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Minum : 16°C  
Humidity : 48%

SUNSET  
Today 06:40 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:13 AM

# OBSERVER

24 Muharram-ul-Haraam | 1442 Hijri | Vol: 23 | Issue: 201 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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## News Digest

### Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Bereaved

Srinagar: Grandmother of incarcerated Hurriyat Conference Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and wife of Molvi Ghulam Rasool Shah passed away here on Saturday after prolonged illness. The deceased was aunt and mother-in-law of late Molvi Muhammad Farooq and mother of mother of Molvi Manzoor Ahmad, Molvi Shafat Ahmad. She passed away on Saturday evening at Mirwaiz Manzil Nigeen, a Hurriyat spokesperson said. He said that due to coronavirus pandemic and continuous house detention of Mirwaiz, no mourning ceremony or congregational prayers. ● P-02

### 3 Killed After Van Falls Into Gorge

Jammu: Three persons, including a 26-year-old woman and her newborn, were killed and five others injured on Saturday when a van carrying them skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, police said. The accident took place near Dhanas village and it is suspected that the driver lost control over the vehicle at a blind curve, said a police official. The vehicle was coming from Chenani, said the official. The injured were rescued and hospitalised, the official said, adding that the condition of two of them has been stated as serious. ● P-02

### Man Dies Of Electric Shock In Budgam

Srinagar: A middle-aged man died of electrocution on Saturday in central Kashmir's Budgam district. 55-year-old Abdul Rashid Dar suffered an electric shock after he came into contact with a live electric wire in Dangerpora area of the district, officials said. Due to the severe electric shock, Dar died on the spot. Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started further investigations in this regard. (KDC)

### 3 Injured After Oil Barrel Bursts

Srinagar: Three labourers suffered burn injuries after a hot oil barrel burst at a unit in KunzerTangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday. According to preliminary information, two among the three injured labourers suffered higher degrees of burns and they have been shifted for advance medical treatment to SMHS hospital here. The other injured has been admitted locally, they said. Police have reached the spot and further details are awaited, official sources told GNS. The incident occurred inside a ● P-02

### LAWDA Demolishes Illegal Constructions

Srinagar: The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Saturday demolished several illegal structures during a drive in parts of this capital city. The Enforcement Wing of LAWDA today conducted its ongoing drive and demolished illegal constructions in Lashkari Mohalla, Ishberand Nishat areas, an official spokesperson said. During the drive, he said one shuttering for plinth was removed and two second storeys that were raised by some violators taking the undue advantage of the prevailing situation in the valley were demolished. "Also FIR's were ● P-02

## LADAKH FACE-OFF

# India, China Troops Within Shooting Range

China has mobilised thousands of soldiers, tanks and howitzers within rifle range of Indian Army deployment in the southern part of Pangong Tso

Agencies

NEW DELHI: China has mobilised thousands of soldiers, tanks and howitzers within rifle range of Indian Army deployment at Spanggur Gap in the southern part of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh, sources said, even as Indian troops are on high alert.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army made provocative military deployments at Spanggur Gap, which is between Gurung Hill and Magar Hill, from August 30 after Indian soldiers seized tactical heights on the ridge line on the southern bank of Pangong Tso near Chushul at the Line of Actual Control. ● PAGE 02



### No Headway In Brigade Commander Level Talks

To prevent the situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh from further escalating, the armies of India and China held an interaction on Saturday where they discussed withdrawing ● P-02

### PLA Releases 5 Indian Army Porters

Five youth who were allegedly abducted by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China near the McMahon line in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri were released on Saturday in Anjaw ● P-02

## Shelling Continues To Rattle LOC

JAMMU: India and Pakistan troops traded gunfire for the fourth consecutive day Saturday along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistani troops on Saturday evening violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing and intense shelling along the LoC in Poonch district, a defence spokesman said.

The Indian Army retaliated befittingly and the cross-border firing between the two sides in Mankote and Gulpur sectors was going on when last reports were received, the spokesman said. ● P-02

## Soldier's Brother Goes Missing In Anantnag

SRINAGAR: A soldier's brother has gone missing from Dooru area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district since Tuesday.

21-year-old Yasir Ahmad Wani left his home on Tuesday around 10 AM and since then his whereabouts are unknown, family said Saturday. Before leaving, Wani left his cellphone at his home.

"My brother left home for some work but didn't return since then," Wani's brother Saqib Ahmad said. ● P-02

## 4-Year-Old Among 8 More Die Of Covid-19, J&K Toll Reaches 866

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least eight more, including a four-year-old child from Jammu division died of coronavirus on Saturday, taking the total number of fatalities due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in Union Territory to 866.

Officials said that six of the victims were from Jammu division, including a minor and three others from Jammu district besides one each from Rajouri and Samba while those

### J&K Sees Highest Single Day Spike Of 1698 Cases

Jammu and Kashmir recorded the highest single-day jump of 1698 coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking its count to 52410, official said on Saturday. With 135 travelers ● P-02

who succumbed to virus in Kashmir valley included a 61-year-old woman from Soura, ● PAGE 02

WITH THESE DEATHS, OFFICIALS said, 866 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far. Among them, they said, 723 were from the Valley while 143 others were from Jammu division.

### Covid-19 Could Get Worse In Winter: DAK

With the novel coronavirus raging in Kashmir valley and showing no signs of slowing down, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday warned that Covid-19 could get worse in winter. "We could have further surge in Covid-19 cases this winter," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan. Quoting a study from ● P-02

## Soldier Flying 2 'Minor' Girls To Delhi Held At Srinagar Airport

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: An Army soldier posted in Bandipora district was on Saturday arrested along with two minor girls at the airport here, officials said.

The trio was on way to Delhi, they added.

A soldier of the Rashtriya Rifles of the Army on way to New Delhi along with two girls who are reportedly minor was arrested at the Srinagar airport here, the officials said.

The three are being questioned about the motive behind the trip to Delhi, they said.

The soldier and the two girls have been handed over to police and investigation has been taken up, the officials added.

Both the girls (names withheld) hail from Ajas area of Bandipora.



Sources said these girls and the army soldier are being questioned while the parents have been called as well to the police station.

The army soldier in question has been identified as Lance Naik Ashok Kumar Paul son of Rajender Paul, a resident of Uttar Pradesh. He is deputed at Ajas Bandipora with 13 Rashtriya Rifles.

An official said motive behind their outside trip is being ascertained. There was no response to calls and messages to the Srinagar-based defence spokesman over the incident.

## HC Dismisses Petition Seeking Village Courts In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The J&K High Court has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation, seeking establishing of village courts at grass root level in Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta passed the order after submissions before it that as per Schedule-V of the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019, the Jammu and Kashmir Dehi Adalats Act 2013 stands repealed.

"In view thereof, this petition does not survive for consideration," the court said while dismissing it.

Earlier in 2018, the Court had termed very unfair and unreasonable on part of the Government not to establish village courts at



grass root level despite passing of legislation in 2013.

The purpose of establishing Dehi Adalats was to "provide access to Justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and also for ensuring that Justice cannot be denied to any citizen by reason of Social, Economic or other disabilities as enshrined in the Preamble and under Article 39(A) and 14 of the Constitution."

The petitioner-- Altaf Hussain Drabu-- had said that Dehi Adalat Act, 2013 has been published in Government Gazette on 24th October 2013, and had come into force on 03-09-2014 by virtue of SRO 274 of 2014.

However, the petitioner had said that due to the inaction of the erstwhile state authorities failed to implement the Act.

"The Government by SRO 275 OF 2014 had issued notification for the establishment of 22 Dehi Adalats in 22 Districts of the State, but no process had been initiated thereof to make Dehi Adalats functional in the erstwhile State. The Legislature intended to bring the pillars of Justice at the door steps of its citizens by passing the Legislation, the petitioner had said.

The Legislation had ● PAGE 02

## 3 Youth Arrested For 'Glorifying' Militancy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested three persons for their alleged role in pasting posters and displaying banners of militants in Pampore town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Nadeem Ahmad Dar and Irshad Ahmad Sofi, both residents of Pampore and Shakir Ahmad Dar Sopore were arrested by a joint team of police and army's 50 RR on Saturday for glorifying militancy by pasting posters and displaying banners of militants in Pampore town on September 6, a police spokesperson said.

Police, he claimed recovered incriminating material including, 2 Computer systems with accessories and 1 printer from a printing

### Militant Associate Held In Tral: Police

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a militant associate from Tral area of south Kashmir's Awantipora. Adil Ahmad Hajam of Ratsuna Tral was arrested by police for his involvement in providing shelter, logistics, transportation and other support to the active militants operating in the area, a police spokesperson said. ● P-02

### Arms Cache Recovered In Poonch, 2 Held

The government forces on Saturday arrested two alleged over ground workers (OGWs) of militants and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district. The recoveries made during the operation included three Chinese pistols with six magazines and 70 rounds, ● P-02

press Namely Rampage Advertising Agency Rengreth here. "Case FIR No.75/2020 under rel-

evant sections of law stands registered. Further investigation is going on," the police spokesperson said

## CBI Raids Ex-Kot Bhalwal Jailer In Antique Coins Grabbing Case

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday searched the house of a former jail superintendent here in connection with a case related to the alleged misappropriation of antique coins that were recovered in Kot Bhalwal jail premises eight years ago, a spokesman of the investigation agency said.

The residential house of the then superintendent, Kot Bhalwal jail, Rajni Sehgal, in Jammu city was searched by a team of the crime branch after a search warrant was obtained from a local court, he said.

In June 2015, the crime branch

had registered a case against four jail officials including Sehgal for allegedly trying to pocket nearly 400 gold and copper coins belonging to 12th and 13th century AD that were found by convicts lodged in the Central Jail premises during digging of earth for kitchen gardening.

During investigation of the case it has been established that antique coins were recovered by the jail convicts in the month of September 2012 and were handed over to Sehgal on the same day by an official of the jail, the spokesman said.

However, he said Sehgal intentionally did not inform her senior officers about the recovery till December 2012 in order to misappropriate the ancient coins. ● PAGE 02

## NEET 2020 Exams Today, NTA Issues Dress-Code Guidelines

NEW DELHI: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) is going to be held on Sunday (September 13, 2020). Over 15 Lakh candidates will be appearing for the exams amidst strict COVID-19 protocols.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has increased the number of examination centres from 2,546 to 3,843 in order to maintain social distancing. The number of candidates has been reduced from 24 to 12.

The NEET exam will be a pen and paper-based test. The exam was originally scheduled to take place on May 3, but was pushed to July 26, and then to September 13.

Earlier, petitions filed by the students, and ● P-02

## Teams Set Up To Speed Up 4-Lane Work On Kashmir Highway

JAMMU- Authorities in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir have constituted various teams of officers to remove all bottlenecks hindering the progress of four-laning construction work on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, officials said on Saturday.

The widening work on the 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, started in 2011 and is likely to be completed by the end of next year after missing several deadlines. ● P-02

# In FOCUS 'We're Treated As Labourers': Endless Woes Of Kashmir's Private Teachers

Bisma Bhat

In an early September day in Srinagar, sunbeams from her small kitchen window shone Ruksaan Ali's furrowed face. Her worried and woeful appearance made her look more than her actual age of 40. Apart from a personal tragedy, she's equally grief-stricken over her "thankless" job.

This Srinagar-based private school teacher has been religiously preparing video lectures of Urdu subject for 1st and 2nd class students since Covid lockdown crippled the already discord-dented educational calendar of the valley.

But despite doing what she calls a desperate-for-living job, she stays unpaid for last three months.

"Most of us don't grumble about it anymore now," said the teacher donning the mantle of a matriarch for her strife-torn home. "Despite sustaining the private education sector with our sweat and blood, most of us are being dismissed as expendable at the end of the day, and are literary forced to beg for our hard-earned salaries."

The lady who's a "moody madam" for her gossip-loving locality keeps fighting her own silent battles of life. Apart from being an underpaid,

and equally an unpaid, educator, Ruksaan is the breadwinner for her family. Her husband is bedridden since 2018 when he suffered a paralytic bullet-injury, followed by a major heart attack in 2019. His life-saving drugs cost the private teacher around Rs 15000 every month.

"It's too much to bear with my holdup Rs 5000 monthly salary," the teacher, who's graduate and specialized in physical education, voiced her woe.

Despite students paying their full fees every month, many private schools today face charges of forcing teachers to work without salaries.



Schools and other educational institutions in Kashmir have been shut since the August last year when

New Delhi revoked Article 370 and the region subsequently faced the communication clampdown.

In March 2020, when the first case of coronavirus was reported in the valley, educational institutions were once again closed after resuming class work for just few weeks.

As education in the valley shifted to 2G-driven online mode, private school teachers were instructed to conduct the online classes from home.

But despite working hard, these unsung educators--like Saima Bhat--are today facing salary hassles and sudden job terminations.

In August 2020, the 27-year-old private school teacher was sacked along with 29 others from a well-reputed private school of the valley.

A B.Ed degree-holder, Saima had joined the school in January and was teaching lower primary department through online mode.

"We were simply told that they don't need us anymore," the distressed teacher said. "Before sacking us, the school authorities told us they'll clear our pending salaries within a month."

The ouster came as a rude shock to Saima and her ilk--who worked hard to complete school assignments despite grappling with pestering and pathetically slow internet to conduct regular online classes.

"In addition to video ● PAGE 02



# Hospitalised With No Heartbeat After Electricity Shock, Boy Regains Consciousness After 36 Hrs

**NEW DELHI:** A 16-year-old boy who was rushed to a city hospital with no heartbeat following a severe electric shock from a high-voltage live wire, regained consciousness after 36 hours, thanks to quick response by doctors.

The boy came in contact with the live wire that had fallen on an iron railing at his shop in the old quarters of Delhi on August 1 following heavy rains. He was found stuck motionless to the railing with electricity still running through his body, doctors said.

