



Maximum : 29°C SUNSET
Today 06:37 PM
Minimum : 14°C SUNRISE
Humidity : 48% Tomorrow 06:14 AM



News Digest

BSF Trooper Dies Of Breathlessness

Srinagar: A Border Security Force (BSF) trooper posted in the frontier Kupwara district died of breathlessness, reports said Monday. Head Constable Sugna Ram posted at BSF Camp Trehgam in the border district Kupwara complained of breathlessness following which he was taken to the military hospital Drugmulla for treatment, news agency KNT reported. However, the doctors there pronounced him dead on arrival. The deceased was affiliated with 102 Battalion BSF, the report said. Meanwhile, police have started inquest proceedings under section 174 CrPC in this regard.

Explosive Device Defused In Pattan

Baramulla- The state forces on Monday morning claimed to have recovered some suspicious explosive material at Pattan area along Srinagar to Baramulla highway which was later destroyed. An explosive material was spotted by the Road Opening Party (ROP) of Army at Kutta mode in Pattan in north Kashmir's Baramulla district this morning, reported news agency KNO. The material as per the officials was defused later successfully by the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS), 29 RR, CRPF and Police. However, there was no loss of life or property in the incident.

Police Refutes Qazigund Firing Report

Srinagar: Police on Monday refuted reports about a militant attack in Dalwachi area of Qazigund in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. A senior Police officer told news agency GNS that three firing-like sounds were heard near Dalwachi Qazigund where police and CRPF were deployed. After thorough investigation it was determined that the sounds came from the silencer of a Maruti Van which was crossing the checkpoint. "No firing had taken place in the area, the officer said, adding "public is requested not to propagate rumours of firing on naka party."

Elderly Man Injured By Bear

Srinagar: An elderly man on Monday was attacked and injured by a bear in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 65-years- old Mohammad Ahsan Shah was attacked by the beast at Muqam-e-Shahwali area of Kupwara on Monday afternoon, officials said. Shah received injuries in the bear attack and was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. A health official told news agency KNS that the condition of injured elderly man was stable.

ZEO Office Shut As Officer Tests Positive

Srinagar: Authorities on Monday closed Zonal Education Office in the border town of Uri after an officer tested positive for COVID19 infection. An officer at the ZEO office Uri tested positive on Sunday which prompted the authorities to close the office till further orders, local news agency GNS reported. The report quoted an unnamed official as saying that Sub-division magistrate Uri issued directions for closure of the office till further orders. "Directions have been given to local Municipal committee for sanitization of office building" the official added.

LADAKH FACE-OFF

Situation Tense At Friction Points Along LAC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The overall situation at friction points in eastern Ladakh remains unchanged and continues to be tense, four days after foreign ministers of India and China agreed on a five-point plan to resolve the prolonged border standoff, government sources said on Monday.

The sources also said both the Indian and Chinese troops are firmly holding onto their respective positions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

They said while the situation in the region continues to be tense no fresh movement of Chinese troops was witnessed. The Indian Army will not lower its guard and will maintain the current state of very high-level of combat readiness in eastern Ladakh till there are visible changes in the ground situation, the sources added.

The sources said the date for the much-anticipated Corps commander-level talks between the two armies is yet to

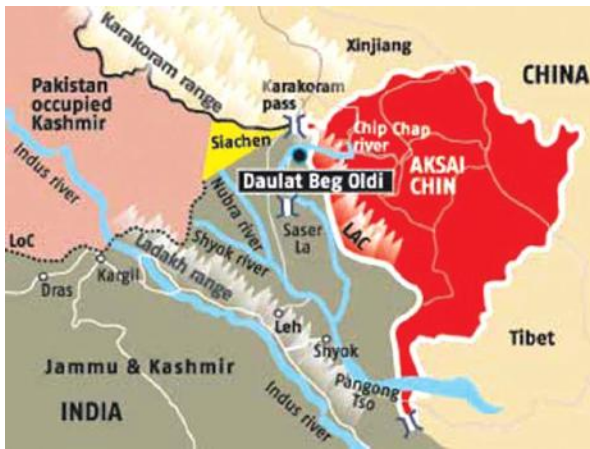


Image for representation

DM Likely To Make Statement In Parliament

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to make a statement in Parliament on Tuesday on the continuing standoff between Indian and Chinese troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, Parliamentary sources said. ● P-02

be firmed up but it is likely to take place in the next few days.

The military talks are expected to focus on implementation of certain provisions of

the five-point consensus to ease tensions.

India and China reached an agreement to resolve their border row at a meeting ● PAGE 02

Another Soldier's Brother Goes Missing

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A brother of an army man has gone missing from south Kashmir's Pulwama district, barely a week after police filed a missing report after a soldier's brother went missing in the neighbouring Anantnag district.

20-year-old Junaid Rashid Wani of Tumluhal village in Lassipora Pulwama has gone missing from last week, his family said Monday. A first semester student of GDC Pulwama, Wani was last seen by his family when he left to bring fodder for cattle.

Wani's sudden disappearance came at a time when the family was making preparations for the engagement of his brother, who is a soldier in Indian army.

"We tried to contact him but his cell phone was repeatedly off. Then we called all relatives and his friends but couldn't find him," Wani's father Abdul Rashid said.

On September 10, he said the family approached police station Lassipora and filed a missing complaint.

Meanwhile, the family has made a fervent appeal to Wani to return home. They have also urged militant groups and the state forces to return the youth, if he was in their custody.

Quoting an unnamed senior police officer, news agency KNO said that all angles of the youth's disappearance were being checked and efforts were on to trace him.

Pertinently, on Tuesday last Yasir Ahmed of Dooru in Anantnag also went missing ● PAGE 02

Major Legal Changes In J&K Generating Deep Anxiety: UNHCHR

'Rights To Freedom Of Expression And Association Curtailed In Pak Kashmir Too'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet on Monday expressed concern over the situation in Kashmir saying that government of India's August 5 move followed by domicile laws were generating deep anxiety among the people across Jammu and Kashmir

In her inaugural statement at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council on Monday, Michelle alleged that in Kashmir, incidents of military and police violence against civilians continue, including use of pellet guns, as well



File Pic

as incidents related to militancy.

"It has been more than a year since my last report on both Indian and Pakistan-administered

Kashmir. Major legal changes – including to the Constitution and domicile rules – are generating deep anxiety, but the ● PAGE 02

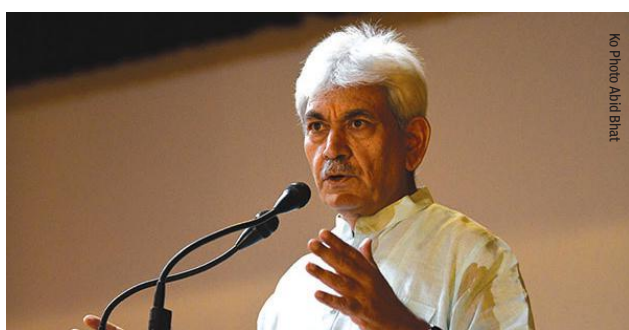
Centre Soon To Announce Financial Package For J&K: LG

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday that government of India will soon announce a financial package to revive the economy of the Union Territory.

Addressing a news conference at Raj Bhawan here on Monday, Sinha said that a committee constituted to suggest a package for the revival of business and other ailing sectors of J&K has submitted its report which is under consideration of the Government of India and a "big announcement about a massive financial package will be made within a week."

Terming the Back ● PAGE 02



No Photo Andh Bhat

LG Reviews Covid-19 Management

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday took stock of Covid-19 situation in Jammu and Kashmir in two back to back video conferences with all Deputy Commissioners and Doctors in the Union Territory. Taking cognizance of the various media reports regarding problems being faced ● P-02

'There Will Be No Injustice In Shopian Case'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said at a press conference here on Monday that a probe is going on into the July 18 Shopian encounter case and the government will ensure that there is no injustice. He said the administration and the army are probing the case and there won't be any injustice. "I will ensure that there is no injustice," the LG said. ● P-02

NC MPs Seek Discussion On Kashmir Situation In Parliament

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference MPs on Monday sought a discussion in Parliament on the situation of Jammu and Kashmir, citing the "unprecedented situation" in the Union Territory in the wake of the "unilateral, unconstitutional and undemocratic rescinding" of Articles 370 and 35A.

The party's Members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha -- Farooq Abdullah, Muhammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi -- claimed that post August 5, 2019, there has been a "surge" in the incidents of violence and skirmishes on the Line of Control and the Line of Actual Control almost on daily basis. "The Government of India's (GOI)

Farooq Raises Issue Of Dysfunctional Ventilators In Jammu

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah Monday attended the Monsoon Session of Parliament for the first time after a gap of more than a year since the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. Abdullah raises issue of oxygen shortage, ● P-02

August 5, 2019 decision of shearing the erstwhile state of J-K of its constitutional position and its division and downgrading into ● PAGE 02

In FOCUS Grounded 'Flight' At Srinagar Airport

Auqib Javed

Ajas, Bandipora — Barely 15 hours after her New Delhi 'flight' was cut short at Srinagar Airport, the 22-year-old Ajas girl began voicing her flouted story.

Along with her minor "niece", the girl was caught with an army man—Lance Naik Ashok Kumar Paul of Uttar Pradesh—posted some meters away from her residence, in 13 Kashtriya Rifles camp.

Inside their two-storied, concrete house, the girl's family wore long faces and struggled with

words. They didn't raise their eyes throughout the conversation.

Everything, they said, was going well, before they denied their daughter's hand to one of their pushy relatives — an army soldier posted outside Kashmir.

"He stood adamant," Ghulam Hassan (not his real name), the 60-year-old father of the girl told Kashmir Observer. "His desperation for my daughter was intimidating."

Hassan, a smalltime trader, lives with six daughters, including three-married ones, and three labourer sons.

To drive out the destitution in



Image for representation

her family, the daughter—the one caught with soldier at Srinagar Airport—started her own Khidmat Centre, in the village, with the help

of an acquaintance.

In a short span of time, she managed to get a Laptop, Xerox Machine and other essentials to run the centre.

However, getting a laptop was a "big thing" in the village, she told Kashmir Observer at her home.

"My neighbours and friends started questioning me about how I managed the laptop," the girl said. "Since I know they won't believe me, so I told them it belongs to my brother-in-law."

But the same brother-in-law's identity would soon come to haunt her.

She would frequent his Hajin house, "to pay a visit to my sister", before one fine day he was detained in a "militancy related case".

"I used to visit my sister's house because she was pregnant at that time," the girl continued. "It was then, some people, who were jealous of me, started spreading rumours that I was a courier of a local militant commander." ● PAGE 02

...BUDGAM CHOPPER FIASCO

Military Tribunal Stays Action Against 2 IAF Officers

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: An armed forces tribunal on Monday stayed disciplinary action against two officers who were held responsible for circumstances leading to the shooting down of an Mi-17 helicopter of the IAF by its own missile in Kashmir's Budgam on February 27 last year when the Indian and Pakistani air forces were engaged in a fierce dogfight.

The disciplinary action initiated by the Indian Air Force against Group Captain SR Chowdhary and Wing Commander Shyam Naithani based on a Court of Inquiry into the crash of the chopper has been stayed by the Principal Bench of the Armed Forces



File Pic

Tribunal, Advocate Ankur Chibber, the lawyer of the two officers, said.

A high-level probe by the IAF found that a surface-to-air missile of the force brought down the chopper. Six IAF personnel on board the chopper and a civilian on the ground were killed in the crash.

The helicopter crashed in Budgam at around 10 AM on ● PAGE 02

Commercial Complex In Residential Colony

Baagaat Residents Seek ACB's Intervention

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Anger is brewing among residents of Baagaat in uptown Srinagar against authorities for “allowing construction of a commercial complex” in their residential area.

A multi story building is fast coming up at Nawichbagh, Baagaat, which the residents say is meant for commercial purposes in a purely residential zone. Residents have filed a case with police as apprehensions of law and order break down in the locality grew after the builder ignored their warnings to stop construction.

“First Srinagar Municipal Corporation had granted permission for construction of the building for residential purpose and then put the permission order in abeyance after residents resented the move and now to the utter shock of the locals, the construction that too for



the commercial complex has started again,” Muhammad Arif Bhat, President local Mohalla committee Nawichbagh, Meh-boob Colony Baagaat said.

He appealed to the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) to take

cognisance of the matter and file a case against those responsible for the illegal activity.

“We had no objection if the building was for residential purpose, but ironically, despite the assurances given by the owner

and SMC, the building is now taking shape of a commercial complex. It is a residential area and we won't allow any commercial activity here,” residents said, adding the tall structure has breached privacy of scores of households in the locality.

Residents are demanding action against the SMC Field Staff whom they accuse of being hand in glove with the developer.

They said the petition of the owner was earlier rejected by a SMC Tribunal and subsequently the SMC put the permission in abeyance. “But surprisingly, the SMC didn't follow the case when he filed a second petition in the Tribunal. There is something fishy,” they alleged.

Residents in a memorandum have now urged the SMC commissioner Gazanfar Ali to order a probe into the whole affair.

SMC Commissioner has meanwhile assured residents that he will look into the matter.

National Webinar On NEP-2020 Begins In CUK

GANDERBAL: Three-day national webinar on “Perspectives of National Education Policy 2020 With Special Reference To School Education, Teacher Education And Higher Education” organized by the School of Education (SoE), Central University of Kashmir (CUK) in association with Indian School Psychological Association (InSPA) began in the varsity's Green Campus here on Monday.

Welcoming the guests, Dean, SoE, Dr. Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani, highlighted the importance of National Education Policy and emphasized that the policy should be implemented in letter and spirit.

In his opening remarks, Registrar, Prof. M Afzal Zargar highlighted positive aspects of National Educational Policy 2020 like change in the GDP which is recommended to be 6 per cent.

