hong Kong and its personnel.

"It must be stressed that these measures are China's legitimate and necessary response to the er-

roneous US moves," the ministry said, urging the US to "immediately correct its mistakes" and lift the earlier curbs.

A tit-for-tat dispute over foreign missions flared up in July when Washington ordered the closure of the Chinese consulate in Houston, prompting Beijing to shutter the American presence in Chengdu.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last week that new measures targeting Chinese envoys were a response to long-established controls on American diplomats in China.

Washington's restrictions will force Chinese diplomats to seek US permission to hold cultural events involving more than 50 people outside mission grounds.

They also require embassy social media accounts to be publicly identified as being affiliated with the Chinese government.

Escalating confrontation

The battle over foreign embassies is only one front in an escalating confrontation between the US and China.

Washington has imposed sanctions on officials accused of helping orchestrate China's mass internment of Uighurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in Xin-

jiang province, a programme that has prompted a global human rights outcry.

Last month it blacklisted officials it accused of suppressing "freedom and democratic processes" in Hong Kong, after the imposition of a national security law aimed at quelling civil unrest in the financial hub.

The move prompted China to issue its own sanctions against several prominent Americans, including prominent senators and senior figures in US-based human rights organisations.

President Donald Trump has also provoked a furious reaction from Chinese officials by blaming Beijing for the global spread of the coronavirus, saying authorities there failed to contain the pandemic in its early stages.

And Washington has also accused Chinese tech firms and platforms – from Huawei to TikTok – of working in the interests of the Chinese Communist Party.

Beijing denied on Friday it was attempting to meddle in the upcoming US presidential election after American tech giant Microsoft said it had thwarted cyberattacks from overseas groups – including from China – against both the Republican and Democratic campaigns.

'Cataclysmic Fire' in US West: Half a Million Flee

Agencies

Washington: Half a million people have been forced to leave their homes in the US state of Oregon as deadly wildfires, not seen in decades, are raging across the Pacific northwest.

The blazes searing through the American west have killed at least 15 people, leveled entire neighborhoods and forced stretched firefighting crews to make tough decisions about where to deploy.

State officials said on Thursday that 500,000 people were evacuated as dozens of blazes are sweeping Oregon, with some of them suspected to have deliberately been set.

The number of those evacuated amounts to over 10% of the state's 4.2 million population.

The blazes have burnt more than 900,000 acres in the last few days, according to Governor Kate Brown.

We have never seen this amount of uncontained fire across the state," she said. "This will not be a one-time event. Unfortunately, it is the bellwether of the future. We're feeling the acute impacts of climate change," she added.

Brown said there are known fatalities as a result of the fires, but the exact number of lives lost remains unknown. A 12-year-old boy and his grandmother are confirmed to be among the Oregon victims.

Over 17,000 firefighters are currently struggling to contain the blaze.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management said wildfire activity was made even more dangerous in northwestern Oregon as hot, windy conditions continued.

Three law enforcement agencies in Oregon, including the Ashland Police Department and the State Police, have opened an investigation into the suspicious origins of the wildfire that began

in the town of Ashland and destroyed hundreds of homes.

"We have good reason to believe that there was a human element to it," said Ashland Police Chief Tighe O'Meara.

More than 100 wildfires are currently scorching 12 western US states, including Oregon, California and Washington.

California

In California, smoke from wildfires turned skies orange on Thursday. A least 10 deaths have been confirmed in the state so far.

Authorities in Butte County north of Sacramento have found 10 bodies in the last two days. They said there are fears the toll will rise as 16 people remain unaccounted for.

Some 64,000 people were under evacuation orders, while at least 14,000 firefighters were battling 29 major fires across the state.

California has been battling a barrage of fires since August.

Iran unveils 2 new cruise missiles amid heightened tensions with US, UAE

Agencies

BEIRUT: The Iranian army tested two naval cruise missiles during the second day of "Zulfikar 99" maneuvers in the southern part of the country.

The army said that a Qadir cruise missile hit surface marine targets more than 200 km away and successfully destroyed them.

They said that another Nasr cruise missile was launched from a warship and hit surface marine targets.

The spokesman for the exercises, Shahram Irani, said that the surface-to-sea missile systems of the navy are deployed all over the country's southern coasts.

The spokesman said that

pabilities and surface and sub-surface units.

Irani indicated that there are many operations that were not announced in the maneuvers due to security concerns.

Last month, Tehran unveiled a cruise missile with a range of more than 1,000 kilometers, which it called "the martyr Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis."