He could be rescued after 10 minutes when the electricity supply was cut from the powerhouse of that area. The boy was rushed to Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals and admitted

to the emergency department, they said.

DrPriyadarshini Pal, Emergency Head, Emergency and Critical Care, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals said the patient had no heartbeat, an absent pulse rate and progressively falling blood pressure owing to the damage caused by a continuous flow of electricity through his body.

"Upon evaluation, it was discovered that due to the severe and prolonged electric shock he suffered a cardiac arrest. He had exceptionally low chances of survival. But doctors at the Emergency and Critical Care unit quickly responded to his critical condition.

"We immediately gave him CPR. The process was extremely critical because any delay in CPR

after a cardiac arrest could have led to possible irreversible brain damage. We were able to revive the patient after CPR that lasted for an unusual time of almost 45 minutes," Dr Pal said.

The doctor said with timely treatment, the boy regained consciousness after 36 hours and was discharged on August 5.

DrSudheerTyagi, senior consultant, Neurology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, said that such cases are very critical and any slight delay can cause irreparable damage to the patient's brain.

"Had this patient not given CPR immediately it could have led to a condition of decrease in the flow of oxygen to the brain. That could have manifested brain damage in the form of severe neurological deficit-delayed

or complete inability of the patient to regain consciousness and weakness/numbness in different parts of the body" he said.

Even if the patient had regained consciousness, there was a possibility that his cognitive brain functions like memory, responsiveness and recognition would be adversely affected, DrTyagi said.

"Timely treatment and quick response to his deteriorating condition are what saved the patient's life."

Expressing his gratitude to the doctors the patient's brother said, "We had lost hope when initially the doctors informed us that chances of my brother's survival were slim. But Dr Pal and her team put in all their efforts and brought him back from the jaws of death." P

## Students With High Temperature But Not COVID Positive Will Be Allowed To Take NEET Exam: Official

**BHUBANESWAR:** After making arrangements for smooth conduct of the NEET examination, the Odishagovernment on Saturday made it clear that the candidates having high temperature and certain symptoms of COVID, but not tested positive, will be allowed to take the test.

This was decided at a review meeting here attended by District Magistrate of Khurda of which Bhubaneswar is a part, senior health department officials and NEET state nodal officer Polly Patnaik.

"Yes, the candidates having more than normal body temperature and symptoms of COVID, but not tested positive, will be allowed to appear the examination," Khurda DM S K Mohanty told PTI after the meeting.

The District Magistrate also made it clear that as per the

guideline, the students who have tested positive for the infection will be given the opportunity to appear in the NEET examination on a later date, through a digital platform.

Asked how to deal with the candidates having COVID symptoms, Mohanty said: "Those students will be isolated and be provided seats in separate rooms. Maximum 12 students will be allotted a seat in a room keeping in view the physical distancing."

The DM said the invigilators attending the students having symptoms of COVID-19 will wear PPEs while performing examination duty. Wearing face masks and using sanitizers is mandatory for each candidate. The medical teams have been deployed in the hostels in five engineering colleges where the candidates are staying.

This apart, the DM said local transport like auto-rickshaws and taxis have been put in place to bring the students to the examination centres.

All arrangements have been made for the NEET examination on Sunday across 7 Cities in 7 districts as per the guidelines of National Testing Agency (NTA) by the respective Collectors and Municipal Commissioners, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare P K Mohapatra said, adding that the "students are advised to appear the examination without any fear of COVID-19."

The state government has made elaborate arrangements to facilitate free transportation and accommodation for candidates appearing for the NEET examination on Sunday in 83 centres across seven cities in the state, an official said.

## India, China Troops Within...

(LAC). "Seeing the Chinese PLA troop and guns mobilisation, the Indian Army too made mirror deployments at Spanggur Gap. Both the countries' troops and guns are within shooting range," said a government official.

Further, sources said, China has deployed its militia squads to "consolidate the border" and "stabilise Tibet region". They have been tasked to try and dislodge the Indian Army soldiers from the tactical heights. The militia is an irregular mix of mountaineers, boxers, members of local fight clubs and others. Most of the members are raised from the local population.

"Militia is basically a reserve force of the Chinese's People Liberation Army. They are deployed during war time situations and to help the PLA in its military operations," said a senior government officer.

The officer also said that Chinese militia also conducts independent operations and provides combat support and manpower replenishment to the PLA.

Indian Army has clearly reiterated that the forces will retaliate if Chinese troops make provocative military moves.

At the northern bank of Pangong Lake, sources said that even as PLA troops continue to occupy positions on Finger 4 mountain spur jutting into the lake, Indian soldiers have occupied some heights overlooking their positions.

"Our troops have occupied some heights overlooking the positions occupied by PLA," said a source.

The north bank of the lake is divided into 8 'Fingers' that are contested by both sides. India claims 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.

Movement of Chinese troops, vehicles and new defence mechanisms of Chinese are visible in the north, south banks of Pangong Lake. In some places heavily armed troops are in close proximity.

To de-escalate the situation, armies of India and China are holding interaction daily.

India and China are engaged in a four-month-long standoff at the LAC in eastern Ladakh. Despite several levels of dialogue, there has not been any breakthrough and the deadlock continues.

## No Headway In Brigade...

forces from the points where there are in eyeball-to-eyeball situations. Brigade commanders of both sides met at Chushul and held an interaction from 11 am to 3 pm but the talks remained "inconclusive".

Both the countries' military delegates are continuously in talks since September 7, the day Chinese People's Liberation Army made a provocative move to occupy Indian territory at the LAC that was thwarted by the Indian Army.

Both countries have now decided to hold their sixth round of top-level military talks within the next few days. The corps commanders - 14 Corps commander Lt-General Harinder Singh and South Xinjiang Military District chief Major General Liu Lin have not met since August 2. A senior government officer stated there is a complete breakdown of trust between both the militaries. China has mobilised thousands of soldiers, tanks and howitzers within shooting distance of each other in the Pangong Tso-Chushul area.

Indian soldiers then swiftly seized tactical heights on the ridge line stretching from Thakung on the southern bank of Pangong Tso to Gurung Hill, Spanggur Gap, Magar Hill, Mukhpatri, Rezang La and Requin La (Rechin mountain pass), and other height features near Chushul to pre-empt the Chinese army activities there.

The Chinese have since made multiple attempts to dislodge Indian troops from mountain heights.

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

India and China are engaged in a four-month-long standoff at the LAC in eastern Ladakh. Despite several levels of dialogue, there has been no breakthrough and the deadlock continues.

## PLA Releases 5 Indian Army...

district, around 1,000 km away.

The youths -- Tanu Bakar, Prasad Ringling, Ngaru Diri, Dongtu Ebiya and Toch Singkam -- were handed over to the Indian Army by the PLA after completion of necessary formalities. Tezpur-based defence spokesperson Lt Col Harsh Wardhan Pande said.

"All five of them will now be placed under quarantine for 14 days as per COVID-19 protocols and thereafter be handed over to their family members," the spokesperson said.

Taking to Twitter, Chief Minister Pema Khandu thanked the Army and the Union government for securing their return.

"Absolutely glad to know that five of our Arunachali youths have been safely handed over to Indian Army by Chinese PLA. I am wholeheartedly thankful to the (Union) Govt and the Indian Army for their persistent effort in securing their return," he posted on the microblogging site.

The development comes amid a prolonged border face-off between India and China in eastern Ladakh.

Five of seven youths, who went hunting on September 2, were allegedly whisked away by the Chinese troops from Sera-7, an Army patrol zone located around 12 km further north of Nacho in Upper Subansiri district.

The youths, engaged as porters by the Indian Army, were reported missing by their families on social media.

The defence spokesperson, in an official statement, said, "Arunachal Pradesh is known for its rich natural heritage and adventurous people fond of exploring the nature for medicinal herbs and possessing traditional flair for hunting which involves surviving off the land for weeks in jungles and far-flung remote areas.

"During such adventurous forays, at times youth have inadvertently strayed to the other side of the Line of Actual Control. All such individuals were brought back home safely following consistent efforts and coordination by the Army."

In the latest instance, the Army had approached the PLA on the hotline

to trace the youths, Pande maintained.

Family members of the youths in Upper Subansiri, after learning about their release, extended gratitude to the Army and the officials of the Centre and the state government.

"The release was arranged in a matter of a few days. I can't thank the Army, government officials and the PLA enough for their cooperation and goodwill gesture," Reri Delak Bakar, the brother of Tanu Bakar, said. Dasanglu Pul, who represents Hailujiang constituency in Anjaw, also said that it was a "welcome move by China".

Earlier in March, a 21-year-old man was abducted by the PLA from the Asapila sector near the McMahon line. His two friends, however, had managed to escape.

After 19 days in captivity, Togley Sinkam was released by the Chinese Army.

## Shelling Continues To Rattle...

He said there was no report of any casualty in the Pakistani shelling which started around 8 pm.

On Friday, Pakistan troops had opened heavy fire and shelled mortars at forward areas along the LoC in Mankote sector. Prior to it, Pak troops 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 Keri sector of Rajouri.

## Soldier's Brother Goes...

The family, he said searched for him in the neighborhood and even called relatives and friends of Wani but nobody had any clue of his whereabouts.

Brother's disappearance, Ahmad said has left the family shattered especially his parents and sisters. Besides Ahmad and Wani, the family has another son who works in army.

The family sought help from the administration in tracing their beloved.

Meanwhile, local news agency KNO quoted an unnamed police officer as saying that efforts were on to trace the missing youth.

## 4-Year-Old Among 8 More Die...

Srinagar and an 81-year-old woman from Bandipora.

Regarding the sexagenarian from Soura, officials said she was admitted to a hospital here on September 9 and died today.

As regards the octogenarian, they said, she was admitted to SKIMS Beminia, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients, on September 3 and died today.

Among others, the victims from Jammu includes a 27-year-old from Akhnoor, a 65-year-old man from Malik Pur Miran Sahib, a 58-year-old from Durga Nagar and a four-year-old child from Janipur.

With these deaths, officials said, 866 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far. Among them, they said, 723 were from the Valley while 143 others were from Jammu division.

Srinagar district with 248 deaths tops the list followed by Baramulla (112), Budgam (70), Pulwama (60), Anantnag (53), Kupwara (56), Jammu (85), Kulgam (40), Shopian (29), Bandipora (28), Ganderbal (25), Rajouri (15), Kathua (11), Doda (9), Samba (8), Poonch (6), Udhampur (4), Reasi (3), Kishtwar (1), and Ramban (1). (With GNS inputs)

## J&K Sees Highest Single Day...

among them, official sources said 838 cases were from Jammu and 860 from Kashmir Valley including 30 from army's BB Cantt Srinagar, three pregnant woman and two Government employees.

This is for the tenth day in a row that J&K has reported cases in excess of one thousand.

Giving breakup of the cases, they said Srinagar reported 255, Budgam 123, Baramulla 82, Pulwama 50,

Anantnag 45, Kupwara 108, Bandipora 82, Kulgam 10, Ganderbal 45, Shopian 60, Jammu 250, Udhampur 103, Rajouri 83, Kathua 42, Samba 58, Poonch 93, Ramban 31, Doda 67, Reasi 33 and Kishtwar 78.

Moreover, officials said, 596 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals-- 219 from Jammu Division and 377 from Kashmir Valley.

## Covid-19 Could Get Worse...

University of Sydney, he said cold and drier conditions of winter could cause a higher risk of Covid-19 infection.

The increased risk is mainly because of low humidity during winter-time.

The study found for every 1 percent drop in humidity, the number of Covid-19 cases could increase by 6 percent.

Nisar said low humidity is the main driver of virus transmission.

When an infected person coughs or sneezes or even talks, he/she produces infectious droplets that can hang around for longer in drier air with low humidity. And that increases the exposure for other people. He said respiratory viruses including Covid-19 tend to thrive in cooler weather conditions. They survive outside better when it is cold.

"Low temperatures could slow down the normal mucus clearing of infective viruses in our nasal passages," he said.

"Winter is also the time when people tend to spend more time indoors when ventilation is less and social distancing not so easily achieved," he added.

The DAK President said there is a possibility of a strong wave of Covid-19 infection in Kashmir valley this winter and it could coincide with annual flu season, and this double whammy could cause the health system to grind to a halt.

"We must prepare now for this new challenge," he said, adding "It is vitally important to scale up the testing and strengthen the track and trace system,"

He said hospitals should be prepared for Covid surge and they should increase the number of beds, ICU's and ventilators.

"There is an urgent need to set up more Covid care centers to cope up with the possible spike in cases," Nisar said.

"Getting this year's flu shot is critical as it will keep more people out of hospitals and will prevent the possibility of getting sick with both flu and Covid at the same time," he added.

## HC Dismisses Petition Seeking...

a Magna-carta (fundamental rights) effect in opening doors of Justice to Citizens who are not able to secure Justice by reason of Social, Economic or other disabilities as enshrined in the Preamble and under Article 39(A) and 14 of the Constitution, the petitioner had said. (GNS)

## Militant Associate Held In Tral...

He said incriminating materials recovered from his possession have been taken seized to probe his complicity in other crime cases.

"A case FIR No. 72/2020 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Tral and further investigation has been initiated in this regard," the police spokesperson added.

## Arms Cache Recovered...

11 hand grenades, a wireless set, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), two batteries, two flags, a mobile phone, a charger and a pen drive, a police officer said.

Two OGWs were arrested during the operation carried out jointly by Special Operations Group (SOG) of local police and the Army in Mendhar sector, the official said.

He said the operation was launched on a specific information to intercept the couriers of arms, ammunitions and explosives along with other subversive material which was smuggled from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK).

The material was supposed to be carried from forward area to hinterland for subversive activities, the officials said.

He added that a case was registered against the arrested duo and further investigation is on.

## CBI Raids Ex-Kot Bhalwal...

When the news regarding recovery leaked, she hurriedly handed over some coins to the officer of Archeological Survey of India (ASI) which as per the record of the recovery was less than what had been actually recovered, the spokesman said.