Former Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Pondicherry University and SAR



University, Prof Jalees Ahmad Khan Tareen, in his keynote address remarked that this document (NEP-2020) will prepare Indian youth for global market. He also highlighted few grey areas of the document viz. lack of provision for critical mass, diversity of teachers and students, recruitment of teachers across the country and globe, liberalization of thought, scientific temper and many more.

President, InSPA, Dr. Panch Ramalingam, in his special address appreciated the overall organization, structure and

success of the webinar.

In his presidential address, CUK Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir, highlighted that the education system of the country has witnessed tremendous changes that took place from Radhakrishnan Commission to National Policy on Education 1986 to National Education Policy 2020. Prof. Mir stressed that these far-reaching changes like service conditioning of teachers, professional development, career advancement schemes took place only to improve education system of the country.

Situation Tense At Friction ...

between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow last Thursday on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet. The agreement included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC. It also mentioned that the two sides should expedite work to conclude “new confidence building measures” to enhance peace and tranquillity in the border areas. However, the agreement has not mentioned any timeline for disengagement of troops.

Meanwhile, Chinese envoy Sun Weidong, referring to consensus reached during previous talks between leaders of the two countries, said both sides should “pursue win-win cooperation” instead of “zero-sum game”. “I hope and believe that as long as the two sides earnestly implement the consensus reached by the two foreign ministers to the front-line troops and adhere to the correct means of dialogue and negotiation, the two sides will find a way to overcome the current difficulties,” Sun was quoted as saying by the Chinese embassy. He was commenting on the Jaishankar-Wang talks. The envoy further said: “As long as the two sides keep moving the relationship in the right direction building on the previous achievements, there will be no difficulty or challenge that can't be overcome.” The five-point consensus at the Jaishankar-Wang talks came days after a fresh confrontation between the two armies early last week in eastern Ladakh that triggered a massive military build up by both sides in almost all friction points along the LAC.

The Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army(PLA) have been locked in a tense standoff in multiple areas along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since early May. Shots were fired across the LAC on Monday last for the first time in 45 years with the two sides accusing each other of firing in the air. In the five rounds of the Corps commander-level talks, the Indian side has been insisting on immediate restoration of status quo ante in all areas of eastern Ladakh prior to April. The face-off in eastern Ladakh erupted on May 6. At the Jaishankar-Wang talks, the Indian delegation highlighted its strong concern over amassing of troops and military equipment by China along the LAC besides referring to “provocative behaviour” by Chinese army personnel at numerous incidents of friction. The Indian side clearly conveyed that it expected full adherence to all agreements on management of border areas and would not countenance any attempt to change the status quo unilaterally, according to the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA). Last week, the Army further bolstered its dominance over a number of strategic heights overlooking key Chinese-held positions around the Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh

DM Likely To Make Statement ...

The statement would assume significance in the backdrop of demands made by the Opposition for a debate on the issue. Singh had met his Chinese counterpart Gen Wei Fenghe in Moscow recently.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi had also met in Moscow a few days ago.

Meanwhile, the Union Cabinet and the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs are also likely to meet over video conferencing on Tuesday afternoon, government sources said. During the monsoon session, which began on Monday, the opposition is seeking to corner the government on its handling of the standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, the COVID-19 situation, economic downturn and unemployment, and is pressing for discussions on these issues. The Congress and other opposition parties raised these demands in the first business advisory committee (BAC) meeting for Lok Sabha chaired by Speaker Om Birla on Sunday, but no time has been allocated yet for these discussions. The BAC for Lok Sabha will be held again on Tuesday afternoon to further discuss the first week's business schedule. Similar demands have been raised by the Congress in the BAC for Rajya Sabha as well.

30 MPs Test Covid-19 Positive...

All those who have tested positive have been asked to stay in quarantine and they did not come to Parliament, sources said.

The monsoon session, which began on Monday, is being held in two different shifts—Rajya Sabha will sit in the mornings and Lok Sabha in the second half of the day. Some of these MPs went public with their test reports through Twitter, including BJP MPs Meenakshi Lekhi, Suresh Angadi, Ram Shankar Katheria and Praveesh Rama “After the routine Parliament test for COVID & genome test it's confirmed that I have tested positive for the virus. I am currently in good health & spirits. I request everyone who has been recently in contact with me to get tested. Together We will fight & defeat Corona,” Lekhi tweeted. RLP MP Hanuman Beniwal, who also tested positive, questioned the COVID-19 test conducted in the Parliament premises saying he tested negative in Jaipur around the same time. “I underwent a COVID-19 test in parliament premises and was declared positive. Then I was tested at a hospital in Jaipur and the report said I am negative. Which report should be considered accurate?” Beniwal tweeted in Hindi. Meanwhile, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said wider arrangements have been made to ensure the safety of MPs and all others in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Confident of smooth functioning of the monsoon session, Birla said as 359 MPs were present on the first day and he was hopeful that the session will complete its tenure.

Covid-19 Claims 17 More Lives...

Bandipora and Ganderbal. Two of the deaths in the Valley were reported from SKIMS Soura and includes a 70-year-old man from Lalbazar Srinagar who was admitted on September 13 and diagnosed with “bilateral pneumonia, hypertension, T2DM and CKD.” “He had cardiopulmonary arrest,” a doctor at the tertiary care hospital told GNS. The other victim was a 70-year-old woman from Lalpura Kunzar Tangmarg Baramulla who was admitted on September 8 and was diagnosed with “HTN with OLD STROKE with Severe Covid Pneumonia.” The victim from Kupwara was a 70-year-old woman from Hyhama Kupwara who was admitted to SMHS hospital on September 10 and diagnosed as a case of bilateral community acquired pneumonia, officials said. Regarding fatality from Ganderbal, they said, a 90-year-old woman died at her home, two hours

after she tested positive. “She was contact of a positive person who informed the authorities that there was woman at her home whose condition is very serious. Her sample was taken and she died after two hours while her test came out to be positive for the virus,” officials said. The other victims were two residents of Budgam and Pulwama, they added. With these deaths, 897 people have died in Jammu and Kashmir. (With GNS inputs)

2 IAS Officers Among New...

infected includes two IAS officers besides at least nineteen army soldiers, twenty paramilitary CRPF men, three doctors and 15 minors. With 84 travelers among them, official sources said 837 cases were from Jammu and 392 from Kashmir Valley. Giving breakup of the cases, they said Srinagar reported 119, Budgam 78, Baramulla 14, Pulwama 40, Anantnag 24, Kupwara 17, Bandipora 45, Kulgam 2, Ganderbal 43, Shopian 8, Jammu 392, Udhampur 54, Rajouri 87, Kathua 27, Samba 38, Poonch 57, Ramban 14, Doda 113, Reasi 29 and Kishtwar 26. Moreover, the officials said, 644 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 231 from Jammu Division and 413 from Kashmir Valley.

Another Soldier's Brother...

under similar circumstances. Ahmad's brother is also working in army. A few days after his disappearance, an unverified audio clip surfaced on social media in which Wani claimed to have joined militant ranks.

Major Legal Changes In J&K...

space for political debate and public participation continues to be severely restricted, particularly since new media rules have prohibited vaguely defined “anti-national” reporting,” she said. While welcoming the release of some political and community leaders, Michelle said that hundreds of people remain in arbitrary detention, with many habeas corpus petitions still pending – including those of many of Jammu and Kashmir's political leaders.

“I welcome the initiatives to extend services to remote areas, and the recent conditional restoration of full Internet connectivity in two districts – which should be applied promptly to the rest of Jammu and Kashmir,” she said. Speaking about the Pak-controlled Kashmir, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said that people there also have limited Internet access, creating difficulties in accessing education and other vital services. “I remain concerned about ongoing restrictions to the rights to freedom of expression and association. My office is committed to continuing its engagement with both India and Pakistan, to uphold the rights of the Kashmiri people – which is the best way to prevent further tensions and conflict,” she added. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also highlighted the grim situation in Afghanistan. The statement said, “In Afghanistan, the human cost of conflict remains unacceptably high with some 3,500 civilian casualties this year, and continuing attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel - a situation that is severely exacerbated by COVID-19”. It added, “With the formal start of intra-Afghan peace talks on 12 September, I reinforce the call for an immediate reduction in violence, a humanitarian pause, and the need for victim-centered justice and inclusion of marginalised groups' concerns”.

UGC-NET exam to be Held...

thereof. The exact schedule of subject-wise and shift-wise details will be uploaded subsequently,” she added. The June 2020 exam along with various other exams had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown. The new schedule for various exams was released by the NTA in the last week of August

Centre Soon To Announce...

to Village programme as historic, Sinha said that the administration is committed to give transparent and people centric governance in Jammu and Kashmir. “As we are aware that this exercise involved the visit of over 4000 Gazetted officers of J&K to each and every Panchayat and spending two days and a night there. It was also an opportunity to support and strengthen the newly constituted Panchayats,” LG said. He observed that the programme was a big success as there was a free and frank discussion on issues, problems, and complaints. “People participated enthusiastically and it was almost a festive atmosphere,” he recalled the flagship programmes two earlier phases,” he said. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a special mention of it in his ‘Man Ki Baat’, calling it ‘festival of development, public participation and public awareness and again made a mention of the programme in his Independence Day speech of 2020,” he added.

Giving the background of the second phase of B2V, the LG said that encouraged by the success of the programme, the government organized the B2V2 programme in November 2019. On the occasion, the focus was on ensuring that funds and functions devolved to the Panchayats were used without any bottlenecks and that beneficiary oriented schemes actually reached to the last person. “We have planned the 3rd version of the programme Back to Village–3 B2V3 from October 2nd to 12th and it shall be far more advanced, action packed and ambitious than its predecessors. It shall be an action programme in order to build on and resolve the issues raised earlier,” Sinha said. He further said the actual programme shall be preceded by a three week long Jan Abhiyanphase with three important component viz Adhikar Abhiyan (Muhim Barai-e-Haqooq)-Service Delivery and 100% saturation of beneficiary scheme; Unnat Gram Abhiyan (Dehi Taraqiyati Muhim)- Mega Development push at the ground level and Jan Sunwai Abhiyan (Awami Sunwai Muhim) - Public Grievance Redressal.

Sinha said that during the Jan Sunwai Abhiyan phase, a Block Diwas shall be organised in every block/sub division headquarter on every Wednesday of a week when all departmental functionaries shall be available at a notified place with all supporting staff and equipment to ensure immediate on the spot disposal of applications and redressal of grievances. “Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police and senior district officers to personally visit each block/sub divisional headquarters over the three-week Jan Abhiyan period (September 10 to October 1, 2020) and public hearing daily from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 am for 5 days a week by DCs and SPs,” he said. He further stressed on to address public grievances religiously and visit all subdivisions on rotational basis by DCs, SPs and designated Additional Deputy Commissioners and Addi-

tional Superintendents of Police for larger reach of the Jan Abhiyan.

On this occasion, LG informed that the government has also launched the JKIGRAMS- Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System to completely revamp, strengthen and decentralize the existing Grievance mechanism. The LG also directed all administrative secretaries to visit their allotted districts and review the Muhim and guide the DCs. “As part of Unnat Gram Abhiyan (Dehi Taraqiyati Muhim)- B2V1/B2V2 demands shall be prioritised for execution. It shall be ensured that at least 2 major works identified as demands/ priorities during B2V1/B2V2 are completed before October 2, 2020. Over Rs 400 crore have already been authorised for the same,” he said. The LG elucidated that the 21 day action packed Jan Abhiyan shall culminate into a 10 day B2V-3 programme where the experiences and achievements of the preceding weeks shall be collated. “To my mind, this flagship practice is the first such attempt at a concentrated and determined developmental push” the Lt Governor said. “I am confident that this unique effort shall earn the respect of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and that it will be remembered for long as a unique and sincere effort of the government to reach out to the door steps of the people,” he added.

Later, the LG issued various necessary directions to all the Deputy Commissioners for the smooth and successful conduct of the flagship programs, through Video conferencing from Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said maintained that the government is committed to empower villages. He directed the DCs to ensure that people themselves decide and government machinery acts as a facilitator in the overall developmental process. “The LG exhorted that people should not face any difficulty in accessing the services of the government. The Lt Governor also set the timeline of September 30, 2020 for saturation of individual beneficiaries of all Centrally Sponsored Social Assistance and Welfare schemes,” the official spokesperson added.

LG Reviews Covid-19...

by COVID patients admitted in various facilities, LG Sinha held two back to back video conferences with all Deputy Commissioners and Doctors handling the COVID management at the forefront and reviewed the measures being taken for the overall containment of the deadly infection in the Union Territory, an official spokesperson said. He said that the LG was briefed by Prof. A. G. Ahangar, Director SKIMS; Dr. Nasib Chand Digra, Principal, Govt. Medical College Jammu and Dr. Samia Rashid, Principal, Govt. Medical College Srinagar about the updated status of patient management, facilities being provided, and the status of requisite medical equipment, medicines, and oxygen supply. “Deliberations were also held on various important aspects, including increasing the testing capacity, awareness on COVID-19 SOPs by involving religious leaders, better roster management to ensure availability of experienced doctors round the clock etc, which are imperative for effective management of Covid patients,” the official spokesperson said. He said the Deputy Commissioners along with the Chief Medical Officers briefed the LG about the measures being taken to ensure adherence of Covid SOPs and perimeter control in areas having a high density of positive cases. “The Lt Governor directed the DCs to ensure that the available resources are efficiently utilized within their respective districts. He also asked them to ensure that they deal with the public as well as the frontline workers in a cordial and sympathetic manner,” the official spokesperson said.

Sinha, he said also sought active support of religious leaders and prominent persons to create awareness about Covid SOPs. The official spokesperson said that while appreciating the efforts of Doctors, Civil & Police personnel, paramedics, and all frontline workers, the LG exhorted upon all concerned to make concerted efforts and leave no stone unturned in their fight against Covid. “The Lt Governor observed that People have a lot of expectations from all frontline workers, especially Doctors and the situation demands that everyone rises to the occasion to serve in the best possible way. He also assured tertiary hospitals/ medical colleges of full government support to address their concerns in the fight against Covid,” the official spokesperson said. “There should be no compromise with hygiene inside hospital premises and preemptive measures be taken to ensure the supply of requisite facilities to the patients,” he added. According to the official spokesperson, the LG said that the mortality rate can be reduced with aggressive testing and early care

'There Will Be No Injustice...