On Thursday, the Iranian army began naval, air and land maneuvers over an area of two million square kilometers, from the eastern region of the Strait of Hormuz to the coasts of Makran and the Sea of Oman to the northern region of the Indian Ocean, and the exercises coincided with the continued U.S. pressure on



the army possesses different types of cruise missiles in various ranges, stressing that it has effective missile fire ca-

Tehran, and the tension in the relationship with the U.A.E. due to its normalization of relations with Israel.

UK Universities Prepare To Reopen Amid Updated COVID-19 Guidelines

Agencies

London: Universities across the UK are preparing to reopen for the start of the Autumn semester this month amid the updated COVID-19 government guidance, which limits large gatherings of more than six people across campuses.

ties on how they can operate in a COVID secure way. This includes a clear request not to send students home in the event of an outbreak in order to avoid spreading the virus across the country," he said.

The first few weeks of what is the start of a new academic year in September is tradition-



UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock told the House of Commons on Thursday that he wants students to be careful not to pass on coronavirus to more vulnerable groups of their parents and grandparents.

"If you are a student who is about to return to university or go to university for the first time, then please, for the sake of your education and your parents' and grandparents' health, follow the rules and don't gather in groups of more than six people," Hancock said in a statement to Parliament.

"The Department for Education has published the updated guidance for universi-

ally marked by freshers meets and gatherings. However, this year there will be an effort to limit student numbers as much as possible in order to control the spread of coronavirus, as the number of cases in the country began to rise once again since last week.

Under the Department for Education guidelines, students with coronavirus symptoms are told to "self-isolate in their current accommodation" such as halls of residence.

All other residents in the same household must also isolate for 14 days, and be provided with support by their institution.

Remove Facebook India Policy Chief Ankhi Das, 40 rights groups write to Zuckerberg

San Francisco: Civil rights groups on Wednesday said Facebook has failed to address dangerous content in India and demanded that the head of public policy for the country be removed.

A letter addressed to Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg and his second-in-command Sheryl Sandberg wanted the social network's India policy chief Ankhi Das sidelined pending the results of a civil rights audit.

"Facebook should not be complicit in more offline violence, much less another genocide, but the pattern of inaction displayed by the company is reckless to the point of complicity," the letter stated.

"It is no secret, given the acknowledged and harsh realities of Facebook's role in the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar, that online



violence and hate easily spill into violence in real life."

The letter was signed by more than 40 groups including the Southern Poverty Law Center, Witness, Muslim Advocates, and Global Proj-

ect Against Hate and Extremism.

It comes in the wake of controversy over anti-Muslim remarks posted on the page of a member of the ruling party that were not initially removed.

NASA sets out to buy moon resources mined by private companies

NASA on Thursday launched an effort to pay companies to mine resources on the moon, announcing it would buy from them rocks, dirt and other lunar materials as the US space agency seeks to spur private extraction of coveted off-world resources for its use.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine wrote in a blog post accompanying the announcement that the plans would not violate a 1967 treaty that holds that celestial bodies and space are exempt from national claims of ownership.

The initiative, targeting companies that plan to send robots to mine lunar resources, is part of NASA's goal of setting what Bridenstine called "norms of behavior" in space and allowing private mining on the moon in ways that could help sustain future astronaut missions. NASA said it views the mined resources as the property of the company, and the materials would become "the sole property of NASA" after purchase.



Under NASA's Artemis program, President Donald Trump's administration envisions a return of American astronauts to the moon by 2024. NASA has cast such a mission as a precursor to a future first human voyage to Mars.

"The bottom line is we are going to buy some lunar soil for the purpose of it demonstrating that it can be done," Bridenstine said during an event hosted by the Secure World Foundation, a space policy organization.

We've Incredible Nukes: Trump

US President Donald Trump has said the US has some "incredible" nuclear weapon systems that nobody knows about but refuted allegations of leaking classified information about them to a renowned investigative journalist in his upcoming book.

Penned by American journalist Bob Woodward, the book Rage, to be launched on September 15, has stirred several controversies around Trump's presidency, weeks before the US election to be held on November 3.

According to the excerpts of the book released by The Washington Post, Trump during an interview with Woodward said, "I have built a nuclear... a weapons system that nobody's ever had in this country before. We have stuff that you haven't even seen or heard about. We have stuff that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and (Chinese President) Xi Jinping have never heard about before. There's nobody... what we have is incredible."

UK Government Announces New "Simplified" Points-Based Student Visa Route



LONDON: The UK government on Thursday tabled its new points-based Student Route for visas in Parliament, which it says simplifies the previous student visa application requirements for international students applying to study in Britain.

The route, to apply to all overseas students including Indians from October 5, will mean students require a total of 70 points to be granted a visa to study at a UK university.

