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Minimum : 14°C
Humidity : 37%

SUNSET
Today 06:27 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:19 AM

OBSERVER

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News Digest

Pak Shells LoC In Poonch, Rajouri: Army

Jammu: Pakistani troops shelled forward areas along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Rajouri districts on Monday, prompting strong retaliation by the Indian Army, a defence spokesperson said. The shelling from across the border at Shahpur, Kirni and Qasba sectors in Poonch and Sunderbani in Rajouri was "unprovoked" and in violation of the ceasefire agreement between the two sides, according to the official. The Pakistani troops first initiated ceasefire violation around 2.30 pm in the three sectors of Poonch by shelling mortars and firing from small arms. **● P-02**

NC Slams Govt's Response To Covid-19

New Delhi: The National Conference Member of Parliament from Anantnag Hasnain Masoodi on Monday said the GOI's response to COVID-19 crises presented a grim tale of misstatement and ill-conceived decisions forcing millions in poverty and hunger. While speaking in Lok Sabha under rule 193 on COVID-19 pandemic in the country, Party's Member of Parliament from Anantnag Hasnain Masoodi said the at the very onset the country's retort to the emerging threat of COVID-19 presents a tale of mismanagement due to which the COVID19 **● P-02**

Electric Shock Injures PDD Worker

Srinagar: An employee of Power Development Department (PDD) received severe burn injuries after he received an electric shock while repairing a transformer and transmission lines in Seelo area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday evening. 50-year-old daily wageer Gulam Hassan Sheikh, son of Wali Muhammad of Seelo Sopore suffered serious burn injuries on his arm and leg when he was repairing a transformer in Seelo area of Sopore, officials said Monday. They said the daily wageer employee was immediately rushed to SDH Sopore for treatment with the help of locals. (KNO)

Minor Dies Of Strangulation

Srinagar: An 8-year old girl died after she got strangled in a home-made cradle in north Kashmir's vilgam area of Kupwara district on Monday. Anjum Ismael, daughter of Mohammad Ismael Mughal resident of Nowbug Vilgam fell unconscious while she was taking ride in home-made cradle, news agency KNS reported Monday. The girl was rushed to Public Health Centre (PHC) Vilgam where doctors declared her brought dead on arrival. A police officer confirmed the incident and said prima-facie the minor died of strangulation due to cradle ride while further **● P-02**

Two-Year-Old Falls Into Tub, Dies

Srinagar: A pall of gloom descended in Shumriyal village of Lolab in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday after a two year old kid died after falling into water tub. According to the reports, Owais Ahmad Majloo son of Nissar Ahmad Majloo of Shumriyal died on Monday afternoon after falling into a tub. He was taken to nearby hospital by his family for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead. (KNS)

HC Quashes SFC Orders Disengaging Grading Assistants, Attendants

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Observing Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday quashed two orders passed by Managing Director J&K State Forest Corporation in February 2012 by virtue of which grading assistants and attendants were disengaged, two years after they were appointed. The court had already stayed both the orders in March 2012, as a consequence of which the appointees were continuing to discharge their duties in the Corporation. Allowing a petition filed by aggrieved persons, a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey observed that the

principles of natural justice "appear to have been violated with impunity." "From the perusal of the pleadings placed on record by both the parties, it can be seen from a naked eye that no opportunity of being heard, as provided under the rules, appears to have been given to the petitioners before issuing the impugned orders of disengagement of (their) services which stood already regularized by the Corporation itself," court said. The petitioners, the court observed, have been simply thrown out by two orders of disengagement without following the due procedure of law, "with a premeditated design to divest them of **▶▶PAGE 02**

LADAKH FACE-OFF

Corps Commander Level Meet Fails To Defuse LAC Tension

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Monday pressed for an early and complete disengagement of Chinese troops from friction points in eastern Ladakh as their senior army commanders held a sixth round of talks that primarily focused on implementing a five-point bilateral agreement to ease the prolonged border standoff, government sources said.