Pertinently, the encounter took place on July 18 when the Army claimed to have killed three militants at Amshipora in the higher reaches of Shopian in south Kashmir. However, little over two weeks thereafter, missing complainants were lodged in Rajouri area of Jammu region by the families of three youths, working as labourers in apple and walnut orchards, who had disappeared from the same region and they had last talked to them on July 17. The Army has already instituted a high-level Court of Inquiry to probe the incident and statements of Army personnel were recorded on Tuesday. DNA samples have been collected from Rajouri families by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and sent for matching with those of the alleged terrorists killed on July 18. The relatives of three youths, belonging to Dhar Sakri village in Kotranka of Rajouri area in Poonch, had lodged a written missing persons report at the local police station after they lost contact with them on July 17. In their complaint, they informed the police that they had last spoken to the three, who were mainly involved in apple and walnut trading, on July 17 when the youths had informed their families that they had got a room at Ashimpura in Shopian. The same place was the site of the encounter the next day and since then there has been no report about the three, the families said in their complaint. Three boys, Mohammad Imtiyaz and Ibrar Ahmed, both residents of Kathuni mohalla of Dharsakri village of Rajouri, and Mohammad Ibrar, a resident of Tar-kassi village of Rajouri, left their homes to work as labourers in Kashmir's Shopian and went out of contact with their families after July 17 late evening. The father of Imtiyaz, one of the missing persons, was seen on social media pleading for a visit to Kashmir and exhuming the bodies of his son and others for a proper burial in Rajouri.

NC MPs Seek Discussion On...

two Union territories has resulted in an unprecedented situation in the entire region. They asserted that the measures taken by GOI, besides giving a

lie to the sovereign commitments of the country to the people of J-K, have pushed the entire region into a precarious situation,” a statement issued by the NC said. The NC MPs in the Lok Sabha said there has been no thaw in violence-related incidents inside J-K. “So far, the situation in the entire region has brought to front our valid apprehensions; the promised development, creation of jobs is still not perceptible on the ground,” the statement said. “On the contrary, the industries, handicrafts, tourism, and other vital sectors of the entire region are reeling under huge losses. The MPs also said the measures undertaken on 5th of August last year have failed to bring promised dividends and that the situation is converse to what was promised by the ruling dispensation in the Parliament. Hundreds are languishing in jails far away from their homes,” it added. The MPs said the gags and curbs on the internet continue to hamper students' access to the digital world. “The matter is of urgent nature and calls for immediate discussion,” they demanded.

Farooq Raises Issue Of ...

dysfunctional ventilators in Jammu hospitals in Parliament He expressed grave concern over the shortage of oxygen in Jammu Hospitals, saying the situation is reportedly quite worrisome particularly in the wake of alarming spike in COVID 19 cases during the past one week. Responding to the Union Health Minister during Zero Hour in e Parliament on the opening day of the monsoon session, Dr Farooq said, “As per media reports, the situation in Jammu Hospitals is worrisome. Reportedly hospitals managing COVID 19 cases are facing acute shortage of oxygen thereby putting the lives of critical corona virus patients at risk. It is distressing to know that nothing substantial is being done to alleviate the problem.” Dr Farooq Abdullah also raised the issue of dysfunctional 60 ventilators that are meant to provide life support to critically ill patients and called for immediate necessary measures to strengthen the healthcare support system to meet the challenge of pandemic.

Military Tribunal Stays ...

February 27 when Indian and Pakistani fighter jets were engaged in fierce aerial combat in Nowshera. The helicopter went down around 10 minutes after taking off. “Both the officers had challenged the court of inquiry as well as its findings on the grounds of violation of rule 156 sub clause two of air force rules,” Chibber said, adding they also questioned composition of the Court of Inquiry. He said the tribunal headed by Lt Gen (retd) Philip Campose and Justice Rajendra Menon found violations in formation of the Col and directed that no action should be taken against the two officers. The next date of hearing in the case September 30. The probe had found that the ‘Identification of Friend or Foe’ (IFF) system on-board the helicopter was switched off and there were ‘vital gaps’ in communication and coordination between the ground staff and the crew of the chopper. It also found violations of standard operating procedures. The IFF helps air defence radars identify whether an aircraft or helicopter is friendly or hostile. At his annual press conference on October 4 last year, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria had called the incident a “big mistake” and promised action against those found guilty. Following the incident, the IAF transferred the Air Officer Commanding (AOC) of Srinagar base to ensure a thorough probe into the incident.

Grounded 'Flight' At Srinagar...

The rampaging rumours, she recalled, soon fell on army's ears. And with that, she said, midnight raids began. “But despite repeated raids, they found nothing against me,” the girl said. “Even then, I was told that I feed militants and the commander, but the truth is, I don't know any of them.” Those explanations, however, hardly helped. Since her married sister's Hajin house was “on the radar”, the girl's visit there only made her a suspect. Soon, she recalled, an army officer would tell her father: ‘Your daughter is working with militants!’ “I told him to give me the proof,” Hassan broke his long, disturbing silence. “I even told them: Punish her, if proven guilty.’ But they never found anything against my daughter.” But in a small village in Ajas, the rumours were only getting rampant. First stemming from the girl's Khidmat centre gadgetry followed by her routine visits to her sister's home, rumours had indeed spread like a wild fire. “Some even spread canards like we gave ration from our shop to militants,” the girl said. “I was aware how everybody was talking about me. Such labeling and baseless allegations did an irreparable damage to my person in a place where army is at a stone's throw away from where I live. All this started taking a huge mental toll on me,” she said, as tears rolled down on her cheeks. While struggling in her personal life, she never forgot to take care of her ailing father. She would arrange medicines and other essentials for him. “I literally fought with army during one of those raids, shouting: You're harassing us,” the girl said. Kashmir Observer tried to reach out to Srinagar-based army spokesperson and senior police officials for their comments on the story. Most of them declined to share their versions, despite the recent media corps raising the “absence of the other side” of the story with Raj Bhavan. As and when they respond to the queries, this story will be updated. Meanwhile, during her tumultuous time, the girl kept receiving calls from her soldier relative, whose proposal her family had rejected earlier. He questioned her about the ‘rumours’ and ‘scolded’ her for the same. “He kept abusing me day-in and day-out for the same,” she said. “I was still wondering why he was calling me. I believe he didn't give-up on me.” During this traumatic period, she had met the army man from UP. When this reporter asked the girl how she came in contact with the soldier, she became hesitant. “The society forced me to do this [to run away with the soldier],” she said. “First I was linked with militants, then allegation started that the army is visiting our house to seek sexual favours from me.” The real motive behind her flight, she said, was to know the people behind her “vilification”. How? She seems to have no idea. Somehow her family believes that it was the same relative, who in a “fit of rage”, defamed her, as his “ego was hurt” after the proposal was rejected. But as army's erring elite counterinsurgent soldier has been released after questioning, there're many unanswered questions which people are asking. Among them is, how did the soldier come in contact with the girl? And what made her to travel with him. Clearly, as plot thickens, many say, all eyes are now on police investigation.

to Government of India after approval by UT Level Approval and Monitoring Committee.

It was also apprised that scheme envisages Financial Assistance to Fish farmers, Fishers, SHG's, JLG's, FPO's Private entrepreneurs/Firms and can be implemented in convergence with other schemes like RKVY, PMKSY, MNREGA, NRLM and KCC.

Regarding several complaints received about irregularities in price fixation of trout fish by the Fisheries Department for private entrepreneurs, the Director clarified that price fixation is only for Departmental sale centres and private entrepreneurs are free to sell their produce as per market forces of demand and supply.

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

ISHA 8:03

- 1966 - First British nuclear ballistic missile submarine HMS Resolution launched
- 1968 - Launch of Zond 5, 1st lunar fly-around with Earth re-entry
- 1968 - Probable Test flight for a manned fly-around (scooped by Apollo 8)
- 1970 - PLO leader Arafat threatens to make a cemetery of Jordan
- 1972 - An SAS domestic flight from Gothenburg to Stockholm was hijacked and flown to Malmö-Bulltofta Airport.
- 1973 - OPEC supports price hikes and designates six Gulf countries to negotiate collectively with companies over prices; other members to negotiate individually
- 1974 - Air Vietnam flight 727 is hijacked, then crashes while attempting to land with 75 on board.
- 1976 - Soyuz 22 carries 2 cosmonauts into Earth orbit for 8 days
- 1978 - Muhammad Ali beats Leon Spinks in 15 rounds for heavyweight boxing title
- 1981 - The John Bull becomes the oldest operable steam locomotive in the world when the Smithsonian Institution operates it under its own power outside Washington, D.C.
- 1981 - Vanuatu becomes a member of the United Nations.
- 1982 - Israeli forces began pouring into west Beirut
- 1982 - Pope John Paul II receives PLO leader Yasser Arafat
- 1988 - Test Cricket debut of Ian Healy, vs Pakistan at Karachi
- 1990 - France announce it will send 4,000 troops to Persian Gulf
- 1991 - US women's gymnastics team win 1st World Championships medal (silver)
- 1996 - Bangladesh beat UAE by 104 runs to win the ACC Trophy Final
- 1998 - With the landmark merger of WorldCom and MCI Communications completed the day prior, the new MCI WorldCom opens its doors for business.
- 1998 - Google.com is registered as a domain name
- 2011 - The St. Thomas Assembly plant is closed permanently after decades of providing employing to the region of St. Thomas, Ontario and resulting in the loss of roughly 1,400 well-paid jobs
- 2012 - Japan announces that it will phase out nuclear energy by the 2030s
- 2013 - 21 people are killed in a series of bombings in Baghdad and Shia provinces, Iraq
- 2013 - 27 people are killed after a coal mine collapses in Afghanistan
- 2013 - Japan switches off its last working nuclear reactor
- 2013 - Edi Rama is elected Prime Minister of Albania
- 2014 - Ewa Kopacz becomes Prime Minister of Poland
- 2014 - President Obama announces the US will send 3,000 troops to help combat spread of the Ebola virus
- 2015 - EU Migrant Crisis: Hungary seals its border with Serbia with a razor-wire fence, stranding thousands of migrants

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KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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For peace in Afghanistan

In a step towards forming a power-sharing government, the Taliban and the Afghan government began peace talks in Qatar on Saturday that was participated by India too in a calibrated change in its policy towards the ongoing peace process in the war-torn country. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar joined the ceremony via video link while South Block sent a senior official to Doha to attend the meeting. Jaishankar told the gathering that the peace process must be “Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled”, “respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan” and “promote human rights and democracy”.

Taliban's negotiations with Afghan government followed the US-Taliban deal in February that paved the way for a phased 14 month withdrawal of the US forces and the release of 5000 Taliban's prisoners. The deal was made possible by Taliban promise that they would not all Afghan soil to be used by foreign terrorist organisations as a staging ground for global attacks. The US-Taliban agreement was signed in the presence of leaders from Pakistan, Qatar, Turkey, Indonesia, Uzbekistan Tajikistan and also India.

There's hope that a sustained Taliban-Afghan government engagement would lead to some kind of settlement. If the talks hold and are carried to their logical conclusion, it could be a matter of time before Taliban will take over the country in a power sharing arrangement with the other groups.

However, eventually the peace and stability in Afghanistan will have to be the responsibility of the regional powers. And it is unlikely to happen if the regional powers pursue their disparate interests in the war-torn country. The US will also need to make some subtle adjustment in its Afghanistan policy to make it work. In its current form, the policy almost entirely neglects the regional geo-politics, prevailing issues and the contending interests of the neighbouring countries like India and Pakistan which essentially keep the conflict going in Kabul. So rather than an exclusively Afghanistan-centric policy, US also needs a broader regional approach to work for an integrated solution to the conflicts and the competing interests that in turn fuel the war in Kabul.

The conflict in Afghanistan is now so much enmeshed with the regional rivalries and the issues that it appears improbable that there would be long term stability in Kabul unless steps are taken to get the regional countries cooperate to end the forty year long bloodshed in the country. The deeply challenging project of a peaceful Afghanistan, therefore, demands a broader regional cooperation, more so, between India and Pakistan. It is only hoped that New Delhi and Islamabad realizing the momentous changes sweeping through region will cooperate to not only steer the region through the fraught transition of a post-US Afghanistan but also take concrete steps to address their lingering differences which alone will be the guarantee for a sustainably peaceful South Asia and the broader region.

OTHER OPINION

A climate lesson for India

The wildfires which have been raging in Oregon, California and Washington in the United States (US) since mid-August, have burned millions of acres of lands, killed more than 30 people and destroyed thousands of homes. With the US elections due in November, the wildfires have also become a key political issue. Last week, Democratic presidential challenger Joe Biden warned that “climate change poses an imminent, existential threat to our way of life” and accused President Donald Trump, a climate sceptic, of denying “that reality”.

Mr Biden's statement linking the wildfires with the climate crisis has wide support. California governor Gavin Newsom said this is a “climate emergency”. Scientists have blamed the peak heatwave and dry winds for fanning the fires, and have warned that such “compound disasters” (when more than one extreme event takes place at the same time, across geographies) are a result of the climate crisis. The US is not the only country that has seen such wildfires. An inquiry has found Australia's 2019-20 bushfires were likely made worse by the climate crisis, warning that such devastating wildfires are likely to happen again.

While India has not seen such large-scale fires, forest fires (mainly manmade) are not uncommon. But unfortunately, the forest department's firefighting capabilities are rudimentary. It doesn't have modern equipment, adequate number of vehicles and enough field staff, which can bolster their rapid response system. In an era of the climate crisis and human encroachment into forest areas, it's time to learn from the crises of the US and Australia and bolster its firefighting infrastructure.

