

News Digest

Naeem Akhtar Released From Detention

Srinagar- PDP leader and former minister Naeem Akhtar on Thursday said he has been set free by Jammu and Kashmir authorities after 407 days in custody since the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year. "After 407 days of detention am informed that I am free to move about. Thank you rulers for small mercies while you inflict larger tragedies on our land," the PDP leader said in a sarcastic tweet. Akhtar was among several mainstream politicians, including three former chief ministers of the erstwhile state -- Farooq

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FIR Filed After Police Pelted With Stones

Srinagar: Police on Thursday filed FIR after a team on way to arrest a tractor driver was challenged by a 'mob' at Chichloora of Kunzer area in the district. A police official told news gathering agency GNS that police station Kunzer lodged the FIR (77/20) in connection with a law and order incident which took place at Chichloora Kunzer. "A police party was on way to arrest one 'suspected' tractor driver, who had fled from the Naka point at Chachloora Kunzer," the official said, adding, "On the way some mob attacked on police party

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LMD Slaps Fine On Two Petrol Pumps

Srinagar: The Legal Metrology Department on Thursday slapped a fine of Rs.10, 000 each on two petrol pump after they were found issuing 30 ml and 40 ml short fuel in every 5 litre measure. During a routine inspection of several petrol-pumps of city Srinagar under the supervision of Controller Legal Metrology Department J&K M. Akbar Wani one nozzle among several nozzles at two different filling stations were found issuing 30 ml and 40 ml short fuel in every 5 litre measure, an official spokesperson said. "The functions of

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Youth Found Dead In Sopore

Srinagar: A youth was found dead inside his home in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday. 28-year-old Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside his home in Muslimpeer locality of Sopore, official sources said Thursday. They said a police team took the body in custody to conduct post-mortem and to ascertain the cause of death. After completing the post mortem and other legal formalities, the body will be handed over to family, sources said. They said a case under 174 CRPC has been registered and investigations have been taken up. (KDC)

Nine Injured In Rajouri Road Accident

Rajouri: At least nine persons were injured on Thursday in a road accident on Jammu-Rajouri national highway. A tripper on the way to Rajouri from Jammu collided with a passenger cab on Jammu-Rajouri national highway near Dandesar village on Thursday evening, resulting in injuries to 9 persons including three women. "All the injured were shifted to Nowshera sub-district hospital for treatment." The official said that in this regard a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Nowshera police station—(KNO)

3 Militants, Woman Killed In Batamaloo Encounter



STATE FORCES leaving Batamaloo after a deadly pre-dawn gunfight ended on Thursday morning. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of people on Thursday protested in Batamaloo area of this capital city after a pre-dawn encounter in the area left three militants and a woman dead, while two CRPF personnel, including an officer, were injured.

Around 2:30 am, state forces launched a cordon and search operation in Firdous Abad locality of Batamaloo following specific information about presence of militants, officials here said.

According to police, besieged militants turned down surrender offer and opened fire on joint column of forces resulting in injuries to a CRPF Deputy Commandant Rahul Mathur and a woman identified as Kousar Jan.

"The lady succumbed to her injuries on the spot while as the injured CRPF Officer was shifted to hospital for treatment for his injuries," police said.

However, the son of the deceased woman contested the po-

All Slain Militants Local: DGP

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh said that three militants were killed in the encounter and all were locals from south Kashmir. Addressing a press conference at the Police Control Room (PCR) Srinagar, the DGP said that in the early hours of the day, state forces, while acting on a lead, zeroed in

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Pulwama Type Attack Averted: Police

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday claimed to have unearthed huge cache of explosive material in South Kashmir's Awantipora area. In a statement, police said that acting on tipoff about the presence of militant of outfit Jaish-e- Mohammad, Police, 42 RR and 130 BN CRPF conducted a joint search

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lice claim that she was killed in the cross-fire between state forces and the besieged militants.

A local news agency KNT quoted Kousar's son Aqib Reyaz as saying that he and his mother were fired upon by the government forces when they were retreating from the area where they run a bakery shop. "My mother died instantly after government forces fired

at us," he added.

Police has identified slain militants as Zakir Ahmad Paul of Shopian, Ubair Mushtaq Bhat of Kulgam and Adil Hussain Bhat of Awantipora saying all belonged to Hizbul Mujahideen. Pertinently this is the fourth encounter in the capital city this year. Earlier similar exchanges took place in Nawakadal, Zoonimar

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“THE LADY SUCCUMBED TO HER INJURIES ON THE SPOT while as the injured CRPF Officer was shifted to hospital for treatment for his injuries,”

PDP Raises Mehbooba's Detention Issue In RS

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha MP and PDP leader Mir Mohammad Fayaz on Thursday demanded release of all detained political leaders and workers, including his party's chief Mehbooba Mufti, saying they are under detention in Jammu and Kashmir for over one year.

Raising the matter during Zero Hour in the Upper House of Parliament, Fayaz said Article 370 was abrogated on August 5 last year and thousands, including political leaders, were arrested on the same night.

"...a year has passed. Still many leaders are detained under the PSA (Public Safety Act) or under house arrest," he said. Mufti, a former chief minister and three-time Member of Parliament, has been booked under the PSA

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Coronavirus Claims 26-Year-Old, 18 Others; J&K Toll Reaches 954

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least nineteen people, including a 26-year-old youth succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the fatality count across the Union Territory to 954.

While Jammu division reported 14 more Covid-19 deaths, the remaining five were confirmed by officials from the Kashmir Valley.

Among the victims from Valley, officials said included a 95-year-old woman from Bandedipora, a 65-year-old from Peerbagh, a 62-year-old woman from

Lal Bazar, a man from Chewdara Beerwah and a 73-year-old man from Tiral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Among others, the victims from Jammu include a 38-year-old man from Ramgarh, a 74-year-old man from Mahendra Nagar, a 65-year-old man from Residency Road, an 86-year-old from Lazpal Nagar and a 26-year-old from Patoli Battadeh Jammu. With these deaths, 954 people has lost lives to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir—755 from Valley and 199 from Jammu. (With GNS inputs)

62 Travellers Among 1467 More Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 1467 new cases of coronavirus, including 62 travellers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 59711. Officials said that 785 fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported from Jammu

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Pakistan To Grant G-B Full Provincial Status

ISLAMABAD- Pakistan has decided to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan's status to that of a full-fledged province, a Pakistani media report on Thursday quoted a senior minister as saying.

According to a report in the Express Tribune, Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Ali Amin Gandapur, on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan would soon visit the region and make the formal announcement to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan to the status of a full-fledged province with all constitutional rights.

Gandapur said Gilgit-Baltistan would be given adequate representation on all constitutional bodies, including the National Assembly and the Senate.

After consultation with all stakeholders, the federal government has decided in principle to give constitutional rights to Gilgit-Baltistan, the minister told reporters.

India has conveyed to Pakistan that "the entire union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of the country by virtue of its fully legal and irrevocable accession."

India has said "the Government of Pakistan or its judiciary has no locus

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LADAKH FACE-OFF

China Occupying 38,000 Sq Kms In Ladakh: DM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday asserted that no force in the world can stop Indian soldiers from patrolling the country's border in Ladakh region.

Making a statement in Rajya Sabha on the situation in eastern Ladakh, he said China has amassed troops on the border and in response India has made appropriate counter deployment.

China, he said, made "provocative military manoeuvres" on August 29/30 in an attempt to change the status quo in the south bank area of Pangong Lake in the Ladakh region at a time when the two sides were engaged in military and diplomatic talks to de-escalate tensions.

The defence minister said there is a mismatch between

Oppn Demands Restoration Of Status Quo

Opposition leaders in the Rajya Sabha asked the government on Thursday to restore status quo ante as on April this year on the India-China border. Cutting across

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what China says and does.

"Unki kathani aur kami lag hai (their actions are at variance with their words)," he said

The skirmishes and face-off in the last few months with China, that left 20 Indian soldiers dead and inflicted heavy casualties on the Chinese sides as well, were primarily over the issue of patrolling

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Both Sides Should Focus On Easing Tensions: MEA

India on Thursday said China should sincerely work with it for complete disengagement of troops at the earliest from all friction areas including Pangong lake and take steps to de-escalate the situation in eastern Ladakh. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said India hoped the Chinese side would strictly

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Admin Orders Probe Into Sopore 'Custodial Killing'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A day after a youth's mysterious death triggered strong protests in Sopore, the district administration on Thursday ordered a magisterial inquiry to probe the allegations of the family that the youth was killed by police in custody.

The Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr G.N. Ittoo on Thursday directed Additional District Magistrate Baramulla Muhammad Ahsan Mir to conduct enquiry into the alleged custodial killing.

".....In exercise of powers conferred upon me as district magistrate under section 176 of Criminal Procedure, Mr Muhammad Ahsan Mir, KAS, additional district magistrate Baram-

ulla is order to conduct a magisterial enquiry in the above mentioned case so as to ascertain the causes and circumstances leading to the death of Mr Irfan Ahmad Dar

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ED Files Charge Sheet Against Shabir Shah's Wife

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Enforcement Directorate has made incarcerated senior Hurriyat leader Shabir Shah's wife Dr. Bilquis Shah an accused in a 2005 case of money laundering for alleged militant financing against him and alleged hawala dealer Mohammad Aslam Wani.

The probe agency named her as an accused in its supplementary charge sheet filed in the case on Wednesday.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana will take up the matter on November 10.

In the charge sheet filed by ED's special public prosecutors N K Matata and Rajeev Awasthi, the probe



agency said that Bilquis Shah, along with Shabir Shah had received Rs 2.08 crore from Aslam Wani.

It said the claim was based on Wani's disclosure in the case, where he admitted that "all amounts were in cash and were handed over to Shabir Ahmad Shah and on three occasions to Dr. Bilquies Shah .

The ED said: She received the said amount knowing fully well that her husband had no known

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Army Chief Reviews Security Situation In Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Indian army chief General MM Naravane on Thursday reviewed security situation in Kashmir on the first day of his two-day visit to the Valley.

The Army Chief arrived in Valley on Thursday and proceeded to undertake a firsthand assessment of the situation along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir, an army spokesperson said. During his interaction with the soldiers deployed in high altitude areas, Naravane appreciated their high morale and complimented them on their response to Pakistan ceasefire violations.

"He also commended use of technology to ensure effective day and night surveillance across the LC

which has resulted in many successful operations to foil infiltration bids from PCK in the recent past," the army spokesperson said.

The Army Chief, he said reinforced the need to extend all possible support to civilians residing in the border areas, who are victims of targeted ceasefire violations by Pakistani Army and are facing hardships due to the pandemic.

"The COAS then proceeded to interact with commanders and troops deployed in the hinterland. While interacting with jawans, the COAS highlighted that it was the dawn of a new era of development, peace and prosperity in Kashmir and applauded them for their high level of morale and contribution to peace building in J&K," the army

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I-T Dept Searches Top Hotelier, Jeweller In J&K

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Income Tax Department has conducted raids on a prominent hotelier and a jeweller based in Jammu and Kashmir on charges of alleged tax evasion, the CBDT said on Thursday.

In the first case, searches were launched on Wednesday against the hotelier who owns a chain of hotels at popular tourist spots of the Union Territory like Srinagar, Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam and he also has a hotel under-construction in Leh.

"Various incriminating documents and materials evidencing unexplained investments in immovable properties, construction of hotels and residences aggregating to



A TROOPER STANDS guard during IT department's raid on a hotelier in Dalgate area on Wednesday. KO File photo Abid Bhat

Rs 25 crore in the last six financial years have been seized during the search, though he has not paid any tax since assessment year 2014-15.

"Almost all these investments are in cash and outside the known sources of income," the CBDT said in a statement without identifying

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India Wants Normal Relations With Pak: India

Agencies

NEW DELHI: India wishes for normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan but Islamabad has to create a conducive atmosphere by taking credible, verifiable and irreversible action against militancy, said V Muralidharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, on Thursday.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha on India's present foreign policy towards Pakistan, the Minister said, "India wishes for normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan but Islamabad has to create a conducive atmosphere, including by taking credible, verifiable and irreversible action to not allow any territory under its control to be used for cross-border militancy

Govt Rejects Pak's New Map, Calls It 'Absurd'

The government on Thursday said it has rejected Pakistan's "obsession" with "territorial aggrandisement" supported by cross border terrorism, in a reference to Islamabad unveiling a new political map laying claim to Indian territories. Minister of State for External

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against India in any manner."

Speaking on steps being taken by India to counter Pakistan on militancy, the Minister said, "As a result of Government's persistent

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From Front page...

3 Militants, Woman Killed...

and Malabagh areas. At least five forces personnel have also been killed in three separate militant attacks in Srinagar this year. According to the witnesses, the killings triggered protests in the area. Scores of youth hit the streets and clashed with government forces deployed in the area in huge numbers.

“The government forces fired pellets and burst tear smoke shells to disperse the stone pelting youth. However, the angry protesters regrouped and continued renewed attacks on the police and paramilitary forces. The ding-dong battles continued for several hours,” Farooq Ahmad Bhat, a local told Kashmir Observer.

He said that thousands of people turned up at the funeral of the woman amidst intense sloganeering on Thursday night.

All Slain Militants Local: DGP...

on a house where the militants were hiding.

“They were given a chance to surrender, but they refused and fired. One CRPF officer and another CRPF man sustained injuries in the initial exchange of firing. The officer is critical and we are praying for his recovery,” Singh said. He added that the forces conducted the operation in a professional manner and killed all the three militants. The three militants were identified as Zakir Ahmad Paul of Shopian, Ubair Mushtaq Bhat of Kulgam and Adil Hussain Bhat of Awantipora, affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen. “However, a woman was caught in the crossfire. Her death is very unfortunate, and we express sympathy with the bereaved family,” the DGP said. The DGP was accompanied by IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar and IG, CRPF, Srinagar sector, Charu Sinha.