The latest round of Corps commander-level talks that began at around 9 am in Moldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) across India's Chushul sector in eastern Ladakh went on for over 12 hours and was still underway at 9 pm, the sources said.

It is learnt that the Indian delegation insisted on a time-bound implementation of the agreement finalised during the extensive talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet. The Indian delegation is head-



Army To Use Double-Humped Camel For Patrolling

The famed double-humped camels of Ladakh are soon going to be inducted in the Indian Army to help troops patrol the India-China border in Eastern Ladakh. The Defence Research and Development Organisation **● P-02**

ed by Lt Gen Harinder Singh, the commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps of the Indian Army. For the first time, the Indian team for the military talks also included a senior official from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). MEA Joint Secretary Naveen Srivastava, who has been engaged in diplomatic talks with **▶▶PAGE 02**

Soldier Injured In Chrar-e-Sharif Gunfight

Twin Militant Attacks In Srinagar, Anantnag

SRINAGAR: An army man was injured Monday in an ongoing gunfight between state forces and militants in Chrar-e-Sharif area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district, prompting authorities to snap internet services in the district.

According to the officials, army's 53 RR, special operations group (SOG) of police and CRPF181 Battalion launched a cordon and search operation in Nowhar of Chrar-e-Sharif after receiving inputs about the presence of militants in the valley.

As the joint team started advances, the militants hiding in the village opened fire upon them in a bid to break the cordon. In the initial exchange of fire, the official said a soldier was injured. He said the injured soldier was removed to army's 92 base Badami Bagh hospital for treatment. "The joint team retailed after coming under fire from the militants. The exchange of fire continued for some time," the official said.

He said that the intermittent exchange of fire was going on. According to news agency GNS, the internet service has been snapped across Budgam district as a precautionary measure. Meanwhile, suspected **● P-02**

Covid-19 Claims 21 More Lives, J&K Toll 1026

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least twenty one people, including a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personal succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of fatalities due to the deadly infection in the Union Territory to 1026.

While fourteen people died of coronavirus in Jammu division, seven others succumbed to the infection in Kashmir valley, officials said Monday.

Among those who died in Valley due to Covid-19 included a

75-year-old woman from Chanapora Srinagar who breathed her last at SKIMS Soura, a week after she was admitted to the tertiary care hospital, officials said.

They said four other persons also died at SKIMS Soura including a 65-year-old woman from Rainawari here and a 37-year-old CRPF trooper from 35 battalion Humhama.

Officials said that two other deaths from Valley occurred at SMHS hospital and includes a 65-year-old from Salam **▶▶PAGE 02**

THEY SAID FOUR OTHER PERSONS also died at SKIMS Soura including a 65-year-old woman from Rainawari here and a 37-year-old CRPF trooper from 35 battalion Humhama.

88 Security Men Among New 1036 Cases

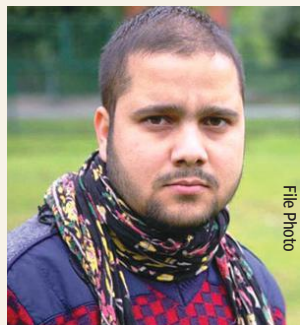
Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 1036 new cases of coronavirus, including 88 army and CRPF personnel, three pregnant women and two employees of education department besides as many minors, taking the number of people infected by the virus to 65026. While 563 new cases were reported from Jammu division, **● P-02**

Journalist Summoned Over Story, Beaten In Police Station

Swati Joshi

SRINAGAR: Auqib Javeed, a young journalist has accused the cyber police in Kashmir of assaulting and harassing him over a story he had filed about alleged intimidation of social media users critical of the government by the police.

The story titled, 'The real cyber-bully: Police in Kashmir question Twitter Users' which appeared in 'Article 14' a New Delhi based web portal mentions about the actions taken by Cyber Cell of J&K Police against many social media users for their posts on Article 370, Internet ban and an alleged extrajudicial killing in Kashmir".



