



Maximum : 29°C
Minum : 13°C
Humidity : 36%

SUNSET
Today 06:30 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:18 AM

OBSERVER

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News Digest

LAHDC Elections On Oct 16

Leh: Authorities in the Union Territory of Ladakh have announced schedule of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) polls, notwithstanding opposition's demand for postponement of the exercise in view of the border tension and spike in Coronavirus cases. In a notification issued by Saugat Biswas, Secretary election department, the voting will take place on October 16 in 26 constituencies of the Council. Earlier, representatives of opposition parties—Congress, AAP and BSP—had advised for the postponement of elections in view of the escalating border. ● P-02

28 Shops, House Gutted In Banihal Blaze

Banihal- At least 28 shops and a residential house were gutted in a fire in Banihal area in Ramban district of Jammu region, officials said on Saturday. The fire erupted in the main market in Khari, 16 km from Banihal town, at around 10.45 pm on Friday, tehsildar (Khari) Ashok Chakravorty told PTI. He said fire and emergency services personnel put out the blaze after hectic efforts of over one-and-a-half-hour. Army personnel from the nearby camp and local residents also joined the fire fighting operation. The fire consumed 28 shops and a. ● P-02

2 OGWs Held In Pulwama: Police

Srinagar- Two associates of militants were arrested in Pulwama district of south Kashmir and incriminating material was seized from their possession, police said on Saturday. The two were arrested from Awantipora and Khrew areas of the south Kashmir district, a police spokesman said, without disclosing their names. He said incriminating material of outfits Hizb-ul-Mujahdeen and Al-Badr was seized from the possession of the militant associates. Cases have been registered and investigations initiated, the spokesman said.

Security Guard's Rifle Snatched In Tral

Srinagar: Three unidentified men snatched a 12-bore rifle from a security guard at a private bank in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. They entered the bank at Dadsara in the south Kashmir district on Saturday morning and attacked a security guard, identified as Showkat Ahmad Hajam, a police official said. The three men decamped with a 12-bore rifle of the private security guard, he said. The video footage of the incident has been taken as the evidence by police and efforts are on to identify the culprits involved in the commission of the crime, the official said. A case has been registered and investigations are underway, he said.

2 Soldiers Injured After Vehicle Overturns

Srinagar: Two army men were critically injured on Saturday in a road accident in Awantipora town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. According to the reports the incident occurred at Danagarpora village when an armoured vehicle turned turtle injuring two soldiers. Police and army, reports said rushed to spot and shifted the injured soldiers to Army hospital. A police official told news agency KNT that the army vehicle suffered massive damage in the accident

LG Announces Rs 1350 Crore Package To Help Business Sector

50 % Waiver Of Fixed Charges In Electricity, Water Tariff

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced a Rs 1,350-crore economic package for Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday to give what the official spokesman called "a much-needed boost" to tourism and other sectors hit by the economic slowdown caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the security scenario.

As a part of the package, the government has also decided to provide 50 per cent waiver of fixed charges for one year with respect to electricity and water which would cost Rs 105 crore.

Sinha also hinted that the Centre is actively considering an "unprecedented and historic package" for assistance to business entities, which will cover both existing and new enterprises and will be a big boost to business and industry in Jammu and Kashmir, according to an official press release.

Announcing this, the LG said, "You know that at the



KO Photo Anil Bhat

Package To Help Revive Businesses: Kashmir Inc

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) on Saturday welcomed the financial package announced by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for the revival of business in the Union Territory, saying it will give a push to the economy. "First of all, it is a very good beginning because it was on our demand that the LG formed a time-bound committee. We appreciate the work done by the committee and appreciate their efforts that they could deliver their report in time," KCCI

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Too Little To Cover Rs 45,000 Cr Losses: NC

National Conference on Saturday termed the newly announced economic package of Rs 1350 Cr for revival of local economy a crude joke, saying the package is too diminutive to cover the whopping 45,000 Cr losses to J&K economy. The so-called revival package for the economy is just hogwash to hoodwink people, said Party Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar. He said the losses incurred by the industries sector post August 5 clamp down and succeeding Covid induced lockdown

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In LS, Farooq Bats For Talks With Pakistan

Says If Talks Can Happen
With China, Why Not With
Other Neighbour

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Speaking in Parliament for the first time since his release from detention, the National Conference president and MP Farooq Abdullah on Saturday advocated talks with Pakistan, saying if India can talk to China to defuse their border row, it can also speak to its other neighbour to deal with the situation at Jammu and Kashmir borders.

"Border skirmishes have been rising and people are dying... A way has to be found to deal with this. Except for talks... As you are talking to China

to attempt that it withdraws (from Ladakh border), we should also talk to our (other) neighbour to find a way to get out of this situation," he said in Lok Sabha during the Zero Hour amid protests from treasury benches. The Srinagar MP also expressed his happiness at the findings of an Army inquiry into the killings of three men in Shopian in an encounter.

"I am happy that the Army has admitted that three Shopian men were killed mistakenly. I hope the government gives a hefty compensation," he said. Officials had said on Friday the Army has found "prima facie" evidence that its troops "exceeded" powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act during the encounter in July and has initiated disciplinary proceedings.

NIA Attaches House Of 'Jaish OGW's' Father

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday ordered attaching the property belonging to the father of alleged Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) over ground worker (OGW) Irshad Ahmed Reshi, who was arrested by the agency in connection with an attack on a CRPF Group Centre in south Kashmir in 2017

The property, which is a house, is in the name of Irshad Reshi's father Nazir Ahmad Reshi in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The house along with 17 marlas of land, situated in Ratnipora village of Kakapora area in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, was attached as a property that rep-



resents proceeds of militancy and that which has been used for furtherance of activities of the JeM militant organisation, an NIA spokesperson said in a statement.

The attaching of the property has been made in exercise of powers granted under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.

The accused, Irshad Reshi, was an active Over Ground Worker (OGW) of the JeM militant group. He was also a close associate of slain militant and JeM

commander Noor Mohammad Tantray alias Noor Trali.

The attack on the CRPF Group Centre at Lethpora in south Kashmir was executed under a conspiracy to avenge the death of Noor Trali, who was killed in an encounter with state forces in December 2017.

Irshad Reshi, who was arrested by the NIA in April 2019, was a key conspirator who provided logistic support like shelter and transport to the militants and conducted reconnaissance of the CRPF Group Centre before the attack.

Five CRPF personnel were killed when JeM militants carried out the attack on the CRPF Group Centre during the intervening night of December 30 and 31, 2017.

Three militants were killed retaliatory fire.

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Pakistan dropped weapons and some cash in Indian currency using a drone in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Saturday said, announcing the arrest of three alleged LeT militants who had picked up the consignment near the Line of Control.

Singh said the major success was achieved on Friday evening, following a well-coordinated joint operation by police and 38 Rashtriya Rifles in Rajouri sector of Jammu region.

"All the three Lashker-e-Taiba militants were residents of Kash-

3 'Lashkar Militants' Held With Drone Dropped Arms: DGP

'DNA Sample Report In Shopian Case Expected Soon'

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh on Saturday said the DNA sample report of three youths killed in an alleged fake encounter in Shopian district is expected soon and subsequent action will be taken accordingly. On July 18, the Army had claimed that three militants were killed in Amshipura village in the higher reaches of

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mir and had come to pick up the consignment, which was dropped by Pakistan on this side using a drone," the DGP, who was flanked by Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Division, Mukesh Singh, told reporters in Rajouri district.

The IGP informed this was

the third successful operation in the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch since September 11.

Earlier, a huge consignment of arms and ammunition was recovered from two people in Balakote sector of Poonch three days later 11 kg of heroin worth

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J&K Govt Amends Domicile Certificate Rules

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday introduced amendment in the Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020, authorising Naib Tehsildar in addition to Tehsildar to issue the certificate to the PCR holders and their children.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 309 of the Constitution of India, read with Section 15 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralization and Recruitment) Act, 2010, the Government hereby makes the following amendment in the Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020," a GAD Notification issued today stated.

According to an official spokesperson, the amendment in Rule 5, Clause 1 authorizes both Tehsildar and Naib

Plea Seeks Separate HR Bodies For J&K, Ladakh

A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking direction to the Centre to immediately set up separate Human Rights Commissions for the two Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The plea filed by advocate Asim Sarode said that after

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Tehsildar for issuing the Domicile certificate to Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) holders and their children, while naming Deputy Commissioner as the appellate authority.

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Police Station Built On Canal: HC Seeks Report

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High court has directed Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to examine the matter regarding construction of a police station allegedly raised on an irrigation canal in Qimoha area of the southern Kashmir's

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HC Sets-Up Arbitration Centres At Srinagar, Jammu

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Saturday accorded approval to setting up of its annexed Arbitration Centers at Srinagar and Jammu in order to provide an institutionalized framework for speedy and expeditious

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Govt Reshuffles Administration

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday ordered transfer of seven officers with immediate effect in the interest of administrations. According to an official spokesperson, Bipul Pathak, Principal Secretary to the

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LG's Whirlwind Tour Of Anantnag

ANANTNAG: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir government is witnessing a visible change, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday urged youth to embrace the path of development and be the drivers of a developed and prosperous Union

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In FOCUS

Batamalo Gunfight: 'No Tweet, Probe Can Get My Mother Back Now'

Hibah Bhat

WITH an expression of misery etched on his face, Aqib Riyaz looks haggard as he recalls the horrific morning of August 18. It was almost like any other daybreak. He was awoken by his 45-year-old mother, Kousar Riyaz Sofi, who had already been up for hours to pray her midnight subjugatory prayers.

At around 4am, the mother-son duo left for their bakery shop in Baranpathar area of Batamaloo, distanced at almost 2-3 kms from their house.

A few bakery shops had already opened as usual, and the air was filled with the early morning bird chirping and faint sounds of moving vehicles.

"Everything seemed normal until I sensed some disturbance around us," recalls Aqib, who had then decided to take a U-turn. "But as I turned back, a bullet pierced our car and straightaway bore a hole in my mother's head." She was sitting in the passenger seat.

Suddenly, a new dawn turned into an eternal dusk in Aqib's life when his mother's face sank into his arms like the setting sun into the sea. Even before he could fathom what had happened, his mother had already lost her heartbeats leaving her 25-year-old son, in his white Santro car, numb and frozen in his seat.

The incident happened in the congested locality, where tensions had already flared up due to the search operation followed by an exchange of fire between the

militants and armed forces. Acted on a tip-off, a battery of counterinsurgents had earlier shown up in Firdausabad locality to pursue three insurgents in a house.

Terming Kousar's killing "unfortunate", J&K DGP Dilbag Singh expressed his "sympathies" with the bereaved family in a post-gunfight presser. Further, in an of-

fensive, he said, "I am not a doctor, but I am a parent. I can understand the pain of a parent whose child has been killed."

Hesitant to face the truth, hurriedly, Aqib packed his emotions and decided to take his mother to a hospital but soon understood that it was going to be bootless.

"She was dead," he laments while surrounded by long-faced mourners in his home. "I just wanted to be with her at that moment"

In five minutes or so, two cops came

Control Room (PCR) and later to the Batamaloo Police Station—where I was kept waiting in blood-soaked clothes along with my mother's dead body for hours," the grieving son recounts.

Before taking her dead mother for a final homecoming, Aqib says, his bereaved family members were asked to sign "an

"WE WERE TAKEN TO A NEARBY POLICE CONTROL ROOM (PCR) AND LATER to the Batamaloo Police Station—where I was kept waiting in blood-soaked clothes along with my mother's dead body for hours," the grieving son recounts.

official statement, J&K police said that the woman died in the wake of "indiscriminate firing by terrorists".

No moment to grieve

running towards his car and ordered him to get into a police van along with his mother's body.

"We were taken to a nearby Police

undertaking" that no protests would happen if the body would be handed over.

"Around 25 people signed a bond before they gave us the body,"

● P-02



From Front page...

J&K Bank CMD Interacts With High Density Apple Entrepreneurs

Will Continue To Support Entrepreneurs: J&K Bank CMD

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank Chairman and Managing Director R K Chhibber today held an interaction with a delegation of entrepreneurs associated with High Density apple projects at Bank's Corporate Headquarters. Bank's Executive President Sunil Gupta, Special Secretary to CMD Karanjit Singh and various other officials from the bank were present during the interaction. The apple entrepreneurs were

represented by Faisal Burza from Fruit Master Agro Fresh Pvt Ltd, Mohsin Hassan from Kashmir Developers, Junaidd Sidique from HN Agri Services and Faisal Buch from Golden Agri. Terming the J&K Bank as backbone of the UT's economy, the entrepreneurs appreciated the Bank's effort during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Commenting upon the Bank's role in the economy of the UT, the representatives said

that J&K Bank has always been there for the entrepreneurs and continues to do so. The delegation suggested measures to further streamline the process of credit dispensation to High Density Apple Scheme. The CMD appreciated the role played by the budding entrepreneurs in helping farmers in increasing the quality and quantity of their production. He said that the facilitating role



played by the entrepreneurs of High Density Apple and the in-

novations introduced would enable the growers to take their produce to the next level. The CMD assured the delegation that the bank would ensure to take care of all the suggestions within the purview of the regulatory guidelines. He reiterated that the bank was comfortable with the liquidity saying, "Our liquidity is sufficient enough to keep continuing lending as per the requirements. Our staff

has left no stone unturned to provide banking service to the customer even during Covid-19 Pandemic." He said that with the help of government, J&K Bank will continue supporting the entrepreneurs. "Being their partners in growth we want to see our entrepreneurs grow. Bank shall continue to support entrepreneurs in all possible ways," the CMD said.