“Arms and ammunition were recovered,” he said. Singh said militants from other districts of south and north Kashmir keep coming to Srinagar to carry out attacks on state forces. “On August 14, they targeted our party and killed two policemen at Nowgam. Before that, they had killed two BSF men at Pandach on the city’s outskirts. And then, they made another attempt at Pantha Chowk, where we lost a brave SOG man,” the DGP said. He said the police and CRPF teams are on alert, and whenever they get a lead about the presence of militants in the city, efforts are made to ensure zero collateral damage. “Today’s operation was the seventh one in Srinagar in the recent past,” Singh added. Police chief said 177 militants have been killed in 72 operations so far this year.

“In terms of peace, 2020 has been better on every parameter than 2019. So far this year, we have done 72 operations, in which 177 militants were killed, including 12 in Jammu,” the DGP said. He said 22 militants from Pakistan were among these 177. “Most of the (militants) working in outfits like Lashkar and Jaish are from Pakistan. I hope the way the forces are conducting operations, we will achieve more successes on the peace-building and operations front,” Singh said. He said the endeavour of the state forces was to avoid collateral damage in every operation.

“We also give opportunity to the militants to surrender, even when there is exchange of firing. Also, we try to bring back those youth who have taken up the wrong path and we have achieved success on that front also, especially in south Kashmir. I think around 20 youth have been brought back and they have joined their families,” the DGP said. He appealed to the young people not to take the wrong path, saying it puts the society in danger.

“Where the gun or bullet or grenade reaches, there is loss of life, and we can avoid it only if we shun the path of militancy and make way for peace. I think Pakistan does not lose an opportunity to instigate our youth and is trying to renew (militant) outfits like Al-Badr and create new ones like PAFF (People’s anti-Fascist Front) and TRF (The Resistance Front). Pakistani agencies in Karachi are planning and executing these things and we condemn it. The youth here have a right to build their own lives and careers, but Pakistan’s interference is there,” Singh said. Asked about the alleged assaults on media persons near the encounter sites, the DGP said it was unfortunate. Such things should not take place, he added.

“We do not support such acts and feel bad. But at times, during operations, our men have high temper which results in such incidents. There is overreaction sometimes, which I regret. However, there is no deliberate attempt. I reiterate that media and policemen are each other’s good friends,” he said. (with PTI inputs)

Pulwama Type Attack...

of the nursery area near forests of village Gadikhal Awantipora, as per news agency GNS. “During search of the said forest area, 02 explosive dumps were found which were concealed underground in 02 different 250 litres of plastic tanks,” the statement added. The statement said that in one plastic tank 416 high explosive gelatin sticks were kept concealed and have been recovered. In an another plastic tank 50 detonators were recovered. The detonators were destroyed by the Bomb Disposal Squad on the spot, due to their risk of carrying/transporting. “By virtue of this recovery, state forces have been able to avert some major militant attack by means of explosive substances,” the statement further said.

“Consequent upon this case FIR number 126/2020 under relevant sections of Unlawful Activity Act has been registered in Police Station Awantipora and investigation has been taken up,” the statement added.

Pakistan To Grant G-B Full...

standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it.”

“India completely rejects such actions and continued attempts to bring material changes in Pakistan (Controlled) areas of the Indian territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Instead, Pakistan should immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation,” the Ministry of External Affairs said in May while protesting Islamabad’s efforts to bring material change in Pakistan controlled territories.

China Occupying 38,000 Sq...

the Ladakh border. “No force in the world can stop Indian soldiers from patrolling. Our soldiers have sacrificed their lives only for this,” the minister said. He was responding to a clarification sought by former defence minister A K Antony on the issue of Indian forces not being allowed to patrol in certain parts of the Galwan valley. I want to make it clear (that) skirmishes and face-off are because of this (issue of patrolling),” he said, adding the patrolling pattern is traditional and well defined.

Singh made the statement in Rajya Sabha after the government and opposition agreed not to have a discussion on the sensitive issue. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, however, allowed members to seek a few clarifications on the statement, which was almost identical to the one Singh had made in Lok Sabha on September 15. The minister said India and China are yet to resolve their boundary question. “China does not accept the customary and traditional alignment of the boundary between India and China,” he said.

“We believe that this alignment is based on well-established geographical principles confirmed by treaties and agreements, as well as historical usage and practice, well-known for centuries to both sides,” he said. The Chinese position, however, is that the boundary between the two countries has not been formally delimited, that there exists a traditional customary line formed by the extent of jurisdiction that they claim was exercised historically by each side, and that the two sides have different interpretations of the position of the traditional customary line,” he said.

China, he said, continues to be in illegal occupation of about 38,000 square kilometers of Ladakh. Besides it also holds 5,180 sq km of Indian territory in Pakistan controlled Kashmir that Pakistan had illegally ceded in 1963.

“I would like to mention here that as yet there is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China and there is no common perception of the entire LAC,” he said, adding more than two decade old agreements call for two sides to maintain minimal forces along the LAC. On the latest situation, the minister said India has noticed a buildup of troops and armaments by China in the border areas adjacent to Eastern Ladakh since April. “In early May, the Chinese side had taken action to hinder the normal, traditional patrolling pattern of our troops in the Galwan Valley area, which resulted in a face-off,” he said.

Even as this situation was being addressed by the Ground Commanders, in mid-May the Chinese side made several attempts to transgress the LAC in other parts of the Western Sector. This included Kongka La, Gogra and North Bank of Pangong Lake. “These attempts were detected early and consequently responded to appropriately by our armed forces,” he said.

“We made it clear to the Chinese side both through diplomatic and military channels that China was, by such actions, attempting to unilaterally alter the status quo. It was categorically conveyed that this

was unacceptable,” Singh said. Given the growing friction along the LAC, the senior commanders of the two sides in a meeting on June 6, 2020 agreed on a process of disengagement that involved reciprocal actions. “Both sides also agreed to respect and abide by the LAC and not undertake any activity to alter the status quo,” he said. “However in violation of this the Chinese side created a violent face off on June 15 at Galwan. Our brave soldiers laid down their lives and also inflicted costs including casualties on the Chinese side,” he said. Indian armed forces have during these provocative actions maintained “sayyam” (restrain) and displayed “shaurya” (valour) to protect the territorial integrity of India, he said.

Giving details of the talks held with China to de-escalate the tension, the minister said India pressed for three key principles – strictly respecting the LAC, not attempting to alter the status quo unilaterally, and abiding by all agreements and understandings between the two sides.

The Chinese side, on its part, took the position that the situation should be handled in a responsible manner and ensure peace and tranquillity as per bilateral agreements and protocol.

China made provocative military manoeuvres late last month even when these discussions were on, he said.

“As is clear from these events, the Chinese actions reflect a disregard of our various bilateral agreements. The amassing of the troops by China goes against the 1993 and 1996 agreements,” the minister said. Respecting and strictly observing the LAC is the basis for peace and tranquillity in the border areas and explicitly recognized in both 1993 and 1996 agreements.

“While our armed forces abide scrupulously by it, this has not been reciprocated by the Chinese side. Their actions have led to face-offs and frictions from time to time along the LAC,” he said.

The incidents and “the violent conduct of Chinese forces” has been in complete violation of all mutually agreed norms, he said.

Singh said China has mobilised a large number of troops and armaments along the LAC as well as in the depth areas.

“There are several friction areas in Eastern Ladakh including Gogra, Kongka La and North and South Banks of the Pangong Lake,” he said.

In response to China’s actions, Indian armed forces have also made appropriate counter deployments in these areas to ensure that national security interests are fully protected.

“I would like to emphasise, that India remains committed to resolving the current issues in our border areas through peaceful dialogue and consultations,” he said, referring to his meeting with his Chinese counterpart in Moscow on September 4.

“I conveyed in clear terms our concerns related to the actions of the Chinese side, including amassing of large number of troops, their aggressive behaviour and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo that were in violation of bilateral agreements,” he added.

Oppn Demands Restoration...

party lines, members in the Upper House of Parliament expressed their solidarity and support to the armed forces, which are facing a standoff situation against the Chinese army in eastern Ladakh. Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anad Sharma and former defence minister A K Antony of the Congress asked the government to take efforts to restore the status quo ante of April and resolve the over-three-month-old border standoff. Some members such as Prasanna Acharya of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Sanjay Raut of the Shiv Sena cautioned the government while entering into any agreement with China over the present situation. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a statement in the Rajya Sabha after the government and opposition agreed that there will be no discussion on the sensitive issue. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, however, allowed the members to seek a few clarifications on the statement, which was almost identical to the one Singh made in the Lok Sabha on September 15. Sharma said the country is proud of its Army and the sacrifices made by the soldiers to protect the border.

“There should be no doubt on this and the entire nation would stand together,” he said. Referring to the recent talks between the Indian defence minister and foreign minister with their Chinese counterparts and a statement on September 11, Sharma asked: “Do we understand that the restoration of the status quo ante will remain a non-negotiable and final objective for India?”

Antony sought a clarification over Singh’s statement in the Upper House. “You have to clarify that sovereignty means status quo ante as on the middle of April. That is the meaning of sovereignty,” he said. Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh was never a disputed site, the former defence minister said.

“Even at Galwan Valley, our soldiers are now not allowed to patrol at the point at which they used to patrol earlier. In the Pangong area, in a more than eight-kilometre area they are not allowing us to patrol, the area which we used to patrol. Previously, we used to patrol till Finger 8 and now we are not being allowed to patrol till Finger 8,” he added. The Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) should be allowed to patrol at the point where they used to patrol earlier, the Congress leader said. Azad said he stands with the armed forces and salute their valour. Being a citizen of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, Azad said the people from there are ready to sacrifice themselves to defend the territory and integrity of the nation. “On behalf of my party, I would say at least on this China issue, we stand with the government. There should be no compromise. They should go back to the position where they were in April,” the Congress leader said.

RCP Singh of the Janata Dal (United) said China is an “ungrateful” country that always follows a “policy of aggression”. He suggested that the government should negotiate with the neighbouring country from a position of strength. Tiruchi Siva and P Wilson of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) expressed their solidarity with the armed forces. Raut said patience and valour are the traditions of India, but not of China.

The neighbouring country has a “tradition of betrayal and we should always be careful with them,” the Shiv Sena leader said.

BP Baishya of the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) said the people of the northeast are with the armed forces and salute their sacrifice. Ravi Prakash Verma of the Samajwadi Party (SP), K Keshava Rao of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), Binoy Viswam of the Communist Party of India (CPI), Elamaram Kareem of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Sanjay Singh of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Veer Singh of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) also participated in the debate and expressed their solidarity with the armed forces.

Both Sides Should Focus On...

respect and observe the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and not make further attempts to “unilaterally” change the status quo. At a media briefing, the MEA spokesperson also referred to the consensus arrived at separate meetings between defence ministers and foreign ministers of the two countries in Moscow on September 4 and September 10 respectively. “There was consensus between the ministers of the two sides, during both the meetings, that there should be quick and complete disengagement of troops from all friction areas along the LAC,” Srivastava said. “Both sides should, therefore, focus on easing tensions in the friction areas by refraining from any actions that may lead to an escalation in the situation. This requires strict adherence to the bilateral agreements and protocols and not making unilateral attempts to change the status quo,” he said.

Admin Orders Probe Into...

Son of Muhammad Akbar Dar R/O Sidiq Colony Sopore,” reads the order. The inquiry officer shall submit his report within a period of 20 days, the order reveals. The order states that allegations of custodial killing have been levelled against Sopore police. “There was huge outcry in Sopore and even it is reported in the media that the deceased was picked up by Sopore police on 15-09-2020 and was therefore in their custody,” it further states. The order further states that SSP Sopore also reported the incident to DC Baramulla vide his no. CRB/ ENQUIRY/176/28631-32 dated 16-09-2020. On Wednesday, protests broke out at Sidiq-Colony area of Sopore after news spread that a youth Irfan Ahmad Dar, arrested by police a day earlier, has been found dead under mysterious circumstances. While the family charged police of killing the youth in custody, the latter claimed that Dar was an OGW and his body was recovered near Stone Quarry of Tujjar-Sharief, hours after he escaped from the police taking cover of darkness and terrain during a search operation. Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Vijay Kumar said today that he believes Dar fell on a stone and may have had a cardiac arrest, and died while trying to flee when the police were taking him to a spot for recovering ammunition. “The SP has said Dar was an OGW, hand grenades were recovered from his possession and that he was being taken to the spot for more recovery

during the night when he fled. He had no arms, so he did not fire and our jawans also did not fire. After some time, they found him. He had fallen on a stone. He also had an injury on his foot. He was taken to a hospital. Post-mortem and COVID tests were done. His family was called and he was buried in Sonamarg,” Kumar said while replying to a query at a presser here on Thursday. Asked why Dar’s body was not handed over to his family, he said earlier, there was a written agreement after a militant had died in Sopore that only 50 to 60 men would attend the funeral, but 2,000 people had turned up. “So we had apprehensions that 10,000 or 20,000 people may gather at the funeral and there was a risk of the spread of the (COVID) pandemic. That is why the body was not handed over to family,” the IGP said.

Results Of DNA Samples...

allegedly killed in a fake encounter in Shopian, will be out in a few days. “The Army’s initial inquiry process is about to complete and they will act on the findings of the inquiry. I believe it is a matter of a few days before the results of the DNA samples are out,” Singh said at a press conference here.

He was responding to a reporter’s question about the delay in the findings of the DNA tests.

The DNA samples were collected from the members of three families in Rajouri district of Jammu on August 14.

Jammu and Kashmir’s Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha recently said he would ensure that there is no injustice to the families.

On July 18, the Army claimed that three militants were killed in the higher reaches of Shopian in south Kashmir. However, no further details were shared.

The controversy erupted after three families filed a complaint at a police station in Rajouri, stating that a member each was missing since July 17 from the Amshipora area of Shopian, where they were working as labourers in apple and walnut orchards.

The relatives of the three men, belonging to Dhar Sakri village in the Kotranka area of Rajouri, lodged the missing report with the local police after they failed to contact the trio and the news of an encounter came from Ashimpora on July 18.