They will achieve the required points if they can demonstrate that they have an offer from an approved educational institution, speak English and are able to support themselves during their studies in the UK.

The UK Home Office said the new route treats all students equally, including students from Europe coming to study after the Brexit transition period ends at the end of the year.

"The new Student Route is a welcome announcement for thousands of Indian students who opt for a UK education every year to gain international exposure. It offers greater flexibility and ease of immigration for applicants," said Barbara Wickham, Director British Council India.

"With the post-study work benefits of the Graduate Immigration Route and the launch of the Student Route, the UK has further

solidified its commitment towards international students, and enabling more than ever, their dreams of pursuing a world-class education," she said.

British Council highlighted that the change would have a further positive impact on the number of Indian students choosing the UK as a higher education destination, which has been on the rise in the past few years.

"Now we have left the EU, we are free to unleash this country's full potential and implement the changes we need to restore trust in the immigration system and attract talent to drive our economy forward," said UK Minister for Future Borders and Immigration Kevin Foster.

"Launching the Student Route early sends a clear message to the world we want the best and brightest to come to the UK to study at our globally renowned education institutions," he said.

As a result of the coronavirus, some overseas students are choosing to defer their entry onto courses in the UK until the Spring semester of early next year. Therefore, the government chose to introduce the new route now so that students would be able to benefit from the new streamlined process whilst still giving sponsors time to adapt after their Autumn intake this month.

The route treats all students equally, with international students, including those from Europe coming to study after the transition period ends, using the same, simplified route when it opens for applications, the Home Office said.

"Continue Virtual Courts Even After COVID-19 Is Over": Parliament Panel

NEW DELHI: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice in its report submitted today recommended continuation of virtual courts for identified categories of cases even after the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

The panel chaired by senior BJP leader Bhupender Yadav submitted its report to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu.

Asserting that a court is more of a service than a place, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its report said it is time that the court room, regarded as the "last bastion of antiquated working practices", opens its doors to the latest technology.

Underlining that "digital justice" is cheaper and faster besides addressing locational and economic handicaps, the panel strongly pitched "for continuation of virtual courts even after the COVID-19 pandemic gets over".

"The Virtual Court proceedings be continued beyond the pandemic duration for identified categories of cases with the consent of all parties," the panel recommended.

It has also suggested that virtual proceedings can be extended permanently to various Appellate Tribunals like TDSAT, IPAB, NCLAT etc located across the country



which do not require personal appearances of the parties/advocates.

Virtual courts expedite processes and procedures and are an improvement over traditional courts as they are more affordable, citizen friendly and offer greater access to justice, the panel said in the report.

This is the first report to be presented by any Parliamentary Panel on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After examining various provisions, mentions and glossaries with regard to the definition of court, the Committee opined that the court is more a service than a place, thereby supporting the virtual court proceedings being resorted to since the COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdown in March, 2020.

The Committee held a series of meetings with Secretaries of Department of Justice and Legal Affairs, Secretary General of the Supreme Court and representatives of Bar Council of India and others on the issues related to the functioning of virtual courts.



WOMEN wash bedding in the interior part of Srinagar's Dal Lake on Friday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

India May Have Over 7 Million Coronavirus Cases By October, Become No 1 In Tally

HYDERABAD: India may witness over seven million COVID-19 cases by the first week of October, surpassing the US and emerging as the country with highest number of infections, a team of researchers from BITS Pilani, Hyderabad said on Friday.

The Union Health Ministry data on Friday said the number of coronavirus cases in India breached the 45 lakh mark while a data released by a national public health institute in the US said the number of infections in the North American country crossed six million as of September 8.

The team has been engaged in forecasting COVID-19 pandemic in India using advanced statistical learning techniques, lead researcher



Dr TSL Radhika of the Department of Applied Mathematics, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus said.

The team has recently communicated its findings to the "International Journal of Infectious Diseases" published by the well known pub-

lisher Elsevier.

"Our results, obtained using a model based on statistical learning techniques applied to the existing data, indicate that India is likely to become the top COVID-19 country in the world, surpassing the United States by about the first week of October, that is in about a month's time. The total number of cases is also likely to cross the 70 -lakh mark by this time. The figure however is contingent on the number of tests being carried out," Dr Radhika said in an email communication to PTI.

The researchers are now working on refining their model based on advanced machine learning techniques to make predictions for the longer term, the researcher added.