LG Announces Rs 1350...

most, a two-per cent interest subvention is provided and that is what the people expect as well. However, keeping in mind the special situation here -- businesses have been suffering for the last about 20 years -- we have decided to give an interest subvention of five per cent without any discrimination to all businesses whether small, medium or heavy. This is an unprecedented decision." He said the Union Territory (UT) administration will directly support this with Rs 950 crore. Sinha also announced that stamp duty has been exempted in case of all borrowers up to March next year. He said the new economic package is apart from the package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan. "Overall, this economic package is historic in terms of volume and reach. I can see that Kashmiris are eager to contribute to the growth of the UT as they are fed up with the cross-border terrorism sponsored by our neighbour. I strongly feel that it is our collective responsibility to ensure that a lot of money goes into creation of jobs, strengthening of businesses and coming together of families for a quick bounce-back of Jammu and Kashmir's economy. I have twin objectives -- ensure more money in people's pockets and offer more opportunity for the revival of Jammu and Kashmir's economy," Sinha said while making his agenda open to the people of the UT. "Green shoots of economic revival are visible and I am confident that with this package, we will be able to steer Jammu and Kashmir through the current crisis," he said. The LG said under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, Rs 1,400 crore has already been provided to people through the Jammu and Kashmir Bank. He added that the government is working on a structured mechanism and package for taxi drivers, transporters, autoickshaw drivers, houseboat owners, shikarawalas and other affected people. "We are setting up a customised help tourism scheme by the Jammu and Kashmir Bank for financial assistance to persons associated with the tourism sector with attractive pricing and repayment features. We are setting up an exclusive land bank and will make available land for warehouses in industrial estates and food parks," Sinha said. He also announced that those associated with the handloom and handicraft sectors will get enhanced credit of Rs 2 lakh in their credit cards as also a seven per cent interest subvention to improve these sectors, which are known globally. The Jammu and Kashmir Bank will start a special desk from October 1 for youth and women entrepreneurs, he said. As far as tax concessions are concerned, the government has extended till December 31 the filing of the GST reimbursement claims. Handholding to remove difficulties in filing returns and mechanism to avoid delays in reimbursement claims shall be instituted and the accumulated interest shall be converted into funded interest term loan. An official spokesman later said 50 per cent or Rs 5 lakh subsidy, whichever is lower, will be provided to transporters for replacement of old buses and insurance premium will be borne by the government subject to maximum of Rs 5,000 per vehicle for buses and mini-buses, Rs 3,000 for taxis and Rs 2,000 for three wheelers. For the tourism sector, subsidy on installation of bio-digesters in houseboats has been announced. This assistance will be extended out of the 'JK Relief Fund' to some 19,914 shikara or house boat owners, tourist guides, pithuwalas, dandiwalas, sledge walas, pony or camel riders, he said. Cash assistance of Rs 1,000 to them given from last three months will be extended for further six months, the spokesman said. He said over 3,100 artists have lost their livelihood due to the COVID pandemic. Those associated with the cultural academy will be paid Rs 1,000 a month from the relief fund for nine months with effect from April 1. In addition to the financial package and administration measures, the government has constituted committees to look into issues of traders and resolve them, he said. These include a committee that will propose issuance of a simplified negative list for industrial incentives within three months, the spokesman said. He said a committee will be also constituted to settle bank, finance and industry issues. To solve issues there will be committees in districts and provinces, and they will have members of business associations, banks, among others. Those at the district level will meet every month and those in provinces, every two months, he said. The spokesman said the LG had also constituted a committee on August 18 to assess the help required by the business community and suggest measures to boost banking, industry, tourism, agriculture and handicraft. The committee, which is headed by advisor to the LG, K K Sharma, submitted its report on September 1 after deliberations with at least 35 business organisations. The LG has accepted the drafted recommendations which will eventually empower Kashmiris, besides providing a conducive environment for various industries to complement the prime minister's visions of "Vocal for Local", "Make in India" and "Make for World", he said. Since taking over as the LG last month, Sinha has cleared a slew of game-changer schemes.

Package To Help Revive...

president Sheikh Aashiq told PTI. He said the financial package was the need of the hour. "For the last 14 months, the business fraternity was in a very bad shape and the economy was in big turbulence. This will at least give a push to the economy, if not wholly support it," Aashiq said. On the government's decision to provide an interest subvention of 5 per cent for six months, the KCCI president said the business fraternity in the UT had demanded it for a period of one year. "Though it has been announced for six months, it still is good," he said. Aashiq said the business fraternity appreciates the LG's remarks that this was not the end, but a beginning. "We expect the Centre will also come out with the support to the demands that we have raised, so that it becomes a comprehensive package," the KCCI president said. Earlier on Saturday, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced Rs 1,350 crore financial package for the revival of business in the UT which have been hit by the twin lockdowns over the abrogation of Article 370 last year the COVID pandemic this year. The package was announced after the recommendations of a high-level committee formed under the chairmanship of advisor to the Lt Governor, K K Sharma, for relief and revival of the business sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The administration also decided to provide an interest subvention of 5 per cent to all borrowers. The BJP's Kashmir unit said it is a big relief for the people during the COVID-19 crisis. The party's Kashmir media-incharge Manzoor Bhat, in a statement, expressed hope the package will boost the ailing business sector in the region. "On behalf of every BJP worker in Kashmir, I extend my thanks to LG Manoj Sinha administration and central leadership for this package. It will provide relief to poor, farmers, businessman and citizens. The initiative will help JK to become self-sufficient," he said. Manzoor said the announcement of the package was the need of the hour. "It will bring much-needed relief to several stressed sectors and industries, especially small scale industries," he said.

Too Little To Cover Rs 45,000...

induced by the prevailing COVID-19 crises has broken the back of J&K's economy. "As per the figures given out by Kashmir's various economic bodies, Kashmir economy suffered a loss of over 40,000 Cr and the recompense is just paltry 1350 crore. And out of this Rs 1350 Cr, a major chunk of the money has been earmarked to waive off the impending bills. This too is hogwash; in reality the government has only given 50% rebate on the basic electricity agreement of only industrial units and not on the actual bill which amounts to lakhs which the local industrial unit's holders cannot afford in wake of the major slump the sector is facing since August 5th last year," Dar said. "This by no yardstick can cover the losses various sectors suffered which are reeling under immense losses. They expected huge relief from the

government in the form of big tax waivers on various components, but that has not been done. On the contrary the entire package has turned out to be damp squib," he added. The NC Spokesperson said the ailing industrial sector is not able to pay for the amount overdue to banks. "Have the banks stopped taking installments on the loans? The answer is no. The lack of revenue will unfortunately turn the already struggling industrial sector to Non Performing assets in wake of diminishing earnings. The need of the hour called for 100% debt relief with interest subvention on incipient debts and preexisting ones also. Scores of budding entrepreneurs too are at the point of bankruptcy due to the diminishing returns," he said "The revival package is mute on the reverses suffered by the horticulture and agriculture sector due to the vagaries of weather, post August clamp down and succeeding lock down. The losses to horticulture due to weather vagaries was declared a national calamity, yet the recompense being doled out to them by the government was nothing comparable to the amount of actual losses, which the administration in its preliminary assessment had maintained was more than 50%," he added. The NC spokesperson further said that there was nothing substantial for the transport sector as well. "The announcement has mocked the miseries of the transporters, who are at present in a state of despondency," he said. Dar said the entire economic activity in J&K has suffered more reverses than the rest of the country in view of the earlier clampdown. "The announcement is tantamount to rubbing salts into the wounds of people. The situation is still precarious due to the ongoing COVID-19 crises. Unfortunately the government has failed to rise up to the expectations of the people and redress their genuine concerns. The announcement is a plain jugglery of words and numbers," he said.

J&K Reports 21 More ...

the covid-19 patients in the Valley With these deaths the toll due to the pestilence in Jammu and Kashmir has reached 989. (With GNS inputs)

70 Security Personnel...

Srinagar reported 192, Budgam 68, Baramulla 32, Pulwama 71, Anantnag 52, Bandipora 37, Kupwara 99, Ganderbal 93, Kulgam 12, Shopian 5, Jammu 261, Rajouri 57, Udhampur 19, Kathua 54, Doda 185, Samba 62, Poonch 87, Ramban 43, Reasi 25 and Kishtwar 38. Moreover, they said, 960 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals 322 from Jammu Division and 638 from Kashmir Valley.

3 'Lashkar Militants' Held...

Rs 11 crore, meant to fund militant activities, was seized in Rajouri district. "Pakistan and its agencies always remain active and are making every effort to disturb peace and law and order in J-K. It is using drones to drop weapons and narcotics and also push militants from both Rajouri and Poonch districts, which had witnessed a spurt in ceasefire violations - almost on a daily basis," the DGP said. However, he said the police, Army and other forces are working together to scuttle Pakistan's design and to maintain peace and law and order in the Union Territory. "We are enjoying good operational synergy and the latest arrest of three LeT militants and seizure of a huge cache of arms and ammunition was its result. We received information about movement of some suspicious people and accordingly launched the cordon and search operation," he said. He said three people were seen moving with a bag and were challenged but they hurled a grenade, which luckily did not explode and the trio was overpowered. The search of the bag led to the recovery of two AK-56 rifles, two pistols, four grenades and Rs 1 lakh in Indian currency, which had smuggled from Pakistan to escalate violence, Dilbag Singh said it came to light that the consignment was dropped on this side of the LoC by Pakistan using the drone and the trio, who hail from Kashmir, had come to pick up the consignment. "Their interrogation is underway and further details will be shared later," he said. In response to questions, he said Pakistan is doing its best to revive militancy in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri, which falls in Jammu division and were cleared of militancy over a decade back. "The people of Rajouri and Poonch are peace loving and they will not allow Pakistan to succeed in its design. There are some elements with whom we will deal sternly," he said. He termed the dropping of weapons through drones as a "big challenge" and said this is the first such aerial drop in the district though a similar attempt was foiled by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the International Border in Kathua district sometime back. "This is a hilly terrain and drones just bypass the deployment on the LoC," he said, adding that "we are vigilant to the threat and have taken necessary measures". On the recovery of a large number of US-made rifles in the recent past, the DGP said that "we have recovered such types of rifles like M-4 and M-16 in large numbers in the past as well. These rifles are duplicate weapons manufactured in Pakistan and are being smuggled by LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammad militants". The IGP said on September 11, police and Army arrested two people and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition, including three pistols, 11 grenades, improvised explosive device (IED) material and a pen drive, frustrating militants plan to carry out target killings and blasts in Poonch district. "The arrest and recovery was made from Balakote sector of Poonch. The pen drive contains details of assembling and planting the IED," he said. In another operation on September 14, one person was arrested with 7 kg heroin in Rajouri and later at his disclosure one more arrest was made from Kulgam district of south Kashmir. Three residents of Poonch were also arrested and their questioning led to the recovery of 4 kg of heroin from the same spot from where the earlier consignment of 7 kg was dumped after smuggling from across the border, he said. The IGP said the money from the heroin was meant to support militancy.

'DNA Sample Report In ...

south Kashmir's Shopian district. However, the families of the three men from Rajouri identified them as their kin and had filed a police complaint. Police had taken the DNA samples of three families from Rajouri district on August 14 for matching it with the DNA of the three youths who were killed in Shopian. "The police probe and Army inquiry is moving in a parallel manner. We are working in our own way and have taken and dispatched DNA samples. The report is expected soon," Singh told reporters in Rajouri district. On Friday, the Army said it has found "prima facie" evidence that its troops "exceeded" powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and has initiated disciplinary proceedings. Responding to a question about the progress of the police probe into the Shopian incident, the DGP said further action would be taken after receiving the DNA report.

He said the Army has asserted in clear terms that appropriate action will be taken against its personnel in accordance with their culpability.

J&K Govt Amends Domicile...

"The applicants of this category (PRC holders) shall have to attach PRC Certificate, while their Children need to attach the PRC of parent and the birth certificate issued by a competent authority," the official spokesperson added.

Plea Seeks Separate HR...

abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019, the government divided Jammu & Kashmir into two separate Union territories and reportedly the general administration department has shut down seven State Commissions with effect from October 31, 2019 - Jammu & Kashmir Human Rights Commission (SHRC), State Commission for

Protection of Women and Child Rights (SCPWD), State Commission for Persons with Disabilities (SCPWD), State Information Commission (SIC), State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (SCDRC), State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) and State Accountability Commission (SAC).

The petitioner argued that these seven different commissions were dealing with different aspects of rights.

"It is mentioned that upon repeal of the Acts related to these Commissions by the Jammu & Kashmir Re-organisation Act, 2019, sanctions have been accorded to winding up these Commissions. The terms of all office holders of these Commissions also came to an end on October 31, 2019," said the PIL. According to the Supreme Court website, the matter is likely to come up for hearing on September 24.

The plea contended that the rights have to be exercised in continuity and rights cannot be curtailed abruptly for uncertain time without any due process of law.

"In all these seven Commissions mentioned above wherein cases were pending before passing the order of their dissolution and the people who are seeking justice from these Commissions as well as the other people who might be suffering rights violation are deprived from accessing the justice mechanism," argued the plea.

The petitioner contended that if the rights of the people from Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh have not been taken away after abrogation of Section 370, then it becomes the duty of the Centre and its agencies to discharge the Constitutional obligations to protect the citizens and re-establish various commissions where citizens can approach for protecting their rights.

The petitioner cited that 41,866 persons lost their lives in 71,038 incidents of violence, which include 14,038 civilians, 5,292 personnel of security forces and 22,538 militants.

"Even if the figures are considered as true or in the absence of statistics, data or information about how many people are killed in violence, it becomes the duty of the government to set up all required machinery to demand protection of rights and accountability on the part of the government," said the plea.

The petitioner urged the top court to issue directions to the Centre to set up a separate State Commission for Protection of Women and Child Rights for Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh. Besides the Centre, the petitioner has made National Human Rights Commission and Law Commission as respondents in the matter.