22 Soldiers Died At High...

“Indian Army is deployed in highly treacherous terrain along the borders in J&K, where there is constant threat of crevasses, avalanches and other weather related calamities to the troops,” he said as per the reply. “The government undertakes several steps to prevent casualties like pre-induction medical examination, requisite medical cover at all medical echelons which are well equipped to deal with any high altitude illness, stringent acclimatization schedule, provision of specialized training, special living shelters including provision of kerosene oil, provision of specialized clothing and high quality rations,” he said, adding, “ Steps are also undertaken to utilize modern technological equipments for rescue missions, prevention of accidents and ensuring rapid and timely evacuation of casualty, apart from issuing of regular advisories.

PDP Raises Mehbooba’s ...

alleging she is a “threat” to the country, Fayaz said.

He further said while many have been released, still hundreds are under detention. “Those who have been arrested should be released,” the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MP demanded. He also said that mainstream political leaders fear of being arrested in raising public issues.

In his Zero Hour mention, Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil raised the issue of increase in the death rate of Asiatic Lions due to use of radio collars. He said radio collars have been put on Gir lions in an unscientific way and death rate of lions rose due to it. Alleging that lives of 25 per cent lions were put in danger, he said experts are of the view that the collar should be removed from lions. Congress leader Amee Yajnik stressed on the need for upgrading medical services infrastructure for non-communicable diseases. Meanwhile, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said that in this special session because of the extraordinary situation, there is nothing like a maiden speech for new members. “They will be given an opportunity in the regular session next time. There are many new members who will be speaking. They are more than 42,” he said. Observing that some of the members were not wearing face masks properly, he asked the members to keep the mask on as long as they are in the House.

“If there is some problem, you (members) can just go out for a while and then come back again,” the chairman said.

62 Travellers Among 1467 ...

division while the remaining 682 from Kashmir Valley. This is for a fortnight that more than thousand cases were reported in J&K.

Giving the district wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 233 cases, Budgam 89, Baramulla 53, Pulwama 28, Anantnag 78, Kupwara 47, Bandipora 55, Kulgam 14, Ganderbal 75, Shopian 10, Jammu 210, Udhampur 82, Rajouri 88, Kathua 75, Samba 69, Poonch 75, Ramban 18, Doda 97, Reasi 27 and Kishtwar 44. Moreover, they said, 712 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals 270 from Jammu Division and 442 from Kashmir Valley.

ED Files Charge Sheet...

sources of income and this money could not have been obtained through licit means. It clearly implies that Dr Bilquies Shah was an active accomplice of Shabir Shah in his illicit criminal activities . She had spent money in excess of her known sources of income towards her monthly expenses, daughters’ education, maintenance of vehicle and investments in financial instruments, it said, adding that this proves illicit money acquired by them was spent on meeting these expenses and investments.

Shabir Shah and his wife Dr. Bilquis Shah by way of criminal activity related to scheduled offences had acquired huge sum of money through Hawala route from Pakistan and laundered the same by using part of it in acquisition of movable & immovable properties and to meet their lifestyle expenses, it said, terming the properties as proceeds of crime .

The charge sheet added: Dr Bilquis Shah is guilty of offence of money laundering as defined in Section 3 of the PMLA, as she was directly or indirectly indulging in and actually involved in all or any process or activity connected with the proceeds of crime including its concealment, possession, acquisition or use and projecting or claiming it as untainted property accordingly Dr Bilqies Shah has also been arrayed as an additional accused in this Supplementary Complaint (ED’s equivalent of a charge sheet).

The ED said Shabir Shah was the main accused named in the charge sheet as he was the conspirator who had devised the whole scheme of money laundering by obtaining illicit funds from outside India to further the nefarious designs of causing unrest in J&K. “Shabir Ahmad Shah was in regular touch with Hafeez Sayeed, head of Jamat-ud-Dawa. He was further in regular touch with Mohd. Shafi Shayar, based in Pakistan, whose Pakistani phone number was provided by him to Aslam Wani for collecting the crime money in Delhi on his behalf.” Shabir Shah had taken the services of Aslam Wani in the on a commission basis plus reimbursement of expenses, to collect crime money from Pakistan at Delhi and to carry the same for onward delivery to him or his wife Dr Bilquis Shah, it said. Aslam Wani used to receive hawala money from Pakistan at Delhi and carried the same to Srinagar on the directions of Shabir Shah and in lieu of these services, he was paid money by Shabir Shah, it said. The charge sheet has been filed under sections 3 and 4 (money laundering) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The agency had earlier filed charge sheet against Shabir Shah and Aslam Wani. The ED alleged that Wani was asked by Shah to work for him (on a commission basis) in collecting hawala money from Delhi and deliver to him at Srinagar. The case dates back to August 2005 in which the Delhi Police’s Special Cell had earlier arrested Wani and recovered Rs 62.96 lakh cash, five Kgs of explosives and one pistol with 15 live cartridges from his possession. Wani had claimed that he had to deliver Rs 52,96,000 to Shabir Shah in Srinagar and the remaining Rs 10 lakh were to be paid to the activists of Jaish-e-Mohammad. Wani stated that Shabir Shah was directing hawala operators including some from Pakistan to deliver money to him in Delhi. He also submitted that he was working on the directions of Shabir Shah and even in the past he had taken money to be delivered to Shabir Shah in Srinagar. Wani had then claimed that he had given Rs 2.25 crore to Shah, following which the ED had regis-

tered a criminal case under PMLA against the duo in 2007.

India Wants Normal Relations...

efforts, there is enhanced concern in the international community at militancy emanating from Pakistan, including the continuing activities of internationally designated militant entities and individuals such as Jamaat-ud Dawa (JuD), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizbul Mujahideen etc. Major partner countries have called upon Pakistan to not allow its territory to be used for militancy in ally manner.”

He further said that India’s call to condemn terrorism in all forms was accepted by the international community and it was evident in the documents issued after the bilateral Summit meetings with various countries.

“India’s call to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestation; zero tolerance to terrorism; rejection of any justification for an act of terror; delinking terror from religion; need for all forces believing in humanity to unite in fight against terrorism has found greater acceptance among the international community, and is reflected in a number of outcome documents issued after bilateral Summit meetings with various countries, and at regional and multilateral fora, such as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; G20; BRICS, among others,” the Minister added.

Govt Rejects Pak's New...

Affairs V Muralaedharan said the government continues to respond “appropriately” to Pakistan’s malicious actions and propaganda, including on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, at various international fora.

He was replying to a written question on the issue in Rajya Sabha.

Pakistan released the new map on August 4 laying claim to union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and parts of Gujarat.

“Government has rejected Pakistan’s obsession with territorial aggrandisement supported by cross border terrorism,” Muralaedharan said in the written reply, calling release of the map by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan as “absurd”.

“It has also been emphasised that Pakistan should desist from laying untenable claims to Indian territories, which have neither legal validity nor international credibility,” he said.

Replying to a separate question on suspension of work visas like H1B by the Trump administration, he said India is engaged with Washington and the US Congress on the issue.

The minister said the decision may temporarily affect movement of Indian skilled professionals who avail non-immigrant visa programmes of the US.

“Government of India closely consulted all stakeholders and engaged with the US administration and Congress on issues related to movement of Indian professionals, including those pertaining to the H-1B programme,” Muralaedharan said.

“These issues were also raised during the India-US Foreign Office Consultations held virtually on July 7. We have emphasised that this is a mutually-beneficial partnership which should be nurtured by easing mobility of skilled professionals,” he said.

I-T Dept Searches Top Hotelier,...

the entity. The Central Board of Direct Taxes frames policy for the I-T Department.“During the course of the search operation, receipt of unsecured loans to the tune of Rs 25 crore in the past two years from persons of no means has been found,” it said. “All these loans are prima facie not genuine, as the same have been advanced by persons with doubtful creditworthiness,” it added. The action also revealed, it said, that the assessee’s children are studying in the US on whom expenditure of about Rs 25 lakh per annum is being incurred.

The expenditure on account of education in the US prima facie appears to be unexplained/undisclosed,it said. “The assessee is also running a B Ed college as a trust along with his mother. The trust is not registered and no return is being filed though it has substantial taxable income. “The assessee has also admitted to having incurred an expenditure of Rs 40 lakh on the renovation of his residence,” it said. A bank locker, found during the searches, has been put under restraint, it said. Meanwhile, the second case pertains to a prominent jeweller in Srinagar. “During the search, it was found that he had not maintained books of accounts of the jewellery business even though the turnover is of the range of Rs 2 crore-Rs 10 crore in the earlier years.”

“The search has revealed that an undeclared bank account was maintained by the assessee with deposits running into crores of rupees, which has not been offered to tax,” the CBDT said. The assessee also sold immovable property of Rs 1.90 crore in Srinagar in financial year 2015-16, capital gains tax on which has not been paid, it said. Documents were found, during the raids, that revealed receipt of Rs 16 lakh in cash as ‘pagni’ by the assessee in FY 2019-20 at the time of leasing of one of the shops. “This transaction is in violation of provisions of Section 269SS of the I-T Act. This fact of receiving cash of Rs 16 lakh has been admitted by the assessee as well as the lessee. The payment of Pagni of Rs 16 lakh is also out of undisclosed income of the lessee,” the CBDT claimed. The search also revealed that sale of a flat in Delhi was made by the wife of the assessee in 2019-20 FY for Rs 33 lakh. “During the search, it was seen that no capital gain has been paid on the above sale. Further, out of the sale consideration of Rs 33 lakh, Rs 13 lakh has been received in cash in violation of provisions of Section 269SS of the I-T Act,” it said.

The source of investment of buyer also seems prima-facie undisclosed, which is being investigated, the statement said.

The search also revealed that the daughter of the assessee was studying abroad and the expenditure on account of the same prima facie appears unexplained/undisclosed, it said.

Army Chief Reviews Security...

spokesperson said. “He appreciated the high level of coordination amongst all government agencies towards maintaining peace in the valley and efforts to reach out to the “Awam” to overcome the challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic,” he added. The army spokesperson further said that later in the day, the Army Chief reviewed the overall security situation along with the Northern Army Commander and Chinar Corps Commander. “The COAS also called on Manoj Sinha, Lt Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir where he discussed issues concerning the present security situation in the Union Territory and assured the wholehearted support of the Army in ushering in peace and stability in the region,” the army spokesperson said. Naravane, he said is scheduled to return to New Delhi on Friday.

Naeem Akhtar Released...

Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti – detained on the eve of the Centre’s decision on August 5 last year. Akhtar was initially held at Centaur hotel on the banks of Dal Lake but was shifted to a government guest house on Gupkar road. He was booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) later, which was then revoked in June this year.

However, several leaders, including Akhtar, were then shifted to their residences where they were kept under house arrest.

FIR Filed After Police...

and pelted stones on them after which police used smoke shells in order to disburse the mob,” the official said, adding “No loss of life or injury was reported.” More details are awaited.

LMD Slaps Fine On Two...

these two nozzles were stopped on spot and the cases were registered against the management of Petrol-pumps under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and each petrol pump was slapped on spot for the lapse,” he said.He said that under Legal Metrology Laws/Oil Marketing Guidelines, every petrol-pump must carry a 5 litre conical measure with which a consumer can himself check the delivery of petrol-pump in case of doubt about its accuracy. The official spokesperson said that the permissible error for 1 litre (1000 ml) of fuel is ± 5 ml at the time of inspection and the petrol-pump owners have to ensure the correct delivery of the dispensing units (DU) by checking the delivery every day before putting the DU to use. “In case, there is erratic delivery the sale through DU should be immediately stopped and concerned Legal Metrology Officer of Legal Metrology Department should be contacted in order to rectify the error,” he added.

25 Schools in Srinagar Selected for Smart Class Rooms

Project to be completed in 2 months: DC Srinagar

SRINAGAR: District Administration, Srinagar has selected 25 schools for establishment of Smart Class Rooms and providing modern teaching-learning material apart from capacity building and training of staff.

The move is aimed at equipping Government schools with technology and improving teaching-learning experience. The teachers of selected schools will undergo capacity building modules devised by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration.

The implementation committee headed by District Development Commissioner with Joint Director Plan-

ning, Superintending Engineer PWD, Chief Education Officer, District Education Planning officers as members will also have representatives from educationists and domain experts.

It is pertinent to mention here that District Administration in collaboration with Srinagar Smart City Ltd earlier established 25 smart schools which were inaugurated earlier this year with an enrolment of more than 3600 students. The district administration intends to develop more than 100 schools on similar lines in a phased manner.

The Government Schools selected for establishment of smart class rooms

will be provided smart boards, modern furniture, RO water purifier, teaching-learning material, sports equipment, book racks, library and other infrastructure. Community ownership and management of schools is encouraged under the initiative.

The schools selected for establishment of Smart Class Rooms by the district administration include BMS Kreshbal, PS Old Pamposh Colony, Primary School Sheikh Colony Guzarbal, Boys Middle School Pandrethan, Primary School Sheikh Mohalla Colony, Boys Middle School Baghat I Shoor, Middle School Athwajan, Middle School Alamgiri Ba-

zar, Middle School Kursu Rajbagh, Primary School Khonmoh Chek, Middle School Zainakote, Middle School Nowhatta, Middle School Madeen Saheb, Middle School Jamia Masjid, Middle School Nandpora, Middle School Baangi Mohalla, Middle School Gind Hassi Bhat, Middle School Firdausabad Fruit mandi, Middle School Doji Mohalla, Middle School Khimber, Middle School Choudhary Bagh, Middle School Shah Hamdaan Mohalla, Primary School Mirpora, Middle School Mehjoor Nagar and Middle School Dal Hassan Yar. Apart from this additional 10 schools in uncovered rural

areas are being selected. Meanwhile, the district administration has also selected 14 of these schools for creative wall painting.

Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that administration's constant endeavour to equip, upgrade and modernise Government schools is aimed at providing outcome-based quality education and instilling community ownership of educational institutions. More schools are being shortlisted through a competitive process. The instant project of 25 smart class rooms will be accomplished in a set timeline of 2 months.

Reopening schools could worsen Covid-19 crisis: DAK

Srinagar, Sep 17: With schools in Kashmir valley preparing for students to return to classrooms next week, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday said reopening schools at a time when Covid-19 cases are surging could worsen the crisis.

"Reopening schools while Covid is still circulating widely could accelerate virus transmission in the community," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"With cases rising thick

and fast, opening schools could further deteriorate the situation, the effect of which could be worse than what has happened," he said.