■ OUR RESULTS, OBTAINED USING A MODEL BASED ON STATISTICAL learning techniques applied to the existing data, indicate that India is likely to become the top COVID-19 country in the world, surpassing the United States by about the first week of October, that is in about a month's time. The total number of cases is also likely to cross the 70 -lakh mark by this time. The figure however is contingent on the number of tests being carried out,"

Delhi HC Declines Stay On Sudarshan TV's 'UPSC Jihad' Telecast

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to stay, at this stage, the telecast of Sudarshan TV's programme "Bindass Bol" on Muslims clearing the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination.

A single judge Bench of Justice Navin Chawla issued notice to the Centre and Sudarshan News over a petition, filed through advocate Shadan Farasat, challenging the central government's decision to allow Sudarshan TV's broadcast on Muslim "infiltration" in government services.

Petitioner Syed Mujtaba Athar and some others stated, in their petition, that the order by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry is a "non-speaking order".

The plea further states that despite the mandate of law under Sections 5, 19, and 20 of the Cable TV Act and the direction of the court in its order dated August 29, the impugned order fails to make any assessment regarding violation of the Programme Code or Sections 19 or 20 of the Cable TV Act, either with respect to the



proposed show or its promo.

"The assessment has simply been abandoned on a statement of Respondents No 2 (Sudarshan News) and 3 (Editor-in-Chief Suresh Chavhanke) that there is no violation of the Programme Code. There is no independent application of mind to the facts and circumstances of the case," the plea said.

"Respondent No 1 (Centre) did not even deem it fit to initiate the exercise of assessing the contents of the proposed show... it, even cursorily, did not apply its mind to the facts of the case," the petitioners said,

adding that there is no application of mind as to why the promo of the proposed show does not indicate that the proposed show will be in violation of the Programme Code and Section 19 of the Cable TV Act.

"In sum and substance, the impugned order is a cryptic and non-speaking order and ought to be set aside, with a direction to Respondent No 1 to re-assess whether the proposed show and its promo violates the Programme Code and Section 19 of the Cable TV Act. Furthermore, till such time this reassessment is completed, the broadcast of the proposed show ought to be stayed," the plea read.

The programme is part of the "Bindas Bol" series, hosted by Chavhanke. In an order issued Thursday, the Information & Broadcasting Ministry said it cannot pre-censor a programme, or stop it from being telecast.

"If only, when the programme is telecast and any violation of law is found, action can be taken," the order states. IANS

WB BJP Chief Says 'Corona Is Over', TMC Asks Him To Visit A Doctor

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh has claimed that the COVID-19 pandemic is over but Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is imposing lockdown and other restrictions in West Bengal only to stop BJP from organising public meetings before the assembly polls due next year.

Ghosh's comment was made at a time when the country and the state are witness to sharp spikes in COVID-19 cases daily of 95000 and 3000 respectively.

The rally where Ghosh made his remark was held in Hooghly district on Wednesday which was attended by a large number of people disregarding the social distancing norms of the contagion.

The video of the meeting has gone viral.

"Didi's (Mamata Banerjee) brothers (supporters) are feeling uneasy after seeing the gathering (at the meeting). It is not due to the fear of coronavirus, but due to fear of BJP!"

Corona is over, but Didi is unnecessarily imposing lockdown across the state to stop BJP from holding meetings and rallies," Ghosh said.



A complete lockdown is on in the state on Friday.

The Trinamool Congress mocked Ghosh for his comments and asked him to visit a doctor. "Every day we are witnessing a spike of 3000 cases in Bengal and more than 95,000 cases in the country. And BJP state president Dilip Ghosh is making a hilarious statement that COVID-19 is gone! I think he should visit a doctor for his treatment," TMC MP Kalyan Bandopadhyay said.

The total number of COVID-19 cases in Bengal now stands at 1,93,175. More than 3700 people have died due to the contagion, including comorbidities.

Hooghly district, where Ghosh was addressing the rally, has registered the fifth-highest number of cases in the state.

Ayodhya Ram Mandir Trust Cheated Of 6 Lakh Through Fake Cheques: Cops



AYODHYA: Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya has been defrauded of 6 lakh through two fake cheques and the fraud was detected during the verification process of a third fake cheque, said police on Thursday.

According to the police, trust secretary Champat Rai filed an FIR with the Ayodhya police. However, no arrests have been made in this case yet.

"Yesterday, Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra secretary Champat Rai filed an FIR that an amount of 6 lakhs has been withdrawn from the trust's account using two fraud cheques—one of 2.5 lakh and 3.5 lakh. The transactions were carried out in Lucknow in Punjab National Bank branch," Ayodhya's circle officer Rajesh Kumar Rai told ANI.

"However, when another cheque for 9.86 lakh was presented to the Bank of Baroda on 9 September, the bank called Champat Rai for verification. Rai browsed through the chequebook and found the cheque bearing that number was still in his possession, so he decided to file an FIR with the Kotwali police station Wednesday night," he added.