As per the reports, Sehgal only showed the recovery of 107 coins in November 2012. The coins belonged to the period of Ghiyas-ud-Din Balban, the ninth sultan of Mamluk dynasty of Delhi, Ala-ud-din Khilji, the second ruler of Khilji dynasty, and Muhammad Ghori, the founder of the Turkish Empire in India.

## NEET 2020 Exams Today,...

Opposition parties to postpone the exams have been dismissed by the Supreme Court. On Wednesday the Supreme Court dismissed a fresh batch of petitions seeking postponement of NEET (UG) exam 2020.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday withdrew the state-wide lockdown on September 12 in view of the NEET 2020 examination scheduled the very next day. The Metro Railway in Kolkata is planning to run special services for NEET candidates on September 13 to help them reach their examination centres.

While the governments of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have assured students that they will provide the transportation, a group of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) alumni and students have launched a portal to provide transport facilities to exam centres for the candidates in need.

Here is the dress code for candidates appearing for NEET 2020 exams:

1. Closed footwear and shoes with thick soles are not allowed
2. Candidates must wear gloves and mask.
3. Candidates can wear light clothes with half sleeves to the examination centre.
4. Garments with large buttons and long sleeves are not allowed.
5. Candidates with specific attire for religious reasons are required to report to the exam hall for mandatory frisking.

## Teams Set Up To Speed Up...

District Development Commissioner, Ramban, Nazim Zai Khan constituted various teams of officers to remove all bottlenecks hindering the progress of construction work during a meeting which was among others attended by officers of revenue department and National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), the officials said.

Reviewing section wise progress on the four-laning of the highway, especially in the most problematic zones, especially Nashri-Banihal section, Khan discussed issues related to land acquisition, removal of structures and felling of trees in Right of Way (RoW) and shifting of power transmission towers in detail.

He expressed concern over delay in the process of shifting of towers and felling of trees causing unnecessary hindrances in smooth progress of work.

With regard to progress on additional land acquisition cases process, the DDC asked collector land to expedite the process so that the land falling in the alignment of the project is handed over to NHAI at the earliest to undertake construction works.

Khan also instructed the NHAI and the construction agencies associated with the highway four-laning project to ensure maintenance of the existing road to avoid traffic disruption.

He asked those concerned to take all measures to keep the road traffic-worthy, the officials said.

The district development commissioner also directed the agencies to adhere to the guidelines of the National Green Tribunal and conditions of the contract agreement to avoid criminal proceedings.

Agencies were also directed to enhance water sprinkling on the road to minimise the dust besides dumping the muck at only identified dumping yards, the officials said.

## 'We're Treated As Labourers'...

lectures," the jobless teacher informed, "we submitted PPT presentations and other assignments to the school every day. We worked double than our normal classroom routine and yet we were dumped as if we never mattered."

Like others, Saima said, she also received salary of March and April only, and was charged Rs 1200 as bus fee, without availing the service. Decrying job insecurity, the sacked private school teacher said her tribe

faces discrimination despite toiling hard for excellent school result and progress.

"But at the end," she lamented, "no one is talking about it. Even government is equally silent over the issue."

However, Dr. Asgar Samoon warned a strict action against private schools for paying half salaries to their teachers besides terminating them.

"I've instructed parents to pay tuition fee only because the private school teachers will get their salaries," Samoon, Principal Secretary School Education, told Kashmir Observer. "But if schools are harassing their staff they will face dire consequences." But such warnings are hardly working, as the axe of termination is ceaselessly falling on the "unsung educators".

Since the Covid-plagued spring, Rifat Ara, 29, had been working tirelessly in Srinagar's prominent private school. Her toil was driven by her escalating destitute situation back home.

"My father is about to retire from his job and I wanted to give him some relief and respite by becoming his helping hand," anxious Rifat detailed her family compulsion for doing what she calls a "thankless" job.

After completing around 80 percent of her school syllabus, she received a terse text: 'Stop it for now'.

"Almost every student in our school has paid tuition fee till now," the teacher said. "I fail to understand why school terminated me and my colleagues?"

Such self-styled decisions taken on wishes and whims of the private school consortium have already drawn massive flak from the campus-deprived community. While the repeated and unaddressed issue has already become an irritable noise for some, many still seek the administration's attention towards the plight of Kashmir's private school educators.

As a remedial measure, Dr. Samoon told Kashmir Observer that in the coming days, Right to Education will address most of these issues.

"Once this measure is implemented," he said, "schools will have to submit audit report of their yearly expenditures to the government."

But as of now, he asserted, any harassed private teacher can send him 'grievance message' on his Whatsapp number.

"We'll act accordingly," he assured. "Besides, we'll engage Labour Commission to ensure that these private teachers are paid their well-deserved dues."

However, Afshan Younis, a sacked private teacher from Srinagar, strongly contradicts the top official's assertions.

She lately lodged a complaint in Director Education's Office regarding her sudden sacking, but so far, she said, nothing has been done.

"There're no rules and regulation set for the private schools with respect of their staff," Afshan told Kashmir Observer.

"Government has not even made any job policy for us. Teacher is said to be a building block of the education system, but in Kashmir, private teachers don't have any respect or value. We're treated as labourers. Our society is also silent on this discrimination against their own children's tutors!"

Afshan was recently sacked after she demanded her pending salary. Barely 12 hours later, she received her termination letter.

"But I am not the only one," she informed. "The private school management follows its own whimsical hire and fire policy in Kashmir." As Eid was approaching on July 11, she had demanded her pending salary during an official online meet.

"We could not manage family expenses with half salary," Afshan said. "But when I raised my genuine issue, I was abused, taunted, with strong obnoxious words by the school authority, who insisted me to resign, there and then only, without regarding my long and loyal association with them."

Two days later, she received her sacking notice from the school management, stating that she has been relieved from her duties and all her dues will be cleared when her other colleagues will receive it.

"I gave my youth to that school," Afshan lamented. "After ten years of my life, they handed a termination letter and asked me to go. For the sake of that school, I worked beyond office hours, and did not even give enough time to my two-year-old son who was my priority."

Meanwhile, at her rundown Srinagar residence, Ruksaan Ali was getting anxious about her husband's falling health and rising home expenses.

"Despite uploading regular video lectures for students during pandemic, the school management never bothered about my salary," she said. "I could've resigned long back, if only I had an option. I've an ailing husband and two kids to sustain. Only my Allah knows how I'm managing with such a small amount!"

Despite some NGOs taking care of her ailing husband's medical bills, the private school teacher's world stays woeful.

"My children have not worn new clothes from many years now," she rued. "I hardly cook a good food for them. I'm not able to provide a good life to my family. What have I achieved by serving that school all these years? Nothing, a big zero! This is a life of a private school teacher who does not care for her own children but gives her time and youth to others' children only to live such a deprived and distressed life."

## Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Bereaved

will be held at Mirwaiz Manzil.

"However people are requested to pray for the Magfirah of deceased at their residences," the spokesperson added.

## 3 Killed After Van Falls...

The woman, Shaanu Devi, and her child died on the spot, while a 50-year-old person succumbed to his injuries during treatment, the official added.

## 3 Injured After Oil Barrel Bursts

local unit in the area, they added.

The injured have been identified as Wasim Ahmad, Mohammad Latif and Bilal Ahmad, all residents of Batpora.

## LAWDA Demolishes Illegal...

registered in the concerned police stations against the violators," the official spokesperson said.



# Jammu Gets Rs. 58.23 Crore State of Art Sports Complex

Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex at Hiranagar, is spread over 270 kanals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha along with Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS in PMO jointly laid the e-foundation stone of "Shri Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex", Hiranagar, on Saturday. The mega-sports complex, spread over 270 kanals of land, will cost Rs.58.23 Crore. It is being undertaken under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP).

This will be one of the best and State of Art Sports Complex having multiple Sports facilities of International/National standards in one place. Falling in close vicinity of national highway 44, the project shall not only cater to the Hiranagar area but the whole of J&K and would be

an important place for hosting National and International events.

Remembering Arun Jaitley, the Lt Governor said that he was an outstanding parliamentarian, a legal stalwart, an eminent intellectual, an able administrator, and an immaculate statesman who believed in the high ideals of transparency and accountability in governance. Sh. Arun Jaitley's contribution to nation-building and his role in Indian polity has been exceptional, he added.

The e-foundation stone was laid in the presence of Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan; Union Secretary of Sports, Ravi Mittal; Chief Secretary, BVR Subrahmanyam; Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Sarmad

Hafeez, and Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Sanjeev Verma, who along with senior officers and scores of political leaders, PRI members were present at the venue and joined the online event.

Family members of Arun Jaitley, including his wife Sangeeta Jaitley, and his daughter also participated in the event through the online mode.

The LG remarked that the government of India is very keen to provide the basic necessary infrastructure for promoting sports culture in J&K and the region has been privileged to get Rs.200 Crore under PMDP for developing sports infrastructure. Out of 22 sanctioned sports complexes, eight have already been dedicated to the public and efforts are being made

for speedy completion of the remaining, announced the Lt Governor.

In this respect, the LG also lauded the efforts being made by the Union Government for the promotion of sports activities nationwide.

The Lt Governor observed that there is no dearth of talent in J&K and that the same shall be identified and nurtured by proper training and infrastructure. 'With enough training, the J&K youth would easily prove their mettle at any forum', he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh during his address, outlined that the Mega Sports Complex is a tribute to the late Jaitley; fulfilling the long pending demand of the public of the area.

## Virtual Buyer-Seller meet for carpet exports from Sept 29

Special focus on Oceania Region, top 50 exporters to participate

SRINAGAR : After the success of the 40th India Carpet Expo, the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) has announced a 3-day Buyer-Seller Meet in virtual mode with special focus on Australia and adjoining countries to ensure business continuity amidst Covid-19 pandemic.

The buyer-seller meet shall be held from September 29 to October 1 and with a limited number of virtual booths available, only 50 exhibitors shall participate in the event on first-cum-first-serve basis. India is the biggest exporter of handmade carpets to countries like Australia in the Oceania Region.

In a statement issued by the Handicrafts & Handloom Department, Kashmir, interested craft exporters and entrepreneurs from Jam-

mu and Kashmir have been urged to participate in the buyer-seller meet, latest by September 15. The statement added that carpet exporters can explore business opportunities by targeting new destinations Down Under to enhance export potential.

The famed Kashmir carpet is the leading hand-made product exported to various overseas destinations like Europe, US and the Middle East.

The exporters and businessmen belonging to handicrafts and handloom sector in Jammu and Kashmir are facing stiff challenges to showcase their products, services and capabilities to potential buyers affecting their businesses due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

## Arrangements finalized for NEET Examination at Srinagar; DC Srinagar visits centers

SRINAGAR : Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary reviewed the arrangements made for the conduct of NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) being held at Srinagar on Sunday 13th September 2020. He also visited several centers for firsthand assessment of preparedness.

The centers at Srinagar for NEET examination include. University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar (Centre 1). University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar (Centre 2), Kashmir Government Polytechnic College, Gogji Bagh, Srinagar, Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, Delhi Public School, Panthachowk, Srinagar, Green Valley Educational Institute, Ellahi Bagh Srinagar, National Institute of Technology, Hazratbal Srinagar, Srinagar British School, Bagh e Mathura, Nowgam Bye Pass, Sgr, Minto Circle High School (Senior Secondary), Allouchi Bagh, Sgr, Payaz Educational Institute, Faizabad,

Nowgam near HDFC ATM Srinagar, Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College, Bemina Srinagar, R P School, Alamdar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, R P School, MallaBagh, NaseemBagh, Hazratbal Srinagar, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir, Shalimar Srinagar, SEM College of Education, New Airport Road, Srinagar, Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Hawal Srinagar, Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 Shiwpora, Batwara Srinagar, Candid Higher Secondary School, Nowgam Bypass, Sgr, Government Boys Hr. Sec. School, Nawa Kadal Srinagar, JK Public School, Humhama near Peer Bagh Bridge, Sgr, Kendriya Vidyalaya BSF No. III, Khunmoh Road Panthachowk, Srinagar, Iqbal Memorial Institute, Girls Wing, Iqbal Abad, BeminaSgr, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Saida Kadal, Rainawari Srinagar, Government Boys Higher Secondary Institute,

SouraSgr, Government Girls Hr. Sec. School, Shri Bhat ZadibalSgr, Woodland House School (Boys Wing), Gupkar Road Srinagar, Iqbal Memorial Institute (Boys Wing), Sir Syed Abad, Bemina Srinagar, Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar, Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute, Habak Naseem Bagh Srinagar, Presentation Convent Hr. Sec. School, Raj Bagh Srinagar, Government Girls Hr. Sec. School, Kothibagh Srinagar, Amar Singh College, Gogji Bagh Srinagar, International Islamic School, Peer Bagh Srinagar, Shadab Hr. Sec. School, Malla Bagh, Srinagar, Linton Hall School, Raj Bagh Srinagar, Green Land College of Education, Kohimaran Hawal, Srinagar, Iqra Educational Institute, SDA Colony Bemina Srinagar and Gandhi Memorial College, Shamswari Srinagar, Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Jawahar Nagar Srinagar, Government College for Women, NawaKadal Srinagar

## Seven Mining plans approved in Anantnag

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 12: Anantnag Mining Plan Committee today accorded approval to seven mining plans that have been e-auctioned earlier.

The committee under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner K.K Sidha, held threadbare discussions on the mining plans furnished by the successful bidders.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner called for involving PRIs in the monitoring of riverbed material extraction to ensure that habitual offenders do not misuse the auctioned process.

He said the patches identified for e-auction should be properly delineated and cement posts pinpointing the boundaries of auctioned patches should be installed immediately.

### SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow it is to inform that Mtr Shareefa Wife of Gh Nabi Rangrez resident of syed Fazal Abad pandach passed away on 11th September 2020 after brief illness. The congregational Fateh khawani will be held on Monday 14th september 2020 at our ancestral graveyard peer Haji Sahib Saraf kadal at 10:30 am

### BEREAVED

Gh Nabi Rangrez (husband)  
Zubair Alam (Son)  
Hakak shabir (Son-in-law)  
Mohd Ayub Mir Farooq Ahmad Mir Altaf  
Ahmad Mir Ishfaq Ahmad Mir (brothers resident of pazwalpora zoonimar) and all nears and dears

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub:- "Execution of Minor Mechanical Works at Lift Irrigation Scheme Zaloosa Chararisharief".

Ref:- This office Fresh Short Term e-NIT No. 59 OF 2020-21, Dated: 31-08-2020.

### EXTENSION NOTICE 1

Due to no response to this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under:-

Clarification end Date	21/09/2020 at 15:00 hrs
Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	21/09/2020 at 16:00 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	22/09/2020 at 14:00 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No. MIDS/Ts/ 2317-22  
Dated:- 11-09-2020  
DIPK-5508/20

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Irrigation Division,  
Srinagar

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT) PHE GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR Baghi-Ali- Mardan Nowshera Srinagar.

#### CORRIGENDUM FOR EXTENTION

Due to No response to e 21 of 09/2020 issued vide PHE/GWD/1903 2020 on account of construction of 125 mm machine drilled hand pump wells in referred above isare hereby extended as per the below mentioned sche

#### Critical Dates

	Publishing date
	Period of Submission of bids
	Date of opening of tenders

All other term and conditions shall remain same as laid down in NIT issued vide above referred endstt. No.

DIPK-5506/20

Executive Engineer

PHE Ground Water Div.

No: PHE/GWD/

#### DIAL-EMMA



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

#### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



#### RAILWAYS

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



#### HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI  
CALENDAR  
24 Muharram  
1442

### PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 48
ZUHR	12: 30
ASR	5:53
Magrib	6:48
ISHA	8:10

## This Day In History

- 1973 - Syrian/Israeli dogfight over Mediterranean Sea
- 1974 - OPEC instructs its Secretary General to "carry out a study of supply and demand in relation to possible production controls"
- 1984 - STS 41-G launch vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1984 - Shimon Peres forms Israeli government with Likud
- 1988 - 9 hard/software manufacturers announce EISA computer bus in NY
- 1988 - Gilbert is strongest (26.13 barometer) hurricane in Western Hemisphere
- 1990 - Iraqi troops storm residence of French ambassador in Kuwait
- 1993 - Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Shimon Peres and PLO official Mahmoud Abbas sign the Oslo I peace accord
- 1993 - Public unveiling of the Oslo Accords, an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement initiated by Norway
- 1994 - Space probe Ulyssus passes south pole of Sun
- 1995 - The Kuwaiti Oil Ministry states its intention to seek a 200-million-barrels-per-day increase to its current 2-million-barrels-per-day crude oil production quota at OPEC meeting in Vienna
- 1997 - Mother Teresa's State Funeral held in India
- 1999 - Bomb explodes in Moscow, Russia. At least 119 people are killed.
- 2001 - Civilian aircraft traffic resumes in the U.S. after the September 11, 2001 attacks.
- 2001 - Relative calm returns to world oil markets as US retail gasoline prices return to normal levels; energy trading by Houston energy companies resumes and limited commercial aviation starts
- 2012 - 19 people are killed after a freight elevator crashes from 100 meters in Wuhan, China
- 2012 - 33,000 people are evacuated after Guatemala's Volcano of Fire erupts
- 2012 - Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev calls for Russian punk band Pussy Riot to be freed
- 2012 - Dr Mustafa Abushagur is elected as Prime Minister of Libya
- 2013 - 30 people are killed by a mosque bombing attack in Baghdad, Iraq
- 2015 - EU Migrant Crisis: Germany introduces temporary border controls to cope with huge migrant numbers
- 2015 - Lydia Ko of New Zealand becomes the youngest winner of a golf major winning the Evian Championship in France aged 18yrs, 142 days

## From KO Archives

## OIC gears up for key role on Kashmir

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is to convene a special session for deliberations on the situation prevailing in Kashmir, and depute a team for an on-the-spot assessment of the same. At the OIC contact group meet, presently underway in New York. OIC Secretary General, Izzah Din Lairaki, said the Conference wants to play a key role with regard to the future of Kashmir. Pledging all possible assistance to facilitate tripartite negotiations on Kashmir, the OIC said it would pursue the issue in the United Nations and depute an envoy for the purpose.

The OIC contact group on Kashmir, which includes the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Niger, Pakistan and Turkey held a series of sessions in which the Secretary General of the Conference also participated.

An APHC statement issued here today said the OIC foreign ministers meet in New York had declared the multiparty alliance the authentic representative body of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, which could play a fundamental role in determining the future of the state.

Reiterating his country's commitment and support to the Kashmir issue, the Pakistan foreign minister said the Hurriyat was the acknowledged representative body of Kashmiris and that Pakistan would abide by all decisions the alliance takes (with regard to the Kashmir issue). Echoing the sentiments, his Turkish counterpart said all efforts would be undertaken to resolve the issue.

Earlier, Mirwaiz Farooq, who flew from Teheran to New York on Wednesday, gave an overview of the situation in Kashmir. The prime minister of Pak-Controlled Kashmir, Barister Sultan Mehmood and Sardar Abdul Qayoom Khan also attended the sessions.

The PkC chapter of the APHC was represented by Moham-mad Yousuf Naseem and Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai. OIC delegates expressed grave concern at what they called persecution of Hurriyat leaders and political activists in Kashmir and observed these were in flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention on human rights. The OIC adopted a resolution detailing measures it would undertake in this regard.

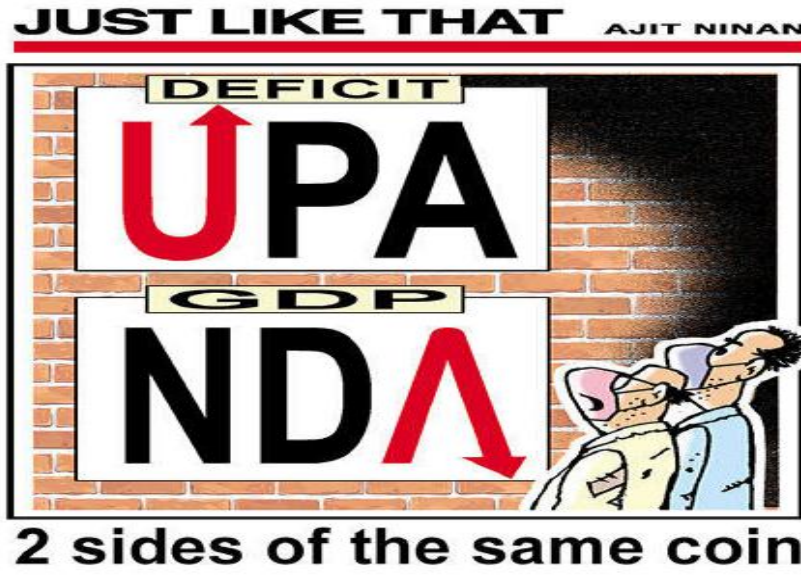
(Kashmir Observer, September 13, 2000)



## KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider  
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304  
Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

NO HOLDS BARRED



Even If one thinks one is only clicking a link or video with one's own will; it is not entirely the truth. We are programmed to watch the stuff that the AI wants us to. That is how this system works and becomes monetized.

# The Popular Populist

Mihir Sharma

Some have hoped that the pandemic will cause voters around the world to once again demand "competence" from their leaders. That's just wishful thinking.

India's COVID-19 cases continue to climb, even as the economy tanks. China is pressing forward on the two countries' disputed Himalayan border, where dozens of Indian soldiers have been killed. Tax revenues have plummeted, state governments are unhappy and 21 million of India's rare salaried jobs vanished in the last few months. And yet Prime Minister Narendra Modi — who recently posted pictures of himself feeding peacocks in his serene garden — remains as popular as ever.

While they have responded to the coronavirus in different ways, many of his fellow populists are struggling. Mexico's Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, faced with crashing poll numbers, flatly refuses to believe they are true. Multiple missteps in recent months have brought Boris Johnson's Tories practically level with Labour in some recent UK polls. Vladimir Putin's United Russia party is facing a tough set of local elections.

And, of course, there's US President Donald Trump, whose re-election campaign seems to be based largely on pretending the pandemic doesn't exist.

Modi seems to understand something that the others do not about the relationship between a populist leader and voters. In a crisis, you can, like Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, temporarily push your numbers up through cash transfers. Or you can, like Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan, use identity politics to distract people from your bungles; that's being tried in India as well.

But there's another factor Modi exploits to the hilt.

The most adept populist leaders don't only detach the electorate's perception from inconvenient facts, providing an alternative narrative in which they, and they alone, are the stars. To repeat that trick in the face of disasters such as a recession or a pandemic, they also need to act. They have to make the sort of big decisions around which their supporters can construct a convincing narrative: a decision that comes across as brave, or stern, or wise, or fatherly or, ideally, all of those things.

In India...If the pandemic spreads, that's because bureaucrats, or state governments, or the people themselves failed to live up to the leader's vision.

When Modi, with just a few hours' notice, withdrew 86% of India's currency in November 2016, it was unquestionably a disaster. People lost jobs and livelihoods, economic growth was mortally injured and, given that all the money eventually returned to circulation, none of the exercise's goals were actually met.

What Modi learned from the experience, however, is that it does not matter whether the decision you make pans out or not. All that matters is that people believe that you did something big, something that only you



would dare to do, and that you did it for the best reasons.

That's what many Indian voters thought about "demonetisation": If the gambit didn't work, it was everybody else's fault. At least Modi tried to stamp out corruption, supporters said, doing something no other prime minister in India's history, no other world leader had done. (For good reason.)

Still suffering from after-effects of demonetisation

Just months after demonetisation, while Indians were still suffering from its after-effects, Modi's party won crucial elections in India's largest state. The political scientists Rikhil Bhavnani and Mark Copelovitch discovered that, in fact, Modi's party did relatively better in those areas where people were hurt the most by demonetisation. Apparently, the worse the medicine tastes, the more the doctor must care about the disease and want to cure it.

When Modi shut down the Indian economy in March in response to COVID-19's arrival on our shores, he did so relatively early. India's was also perhaps the most draconian such shutdown globally.

While people suffered, every voter in every part of the country knew that Modi alone had shut the economy

down in response to the threat. By taking action early and on the grandest possible scale, he essentially inoculated his popularity against the pandemic's political effects. No rival can now accuse him of not doing enough and be believed by voters.

The chances are that the decision to go big will work out far better for leaders such as Modi and the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte, who also shut down early and hard, than denying the pandemic will for others, from AMLO to Trump. Denial and delay was, in any case, the wrong course. Now the consequences of not acting are entirely on them.

In India, they're on everyone else. If the pandemic spreads, that's because bureaucrats, or state governments, or the people themselves failed to live up to the leader's vision.

Some have hoped that the pandemic will cause voters around the world to once again demand "competence" from their leaders. That's just wishful thinking. The evidence from India is that nothing has changed. The populist playbook is still effective, as long as it's in hands as skilled as Modi's.

Bloomberg

## Social Media Users or Pawns?

The recent Facebook fiasco coupled up with a world where democracies are inextricably bound to social media, who are we as users serving?

Faheem Gundro

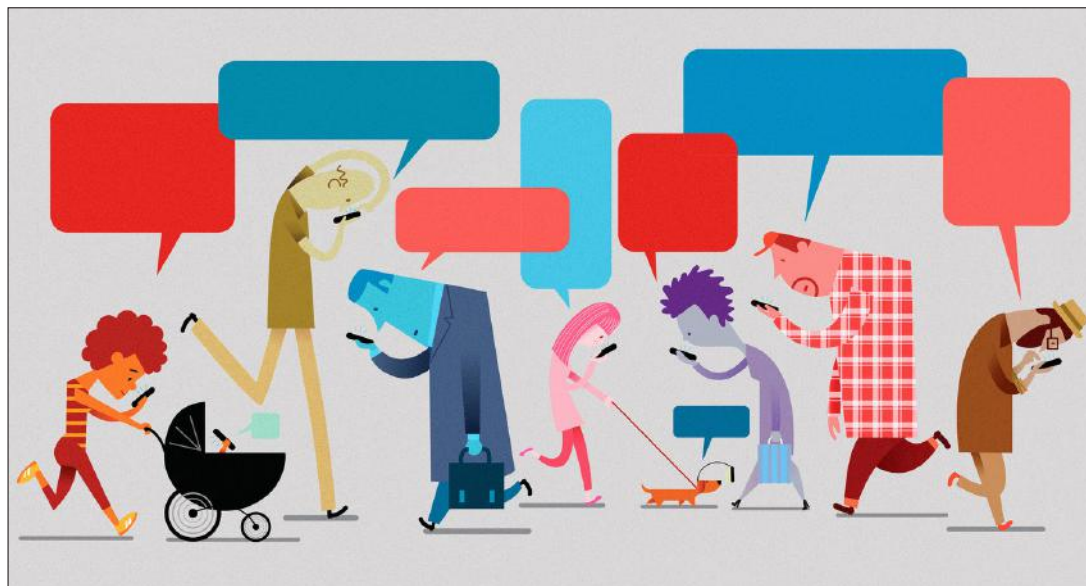
There is no doubt to the fact that technology has changed our lives beyond any imagination. It created tools which made our life easy in multiple ways. It's funny to think how so many Bollywood movies back in 60s and 70s revolved around this story of separated brothers at a Kumbh mela, and who years later reunite. In present era it's unthinkable. We have Google, social media et al. We'll just look them up.

But there is a flipside to all this. Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat have become so big now that they have taken a life of their own, and not necessarily in a correct way.