DAK President said studies have shown that children are as likely to be infected with Covid-19 as adults.

A report from the United States has revealed that about 97,000 children were infected within two weeks of school reopening.

In Israel, a second wave of infection has been directly linked to the opening of schools.

PMAY-U To Be Available in Srinagar, Jammu Metro Regions

CS approves 25% advance assistance to BLC beneficiaries

SRINAGAR : The Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam today chaired the 8th meeting of State Level Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) Mission.

Administrative Secretaries of Finance, Housing & Urban Development and Revenue, besides Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation and concerned Heads of Departments participated in the meeting.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress achieved under the four ver-

ticals of PMAY-U namely Beneficiary Led Individual House Construction or Enhancement (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) and In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR). It was informed that as per the revised survey, the department of Housing & Urban Development has sanctioned 55,155 houses under these four verticals.

It was informed that the Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has allowed Jammu & Kashmir to extend the benefits under

PMAY-U Mission to villages falling under Notified Planning/ Development areas under the jurisdiction of Industrial Development Authority, Special Area Development Authority, Urban Development Authority or any such authority which is entrusted with the function of urban planning. The Chief Secretary impressed upon the officers to develop a strong MIS linkage between PMAY-G and PMAY-U to avoid duplication of beneficiaries in the cases where such extension is provided.

Rule of law being violated with impunity:CPI (M)

Srinagar: The death of a 23-year old youth a day after his arrest by police in Sopore area of Baramulla district is another glaring example of how the rule of law is being violated with impunity in Kashmir.

The police version about the killing of the youth is a concocted story which nobody trusts in Kashmir. The situation in Kashmir has reached a stage where even demanding a probe into such incidents looks like a joke as in the past such incidents the probes yielded no results. None of the so-called investigations so-far has ever brought the culprits to book.

A probe was ordered into the killing of three labourers from Rajouri in Shopian on July 17, who were later passed on as militants. However, till date the families of the slain youth have not even been able to obtain the results of DNA tests.

Those Who Don't Thank People Can't Thank Allah (Hadees)

Mirwaiz family extends its gratitude to all those who expressed their condolences and offered sympathy on the death of our beloved and eldest family member Begum Moulvi Ghulam Rasool Shah, daughter in law of late Mirwaiz Ateequlah (RA).


We greatly appreciate that most people, despite wanting to visit us in person to offer their condolences, respected our request not to do so as a precautionary measure due to the current pandemic and also due to the continued house arrest of Mirwaiz, and instead called us on phone.

The family expresses its gratitude to all religious, political, social, educational organisations, and the business fraternity besides representatives of Masaajid, Khanqahs, Imambargahs, Islamic institutions and Darsghahs, as well as to all those from other parts of the world who extended condolences and solidarity with us in this hour of grief.

BEREAVED

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq,
Molvi Manzoor Ahmad, Molvi Shafat Ahmad

Happy Birthday



LITTLE ANGEL
Mohammad Rayaana

May u have al the joy your heart can hold
All the smile a life can bring
All the blessings life can unfold
May u get the world's best in everything
Wishing u a happy birthday

from Baba, Mama, M. Zuhayr, Kaku, Nanu, Masi, Mamu, Dadu, Ami ji, Chachu, Bada Chachu, Kaju and all Nears and dears.

info

(GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
(UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CITY ROADS DIVISION SRINAGAR.
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS.
NIT No: - E-NIT/46/CRD OF 2020-21 R&B/ e-tendering, DATED: 17-09-2020.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for below mentioned work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	E/M (In Rs.)	Time	Opening of Bid	Class	MH of Account
1	Improvement/ Upgradation of roads at Bohri Kadal, Naidkadal, Khankahi Moulla via Kalashpora including Baba Nund Ganel link by way of providing and laying of WBM Grade 3rd.	Rs.1.47 lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs. 2940/-	10	24-09-2020 at 11:00 AM	DEE Class Civil	C&T

AAA accorded Position of funds committed.

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, Drawings, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

2. A pre-bid meeting will be held to clarify issued and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage by the bidders.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-09-2020.
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	FROM 18-09-2020 10:00 A.M TO 23-09-2020
3.	Bid submission Start Date	18-09-2020 FROM 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	23-09-2020 UPTO 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	24-09-2020 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), City Roads Division Srinagar.

3. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of introducing Treasury Challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury challan receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) City Roads Division Srinagar and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/ FDR/ pledged to Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) City Roads Division Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

4. The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) City Roads Division Srinagar., (Tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain Valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

6. All other terms conditions are as per PWD form 25 (Double agreement Form).

7. The contractor shall have to submit the working design of Structure from accredited structural consultant for which no extra charges shall be admissible.

NOTE: The Contractor is directed to visit the site before participating in tendering process.

NIT/46/CRD OF 2020-21 R&B/ e-tendering.
DATED:- 17-09-2020.

DIPK-5842/20

Executive Engineer,
R&B, City Roads division, Srinagar.

Office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore

M/s. Valley Road Construction co. No:- 5918-21
M:P: Faroz Ahmad Mir, Dated:- 16-9-2020
S/o: Jalal-ud-din Mir
Hot Mix plant holder.
R/o: Lasjan Srinagar.

Subject: Upgradation of inner links of Patosa Khushipora WanporaBatapora Budden Rohama Patoosa via Tanki road by way of providing and laying of GSB filling WBM grade 1st, 2nd wet mix macadam 50 mm thick BM with 6mm thick IRC type seal coat laid by paver including construction of R/B walls cement conc. drain and laying of RCC pipes.

Reference: Assistant Executive Engineer (R&B) Sub-Division Rafiabab's Notice issued under No: 688-90 dated: 01-12-2018 and No: 721-22 dated: 11-12-2018.

- Whereas the above noted work stands allotted to you vide Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Baramulla's No:8471-73 dated: 12-09-2018.
- Whereas after execution of 2.00 Kms of macadam you have left the work unattended.
- Whereas the winter being lean season for underground work, you were asked to concentrate on construction/ extension of cross drainage works, R/B walls. but it seems that you are either not interested in the work or you lag the competence to execute such nature of work.
- Whereas the balance work of macadamization is still pending and the working season left is very short.
- Whereas various notices were served to you under No: 688-90 dated: 01-12-2018 and No: 721-22 dated: 11-12-2018 but till date you have not resumed the work.

The work being of important nature and keeping in view the difficulties faced by the locals of the area and failure on your part to complete the work within stipulated period, you are **Finally notified through Print Media** to resume the work within 7days time failing which the work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk , cost and responsibility and no arguments in this behalf shall be entertained henceforth. In this case earnest money deposited by you for the said work shall also be forfeited and all the claims if any payable in your favour shall be kept withheld till fresh tendering process is over and additional cost if any involved worked out by this Division shall be recovered from your other work done claims. Besides you will be **debarred for taking part in tendering process in future.**

DIPK-5802/20

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Sopore

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS


SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

29 Muharram
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 52
ZUHR	12: 36
ASR	4:51
Magrib	6:40
ISHA	8:00

This Day In History

- 96 - Nerva is proclaimed Roman Emperor after Domitian is assassinated.
- 324 - Chrysopolis Emperor Constantine beats Emperor Licinius
- 1454 - In the Battle of Chojnice, the Polish army is defeated by the Teutonic army during the Thirteen Years' War.
- 1502 - Christopher Columbus lands at Costa Rica on his 4th & last voyage
- 1739 - Turkey & Austria sign peace treaty-Austria cedes Belgrade to Turks
- 1759 - Battle of Quebec ends, French surrender to British who capture Quebec City.
- 1864 - Battle of Martinsburg, Virginia
- 1914 - Battle of Aisne ends with Germans beating French during WW I
- 1914 - South African troops land in German South West Africa
- 1918 - Battle of Megiddo (Palestine) starts
- 1934 - USSR admitted to League of Nations
- 1943 - Adolf Hitler orders deportation of Danish Jews (unsuccessful)
- 1959 - Vanguard 3 launched into Earth orbit
- 1976 - Mao Zedong's funeral takes place in Beijing
- 1980 - Soyuz 38 carries 2 cosmonauts (1 Cuban) to Salyut 6 space station
- 1987 - US & USSR sign accord to remove mid range missiles
- 1987 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalatinsk USSR
- 1990 - Liechtenstein becomes a member of the United Nations.
- 1990 - Crude prices outpace increases in product prices and there is talk of cutting refinery runs.
- 1991 - Space shuttle STS 48 (Discovery 14) lands
- 1995 - Space shuttle STS-69 (Endeavour 9), lands
- 2007 - Perviz Musharraf announces that he will step down as army chief and restore civilian rule to Pakistan, but only after he is re-elected president.
- 2007 - Buddhist monks join anti-government protesters in Myanmar, starting what some called the Saffron Revolution.
- 2012 - World's first mother-to-daughter uterus transplant undertaken at the University of Gothenburg
- 2016 - Earliest known fishhooks at 23,000 years old discovered on Okinawa Island, Japan, findings published in PNAS journal
- 2016-0 In Russian elections Putin-backed United Russia party wins 54% of Parliamentary seats led by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev
- 2017 - Hurricane Maria passes over the Caribbean island of Dominica as a category 5 hurricane, destroying 90% of structures and killing 27

From KO Archives

4 teenagers die in LoC blast

Jawan, 5 Militants among 10 Killed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four teenagers were blown to pieces after a live artillery shell they were fiddling with in a village in Uri sector of the line of the control (LoC) exploded today. Elsewhere, 10 people including a jawan and five militants were killed even as security forces arrested a militant across the state since yesterdays. Some shops in Tral bazaar were damaged in an IED blast near the bus stand last night.

According to reports received from Uri, 4 teenagers including a brother and a sister in the age group of 12 and 14 were killed at Garkot village on the Wednesday afternoon in a Shell explosion.

Three teenagers were out grazing the cattle when one of them found some unexploded shells in the field. When one of the boy started fiddling with a shell it exploded killing all three of them on spot, police sources in the Baramulla said. The village has been witness to intermittent exchange of artillery shells and mortar firing between India and Pakistani troops during recent weeks.

Lance Naik Gian Singh of 14 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) was killed when A group of militants ambushed an army patrol in Panar forests in Bandipora area of Baramulla district in north Kashmir , earlier an official spokesman said.

He said troops returned the fire but the militants escaped. Reinforcements had been rushed to the forest area to flush out the militants. The operation was going on when the reports last came in.

In another incident, a militant identified as Muhammad Asgar Khan alias Waheed s. o Ghulam Rabhani of Chak Arsal Khan was killed in an armed clash with the troops of 14 Rashtriya Rifles a at Chek Arasalan khan in Bandipora last night, the spokesman said . Some arms and ammunition were recovered from the spot.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead Ab Razak Lone s/o Ghulam Ahmad Inside his house at Waterkhani Drugmulla in Kupwara district early last night.

Kashmir Observer, September 18, 2000

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Don't Reopen Schools

The J&K administration has decided to reopen schools from September 21 and the attendance of the students will be on a voluntary basis. The onus will be on parents and students whether they want to attend the schools or not. Ironically, the government has decided to reopen schools at a time when the coronavirus pandemic is spreading through J&K like a wild fire and the number of deaths is rising. So, how does government expect there will be no infections at the schools?

True, the government will be coming out with Standard Operating Procedures for the schools, one of which is that only 50 percent staff and the students will be allowed to attend. But how does this matter when say 500 out of a total number of 1000 pupils attend. This is a huge number and the students, given their young age, can't be expected to seriously follow the SOPs.

Also what about the students whose parents will not send them to schools for the obvious reason? Won't they be unfairly deprived of education? The authorities have explained that the reopening of schools won't affect online classes. But the question is who will give these classes when teachers will get busy at schools? One can infer from the government's logic that the 50 percent of the teachers who will be at home will deliver online lectures. But will this 50 percent comprise teachers from all subjects? Unlikely.

If we evaluate the situation objectively, the government guidelines for reopening of schools are simplistic. On ground the exercise is not only not going to serve its desired purpose but also disrupt the ongoing online classes and leave a majority of students without education.

Schools have been closed since mid-March when Coronavirus was declared a pandemic around the world. This was barely fifteen days after the schools had reopened following seven month closure in the wake of the revocation of Article 370 in August last year. This has taken a massive toll on the education in Kashmir.

The lack solution to lack of schooling for the government was to restore 4G internet in the union territory. This would have ensured the easy access to online education to students. Use of communication technology would have thus obviated the need for a hurried reopening of schools. But while the government is refusing to restore the high-speed internet, it is taking steps to reopen schools, a fraught decision under the circumstances. More so, when Covid-19 cases are spiking in the union territory.

Reopening schools would expose the children to the infection. Schools lack the adequate infrastructure to protect the children. It would also be impossible to make the students follow the safety precautions. This is therefore not the conducive time to reopen schools. Government should wait for the contagion to be reigned in before children can go back to school.

OTHER OPINON

Rajnath Singh on China

What is left unsaid, at times, says a lot more than what is actually uttered. In a statement to the Lok Sabha, the Union defence minister, Rajnath Singh, stated that China has amassed a formidable number of troops along the Line of Actual Control and — this admission is significant — in "inner areas". Mr Singh's sombre tone was in sharp contrast to the bragging tune adopted by some influential figures, including the prime minister. Mr Singh may have been comparatively transparent than Narendra Modi who has, so far, not issued a substantial statement on a matter concerning national security. But Mr Singh, just like Mr Modi, was also being evasive. He did not, for instance, elaborate on what these "inner areas" are; there is no word yet on the restoration of status quo ante along the LAC; neither did he explain the details of the fateful night that cost the lives of Indian soldiers or, for that, matter, why New Delhi proceeded to sign a loan agreement with a financial institution that has Beijing as its biggest stakeholder only four days after the death of its valiant soldiers. The Centre's admission of accepting financial assistance from a Chinese-controlled bank would certainly take the sting out of its rhetoric of an economic retaliation against Beijing manifest in the banning of Chinese apps.