Police Station Built On...

district. While Deputy Commissioner Kulgam attested that the land measuring four Kanals and 12 Marlas have been "illegally taken by the Police Department Kulgam," the latter denied it, contesting that it was not an "encroacher." "It cannot be denied that the Police Station is absolutely imperative and essential to ensure that there is no law and order problem. However, it cannot be denied that all actions have to abide by the law," a bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta said and after perusal of a status reported by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam and hearing senior additional advocate general B A Dar for police. "In view of the dispute raised before this Court and the respective contentions of the parties and the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, let this issue be placed before the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, who shall examine the matter and submit a report before this Court before the next date of hearing," the court said.

In the affidavit filed by the Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, the Court was informed that demarcation of the land has been conducted and a report forwarded by the Tehsildar Qaimoh had revealed that Survey estate Qaimoh measured 67 Kanals and 08 Marlas of land recorded as a 'Gair Mumkin Kohl' (a water channel), out of which the land measuring 04 Kanals and 12 Marlas have been illegally taken by the Police Department Kulgam. It is stated that the SSP Kulgam was informed about the same by the letter dated 4 January 2018.

B. A. Dar, Sr. AAG, submitted that the Police Department Kulgam was not an encroacher but it is the "petitioners (Land Holders of Village Muthalama) who have encroached upon the land. He further submitted that the Police Station has been built on a State land and there is not encroachment by the police authorities. (GNS)

HC Sets-Up Arbitration...

resolution of disputes through alternate dispute resolution mechanism. Called as "The Jammu and Kashmir International Arbitration Centre (JKIAC)", the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir shall be its Patron-in-Chief, an official spokesperson said. He said to ensure that the constitution of such Centres is smooth and effective, the High Court has also framed "The Jammu and Kashmir International Arbitration Centre (JKIAC) (International Management Rules, 2020)". "For securing fair, speedy and inexpensive justice to the litigants and being sensitive to the fact that the object of the Section 89, in absence of detailed modalities, has remained somewhat dormant in Jammu and Kashmir, High Court has set up these Arbitration Centers," the official spokesperson said. He said to monitor and oversee the Centres, an Arbitration Committee consisting of three Judges of the High Court, Advocate General, Assistant Solicitor General attached to the High Court and three members to be nominated by the Chief Justice of the Common High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh out of whom at least one shall be designated Senior Advocate, while the others may be any arbitration expert, in India or abroad has to be established.

"To supervise and manage the JKIAC, a secretariat consisting of Coordinator who shall be member of Higher Judicial Service and two additional coordinators who shall be Members of Judicial Service, have to be appointed by the Chief Justice. The rules further envisage appointment of Chief Counsel and Deputy Counsel amongst Advocates having experience in the field of arbitration," he added. As per the Rules, the official spokesperson said that the JKIAC has to prepare and maintain a Panel of Arbitrators as approved by the Arbitration Committee from time to time from amongst persons who are suitable and willing to serve as arbitrators provided that their suitability shall be determined by the Arbitration Committee. He said that the empanelment of the Arbitrators shall consist of Former Judges, Former Judicial Officers, Chartered Accountants, Bureaucrats, Engineers, Architects, Professors etc. "Similarly for dealing with the arbitration proceedings in such Centres, 'Jammu and Kashmir International Arbitration Centre (Arbitration Proceedings) Rules, 2020' have also been framed by the High Court," the official spokesperson said. He said for regulating administrative fee of the Centre and Arbitrator's fee, JKIAC (Administration Pass and Arbitrator's Fee) Rules, 2020 have been framed by the High Court. "The setting up of Jammu and Kashmir International Arbitration Centre shall go a long way in achieving the object behind enactment of Section 89 Civil Procedure Code and at the same time shall ensure that arbitration proceedings remain inexpensive and are carried out within shortest possible time," the official spokesperson said. He said courts annexed Arbitration Centres are successfully functioning at Delhi, Chandigarh, Bangalore, Chennai (Madras) and Cuttack (Orissa).

Govt Reshuffles Administration

Government, Information Technology Department, holding additional charge of Principal Secretary to the Government, Science & Technology Department, CEO, JaKeGA and CEO, JAKEDA, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Science & Technology

Department. He has been also asked to hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare Department and continue to hold the charge of Chief Executive Officer, JAKEDA, in addition to his own duties, till further orders. Shalendra Kumar , Principal Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department and Tribal Affairs Department, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department. M. Raju, Secretary to Government, Planning, Monitoring Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol, Estates, Civil Aviation and Jal Shakti Departments, Development and has been transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department. He has been asked to continue to hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Estates and Civil Aviation Departments, in addition to his own duties, till further orders. Simrandeep Singh , Administrative Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, holding additional charge Administrative Secretary, Department of Food, Civil of Supplies& Consumer Affairs and Secretary, Public Grievances, has been asked to hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, Information Technology Department and Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA, in addition to his own duties, till further orders. Sarmad Hafeez (IAS), Administrative Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department, has been asked to also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Tourism and Culture Departments, in addition to his own duties, till further orders. Rukhsana Gani (KAS), Director General, Social Welfare, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department. She has been also asked hold the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, ARI Trainings Department upon retirement on and superannuation of the incumbent Reva Kumari, on 31.09.2020. Rehana Batul , Director General, Social Welfare, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department. Zubair Ahmad , Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Culture Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department, has been transferred and posted as Director General, J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development, relieving Manoj Kumar Dwivedi of the additional charge of the post.

LG's Whirlwind Tour Of...

Territory. Sinha made these remarks during a whirlwind tour to Anantnag, where he also inaugurated a women's cricket event at Degree College Khanabal. Sinha, according to an official spokesperson said that the atmosphere of change is visible in J&K and everyone should be the part of new progressive Jammu and Kashmir. "He said that the administration is committed to providing People-Centric Good Governance to the residents of the Union Territory," the LG, as per official spokesperson said. The LG was also accompanied by International cricketers Suresh Raina and Parvaiz Rasool who interacted with the youth and to raise the spirits they participated in the event and played a few shots. Pertinently, Raina has recently agreed to set up 10 Cricket schools across J&K to train the aspiring cricketers, particularly the youngsters from remote areas of the UT. Emphasizing the role of positive engagement of Youth, Sinha, as per official spokesperson said that the government was keen on augmenting the sports infrastructure in J&K. He also appealed the youth to embrace the path of development and be the drivers of a developed and prosperous J&K. "Later, addressing the audience, the LG expressed delight and said that the government is giving impetus to sports and launching initiatives in education and skill development sectors to help the youth channelize their energies in constructive activities and development of the region," the official spokesperson said. "He also announced that every district of the UT is going to have its own sports stadium. Even panchayats have been mandated to provide sports kits to their youth as per local requirements," he added.

Batamalo Gunfight: 'No ...

says Aqib's cousin. "We gave in to their demands because we wanted to see her face." Back home, the family performed her last rites soon, as the slain mother's oozing blood was constantly flooding her body bag. "They punished us for our own tragedy," wails a relative in the background.

No Caution

Normally, search operations in the valley follow a pattern of putting restrictions on the movement and mobile and internet services to hinder any attempts that militants could make to flee away as well as to avoid any public outlash during the operation. That also serves as a warning for people to stay steer clear of the sensitive areas.

However, in Aqib's neighbourhood, people thought the gunfight had ended in the night itself and were as clueless as Aqib himself, about the undergoing operations.

"If the situation was still not under control and there was a possibility of something like this to happen, why didn't the police cordon the area," asks Aqib, who feels that if they were cautioned by the police or movement restrictions were put in place, his mother's death could have been avoided.

Wedding bells turned into Eulogies

As Aqib narrates the horrors of the fatal dawn, the room where he sits is filled with the sound of rhythmic wailing, sobbing and calls to the dead. "Beni kotey gayakh, beni (Sister, where did you go, Sister)," outcries a relative of Kousar, while blubbering in the courtyard, the same spot, which was buzzing with the festive folksongs just 15 days ago on Aqib's wedding ceremony.

"His mother was so excited about his wedding and today she isn't here. None of us could imagine this," says Suhail Ahmad, a family relative, in a disheartened tone.

He then points towards Aqib's little finger which is still stained with henna her mother had put on his wedding day.

Nothing can bring her back

Soon as the news of Kousar's killing spread, the roads in the locality got stained with brick marks and covered with stones and burnt tyres, following a clash between the armed forces and the angry youth. However, Aqib and his family think nothing can turn it back.

Another voice in the room narrates how Kashmiris have been living in the conflict since more than 70 years and how this case will only add to the cases that are already there awaiting justice.

"Truth remains," says Aqib before disappearing into his grief, "no tweet, condolence or investigation can get my mother back now."

LAHDC Elections On Oct 16...

tensions and growing COVID positive cases in the region. Meanwhile, the district magistrate Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya has issued an order for imposition of model code of conduct in the district and directed all the political parties and independent candidates to follow the guidelines for the smooth conduct of the exercise. This will be 6th election of Leh Hill Council, which was set-up in 1995 when erstwhile State of J&K was under direct central rule. (KNO)

28 Shops, House Gutted...

residential house, destroying property worth crores of rupees, the official said, adding the final report about the loss is being prepared. He said the fire broke out in a shop apparently due to a short circuit and within no time engulfed other shops in the market. A case has been registered and further investigation is on, the official said.

11 New IEs Coming Up In J&K

The Commissioner Secretary empha-

Director Industries & Commerce Jammu, Anoo Malhotra along with other functionaries participated in the meeting through Video Conference, while Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir,

During the meeting, it was informed that against the targets for establishment of 1920 units involving margin money of Rs. 5758.60 lakh, margin money to the tune of Rs. 9908.12 lakh has been released by Government of India for establishment of 4992 units thereby creating employment oppor-

Commissioner Secretary impressed upon the officers to ensure that the scheme benefits reach to people living in all districts especially in remote areas of the J&K. He enjoined officers to organize awareness programmes so that the people residing in far flung areas are sensitized about the scheme. Commissioner/ Secretary Industries & Commerce Department noted with satisfaction that 35.5% units under PME/GP have been set up by women entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner

Regarding the development of the said land, DC Kulgam said that the retrieved land will be developed as a play field for sports activities.

The Association has been organizing the national and international seminar on different themes of current interest and publishes *Journal of Agrometeorology* (ISSN 0972-1665) regularly since 1990, which is being indexed in most of the scientific indexing services and now it has an impact factor of 0.644 and NAAS score of 6.64 for year 2020.

He further added that the chefs who would be found involved in adding synthetic food colour shall be dealt sternly as per the provisions of Food Safety & Standards Act. He also said natural colours such as Cockscomb (Mawal), Safon, Deghi Mirch, Beetroot can be used under good manufacturing practices.

Note: Due to the prevailing circumstances no congregational condolence gathering shall be held at our residence.



Public Notice

Whereas, the unit is registered with this Department under the Registration No:-Reg/758/DT/55/77/L-04 dated 25-07-2007 in the name of Mr. Abdul RaufS/oLate Seth Siraj-U-DinR/oNursing Garh, Srinagar, Kashmir and is renewed up to 31-03-2021.

Whereas, the applicant has submitted Original Registration Certificate, Resignation copy, NOC, Board Resolution copy, Affidavit with regard to change of Ownership in the Registration certificate of Travel agency in favour of Mr. Mohammad Yaqoob Khan S/o Mr. Sabzar Khan R/o Kawji / mohalla, Court Road Srinagar

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicant is considered for registration of the unit, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization etc for objection if any, the same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. No objections beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered as per rules.

No: Reg/T/357/948/DTK

Dated: 18.09.2020
DIPK-5946/20

Sd/-
Deputy Director Tourism
Registration (Kashmir)



The online examination forms for BG 1st Semester Backlog candidates of Batch 2016/2017/2018 & 2019 shall be available on the University website www.kashmiruniversity.ac.in, www.uok.edu.in w.e.f. 25/09/2020 to 01/10/2020.
The fee details are as under:-

- * The candidates shall retain the hardcopy of the examination form for future reference.
- * The candidates shall complete the payment of fee online via debit/credit card/Rupay card/UPI (free of charges).
- * In case of any issue please send an email to ExaminationUG@uok.edu.in and the candidate need not to approach the university in person.

Sd/-
Deputy Controller of Exams

No. F(BG 1st Sem Backlog (B-16-19) Exam)/KU/20
Dated:-19/09/2020

Office of the Executive Engineer, Estates Division Srinagar.

SHORT TERM

tender/estates/2020 21 of 09/2020

Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar

rate basis from approved and eligible

Approved Suppliers & Dealers

Central Governments for the following works:

	Supply and installation water heater					
	buildings and quarters for the year 2020					
	to Estates Department Srinagar. (As					
	Supply and installation water heater					
	buildings and quarters for the year 2020					
	to Estates Department Srinagar. (As					
	Supply and installation water heater					
	buildings and quarters for the year 2020					
	to Estates Department Srinagar. (As					

documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website as per schedule of dates given below:

	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
	Period of downloading of bidding	
	No Hard copy is required but in case of any ambiguity found, the original documents may be	
		(11.00 AM) In the Office of the Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of G.R to be remitted in Treasury under Major Head: Housing and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to **Executive Engineer, Estates Division,**


_____ and conveyed to the bidders
_____ and conveyed to the bidders
_____ **bids of Responsive bidders**
on same Web Site in the Office of **Executive Engineer, Estates Division, Srinagar. (tender receiving authority)**

The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bid**

conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

DIPK-5943/20

The image shows a formal letterhead for the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir. At the top center is the J&K TOURISM logo, which features a blue square with a white mountain range and a boat on a lake. Below the logo, the text "Government of Jammu & Kashmir" is written in a black serif font. Underneath that, "Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir" is written in a larger, bold, black serif font. Below the directorate name, the email address "e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com" is provided in a bold, black serif font. The main body of the letter begins with a subject line: "Subject: - Change of Ownership in the Registration certificate of Travel Agency running under the name and style of M/s 'CNE Tour & Travels' situated at Anjum Complex, AbiGuzar, Mandhir lane, Srinagar." This is followed by a section titled "Public Notice" in a bold, black serif font. The notice contains three paragraphs. The first paragraph states that Mr. Abdul Rauf DarS/oLate Seth Siraj-U-DinR/oNursing Garh, Srinagar, Kashmir has applied in this office for a change of ownership in the registration certificate of Travel untrunning under the name and style M/s "CNE Tours & Travels" in favour of Mr. Mohammad Yaqoob Khan under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. The second paragraph states that the unit is registered with this Department under the Registration No:-Reg/758/DT/55/77/L-04 dated 25-07-2007 in the name of Mr. Abdul RaufS/oLate Seth Siraj-U-DinR/oNursing Garh, Srinagar, Kashmir and is renewed up to 31-03-2021. The third paragraph states that the applicant has submitted Original Registration Certificate, Resignation copy, NOC, Board Resolutioncopy, Affidavit with regardto change of Ownership in the Registration certificate ofTravel agency in favour of Mr. Mohammad Yaqoob Khan S/oMr. Sabzar KhanR/oKawji /mohalla, Court Road, Srinagar. The notice concludes with a paragraph stating that now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of Registrationof Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicant is considered for registration of the unit, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection if any, the same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. No objections beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered as per rules. The footer of the letter includes the text "No: Reg/T/357/948/DTK" and "Dated: 18.09.2020" on the left, and "Sd/- Deputy Director Tourism, Registration (Kashmir)" on the right.