We are living in a more polarized world. The decades after World War 2 were liberating at societal and cultural level. The world had suffered inordinately in the Second World War. People wanted a change. Imperialism was on its way out from sub-continent and Africa. Newly independent nation states opted for democracy and liberalism. India's socialist Prime Minister JawaharLal Nehru set India out on its path of progress and liberty. Pakistan ruled by army was focusing on its own path — a very liberal society where you had the freedom to choose.

Immigrants from Asian countries were welcome in more developed west. There are multiple stories of immigrants bringing laurels to their adopted home. When France won the 1998 FIFA World Cup, 6 of its players were immigrants. Champs-Elysees celebrated the success together. This was probably the great immigrant dream coming true. A world that was shrinking into a Global Village.

So how did we land up here? A world where democracies are under threat, right-wing politics is on rise and what should have been an age of information, is clearly turning into a world of disinformation.



Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter are currently used by billions of people. Never in the history of mankind have people come together across ethnicities on one platform. That is the power of social media. With all the good it can do, and it has, these systems are run by giant computers. The platforms on their own are not evil, but it's what technology does with it, that should be our cause of concern.

The cause of worry is the business model that these platforms use — which in broader terms means that we the users are being used as product and are being sold to the advertisers, who in turn pay to facebook, twitter, YouTube and others. The idea of this business

model is to get as much as possible of our attention. The more time we spend on Facebook, YouTube, Google, more money we are generating for them.

At the face value, social media seems useful and harmless. However, it's this naivety of us which has brought us to the point we are at.

So, if one is slightly bent towards right politics, or they're anti-Muslim and open a link or a video on Facebook or Twitter that endorses this idea. AI will run an algorithm in the background, notifying it that this person probably is interested in right politics and is anti-Muslim. Next time when one logs in, their feed will be filled with videos or links about right politics and anti-Muslim speeches. It is a viscous

system. So even if one thinks one is only clicking a link or video with one's own will; it is not entirely the truth. We are programmed to watch the stuff that the AI wants us to. That is how this system works and becomes monetized.

Therefore, someone who was probably 10% of a radical, the first time he logged onto social — will be totally radicalized in only a matter of few months. Because he is constantly fed this information. He thinks this is how the world operates. Hence we are seeing hate crimes, Islamophobia, crime against minorities and banning immigration gaining traction in the world.

And to envisage its whole repercussions is scary. Political movements are run using this data. Elections can be fought and won by using all this data. Despots could be ruling our institutions which we have created with great difficulties. Our fragile social fabric can be shredded to pieces, because this new market place is unregulated. Every single click is monitored by these social media giants. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube can sell all this data to anyone without any intervention of a regulatory body. And then to imagine what possibly could be done with all this data. It's absolutely incomprehensible, how we've let this happen and even normalized it.

In the end, we must be asking this question to ourselves. What sort of world are we leaving behind for our children? If that matters, we as a people must come together and force governments to intervene. We cannot ignore the elephant in the room.

Faheem Jeelani Gundroo is an ICT Engineer based in Dubai, with interest in travel, history and current affairs. He can be reached at: faheemjeelani@gmail.com



# Pyaar Ka Punchnama: A Memoir

Huzaifa Pandit

Who needs a girlfriend when one has a pari for a lover? (dillagi hai PARI say toh KHAREE kya cheez hai). I was engrossed in pleasant dreams of the pari when I became conscious of a slight tingling in my right arm. As I roused myself, I became aware that the baba was raining blows on me with a plastic rod to ward off the pari.

What is common between a Jersey Gau (Cow) and an anaemic Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) patient? Well, if you ask me, not much—I swear upon the holiest oaths ever invented that the difference is minimal. After all, some philosopher did state that man was a something animal—something escapes me. The cow is fed generously so that she produces more milk, and an anaemia patient is fed in the same way so that their haemoglobin levels rise. Whether any consideration is given to the cow’s likes and dislikes, I have no knowledge of, but I will vouch for the fact that it is the last thing under consideration when an anaemic is being fed.

Meet yours truly, an anaemic PTSD patient holed up in his sickening yellow room since May 5, 2012—how I curse that day. PTSD reminds me of Rajesh Khanna in the babu-moshai movie; it sounds impressive in its full form. I can see what he meant by the look on his visitors’ faces when he announces the name of his disease: awestruck.

Of course, in my case most of them have never heard of the name of this illness and those who have, consider it a type of madness. I wish it were. (Maniacs can get away with murder, in case you did not comprehend the subtlety). Now that the issue of visitors has been raked up, let me discuss them in a little detail. Most of them come in hordes, equipped with watermelon, melon or boxed juice—so much so that I am of the opinion that juice companies and fruit vendors must pay me a commission. After all, I have ensured that their sales go up.

The visitors also come laden with free advice which I have the misfortune of having to endure, patiently nodding in agreement. Baijaanas goum hatakh te pate kati manavan. (As I suffer from flashbacks, my mother’s rueful expression compels me into submission.) God has created an infinite variety of human beings and as a consequence, advice is of an infinite variety, too. From marriage to mediation, food to sleep, from dressing to talking, reading to writing, there is no single issue under the auspices of the Lord’s sky on which I have not received advice. You must pardon me for not remembering all of it. After all, I am human and so kuch advice yaad rahee, kuch bhool gaye (I can recall some advice and have forgotten the rest).

As it is, I was hardly able to remember much: Ah! the almond nut advice given by a relative that almost made me nuts. It is taxing but then as Kashmiris frequently say: phas gaye toh tadapna kya (if you are caught in a tight spot why agonise; its best to take things in your stride). Organisms learn to adapt and bear—cacti grow thorns to survive the desert. I wish I could grow thorns, too. At least it would have spared me the watery kisses and sympathetic caresses. Some caresses knock the wind out of you, some spoil your carefully parted hair—but then, it is their love—haan jaan gaye, haan maan gaye (yes, I know and accept!)—and when was I averse to love? Sigh!

There is one more thing that relatives come laden with: diagnosis. I am sincerely of the opinion that Kashmiris have originated from a progenitor who must have been a doctor or a compounder. A select few pronounce my condition as GARMI (heat, of/from what, God only knows). However, most declare me a victim of the evil spirit and the evil eye: he is such a good writer, he looks so handsome, nazar toh lagni hi hai. I am seriously contemplating a raiment of rags and unkempt hair when I go out in public. Yes, little boys will throw stones at me but I would take them gladly in exchange for such diagnosis. And as every Kashmiri professes to be a know-it-all, the addresses of doctors and saints and shamans, too, are freely swapped. Doctors I can bear (though, in-



explicitly, most turn up late on days I have an appointment), but it is encounters with the shaman, or holy men, that trouble me.

One just does not know what is in store when one visits a shaman, called peer in local parlance. I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of one who immediately pronounced that a pari (female genie, duffer!) was besotted with me. My relief and joy knew no bounds. For all you know, it could easily have been a djinn. How would I have faced my friends?

I am heterosexual and it would have been a rather unpleasant conjecture. As for joy, is there a better antidote for a breakup than a readymade relationship waiting for you with open arms? Who needs a girlfriend when one has a pari for a lover? (dillagi hai PARI say toh KHAREE kya cheez hai). I was engrossed in pleasant dreams of the pari (O hansini, kahan ud chali) when I became conscious of a slight tingling in my right arm. Then I felt a searing pain.

As I roused myself, I became aware that the baba was raining blows on me with a plastic rod to ward off the pari. My protests were drowned by my cries of agony. Not satisfied with the performance and remedy, with great force, he started pulling my hair with both hands. The fires of hell could have been doused by the deluge from my eyes. Still not content, he took out an instrument, a cross between a chisel and a screwdriver, and began to bore at my calf with it. I work in the government irrigation department where they dig tubewells. They would give the earth for the finesse with which the boring of my leg was being carried out. Naturally, my resentment did not count. An entire tube of Himani Fast Relief ointment was exhausted in the evening but the pain would not go. Believe me, there is no greater lie than Big B’s proclamation: dard mitaye chutki main

(relieves pain in a jiffy). At least mera toh na mita (mine did not vanish).

Another peer gave me a near heart attack when he took out a long, sharp knife to gauge what the matter was with me. My relief knew no bounds when I saw him stick it into a wooden block and brag that he had imprisoned the pari that was troubling me. That very evening, I had a terrible attack. I guess there is corruption in the genie world, too. How else would you explain a prison break in a matter of five hours? Perhaps the warden’s heart melted when she sang lambi judaai, chaar dina da pyaar ho rabaa (a long separation after this short-lived love, oh lord!). It is a long rambling tale and I have no desire to bore you with all the details.

Coming back to the original comparison, between a cow and an anaemic, I am being fed like a cow with generous quantities of sickening watermelon and nauseating pomegranate juice. How I yearn to crack the watermelons on my visitors’ heads or drown them in the sickening fruit juice. Of course, the stomach and digestive system protest, but then repression is a trait Kashmiris are long familiar with. My only sincere parting advice to my readers (especially, the young) is this: ishq kabhi kariyo na, ishq kabhi kariyo na (never fall in love). As the auto-wala bhaiyas declare with great sagacity: no girlfriend, no tension.

—Yours truly, majnoon chanpoori

The essay was first published in the anthology 'Side Effects of Living - An Anthology of Voices on Mental Health' edited by Jhimil Breckenridge and Namarita Kathait (Author) and published by Speaking Tiger Books (2019)

## Anxiety To Speak In Online Classes

Lesley Irvine

Many parents and students are engaged in a daily routine of speaking to people via a camera on a computer, tablet or phone during COVID-19 restrictions. This often means finding a quiet place in order to ask a question, provide an answer or share an opinion with a virtual audience.

Initial concerns about using video apps focused on privacy and equity issues.

Soon, new terms emerged such as Zoom fatigue. But an issue that has been less discussed is the role that nerves might play in these mediated sessions.

### What is speaking anxiety?

For centuries, people have questioned their ability to speak in front of others. It’s said the Roman orator Cicero (106-43BCE) turned pale and quaked before any speech he gave.

But it was in the 20th century that communication anxiety was studied in depth. It has been described by a number of different terms, including stage fright, unwillingness to communicate and communication apprehension.

Research suggests about one in five speakers experience high communication apprehension. This can make all speaking opportunities difficult.

Examples include speaking to a boss or teacher, contributing to a group discussion, or delivering a presentation. Public speaking anxiety is part of communication apprehension.

The prevalence of public speaking anxiety is well documented. It is complex (varying causes, indicators and treatment options), individual (affecting speakers differently) and unstable (changing levels of anxiety within and between presentations).

A focus on individual differences acknowledges that internal thoughts and feelings might not match external behaviour. For example, a speaker who appears disengaged may actually feel a lack of control.

It is a tricky phenomenon. Some people can feel nervous the moment a speaking task is announced and, on the day of presentation, may rate themselves as more nervous than what an audience observes.

### Nervous about the audience

It is the audience, and the potential for negative



A focus on individual differences acknowledges that internal thoughts and feelings might not match external behaviour. For example, a speaker who appears disengaged may actually feel a lack of control.

evaluation from that audience, that can make us feel anxious. And those listening can be physically or virtually present.

This brings us to the rather awkward situation of speaking to rows of little boxes on a screen in a video hook-up. Not only does this set-up limit broader non-verbal cues, but it also restricts general banter between participants.

On the plus side, this can make sessions more time-efficient, but it does tend to make conversations

more stilted.

A perceived need to be visible is a contested area in online delivery. In educational settings, those who support “cameras on for everyone” suggest it helps to replicate usual classroom conditions, encourages discussion and ensures students are actually in attendance (not just logged on).

But it is important to consider the rationale behind making any feature mandatory. Participating via a video app is not the same as a live setting.

For a start, speakers rarely see themselves when talking to others. As a lecturer, seeing myself on-screen while speaking with a class can be distracting, especially when trying to look directly at the camera lens to maximise eye contact.

### 7 tips to make things easier

Whether running a business meeting or teaching a class, the following tips may help you to feel more comfortable speaking online:

- provide an agenda ahead of time, which could include sending out some prepared questions for discussion
- reduce uncertainty about participation by letting people know from the outset if there is any need or expectation to talk in a hook-up
- use linking statements and signposts to keep everyone on track as other cues and clues may be absent (walking across a room to a computer), so it’s important to let all participants know what you are doing and why (for example: “I’m going to check the chat box at the end of this point so feel free to add any questions as I go along.”)
- model good speaking practices, draw on simple structures to make your point and use language that is suitable for oral delivery
- rethink the value of calling on someone randomly to contribute to a discussion, because if people are worried they may be asked to respond without notice, they may be less likely to engage overall
- make decisions about the need for interaction (including break-out rooms) based on the type of session and number of participants, because needless interaction is not better than no interaction
- plan for each online event rather than stick to a set of general rules. For example, is it always necessary for speakers to see each other onscreen? As most educators will tell you, just because a student is physically present that doesn’t mean they are actively engaged.

Online tutorials, workshops and meetings are here to stay for the moment. To create safe, supportive and productive sessions, we need to build competent and confident speaking practices.

Acknowledging that speaking anxiety is common, and affects people in live and virtual settings, is a good place to start.

By Arrangements With The Conversation



# COLOURS EVOKE

## Similar Feelings Around The World,

# FINDS STUDY

**Agencies**

People all over the world associate colours with emotions. In fact, people from different parts of the world often associate the same colours with the same emotions. This was the result of a detailed survey of 4,598 participants from 30 nations over six continents, carried out by an international research team. The study was published in the journal Psychological Science.

"No similar study of this scope has ever been carried out," said Dr Daniel Oberfeld-Twistel, member of the participating team at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU). "It allowed us to obtain a comprehensive overview and establish that colour-emotion associations are surprisingly similar around the world." Scientists report that the participants were asked to fill out an online questionnaire, which involved assigning up to 20 emotions to twelve different colour terms. The participants were also asked to specify the intensity

with which they associated the colour term with the emotion. The researchers then calculated the national averages for the data and compared these with the worldwide average. "This revealed a significant global consensus," summarised Oberfeld-Twistel.