The bunglings of Mr Modi's government on China are now fairly evident. The government is speaking in many tongues, with the statements of the defence minister or of the army countering those made by the prime minister, only to be refuted, in turn, by the home ministry. The inability to speak in a transparent, unified voice on the part of a government that supposedly prioritizes unity is shocking and shameful. Sowing the seeds of confusion, even though it casts the government in poor light, may not be an entirely innocent exercise. The multiple signals would, the Centre may be hoping, deflect public attention and enquiry. Mr Modi's government has been busy stonewalling questions raised by the Opposition during the current session in Parliament. The Opposition, even in its fragmented state, must now take the responsibility of mobilizing public opinion, forcing the Centre to come clean on the matter. Truth — history is a witness — has a way of prevailing over falsity. The accompanying political costs of disclosure, Mr Modi should remember, are not insubstantial.

The Telegraph, India



What About Education?
Under the new dispensation, the education has been worst hit. And the government doesn't seem to care

RIYAZ WANI

The uncertain and interrupted schooling deprives Kashmiri youth proper education and skills. The lack of employment opportunities denies them a future. And the lingering conflict over the region frames their worldview and determines their lives and choices.

It has now been over a year since schools in Kashmir have been closed. And as things stand, it is unlikely that the schools will function normally until early next year — the government's order to reopen them on September 21 notwithstanding. That too will be possible only if we have got a grip on the runaway contagion and there is a vaccine for it. However, the Covid-19 related closure of schools is just six months old. Our educational institutions were earlier shut for seven months following revocation of Article 370 in August last year. The sweeping security lockdown and the snapping of the communications brought life in the Valley to a halt. Schools could have hardly been an exception.

What has set the education further back is the lack of high speed mobile internet for the virtual classes. The government has consistently refused to restore 4G in J&K, saying it is necessary "in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the state and for maintaining public order". The government also deems it important to prevent the "misuse" of high speed internet for various "anti-national activities". It was only last month, however, that the government made an exception for the two districts — Ganderbal in Kashmir and Udhampur in Jammu.

Over a yearlong closure of schools and the difficulty in accessing online education has put a question mark on the future of lakhs of Kashmiri students. But this is an area that has drawn very little media and political attention. In a sense, this doesn't hold true for the last year only. Over the past three decades, the education has been easy and the least focussed casualty of the ongoing turmoil. Schools have intermit-

tently remained closed for months and no one in the Valley seems to lose his sleep over this depressing state of affairs.

There were several reasons for this: the frequent hartals, the constant disruption in public life due to the unrest following mostly a human rights excess or a government move deemed provocative by the people. This alongside everything else politicized the education too. In the midst of an unrest, the Government saw the re-opening of the schools as a major step towards normalcy and the separatists for the same reason were determined to prevent it. Government also couldn't provide security to over 15000 educational institutions and the schools also didn't want to be seen playing along with the Government in defiance of the separatists and at variance with the popular sentiment.

Often, the Government and the separatists mouthed platitudes about their concern for education, but in practice sought to use the school children against each other — at times spinning the issue into a competing moral-cum-ideological argument. From three successive summer unrests to 2010, followed by the one in 2016 and the situation over the last year, a student who will be studying in 10th class now must have lost almost five years of schooling. One can only imagine how much this must have affected his or her knowledge of the basics of all subjects.

After the erasure of J&K's semi-autonomous status last year, the government-separatist dynamic that largely dictated the state of affairs in the Valley has temporarily ceased to operate. But under the new dispensation, the education has been worst hit. And the government doesn't seem to care. It didn't care when the lockdown and communications blackout kept schools shut for seven months. And it doesn't care

now when the lingering ban on high-speed mobile internet in all but two districts is making it challenging for the students to access online education. And this ban has nothing to do with the ongoing pandemic, but continues for a very specious reason, almost for the sake of it. It seems unlikely that the government will review the ban in the near future, something that hardly helps the cause of education.

What about the post-pandemic situation? There is no reason to believe that the schooling will return to normal. The ongoing calm in the Valley has nothing authentic about it. It has been held in place with application of great force and is likely to come unstuck as the suppressed underlying factors of the situation resurface. And that can happen sooner than later.

The situation as it stands is thus as follows: The uncertain and interrupted schooling deprives Kashmiri youth proper education and skills. The lack of employment opportunities denies them a future. And the lingering conflict over the region frames their worldview and determines their lives and choices.

If anything, this renders Kashmir of today structurally unfavourable to its children. And this scenario can only be expected to replicate itself endlessly unless there is a fundamental change, shift or alteration in the factors in play.

But together we can will it otherwise, by making an exception for the education across the ideological divide. We need an educated new generation not only to make informed choices about ourselves but also make a better sense of our situation and to articulate it for ourselves and the world.

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The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer

OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS
P.O.Box # 337, GP, Srinagar-190 001
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Let's pledge to wear Kashmiri Fashion this winter

Everyday newspapers are abound with editorial and opinion pieces about the crashing economy of Kashmir. If data is to be trusted, we're in a deep mess. While the economic fallout is essentially a result of the political, social and health milieu; there are certainly some individual steps that we as a community can take to ensure that we shop in a manner that is not only ethical but also instrumental to safeguard the economic health of Kashmir.

To this end, we need to shop from local stores and endorse indigenous products. It is true that Kashmir has not been the only host for globalisation. Fashion, food, culture and consumption in gen-

eral has been affected by the larger changes that the world has seen collectively.

However, as Kashmiris, we've had the bitter privilege of knowing the significance of being mindful of culture and heritage. We're also painfully aware of the absence of any system that seeks our true benefits. In this schema, it becomes all the more important for us to look for community efforts to ensure that we leave no stone unturned for our own benefits.

As far as fashion is concerned, we have to ensure that we promote trends that lead to an increase in the sales of designs that are made within Kashmir. This could begin with each of us taking a conscious

step to include as many Kashmiri garments in our closet as we can. This does not necessarily mean that we've to compromise on our style statements. Infact, for each one of us, it will be an opportunity to redefine style for ourselves.

With the winter round the corner, one can easily pledge to include as many winter garments as possible. Sure, one has to be an ethical buyer and keep in mind the environmental fallout of shopping excessively; but this makes Kashmiri garments all the more viable. Pherans are of different kinds. They are affordable and if one likes investing in quality pieces one can also spend a little extra.

The attempt to include Kash-

miri clothes doesn't imply some puritan disdain for fashion from other places. However, ignoring our own designs and forgetting our artisan's livelihood is an absolutely careless and callous approach to our own people.

This winter, resolve to wear Kashmiri clothes and make an attempt to prefer local stores for non-Kashmiri garments as well. This small change can definitely bring some positive change. If nothing, atleast, we'd see some people walking confidently on the Residency Road in a beautiful pheran styled to stun!

ToobaToufiq
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Keep Your Skin Healthy While Washing Your Hands

Frequent hand washing can strip the natural protective oils in your skin and exacerbate dry skin issues. Read on to know tips from a herbal beauty pioneer to take care of your skin while you diligently wash your hands to keep safe

SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Ironically, by over-washing our skin, we can develop dry cracks in the skin giving bacteria an entry point into our bodies and can lead to various other skin conditions.

As COVID-19 continues to spread globally, one of the cheapest, easiest, and most important ways to protect you and your loved ones is to wash your hands frequently/properly with soap and lukewarm water to eliminate all traces of the virus from your hands. Hand washing remains the most important tip for preventing the spread of Covid-19, as it reduces the risk of infecting other people within your homes, community, health care facilities, schools, and other public spaces.

Washing your hands properly takes around 20 seconds or about as long as singing, "Happy Birthday" twice — making the experience quick and pleasant. An easy way to time it is by singing the entire happy birthday song twice while making sure to cover palms, backs of hands, fingers, in between fingers, wrists, and fingernails. The soap dissolves the fat membrane and the virus falls apart like a house of cards; dies or becomes inactive.

During the current global pandemic, proper hand-washing will not only reduce the spread of Covid-19, but can also prevent the spread of viral illnesses such as cold, flu and other infections.

As we diligently wash hands to slow the spread of the Covid-19, unfortunately, the very soaps and even wringing of hands underwater will also break down the barrier we are trying to protect. Frequent hand washing can strip the natural protective oils in your skin and exacerbate dry skin issues. It can cause dry, cracked and raw skin that can irritate, flake, itch, crack, and even bleed without proper precautions and may also lead to conditions such as eczema. This can cause open wounds in your skin that can allow in bacteria and other germs; increasing your risk for infection through the fissures.

Actually, the skin on the back of the hands is thin and lacks oil glands. That is why the hands are prone to wrinkles and lines. The nails also become dry and brittle which as a result leads to breaking or chipping easily.

Therefore, along with protecting ourselves from the new infection, we also need to protect our hands. Ironically, by over-washing our skin, we can develop dry cracks in the skin giving bacteria an entry point into our bodies and can lead to various other skin conditions.

Everything you need to know

The outermost layer of our skin is composed of oils and wax which acts as both: a shield from the outside and a guard that maintains natural moisture in the skin. This natural barrier is broken down by the suds created by soap while washing hands.

Bath Routine

Bath time is appropriate for pampering the hands



and supplying them with the oil and moisturizing they need. Before your bath, apply warm oil on the hands and massage it into the skin. This helps to soften the skin. You can use coconut oil, which is very nourishing. Pure almond oil will also work well.

Immediately, after your bath, apply a moisturizing lotion or cream, while the skin is still damp. This helps to seal in moisture.

Twice a week, have a pre-bath treatment by mixing ground almonds with curd and a pinch of turmeric. Apply on hands. After 15 minutes, rub the paste gently on the skin and wash it off with water. At night, massage cream onto your hands; working it into the skin.

Are all moisturisers good for your hands?

Among the many kinds of moisturizers, hand creams are better than body lotions because they are more nourishing. Lotions, which are primarily water-based, can further dry out skin because the water evaporates. Creams, which are often oil-based, are more effective after washing hands. Once your hands are dry,

immediately use a hand cream to seal in the moisture. Use hand ointment or cream instead of a lotion as these are more effective. Vaseline is still the most effective moisturizer out there. Hand soap should also be gentle and fragrance-free.

Luxury treatments for hands

Take four teaspoon almond oil and mix one table-spoon rose water. Add half-teaspoon tincture benzoin, drop by drop. Mix together. Apply this on the hands. Wear loose cotton socks on the hands and leave on the preparation all night. Rinse off with plain water next morning.

Lemon juice and sugar, rubbed together with the hands also helps soften the skin. Take 2 tablespoons sunflower oil, 2 tablespoons lemon juice and 3 table-spoon coarse sugar. Mix together till it becomes a paste. Apply and rub into hands. Wash off after 15 minutes. Do this three times a week.

Take fresh orange peels and pierce them with a fork. Rub the peels on the hands to brighten them.

Choker (wheat bran) and besan (gram flour) can be mixed with turmeric and milk into a paste and applied on the hands. Wash off after 20 minutes. This softens, cleanses and tightens the skin.

Nail Health

Mix almond oil and honey in equal parts and massage into the nails and cuticles. For dry nails, warm any vegetable oil and soak fingers in it for ten minutes. Wipe off with a moist towel. One-teaspoon Brewer's yeast added to one glass of fresh fruit juice also keeps the nails and skin in good condition.

A few almonds eaten daily make the nails strong. Include whole grains, yogurt, leafy green vegetables, sprouts and fruits in your diet as well.

Night Time Routine

Before going to bed, apply thick moisturizer and then cover your hands with cotton gloves to increase absorption. Consider a humidifier at night as raising the humidity level in a room can help dry skin.

Other Precautions

Germs spread more easily from wet skin than from dry skin, so drying your hands completely is an important step. Paper towels or clean cloth are the most effective ways to remove germs without spreading them to other surfaces.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the Herbal Queen of India

Cashless Transactions Or Financial Surveillance?

Jack Parkin

A banknote has been sitting in my wallet for six months now. As time ticks on, it burns an ever greater hole in my pocket.

At first I felt uneasy spending it, following COVID-19 warnings to pay more attention to hand hygiene and the surfaces we all touch on a daily basis.

Now I have less and less opportunity to do so. While the World Health Organisation has never advised against using cash, more and more businesses are displaying signs that read "We Only Accept Contactless Payment" next to their registers.

A recent global poll conducted by MasterCard – a company with reason to favour card-based payments – found 82% of its users see contactless payments as cleaner than cash.

Online shopping is booming too. Amazon's value alone has risen by 570 billion US dollars this year.

But while electronic payment may reduce our exposure to germs, it also shows banks, vendors and payment platforms what we do with our money. Social media is awash with posts condemning the forced use of contactless payment for fear of overseers eyeballing spending. Some people are even boycotting stores that won't accept cash.

The growth of digital transactions exposes yet another aspect of our personal life to, what the social psychologist Shoshana Zuboff has called, "surveillance capitalism". Financial data is now a valuable raw material that can be bought, sold and refined in the name of profit.

The decline of cash

When the pandemic began, cash had already been on the decline for years.

For many people, increasing digitisation is synonymous with progress. It can be seen as a way of leaving the cumbersome, historical artefacts of coins and banknotes behind.

COVID-19 has accelerated this move away from cash. Wariness of



While electronic payment may reduce our exposure to germs, it also shows banks, vendors and payment platforms what we do with our money.

microbe-ridden banknotes has seen contactless payment become a spontaneous public health standard.

Because cash is a social material, it moves between us, connecting us both financially and physically. The US Federal Reserve even decided to quarantine dollars returning from Asia earlier this year in an attempt to stop the coronavirus crossing its borders.

Dropping digital breadcrumbs

One perk of paper money is that it does not leave paper trails. Digital

money, however, leaves traces in the databases of banks, vendors and platform owners, while governments look keenly over their shoulders.

Financial journalist Brett Scott calls this a "prison of watchable payments".

Tax officials love digital transactions because they make it easier to monitor the nation's economy. Banks and payment platforms are pleased as well: not only do they collect fees and gain the ability to allow or obstruct transactions, they can also profit from the troves of personal data piling up on their servers.

Internally, banks use this data to offer you other bespoke services such as loans and insurance. But information is also aggregated to better understand wider economic trends, and then sold on to third parties.

At the moment, these data metrics are anonymised but that doesn't guard against retailers using de-anonymising techniques to attach transactions back to your identity.