University Of Kashmir, Srinagar

(NAAC Accredited Grade A+)

NOTICE

The online examination forms for BG 1st Semester Backlog candidates of Batch 2016/2017/2018 & 2019 shall be available on the University website www.kashmiruniversity.ac.in, www.uok.edu.in w.e.f. 25/09/2020 to 01/10/2020.





The fee details are as under:-

BG 1 st Semester	Rs. 250/- Per Paper/Subject (In the name of Registrar, University of Kashmir)
Hot & Cold Charges	Rs. 50/- (In the name of Controller of Examinations, University of Kashmir)

- * The candidates shall retain the hardcopy of the examination form for future reference.
- * The candidates shall complete the payment of fee online via debit/credit card/Rupay card/UPI (free of charges).
- * In case of any issue please send an email to eExaminationUG@uok.edu.in and the candidate need not to approach the university in person.

Sd/-
Deputy Controller of Exams

No. F(BG 1st Sem Backlog (B-16-19) Exam)/KU/20
 Dated:-19/09/2020

DIAL-EMMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686 • PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 • PDD: 0194-2450213 • FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155 • CAPD: 18001807011 • SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
AIRPORTS 	<p>SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311</p>
RAILWAYS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 • ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 • BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 • BIJBHARA: 01932-228243 • PAMPPORE: 01933-294132 • PATTAN: 01954-293507 • QAZIGUND: 01951-296153
HIGHWAY STATUS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open) • Mughal Road - (Open) • Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

- 1643 - First Battle of Newbury (English civil war); King Charles I's forces beaten by a parliamentary army led by the Earl of Essex and Philip Stapleton
- 1688 - French troops occupies Palts
- 1854 - Battle of the Alma: first major battle of Crimean War. British and French alliance defeat the Russians.
- 1861 - Battle of Lexington, MI-captured by Union
- 1863 - Battle of Sphearstown VA
- 1863 - Civil War Battle of Chickamauga, near Chattanooga Tenn. ends
- 1909 - The British Parliament passes the South Africa Act; it calls for union of Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, and Transvaal; and both English and Dutch as official languages.
- 1932 - Gandhi begins hunger strike against treatment of untouchables
- 1939 - British navy captures German U-27 boat
- 1954 - 1st FORTRAN computer program run
- 1954 - 1st National People's Congress adopts Chinese constitution
- 1960 - UN General Assembly admit 13 African countries & Cyprus (96 nations)
- 1963 - JFK proposes a joint US-Soviet voyage to the moon
- 1966 - US Surveyor B launched toward Moon; crashed Sept 23
- 1967 - Benin separates from Nigeria
- 1970 - Soviet spacecraft Luna 16 lands on Moon's Mare Fecunditatis, drills core sample
- 1972 - Libya acquires a 50 percent interest in two ENI oil concessions
- 1972 - The Social Democratic and Labour Party issues a document entitled "Towards a New Ireland", proposing that the British and Irish governments should have joint sovereignty over Northern Ireland
- 1979 - NASA launches HEAO 3
- 1979 Lee Iacocca is elected president of the Chrysler Corporation.
- 1979 - The Punjab wing of the United Centre of Communist Revolutionary-Indianaries of India (Marxist-Leninist) formally splits and constitutes a parallel UCCRI (ML).
- 1982 - Jalaaluddin takes a one-day hat-trick Pakistan v Australia
- 1984 - Suicide car bomb attacks US Embassy annex in Beirut, kills 23
- 1992 - Space shuttle STS-47 (Endeavour 2) lands
- 1994 - Space shuttle STS-64 (Discovery 20), lands
- 2010 - The National Bureau of Economic Research state today that the US left the recession in June 2009, with managing director Lakshman Achuthan of the Economic Cycle Research Institute saying GDP recovered to 70% of the pre-recession level
- 2012 - 50 people are killed and dozens injured after a gas station is bombed by the Syrian Army in Lina Issa
- 2013 - 46 soldiers are killed in army-base attacks in Shawab Gowgovernorate, Yemen
- 2014 - New Zealand's National Government wins a 3rd term in the elections despite allegations of corruption and revelations about state surveillance
- 2015 - Pope Francis meets Fidel Castro in Havana, on the 1st day of his tour of Cuba
- 2017 - Hurricane Maria makes landfall on Puerto Rico as a category 4 hurricane, knocking out all power and killing 25

AI urges US to discuss Kashmir With India

Agencies

WASHINGTON: Amnesty international, the world's largest human rights organization, has called upon President Clinton to discuss civilian suffering as a result of human rights violations in Kashmir during his meeting with the prime minister, Vajpayee. "President Clinton must use this opportunity to seek meaningful improvements in human rights in India," said William F. Schulz, executive director of Amnesty international, USA, (MUSA).

"The human rights violations in Kashmir need to be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice." Amnesty International is concerned about continuing occurrences of torture, deaths in custody, disappearances and political killings in Kashmir.

Kashmiri civilians are suffering the brunt of these human' rights, violations, which are committed by both Indian troops and armed groups. India also has restricted the free movement of Kashmiri leaders such as Yasin Malik, who is not allowed to travel despite a deteriorating health condition.

"While Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee is visiting the U.S., Kashmiri politic leaders are prevented from enjoying the same freedom," said T. Kumar, AUSA Asia advocacy director.

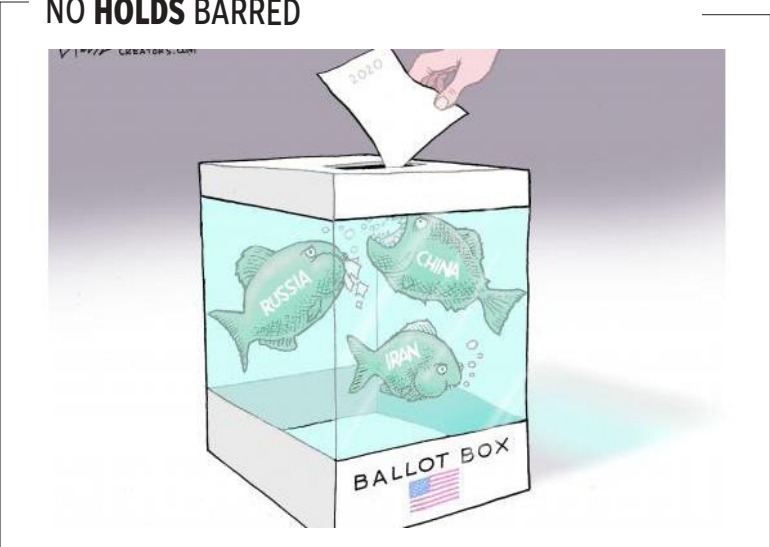
President Clinton should seek a commitment from India that Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri leaders are allowed to travel freely without any restrictions.

"Amnesty International urged Indian authorities to demonstrate respect for human rights by allowing the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to independently investigate allegations of human rights violations committed by India's armed forces, which enjoy virtual immunity from prosecution under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. Amnesty International has documented rape by security forces in areas of armed conflict in India in the context of military operations, known as "cordon and search operations." Amnesty International has also voiced its alarm at what it described as the draconian measures in a proposed legislation at the central level by Vajpayee's government, which would make bail virtually impossible to obtain and undermine the right of presumption of innocence. The bill revives many of the features of the lapsed Terrorist and Disruptive activities (TADA) Act of 1987, which was used to detain thousands of political prisoners without charge or trial.

(Kashmir Observer, September 20, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Nehru did worse. On July 1, 1954, he ordered that “all our old maps” should be withdrawn. This fateful decision lies at the heart of the impasse in the India-China question. In 2020, neither side is prepared for a compromise.

UN Diamond Anniversary: A Sombre Celeberation

At 75, UN calls for a boost to multilateralism.

Asad Mirza

The most surprising move before the start of the celebrations related to UN's diamond anniversary, has been the release of a 'Position Paper' by the Chinese Foreign Ministry. It expounded China's position and proposals on various issues, including the UN's role, the international situation, sustainable development and cooperation on COVID-19 response.

The 75th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session, which began on 15 September has been unlike any other in the organisation's three quarters of a century of existence.

This year, most global leaders will not be at the UN in person and most meetings have gone virtual, due to the ongoing global pandemic. However, that's not to surmise that the wheels of global diplomacy will not be turning at the usual speed.

The United Nations was established in 1945 and will be marking its 75th anniversary on 21 September, with what the UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called an extended, “people's debate” which “promises to be the largest and furthest-reaching global conversation ever on building the future we want”.

An event at UN headquarters on 21 September to celebrate the milestone will take place online with an aim to, “generate renewed support for multilateralism”; an issue many believe has become ever more urgent in the current pandemic era.

On the occasion, the UN will be reviewing its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs — the 17 internationally agreed targets to reduce poverty and maintain peace. In addition, it will review the challenges to the global biodiversity, progress on gender equality and women's rights; besides the ongoing dialogue on multilateralism — beyond expressions of commitment and into a more precise vision.

Gains and Losses during the 75 years

The occasion also gives us an opportunity to make a candid assesment of the achievements and failures of the world body.

Over the decades, the UN has helped to maintain global peace and stability. It has provided humanitarian assistance to millions of people around the world; besides being a key player in global public health. It has also been at the forefront of the fight against environmental degradation among many other areas. It has helped many countries, particularly in the third world, to achieve their social targets. In India, it helped to achieve the Polio-free status for the country and currently is also an important stakeholder in 'Swachh Abhiyan' and 'Poshan Abhiyan' programmes of the government besides sectors like the women empowerment, rights of girl child and LGBT issues.

However, the UN itself is not beyond criticism. Most criticise it due to its bureaucratic-style of functioning and deem it a talk shop. Criticism against its proper response to the Rwandan genocide in 1994; ineffectiveness of UN peacekeepers stationed in South Sudan to protect civilians from death, torture and rape; besides several sexual abuse allegations at UN peacekeepers in the Republic of Congo, Cambodia, Haiti and other countries abound.

The power imbalance, especially at the level of the Security Council where the five permanent members have the power of veto, also continues to be a matter of contention. Additionally, its ineffectiveness in resolving the Palestinian issue, on which the UN Security Council has adopted 131 resolutions from 1967 to 1989, is proof that this august body has turned into a place for exchanging rhetorics with no real teeth.

The UN is clearly not a perfect organisation and it has suffered its fair share of mission failures. However, in the context of the current politically polarised world with vast economic and social disparities, it is perhaps better placed than many other multilateral bodies to assist in solving our collective problems. Importantly, small developing states rely on the UN to give them a voice and a platform.

Chinese surprise on the occasion

The most surprising move before the start of the celebrations related to UN's diamond anniversary, has been the release of a 'Position Paper' by the Chinese Foreign Ministry. It expounded China's position and proposals on various issues, including the UN's role, the international situation, sustainable development and cooperation on COVID-19 response.

The paper points out that the 75th anniversary of the UN presents important opportunities, and the international community should jointly uphold the outcome of World Anti-Fascist War and reject unilateralism, hegemonism and power politics.

Rather, it says, the international community should champion multilateralism, safeguard the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and defend the UN-centered international system and the international order based on international law. This indeed seems to be a departure from the usual Chinese attitude, as on many occasions in the past, the Chinese stance has been at variance with that of the UN.

It further states that China is ready to work with all countries to build a community with a shared future for humanity. It urges for 'North-South cooperation as the main channel and South-South cooperation as a supplement'.

China, the second largest global economy, also supported the Debt Service Suspension Initiative for the poorer countries. It further said that the Palestinian issue is at 'the heart of the Middle East issue', expressing support to an independent Palestinian state that enjoys full sovereignty on the basis of the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. Beijing also supported the global cease-fire appeal by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. On Afghanistan, Beijing called for talks and a political settlement.

Calling for a 'new and better blueprint' for the sake of succeeding generations, China said: “All countries

need to look beyond the pandemic and find answers to major questions such as what the world will look like and what kind of UN the world needs.”

“We must reject unilateralism, hegemonism and power politics,” said China, calling for multilateralism and safeguarding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

India and the UN

On the occasion of UN's diamond anniversary, India has scored a hat-trick of election wins at the United Nations. India beat China to win a four-year term on the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CWS), a prestigious wing of the world body's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); besides two other ECOSOC bodies — the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). Terms will begin in 2021 when India will also start its two-year stint on the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member.

India has always been a strong UN supporter and has always stood for strong and deep engagement with the United Nation. This commitment is based on its steadfast commitment to multilateralism and dialogue as the key for achieving shared goals and addressing common challenges faced by the global community. Efforts related to peace building and peacekeeping, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, climate change, terrorism, disarmament, human rights, health and pandemics, migration, cyber security, space and frontier technologies like Artificial Intelligence besides comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including the reform of the Security Council, among others have always been supported by India at the UN.