"For example, throughout the world, the colour of red is the only colour that is strongly associated with both a positive feeling -- love -- and a negative feeling -- anger." Brown, on the other hand, triggers the fewest emotions globally. However, the scientists also noted some national peculiarities. For example, the colour of white is much more closely associated with sadness in China than it is in other countries, and the same applies to purple in Greece. "This may be because in China white clothing is worn at funerals and the colour dark purple is used in the Greek Orthodox Church during periods of mourning," explained Oberfeld-Twistel.

In addition to such cultural peculiarities, the climate may also play a role. According to the findings from another

of the team's studies, yellow tends to be more closely associated with the emotion of joy in countries that see less sunshine, while the association is weaker in areas that have greater exposure to it. According to Dr Daniel Oberfeld-Twistel, it is currently difficult to say exactly what the causes for global similarities and differences are. "There is a range of possible influencing factors: language, culture, religion, climate, the history of human development, the human perceptual system." Many fundamental questions about the mechanisms of colour-emotion associations have yet to be clarified, he continued.

However, by using an in-depth analysis that included the use of a machine learning approach developed by Oberfeld-Twistel, a computer program that improves itself as the database grows, the scientists have already discovered that the differences between individual nations are greater the more they are geographically separated and/or the greater the differences between the languages spoken in them.

**NO SIMILAR STUDY OF THIS SCOPE HAS EVER BEEN CARRIED** out," said Dr Daniel Oberfeld-Twistel, member of the participating team at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU). "It allowed us to obtain a comprehensive overview and establish that colour-emotion associations are surprisingly similar around the world."

## ‘Adolescent Girls At Risk For Self-Injury Can Be Identified Using Psychological Profile’

**Agencies**

A new study reports on three key factors - low conscientiousness, high avoidance, and parent's substance abuse history - found amongst adolescents that could be used to predict the first occurrence of nonsuicidal self-harm, over a three year period.

The study published in the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (JAACAP).

"Self-injury is common in adolescents, especially among girls," stated lead author Monika Waszczuk, PhD, an Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychiatry,

Stony Brook University, New York. "This largely hidden condition is characterized by deliberate self-inflicted harm, such as cutting or burning. Many young people who experienced this potentially life-threatening behaviour do not seek treatment, and more than half continue to self-harm into adulthood.

"To help identify adolescent girls who may need support prior to the first occurrence of self-injury, we sought a better understanding of psychological vulnerabilities to this behaviour."

The findings are based on the Adolescent Development of Emotions and Personality Traits study; an ongoing longitudinal project tracking the health and wellbe-

ing of girls from Long Island, New York. The study began in 2013.

A sample of 462 girls between the ages of 13-15-years old who had never experienced self-harm at the start of the study completed measures of psychological vulnerabilities, including personality traits and psychological symptoms. Mental health was also assessed in the parents of participants. Next, girls were asked about self-injury during interviews conducted multiple times over the three-year follow-up period.

Over the course of the study, 42 girls reported that they started to self-harm. Their baseline psychological vulnerabilities were compared to the remaining

420 girls who never self-injured. Girls who began to self-harm were found to have significantly lower baseline levels of conscientiousness and higher levels of avoidance. They were also twice as likely to have a parent who had a substance abuse problem at some point in life. A psycho-

logical profile combining these factors achieved good accuracy in distinguishing girls who initiated self-harm during the following three years in this study from those who did not.

"These results point to two main psychological pathways to adolescent self-harm. The first is disinhibition - an urgency to act and a difficulty regulating one's behaviour, often when faced with strong negative emotions," described Molly Gromatsky, PhD, who led the study during her graduate training and is now a Postdoctoral Researcher at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. "The second pathway is the avoid-

ance of upsetting memories or thoughts, with self-harm used as a maladaptive coping strategy to distract from intense negative feelings. Parental substance abuse might play a role via inherited genetic susceptibility to mental health problems, as well as via environmental transmission of risk."

Based on past research, traumatic experiences such as violence and abuse, as well as childhood poverty and bullying have significant impacts on nonsuicidal self-harm and other psychological vulnerabilities. This study did not directly assess these factors, however, so determining whether the avoidance trait specifically leads to avoid-

ance of traumatic memories as a step in the development of nonsuicidal self-harm will be an important topic for future research.

"In addition to expanding our understanding of the development of self-harm, the present study derived a personality profile with a good ability to identify adolescent girls who are at risk of initiating self-harm. If replicated in independent samples, this small set of traits would allow for a rapid psychological screening that is feasible to collect in community samples of adolescents (e.g., in schools or primary care, facilitating targeted prevention)," said lead author Roman Kotov, PhD, a professor at the Department of Psychiatry, Stony Brook University, New York.

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Position of AAA/TS:  
The Bidding documents consisting of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:

Issue of Tender Notice	
Date of publishing of NIT Online	
Period of downloading of bidding documents	
Start Date (Online)	
	.2020 upto 4:00 PM
Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	.2020, after 11:00 AM in the Office of the Executive Director, JKPCCLTD.
Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is

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Deputy General Manager  
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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC  
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e-NIT No.20-EMDS  
Dated:-11 -09-2020  
Notice Inviting Tenders  
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders (in two cover system) are hereby invited from reputed Class 'A' electrical contractors registered with Inspection Agency of JKPCCLTD or any other relevant Government agency enlisted with CPWD, MES, Railway, DGBRO of appropriate class of contract as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document. Intending bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexure forming part of this tender document for the following work;

S.No	Name of the Work	Advt. Cost (lacs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Cost of tender document in Rs. (Non-refundable)	Position of Funds	Period of Completion
1.	Creation of 100 KVA Sub Station at Batapora Krankshivan	1.45	2900.0	500/-	Available	10 days from the issuance of allotment order

The detailed tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below;

A	Publishing of tender on the website	11-09-2020; 04:00 PM
B	Download date starts	11-09-2020; 04:00 PM
C	Clarification date starts	11-09-2020; 04:00 PM
D	Clarification date ends	22-09-2020; 05:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission date starts	11-09-2020; 04:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission date ends	22-09-2020; 05:00 PM
G	Date and time of Opening of technical bids	23-09-2020; 11:00 AM
H	Venue of Opening of Technical and Financial bids	Electric Division Sopore
I	Date and time of Opening of Financial bids	Will be separately communicated to the technically responsive bidders

The Bidder need to submit the proof/cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through Treasury Receipt in M.H 0801-Power in favour of Executive Engineer Electric Division Sopore.

No.EMDS/TS/350-55  
Dated:-11-09-2020  
NB-2295/20  
Sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
Electric Division Sopore

## Nearly 50% Of India's Working Women Feeling Increased Stress Due To Pandemic: Survey

Press Trust Of India

Nearly 50 per cent of India's working women are feeling increased stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic, claimed a survey conducted by online professional network LinkedIn.

It revealed that the pandemic is taking a toll on the emotional well-being of India's working women as 47 per cent report they are experiencing more stress or anxiety due to the pandemic, LinkedIn said.

For men, this number stood at 38 per cent, pointing towards a disproportionate impact on women in these testing times, it said.

LinkedIn on Thursday announced the findings of the tenth edition of the LinkedIn Workforce Confidence Index, a fortnightly pulse on the confidence of India's workforce. Based on the survey responses of 2,254 professionals in India, findings from the weeks of July 27 - August 23 reveal the pandemic's impact on India's working mothers and working women, and the cautious optimism of freelancers towards personal finances and career prospects, it said.

The survey also underscored the challenges of childcare during the pandemic, according to a LinkedIn statement. The survey showed that India's overall confidence is growing steadily.

Remote working has laid out a tougher road for India's working mothers as the survey showed that around one in three (31 per cent) working mothers are currently providing childcare full-time, when compared to nearly one in five (17 per cent) working fathers, the statement said. "Worryingly, more than two in five (44 per cent) working mothers are working outside their business hours to provide childcare, nearly twice as many men (25 per cent)", it said.

The survey showed that only one in five (20 per cent) working mothers rely on a family member or friend to take care of their children, when compared to 32 per cent men. More than 46 per cent working mothers reported working till late to make up for work, and 42 per cent are unable to focus on work with their children at home, it said.



## How the world reacted to Bahrain, Israel normalising ties

Agencies

Manama: Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration.

In a joint statement, the United States, Bahrain and Israel said the agreement was reached after Trump spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on Friday.

Trump hailed the deal as "a historic breakthrough".

The agreement comes only a month after the United Arab Emirates became the first Gulf Arab country to reach a deal on normalising relations with Israel, capping years of discreet contacts between the two countries in commerce and technology.

Bahrain is the fourth Arab nation to reach such a deal with Israel after Egypt, Jordan and the UAE.

Here is how other nations and stakeholders in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict reacted to the Bahrain-Israel deal:

### Palestinian leadership

The Palestinian Authority (PA) condemned the Bahrain-Israel normalisation deal as another betrayal by an Arab state.

The agreement was "a stab in the back of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people", like the UAE-Israel deal announced last month, Ahmad Majdalani, social affairs minister in the occupied West Bank-based PA, told AFP.

Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, said the deal was an "aggression" that dealt "serious prejudice" to the Palestinian cause.

### United Arab Emirates

The UAE welcomed the decision by Bahrain and Israel to

establish relations, saying that it hoped it would have a positive effect on peace and cooperation in the region and around the world.

"The move represents a significant step towards an era of security and prosperity ... (and) would expand the scope of economic, cultural, scientific, and diplomatic avenues of cooperation," the UAE foreign ministry said in a statement.

On September 15, the UAE will formally normalise ties with Israel, a move that was announced last month. Bahrain and Israel will sign a declaration on the same day.

### Iran

Following the agreement, Iran said Bahrain was now partner to the "crimes" of Israel.

"The rulers of Bahrain will from now on be partners to the crimes of the Zionist regime as a constant threat to the security of the region and the world of Islam," the foreign ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

### Egypt

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said he appreciated the "important step" Israel and Bahrain had taken in agreeing to establish diplomatic relations.

The agreement would help establish "stability and peace in the Middle East, in a way that achieves a just and permanent settlement of the Palestinian issue," el-Sisi said on Twitter.

### Turkey

The Turkish Foreign Ministry strongly condemned Bahrain's decision to establish diplomatic ties with Israel, adding it will deal a fresh blow to efforts to defend the Palestinian cause.

"It will further encourage Israel to continue illegitimate practices towards Palestine and its efforts to make the occupation of Palestinian lands permanent," the ministry statement said.



## Warring Afghans meet in Doha to find peace after decades of war

Agencies

Kabul: Afghanistan's warring sides started negotiations in Doha on Saturday for the first time aimed at ending decades of war, bringing together delegates appointed by the Afghan government and the Taliban.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attended the opening ceremony, which was held in Qatar where the meetings will take place. It's the latest in a flurry of diplomatic activity by the Trump administration ahead of the US presidential election in November.

The discussions are important in the search for lasting peace that will also provide an exit for US and Nato troops after nearly 19 years.

The sides will try to tackle tough issues. This includes the terms of a permanent cease-fire, the rights of women and minorities and the disarming of tens of thousands of Taliban fighters and militias loyal to warlords, some of them aligned with the government.

The talks in Doha follow the US-brokered recognition of Israel by two Gulf nations — Bahrain on Friday and the United Arab Emirates earlier this month.

The Afghan sides are also expected to discuss constitutional changes, and power sharing.

Even seemingly mundane issues like the flag and the name

of the country — the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan or as the Taliban's administration had been known, when it ruled, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan — could find their way on to the negotiation table and roil tempers.

Among the government-appointed negotiators are four women, who vow to preserve women's rights in any power-sharing deal with the hardline Taliban. This includes the right to work, education and participation in political life — all denied to women when the Taliban ruled Afghanistan for five years. The Taliban were ousted in 2001 by a US-led coalition for harbouring Osama bin Laden, the architect of the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on America.

There are no women on the Taliban's negotiation team, led by their chief justice Abdul Hakim.

Pompeo has said he expected the discussions to be contentious.

Washington's peace envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad said on Friday that launching the talks is an important achievement, but that "there are difficulties, significant challenges on the way to reaching agreement".

"This is a test for both sides, for the Taliban and the government," he said. "Can they reach an agreement despite differences, in terms of their visions for the future of Afghanistan?"

The intra-Afghan negotiations were laid out in a peace deal Washington signed with the Taliban on Feb 29. At that time the deal was touted as Afghanistan's best chance at peace in 40 years of war.

The talks were originally expected to begin within weeks of the Feb 29 signing.

But delays disrupted the timeline from the outset. The Afghan government balked at releasing 5,000 Taliban prisoners, which was stipulated in the deal as a sign of good faith ahead of the negotiations. The Taliban were required to release 1,000 government and military personnel in their custody.

Political turmoil in Kabul further delayed talks as Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his rival in controversial presidential polls the year before, Abdullah Abdullah, squabbled over who won, with both declaring victory.

Abdullah was named to head the High Council for National Reconciliation overseeing the peace talks as part of a power-sharing agreement to end the bickering.

The Taliban's refusal to reduce the violence further hindered the start of talks.

While Washington ramped up pressure to get the intra-Afghan negotiations started, the deal they signed with the Taliban to withdraw completely from Afghanistan does not hinge on the success of the talks.

## World wildlife population has declined by 68pc in 46 years: study

Agencies

PARIS: Global animal, bird and fish populations have plummeted more than two-thirds in less than 50 years due to rampant over-consumption, experts said on Thursday in a stark warning to save nature in order to save human beings.

Human activity has severely degraded three-quarters of all land and 40 per cent of Earth's oceans, and our quickening destruction of nature is likely to have untold consequences on our health and livelihoods.

The Living Planet Index, which tracks more than 4,000 species of vertebrates, warned that increasing deforestation and agricultural expansion were the key drivers behind a 68 per cent average decline in populations between 1970 and 2016.