We are investigating the case and accused person will be arrested soon, Mr Kumar said.

Deenanath Verma, accountant of the trust said that 4 lakh were stolen and trust was able to manage to save 2 lakh during the fraud.

"Somebody tried to stole money through two fake cheques—one of 3.5 lakhs and one of 2.5 lakhs. They have withdrawn 4 lakh already. We have stopped further transactions for few days and saved 2 lakh. We got to know about the fraud when a cheque of 9.86 lakh was presented to the Bank of Baroda and bank called us," he said.

On September 4, the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) has handed over the approved design of the Ram Janmbhoomi temple being constructed in Ayodhya to the Ram Temple Trust.

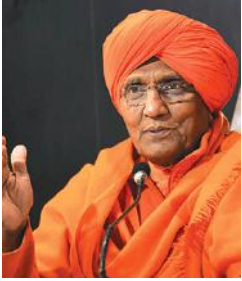
The Trust had on August 20 said that the construction of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir has "begun" and the engineers had begun testing the soil at the site. In February this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the constitution of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra, to oversee the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

NEWS MAKERS

Social Activist Swami Agnivesh Dies At 80

NEW DELHI: Social activist and winner of the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize 2004 Swami Agnivesh died at 80 at Delhi's Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences on Friday, doctors said.

He was suffering from liver cirrhosis and had been critically ill. Agnivesh had been a vocal critic of the RSS, the Sangh Parivar and its ideology, and has come under frequent attacks from Hindu activists—including a mob attack in Jharkhand in 2018. Several people, including lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan, posted tweets voicing their grief at his passing.



Rickshaw Driver Returns Bag Containing 7 Lakh To Pune Couple

PUNE: The honesty of a 60-year-old rickshaw driver in Pune shone through the gloom of a virus outbreak, a crippling lockdown and financial despair all around as he returned a bag containing cash and jewellery totalling Rs 7 lakh to its rightful owner.

On Wednesday, a couple had boarded the three-wheeler of Vitthal Mapare at Keshav Nagar area and alighted at Hadapsar bus-stand, leaving behind the bag, police said.

"I moved ahead and went to BT Kawade road where I parked my vehicle to have tea. It is then that I noticed this bag lying on the back seat. I did not open it and



took it to Ghorpadi chowky nearby and deposited it with sub-inspector Vijay Kadam there," said Mapare narrating the chain of events.

Speaking to PTI, sub-inspector Kadam said, "On opening the bag as per procedure, we found gold ornaments weighing 11 tolas, Rs 20,000 cash, all totalling Rs 7 lakh, and some clothes. We

contacted Hadapsar police station as the couple had alighted there."

"Hadapsar police told us Mahboob and Shanaz Shaikh had already approached them with a missing bag complaint. The bag was handed over to them at Mundhwa police station and Mapare was felicitated by Deputy Commissioner of Police Suhas Bawche," Kadam added.

Mapare, who has been a rickshaw driver for several years now, lives in a rented house and his son works in a private firm.

Mapare said he was happy with the praise that he was getting over the past two days and considered it his biggest reward in life. PTI

12-Year-Old Boy Held In Gang-Rape Case Of Sadhvi At Jharkhand Ashram

GODDA: A 12-year-old boy was held in connection with the gang-rape of a sadhvi at an ashram in Jharkhand's Godda district, police said on Friday.

He is the third person to be apprehended in the gang-rape case that happened at the ashram in Ranidih in Mufasil police station area on Tuesday, Superintendent of Police YS Ramesh told PTI.

The boy lives in the same neighbourhood and was detained on Thursday night, he said.

He was part of the group that scaled the wall of the ashram around 2.30 am on Tuesday, entered it and held the ascetics and preachers at gunpoint before the woman was allegedly gang-raped, police said.



Police had earlier arrested main accused Deepak Rana and Ashish Rana (18), following the intervention of Chief Minister Hemant Soren in the matter.

These two persons allegedly raped the 46-year-old sadhvi and have confessed to the crime, Ramesh said.

Police are conducting raids to nab the fourth accused, he said.

DNA samples from the place of the crime have been sent for forensic tests, the officer said.

The police are preparing a fool-proof case based on scientific evidence so that the accused are punished soon at a fast-track court, he said.

At the time of the incident, there were four women preachers and a sadhu present in the ashram.

They locked the others in a room and the two main accused took turns in raping the sadhvi who was staying in the ashram since February, according to police.

She came to the ashram to attend a religious function but got stuck there due to the lockdown, they said. PTI