Hindustan Times



Dragon Is The New Economic Superpower

Asad Mirza

At present the whole world it seems is influenced or being governed by signals emanating from the eastern world, instead of the western world, as has been the historic precedent. It seems that the Chinese dragon, which for ages had been trying to rule the world has been active quietly and is now ready to devour the whole world.

The latest reports reveal that China has threatened total economic war by dumping US Treasuries, in the global market. On September 3, Global Times, the Communist Party tabloid, reported that Beijing was “likely” to sell some or all of its U.S. Treasury holdings. More important, the paper suggested the United States might for the first time ever default on its debt obligations. This latest salvo means China is certainly trying to destabilise the United States, and it looks as if it's about to declare total economic war on America.

In this march ahead, China has been helped by the Corona-virus, too. Some American politicians even blamed China for the virus and its spread over the world. But the reality which no one could ignore is that China seems to be at a point where it is going to double its GDP and income in the current decade and take the country to the forefront of the global economic power system.

China has climbed to No. 2 in the world, with a GDP of \$13.1 trillion, just behind the US. Forecasters expect that growth of the Chinese economy by 6% in 2020 will get it to the stated goal of doubling the economy from 2011-20, by next year.

Economic analysts opine that the issues in 2020 could be a turning point for China's growth. There are plenty of reasons to expect that China's drive toward No. 1 will have strong momentum, which will be driven by strengthening those factors which pushed the country's growth over the past decade, plus the economic edge by which it has overtaken the western economies during the Covid pandemic.

Chinese strategy

The Chinese expansionist programme began in the late 1970s, with a move to more open markets. This coupled with a strategic and cunning central planning, supported by party controlled cheap labour, a devalued currency and a robust production system helped it to establish itself as world's manufacturing centre, with a capacity to produce every conceivable item at a lower cost.

This was supported to large extent by building-up a technologically expert young population, managed through central educational system added by huge intellectual inputs at every step. These tactics changed the economy from a slumbering rural one to a prospering diverse superpower.

West's slumber

To a large extent, for most of China's gains, West too itself is to be blamed. Facing environmental challenges they outsourced most of their production to China, utilising the cheap labour force and devalued currency. But China outwitted them at their own game. They should have been cautioned by the increasing strength of the Chinese Communist Party, which contrary to the Russian Commu-

nist party, gained from strength to strength, while managing its iron grip over its population.

China's plans for the future

According to Morgan Stanley's forecasts, China is on way to build a series of supercities all over China, some 23 of these supercities will have populations greater than New York and five alone will combine to house 120 million people.

By bringing young workers from the countryside into the massive population centers, China will be able to tighten its grip over the current production systems at the least cost.

China is also investing heavily in 5G technology as part of the modernisation and urbanisation efforts. The purpose is to get AI into virtually every aspect of your living world, which in other words means more state control.

On its path to become global economy No.1, China had initiated many programmes, which at first seemed innocuous alone, but when analysed correctly they all point to a unified expansionist strategy.

China's global presence

Currently, the Chinese footprint extends from Djibouti-a strategic maritime chokepoint in Africa, to Ecuador-home to South America's third-largest oil reserves.

This footprint was established by enticing the poor Third-world countries with a soft loan or a bilateral aid package, which in real sense were tools to make these countries economic vassals of China. As these countries were unable to pay loans, they got themselves into a never ending debt trap. To cancel debts Chinese enterprises overtook the assets in different countries and thus these countries were deprived of their own natural resources and land. In fact, Chinese entities in these countries became de-facto rulers.

BRI Programme

China very cunningly started the global 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) programme, which is strategically, politically and economically aligned to Chinese interests only. These initiatives are not for establishing friendly relations with other countries but to woo dependents, especially in areas either neglected by the West or in the Western sphere of influence.

The global dimension of BRI initiatives seemed to be focused on replacing the existing political, military and economic dimensions of the West's liberal democratic order with one dominated solely by the Communist Party of China.

The BRI was followed with a maritime version, presumably to connect Chinese ports on the South China Sea to seaports in the Indian Ocean, but eventually the programme was expanded to include the Middle Eastern ports and ultimately reached European ports.

Critics of China's BRI program point out that Chinese loan agreements lack transparency and that contracts sometimes serve China's interests in a racketeering way, oblivious to local concerns. Sri Lanka, for instance, after having failed to meet its debt obligations to China, ceded the port of Hambantota to Beijing. Venezuela delivers oil to China instead of its worthless currency.

China, as the world's largest importer of oil, will be able to diversify its sources of petroleum as a consequence of several bilateral BRI deals. China most likely also hopes to secure political benefits through BRI arrangements.

Countries participating in China's BRI, and generally friendly to the US and its allies, might shy away from supporting the West's national security concerns for fear of losing large Chinese investments in their local economies.

Critics also accuse China of favoring BRI contracts with countries that have authoritarian regimes. Beijing has invested in Zimbabwe in Africa, Laos in Southeast Asia, and Venezuela in South America. A new, particularly ominous Western criticism is that China distributes its facial recognition technology to BRI-affiliated countries where Chinese surveillance systems have been installed, in states such as Bolivia, Venezuela and Ecuador.

China and Human Rights

Another serious issue is China's disregard for the human rights of not only Chinese citizens but even of its host nations.

Plenty of evidence is proof that most BRI participating states refrain from criticising China's poor record on human rights. For example, no Muslim country has raised its voice against the near-genocidal mistreatment of millions of Uyghurs in China. Not even one Muslim-majority state voted to condemn treatment of the Uyghurs in support of the West's UN resolution to publicly sanction Beijing.

China and India

The two neighbouring countries have fought two wars, so far. The bilateral trade between the countries as per 2019 figures stood at \$292.68 billion dollars. China accounted for over 5% of India's total exports in financial year 2019-20 and more than 14% of imports. Meaning, India runs a huge trade deficit with China, the biggest exporter to India. Over 14% of India's imports in FY19-20 were from China.

The Chinese companies dominate the huge Indian smartphone market, besides being the largest active pharmaceutical ingredients supplier to India.

In response to Chinese aggression over the last six months, the Indian government has banned many popular Chinese mobile Apps, but they are still available on servers, only removed from the play stores. Moreover, these knee jerk tactics are not going to provide any succour to Indian industries. During the Corona crisis, with supply chains affected and buyers wary of Chinese products, many trade pundits had predicted shifting of manufacturing sector to India. But they failed to see that Indian industry stands no in competition to the expertise and technological advancement of the Chinese companies. Further, to reach that level India may need another 15-20 years and by that Chinese global dominance will be complete.

It may sound ominous but the West seems to have lost the economic battle to China, as China knows that more than territorial control it is the economic control which will make it the global superpower.

Asad Mirza is a Sr Journalist and commentator based in New Delhi.



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

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Domestic Violence on the Rise

Domestic violence is any behavior the purpose of which is to gain power and control over a spouse, partner or intimate family member. Many types of abuse are included in the definition of domestic violence like physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, economic abuse, psychological abuse, threats, stalking and cyber stalking etc. The society has been gripped badly by this evil. Our sisters, daughters and mothers are mostly the sufferers and are always seen crying for justice.

It's unfortunate that we are giving birth to the societies which are more selfish and greedy in nature. There

is a change needed in the mindset of the people in our society. When our families receive the daughter in laws, they are never given that welcome and hence treated differently. We feel proud when our daughters have control over their household but when the daughters in laws have control over their household, it becomes hard to digest. Domestic abuse shatters lives & tears families apart.

We must encourage our sisters and daughters to speak loudly against the domestic violence. We have to empower them to speak louder. They must not tolerate the offenders for long. The world will not end for them if their re-

lationships and understandings didn't go long and fail but their lives have to be treated as precious. There is no wrong if our sisters and daughters come back to our families after the failed relationships. There is no wrong in seeking their divorce and welcome them back to our families. It is better than to see them alive rather than force them to bear the tortures for long. We need to welcome them and boost their confidence rather than curse them to return back to their parents' home.

The cases of domestic violence must be exposed as early as possible. When the issues are not given timely treatments may lead to some worse outcomes. The

police and administration must not go easy in the cases of domestic violence and be harsh with the culprits. Our schools, health care, workplaces etc. should take big initiatives in terms of campaigns and promotions against the domestic violence. The social organizations must highly condemn the brutal acts and be active and alert against the domestic violence crimes. At individual levels we have to be the change makers in our community. If such crimes are not taken seriously, our existence as a better society will collapse.

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The Expendable Lot

The either/or Treatment of Contractual Teachers

Dr. Javid Ahmad Mallah

It is unfortunate that the lot that deserves utmost respect and honor has become "use and through" stuff. It is unfortunate to see their sufferings and this "either/or status" seems to have no end.

A writer has an obligation to address all issues," says, Jean-Paul Sartre. This is my painful duty to address the sufferings of a highly qualified lot of Jammu and Kashmir. I am talking about College Academic Arrangements popularly known as "contractualities". The word is now more often used to entertain its nature of temporality and the joy is seen in the eyes of the "other", no matter either in the eyes of the permanent faculty or students. Even in the attitude of clerks or peons, either in the directions of principal or director/commissioner and so on. It is unfortunate that the lot that deserves utmost respect and honor has become "use and through" stuff. It is unfortunate to see their sufferings and this "either/or status" seems to have no end. Even though, no college can work smoothly, justly (in terms of quality teaching and workload) for a week without academic arrangements.

Their punctuality and quality services cannot be denied and doubted because they are all the time warned that if they are not punctual or fail to deliver their teaching targets; their monthly remuneration will either be reduced or they may face disengagement from the services. Under such a severe academic atmosphere they succeeded on all platforms and serve the system on quality parameters. They fulfill the demands and face the challenges of the system with zest and zeal. Their sincere services in the department for more than 20 years on minimum wages earn worth and dignity in the eyes of the general public, particularly, in the hearts of their pass-outs. However, within the system, they are approached like untouchables.

Jammu and Kashmir sunk in the waves of the so-called Vikas after the revocation of article 370 and the subsequent uneven lockdown and curfews have affected so much so that the earlier engaged group of college contractual lecturers has been removed. For them, college gates have been closed. It has been seen, the Class-IV employees threaten and humiliate the doctorate and post-doctorate fellows for entering into the colleges.

In between these difficult situations, most of these lecturers approached the honorable High Court to get their miseries resolved, their cries heard and answered. The honorable high court wrote to the authorities not to disturb their status and issued pay releasing orders in favor of these lecturers. In response to the court orders, the department of higher education paid no attention to this serious issue. With the result, the highly qualified lot remained



penny less that lead them and their families to extreme sufferings throughout this difficult period.

During the times of COVID-19, and since its horror hit the world, all teaching-learning institutions offered fresh guidelines for online teaching. In these challenging times, these lecturers shouldered the emerging challenges and responsibilities and gave their best in all platforms, whether it's teaching, content creation, conducting the online examination, paper setting, and evaluations, and so on. All these academic engagements particularly semester examination require heavy expenses and their participation in all these spheres made it successful with the least expenses. These lecturers took all the challenges and successfully stood shoulder to shoulder with permanent faculty to reach the goal but the only difference is the efforts put forth by permanent faculty are efforts as they are being highly paid for them. On the other hand, the work and dedication of contractuals, even when at par, is not rewarded similarly. This only and only because we work and deliver our best un-

der the banner of temporality.

The cunning and unprofessional attitude of the "authority" that paid deaf ears to the High Court pay releasing orders or Supreme Court ruling for, "equal pay for equal work", was not the only disappointing thing but it was their negligence and deliberate efforts to keep us unpaid for months.

It is to be noted that highly qualified people of Jammu and Kashmir are working on minimum remunerations that too are not being released on time. This strategy compromises the principles of delivering justice and practicing professional ethics. Through this small piece, I on behalf of (Jammu Kashmir College Contractual lecturers Association) request honorable LG Monaj Sinha sir to look into this serious matter, pay attention to our long pending issues and settle them. By doing so, we can bring back the glory and dignity of that a teacher deserves.

Dr. Javid Ahmad Mallah teaches philosophy at GDC Kulgam

Parenting Needs A Radical Change. Here Is Why

Evolution is central to existence. Modern education and parenting must evolve together

Farooq Wasil

There was a time when people got into a job and continued with it for a lifetime. The current generation cannot imagine a world where they do not change jobs every few years.

It is not only seminal to their career growth, but also this varied experience is seen as an advantage during job interviews.

For our children growing up today and those recently out of college, there has been yet another big shift. Now, they don't just switch jobs, they switch careers!

Re-learning, unlearning and continuous upskilling is now central to career growth. What changed about our world in 50 years, now changes in less than five years!

This pace of change is phenomenal and that entails radical changes in industry requirements every five years. Meta-cognition, or thinking about thinking or learning how to learn, is thus the most essential skill today.

Children need us to mentor, rather than instruct, them. They need us to nurture, rather than supervise them. They are smarter than us. Every generation is smarter than the previous one

- Dr Farooq Wasil

We can no longer feed children on pure factual information, or teach to exams, or limit their goals to marks/other evaluative achievements. We never should have done that. Now, we certainly can't!

Children spend their formative years in education, in preparation for life. Are we preparing them adequately? Are we equipping them well for the vital skills required for existence in this century? Remember, we are already 20 years into this century and a generation has already been raised to adulthood.