Data brokers exist for this very reason: building digital profiles and creating a marketplace for them. This allows re-

tailers to target you with tailored advertisements based on your spending. The devices at everyone's fingertips become a feedback loop of information in which companies analyse what people have bought and then urge them to buy more.

Can surveillance work on your behalf?

Having records of every transaction can also be useful for individuals. Companies such as Revolut and Monzo offer "spending analytics" services to help customers manage their money by tracking where it goes each month.

But information about a user's own behaviour never truly belongs to them. And, as the digital economist Nick Srnicek explains, "suppression of privacy is at the heart of the business model".

Digital payment with (some) privacy

While filling virtual baskets or paying by tapping a card does open up transactions for inspection, there are still ways you can protect your health and your data at the same time.

"Virtual cards" like those provided by privacy.com are one useful tool. These services let users create multiple card numbers for different online purchases that conceal consumption patterns from banks and credit card details from merchants.

Cryptocurrencies might also find a new limelight in the pandemic. Hailed as cash for the internet, the inbuilt privacy mechanisms of Bitcoin, Zcash and Monero could work to mask transactions.

However, finding companies that accept them is challenging, and their privacy capabilities are often overstated for everyday users. This is particularly true when using exchanges and third-party wallet software such as Coinbase.

In brick-and-mortar stores, staying under the radar can be more difficult. Pre-paid cards are one option – but you'll need to buy the card itself with cash if you want to keep your anonymity fully intact. And that takes us back to square one.

In an arrangement with The Conversation

IMMUNE SYSTEM'S T CELLS PLAY BIGGER Role In Reducing COVID-19 Severity: Study

WITH INCREASING AGE, THE RESERVOIR OF T CELLS that can be activated against a specific virus declines and the body's immune response becomes less coordinated, which looks to be one factor making older people drastically more susceptible to severe or fatal COVID-19,"

Press Trust Of India

Vaccine candidates for COVID-19 should elicit a broad immune response that includes antibodies, and the body's helper and killer T cells, according to a study which says weak or uncoordinated immunity may lead to a poor disease outcome. The research, published in the journal Cell, confirms that a multi-layered, virus-specific immune response is important for controlling the novel coronavirus during the acute phase of the infection and reducing COVID-19 disease severity. "Our observations could also ex-

plain why older COVID-19 patients are much more vulnerable to the disease," said study senior author Shane Crotty from the La Jolla Institute for Immunology in the US. "With increasing age, the reservoir of T cells that can be activated against a specific virus declines and the body's immune response becomes less coordinated, which looks to be one factor making older people drastically more susceptible to severe or fatal COVID-19," Crotty said. In the research, the scientists collected blood samples from 50 COVID-19 patients, and analysed multiple branches of their immune system -- novel coronavirus specific

antibodies, helper and killer T cells. "It was particularly important to us to capture the whole range of disease manifestation from mild to critically ill so we could identify differentiating immunological factors," said study co-author and infectious disease specialist Sydney Ramirez. The researchers found that all fully recovered individuals had measurable antibody, helper and killer T cell responses against the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. However, they said the response varied widely in acute COVID-19 patients, with some lacking neutralising antibodies, others helper or killer T cells or

any combination thereof. "When we looked at a combination of all of our data across all 111 measured parameters we found that in general, people who mounted a broader and well-coordinated adaptive response tended to do better," said Carolyn Moderbacher, another co-author of the study from La Jolla Institute for Immunology. "A strong SARS-CoV-2 specific T cell response, in particular, was predictive of milder disease. Individuals whose immune response was less coordinated tended to have poorer outcomes," Moderbacher said. The scientists found that the

effect was magnified when they broke down the dataset by age. "People over the age of 65 were much more likely to have poor T cell responses, and a poorly coordinated immune response, and thus have much more severe or fatal COVID-19," Crotty said. The scientists explained that as people age, the immune system's supply of deployable immature T cells dwindles, with fewer cells available to be activated to respond to a new virus. "This could either lead to a delayed adaptive immune response that is unable to control a virus until it is too late to limit disease

severity or the magnitude of the response is insufficient," Moderbacher said. The scientists believe T cells, and helper T cells in particular, are associated with better protective immune responses. "This was perplexing to many people, but controlling a primary infection is not the same as vaccine-induced immunity, where the adaptive immune system is ready to pounce at time zero," Crotty said. "Thus, these findings indicate it is plausible T cells are more important in natural SARS-CoV-2 infection, and antibodies more important in a COVID-19 vaccine," he said.

IIT Researchers Develop AI-Based System To Detect Arsenic Pollution

Press Trust Of India

Researchers from IIT Kharagpur have developed an artificial intelligence-based prediction model for detecting arsenic pollution in drinking water, an official said. The researchers have mapped the high and low arsenic zones across the entire Gangetic delta using artificial intelligence

(AI) and the number of people exposed, IIT Kharagpur spokesperson said. This study has been recently published in the international journal 'Science of The Total Environment'. "Our AI models predict the occurrence of high arsenic in groundwater across more than half of the Ganges river delta, covering more than 25 per cent area in each of the 19 out of 25 administrative zones in West

Bengal," one of the authors of the paper and research scholar Madhumita Chakraborty said. While the predictive model framework would prove to be vital typically for the identification of drinking water sources in arsenic affected areas of West Bengal, it can also be used in other parts of the country, which are suffering from severe groundwater pollutants, the researchers said.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (South) Awantipora

CANCELLATION

Ref: JSD/PHE/MDSA/ e-NIT No: 103 of 2019-20 DATE: 27 -12-2019

Since the Scheme is not approved /accorded in any programme as such the tender is hereby cancelled.

DIPK-5823/20

No: JSD/PHE/MDSA/1475
Date:16/09/2020

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical
Division (South)
Awantipora

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council Anantnag

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Subject:- Gist of Auction Notice for Entry fee collection contract for the year 2020-21 (for Six months only) w.e.f 01/10/2020 to 31/03/2021 at Municipal Council Anantnag.

AUCTION NOTICE

Sealed bid offers affixed with Rs. 06/-Revenue Stamps are invited through registered post or to be delivered personally from the interested parties/ persons for auction of collection of Adda Entry Fee contract for the year 2020-21 (for Six months only) commencing from 01/10/2020 to 31/03/2021.

The minimum bid amount is fixed at Rs. 48.50 lacs (Rupees Forty Eight lacs & Fifty thousand only) including income tax. The bids/ offers in a sealed or registered cover shall reach to the office of Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Habitat Centre Bemina Srinagar by or before 25-09-2020 upto 02:30 P.M. and shall be opened on the same day or any other subsequent day convenient to opening authority. The sealed bids should be accompanied by the earnest money in shape of CDR for an amount of Rs:1,00,000/= (Rupees One Lac only) drawn from any scheduled bank pledged to Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Anantnag.

The documents containing other terms and conditions also can be obtained from office of the undersigned upto 24-09-2020 upto 03:00 P.M. against the non-refundable cost of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two thousand only).

The Successful bidder has to deposit the bid amount as per following schedule;

01. 05% of the total bid amount as token money on spot.

02. 95% of the total bid amount before taking over the possession of the entry fee collection posts.

The Director, Urban Local Bodies Kashmir (Chairman Auction Committee) reserves the right to accept or reject any bid/ offer without assigning any reason thereof.

The successful bidder has to charge entry fee as per sanctioned rate structure as shown below:

S.No	Type of Vehicle	Rate per day	Details of Toll posts
01.	Matador 407 LP Mazda	Rs. 10/=	1. K.P. Road:- 01 Post
02.	Service Bus	Rs. 10/=	2. Gen Bus Stand:- 02 posts (Entry/exit post)
03.	Government Bus	Rs. 10/=	3. Nai Basti:- 01 Post
04.	Load Carrier Auto	Rs. 10/=	4. Mominabad Road:- 01 Post.
05.	Sumo/ Tavera	Rs. 10/=	5. Donipawa:- 01 Post
06.	Empty truck	Rs. 10/=	6. Kamad Road:- 01 Post
07.	Empty tpper, tractor	Rs. 10/=	7. Heaven Road:- 01 Post
08.	JCB	Rs. 10/=	
09.	Loaded Truck	Rs. 20/=	
10.	Loader Tipper	Rs. 20/=	
11.	Loaded Tanker	Rs. 20/=	
12.	Loaded Platform	Rs. 20/=	
13.	Tourist Bus	Rs. 20/=	
14.	Full Booking all Commercial vehicle	Rs. 20/=	
15.	School Bus/Van (Private)	Rs. 150/= per month	

No:- MC/ANG/20/5653-58
Dated:- 15/09/2020

DIPK-NB-2351/20

Sd/= Chief Executive Officer,
Municipal Council Anantnag

Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

Telefax: 01933/247380; Email Id: phemechsouth@gmail.com
GIST NIT (Short Term)

JSD/PHE/MDSA/ e-NIT No:45 of 2020-21

DATE:17-09-2020

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir online e-tenders are invited in Single Cover System, (Technical and Financial) from Registered SSI Unit Holders/ workshop holders in similar field as works contractor as mentioned below for execution of the following Works:

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost Rs. Lacs	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs)	Earnest Money (Rs)	Time of Comp	Class of contractor	Programme/ Funds
1	Electrical/ Mechanical repair works to be executed for WSS Baihama.	0.21	50.00	2% of Adv Cost	03 days	Registered SSI Unit Holders/ workshop holders	M&R
2	Various Electrical repairs at water supply scheme Sycop and kanganhall Margaypora of sub division Bijbehara.	0.30	50.00	2% of Adv Cost	03 days	Registered SSI Unit Holders/ workshop holders	M&R
3	Electrical repairs at Water Supply Scheme Tahab Naira and Rajpora Lift.	0.23	50.00	2% of Adv Cost	03 days	Registered SSI Unit Holders/ workshop holders	M&R
4	Electrical/ Mechanical repair works to be executed for WSS Sadiwara and Kurigam.	0.20	50.00	2% of Adv Cost	03 days	Registered SSI Unit Holders/ workshop holders	M&R
5	Emergent nature of works to be carried at various water supply schemes of PHE mechanical sub division Bijbehara	0.25	50.00	2% of Adv Cost	03 days	Registered SSI Unit Holders/ workshop holders	M&R
6	Electrical repairs to Modular panel to be carried out at water supply scheme Logripora of sub division Bijbehara.	0.085	50.00	2% of Adv Cost	03 days	Registered SSI Unit Holders/ workshop holders	M&R
7	Electrical Repair Works to HT Transformer at Water Supply Scheme Wopzan and Voltage Stabilizer at WSS Hammari	0.48	50.00	2% of Adv Cost	03 days	Registered SSI Unit Holders/ workshop holders	M&R

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, and bill of quantities (B.O.Q)s set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and www.phekashmir.com as per schedule of dates given below:-

01	Publish Date	17-09-2020 (04:00 PM)
02	Start of downloading of tender documents	17-09-2020 (04:00 PM)
03	On line bid uploading start date	17-09-2020 (04:00 PM)
04	Last date of uploading of bid	22-09-2020 (04:00 PM)
05	Date and time of opening of Tech bids (online)	23-09-2020 (11:00 AM)
06	Date and time of opening of Price bid	To be notified

Note - CDR & Treasury Receipt/e-Challan mentioning NIT No and Work shall be pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora as per the format annexed. Head 0215 - Revenue & Miscellaneous. All other details can be had from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and www.phekashmir.com

DIPK-5859/20

No: JSD/PHE/MDSA/1528

Date: 17 -09-2020

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division
(South) Awantipora

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER O&M DIVISION ANANTNAG (KPDCL)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

NIT No:- /EDA of 2020

Dated:- 16-09-2020

NIT No: STD-II/ 04 of NITNN2012 Dated: 01-08-2012.

The Executive Engineer Electric M&RE Division Anantnag for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT invites Sealed Tenders affixed with Rs.6/- revenue stamps from registered Civil Contractors Registered with CPWD/MES/KPDCL or other competent authorities for cement Concreting of Workshop Yard of Electric Division Anantnag forming annexure "A" to this notice which are required in Divisional office Anantnag

The tender documents can be had from office of the undersigned from 16-09-2020 up to 22-09-2020 (4.0PM) against cash payment of Rs200 on production of CDR Amounting Rs 2000/ original copies of GST registration. The tenders should reach to the Executive Engineer Electric M&RE Division Anantnag by or before 22-09-2020 up to 4.00PM by hand, Registered post, Courier Or through speed post only. In case of Holiday, Curfew or like on 22-09-2020 the last date for receiving of tenders shall be next working day. Tenders received after last date due to postal or any other delay shall not be entertained. Any request for extension in last date of receipt of tender is likely to be rejected. Tenders shall be opened on 23-09-2020 or any other convenient day by Tender Opening Committee in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to be present. Executive Engineer Electric Division Anantnag, reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

DIPK-NB-2361/20

No:- EDA/

Dated:- -09-2020

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Electric M&RE Division Anantnag

Coronavirus cases to cross 30 million globally

Agencies

Washington: The global tally for positive COVID-19 cases will soon cross 30 million, a Reuters report reads. The pandemic shows no signs of slowing down and India is emerging as its epicentre. Of the 30 million cases, 6.65 million are from the US, 4.42 million cases from Brazil, while more than 5.12 million cases are from India.

As per data, the global death toll will soon cross 1 million. According to the World Health Organisation, the coronavirus cases is more than five times the number of severe influenza cases recorded annually. COVID-19 death toll in the US is nearing 200,000. These numbers come 18 days after global COVID-19 infections surpassed 25 million globally.

In a report, Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB), an independent body created by the World Health Organisation and the World Bank, reveals how little the world had focused on preparing for a disaster of such a scale, despite several warnings that large disease outbreaks were

inevitable. "The COVID-19 pandemic is providing a harsh test of the world's preparedness," the report read. It added that the impact of the pandemic is worse than anticipated.

Though the US has 4 per cent of the world's population, it has about 20 per cent of global cases and Brazil has 15 per cent of global cases.

Health experts have said that actually positive cases and deaths might be higher than official data, as some countries have limited testing capacity. Even as the race to develop and roll out a vaccine for the coronavirus grows increasingly frantic, US President Donald Trump said his country could have a vaccine ready for distribution before the US election on November 3. A Chinese official in the meantime has also said that China could have a vaccine ready by November.