In sum, we can't just reject a body present in so many countries and also influential to some extent at one go. Going forward, we'll have to continue to hold the UN accountable in the style of execution of its mandate. However, more importantly, we must hold world leaders to account because ultimately, the UN cannot function effectively without the political backing and funding of its members. The recent anti-UN stance adopted by states such as the US, is bound to result in the world becoming unipolar and poorer countries being sidelined while making decisions regarding their welfare or any other international issue. Every country in the world should share the sentiments expressed by the UN Secretary General and commit itself to promoting multilateralism.

Asad Mirza is a commentator based in New Delhi.

INDIA'S Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's statement in parliament on Sept 15 did nothing to clarify the joint statement of the foreign ministers of India and China in Moscow on Sept 10. The five points the ministers formulated are delightfully vague; as vague indeed, as the famous Panchsheel or Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence formulated in the preamble to the India-China Agreement on Tibet in 1954. Accord on mutual withdrawal means nothing unless the details are agreed.

India's ambassador to China K.M. Panikkar advised prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1954 not to raise the boundary question then. The former secretary general of the external affairs ministry, Girija Shankar Bajpai, then governor of Bombay, forcefully advised settlement of the boundary issue before signing the Tibet agreement. It was signed on April 29, 1954.

Nehru did worse. On July 1, 1954, he ordered that “all our old maps” should be withdrawn. “New maps should be printed” showing the entire northern frontier as a clear defined line “not open to discussion with anybody”.

This fateful decision lies at the heart of the impasse in the India-China question. In 2020, neither side is prepared for a compromise.

In 2020, neither India nor China is prepared for a compromise.

In April 1960, Nehru could have accepted Zhou Enlai's offer in the talks in New Delhi and settled the matter — China to accept the McMahon Line in the east and India to accept China's position in the Aksai Chin area of Ladakh in the west. The Tibet-Xinjiang road, vital to China, ran through Aksai Chin. This was and is a vital interest for China as the McMahon Line is for India.

Therein lay president Ayub Khan's statesmanship. There were similar pinpricks on the border. The pro-West foreign minister Zafarullah Khan criticised China. Ayub Khan asked for an honest historical appraisal and put the best brains on the job. This writer had the privilege of extended talks with Agha

Asian Boundaries

A.G. NOORANI



Shahi and Abdul Sattar.

The Pakistan-China Boundary Agreement of March 2, 1963, was based on two fundamentals — the facts of history and the realities of today. The talks were long-drawn. Contrary to the lie spread by the Americans, Pakistan did not yield a square kilometre of territory. On the contrary, it gained from China some 2,000 sq km of administered territory. The late Abdul Sattar, another accomplished diplomat, described to this writer how that was won.

For decades, if not centuries, people from Hunza would cross the watershed with their sheep and had thus acquired grazing rights by long usage. There was disquiet in Hunza over omission of this right. Pakistan took up the issue with China. Its diplomats were summoned to a midnight meeting with Zhou. The first question he asked was, “Are you otherwise satisfied with the draft?” Their reply was swift and reasonable. Satisfied they were, and fully too; but purely as a gesture of goodwill, they sought the graz-

ing rights. “You can have it,” was Zhou's reply.

One is reminded of B.R. Ambedkar's words: “Boundary marking is the task of a surveyor; boundary making is the task of a statesman.” China has settled its land boundaries with all but two countries, India and Bhutan; 12 out of 14 countries. They are: Afghanistan (1963), Kazakhstan (1994-5), Kyrgyzstan (1996), Lao (1990), Mongolia (1962), Myanmar (1960), Nepal (1960), North Korea (1962), Pakistan (1963), Russia (1991), Tajikistan (1999) and Vietnam (1993-6).

In India's case, Nehru was at fault in 1954 on the maps and in 1962 on the Forward Policy in Ladakh to recover lost territory. But China is not blameless. It raises its demands. It says today that Zhou's offer of a swap in 1960 is off the table. It changes its lines on its maps. In 1980, Deng Xiaoping laid claim to areas south of the McMahon Line. This was soon enlarged as a claim to the Twang Pact. Its Line of Actual Control changes also.

Recent clashes on the frontier have made a settlement more difficult. Since 1959, public opinion has been whipped up. In 1959-60, Nehru was advised by a historian and an external affairs ministry official who detested each other, vied for favours and misled Nehru.

The tragedy is that each has its non-negotiable vital interest secure under its control. India has the McMahon Line, China has the Aksai Chin Road. As for the territory itself, Nehru described it well: not a blade of grass grows there.

The truth is that in the 19th century there were no linear boundaries. There were frontier zones, ilaqs as they were called. And historically, from the time Kashmir was added to the British Empire, its frontier was not defined. The only frontier that was defined was the McMahon Line and the Sikkim boundary with China. Statesmanship required a prompt definition of the boundary. This was put off, with consequences that are now upon us.

Dawn

The Humane story of Prophet Muhammad^(PBUH)

Faheem Jeelani Gundroo

Prophet's mosque in Medina is one of the prettiest architectural marvels of modern age. The dome, the tall gold coated pillars inside the compound, which is spread over thousands of square of feet takes one breath in awe. I performed my Umrah (the lesser pilgrimage) in the spring of last year. While being continuously mesmerized by the beauty of the mosque and its surroundings, my mind kept wandering back to 6th century Hejaz when Prophet migrated to this oasis town from Mecca. Medina was Yathrib then.

The mosque was nothing but a structure constructed by Prophet and his companions, made primarily of mud bricks and palm thatched roof. Prophet had a tiny room within the precincts of this modest structure, where he lived.

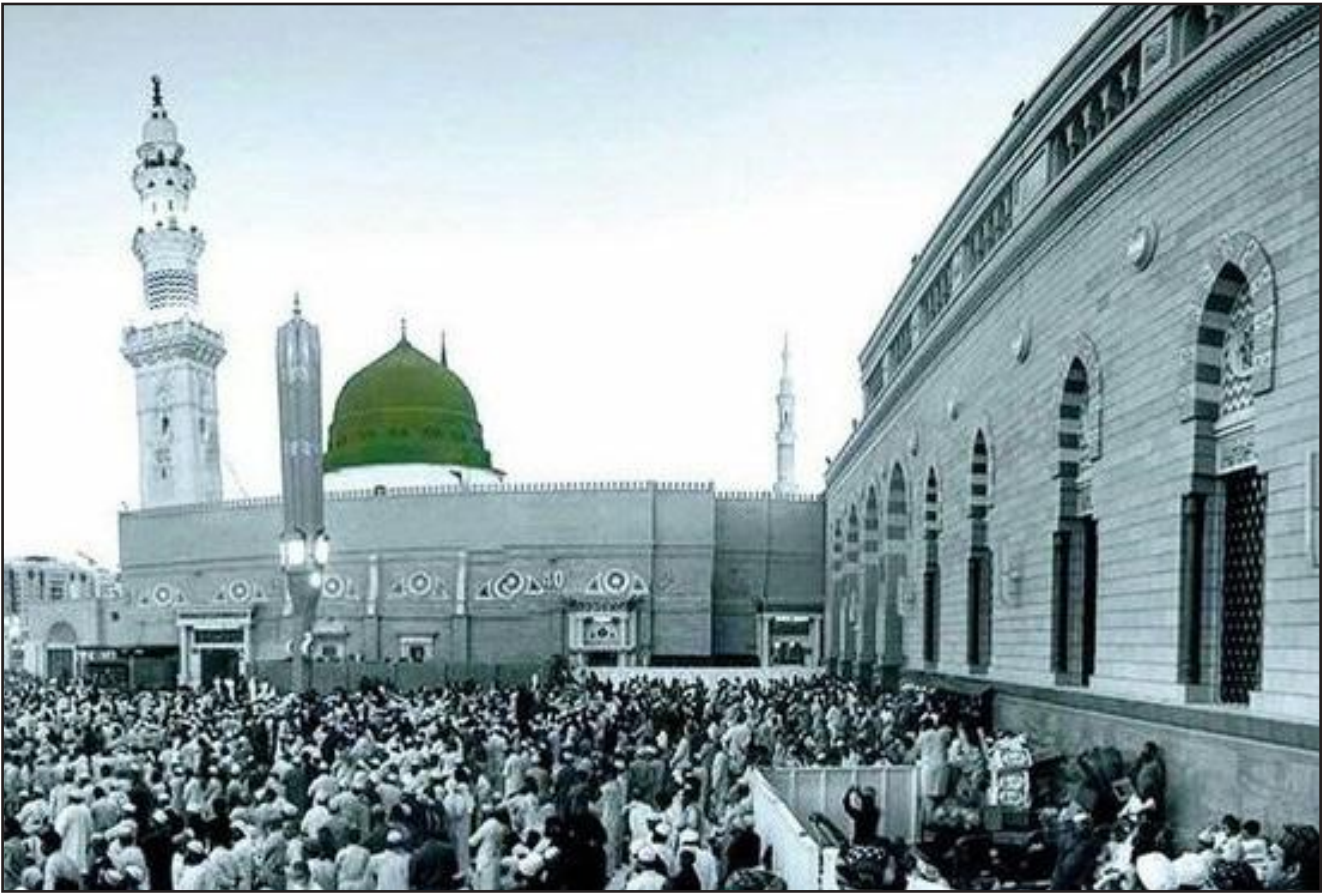
Who would have imagined that from this self-effacing structure, an idea would emerge that changed the course of history. Perhaps, like never before, one man had influence enough to change not just the geography of Hejaz but also start an Arab social reform movement which transformed into a universal religion. And that in my eyes is Prophet's biggest legacy. His life itself. We have omitted the essence of his life. We have rather dwelled on easier lessons from it.

Prophets before him had powers which attracted people to them. Moses had the gift of magic, Jesus could bring dead back to life, and Dawood had a mellifluous voice. Muhammad, at least in well documented narratives, had none of such miraculous powers. Yet he won over people.

To think of it, if God's plan was to spread only His message of truth, He could have given powers to the Prophet very soon. Why did God wait for 40 years of Muhammad's life, before sending the divine message? If Muhammad was destined from start to be the messenger of God, then there is no story to it. That is, it becomes a matter of the inevitable unfolding of divine will, and thus devoid of all conflict or tension.

The answer to the dichotomy lies in reading about Muhammad, especially his early life—an epic roman-fleuve of hardships and struggle.

A man who is loved by billions of



“Muhammad's life story is an extraordinary confluence of man, ideology, struggle and time. His life is extraordinary not just because of the divine message but because of the humanly possible. His life is one of those rare ones which is more dramatic in reality than in legends.

people across the world was born an orphan. By the age of 8, he had lost his father, mother and grandfather. Raised by his uncle Abu Talib, the tradition lays great stress on the fondness for young Muhammad. But many suggest the hagiography may be twisted here.

Muhammad was expected to per-

form menial jobs and many times denied things which a child could have yearned for. Later, in his adulthood, he asked for the hand of his cousin for marriage. He was denied because a better a suitor had proposed. The point is that hardships, struggle, deprived childhood could have made him bitter to the world he existed

in. Yet it didn't. In fact, his heart was full of love and kindness for everyone.

After marrying a wealthy merchant Khadija, Muhammad's life took a turn. He was rich, surrounded by affection, and respected by all. He could have gone living like this — quietly and happily. Everything was in favor of it. Yet, he

was not satisfied by this humdrum existence, day in and out. The appalling injustice around made him restless.

Mecca, where Prophet was born, was a barren, craggy and unbelievably bare valley with no scrap of soil. The life generally was hard especially for the poor Meccans. Socially and culturally, the high-desert steppe had fallen into deep piths of darkness and superstitious beliefs. The rich Quraish ruled over the poor. There was no visible system of justice. Women were treated abominably, with no tradition of inheritance and individuality. A tribal society which was not kind to widows and orphans. Where marginalized had no system to fall back on. The traditional Muslim hagiographies of Prophet have unfortunately failed to decoct Muhammad's life; concentrating rather on divine will. To the pious believer, the innate exceptionalism of Prophet is enough and everything else is irrelevant.

To the questions of morals and purpose of life, which have mystified mankind since the cosmic explosion; Muhammad's life removes the abstract virtues in it. His life brings reality into it. His life is a living example of how one should treat his neighbors and how one should behave with people who are considered socially below us. The lessons of Muhammad's life are not to be read only in terms of appearance — growing a beard and following a ritual.

On the contrary, Muhammad's life story is an extraordinary confluence of man, ideology, struggle and time. His life is extraordinary not just because of the divine message but because of the humanly possible. His life is one of those rare ones which is more dramatic in reality than in legends.

To read and understand about his life is a means to clearly see Muhammad's message, and to understand how he accomplished his journey from powerlessness to strength, from anonymity to renown, from insignificance to significance. For a better world, we must free Muhammad's life from constructs of legends to practicable everyday interchange.

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

What I Didn't Know About Kashmir

My journey as a new journalist in Kashmir and the stories that unraveled to unsettle me

Jyotsna Bharti

“While filing the story, I came across a Kashmiri sentence, Dil Chu Aamut Phatnas which means, “My heart is tearing apart in suffocation”. Nothing else has ever managed to pierce through my heart as unforgivingly as this phrase.

As I watch the view from my window these days, I imagine myself a girl caught in curbs in the mountains which Kashmiris call their home. Her daily struggle leaves me dazed, as I perceive myself a prisoner in my own home now. I think of these iron grills in my window as some prison partition, coming in the way of my liberty.

Lockdown hasn't done anything good to the majority but to me, it has done wonders. I got an opportunity to work with a leading Kashmiri news organization. In my opinion, people shouldn't take up Journalism as a profession to earn a humongous amount of money. They should take up this dutiful profession to feed their soul/ Zameer and to make sure they are giving back to society something valuable. Though, I admit, this is not true of everyone. While taking this pathway, many of us get diverted and corrupted too. I guess that's what power does, if not used properly.