Evolution of foundational literacies

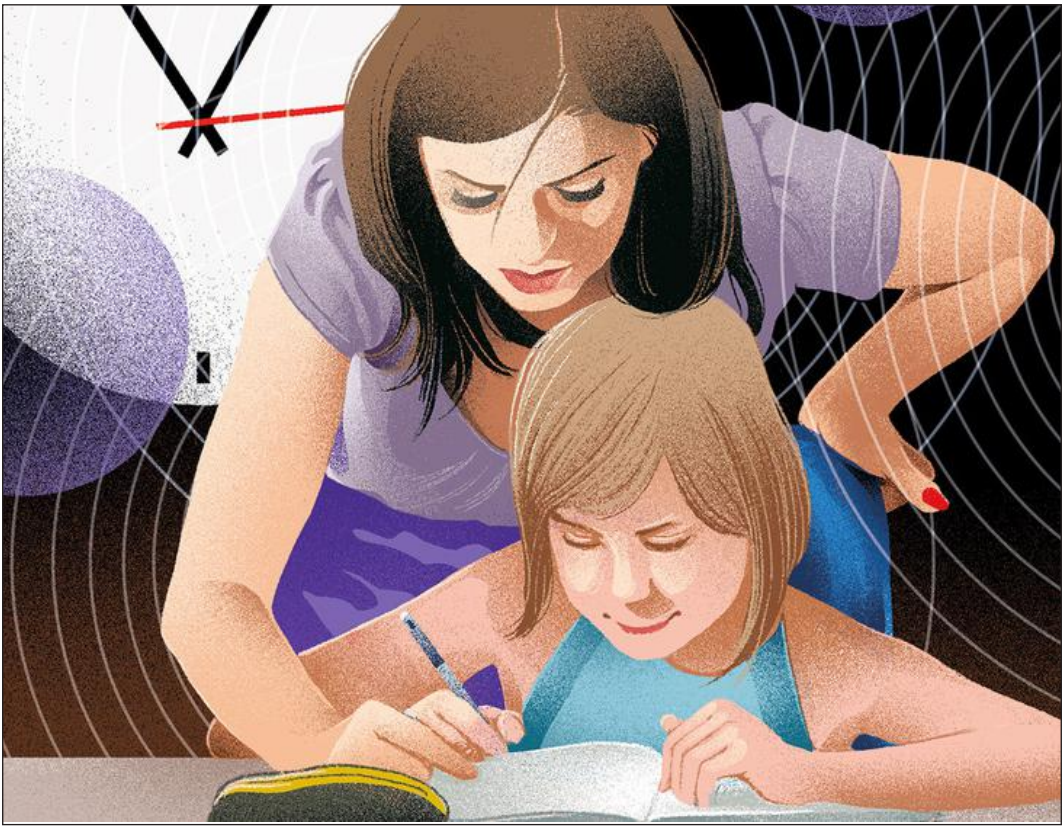
Foundational literacies have evolved from reading, writing and arithmetic long since. So have key competencies. Equally so have key qualities of character required for sheer survival in this century.

ICT literacy and computational thinking is now one of the key foundational literacies. Can you imagine an ICT illiterate employee in the workforce today?

Sustainable development of the world is an emergency requirement today and thus civic and cultural literacy is also foundational. Citizenship needs to be developed at a local, national as well as global level.

Children must learn to respect the 'Other,' they must learn to celebrate diversity. That's the only way we can protect our uniqueness while ensuring that human race works together to sustain the world, the collapsing of the earth's environment all around us.

Collaboration and communication are key competencies as the global village turns smaller and



We can no longer feed children on pure factual information, or teach to exams, or limit their goals to marks/other evaluative achievements. We never should have done that. Now, we certainly can't!

smaller keeping us ironically lonely while being more connected than ever before. The virtual world has taken over.

Our children are at an advantage as digital natives, but they are still too young, too naive to manage the draconian proportions of untruths, the vast sea of misleading social and emotional constructs floating on social media.

Need persistence and grit

Children more than ever need critical thinking, problem-solving, logical evaluation and analysis skills to make any genuine sense of the world around them. They need persistence and grit to combat the challenges posed by a world in constant flux.

While our children are growing up amid 'instant gratification,' if we are not careful enough as parents and educators, this generation will forget the taste of

disappointments.

They may not be able to show courage and grit in the face of adversity. Curiosity, empathy, persistence and the ability to bounce back over and again are some seminal survival qualities they must acquire. Certainly, this isn't an easy challenge for parents today.

Needless to mention that initiative and adaptability need to be core skills too. The good news for all of us is the fact that a human child is born to learn, born with an innate ability to explore, question, initiate and bounce back.

I feel, our children are born with what Carol Dwek in her popular research calls, 'Growth mindsets.' We tend to curb this incessantly.

We say far too many 'NOs to the child. We caution their free spirit far too much. We want them to fit in somehow into a dated system — often a closed box.

The 'Weapons of Mass Instruction,' (in John Taylor Gatto's words) were designed to feed an industrial revolution ages ago. Our children cannot be bound by its rules and requirements today.

Merrily bouncing back

Think about a child learning to walk, or acquiring the mother tongue. There is no curriculum required. They keep trying until they get it right. They fall and hurt themselves endlessly, but they merrily bounce back endlessly.

Each time, child's brain has identified the mistake and ensured learning through it. The child continues to try undeterred, undefeated, persistent. This is human, this is the innate 'growth mindset' of our children. This must be savoured and nurtured.

Let your child compete with herself/himself rather than others. Each time they must be able to out-shine themselves. Constructive praise can play a vital role here as we facilitate the free space for children to grow, adapt and evolve. The positive behaviours need to be encouraged constantly through constructive praise.

Empathy and dialogue are a key aspect. It is important to praise the action rather than the individual. To make it effective, it is important to be effusive and add the gesture and touch of love as a parent.

Positive reinforcements are the way to go rather than rewards and punishments. Think of what worked when they were learning to walk.

Each failure must be treated as a genuine building block, so should each little success. SMART goal-setting with children allowing them to take ownership of their learning goes a long way at building their confidence and nurturing qualities that are seminal to their life.

Identifying improvement areas and setting development targets and potential useful tasks with children lets them evolve. Reflective practice is a good way to do this, and should be built into the child's routine.

A simple trick is to incorporate some DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) in our daily engagement with our children. The discussions during this quality family time could be centred around what they are achieving well, sharing feelings, sharing 'little nothings' of the day and identifying what could have been even better and how.

Childhood is precious. It is too precious to be lost in a mindless race. Let's ensure that as parents.

Children need us to mentor, rather than instruct, them. They need us to nurture, rather than supervise them. They are smarter than us. Every generation is smarter than the previous one.

Let's respect their smartness, their evolved self, their sense of selfhood, creative thinking and fresh perspectives.

Gulf News

Dining In Restaurants May Increase Covid-19 Spread Risk



Agencies

In a study related to novel coronavirus, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found that people who are dining at a restaurant at a higher risk of Covid-19 transmission than some other community activities.

From the findings, the research team examined data from adults at 11 facilities across the nation who tested positive for Covid-19 and compared that with a control group of adults without virus infection.

"We found that close contact with persons with known Covid-19 or going to locations that offer on-site eating and drinking options were associated with Covid-19 positivity," said the study researchers from the CDC.

"Adults with positive SARS-CoV-2 test results were approximately twice as likely to have reported dining at a restaurant than were those with negative SARS-CoV-2 test results," they added.

In this investigation, participants with and without Covid-19 reported generally similar community exposures, with the exception of going to locations with on-site

eating and drinking options.

The researchers took a close look at how those patients responded to questions about wearing masks and various activities in the community, including whether they recently dined at a restaurant, hung out a bar or went to a gym.

The data showed that 42 per cent of the adults who tested positive reported having close contact with at least one person known to have Covid-19, compared with 14 per cent of those who tested negative.

The researchers also found that 71 per cent of the adults with Covid-19 and 74 per cent of those who tested negative reported always using a face covering while in public.

The findings showed that eating and drinking on-site at locations that offer such options might be important risk factors associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection.

"Efforts to reduce possible exposures where mask use and social distancing are difficult to maintain, such as when eating and drinking, should be considered to protect customers, employees and communities," the study authors noted.

Measuring Heart Rate Changes Can Spot Depression Risk



Agencies

For the first time, researchers and clinicians have revealed that measuring changes in the heart rate for 24 hours can reliably indicate whether or not someone is depressed.

In practical terms, this may give clinicians an objective "early warning" of potential depression, as well as a rapid indication whether or not treatment is working, so opening the way to more rapid and responsive treatment.

"Our pilot study suggests that by just measuring your heart rate for 24 hours, we can tell with 90 per cent accuracy if a person is currently depressed or not," said the study's lead author Carmen Schiweck from the Goethe University in Germany. According to the study, presented at the ECNP virtual congress, scientists have known that heart rate is linked to depression, but until now they have been unable to understand exactly how one is related to the other.

Two innovative elements in this study were the continuous registration of heart rate for several days and nights, and the use of the new antidepressant ketamine, which can lift depression more or less instantly. "This allowed us to see that average resting heart rate may change quite suddenly to reflect the change in mood," said Schiweck.

In the past researchers

had shown that depressed patients had consistently higher heart rates and lower heart rate variability, but because of the time, it takes to treat depression it had been difficult to follow up and relate any improvement to heart rate. "But when we realized that ketamine leads to a rapid improvement in mood, we knew that we might be able to use it to understand the link between depression and heart rate," Schiweck said.

For the results, the team research team worked with a small sample of 16 patients with Major Depressive Disorder, none of who had responded to normal treatment, and 16 healthy controls.

They measured their heart rates for four days and three nights, and then the volunteers with depression were given either ketamine treatment or a placebo. "We found that those with depression had both a higher baseline heart rate, and a lower heart rate variation, as we expected. On average we saw that depressed patients had a heart rate which was roughly 10 to 15 beats per minutes higher than in controls," the authors wrote.

"After treatment, we again measured the heart rates and found that both the rate and the heart rate fluctuation of the previously depressed patients had changed to be closer to those found in the controls."

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER BUDGAM (CONVENOR DISTRICT HEALTH SOCIETY BUDGAM)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SCREENING TEST NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all the concerned that the written Test of candidates who have applied for various categories under National Health Mission, Budgam in response to our advertisement No: CMOB/NHM/19-20/4573-80 dated 04-01-2020 & No: CMOB/NHM/19-20/2786-92, dated:-19-10-2019 shall be held as per schedule given below.

A: Staff Nurse at District Level:

S.No	Name of Candidate	S/O, D/O, W/O	Residence	Day, Date and venue of Screening Test
1	Mymoon Akhter	Aman Ullah Ganai	Ratnipora	Friday,18th September 2020 at Govt. Boys Higher Sec. School Budgam at 10:30 A.M
2	Firdousa Akhter	Amir Ud Din Dar	Bon-Makhama	
3	Masooda Nazir	Nazir Ahmad Mangral	Shunglipora	
4	Nusrat Basheer	Basheer Ahmad Dar	Bon-Makhama	
5	Tabasum Gul	Ghulam Mohammad Wani	Ompora	
6	Naleema Manzoor	Manzoor Ahmad Wani	Wata Magam	
7	Fehmida Akhter	Mohd Akbar Wani	Hussipora	
8	Mir Aabroo Mushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad Mir	Nagam	
9	Rohi Banno	Ab Ahad Ganale	Kargam	
10	Mariya Rafi	Mohammad Rafi Paul	Ompora	
11	Rehana Hameed	Abdul Hameed Wani	Rapora Namtihal	
12	Refat Maqbool	Mir Imtiyaz Hussain	Jawharpora	
13	Heena Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Mir	Haniura	
14	Nuzhat Rashid	Ab Rashid Dar	Wagam	
15	Javeera Gul	Gh Mohd Resrav	Dadaompora	
16	Maroofa Reyaz	Reyaz Ahmad Pathan	Meeripora	
17	Rukhsana Abbass	Mohmad Yaseen	Magam	
18	Sieqa Snoubur	Mohammad Ismail Dar	Badipora	
19	Minosar Muneer	Muneer Ahmad Yatoo	Nagam	
20	Insba Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Bhat	Ranger	
21	Irshada Ali	Ali Mohd Parray	Chillyech	
22	Kowsar Majeed	Abdul Majeed Ganie	Wagora	
23	Ishtae Ahmad Ganale	Gulam Nabi Ganale	Bandgam	
24	Gulzar Ahmad Ahanger	Bashir Ahmad Ahanger	Chadoora	
25	Razia Ashraf	Mohammad Ashraf Mir	Gariend Khurd	
26	Basharat Rehman Wani	Abdul Rehman Wani	Rapora	
27	Sailema Gul	Gh Mohd Mir	Roshan Abad	
28	Urfee Jan	Ghulam Mohammad Magray	Badipora	
29	Iqra	Ab Rashid Teeli	Malik Gund	
30	Asmat Hamid	Abdul Hamid Bhat	Yankalain	
31	Aabida Hamid	Abdul Hamid Bhat	Yankalain	
32	Muzammil Qudair	Gulam Qudair Dar	Zohama	
33	Rifatah Habib	Habib Ullah Wani	Aarath	
34	Sajad Ahmad Waza	Abdul Gani Waza	Beerwah	
35	Ishrat Jaan	Khurshid Ahmad Tilwani	Hussipora	
36	Safeena Rashid	Ab Rashid Bhat	Bungund	
37	Humeera Akhter	Bashir Ahmad Ganie	Hardu Sourish	
38	Nayeema Jabeen	Mohammad Farooq	Manchowra	
39	Shaista Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Shah	Chanarow Pora	
40	Ainul Afzal	Mohd Afzal Sheikh	Charar-i-Sharief	
41	Aeshana Ahad	Ab Ahad Wani	Adina	
42	Sumina Yousuf	Mohmad Yousuf Bhat	Futlipora	
43	Shubeena Ramzan	Asif Rasool Paul	Darbagh	
44	Kaiser Rehman	Ab Rehman Paul	Ompora	
45	Munazil Rehman Paul	Ab Rehman Paul	Ompora	
46	Paul Sumeera Ali	Paul Ali Mohd	Palapora	
47	Gul Afsha	Gh Nabi Sheikh	Dalwash	
48	Irshana Hafeez	Hafeez Ullah Malik	Aqilpora	
49	Roohi Akhter	Muzaffar Ahmad Dar	Hardi Chati	
50	Mohammad Asif Shah	Ghulam Mohammad Shah	Peth Makhama	
51	Sebiya Rasheed	Abdul Rasheed Dar	Chewa	
52	Irana Javaid	Javaid Ahmad	Kralwari	
53	Shaista Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Bhat	Kathair Gund	
54	Muzafer Ahmad Wani	Mohd Yousuf Wani	Kuzwera	
55	Saima Zahoor	Zahoor Ahmad Ganai	Falchilli	
56	Rahlee Rashid	Ab Rashid Magrey	Batapora	
57	Rifat Ara	Mohd Maqbool Shah	Khag	
58	Nuzhat Akhter	Bashir Ahmad Mir	Wagam	
59	Saima Akhter	Ab Rashid Dar	Wagam	
60	Gull Sarwar	Ghulam Mohd Wani	Kultreh	
61	Lalee Gulshan	Ghulam Nabi Shah	Futlipora	
62	Rohul Amin	Mohammad Amin Mir	Narbal	
63	Saima Hassan	Gh Hassan Shah	Batapora	
64	Saiyama Akhter	Zahoor Ahmad Dar	Ranger	
65	Asiya Jan	Khazir Mohd Tell	Wathoor	
66	Shabnam Ara	Ghulam Mohd Najar	Hafroo Batapora	
67	Mubashir Afzal	Mohd Afzal Beigh	Handian	
68	Sami Jan	Nazir Ahmad Lone	Hardi Dalwan futlipora	
69	Nelofar Fayaz	Fayaz Ahmad Wani	Narkara Budgam	
70	Nelofar Malik	Gulam Mohd Malik	Kawoosa Khalisa	
71	Tawsee Yousuf	Mohammad Yousuf Dar	Chadoora	
72	Farhat Fayaz	Fayaz Ahmad Bhat	Ranger	
73	Samara Rashid	Ab Rashid Mir	Badran	
74	Maroofa Jan	Showkat Ahmad Lone	Gopal Saif	
75	Nusrat Nisar	Nisar Ahmad Khan	Kralawari	
76	Rubeena Gulam	Gh Mohd Sheikh	Buchroo	
77	Ruhes Jan	Gh Qadir Paul	Buchroo	
78	Rukhsana Farooq	Farooq Ahmad wani	Shahzadpora	
79	Syed Aubaid	Syed Abdul Waheed Shah	jawhar pora	
80	Hassina Akhter	Syed Inyatullah Bukhari	Panzan	
81	Urfi Jan	Gh Nabi Sodagar	Charsharief	
82	Nisar Ahmad Raina	Farooq Ahmad Raina	Borwah	
83	Naveed Nazir	Nazir Ahmad Bhat	Hafroo Batapora	
84	Aamir Rehman	Ab Rehman Dar	Gondipora	
85	Syed Aaliya Bashir	Syed Bashir Ahmad Shah	Babagund	
86	Tauseefa Syed	Syed Irfan	Malpura	
87	Firdousa Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Ganie	Adina	
88	Khushboo Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Parrey	Bon-Makhama	
89	Zanab Amin	Mohammad Amin Khoja	Dowlat Pora	
90	Asifrah Riyaz	Riyaz Ahmad wani	Aarath	
91	Haaviyah Nabi	Gulam Nabi Bhat	Warhama	
92	Kounsar Hassan	Gulam Hassan Bhat	Aripathan	
93	Tabasum Fayaz	Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh	Kawoosa Khalisa	
94	Ruksana Akhter	Ab Razak Lone	Hard Malpora	
95	Mumtaz	Ab Gani Wazay	Kanidajan	
96	Aaliya Kaisar	Kaisar Ahmad Dar	Ranger	
97	Roza Jan	Ab Gani Ganale	Kanihama	
98	Syed Basit Amin	Syed Rouhul Amin	Chattabugh	
99	Ansariya Ali	Ali Mohammad Mir	Yaghbugh	
100	Dilshada Akhter	Bashir Ahmad Beigh	Khag	
101	Syeda Shubnam Bukhari	Syed Suhail Sajad	Lalpura	
102	Syed Irfan Bukhari	Syed Zia Ud Din Bukhari	Lalpura	
103	Subiya Akhter	Ghulam Nabi Dar	Charar-i-Sharief	
104	Jahan Ara Jahangir	Jahangir Rashid Bhat	Gopal Saif	
105	Rubeena Bano	Abdul Rahim Sheikh	Wanpora	
106	Suraiya Qadir	Ghulam Qadir Bhat	Kralapora	
107	Nazira Shafi	Mohd Shafi Khan	Sogam	
108	Shabnum Ara	Ghulam Mohammad Lone	Humchipora	
109	Shugfta Rahman	Abdul Rahman Hajam	Wadwan	
110	Naveemah Akhter	Gulam Mohd Wani	Daharmunah	
111	Shaheena Akhter	Gulam Mohd Wani	Daharmunah	
112	Jamsheed Un Nisa	Sona Ullah Paray	Bon-Makhama	
113	Ishrat Bano	Gulam Mohd Bhat	Sehpora	
114	Marayama Rashid	Abdul Raheed Mallia	Radbugh	
115	Roufa Sidiq	Mohd Sidiq Bhat	Narbal	
116	Junaid Khurshid	Khurshid Ahmad Bhat	Rankipora	
117	Sheikh Noor Ul Saba	Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad	Haniura	
118	Arif Ahmad Laway	Abdul Karim Laway	Hardu Dalwan	
119	Fahmeeda Rehman	Ab Rehman Dar	Sholipora	
120	Ulfaat Ishaq	Waseem Ali Najar	Budgam	

B: Allopathic Pharmacist-RBSK Block Chadoora:

S.No	Name of Candidate	S/O, D/O, W/O	Residence	Day & Date of Screening Test
1	Mohsin Rasool	Ghulam Rasool Rather	Dowlat Pora	Friday,18th September 2020 at Govt. Boys Higher Sec. School Budgam at 10:30 A.M
2	Sameer Ahmad Ahanger	Ali Mohammad Ahanger	Panzan	
3	Sameer Ul Shafi	Mohd Shafi Mallia	Sogam	
4	Imtiyaz Nabi	Ghulam Nabi Yatoo	Hayat Pora	
5	Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat	Mohammad Ashraf Bhat	Batpora	
6	Hilal Ahmad Bhat	Gulam Nabi Bhat	Gopal Saif	
7	Zahoor Ahmad Rather	Ab Rahman Rather	Wagam	
8	Mukhtar Ahmad Dar	Assul Ullah Dar	Kanir	
9	Sajad Ahmad Sofi	Mohd Ashraf Sofi	Hayat Pora	
10	Syed Huzabul Islam	Syed Ghulam Qadir	Kuzwera	
11	Mohd Shafi Rather	Ab Karim Rather	Ranger	
12	Shayista Akbar	Mohd Akbar Mir	Sogam	
13	Mustafa Majeed	Ab Majeed Ganai	Namtihal	
14	Irfat Bashir	Tawseef Khurshid Wani	Zohama	
15	Mukhtar Ahmad Sofi	Waseem Ali Najar	Doyen	

C: Staff Nurse Block Magam:

S.No	Name of Candidate	S/O, D/O, W/O	Residence	Day, Date and venue of Screening Test
1	Hadisa Akbar	Mohd Akbar Sofi	Astanpora Magam	Saturday,19th September 2020 at Govt. Boys Higher Sec. School Budgam at 10:30 A.M
2	Rukhsana Abbass	Mohmad Yaseen	Noori Pora Magam	
3	Muzamil Yousuf	Mohd Yousuf Dar	Shipora	
4	Zahida Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Wani	Adina	
5	Ahsana Ahad	Ab Ahad War	Adina	
6	Suriya Ali	Ali Mohd Dar	Peth Kanihama	
7	Zeeshan Gaffar	Abdul Gaffar Magray	Peth Kanihama	
8	Refat Maqbool	Mir Imtiyaz Hussain	Jawarpora Narbal	
9	Rifat Ara	Shabir Hussain Mallia	Mazhama	
10	Masood Nabi Lone	Gh Nabi Lone	Hanji Bugh	
11	Saima Akhter	Gh Ahmad Ganie	Wagam	
12	Naleema Manzoor	Manzoor Ahmad Wani	Wata Magam	
13	Shakeela Mohi Ud Din	Gh Mohi Ud Din Bhat	Batapora Kanihama	
14	Tabasum Rashid	Ab. Rashid Malik	Kawoosa Khalisa	
15	Sabeena Hafeez	Hafeez ullah Bhat	Kawoosa Khalisa	
16	Mehnaz	Sona Ullah Bhat	Bamurada	
17	Ishrat Bano	Gulam Mohammad Bhat	Shepora Magam	
18	Khushboo Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Paray	Ban Makhama	
19	Firdousa Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Ganie	Adina Magam	
20	Rahi Rashid	Ab Rashid Magray	Batapora	
21	Firdousa Akhter	Amir Uddin Dar	Bun Makhama	
22	Nazira Hassan	Gh Hassan Bhat	Yanipora Magam	
23	Nighat Ayoub	Mohad Ayoub Sheikh	Kawoosa Khalisa	
24	Samara Rashid	Ab Rashid Mir	Badran Magam	
25	Mohd Imran Lone	Mohd Maqbool Lone	Hanji Bugh	
26	Burhan Altaf	Altaf Ahmad	Mazhama	
27	Rayees Ahmad Dar	Late Abdul Bani Dar	Budran	
28	Mohammad Asif Shah	Ghulam Mohammad Shah	Pethmakham	
29	Naiem Ul Rashid	Ab Rashid Mir	Batapora	
30	Nazeera Akhter	Gh Mohd Bhat	Nooripora	
31	Syed Aubid	Syed Abdul Waheed Shah	Jawarpora Narbal	

32	Nusrat Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Dar	Bun Makhama
33	Irfan Ahmad Ganale	Mohd Afzal Ganale	Golgani
34	Jamsheed Un Nisa	Sona Ullah Paray	Bon Makhama
35	Maryama Rashid	Abdul Rasid Mallia	Radbugh Magam
36	Saima Gul	Hail Gh Mohd Mir	Roshanabad
37	Saima Hassan	Gh Hassan Shah	Batapora Kanihama
38	Rifat Ara	Ab Ahad Sheikh	Matipora magam
39	Nadiya Hassan	Gulam Hassan Khan	Kawoosa Khalisa
40	Arifah majeed	Abdul Majeed Khan	Kawoosa Khalisa
41	Iqrah Aziz	Abdul Aziz Khan	Kawoosa Khalisa
42	Surayah Jan	Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat	Sozeth
43	Zubaidah Ahad	Abdul Ahad Sofi	Kawoosa Khalisa
44	Irshad Ahmad Shiekh	Gh Ahmad Shiekh	Bon Makhama
45	Shahnaza Akhter	Gh Mohd Tantray	Yaglipora
46	Imtiyaz Ahmad Parrey	Lt Mohd Sultan Parrey	Bon Makhama
47	Syed Aga Nasir	Syed Ahmad Shah	Chayera Gune
48	Halima Bano	Mohd afzal Baba	Tantraypora
49	Nelofar Malik	Gulam Mohammad Malik	Kawoosa Khalisa
50	Paul Samera Ali	Paul ali Mohd	Palapora
51	Asifa Reyaz	Riyaz Ahmad Wani	Aarath
52	Muzamil Salam	Ab Salam Dar	Anipora Razwan
53	Tabasum Fayaz	Fayaz Ahmad Shiekh	Kawoosa Khalisa

D: Staff Nurse Block Beerwah:

S.no	Name of Candidate	S/O, D/O, W/O	Residence	Day, Date and venue of Screening Test
1	Irshad Ahmad Bhat	AB Aziz Bhat	Warhama	Saturday,19th September 2020 at Govt. Boys Higher Sec. School Budgam at 10:30 A.M
2	Saniah Ishrat	Ghulam Ahmad Lone	Aripathan	
3	Ruksana Akhter	Ab Razak Lone	Hardu Malpora	
4	Khurshheed Ahmad Dev	Abdul Majeed Dev	Kandopora	
5	Sajad Ahmad Waza	Sana Ullah Sheikh	Bonpor	
6	Ashaq Ahmad Shaikh	Sana Ullah Sheikh	Meeripora	
7	Maroofa Reyaz	Reyaz Ahmad Pathan	Meeripora	
8	Syed Azhar Hussain Bukhari	Syed Khurshheed Aalam	Bapora Chewdarah	
9	Rohi Parveen	Ali Mohd Ahanger	Bunzanigam	
10	Razia Rashid	Abdul Rashid Lone	Aripathan	
11	Chesfeeda Rashid	Abdul Rashid Khan	Aripathan	
12	Rehana Ramzan	Mohd Ramzan Wani	Hokhlatri	
13	Haaviyah Nabi	Gulam Nabi Bhat	Warhama	
14	Aunium Ara	Gh Mohi ud Din Dar	Sail	
15	Aamir Rehman	Ab Rehman Dar	Gundipora	
16	Syed Irfan Bukhari	Syed Zia Ud Din Bukhari	Lalpura PeerMohallah	
17	Shubina Ramzan	Mohd Ramzan Dar	Warhama	
18	Waseema Jaffer	Mohd Jaffer Dar	Son Pah	
19	Shaista Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Dar	Beerwah	

Taliban Facing New Afghanistan: Women Negotiators Amid Peace Talks

Agencies

Kabul: Four Afghan women who endured the Taliban's oppressive rule and have fought for fragile gains since the terrorists were ousted are facing the hardline group in peace talks.

Their presence at the negotiating table is significant in patriarchal Afghanistan, though they are outnumbered by the rest of the Afghan government's team of 17 men and the Taliban's male-only side.

"The Taliban have to understand that they are facing a new Afghanistan with which they have to learn to live," negotiator Fawzia Koofi told AFP ahead of the talks, which got underway on Saturday.

husband was jailed and she was threatened with stoning for wearing nail polish, she said.

Religious police whipped women in the street if they wore anything other than an all-concealing burqa, and those accused of adultery were sometimes executed at sports stadiums after Friday prayers.

Today, the traditional patriarchal system remains the norm and life for most women in rural areas has improved little since the 2001 US-led invasion toppled the Taliban, who banned girls from going to school and women from working.

However, in Kabul and other Afghan cities, progress has



Islamic negotiator Fatima Gailani said that women were apprehensive about negotiations with the Taliban.