The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board has urged the UN, the WHO and international financial institutions like the World Bank to meet and discuss an international framework for emergency preparedness and response.

A Court Reprieve For Trump's H-1B Visa Ban, Challenged By 169 Indians

Agencies

Washington: The Donald Trump administration's move in US to curtail H-1B visas widely used by foreign technology workers survived an initial court challenge.

US President Donald Trump's June 22 proclamation declaring foreign workers a risk to the US

lawyers for the plaintiffs didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. But they said in a court filing that they will appeal.

The president's visa order freezes through the end of the year new H-1B and H-4 visas, widely used by technology workers and their families, as well as L visas for intracompany transfers and



labor market amid the coronavirus pandemic triggered push-back from workers and business groups. An array of the nation's biggest tech companies have warned that the policy will do "irreparable harm on businesses and the nation's economy."

But in a ruling Wednesday, US District Judge Amit Mehta in Washington declined to bar the administration from imposing the visa restrictions while the legal challenge to them plays out.

The case was brought by a group of 169 Indian nationals who recently went back to India after living in the US on work visas and are now attempting to return. They argued that the proclamation was "arbitrary and capricious" and called for the government to process their visa applications.

most J visas for work - and study-abroad programs.

The ruling on Wednesday was the second time this month that Mr Mehta has denied a request to suspend the proclamation. Just as he did in a September 4 ruling in a related case involving a group of visa applicants, Mr Mehta found that the Indian workers fell short of the high legal threshold for an order blocking the decree while the litigation proceeds.

In both cases, the judge concluded the plaintiffs were not likely to succeed in showing that Trump exceeded his authority with the proclamation.

A different federal judge in Oakland, California, is weighing another request to block the decree from business groups including the US Chamber of Commerce.



Vaccine Nationalism: Rich Countries Have Already Bought Up Over 51% Of Vaccine Stocks

Agencies

Washington: Rich nations representing a fraction of the global population have already bought up over half the promised Covid-19 vaccine stocks, a study showed, as US President Donald Trump pledged to begin inoculating Americans within weeks.

Big pharma is racing to produce an effective jab to counter a virus that has now killed more than 935,000 people around the world and infected almost 30 million.

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday warned against "vaccine nationalism" that she said could put lives at risk by depriving the most vulnerable in poorer nations of immunity. But a study released by Oxfam showed a group of wealthy countries representing just 13 percent of the world population has already secured the lion's share of doses.

"Access to a life-saving vaccine shouldn't depend on where you live or how much money you have," said Robert Silverman of Oxfam America.

"Covid-19 anywhere is Covid-19 everywhere."

The five leading vaccine candidates currently in late-stage trials will be able to supply 5.9 billion doses, enough to inoculate about three billion people, the Oxfam report said.

Some 51 percent of those jabs have been snapped up by the wealthy world, including the United States, Britain, the European Union, Australia, Hong Kong and Macau, Japan, Switzerland and Israel.

The remaining 2.6 billion have been bought by or promised to developing countries including India, Bangladesh, China, Brazil, Indonesia and Mexico.

'Vaccine nationalism'

Trump on Wednesday said he would begin rolling out a vaccine in America as soon as next month, contradicting doubts expressed by a top health expert in his administration who said a jab was unlikely to be widely available until mid-2021.

"We're very close to that vaccine as you know... We think we can start sometime in October" or shortly thereafter, Trump said.

Democrats have expressed concern that Trump is pressuring government health regulators and

scientists to approve a rushed vaccine in time to help his uphill bid for re-election in early November.

"We're within weeks of getting it, you know - could be three weeks, four weeks," the president told a town hall session with voters in Pennsylvania Tuesday.

But in an implicit swipe at Trump's America First approach to the pandemic, von der Leyen said Europe would support multilateral bodies such as the World Health Organization with its attempts at a more equitable rollout.

"None of us will be safe until all of us are safe - wherever we live, whatever we have," she said. "Vaccine nationalism puts lives at risk. Vaccine cooperation saves them."

'Going hard and early'

The global economy has been devastated by the pandemic, with many nations still maintaining restrictions on their populations to contain fresh outbreaks.

New Zealand was added to the list of economic casualties on Thursday when it reported it had plunged into recession for the first time in a decade.

Trump says 'about five' countries are close to normalising ties with Israel

Agencies

Washington: US President Donald Trump has said that five additional Middle Eastern countries are close to establishing formal relations with Israel following normalisation deals brokered with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking next to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday, the US president said many Arab countries are moving to normalising ties with Israel "very quickly".

He added that other countries could have joined Tuesday's normalisation ceremony between Israel, the UAE and



Bahrain in Washington, but the White House opted to limit the event "out of respect" for Abu Dhabi and Manama - the first Gulf capitals to agree to establish ties with Israel.

"We're very far down the

road with about five countries, five additional countries," Trump said.

Trump refused to identify the countries, but he suggested that Saudi Arabia may be amongst them.

"I spoke with the King of Saudi Arabia, and we had a great conversation. And I think positive things will happen there, too," Trump told reporters.

Saudi officials had previously stressed that the kingdom will not normalise relations with Israel outside of the framework of the Arab peace initiative, which calls for establishing a Palestinian state.

Guterres warns UN facing its '1945 moment'

AGENCIES

United Nations; UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned that the world body was facing its own "1945 moment", noting that efforts must be made to "meet that moment".

"In this 75th anniversary year, we face our own 1945 moment. We must meet that moment," Xinhua news agency quoted Guterres as saying at a press conference at the UN headquarters in New York on Wednesday.

"We must show unity like never before to overcome today's emergency, get the world moving and working and prospering again, and uphold the vision of the Charter," he added.

The UN was established after World War II with the aim of preventing future wars, succeeding the ineffective League of Nations.

On April 25, 1945, 50 government representatives met in San Francisco for a conference and started drafting the UN Charter, which was adopted on June 25,

1945, and took effect the same year on October 24.

Pursuant to the Charter, the



organisation's objectives include maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development and upholding international law.

At its founding, the UN had 51 member states. The membership now is 193, representing almost all of the world's sovereign states. IANS

Invention Captures Harmful Car Tyre Dust, Wins Uk Award



Agencies

London: A group of students in Britain have invented a way of capturing tyre dust - a major contributor to air and water pollution - as a car drives along, winning them this year's James Dyson Award in the UK.

Tiny particles of rubber from tyres are responsible for nearly half of road transport particulate emissions, according to the UK government, and they are the second largest source of microplastic pollutant in oceans after single-use plastic.

"Everyone focuses on air pollution being directly from the engines themselves and coming out of the exhaust pipe," Hugo Richardson, one of four members of The Tyre Collective, told Reuters in London.

"But what people don't necessarily recognise is that tyre wear is a huge contributor to that, and that's partly down to its microscopic size and the fact that you don't obviously see it all the time." The award-winning solution was to capture tyre particles at source by fitting a device that wraps closely around the edge of the tyre and using electrostatics and the aerodynamics of a spinning wheel to collect particles as they are emitted.

Richardson said the coronavirus lockdown, which reduced traffic significantly, had given people a glimpse of how clean a city's air could be.

"I think we all realise that clean air in our cities is not a pipedream any more, but something that is immediately achievable with some clever innovation and some impetus from those in charge." The students say their prototype can collect 60% of all airborne particles from tyres under a controlled environment on their test rig.

The benefits to public health could be profound.

"These (tyre) particles are actually small enough to be inhaled," said Siobhan Anderson, a member of the Innovation Design Engineering programme offered jointly by Imperial College London and the Royal College of Art.

"So they can cause different lung diseases and developmental issues and they also enter our water and eventually make their way through our food chain and come back to us." Each time a vehicle brakes, accelerates or turns a corner, the tyres wear and tiny particles become airborne, producing half a million tonnes of tyre particles annually in Europe alone, according to the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

NEWS MAKERS

Israel Preparing to Enter Yemen: Ansarallah

BEIRUT : The leader of Yemen's Ansarallah Movement, Abdel-Malek Al-Houthi, said that Israel had begun preparing to establish a presence in his country with protection from the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United States.

In a televised speech on Monday, Al-Houthi said, "Many facts are now largely clear, and the Saudi and Emirati role and the Al-Khalifa (the ruling family in Bahrain) in the aggression against Yemen has become clear in this general context, which is the implementation of the American and Israeli agenda."

He said: "Whenever they were able to control the southern governorates, the Americans began to be behind them, and they had a



base at Al-Rayyan Airport in Hadramout, and they became present in Sharurah and to some extent in Aden. Then the Israelis began to come from behind them, with their protection, their expenses and their efforts."

He said that the Arab coalition countries are conspiring against Yemen and fulfill-

ing the U.S.' agenda.

Al-Houthi's accusations come on the eve of the signing of two agreements by the UAE and Bahrain, which are allies of Saudi Arabia in the "coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen," to normalize relations with Israel during a ceremony at the White House.

Asian Airlines Join Trend Of Scenic "Flights To Nowhere" Amid Pandemic

Sydney: Qantas Airways Ltd said it would operate a seven-hour scenic flight over Australia next month, adding to a growing trend in Asia of "flights to nowhere" that take off and land at the same airport.

Tough border restrictions to keep the coronavirus under control have led to a 97.5% plunge in international travel in the region, according to the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines.

Many frequent flyers miss getting on planes and airlines including Taiwan's EVA Airways Corp and Japan's ANA Holdings Inc, desperate for revenue and to keep their pilots' licences current, have offered special sightseeing flights.

EVA used one of its iconic Hello Kitty livery planes for a special father's day flight last month, while ANA used an Airbus SE A380 that usually flies to Honolulu for a 90-minute flight with a Hawaiian experience on board. Tickets costing around \$228 for a Tigerair Taiwan flight from Taipei that will circle over South Korea's Jeju Island reportedly sold out in four minutes.

The price includes a one-year voucher

for round-trip tickets from Taiwan to Korea, which can be used after COVID-19 travel bans are lifted.

Singapore Airlines Ltd is also considering scenic flights, but no decision has



been made, a spokesman said.

Qantas said it would use a Boeing Co 787 typically used for long-haul international flights for the flight from Sydney that will fly at low levels over Uluru, the Great Barrier Reef and Sydney Harbour before landing back in Sydney. Tickets will cost between A\$787 and A\$3,787 (\$575 and \$2,765) depending on the seating class.

Top US science magazine backs Joe Biden for President

Even though Scientific American had never endorsed a US presidential candidate in the magazine's 175-year history, its top editor has said there was little internal debate over a decision to back Democrat Joe Biden.

Editor-in-Chief Laura Helmuth said President Donald Trump's administration was much worse for the scientific community than the magazine had feared. The magazine's endorsement was posted online on Tuesday, a day after Trump questioned the science of climate change in relation to the California wildfires. Helmuth said the timing was coincidental and the editorial was written during the past two months.

Scientific American said that "the evidence and the science show that Donald Trump has basically damaged the United States and its people because he rejects evidence and science". The editorial by senior editor Josh Fischman sharply condemned Trump for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Regulate Digital Media First, Sufficient Framework Exists On Print, Electronic Media: Centre To SC



NEW DELHI: The Centre has said that if the Supreme Court decides on the issue of media regulation, then such an exercise should be undertaken with the digital media first as it has faster reach and information has the potential to go viral due to applications namely WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook.

The government told the Apex Court that sufficient framework and judicial pronouncements existed for the electronic and the print media.

“Considering the serious impact and the potential, it is desirable that if this court decides to undertake the exercise, it should first be undertaken with regard to digital media as there already exists sufficient framework and judicial pronouncements with regard to electronic media and print media,” said the counter affidavit, filed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

“It is submitted that while in a mainstream media (whether electronic or print), the publication or telecast is a one-time act, the digital media has faster reach from a wider range of viewership or readership and has the potential to become viral because of several electronic applications like WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook,” it said.

The affidavit was filed in a pending matter in which

the top court is hearing a petition which has raised grievance over Sudarshan TV’s ‘Bindas Bol’ programme whose promo had claimed that channel would show the ‘big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service’.

A bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud had on September 15 restrained the channel from telecasting its episodes of a programme for two days, saying “the intent” of aired episodes “prima facie” appears to “vilify” the community.

The bench had suggested that a committee of apolitical experts of distinguished citizens or former judges may be appointed to help in self-regulating the electronic media especially.

The Apex Court is scheduled to hear the matter today.

In its affidavit, the Centre has said: “Subject matter of the present petition namely balancing between the journalist freedom and responsible journalism is a field already occupied either by the statutory provisions made by the Parliament or by the judgments of this court.”

“It is respectfully submitted that in view of the issue having already received the attention of the Parliament, as well as, of this court, the present petition be confined to only one channel namely Sudarshan TV and this court may not undertake the exercise of laying down any further guidelines with or without the appointment of an amicus or a committee of persons as amicus,” the affidavit said.

Indian Cities Drop In Global Smart City Index; Singapore On Top

NEW DELHI: Four Indian cities—New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru—witnessed a significant drop in their rankings in the global listing of smart cities that was topped by Singapore.



The Institute for Management Development (IMD), in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD), has released the 2020 Smart City Index, with key findings on how technology is playing a role in the COVID-19 era.

In the 2020 Smart City Index, Hyderabad was placed at the 85th position (down from 67 in 2019), New Delhi at 86th rank (down from 68 in 2019), Mumbai was at 93rd place (in 2019 it was at 78) and Bengaluru at 95th (79 in 2019).

“Cities in India (New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru) suffer significant drops this year. This can be attributed to the detrimental effect that the pandemic has had where the technological advancement was not up to date,” the report said.

It further added that “Indian cities have suffered more from the pandemic because they were not prepared”.