I am not experienced enough in the industry yet. After graduating with a journalism degree, the idea of working in Kashmir or what they call doing, 'real journalism' dawned upon me.

I must admit, I did not know much about the place beyond what was fed to me through dominant narratives about this place. All I cared about was Kashmir — the deadly beauty that was always in the news. I guess this is how most non-kashmiris view Kashmir; a disturbed beautiful place in news.

However, soon my knowledge expanded and so did my empathy towards this place. The dawns are different for both of us, the night is not as quiet as we think, and the beauty of the valley has turned poisonous because of political turmoil. The ecstasy has a cost of eulogy now. Children have lost their childhood, schools/colleges have no functioning hours, and livelihood has a price in the valley.

The time after the abrogation of Article 370 was one that was communicated to Indians with lies. We had seen a quiet, peaceful and functioning Kashmir. But when I started working here, I found it torn, disturbed, and struggling for life.

As I said before, I don't have much experience in this field yet. However, one story that has deeply unsettled me is the one where I tried to explore the state of mental health in the valley. This story was an eye-opener; for me more



than anybody else.

While filing the story, I came across a Kashmiri sentence, Dil Chu Aamut Phatnas which means, “My heart is tearing apart in suffocation”. Nothing else has ever managed to pierce through my heart as unforgivingly as this phrase.

In the presence of lockdowns and communication blackouts, Kashmiris socialize through what is known here as, 'Daraev kin Darbar'. To combat isolation, loneliness, political and emotional turmoil, people talk through windows to maintain sanity.

I do not know if my work will ever bring their stories out or make any impact. However, the more I feel for the place, the more I'm determined to do so.

The narrative that non-Kashmiris are fed and the reality of Kashmir are entirely different. In the presence of so many false narratives, one

must as I did, try reading more books related to Kashmir, look at archived news items and watch documentaries about the place.

For me, the journey of learning and unlearning has already begun — especially through fulfilling conversations with my editor who has been very helpful and humane in my journey of exploring Kashmir.

While I hear birds chirping near my window in Mumbai. I sip my hot chai and see these long buildings standing dead. Alarming ambulances rumbling on abandoned roads further surge the sense of siege. I may never know Kashmir as Kashmiris. My sympathy will never match the magnitude of their alienation but it can surely develop in me a sense that may allow me to be honest — in expression and understanding.

The author can be reached at jyotsnab011@gmail.com

Agencies

Wondering how to upgrade your child's performance in school, quizzing your younger one over study material might help. According to a new-meta analysis, the students who are quizzed over class material at least once a week tend to perform better on the midterm and final exams compared to students who did not take quizzes.

The researchers found in addition to frequency, immediate feedback from instructors also seemed to positively impact student performance.

About a year ago, a conversation during a faculty meeting piqued Marcus Crede's interest. A senior faculty member in Iowa State University's Department of Psychology said that he believed frequent quizzes help students better grasp classroom material. Crede, an associate professor of psychology, was skeptical that something as simple as a quiz could positively impact students' academic performance. He decided to dig deeper and conduct a meta-analytic study of existing research to see if there was any merit to the claim. What he discovered truly surprised him.

"I have a long history of trying to understand the variables that contribute to learning and performance in the classroom," Crede said. "For me, this study is part of a larger effort to understand what works and what doesn't work. It turned out to be a much more interesting paper than I thought it was going to be. I was surprised."

The study's results are detailed in the paper, "Regarding Class Quizzes: A Meta-analytic Synthesis of Studies on the Relationship Between Frequent Low-stakes Testing and Class Performance," published last month in the journal Educational Psychology Review.

***The study**

Crede teamed up with psychology graduate student Lukas Sotola, who took the lead on much of the research. They analyzed data from previously published studies that examined 52 classes with almost 8,000 students, primarily college-level courses, to determine if frequent quizzes improved the students' academic performance. Laboratory settings were excluded from the study because Crede and Sotola wanted to observe whether similar studies from labs would apply to general classrooms. They defined quizzes as low-stakes assessments of learned material that occurred at least once a week.

Crede emphasizes that this study did not involve true experiments, where some students were randomly assigned quiz conditions and others were not.

"As soon as we don't have random assignments, we can't be 100% certain that the difference is really done to the quizzes. It could be something else."

Nevertheless, the results suggest there may be a strong link between frequent quizzing and student success.

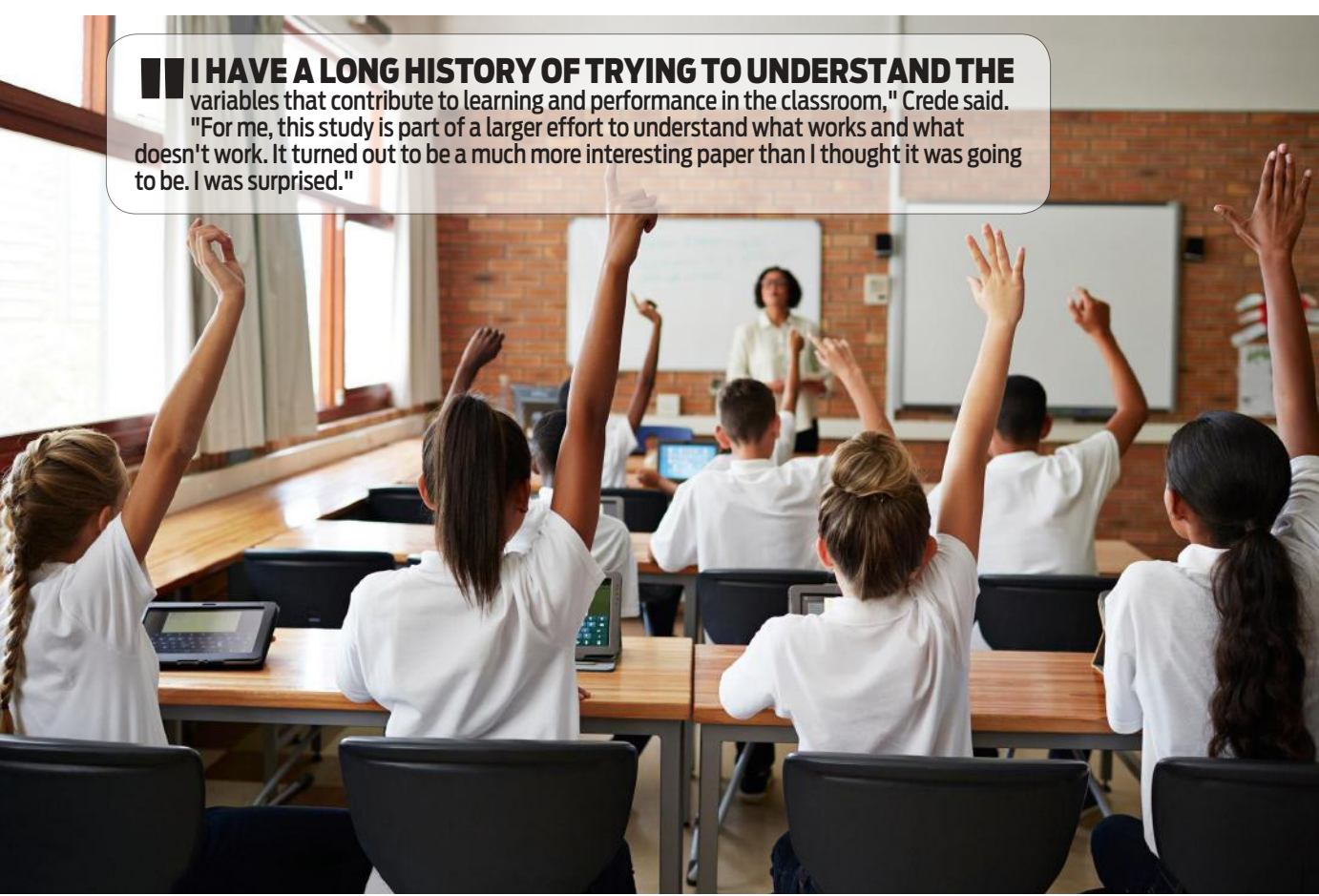
***A few surprises**

Crede and Sotola discovered that when students are quizzed over class material at least once a week, they tend to perform better on the midterm and final exams compared to students who did not take quizzes. They also found that students who took frequent quizzes were less likely to fail the class, especially if they were struggling with the course content.

"I was surprised the effect of quizzes was relatively strong," Crede said. "I was skeptical. I didn't think this would have much of an effect. The other surprising thing was how much quizzes helped reduce failure rates in classes. The odds of passing a class went through the roof where instructors used this."

Even if quizzes only modestly impact students' ability to pass a class, Sotola said this tool should be part of an instructor's teaching curriculum.

"A modest effect can have a large impact over the course of many years," Sotola said. "If quizzes improve performance and lead to even a slightly lower percentage of students failing



Crede and Sotola said quizzes that required students to answer with written responses proved more beneficial to their understanding of class material compared to multiple-choice questions, though their pool of data for this particular aspect of the study was small.

"You have to be cautious about the amount of data we have, but multiple-choice questions seem to be a little less effective than what we call a constructive-response question when you actually have to come up with the answer yourself," Crede said. "It's about recognizing the right answer and actually remembering what the right answer is."

Crede acknowledges that asking teachers to grade written quizzes daily or weekly may discourage some from implementing them in their classes. Instead, he recommends instructors utilize online quizzes that can be automatically graded by a course management system, such as Canvas.

Crede and Sotola said some quiz attributes proved insignificant in their study, including whether the tests were pop quizzes versus planned, or if they were online or on paper. No matter how they are delivered, Crede and Sotola agree that their study shows frequent quizzes with immediate instructor feedback help students, especially those who are having difficulties, succeed in the classroom.

"The impact on struggling students was really remarkable," Crede said. "Again, we only have data on about 1,000 students, but it's really quite dramatic. If it's even remotely in that neighbourhood, this is something we should all be doing."

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Srinagar Municipal Corporation

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RIGHT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Corrigendum

Please read CEE/DEE/BEE instead of CEE/DEE for the works published in NleT No.07 of 2020-2021 reflected at serial No.9 and 10.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the said NleT

Executive Engineer,
Right River Works Division
Srinagar Municipal Corporation

NO:SMC/EERRWD/
Dated:

DIPK-NB-2445/20

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER.

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. O&M Division Awantipora

edawantipora@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of tenders are invited **"A" Class Electrical Contractors registered with JKPD/CPWD/ DGS&D/MES**for following:

	Execution of works under Back to Village Programme of District PulwamaBlock Tral at PanchayatHalqas of Kuchmulla, Mandoora, Midoora				
	under jurisdiction of KPDCCL O&M Division Awantipora Power Development Department.				

The tender document is available at website in Interested bidders may view, download the e Bid document, seek clarification and Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table

	downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over
	Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	
	Bid submission (end) date & Time	
	Online Commercial and Technical e	
	Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders
		INR 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred)
	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit Amount to be mentioned Approx 2% of estimated Cost of work	

The bidders need to upload the cost of challan, treasury challan receipt in favour of Executive Engineer, KPDCCL O&M

Bidders must upload the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL O&M Division Awantipora, JKPD&K. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

a. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be submitted to the office of tender inviting authority before allotment of the

b. The date and time of opening of Financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web . This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e

Intending bidders are requested to upload their offers along with technical specifications forming part of the tender documen

in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter as bidder's representative will be req

The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.

declared a holiday for department's office then the due date for opening of e Bids shall be the following working day at the

All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e ly in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet, provided with the S&D.

bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III (b) as per Information

Turnkey material shall be made available to the partial Turnkey contractor at the Departmental Stores and the period of completion for the work shall start from the date of the contractor from the divisional stores.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD Form 25 shall also apply.

DIPK-NB-2425/20

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-IV

PAMPORE, KASHMIR – 192121

Phone:01933222600 Email: xentlmd4@gmail.com

NIT No: TLMD-IV/e-NIT/24 of 2020-21

FRESH TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-BIDS

The Executive Engineer, TLMD IV Pampore Kashmir,JKPTCL J&K, for and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir invites e-tenders from civil contractor with qualification/ past experience & registered with Government of J&K.

S No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money (Rs.58000)	Time of completion 30Days	Class of contract
01.	Construction of Snow Deflector on upstream of Tower Location No (24) of 220KV (DC) Kishenpore- Pampore Transmission Line)	Rs.29.01	Rs. 2000.00 The cost of tender documents may be deposited in treasury against the MH 0801 power & same should be uploaded along with tender documents			Registered Contractor (Class A/B)

Position of AAA/TS: under process Position of Funds: Demanded

01. The bidding documents consisting 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

Date of issue of Tender Notice	18-09-2020
Period of downloading of bidding documents	18-09-2020 from 14AM to 24-09-2020 to 02PM
Bid submission start date	18-09-2020 from 15PM
Bid submission end date	24-09-2020 up to 02 PM
Deadline for receiving the hard copy, & CDR/EMD)	After opening the financial bid only, the lowest bidder (L1) is required to submit/furnish the hard copies of bid along with original copy of CDR/ EMD & tender documents.
Date & time of opening of Bids (online)	25-09-2020 at 02PM

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in favour of "Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-IV Pampore" (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-IV Pampore for the works mentioned in the E-NIT (tender receiving authority).