It warned that continued natural habitat loss increased

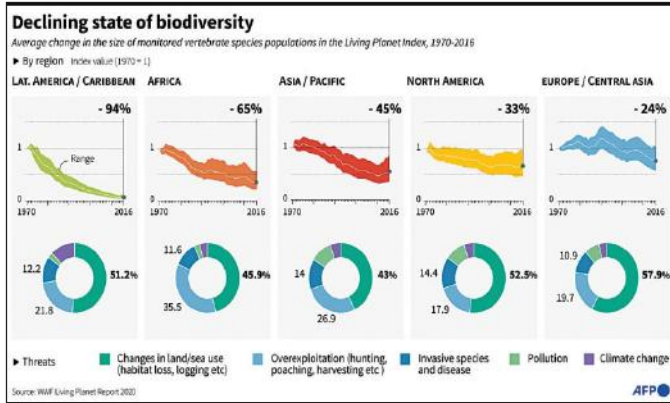
wildlife populations around the world.

WWF International director general Marco Lambertini said about the staggering loss of Earth's biodiversity since 1970: "It's an accelerating decrease that we've been monitoring for 30 years and it continues to go in the wrong direction," he said.

"In 2016 we documented a 60 per cent decline, now we have a 70pc decline. All this is in a blink of an eye compared to the millions of years that many species have been living on the planet."

The last half-decade has seen unprecedented economic growth underpinned by an explosion in global consumption of natural resources.

Whereas until 1970, humanity's ecological footprint was smaller than the Earth's capacity to regenerate resource-



the risk of future pandemics as humans expand their presence into ever-closer contact with wild animals.

This year's Living Planet Report, a collaboration between WWF International and the Zoological Society of London, is the 13th edition of the biennial publication tracking

es, the WWF now calculates we are overusing the planet's capacity by more than half.

While aided by factors such as invasive species and pollution, the biggest single driver of species lost is land-use changes: normally, industry converting forests or grasslands into farms.

## Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari executed, says state media

Agencies

Tehran: Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari has been executed after being convicted of stabbing to death a security guard, according to state media.

"The retaliation sentence against Navid Afkari, the killer of Hassan Turkman, was carried out this morning in Adelabad prison in Shiraz," state TV quoted the chief justice of Fars province, Kazem Mousavi, as saying on Saturday.

Authorities had accused Afkari, 27, of stabbing the water supply company employee in the southern city of Shiraz. Iran broadcast the wrestler's televised confession last week.

But Afkari said he was tortured into making a false confession, according to his family and activists. His lawyer said there was no proof of his guilt. Iran's judiciary, however, denied the torture claims.

Afkari and his brothers were employed as construction workers in Shiraz, 680km (420 miles) south of the capital, Tehran.

The provincial court in Shiraz also sentenced Afkari's brothers Vahid Afkari and Habib Afkari to 54 and 27 years in prison, respectively, over the killing.

Al Jazeera's Assed Baig, reporting from Tehran, said there are two different narratives about the murder.

"Outside Iran we're hearing that Navid Afkari was arrested due to these protests that took place in 2018 and alleged killing of a security officer. Inside Iran, it's very different. The judiciary released a statement a while ago - they said Navid Afkari was arrested after the murder of a 52-year-old water worker accompanying the Shiraz water company, and that murder took place on 23 July 2018.

"Navid Afkari was arrested by police a few days after, after they identified him using CCTV footage. As far as the judiciary is concerned, his arrest and conviction have nothing to do with the protests that took place," said Baig.

### Trump's appeal

Afkari's sentencing had triggered a social media campaign that portrayed him and his brothers as victims targeted for participating in the 2018 protests. On Tuesday, a global union representing 85,000 athletes had called for Iran's expulsion from world sport if it executed Afkari.

## US Hospitals Turn Down Remdesivir, Limit Use To Sickest COVID-19 Patients

Agencies

Washington: U.S. hospitals have turned down about a third of their allocated supplies of the COVID-19 drug remdesivir since July as need for the costly antiviral wanes, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) confirmed on Friday.

Some hospitals said they



are still buying the Gilead Sciences medicine to build inventory in case the pandemic accelerates over the winter. But they said current supplies are adequate, in part because they are limiting use to severely ill patients.

The Food and Drug Administration has allowed more liberal remdesivir use, but 6 out of 8 major hospital systems contacted by Reuters said they were not using it for moderate cases.

The slowdown suggests that a shortage of the drug is over and threatens Gilead's efforts to expand use of remdesivir, which it sells under the brand name Veklury in some countries.

An HHS spokesperson confirmed on Friday that between July 6 and September 8, state and territory public health systems accepted about 72% of the remdesivir they were offered. Hospitals in turn purchased only about two-thirds of what states and territories accepted, as previously detailed to Reuters by Michael Gano, senior director of pharmacy practice and quality at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Gilead did not respond to a request for comment.

A surplus of remdesivir - which costs \$3,120 for a 6-vial intravenous course - marks a turnaround from earlier in the pandemic, when supplies of the drug had fallen short of demand in some regions.

Government-led distribution of remdesivir will expire at the end of September. Hospitals said they have little information on availability after that.

## Pakistan, China invited to Russia war games

Agencies

MOSCOW: Russia said on Friday it would stage massive military drills in the Caucasus later this month with troops from several countries, including Pakistan, China and Iran, invited to participate.

More than 12,000 troops will take part in the "Caucasus-2020" war games, which will take place in southern Russia from Sept 21 to 26 and include land and naval exercises, Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin told a briefing.

"The Caucasus-2020 drills are not aimed against other countries," the defence ministry said in a statement.

Pakistan, China, Iran and Myanmar have been invited to take part in the drills, along with ex-Soviet Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus, the defence ministry said.

Up to 250 tanks and around

450 infantry combat vehicles and armoured personnel carriers will

President Vladimir Putin ordered 150,000 personnel to take part in



take part in the drills that will involve 80,000 people, including support staff, the statement said.

Russia regularly holds large-scale drills — two months ago

war games in the southwest.

The drills often involve allied countries, one of the biggest in recent years coming with China in 2018.

## Iran Former Top Judiciary Official Jailed For 31 Years Over Corruption

Tehran: Iran said Saturday it condemned a former top judiciary official to 31 years in prison for corruption, one of the heaviest sentences against a former official in the Islamic republic.

Akbar Tabari received the jail term after being convicted of "setting up and heading a bribery network", judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili told state television.

The high-profile trial of Tabari, who served in a number of senior roles in Iran's judiciary, opened in June alongside 21 other defendants.

In its ruling, Tehran's criminal court ordered Tabari to pay more than 430 billion rials (\$1.65 million) in fines. It also ordered the seizure of illegally



acquired properties.

Tabari was also found guilty of money-laundering, for which he was sentenced to 12 years and ordered to pay about 600 billion rials (\$2.3 million), said Esmaili.

The judiciary spokesman said the verdict could still be appealed and that, based on Iran's criminal code, Tabari would have to serve only the longest of the jail terms.

Among the properties to be confiscated were four apartments

in north Tehran, two business venues in the heart of the capital, and five plots of land in a popular northern tourist resort.

Tabari served as the former deputy head of administrative affairs at the judiciary.

He was later promoted to be the head of executive affairs and then executive deputy under then judiciary chief Ayatollah Sadegh Amoli Larijani from 2009 to 2019.

In March last year, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei replaced Larijani with Ebrahim Raisi, a religious conservative, and called on him to work "against corruption".

According to media reports, Raisi sacked Tabari "eight days after taking office" without providing a reason.

Tabari's arrest was confirmed by the judiciary on July 2019.

## Liberia declares rape a national emergency

Liberian President George Weah has declared rape a national emergency and has ordered new measures to tackle the problem after a recent spike of cases in the poor West African state.

The moves come after thousands of Liberians protested rising incidents of rape in the capital Monrovia last month, in a bid to draw attention to the country's alarming rate of sexual assault.

Late on Friday, Weah said he would install a special prosecutor for rape in Liberia, as well as set up a national sex offender registry, a statement from his office said.

The government will also establish a so-called "national security task force" on sexual- and gender-based violence.

The high rates of rape in impoverished Liberia, forced to contend both with war and the Ebola virus in recent years, has been a longstanding concern.

A UN report in 2016 recorded 803 rape cases the previous year in the country of 4.5 million, and found that only



two percent of sexual violence cases led to a conviction, for example.

It was the resulting sense of impunity and the legacy of the 14-year civil war between 1989 and 2003, when rape was commonplace, that had created the current problem, it said.

Incidents of rape appear to have risen sharply this year, however.

Margaret Taylor, the director of Liberia's Women Empowerment Network, told AFP last month that her NGO had recorded 600 cases of rape between June and August, for example.

## Pak appoints first VC of Baba Guru Nanak University

Lahore: Pakistan's Punjab government on Friday appointed the first vice-chancellor of the Baba Guru Nanak International University in Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Sikhism's founder Guru Nanak.

Professor Asghar Zaidi, the vice-chancellor of the College University Lahore, has been given the additional charge of the post of vice chancellor of Baba Guru Nanak International University (BGNU). He will be the first vice chancellor of the varsity located about some 80 kilometres from Lahore.

A notification was issued by the Punjab Higher Education Department after the approval of Chancellor/Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar on Friday.



## Missing Hunters From Arunachal Who Crossed LAC Handed Over To India By China



The five Indian hunters who went missing from Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri district and were found by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) returned to India on Saturday. This comes three days after PLA confirmed that they were found on the Chinese side and almost 10 days after they went missing.

The hunters from Upper Subansiri District had also inadvertently strayed across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the Indian Army approached PLA to trace and return them, a statement from the army read.

The army took over all five individuals at Kibitu on September 12 after completing all the formalities. The individuals will now be quarantined for 14 days as per COVID-19 protocol and will thereafter be handed over to their family members, the statement added.

On Friday, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju had confirmed that the individuals will be handed over to India by the PLA troops. "The Chinese PLA has confirmed to Indian Army to hand over

the youths from Arunachal Pradesh to our side. The handing over is likely to take place anytime tomorrow i.e. 12th September 2020 at a designated location," he had tweeted.

The five hunters had inadvertently crossed over to the other side and gone missing on September 2 from the Sino-Indian border in the district. China had on September 7 brushed off concerns over the whereabouts of the youths from a village in Arunachal Pradesh allegedly abducted by the PLA and said it has never recognised the northeastern state which it claims is part of south Tibet.

The Indian Army had told its Chinese counterpart about the five civilians, who were engaged as guides and porters by the Army in the Upper Subansiri district on the Sino-India border, on September 5. Those allegedly 'abducted' have been identified as Toch Singkam, Prasat Ringling, Dongtu Ebiya, Tanu Baker and Ngaru Dirri. The Arunachal villagers had gone for hunting in a jungle when they were allegedly kidnapped by the PLA.

Two members of the group reportedly returned home and informed that they had been whisked away by the Chinese troops from Sera-7, an Army patrol zone located about 12 km further north of Nacho, which is the last administrative circle along the McMahon Line and is around 120 km from the district headquarters Daporijo.

**THE HUNTERS FROM UPPER Subansiri District had also inadvertently strayed across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the Indian Army approached PLA to trace and return them, a statement from the army read.**

## NEET Leads To Another Girl's Death By Suicide In Tamil Nadu

The spate of deaths by suicide by NEET aspirants in Tamil Nadu continued with an 18-year-old girl from Madurai ending her life, a day before the medical examination was to be held on Saturday. The girl left a suicide note in which she wrote about the stress she was undergoing and the fear of failing the exam and thereby not getting a seat in a good medical college.

She is said to be a police sub-inspector's daughter and this was to be her second attempt at NEET. In her suicide note found in a book of hers, she asked her family members not to blame themselves for her death by suicide. She said she was taking this extreme step out of fear of failing the exam. Madurai Police have sent her body for an autopsy.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief MK Stalin, a very vocal and fierce critic of holding the NEET in the first place, had also been at the forefront opposing the holding of the career-defining exam under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic. He had asked the Central government to defer this

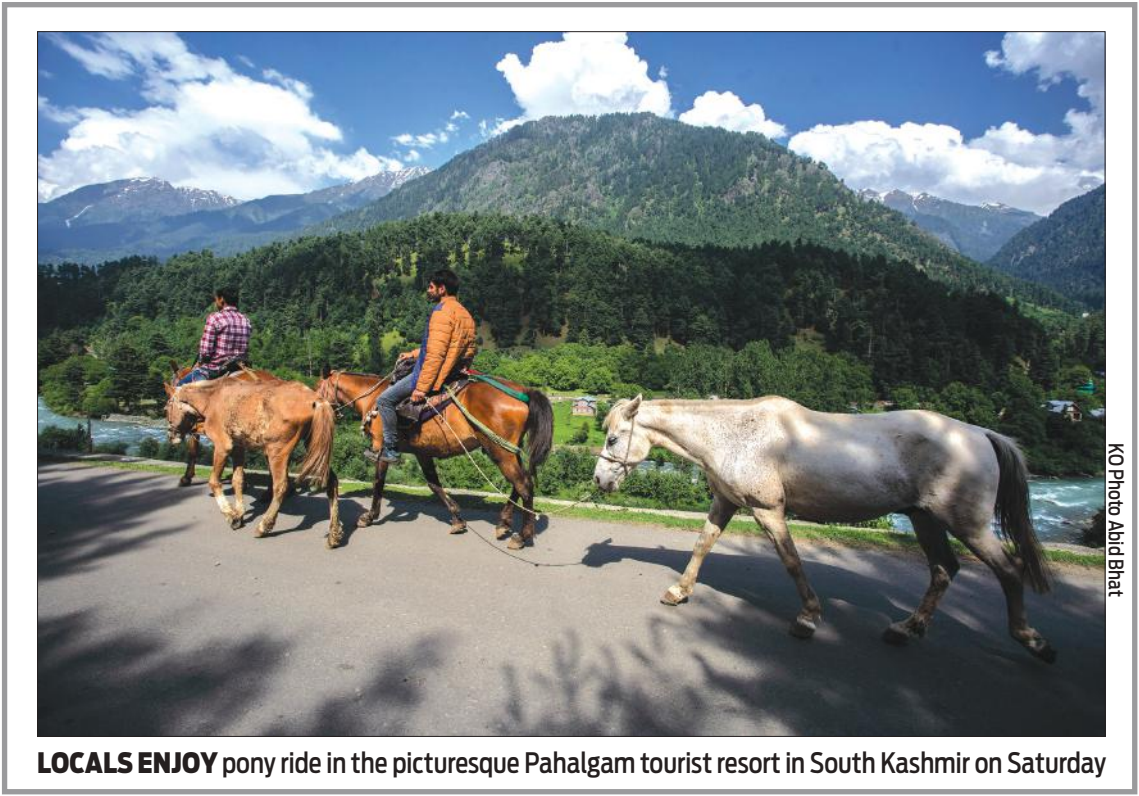


year's NEET for medical college admission.

Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) founder and Rajya Sabha MP Vaiko also slammed the BJP-led Centre, saying students were ending up taking their own lives due to the "imposition" of NEET on them.

Apart from scoring good marks in Class 12 exams, Vaiko said students from poor backgrounds were being filtered out by NEET and their dreams of getting into good colleges remains a dream. He further added the cancellation of NEET can prevent such deaths.

The AIADMK-led state government and opposition parties in Tamil Nadu have been against holding NEET and JEE Mains during the pandemic. Recently, two other students died by suicide due to NEET pressure in the state.



LOCALS ENJOY pony ride in the picturesque Pahalagam tourist resort in South Kashmir on Saturday

## There Will Be 'Flood' Of Pending Cases Post-Covid, Mediation Needs To Be Emphasised: CJI

Chief Justice of India S A Bobde on Saturday said that the COVID-19 pandemic would present a "huge pendency of cases" in courts and a lot of emphasis has to be placed on utilising mediation for resolving many of these matters.

The CJI also stressed on the need to focus on mental health and referred to the "uncomfortable prediction" that there might be a suicide pandemic following the COVID crisis.

"This COVID pandemic is going to present us with huge pendency of cases. I do not see any way out of it. We have to decide cases," the CJI said during a virtual event where he launched the book - 'Judiciary, Judges and the Administration of Justice' - authored by former top court judge Justice R Banumathi.

The CJI said he believes that this is the time when a lot of emphasis has to be placed on utilising mediation, pre-litigation and post-litigation mediation to resolve many matters.

"I am not suggesting every matter can be, but when the pandemic goes away and the lockdowns are all lifted, we are going to face a flood of cases



which I do not know how we are going to decide if we go in the usual way of following the detailed procedure and this is something which we all have to put in our minds together to deal with," he said. Addressing the gathering, Justice N V Ramana said judges are now being construed as soft targets for criticism and are becoming "victims of juicy gossip and slanderous social media posting".

Justice Ramana, the senior-most judge of the apex court after the CJI, said that judges have to balance their social life in order to be independent. "It is completely under the judge to maintain a distance. Judges themselves restrain from speaking in their own defence and they are now being construed as soft targets for criticism. This issue is further complicated by the proliferation of social media and

technology. Judges are becoming victims of juicy gossip and slanderous social media posting," he said.

Raising the issue of mental health, the CJI said it requires serious attention as there is a very "uncomfortable prediction" about a suicide pandemic. "I don't believe and sincerely hope that it does not happen," he said, adding that pandemic has brought two things amongst people which is very troublesome -- depressive tendency and unnecessary aggression.

"It is high time that we devote energy to mental health," he said, adding that the Supreme Court has taken an initiative to deal with the mental health issue and provide professional mental health advice, which the secretary general of the top court would soon announce.

He said the judiciary belongs to the nation and its achievements are the result of "unflinching dedication" and commitment of numerous individuals on and off the bench.

The CJI said that for judges and consequently for the judiciary, the biggest challenge is to ensure that the nation inches towards the goal set in the Constitution.

## COVID-19: India Sees 3Rd Consecutive Daily Spike Of Over 95,000 Cases

India's COVID-19 caseload raced past 46 lakh with a record 97,570 infections being reported in a day, while 36,24,196 people have recuperated so far, taking the national recovery rate to 77.77 per cent on Saturday, according to Union health ministry data.

The total number of coronavirus cases has mounted to 46,59,984, while the death toll climbed to 77,472 with 1,201 people succumbing to the infection in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8am showed.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate has further dropped to 1.66 per cent.

There are 9,58,316 active cases of COVID-19 in the country, which comprises 20.56 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and it went past 40 lakh on September 5.

The country has registered over 95,000 cases for the third consecutive day.

According to the Indian Council of



Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 5,51,89,226 samples have been tested up to September 11 with 10,91,251 samples being tested on Friday.

Of the 1,201 new deaths, 442 were reported from Maharashtra, 130 from Karnataka, 77 each from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, 76 from Uttar Pradesh, 63 from Punjab, 57 from West Bengal, 30 from Madhya Pradesh, 26 from Chhattisgarh, 25 from Haryana, 21 from Delhi, 16 each from Assam and Gujarat, 15 each from Jharkhand and Rajasthan and 14 each from Kerala and Odisha.

Twelve fatalities each have been reported from Bihar and Puducherry, 11 from Uttarakhand, 10 from Telangana, nine each from Jammu

and Kashmir and Tripura, eight from Goa, five from Himachal Pradesh, four from Meghalaya, three from Chandigarh, two from Ladakh while Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim have registered one fatality each.

Of the total 77,472 deaths, Maharashtra has reported the highest at 28,724 followed by 8,231 in Tamil Nadu, 7,067 in Karnataka, 4,779 in Andhra Pradesh, 4,687 in Delhi, 4,282 in Uttar Pradesh, 3,828 in West Bengal, 3,180 in Gujarat and 2,212 in Punjab.

So far, 1,691 people have died of COVID-19 in Madhya Pradesh, 1,207 in Rajasthan, 950 in Telangana, 932 in Haryana, 854 in Jammu and Kashmir, 797 in Bihar, 605 in Odisha, 532 in Jharkhand, 519 in Chhattisgarh, 430 in Assam, 410 in Kerala and 388 in Uttarakhand.

Puducherry has registered 365 fatalities, Goa 276, Tripura 182, Chandigarh 86, Himachal Pradesh 71, Andaman and Nicobar Islands 51, Manipur 44, Ladakh 38, Meghalaya 24, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh 10 each, Sikkim eight and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu two.

## Freedom Of Speech And Expression Not An Absolute Right: Bombay HC

The Bombay High Court on Friday said the freedom of speech and expression provided under Article 19 of the Constitution was not an absolute right. The court made the observation while refusing to grant interim protection from arrest to a woman charged by the Mumbai and Palghar police for allegedly making offensive remarks on Twitter against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son Aditya Thackeray.

A bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Kamik, however, accepted the state government's oral assurance that the woman, Sunaina Holey, will not be arrested in the case at least for the next two weeks.

The state, however, added that such relief will be subject to Holey visiting the Azad Maidan and Tulinj police stations Mumbai and Palghar district, respectively, for questioning, and "cooperating" with the police in their probe.

The bench also allowed Holey to approach the court at any time during this period in case the police decide to take any coercive action against her, or if any of her rights were breached.

Holey has approached the Bombay High Court through her counsel Abhinav Chandrachud, seeking that all the charges against her be dropped.

As an interim relief, she had sought that the court grant her protection from arrest till her case was heard finally and the court took a



decision on quashing the FIRs against her.

Holey has three FIRs filed against her, one in BKC cyber crime police station, another at Azad Maidan police station, and the third one at Tulinj police station in Palghar.

The FIRs were registered following complaints made by several persons, including by one Rohan Chavhan, a leader of the Shiv Sena's youth wing Yuva Sena.

As per the complaints, Sunaina Holey, 38, made offensive and defamatory comments against the Chief Minister and his son on Twitter.

She was arrested in August this year and released on bail in the case pertaining to the FIR registered against her by the BKC cyber crimes police.

On the remaining two FIRs, she was served notices under section 41A(1) of the CrPC, asking her to visit the concerned police stations for probe.

On Friday, the state's counsel Y.P. Yagnik told the court that Holey had not responded to the notices.

Advocate Chandrachud, however, said his client was apprehensive that if she visited the police, she would be arrested. Therefore, he sought interim relief. However, the bench said that interim protection from arrest could be granted only for arrest in rare case.

## Australia Beat England By 19 Runs In 1st ODI, Despite Billings's 100



Josh Hazlewood bowled brilliantly for 3-26 and took a diving catch for the key wicket of Jonny Bairstow to help Australia beat England by 19 runs despite a maiden century by Sam Billings in their one-day international in Manchester.

Needing a record chase at Old Trafford of 295 to win on Friday, England was reduced to 13-2 by Hazlewood and then 57-4 when leg-spinner Adam Zampa took two of his four wickets.

Bairstow (84) and Sam Billings (118 off 109 balls) put on 103 for the fifth wicket, but their partnership ended when Hazlewood got across to his right in cow corner to take a catch on the dive to remove Bairstow.

Billings pushed through for a defiant and innovative hundred but ran out of time in the face of some solid bowling under the lights, eventually losing his wicket off the final ball of the match. England finished on 275-9.

Hazlewood bowled so well early that he was given eight straight overs at the top of the innings, after which he had 2-21 with three maidens.

"There was a little bit there with the new ball and I made the most of it," said the pacesman, who is a mainstay in the Test team, but is sometimes rested in white-ball cricket.

"I was lucky to get a couple of early ones and keep them under pressure." Australia took the lead in the three-match series against the world champions without star batsman Steve Smith, who was rested as a precaution after being hit on the head in the nets on Thursday. Smith has passed a concussion test and will be assessed again on Saturday ahead of the second match in Manchester on Sunday.

Put into bat in the teams' first ODI since last year's World Cup, Australia was also in trouble—though not in quite so grave a position as England—at 123-5 in the 24th over but recovered thanks to a stand of 126 runs by Glenn Maxwell (77 off 59 balls) and Mitch Marsh (73).

They gradually turned the pressure back on the bowlers. Marsh played an important anchor role while Maxwell opened up, hitting spinner Adil Rashid twice over the fence. The next ball after his second six earned Maxwell his 20th ODI fifty.

Maxwell hit pacesman Jofra Archer for consecutive sixes in the 44th over but chopped the next ball on. Following his first fifty in two-and-a-half years, Marsh departed lbw to Mark Wood to end an innings that included six boundaries.

## NEWS MAKERS

## Two Booked For 'Selling' 1993 Blasts Convict Yakub Memon's Grave

Police have registered a case against two persons for allegedly selling the grave of Yakub Memon, the only convict in the 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts case to be hanged, an official said on Saturday.

Memon was buried at Marine Lines Bada Kabrastan in south Mumbai on July 30, 2015 after he was hanged in Nagpur central jail.

"A relative of Memon had approached the Lokmanya Tilak Marg police station in March with a complaint that his grave has been sold," the official said.

"The Memon family has been given total seven 'otthas'



(graves) at the cemetery. The complaint said that besides Yakub's, three more graves given

to the family were sold at Rs five lakh collectively," he said.

Based on the complaint, an offence under IPC sections 465 (forgery), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) was registered against two persons on March 19 this year—one of them a trustee and another manager of Juma Masjid of Bombay Trust, under which the Muslim Bada Qabristan is registered, he said.

"Due to the COVID-19 situation, police have launched a probe into the case now," he said.

Yakub, a chartered accountant by profession was the younger brother of another 1993 blast accused, Tiger Memon.

## Kangana Flight Controversy: DGCA Issues Strong Warning To Airlines

Aviation regulator DGCA on Saturday said a scheduled flight will be suspended for a period of two weeks if anyone is found taking photographs inside the plane. This announcement comes a day after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) asked IndiGo to take "appropriate action" after it found alleged violation of safety and social distancing protocols by mediapersons in the airline's Chandigarh-Mumbai flight that had actor Kangana Ranaut as a passenger.

According to a video of the incident that took place inside Wednesday's flight, reporters and cameramen were jostling and bunching up to get a comment from Ranaut, who was sitting in

one of the front rows of the plane. The DGCA order on Saturday said, "It has been decided that from now on, incase any violation (photography) occurs on any scheduled passenger aircraft—the schedule of flight for that particular route shall be suspended for a period of two weeks from the next day (of the incident)."

The order was sent to all domestic airlines in India. The order stated that as per Rule 13 of the Aircraft Rules 1937, no person is allowed to take any photographs inside a flight except when permission is granted by the DGCA or the Civil Aviation Ministry.

"In spite of these regulations, it has been noted that at times, the airlines



have failed to follow these stipulations primarily because of lack of diligence on their part," the order noted. "Needless to say that such deviations result in compromise in maintaining the highest standards of safety

and therefore, is not to be allowed," it mentioned.

Therefore, the order said if any incident of photography takes place inside any flight, that scheduled flight will be suspended for a period of two weeks and it will be "restored only after the airline has taken all the necessary punitive action against those responsible for the violation".

As per the DGCA rules, an airline can put an "unruly passenger" on its "no-fly list" for a certain period of time after an internal enquiry.

About the Chandigarh-Mumbai flight incident, a DGCA official had on Friday said that the prominent issues with the incident were related to "photography on board in violation of Aircraft rules 13,

violation of COVID-19 protocols and certain actions falling within the purview of unruly behaviour on board".

The Shiv Sena, which heads the alliance government in the state, and Ranaut had engaged in a war of words after she likened Mumbai to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and said she feared Mumbai Police more than alleged movie mafia.

On Wednesday morning, a team of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had demolished the alterations allegedly made without the civic body's approval at Ranaut's bungalow at Pali Hill in Mumbai. Ranaut arrived in Mumbai the same day after the demolition through the aforementioned IndiGo flight.