Auqib, an accredited journalist with Kashmir Observer, was verbally summoned by the Cyber Police station on September 18. According to his account of the

incident which was published by the "Article 14", Javeed states that since he was satisfied by his balanced and fair work, he informed about the incident to his colleagues at the Kashmir Press Club, where he is an executive member besides the editors of "Article 14".

He was accompanied by two fellow journalists to the police station. In the account, Javeed alleges that he was slapped twice by a masked cop outside the room of Superintendent of Police of the Cyber Wing, Tahir Ashraf Bhatti.

"As we entered the Cargo Centre, our phones were taken. We were frisked and allowed in... I was now anxious. **▶▶PAGE 02**

KEG Anguished At Abuse, Intimidation Of Journalist

Kashmir Editors Guild has expressed anguish and pain over the reported abuse of journalist Auqib Javeed by the police, managing the cyber cell in Srinagar. Auqib, an accredited journalist, had been summoned **● P-02**

KPC Demands LG's Intervention

The Kashmir Press Club also issued a statement condemning the behavior of the police towards Auqib. As per his account which has been published today the young journalist was slapped by a 'masked' policeman. **● P-02**

Centre Tells Apex Court

'Print Media Rarely Crosses Line, Digital Media Uncontrolled'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The print and electronic media rarely cross the line by the very nature of their composition but the digital media is completely uncontrolled and remains unregulated by and large, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

The government said if the apex court considers it necessary to lay down guidelines for mainstream electronic and print media, it is the need of the hour that the exercise should start first with web based digital media.

In a fresh affidavit filed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said the top court may leave wider issues to be decided the central govern-



ment and the competent legislature or start the exercise with digital media.

The affidavit was filed in a pending matter in which the apex court is hearing a petition which has raised

grievance over Sudarshan TV's Bindas Bol' programme whose promo had claimed that channel would show the 'big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service'.

The Centre had last week filed a short affidavit in the matter and said that if the Supreme Court decides on the issue of media regulation then such an exercise should be undertaken with the digital media first as it has faster reach and information has the potential to go viral due to applications like WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook.

The fresh affidavit further said: By the very nature of its composition, the print and electronic media would rarely cross the line which may need intervention of this courts frequently. As against that, by its very nature the web based digital media, by and large, remains unregulated.

It said as against the limitation in case of print media and mainstream electronic media, **▶▶PAGE 02**

PDP Leaders Meet For First Time After Aug 5, 2019

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday held a meeting of its senior leaders here for the first time since Jammu and Kashmir's special status was revoked by the Centre in August last year, the party said.

The meeting was chaired by party's vice president Abdul Rehman Veeri in the absence of party president Mehbooba Mufti, who is under detention, at the PDP headquarters here.

The party held its first meeting post the release of party leaders who were detained in August last year when the Centre abrogated Article 370, a PDP spokesman said.

The meeting was attended

by senior leaders of the party, including former ministers and legislators, he added.

Mufti, who is also a former chief minister, continues to remain in custody under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA). She is currently lodged at her 'Fairview' residence on Gupkar road, which has been turned into a sub-jail.

Mufti and most other mainstream leaders, including former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, were taken into custody, and later booked under the PSA, on August 4 last year shortly before the Centre's move.

While the Abdullah father-son duo and most other mainstream leaders were gradually released from custody, the PDP

LG Sinha Calls For Speedy Implementation Of NEP

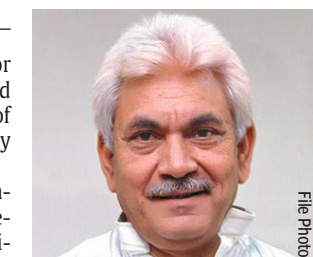
Observer News Service

JAMMU- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for a speedy implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sinha inaugurated a brainstorming session on the implementation of the policy at University of Jammu here.

Termining education a blessing, the LG said with right approach and determined efforts a golden future for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir can be created.