The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-IV Pampore for the works mentioned in the E-NIT (tender receiving authority)

--sd--
Executive Engineer
TLMD-IV Pampore

DIPK-NB-2447/20
No: TLMD-IV/1056-58
Dated:18-09-2020

Office of the Executive Engineer

Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla

xenfmdbaramulla@gmail.com

Gist of Short term e 07 of 2020 19/09/2020

For and on behalf of Executive Engineer, Division Baramulla

on item rate basis by e tendering mode from the **"C" class Civil Contractors**

Wooden boats of Flood Mechanical Division Baramulla

The bidding process shall be completed online in Tender Document

Deposit, prequalification and technical bid Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

	Document Download/sale start Date	
	Clarification start date	
	Clarification end date	
	Bid submission start date	19/09/2020 upto 17:00 hrs
	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	
	Date and time of Bid opening	

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened scheduled date and time

date convenient to the tender opening authority office of the Executive Engineer, Flood Mechanical Division, Baramulla.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 &

Estimated Cost

Position of funds

ARD Approved

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division,

DIPK-5984/20

Scientists use Indian Ocean earthquake data to tell how fast it is warming

Scientists have developed a novel method to determine how fast the Indian Ocean is warming by analysing the sound from seabed earthquakes, an advance that may lead to a relatively low-cost technique to monitor water temperatures in all of the oceans.

According to the researchers, including those from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in the US, as much as 95 per cent of the extra heat trapped on the Earth by greenhouse gases like carbondioxide is held in the world's oceans, making it important to monitor the temperature of ocean waters.

In the current study, published in the journal Science, the scientists used existing seismic monitoring equipment, as well as historic data on earthquakes, to determine how much the temperature of the ocean has altered, and continues changing, even at depths that are normally out of the reach of conventional tools.

They assessed a 3000-kilometer-long section in the equatorial East Indian Ocean, and found temperature fluctuations between 2005 and 2016, with a decadal warming trend that "substantially exceeds previous estimates."

By one estimate, the scientists said

the ocean could be warming by nearly 70 per cent greater than had been believed.

However, they cautioned against drawing any immediate conclusions, as more data need to be collected and analysed.

Jorn Callies, a co-author of the study from Caltech, noted that the method works by monitoring underwater quake sounds, which are powerful and travel long distances through the ocean without significantly weakening.

The researchers explained that when an earthquake happens under the ocean, most of its energy travels through the earth, but a portion of that energy is transmitted into the water as sound.

They said these sound waves propagate outward from the quake's epicenter just like seismic waves that travel through the ground, but added that the sound moves at a much slower speed.

The study noted that the ground waves arrive at a seismic monitoring station first, followed by the sound waves, which will appear as a secondary signal of the same event.

This effect, according to the researchers, is similar to how one often sees the flash from lightning seconds before hearing its thunder.



Attacks surge in Pak as Afghan peace effort brings shifting sands

Agencies

Islamabad: Militants have stepped up attacks on security forces in northwest Pakistan raising fears of a revival of their insurgency and a return of lawlessness as brighter prospects for peace in Afghanistan herald shifting militant alliances.

The Pashtun border region was for years a haven for militants who fled the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. But the Pakistani military cleared out the strongholds in a 2014 offensive, driving most of the fighters into Afghanistan.

But since March, Al Qaeda-linked Pakistani Taliban, facing the risk of losing havens on the Afghan side of the border if their Afghan Taliban allies make peace there, have unleashed a wave of attacks on the Pakistani security forces.

Bolstering their bid to re-establish themselves in the border lands, the Pakistani Taliban, or Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), struck an alliance in July with half a dozen small militant factions.

"The group's capability and military strength has increased, as has their reach," said Mansur Khan Mahsud, executive director of the Islamabad-based FATA Research Centre.

September has seen near daily incidents, from roadside bombs to sniper attacks, to ambushes and the killing of residents accused of collaborating with government forces.

The militants have killed at least 40 soldiers since March, according to a Reuters tally of official figures. At least 109 people were killed in 67 attacks between January and July - twice the number in 2019, according to the FATA Research Centre.

"TTP's regrouping is concerning both because of its own activities and its links to groups like al Qaeda," said Elizabeth Threlkeld, a former State Department official who served in Pakistan, now deputy-director for the South Asia program at the Washington-based Stimson Center.

"It could again provide significant support to international terror groups if it continues to regain ground."

Unintended Consequence

Militant violence surged in Pakistan after it was pressed to sign on to the US-led war on terror after the September 11, 2001, attacks, even though it had for years supported the Afghan Taliban.

Soon the Pakistani government found itself under attack from

home-grown Taliban but the military succeeded in pushing them out of the region, known as the tribal areas, in 2014, forcing the Pakistani Taliban into Afghanistan.

Millions of residents were displaced by the fighting but since then, militant violence in Pakistan has largely ceased.

But now fears are growing that the surge of Pakistani Taliban violence is an unintended consequence of efforts to make peace in Afghanistan. In February, the Afghan Taliban and the United States struck a deal allowing for the withdrawal of US forces in exchange for Afghan Taliban guarantees they would not harbour other militants.

The United Nations said in a report in July there were more than 6,000 Pakistani fighters in Afghanistan, most affiliated with the TTP, who could be heading home if they lose their refuge.

"It's a concern for everyone," a Western security official based in Pakistan told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Pakistan's military did not respond to a request for comment on the violence but its spokesman said on Twitter recently that the attacks were "meant to derail (the) Afghanistan Peace Process."

New Daesh leader was informant for US, says counter terrorism report

Agencies

NEW YORK: The man widely believed to be the new leader of Daesh was once an informant for the US, according to a new report from the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC), a research body at the US military academy of West Point in New York.

"Stepping Out from the Shadows: The Interrogation of the Islamic State's Future Caliph" is based on Tactical Interrogation Reports (TIRs) — the paper trail the US military creates when enemy fighters are detained and interrogated — from Al-Mawla's time in captivity in the late 2000s.

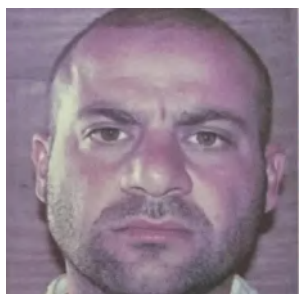
Before his release in 2009, Al-Mawla named 88 extremists involved in terrorist activities, and the information he divulged during his interrogations led US forces in the region to successfully capture or kill dozens of Al-Qaeda fighters, the report claims.

The CTC said it is "highly confident" Al-Mawla became the new leader of Daesh after the previous leader, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, was killed in a US air raid in Syria in October 2019.

Although Daesh announced that a man called Abu Ibrahim Al-Hashimi Al-Qurashi was Baghdadi's successor, US officials have also stated that Al-Qurashi's true identity is actually Al-Mawla — also known as Hajj Abdullah.

Before joining Daesh, Al-Mawla is believed to have been the deputy leader of Al-Qaeda.

While details about the oper-



ation resulting in his capture are scarce, the TIRs reveal that he was captured on January 6, 2008.

The following day, US Central Command announced the capture of a wanted individual who "previously served as a judge of an illegal court system involved in ordering and approving abductions and executions."

In his interrogations, Al-Mawla offered up details of terrorist plots to his interrogators, while minimizing his own involvement. He identified many jihadists by name and offered descriptions of their roles in the terrorist organization and details of their involvement in attacks on US-led coalition forces during the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Al-Mawla — a former officer in Saddam Hussein's army and once Baghdadi's speechwriter — emerges from the TIRs as a mysterious personality with a vague past, whose ethnicity could not be determined with certainty. The statements in the reports are rife with contradictory elements and open to a wide range of interpretations.

Covid-19 may lead to declines in life expectancy globally, study finds

Press Trust Of India

The researchers built a model that simulates the probability of getting infected by Covid-19, the probability of dying from it, and the probability of dying from another cause for a period of one year, taking into account the different fatality rates from the disease for different age groups. Credit: AFP

The researchers built a model that simulates the probability of getting infected by Covid-19, the probability of dying from it, and the probability of dying from another cause for a period of one year, taking into account the different fatality rates from the disease for different age groups. Credit: AFP

The Covid-19 pandemic could cause a short-term decline in life expectancy in the severely affected areas of the world, unless the spread of the disease is contained, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal PLOS ONE, ex-

amined the impact of Covid-19-related deaths on life expectancy for four broad world regions across multiple rates of infection and age groups.

Guillaume Marois Associate professor, Asian Demographic Research Institute, Shanghai University, China told PTI that the impact of Covid-19 on life expectancy is probably already felt at the sub-national level, in regions that have been severely affected.

"For instance, there a noticeable loss in life expectancy, in New York, Madrid, Bergamo, and probably some regions of Brazil," Marois, who led the study, said.

Period life expectancy is a measure of the number of years that an average person may expect to live. Prevalence is the proportion of a particular population found to be affected by a disease at a specific time.

The researchers noted that improved healthcare, socioeconomic conditions, and education are among the key factors influencing our health and how long we live.

Mass shooting in Rochester leaves 2 dead, 14 wounded

Agencies

Rochester: Gunfire at a backyard party killed two people and wounded 14 others early Saturday in Rochester, New York, a city that has been reeling in recent weeks by outrage over the suffocation death of Daniel Prude.

said in a news conference held near the home. "I mean 16 victims is unheard of, and for our community, who's right now going through so much, to have to be dealt with this tragedy, needlessly, for people who decide to act in a violent manner is unfortunate and shameful, and we're



As many as 100 people were at the gathering when the shooting started just before 12:30 a.m., Acting Police Chief Mark Simmons told reporters.

Police were still trying to piece together who opened fire and why. Simmons said it was too early to say whether more than one person was shooting or who the intended targets may have been.

A man and woman, estimated to be in their late teens or early 20s, were killed, Simmons said. None of the wounded people were believed to have life-threatening injuries. They were being treated at two area hospitals.

"This is truly a tragedy of epic proportions," Simmons

going to do everything that we can as a department to bring those people involved to justice."

The shooting comes as the city's police department has been rocked by days of protests over Prude's death, caused when officers put a hood over his head to stop him from spitting, then pushed his face into the pavement until they noticed he had stopped breathing.

On Monday the city's mayor fired Police Chief LaRon Singletary, who she said initially misled her about the circumstances of the death. Other senior police officials announced they would retire or leave top command positions.

NEWS MAKERS

Sri Lankan Minister Climbs Tree To Address Public On Shortage Of Coconuts

New Delhi: To convey the message to the people on the shortage of coconuts, Sri Lankan State Minister of Coconut Arundika Fernando climbed a coconut tree and said that the country is facing a dearth of 700 million coconuts due to high demand for local industries and domestic consumption.

News First quoted Fernando as saying, "We hope to utilise every available plot of land for the cultivation of coconuts and boost the industry to one which would generate foreign exchange to the country."

Giving a solution to the problem of prices of coconuts, he said that the government aims to reduce the prices amid the shortage of coconuts in the country.



We hope to utilise every available plot of land for the cultivation of coconuts and boost the industry to one which would generate foreign exchange to the country

News First further reported that it took a great effort for the State Minister's

supporters to get him out of the coconut tree climbing contraption.

US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies aged 87

United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a champion of women's rights and the court's leading liberal voice, has died at the age of 87.

Ginsburg died of complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer at her home in Washington, DC, surrounded by her family, the court said in a statement on Friday evening.

"Our nation has lost a jurist of historic stature," Chief Justice John Roberts said in the statement.

"We at the Supreme Court have lost a cherished colleague. Today we mourn, but with confidence that future generations will remember Ruth Bader Ginsburg as we knew her - a tireless and resolute champion of justice."

Flags outside the White



House and Supreme Court in the US capital were lowered to half-staff Friday evening after Ginsburg's death was announced.

Hundreds of people also gathered outside the Supreme Court to mourn her passing and tributes poured in from politicians, celebrities, athletes and many others, who hailed Ginsburg as a liberal

icon who paved the way for women.

Today we mourn, but with confidence that future generations will remember Ruth Bader Ginsburg as we knew her - a tireless and resolute champion of justice.

Ginsburg was a giant of American jurisprudence and a stalwart defender of women's and voting rights.

She was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1993 by then US president Bill Clinton - becoming only the second woman ever to serve on the court.

In recent years, Ginsburg became a popular culture icon known as the "Notorious RBG". She was the subject of a feature film, On the Basis of Sex, and a 2018 documentary film on her life and legal career.

"I ask no favour for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks," Ginsburg said in the documentary, Reuters reported, summing up her lifelong work towards gender equality.

Ginsburg announced in July that she was undergoing chemotherapy treatment for lesions on her liver, the latest of her several battles with cancer.

Not Maintaining Data Of Health Workers Who Died During Covid Duty: Centre



NEW DELHI: Data on the number of healthcare workers who are infected by the coronavirus infection or have lost their lives during COVID-19 duty is not maintained at the central level by the health ministry, the government told Lok Sabha on Friday.

However, details of the number of persons seeking relief under the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Insurance Package for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19" is maintained at the national level, Minister of State (MoS) for Health Ashwini Choubey said in a written reply.

According to details of the scheme, a total of 155 healthcare staff, including 64 doctors, have died due to the coronavirus infection in the country as on September 11.

In response to a question on compensation or job, Mr Choubey said no specific scheme in context of COVID-19 has been proposed for compensation or job to

the family member of the doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers who died during COVID-19 duty.

To a question on the number of doctors, paramedics and other official staff serving in government and private hospitals who were affected and died during COVID-19 duty, the minister said, "Data on number of healthcare workers who are infected by COVID-19 or number of such persons who have lost lives during COVID duty is not maintained at central level by Ministry of Health".

However, insurance provision has been made under the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19", a central sector scheme, he said.

The scheme provides an insurance cover of 50 lakh to healthcare providers, including community health workers, who may have to be in direct contact and care of COVID-19 patients and who may be at risk of being impacted by this, Mr Choubey said.

It will also include accidental loss of life on account of contracting COVID-19, the minister informed.

Amid 'Act Of God' Jibe, RS Passes IBC Amendment Bill

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha on Saturday passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (2nd amendment) Bill, 2020 even as an opposition member took a jibe at Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's 'act of God' statement vis-a-vis the coronavirus pandemic's effect on the economy.

The Bill seeks to replace the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, which was promulgated on June 5 to prohibit initiation of insolvency proceedings for defaults arising during the six months from March 25 that is extendable up to one year.

Sitharaman strongly defended the proposed amendment and addressed individual concerns of the Rajya Sabha MPs, including those who were extremely critical of the government move.