The politician and high-profile women's rights campaigner has survived two assassination attempts during her career -- the latest just last month in Kabul.

"Being in such an important role is not something which is very common in Afghanistan, so you really have to find your way among those people who do not believe in a woman's presence," Koofi said before the shooting.

When the Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, her

been made.

Some women study at secondary and tertiary level and hold elected positions or run businesses, albeit in disproportionately low numbers.

Koofi is one of a few women who held unofficial talks with the Taliban in 2019 and knows the battle female negotiators are facing.

"It's not just about what you are talking," she said. "People look at what you wear, whether your scarf is of the right size or not."

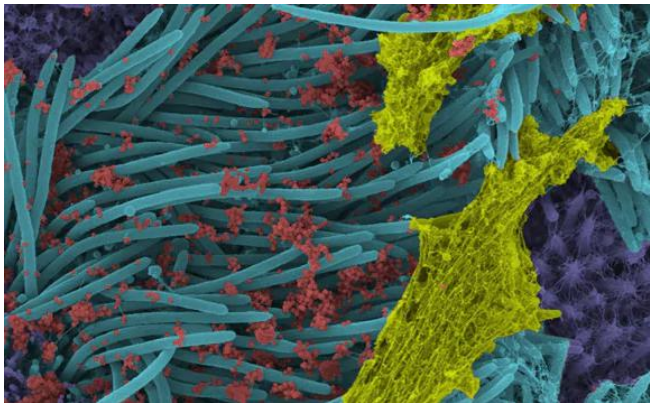
Scientists Publish Images Of Coronavirus Infecting Respiratory Cells

Agencies

Washington: Scientists have produced images of the novel coronavirus infecting lab-grown respiratory tract cells, findings that illustrate the num-

ready to spread infection across tissues, and to other people.

In the research, the scientists inoculated the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 into human bronchial epithelial cells



ber of virus particles that are produced and released per cell inside the lungs.

The researchers, including Camille Ehre from the University of North Carolina (UNC) Children's Research Institute, captured these images to illustrate how intense SARS-CoV-2 infection of the airways can be in very graphic and easily understood images.

The generated high-powered microscopic images show a large number of virus particles on human respiratory surfaces,

of the lungs, which they then examined 96 hours later using the high-powered scanning electron microscopy.

The images, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, were re-colored, and show infected hairy ciliated cells with strands of mucus attached to cilia tips.

The scientists explained that the cilia are hair-like structures on the surface of airway epithelial cells that transport mucus and trapped viruses from the lungs.



October, November To Be "Tougher" With More COVID-19 Deaths: WHO

Agencies

Copenhagen, Denmark: The World Health Organization expects Europe to see a rise in the daily number of Covid-19 deaths in October and November, the head of the body's European branch told AFP.

Cases in Europe have risen sharply in recent weeks, especially in Spain and France. More than 51,000 new cases were reported on Friday alone in the 55 countries monitored by WHO Europe, which is more than the highest peak in April, according to the organisation.

"It's going to get tougher. In October, November, we are going to see more mortality," WHO Europe director Hans Kluge said.

Even though the continent is experiencing a surge of cases, the number of deaths has remained relatively stable. But the resurgence is expected to lead to an increase in daily fatalities, the WHO said.

"It's a moment where countries don't want to hear this bad news, and I understand," Kluge told AFP in an interview, stressing that he wanted to send the "positive message" that the pandemic "is going to finish, at one moment or another."

The WHO Europe's over 50 member states are holding an online meeting on Monday and Tuesday to discuss their response

to the new coronavirus and agree on their overall five-year strategy.

However Kluge, based in Copenhagen, issued a warning to those who believe that the development of a vaccine will end the pandemic.

"I hear the whole time: 'the vaccine is going to be the end of the pandemic'. Of course not!" the Belgian said.

"We don't even know if the vaccine is going to help all population groups. We are getting some signs now that it will help for one group and not for the other," he said.

"And then if we have to order different vaccines, what a logistical nightmare!"

"The end of the pandemic is the moment that we as a community are going to learn how to live with this pandemic. And it depends on us and that's a very positive message," he said.

Incomplete picture

Kluge warned of approaches becoming overly politicised and said it was important that the response be based "on epidemiological and public health data."

He also defended authorities that have been hesitant to impose and ease measures in recent months as they are faced with a new disease.

"WHO has been blamed a number of times but communicating on something you don't really know is very very difficult," Kluge said.

"For some you do too little for some you go too far," he said.

According to Kluge, as research progresses, knowledge of the virus remains imperfect, meaning that decisions must be made with an incomplete picture.

"In a number of countries we see that the politics overwrite the scientists and also in a number of other countries we see that people are doubting the science, that's very dangerous," Kluge said.

In countries covered by WHO Europe, the number of daily deaths has remained at around the same level since early June, with around 400-500 deaths per day linked to Covid-19, agency data showed.

Despite the worrying trend, the responses now should not be the same as those adopted in the winter and early spring.

"In February we were targeting society... now we are targeting the virus," Kluge said, adding that measures could now be imposed on a more local level.

"If we have a good surveillance system we should be able to control it locally and then in a couple of weeks, relax again," Kluge said.

WHO Head Urges Rich Nations To Join Vaccine Scheme By Friday Deadline

Agencies

Zurich: Countries should join the World Health Organization's (WHO) COVAX vaccine facility by a Friday deadline to help ensure that immunizations are fairly and efficiently distributed, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday.

So far, 92 lower-income nations are seeking assistance via the COVAX facility, part of the WHO's ACT Accelerator to boost development of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to combat the pandemic. Some 80 higher-income nations have expressed interest, but many must still confirm their intention to join by the

end of this week.

"If people in low- and

the economic recovery globally will be delayed," Tedros



middle-income countries miss out on vaccines, the virus will continue to kill and

told a WHO regional event for Europe that was broadcast virtually.

Palestinians call for protests against Arab-Israeli deals

Agencies

ERUSALEM: Palestinian leaders on Sunday called for demonstrations against the "shameful" deals the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are set to sign with Israel.

Officials from both Gulf states are due to attend a ceremony at the White House on Tuesday to formalise ties with Israel, prompting Palestinian factions to unite in appeals for protest.

"We invite our population, in particular those in (Palestinian) refugee camps, to denounce these shameful agreements," a statement read, signed by groups including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Gaza's rulers Hamas.

statement also called for rallies outside embassies of the US, Israel, Bahrain and the UAE.

Friday, breaking with the long-held stance of Arab leaders that an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal is a prerequisite for normalising relations.

But in recent years, Israel and the US have been courting Gulf states over their shared animosity towards Iran.

The deals with Israel were dubbed "peace for protection" by Saeb Erekat, PLO secretary-general.

"Some decision-makers now in the Arab world do believe that Arab national security metrics will depend on the protection of Israel," he told journalists on Sunday.

Erekat referred to Washington's longstanding policy of ensuring Israel is militarily stronger than other countries in the Middle East.

Arab nations are not permitted "to have any superiority on Israel on any field,"



The Palestinians last month accused Abu Dhabi of a "stab in the back", as the Gulf country became only the third Arab nation after Egypt and Jordan to announce it would have formal relations with Israel.

Bahrain followed suit on

noted Erekat.

However, the policy has come under the spotlight in recent weeks, over reports that the US could sell F-35 stealth fighter jets to Abu Dhabi as part of the deal with Israel

Defiant Bahrainis protest normalization, set fire to Israeli flags

Agencies

Manama: Bahrainis have rallied throughout the island kingdom, condemning the ruling regime's normalization of relations with Israel and setting Israeli flags on fire in defiance of a government ban on protests.

On Saturday, Bahrain's main opposition group, the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, posted pictures of the rallies that were held in the capital Manama as well as many other places across the country.

Bahrain's normalization of ties with the Israeli regime was announced Friday by US President Donald Trump roughly a month after Washington brokered a deal enabling a similar rapprochement between the United Arab Emirates and the occupying regime.

The US-mediated agreements have been met with uniform condemnation from all Palestinian factions, who call it a "stab in the back" of the Palestinians and sheer betrayal of their cause.

According to reports, Bahrainis rose in protest in the northern villages of Karrana and Abu Saiba, the north-central village Shakhura, the village of Sanabis in the capital's outskirts, and Sadat Village that lies on the country's west coast.

They blasted Manama's intention to open an embassy in the occupied territories, and the reciprocal prospect of an Israeli embassy in Bahrain.

The participants held up Palestinian flags and banners, expressing outrage at the normalization, and set fire to Israeli flags.



'A black day in history of Bahrain'

Former lawmaker Ali al-Aswad, who had resigned in 2011 in response to the government's crackdown on peaceful protesters, called it a "black day in the history of Bahrain."

"You will be reminded by history for your support [of] colonialism and colonization," he said.

Maryam al-Khawaja, daughter of prominent imprisoned human rights activist Abdulhadi al-Khawaja, also said it was Bahrain's people that mattered, and that the diplomatic maneuver solely reflected the regime's standpoint.

With Travel Limited, Plane Cafes Take Off In Thailand

Bangkok, Thailand: With millions around the world stuck at home due to the pandemic, "plane cafes" in Thailand are offering customers the chance to pretend they are in the sky -- and the idea seems to have taken off.

On board a retired commercial airplane in the coastal city of Pattaya, coffee drinkers make themselves comfy on first-class-style seats and pose for photos by the overhead lockers.

Boarding passes in hand, some "passengers" even opt for a tour of the cockpit.

"With this cafe I can sit in first class and also mess around in the cockpit pretending to be the captain of the plane," 26-year-old Thipsuda Faksaitong told AFP.

"It's a lot of fun."

Chalisa Chuensranoi, 25, said her visit was as good as any trip she had taken before the pandemic, which shuttered Thailand's bor-



ders in March.

"Sitting right here in the first-class section... really gives me the feeling of actually being on a plane, cruising through the air," she said.

In another cafe at the headquarters of national carrier Thai Airways in Bangkok, hungry diners appear even to have missed plane food as they gobble up spaghetti carbonara and Thai-style beef served

on plastic trays by cabin crew.

But for Intrawut Simapichet, 38, who came to the cafe with his wife and baby, the experience is about more than a meal.

"Normally I'm a person who travels very often, and when we are forced to stay at home... it's kind of depressing," he said as fellow passengers posed with luggage by a fake airplane door.

Bloomberg to spend \$100m in Florida to help Biden

NEW YORK: Michael Bloomberg, who spent \$1 billion of his own money on a failed 2020 presidential bid, will inject at least \$100 million to help Democrat Joe Biden's campaign against President Donald Trump in Florida.

The billionaire's decision comes at a critical moment in the final 51 days of the race, with polls showing a close race in the battleground state and no financial advantage for the sitting president.

Trump's initial financial supremacy over former Vice President Biden has evaporated after the Republican's campaign spent freely and Democratic fundraising surged once the party's divisive primary ended.

"Mike Bloomberg is committed to helping defeat Trump, and that is going to happen in the battleground states," said Bloomberg adviser Kevin Sheekey, who added that the spending "will mean Democrats and the Biden campaign can invest even more heavily in other key

states like Pennsylvania, which will be critical to a Biden victory."

Even before Bloomberg's spending, both campaigns were expecting Florida to be the most expensive state in which to campaign. It will be the biggest prize among competitive states on Election Day, offering 29 of the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win.

Voting by mail in the state starts on Sept 24, and Biden is planning his first in-person visit to Florida of the general election season on Tuesday.

Trump won the state by 113,000 votes in his victorious 2016 election, or 1.2 percentage points. He has since adopted the state as his residence and visits regularly.

Recent polls have shown Biden with a very slim margin there, gaining ground with older voters but trailing previous Democrats' performance with Latinos. People over 65 years old make up one in five of the state's voters and

Lock of Abraham Lincoln's hair sells for more than \$81,000

Boston: A lock of Abraham Lincoln's hair along with a blood-stained telegram about his 1865 assassination have been sold at auction for more than USD 81,000.

The items were sold during an auction that ended Saturday, according to RR Auction of Boston.

No information about the buyer was disclosed.

The roughly 2-inch (5 centimetre) long lock of hair was removed during Lincoln's postmortem examination after he was fatally shot at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., by John Wilkes Booth.



N E W S M A K E R S

WPI Inflation Rises 0.16% In Aug; Food, Manufactured Items Turn Costlier



The wholesale price-based inflation rose 0.16 per cent in August as food items and manufactured products turned costlier. The Wholesale price index based (WPI) inflation was in the negative territory for four straight months—April (-) 1.57 per cent, May (-) 3.37 per cent, June (-) 1.81 per cent and July (-) 0.58 per cent. "The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, stood at (0.16 per cent) (provisional) for the month of August, 2020 (over August, 2019) as compared to 1.17 per cent during the corresponding month of the pre-

vious year," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement on Monday. Inflation in food articles during August stood at 3.84 per cent. The rate of rise in potato prices stood at 82.93 per cent. Inflation in vegetables stood at 7.03 per cent, while in onion it was (-) 34.48 per cent. Fuel and power inflation fell 9.68 per cent in August, as against 9.84 per cent in the previous month. Manufactured products, however, witnessed hardening of inflation at 1.27 per cent in August against 0.51 per cent in July. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its policy review last month kept interest rates unchanged and said it sees an upside risk to inflation. The apex bank projected retention of inflation to moderate in October-March period.