Sinha said there are bright minds in the union territory and the new education policy



will have a greater impact in Jammu and Kashmir.

The LG said it is his dream to make the union territory an oasis of talent with a skilled population and promised to work tirelessly to make it a reality".

He said the union territory administration and **▶▶PAGE 02**

Militancy Incidents Down By Half After Art 370 Revocation: Govt

Agencies

NEW DELHI: There has been a drastic decline in terrorist incidents in Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 from the erstwhile state on August 5 last year, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed Parliament on Monday comparing the last two years' data.

The terrorist incidents from July 7, 2018 to August 4, 2019 (in 393 days) were 443 while the number from August 5, 2019 to August 31, 2020 (393 days) reduced to 206. Similarly, the number of stone pelting cases reduced from 703 to 310.

A total of 54 civilians were killed from July 7, 2018 to August 4, 2019

while the number went down to 45 from August 5, 2019 to August 31, 2020, Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply.

As per the data shared by the minister, a total of 125 security personnel were killed in the 393 days before August 5 while the number reduced to 49 – almost one-third – during the same number of days after August 5.

The government on August 5, last year scrapped Article 370 from Jammu & Kashmir which gave it special status and later bifurcated it into two Union Territories – Jammu & Kashmir with an Assembly and Ladakh without one. **▶▶PAGE 02**

Thin Attendance As Schools Reopen In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An extremely thin attendance was registered on Monday as the schools reopened after remaining closed since March owing to COVID-19 induced lockdown. "Schools are not for regular classes but consultation", Principal Secretary, School Education & Skill Development Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon said.

All educational institutions in the Kashmir valley were closed in March this year due lock down and restrictions imposed by the government due to COVID 19 pandemic.

Unlock 4 guidelines by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) allow schools to partially reopen from



September 21, stating that students from Classes 9 to 12 will be allowed to visit teachers for a limited time to seek guidance. The guidelines said parent consent is mandatory,

and the relaxation does not apply to containment zones.

However, the reopening of schools evoked sharp reaction from political and social **▶▶PAGE 02**

Delhi Riots: 5 Persons Received Rs 1.61Cr For Executing Conspiracy In Riots, Alleges Chargesheet

NEW DELHI: Former Congress Councillor Ishrat Jahan, activist Khalid Saifi, suspended AAP Councillor Tahir Hussain, Jamia Millia Islamia Alumni Association President Shifa Ur Rehman and Jamia student Meeran Haider allegedly received Rs 1.61 crore for managing protest sites against the Citizenship Amendment Act in Delhi and executing the conspiracy hatched for the riots in north east Delhi in February, police have said in their

chargesheet. Police have filed the chargesheet against 15 accused in the case related to 'larger conspiracy' in the communal violence in north east Delhi in February. During investigation it has come to notice that during the period December 1, 2019 to February 26, 2020 total Rs 1,61,33,703 was received by the accused persons Ishrat Jahan, Khalid Saifi, Tahir Hussain, Shifa-

Ur Rehman and Meeran's Haider through bank account or cash. Out of the total Rs 1.61 crores, Rs 1,48,01186 was withdrawn as cash and spent in managing the protest sites as well to execute the conspiracy hatched in riots in Delhi," the chargesheet said. The document claimed that on further investigation it has been found that on December 10, accused Ishrat Jahan received Rs 4 lakh in her bank account from a corporation bank account. On in-

vestigation, account was found in the name of Mahadev Vijay Kaste from Maharashtra, it said, adding that during his examination Kaste disclosed that he does not know Jahan directly and he works as a driver for Sameer Abdul Sai, a resident of Maharashtra. He further disclosed on in-struction of his employer Sai he took a gold loan of Rs 4,31,700 from ICICI bank. This amount was transferred by the ICICI bank to the above mentioned corpo-