"The situation before us in March was clearly about putting lives before livelihood. When the PM announced the Janata Curfew, he said it was a preventive remedy and did not know how long it will last. Naturally, the lockdown impacted businesses and financial market. But did we just sit and watch? No," Sitharaman said in a prelude to why the government brought forth various ordinances in the first place.

But Communist Party of India's Binoy Viswam hit out at Sitharaman for her "act of God" comment in the recent past. "The Indian economy is in bad shape. She is saying these are all acts of God. Don't accuse God; God is not the culprit," he remarked.

Sitharaman meanwhile elaborated that the suspension of Sections 7, 9 and 10 of the IBC took place to prevent businesses from getting pushed into insolvency.

She highlighted how the



IBC had served its purpose as far as the NPAs of scheduled commercial banks were concerned. "The priority is to keep the companies going rather than liquidate them," she said.

While discussing the Bill, BJP MP Arun Singh defended it while taking a dig at the Congress, but without naming it, during a mention of the NPAs.

He maintained that the bank NPAs have since come down, calling the amendment Bill a remarkable and bold step.

The BJP MP also reeled out statistics, including on ease of doing business ranking, to make his point about the success of the Bill.

Congress member Vivek Tankha said that the enactment of Section 10 will be counterproductive. He added that there was no certainty as to how long the coronavirus pandemic would continue. He claimed that small traders would be affected while the government was trying to protect big corporates.

Nationalist Congress Party's Praful Patel said that his party supported the amendments since the government's goal was temporary and that there might be more amendments required in the future. He also urged the government to "handhold" a few businesses.

Amar Patnaik of the Biju Janata Dal asked since the IBC had been fairly successful since 2016, what was the need for the three ordinances. CPI-M's KK Ragesh said that since the ordinance prohibited insolvency proceedings for a year it would push the banking sector to a crisis. IANS



Reaping Time: Growers sort and pack walnut produce in South Kashmir's Pulwama area on Saturday.

Separate Flag, Constitution Must For Solution: Naga Group

GUWAHATI: The NSCN (I-M) on Friday reiterated that the Naga National flag and Yehzabo (Constitution) must form a part of the Indo-Naga political solution for the Naga deal to qualify as honourable and acceptable.

The NSCN (I-M) and the Government of India are engaged in talks for last more than 21 years to resolve the Naga issue.

A joint council meeting of the NSCN/GPRN (Government of People's Republic of Nagalim) held at its central headquarters Hebron also resolved that the Government of India and the NSCN must seek a final agreement based on the historic Framework Agreement of August 3, 2015, the Ministry of Information and Publicity of the outfit said.

The meeting deliberated on the historical and political rights of the Naga people and how the Indo-Naga political talks have reached this far.

Convener of the steering committee of the NSCN "Maj" (ret'd) Hutovi Chishi last week said the Naga solution must be brought about at the cost of compromising the historical and political rights of the Nagas.

"We have had bitter and bloody experience with the 16-Point Agreement and Shillong Accord. These are nothing but political flattery to suppress the legitimate Naga political movement.

"The Naga people should not allow such blunders to be repeated under the ongoing Indo-Naga political negotiation," the NSCN stated.



It said it took five years of intensive discussions that resulted to recognition of the uniqueness of Naga history and situation by the Government of India on July 11, 2002 at Amsterdam.

"This historic declaration is the first ever that the Government of India admitted the Nagas were never part of India at any given point of time and that the Naga issue is not that of law and order but political in nature needing political solution," the outfit said.

It also marked the basic foothold on which solution to be worked out as two equal partners. The declaration shows that the uniqueness of the issue demands a unique solution in which the sovereign rights of the Nagas are realized, while the security

and paramount interest of India is at the same time safeguarded, it stated.

The NSCN said the historic Framework Agreement brought about by the recognition of the unique Naga history and situation is no mean achievement for the Naga people. By signing the agreement under the direct supervision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India had officially acknowledged the historical reality on the basis of which a permanent solution can be arrived at.

The Government of India through the Framework Agreement recognises that sovereignty of India and the Nagas lies with their respective peoples, it added.

Intangki Wildlife Sanctuary The NSCN dismissed the outcry of the Zeliangrong Baudi (Nagaland) in a press statement on September 17 that its chairman Q. Tuccu claimed Intangki Wildlife Sanctuary as "No man's land" as absolutely baseless.

At no point of time the NSCN chairman during his consultative meeting with the tribal hohos in Dimapur stated that the Intangki Wildlife Sanctuary is "No man's land", the outfit clarified in a statement today. It said such allegation is misleading, unfounded and far from ground reality.

The outfit recalled that during the Gilgal Camp of the National Hoho held from March 27 to April 2, 1996, one of the resolutions adopted was to protect all the reserve forests in Naga areas and preserve them from human exploitation and encroachment.

Provide Gadgets, Internet Pack To Poor Students For Online Classes: High Court To Schools

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has directed private as well as government schools like Kendriya Vidyalayas or KVs to provide gadgets and an internet package to poor students for online classes, saying not doing so amounts to "discrimination" and creates a "digital apartheid".

To separate such students from others in the same class due to non-availability of a gadget or a device would generate "a feeling of inferiority" that may "affect their hearts and minds unlikely ever to be undone", the court said.

A bench of Justices Manmohan and Sanjeev Narula said if a school decides to voluntarily provide synchronous face-to-face real time online education as a method of teaching, "they will have to ensure that the students belonging to economically weaker section (EWS) or disadvantaged group (DG) category also have access and are

able to avail the same".

The court said: "Segregation in education is a denial of equal protection of the laws under Article 14 of the Constitution and in particular the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009."

By not providing the required equipment to the EWS/DG students, the private schools were putting a financial barrier which prevented them from pursuing and completing their elementary education in the present pandemic, it said.

This is a violation of the RTE Act provisions, the bench said, rejected as "misconceived" the argument of the private schools that they are required to provide the equipment to EWS/DG students only if they are doing so in case of the fee paying students.

The bench said that section 12(1) (c) of RTE requires private unaided schools to provide free and compul-

sory elementary education to 25 per cent EWS/DG students and that means "education sans financial barrier".

"Section 12(1)(c) obligation is in no way dependent upon what school gives to the fee paying children, free or otherwise. For example, uniform, reading materials and textbooks are provided free to 25 per cent EWS/DG students, even though the 75 per cent fee paying students have to pay for them," the court said in its 94 page judgement.

"Consequently, intra-class discrimination, especially inter-se 75 per cent fee paying students viz-a-viz 25 per cent EWS/DG students upsets the level playing field and amounts to discrimination as well as creates a vertical division, digital divide or digital gap or digital apartheid in addition to segregation in a classroom which is violative of RTE Act, 2009 and Articles 14, 20 and 21 of the Constitution," the bench added.

As More MPs Test COVID Positive, Parliament Likely To Be Curtailed By Middle Of Next Week

The ongoing monsoon session of Parliament is likely to be curtailed and may end by the middle of next week in view of the threat of the COVID-19 spread among parliamentarians, official sources said on Saturday.

At a meeting of the business advisory committee of Lok Sabha, which has floor leaders of all parties besides the government representatives and is chaired by the Speaker, most political parties favoured curtailment of the session, which started on September 14 and was scheduled to conclude on October 1.

A final decision will be taken by the cabinet committee on parliamentary affairs.

The Lok Sabha has so far passed three Bills to replace agriculture sector related ordinances. Also, both the Houses have cleared a bill to replace an ordinance for cutting by 30 per cent the salaries of MPs to ramp up funds in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

After some Members of Parliament, including Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Prahlad Patel, tested positive for COVID-19 during the session, some opposition parties had conveyed to the government that conducting the full 18-day session could be a risky affair, sources said.

The government then started thinking in that direction, the sources said.

Several MPs had also tested positive for COVID-19 around the time the session began and they were advised not to attend proceedings.

In order to prevent the



spread of coronavirus within the parliament complex, reporters and parliamentary staff entering the premises now have to undergo the rapid antigen test mandatorily on a daily basis, according to a new protocol put in place.

Besides, members of both Houses are undergoing RT-PCR tests on regular intervals on a voluntary basis, said a senior Parliament official.

A Member of Parliament can undergo the RT-PCR test as many times he or she likes.

Journalists covering the monsoon session from press galleries of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha also have the option to undergo the RT-PCR test, which is valid for 72 hours.

Since the result of the much reliable RT-PCR test takes time, the antigen test has been made mandatory on a daily basis.

Government officials accompanying their respective ministers during the bill discussions also have to show a negative report of RT-PCR test taken within the last 72 hours of their visit to the complex.

The session began on September 14 and is slated to end on October 1. Both houses are meeting in shifts of four hours each without the customary Saturday-Sunday weekend break.

The Budget session was short-terminated in March after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

PM Modi's Speech At 75th UN General Assembly Will Be Truly Significant: Envoy



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the high-level meeting to mark 75th anniversary of the United Nations and the General Debate next week and the vision he outlines will be truly significant, especially on the eve of India entering the Security Council, according to India's envoy to the UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti.

The annual session of the UN General Assembly begins on September 21 with the high-level meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

To mark the historic occasion, the 193 UN member states will adopt a forward-looking political declaration, negotiated through an inter-governmental process, on the theme of 'The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism.'

"Prime Minister's address to the UN and the vision he outlines will be truly significant, especially on the eve of our entering the UN Security Council, Ambassador Tirumurti told news agency Press Trust of India.

Mr Tirumurti said on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the UN, as a founding member of the UN, he recalls with pride the significant and, in many ways, the pioneering contribution of India to the success of UN's work and for peace and development across the world.

PM Modi will address this special event through a pre-recorded video statement. The General Debate will commence on September 22 and run through September 29.

Prime Minister Modi will deliver the national statement on September 26 through a pre-recorded video statement. The vision PM Modi outlines at these two high-level meetings will be closely watched as it comes ahead of India taking a seat at the powerful UN Security Council as an elected non-permanent member for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2021.

An effective response to international terrorism, reforming multilateral systems, comprehensive approach to peace and security, technology with a human touch and inclusive solutions to foster development are India's priorities for its UNSC tenure and these are reflected in the declaration that the UN will adopt to mark 75 years of its founding.

Man Arrested For Cheating 600 People Of 60 Crore In UP: Cops

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh police on Saturday arrested a man for allegedly duping over 600 people of around 60 crore on the promise of a 60 percent return on their investments.

The Special Task Force of the UP police said it arrested the racket's mastermind, Hari Om Yadav, from Chandpur village in Sultanpur Road in Lucknow under Gosaiganj police station at around 5 am.

The police also confiscated three mobile phones, five cheque books, one passbook, an Aadhaar card, a laptop and 700 cash from the accused, the STF said in a statement.

The STF said it made the arrest following a probe into complaints by several people



that they have been duped of their money on the promise of 60 percent returns on their investments.

During the probe, it transpired that the racket was being run through a multi-level marketing mechanism, with Hari Om Yadav, doubling as CMDs of Alaska Real Estate Pvt Ltd,

Alaska Commodities and Alaska Enterprises and duping around 600 persons for 60 crore.

A case was registered in this connection at Gosaiganj police station under various sections of the IPC, and as many as nine members of the gang were arrested earlier on September 15, the statement said.

Metoo: Scribe Seeks Acquittal In Akbar's Complaint, Says Freedom Of Speech Intrinsic To Democracy

NEW DELHI: Journalist Priya Ramani on Saturday sought acquittal in a criminal defamation complaint filed against her by former union minister MJ Akbar, saying freedom of speech and expression is intrinsic to a democratic society and her accusations of sexual harassment against him were her truth.

In the wake of the #MeToo campaign, Ramani in 2018 accused Akbar of sexual misconduct with her around 20 years ago, when he was a journalist. Akbar resigned as a Union minister on October 17, 2018.

Ramani, who concluded her arguments on Saturday in the complaint filed against her by Akbar, told the court through her lawyer that the #MeToo campaign was started to correct the structural wrong, which was continuing for long.

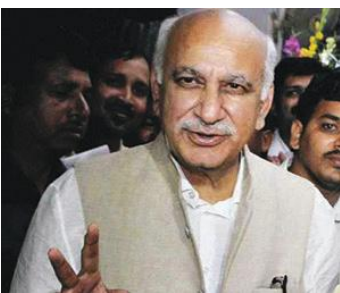
"The #MeToo movement gave a platform to thousands of women all across

the world to come forward and share their stories of sexual harassment. The #MeToo movement was started to correct the structural wrong." "Freedom of speech and expression is critical and intrinsic to democracy. Ramani was a small part of a large movement. Hundreds and thousands of women participated in the #MeToo movement. I (Ramani) have proved my case and I deserve to be acquitted," senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Ramani, told Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja.

What Ramani had said against Akbar was "her truth, said in public good", the lawyer said.

In response to the complainant's argument as to "why did Ramani not raise her voice before", John said there was a "culture of silence" when the incident took place.

"She could not speak up as there was a culture of silence. Ghazala Wahab (a



journalist and a witness in the case, who too have accused Akbar of sexual misconduct while she was working under him) pointed out that there was no mechanism for sexual harassment at the workplace. "The Vishakha guidelines (to prevent sexual harassment at workplace) did not exist in 1993. Even after the guidelines came into place, the judiciary and the media took a long time to implement those," she said.

John added that "silence cannot refute Ramani's truth. She is not filing any FIR for the court to test the delay of the FIR on the ground of credibility".

"Her silence has been adequately explained by her. There was a long delay in the implementation of the Vishakha guidelines, Ramani cannot be made to bear the brunt of it," she said. Ramani contested the reputation of Akbar through her own evidence, through that of Wahab and 14 other women, who accused him of sexual harassment at workplace in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

The court will again hear the matter on October 13.

Ramani had earlier told the court that she was "targeted selectively" through a criminal defamation complaint by Akbar "to halt the avalanche of allegations of sexual misconduct that came out against him" in the wake of the #MeToo movement in 2018.