From 15 indicators that the respondents perceive as the priority areas for their city, all four cities highlighted air pollution as one of the

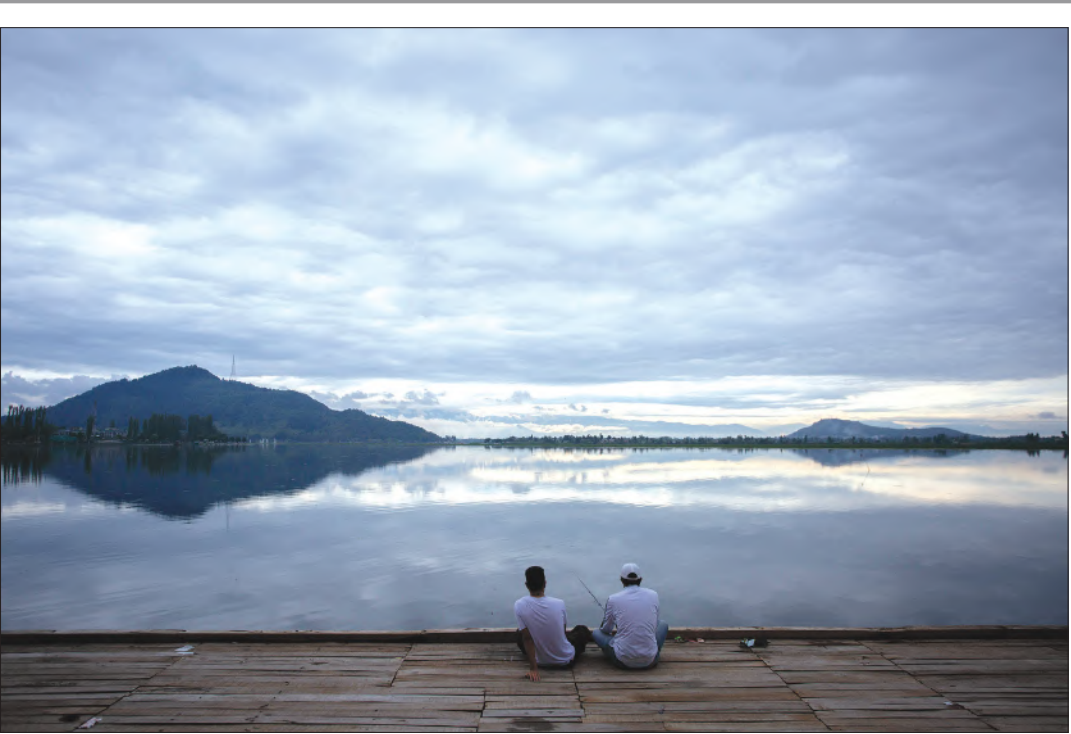
key areas that they felt their city needed to prioritise on.

For cities like Bangalore and Mumbai, this was closely followed by road congestion while for Delhi and Hyderabad it was basic amenities, the report said.

The 2020 Smart City Index (SCI) was topped by Singapore, followed by Helsinki and Zurich in the second and the third place respectively. Others in the top 10 list include Auckland (4th), Oslo (5th), Copenhagen (6th), Geneva (7th), Taipei City (8th), Amsterdam (9th) and New York at the 10th place.

In SCI’s context, ‘smart city’ describes an urban setting that apply technology to enhance the benefits and diminish the shortcomings of urbanization.

The second edition of the SCI ranked 109 cities worldwide by capturing perceptions of randomly chosen 120 residents in each city. Hundreds of citizens from 109 cities were surveyed in April and May 2020 and asked questions on the technological provisions of their city across five key areas: health and safety, mobility, activities, opportunities and governance.



LEISURE HUNT: Two Kashmiri boys angling at the ghats of iconic Dal Lake on Thursday.

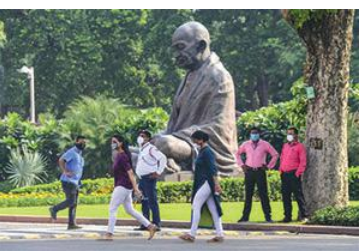
Record 97,894 Infections Push India’s Covid Tally To Over 51 Lakh

NEW DELHI: A record single-day increase of 97,894 infections has pushed India’s COVID-19 tally to over 51 lakh while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 40 lakh on Thursday, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 51,18,253 while the death toll climbed to 83,198 with the virus claiming 1,132 lives in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The total recoveries surged to 40,25,079 while the active cases of COVID-19 crossed 10 lakh for the first time.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection was recorded at 1.63 per cent. There are 10,09,976 active cases of COVID-19 in the country which comprises 19.73 per cent of the total caseload,



the data stated.

India’s COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and it went past 50 lakh on September 16.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 6,05,65,728 samples have been tested up to September 16 with 11,36,613 samples being tested on Wednesday.

The 1,132 new deaths reported in a day include 474 from Maharashtra, 86 from Uttar Pradesh, 78 from

Punjab, 64 from Andhra Pradesh, 61 from West Bengal, 57 from Tamil Nadu, 55 from Karnataka and 33 from Delhi.

A total of 83,198 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 30,883 from Maharashtra followed by 8,559 from Tamil Nadu, 7,536 from Karnataka, 5,105 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,839 from Delhi, 4,690 from Uttar Pradesh, 4,123 from West Bengal, 3,256 from Gujarat, 2,592 from Punjab and 1,844 from Madhya Pradesh.

The Health Ministry stressed that 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 is subject to further verification and reconciliation. PTI

India Ranks 116 In World Bank’s Human Capital Index

WASHINGTON: India has been ranked at the 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank’s annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.

However, India’s score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank on Wednesday.

The 2020 Human Capital Index update includes health and education data for 174 countries — covering 98 per cent of the world’s population — up to March 2020, providing a pre-pandemic baseline on the health and education of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries.

The analysis shows that pre-pandemic, most countries had made steady progress in building the human capital of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries.

Despite this progress, and even before the effects of the pandemic, a child born in a typical country could expect to achieve just 56 per cent of their potential human capital, relative to a benchmark of complete education and full health, the Bank said.

“The pandemic puts at risk the decade’s progress in building human capital, including the improvements in health, survival rates, school enrolment, and reduced stunting. The economic impact of the pandemic has been particularly deep for women and



development, told reporters that her team had worked with countries to improve the quality of data in order to make it a better index for everyone.

“An index is a conversation-opener, and what we have discussed with our client countries is that all that is in the index matters but not everything that matters can be in the index,” she said, adding: “We have worked very directly with some of our client countries to use the index as a way to improve measurement, and India was exactly one of these cases.”

Responding to questions, Mamta Murthi, vice-president, Human Development, World Bank Group, told reporters that the Human Capital Index provided a basis on which the government of India could prioritise and a dimension to support human capital. Given the progress that has been made in recent times, it seems significant for now due to COVID-19.

“The Bank is working with the Indian authorities on supporting livelihood for the poor, which is very important,” she said.

World Bank President David Malpass said that the coronavirus had deepened inequality globally, in addition to increasing poverty and distress. “We’re working with countries to try to protect people during the crisis and also invest in them so that we can see the recovery and lay a foundation for future inclusive growth,” he said.

CBI Books 6 Firms For Installing Malware On People’s Computers

NEW DELHI: A pop-up on your computer screen warning about technical problems could be a trap!

The CBI has busted a racket, booking six private firms that were allegedly installing a malware on people’s computers in the name of providing anti-virus to protect them from bogus security issues flagged through pop-up messages.

The central agency has conducted searches at the premises of these accused companies—New Delhi-based Softwill Infotech Private Limited and Saburi TLC Worldwide Services Private Limited, Jaipur-based Innovana Thinklabs Limited and Systweak Software Private Limited, Noida-based Benovellint Technologies Private Limited and Noida and Gurugram-based Saburi Global Services Private Limited.

The agency has carried out searches at the premises of the companies at 10 locations in Jaipur, Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad and Mainpuri.

The companies allegedly sent pop-up messages on personal computers of users, giving bogus warnings about purported security issues and presence of malware in



the Microsoft Windows System, officials said.

The pop-up messages carried the phone number of a call centre, where the employees of the companies allegedly advised the victims to install certain anti-malwares or anti-virus, which are essentially PUPs (Potentially Unwanted Programmes), they said.

“The victims are allegedly given the option to activate the PUPs by paying a fee online or by calling a number advertised in the interface of the programme. The victims are fraudulently influenced in this manner and allegedly fall in their trap to maintain their systems properly,” CBI Spokesperson RK Gaur said.

The customer care allegedly posed as the support system call centre and asked people to make payments through an online link to resolve the non-existent problems, the officials said. — PTI

5 Chinese Nationals Charged In Mega Hacking Scheme, Indian Govt Networks Hit: US

WASHINGTON: The US Justice Department has charged five Chinese citizens with hacking over a 100 companies and institutions in America and abroad, including the Indian government’s networks, and stealing valuable software data and business intelligence.

Deputy US Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen on Wednesday announced three indictments have been unsealed in the matter that collectively charges five Chinese nationals with computer hacking and charge two Malaysian nationals for helping some of those hackers target victims and sell the fruits of their crime.

The Malaysian nationals were arrested on Sunday and the Chinese nationals have been declared fugitive, according to a Justice Department statement.

Rosen severely criticised the Chinese government.

“The Department of Justice has used every tool available to disrupt the illegal computer intrusions and cyberattacks by these Chinese citizens. Regrettably, the Chinese Communist Party has chosen a different path - of making China safe for cyber-criminals so long as they attack computers outside China and steal intellectual property helpful to China,” the deputy attorney general said.

“In about 2019, the conspirators compromised Government of India websites, as well as virtual private networks and database servers supporting the Government of India. The conspirators used VPS PROVIDER serv-

ers to connect to an Open VPN network owned by the Government of India,” the indictment said.

In the attacks, the conspirators installed ‘Cobalt Strike’ malware on Indian government-protected computers, it added.

According to the charges, the computer intrusions affected over 100 companies in the United States and abroad.

The victims ranged from software development, computer hardware, telecommunication, social media and video game companies. Non-profit organisations, universities, think-tanks, foreign governments, pro-democracy politicians and activists in Hong Kong were also targeted.

Security researchers have tracked the intrusions using labels “APT41,” “Barium,” “Winnti,” “Wicked Panda,” and “Wicked Spider.” These intrusions facilitated the theft of source code, software code signing certificates, customer account data, and valuable business information, the researchers said.

These intrusions also facilitated the defendants’ other criminal schemes, including ransomware and “crypto-jacking” schemes, the latter refers to the group’s unauthorised use of victim computers to mine cryptocurrency.

The Chinese hackers also targeted government computers and networks of Vietnam and the United Kingdom. The hackers, however, were not successful in compromising the government computer networks in the United Kingdom.

NEWS MAKERS

Lawyer Challenges Challan For Not Wearing Mask When Driving Alone; Delhi HC Seeks Govt Reply

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought response of the Centre and AAP government on a lawyer’s plea challenging the Rs 500 challan issued to him for not wearing a mask while he was driving alone.

Justice Navin Chawla issued notice to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Delhi government, Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and the police seeking their stand on the petition which seeks quashing of the challan, refund of the Rs 500 paid as fine and compensation of Rs 10 lakh for mental harassment suffered by the petitioner.

The petitioner, Saurabh Sharma, has claimed in his



plea that on September 9 while driving to work he was stopped by Delhi Police officials and was challaned for not wearing mask even though he was alone in the car.

Sharma, represented by advocate KC Mittal, has contended that there is a Health Ministry notification clarifying that wearing of mask was not compulsory while driving alone in a car.

Advocate Farman Ali Magray, appearing for the ministry, said that such a notification has been issued.

Mittal also argued, during

the hearing, that the guidelines issued by DDMA only states that the mask has to be worn in a public place or place of work and a private vehicle is neither.

The DDMA, during the hearing, contended that its guidelines issued in April and June this year makes its mandatory to wear a mask in a public place and added that the Supreme Court has held that a private vehicle is a public place.

It also said that under the guidelines issued by it, there is penalty of Rs 500 for first time breach of quarantine norms as well as for not wearing masks and for every subsequent violation there is a fine of Rs 1,000.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 18. PTI

Assam Government Asked To Pay 1 Lakh To Man Beaten Up For Selling Beef

GUWAHATI: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has ordered the Assam government to pay 1 lakh to a person, who was beaten up by a mob for selling cooked beef at his tea stall in the Biswanath district.

The commission also took a serious note of the fact that neither the Chief Secretary replied to a show-cause notice nor the Director-General of Police submitted the action taken report against the guilty police officials in the case.

Shaukat Ali (48) was thrashed by a mob and forced to eat cooked pork in front of a few policemen for selling beef at his tea stall at the Madhupur weekly market in Biswanath Chariali on April 7 last year. A



contractor of the market was also allegedly beaten up for allowing Ali to run the shop.

Consumption of beef is legal in Assam and the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 1950 permits the slaughter of cattle above 14 years of age with proper certificate only by a veterinary officer of the area.

Considering the matter on September 9 over a complaint by Leader of the Opposition Debabrata Saikia, the rights body warned the DGP of initiating action against him if the report is not sent within four

weeks, as per an NHRC letter to the police chief.

“The Commission has not received reply or any response to show cause notice from the concerned authority which led Commission to observe that the concerned authority has nothing to urge upon the Commission with regard to the show cause notice.

“Therefore, the Commission confirms its recommendation and directs to the Chief Secretary, Government of Assam to release amounting to 1,00,000 to the victim Shaukat Ali and submit a report along with proof of payment to the Commission within six weeks,” a letter to the chief secretary from NHRC assistant registrar (law) said.

5-Foot Python Found In Backseat Of Auto Rickshaw In Delhi

NEW DELHI: A five-foot-long Indian Rock python slithered into the backseat of an auto-rickshaw in Tughlakabad area on Wednesday, triggering panic among people.

The incident happened in the morning when the auto was parked on the roadside and there was no one inside it, said an official of Wildlife SOS, which caters to animal-related distress calls.

The driver noticed the snake curled up under the CNG kit of his auto rickshaw and frantically dialed the helpline number of the wildlife NGO.

A two-member rescuer team rushed to the location with necessary rescue equipment in hand. The rescuers dismantled the metal frame around the cylinder to get easy



access to the distressed snake.

An hour later, the python was safely transferred into a transportation carrier and released into its natural habitat, the official said.

Kartick Satyanarayan, Co-founder and CEO of Wildlife SOS, said, “Handling snakes can be quite challenging but our team is trained to carry out such sensitive operations. This python is a great example of the difficult situations that reptiles in urban settings often find themselves in.”