ration bank account. He further disclosed that on asking, his employer Sai transferred Rs 4 lakh to Jahan's account from to-tal amount, police alleged in the chargesheet. It further alleged that Sai disclosed during examination that Imran Siddiqui from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh was his business partner. On December 9, 2019, Imran had given three bank account numbers belonging to Jahan, Gulzar Ali and Bilal Ahmad and asked him to

transfer Rs 10 lakhs to these 3 accounts urgently. As he showed his inability to transfer Rs 10 lakhs, he insisted for Rs 5 lakhs to Jahan's ac-count urgently," it said. Police further alleged that Im-ran, brother-in-law of Jahan, dis-closed that he took Rs 4 lakh from his sister-in-law for some business. He did not mention in his IT return that he has taken a loan of Rs 4 lakh from Jahan. He did not give any satisfactory answer re-garding expenditure/use of that

money, police said. Police further alleged in their chargesheet that on scrutiny of bank accounts of Jahan, it was found that on January 10, 2020, there was a cash deposit of Rs 1, 41,000 in her account by herself. During interrogation she could explain the source of this amount. On scrutiny of the bank statements, it has been found that Jahan has withdrawn Rs 4,60,900 as cash from her bank account.

Corps Commander Level...

China on the border row under the framework of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs, was part of the delegation. The team also comprised Lt Gen PGK Menon, who is expected to succeed Singh as the commander of the 14 Corps next month, the sources said.

The sources said the Indian team insisted on an early and complete disengagement of troops by Chinese People's Liberation Army(PLA) to end the four-and-a-half-month standoff, adding the agenda for the talks was to chart a specific timeline for implementation of the five-point agreement.

The agreement aimed at ending the tense standoff included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC. At the previous five rounds of Corps commander-level talks, the Indian side has insisted on complete disengagement of Chinese troops at the earliest, and immediate restoration of status quo ante in all areas of eastern Ladakh prior to April. The face-off had begun on May 5. The fifth round of Corps commander talks on August 2 lasted for nearly 11 hours while the fourth round went on for nearly 15 hours on July 14.

Military sources, meanwhile, said the newly-inducted Rafale jets started carrying out sorties in various forward areas in eastern Ladakh as part of measures to give a boost to the overall combat readiness in view of the "provocative actions" by Chinese troops in the last three weeks.

The deployment of French-made Rafale jets in Ladakh came less than 10 days after they were formally inducted into the Indian Air Force(IAF).

At a ceremony in Ambala on September 10 where five Rafale jets were inducted into the IAF, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said this was crucial considering the atmosphere being created along the frontier and was also a "big and stern" message to those eyeing India's sovereignty.

The sources said the Indian Army has made elaborate arrangements to maintain the current level of troop and weapons deployment in all forward areas in eastern Ladakh and other sensitive high-altitude sectors in the harsh winter months when the temperature drops up to minus 25 degree Celsius.

They said the situation remained tense at both the southern and northern bank of the Pangong lake area as well as in other friction points.

There have been at least three attempts by the soldiers of the PLA to "intimidate" Indian troops along the northern and southern bank of Pangong lake area in the last three weeks where even shots were fired in the air for the first time at the LAC in 45 years.

The situation in eastern Ladakh deteriorated after China unsuccessfully attempted to occupy Indian territory in the southern bank of Pangong Lake on the intervening night of August 29 and 30.

On September 7, the Chinese troops again made an unsuccessful bid to close in on the Indian position and even fired shots in the air in the Mukphari area of Rezag-La ridgeline on the southern bank of Pangong lake.

As Jaishankar and Wang were set to hold talks in Moscow, Chinese soldiers fired a barrage of "warning shots" in the air on the North Bank of Pangong lake to "intimidate" the Indian troops, Indian Army sources had said.

India occupied a number of strategic heights on the southern bank of Pangong lake and strengthened its presence in Finger 2 and Finger 3 areas in the region to thwart any Chinese actions.

China has been occupying the areas between Finger 4 and Finger 8. The mountain spurs in the area are called Fingers.