Govt Seeks Parliament Nod For Rs 20,000-Cr Capital Infusion In PSBs



The government on Monday sought Parliament's approval for infusing Rs 20,000 crore in public sector banks in the current financial year to meet regulatory requirements. This is part of the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2020-21 moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha. In all, the government has sought Parliament's nod for additional spending of Rs 2.35 lakh crore, which includes a cash outgo of Rs 1.66 lakh crore, primarily to meet expenses for combating the COVID-19 pandemic. "For meeting expenditure towards recapitalisation of public sector banks through issue of government securities, the government has asked for Parliament's authorisation of Rs 20,000 crore," as per a document. In 2019-20, the government proposed to make Rs 70,000 crore capital infusion into the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to boost credit for a strong impetus to the economy. However, the government refrained from committing any capital in the Budget 2020-21 for the PSBs, hoping that the lenders will raise funds from the market depending on the requirements. In the last financial year, Punjab National Bank got Rs 16,091 crore, Union Bank of

India received Rs 11,768 crore while Canara Bank and Indian Bank got Rs 6,571 crore and Rs 2,534 crore, respectively. Allahabad Bank received Rs 2,153 crore, United Bank of India got 1,666 crore and Andhra Bank received Rs 200 crore. These three lenders have been merged with various PSBs. Besides, Bank of Baroda got a capital infusion of Rs 7,000 crore, Indian Overseas Bank received Rs 4,360 crore and UCO Bank got Rs 2,142 crore. Punjab & Sind Bank received Rs 787 crore and Central Bank of India got Rs 3,353 crore. In addition, LIC-controlled IDBI Bank received additional capital of Rs 4,557 crore through the supplementary demands for grants. The government has also sought Rs 1,232 crore as subsidy to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) on interest subvention of 2 per cent on prompt repayment of Shishu Loans extended under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY). Further, Sitharaman has sought approval of Parliament of Rs 4,000 crore for meeting an additional expenditure towards Grants-in-Aid General to National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) for the Guarantee Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility to eligible MSME borrowers.



ON A SUNNY September day in Srinagar, goats walking on a wooden platform in the interiors of the Dal Lake.

Covid Tally In India Breaches 48-Lakh Mark With 92,071 New Cases

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 case tally crossed 48-lakh with 92,071 new infections being reported in a day while over 37.8 lakh people have recuperated taking the national recovery rate to 78 per cent on Monday, according to the Union Health Ministry data. The total coronavirus cases mounted to 48,46,427 while the death toll climbed to 79,722 with 1,136 more people succumbing to the infection in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed. The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection has further dropped to 1.64 per cent. There are 9,86,598 active cases of COVID-19 in the country while 37,80,107 people have recovered, 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. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 5,72,39,428 samples have been tested up to September 13 with 9,78,500 samples being tested on Sunday. Of the 1,136 fresh deaths, 416 were



reported from Maharashtra, 104 from Karnataka, 80 from Uttar Pradesh, 74 from Tamil Nadu, 68 from Punjab, 66 from Andhra Pradesh, 58 from West Bengal, 34 from Madhya Pradesh, 29 from Delhi, 19 from Haryana, 16 each from Assam and Chhattisgarh, 15 each from Puducherry, Rajasthan and Gujarat, 14 each from Kerala, Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir and 13 each from Jharkhand and Telangana. Twelve fatalities were reported from Uttarakhand, 10 from Odisha, six from Tripura, four each from Goa and Himachal Pradesh, three from Sikkim while Chandigarh, Ladakh, Manipur and Meghalaya have registered one fatality each. Of the total 79,722 deaths, Maharashtra has reported the maximum at 29,531, followed by 8,381 deaths

in Tamil Nadu, 7,265 in Karnataka, 4,912 in Andhra Pradesh, 4,744 in Delhi, 4,429 in Uttar Pradesh, 3,945 in West Bengal, 3,210 in Gujarat and 2,356 in Punjab. So far, 1,762 people have died of COVID-19 in Madhya Pradesh, 1,236 in Rajasthan, 975 in Haryana, 974 in Telangana, 878 in Jammu and Kashmir, 822 in Bihar, 626 in Odisha, 555 each in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, 469 in Assam, 439 in Kerala and 414 in Uttarakhand. Puducherry has registered 385 fatalities, Goa 290, Tripura 200, Chandigarh 93, Himachal Pradesh 77, Andaman and Nicobar Islands 51, Manipur 46, Ladakh 40, Meghalaya 26, Sikkim 14, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh 10, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu two. The Health Ministry said more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities. "Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the Ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures was subject to further verification and reconciliation. PTI

'What A Job You've Done...': Trump All Praise For Modi's Covid Fight

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised him for doing a great job in coronavirus testing, as he continued to slam his Democratic opponent Joe Biden for being a complete disaster in handling the swine flu during the previous administration. "By far, we've tested more people than India, than many, many big countries put together. India is second (in coronavirus testing after the US). We're 44 million tests ahead of India. They have 1.5 billion people. And Prime Minister Modi calls me and says, what a job you've done with testing," Trump said at an election rally in Reno, Nevada. Trump is currently making a swing of some of the key states in the West Coast and has been spending a considerable amount of time in Nevada. The president said that PM Modi's comment on testing being done by the US needs to be explained to the



media, which is after him over his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. "I said, explain that to these dishonest people (media people) back (at the election rally). Biden's record demonstrates that if he had been in charge, when the China virus arrived, hundreds of thousands of more Americans would have died. As vice president, he presided over the worst and the weakest and the slowest economic recovery, since the great depression," Trump said. Trump said that it was the most pathetic recovery, since the depression. "No state was hit harder by Biden's failure than Nevada. This is

not the guy you want," he said. Trump said that he has spent the last four years bringing jobs back to America, securing borders, rebuilding the military and standing up to China, like never before. "Nobody had ever stood up to China like we have stood up to China and you haven't seen the last of it," he said. Biden, if he wins, would be controlled by the left radicals. "Now he wants to surrender our country to the violent left wing mob. If Biden wins, China wins. If Biden wins, the mob wins," Trump said. "If Biden wins the rioters win, the anarchists win, the flag burners, the anarchists...they all win," he alleged. Alleging that this is a rigged election, Trump said that this is the only way he could be defeated. "But I'll tell you what, he (Biden) is the worst candidate in the history of presidential politics. He doesn't know he's alive. He doesn't know he's alive," he said.

I SAID, EXPLAIN THAT TO THESE DISHONEST PEOPLE (MEDIA PEOPLE) back (at the election rally). Biden's record demonstrates that if he had been in charge, when the China virus arrived, hundreds of thousands of more Americans would have died. As vice president, he presided over the worst and the weakest and the slowest economic recovery, since the great depression,"

Nepal 'Buying' Citizens In 3 Indian Villages

NEW DELHI: With India locked in a standoff with China on the Line of Actual Control, Nepal has started to play its games with renewed vigour. The K.P. Sharma Oli government is increasingly sending feelers to people living in three villages adjoining the Kalapani region in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand to shift their loyalties to Nepal in order to stake claim over the villages which are administered by India, a news report said on Monday. Coming at a time when the Nepal Army is believed to be assisting China expand its military bases close to Mount Kailash, China seems to be behind the latest move by Nepal, which is seen as a quid pro quo arrangement between the two neighbours. In return, the Nepal government is promising tonnes of money, land and houses along with Nepalese citizenship — most of which is believed to be funded by China, Deccan Chronicle reported. DC quoting sources reported that for the past few days, "agents" working for the Nepal government have got in touch with people residing in Kuti, Nabhi and Gunji villages — located a few kilometres from Kalapani territory in Pithoragarh district — asking them to consider shifting loyalties to Nepal. The locals of these three Indian villages, located at an altitude of over 10,000 feet, who share a "roti-beti" relationship with the people of Darchula in Nepal, are getting multiple calls from people on the other side asking them to consider the "irresistible offer". Information reaching Indian security agencies is that these agents have been

either been making calls directly to the villagers, claiming to be their "well-wishers", or taking the other easy way of making the locals of Darchula speak with their friends and relatives in the three villages. For decades, people on both sides have remained in constant touch with each other, hopping in and out of Indian territory almost every day as they either have business links or relatives on the other side. Many Indian girls have married into Nepali families in Darchula and elsewhere in Nepal. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the India-Nepal border has been sealed for the past few months. People on both sides communicate with each other using Nepal Telecom SIM cards. With the frequency of such calls increasing by the day — which has now become a point of discussion in the three villages — the villagers are contemplating writing to the Centre that there is no question of shifting loyalties and that they firmly remain with India. Many of them even held a meeting among themselves on Friday. In all three villages put together, there are more than 850 residents. Prior to the pandemic, people on both sides used to meet every day. Many on the Nepal side depend on the Indian side for their livelihood. DC further reported that though there were some indications earlier that Nepal might resort to such moves, especially after it claimed Kalapani to be its territory, the attempts at wooing with the villagers with land, money and Nepalese citizenship has increased manifold even as tensions between India and China along the LAC is at an all-time high.

Same Sex Marriages Not Recognised By Our Laws, Society And Our Values: Centre To HC



NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday told the Delhi High Court that marriage between same sex couples was "not permissible" as it is not recognised by "our laws, legal system, society and our values". The submission was made before a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan by Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta during hearing of a PIL seeking a declaration that same sex marriages be recognised under the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) and Special Marriage Act. Mehta opposed the relief sought in the petition saying "our laws, our legal system, our society and our values do not recognise a marriage, which is a sacrament, between same sex couples". He said the plea to grant recognition to or permit registration of such marriages was "not permissible" for two reasons — firstly, the petition was asking the court to legislate and secondly, any relief granted "would run contrary to various statutory provisions". "Unless court does violence to various laws, this cannot be done," he added. Mehta also said that under the HMA, the various provisions regulating marriages or prohibited relationships talk of husband and wife and therefore, who would be assigned these roles where a same sex couple was concerned. The bench observed that the world over things were changing, but it may or may not be applicable to India. It, however, questioned the need for a PIL in the instant case, saying the people who claim to be affected are well educated and can themselves approach the court. "Why should we entertain the PIL," it added. The counsel for the petitioner stated that the affected people were not coming forward themselves as they feared reprisals and therefore, a PIL was preferred. It asked the lawyer appearing for the petitioner, Abhijit Iyer Mitra, to give details of the persons who were not permitted to register their same sex marriage.

NEWS MAKERS

Indore Man Arrested Under NSA For Selling 'Beef'

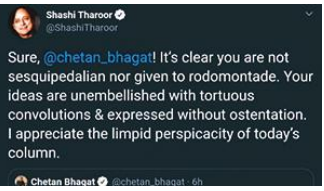
INDORE: A 39-year-old man has been arrested under the stringent National Security Act for allegedly selling beef in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, police said on Monday. On the basis of a police report issued on Sunday, the district administration sent the accused to jail under the National Security Act (NSA), Superintendent of Police (West Zone) Mahesh Chandra Jain said. Under the NSA, a person can be detained without a charge for up to 12 months if authorities are satisfied that he or she is a threat to national security or law and order. According to police, the man was arrested on charges of selling beef in South Toda area under Raoji Bazar police station limits here. Acting on a tip-off, the police raided a shop in the area on Saturday and al-



legedly seized a large quantity of beef from there, Raoji Bazar police station's sub-inspector Seema Dhakad said. The accused was allegedly selling beef at the shop meant for selling goat meat, the official said. A probe is underway to find out from where he got beef and to whom he was selling it, Dhakad said. Earlier also, cases were registered against the accused in Indore and Ujjain under the MP Cow Progeny Slaughter Prevention Act-2004, the official said, adding that these cases are pending in court. PTI

Tharoor's Reply To Chetan Bhagat's 'Praise Me In Big Words' Leaves Netizens In Splits

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, whose penchant for obscure many-syllable words is well-known, on Sunday had an odd request from author Chetan Bhagat who asked the word wizard to praise him using "big words". Much to the delight of Bhagat, Tharoor obliged in no time and used choice of words — "sesquipedalian" to "limpid perspicacity" and whatnot — from his voluminous vocabulary, famously called "Tharoorosaurus", in his tweet addressed to the author. It all started after Tharoor, 64, took to Twitter and praised Bhagat for his article in Times of India, titled "The youth need to shut their phones and ask about the economy". The Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram termed Bhagat's opinion piece as "superb" and one with a "clear message".



"Superb piece by @chetan_bhagat on all that ails our country & what we should do about it. Chetan's great virtue is the simplicity and directness of his writing. His message is clear & I hope his fans in the government act on it," tweeted Tharoor, a best-selling author himself. Taken aback by the lavish praise from Tharoor, Bhagat who said he will be framing the tweet requested the Congress leader to use "big words" to praise him. "Ok I still can't get over this. The @ShashiTharoor has praised @che-

tanbhagat. I am floating. Just one request sir, next time can you use some big words to praise me, like ones that only you can do. Superb is nice but a big one would really make my day!," Bhagat tweeted. Soon the diplomat-turned-politician replied, "Sure, @chetan_bhagat! It's clear you are not sesquipedalian nor given to rodomontade. Your ideas are unembellished with tortuous convolutions & expressed without ostentation. I appreciate the limpid perspicacity of today's column." The entertaining Twitter exchange gave way to a flurry of memes and hilarious tweets. "Google is also unable to translate," tweeted Raja Ram Singh. "Enjoyed this @ShashiTharoor chetan_bhagat can write another book 'The 4th Mistake of My Life'," tweeted Dominic Savio.

Great Grandson Of Last Ruler Of Oudh Succumbs To Covid



Lucknow: The great-grandson of the last king of Oudh, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah -- Prince Kaukab Quder Saajad Ali Meerza, has passed away. He died in Kolkata on Sunday evening. He was the last surviving great-grandson of Wajid Ali Shah and Begum Hazrat Mahal. The 87-year-old had tested positive for Covid-19 a week ago, his family said. He is survived by his wife, who belongs to Lucknow's famous Khandaan-e-Jitehaad family, two sons and four daughters.

He was also a senior trustee of the Sibtanabad Imambara Trust in Matiaburi, Kolkata, where his great grandfather, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah lies buried. Prince Kaukab Quder Saajad Ali Meerza, better known as Dr M. Kaukub, had done his doctorate in Urdu from the Aligarh Muslim University on the Literary and Cultural Contributions of Wajid Ali Shah. He joined the same university and retired as Professor of Urdu in 1993. Dr M. Kaukub was a popular figure in the billiards and the snooker fraternity of the country. He was the founder-secretary of the Billiards & Snooker Federation of India, The West Bengal Billiards Association and also The Uttar Pradesh Billiards & Snooker Association.