Army To Use Double-Humped ...

(DRDO) in Leh has conducted research on the double hump or Bactrian camels which can carry load of 170 kilograms at an elevation of 17,000 feet height in the Eastern Ladakh region.

Speaking to ANI, DRDO scientist Prabhu Prasad Sarangi said, "We have been doing research on double hump camels. They are local animals. We have researched on endurance and load-carrying capacity of these camels. We have conducted research in Eastern Ladakh area at 17,000 ft height near the China border and found they can carry a load of 170 kg and with this load they can patrol for 12 kms."

These local double hump camels were also compared to single hump camels which were brought in from Rajasthan to test them for endurance. These camels can survive on food and water scarcity for three days.

Now the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) is focusing on increasing the population of these double hump camels.

"Trial has been conducted and these camels will soon be inducted into the Army. These animals have less population but after proper breeding once we reach the numbers then they will be inducted," Sarangi added.

Indian Army traditionally uses in the region mules and ponies which have the capacity to carry around 40 kgs of load.

Soldier Injured In Chrar-e-Sharif...

militants on Monday evening attacked a CRPF party with an Under Barrel Grenade launcher in Arwani area of Anantnag district. The device missed the target and there was no loss of life or injury reported in the incident, officials said.

Soon after the attack whole area has been cordoned off to nab the attackers.

Earlier in the day, suspected militants attacked a road opening party from 110 battalion CRPF in Nowgam area of Srinagar district.

However there was no loss of life or injury reported even as whole area was cordoned off to nab the attackers. When this report was filed, no arrests were made anywhere.

Covid-19 Claims 21 More...

Abad Uri, who was admitted with bilateral Community Acquired Pneumonia three days ago, and a 45-year-old from Gund Hasi Bhat, who was admitted as a case of bilateral CAP and died five days after being admitted there.

Among the fatalities from Jammu, officials said included a 65-year-old from Muthi, a 60-year-old from Gangyal Jammu, a 74-year-old from Bishnah, a 50-year-old woman from Jandraha and a 55-year-old from Bari Brahmana Jammu.

With these deaths, 1026 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir and among them 780 from Kashmir and 246 from the Valley. (With GNS inputs)

88 Security Men Among...

the remaining 473 were confirmed by the officials in Kashmir Valley. Giving the district wise details, officials said that Srinagar reported 141 cases, Budgam 60,Baramulla 79, Pulwama 54, Anantnag 36, Bani-pora 22, Kupwara 14, Ganderbal 56, Kulgam 5, Shopian 6, Jammu 245, Rajouri 66, Udhampur 30, Kathua 34, Doda 59, Samba 57, Poonch 14, Ramban 15, Reasi 26 and Kishtwar 7. Moreover, 1158 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were

discharged from various hospitals— 720 from Jammu Division and 438 from Kashmir Valley.

Journalist Summoned Over...

I could feel something was wrong. As I started walking inside the corridor, my heart beat faster," he wrote in a first person account.

Auqib said when he was waiting outside the SP's office as the cop accompanying him had gone inside, someone approached him from behind and slapped him.

"I heard the sounds of boots approaching, and as I turned to see who it was, a masked policeman slapped me hard on my left cheek. He did sound like a local. "Kis liye aaya hai tu (why have you come?)," he demanded. Once I recovered from the shock of the slap, I said, "SP saab has called me". He slapped me hard again and left," Auqib alleged. "It was the first time I had ever been hit. As I stood there in a fog of shock, I somehow and vaguely rationalized this assault as the cost of doing journalism in Kashmir. I was not the first to be intimidated," Auqib wrote.

Auqib said he wanted to know under what law he was summoned by the SP of Cyber Police and verbally abused and slapped by the cops. He was then sent to the SP, incharge of the police's cyber cell, Tahir Ashraf Bhatti's room. Auqib writes that the SP questioned him about "how could he write that cyber police are bullying people".

According to the journalist, Bhatti demanded to know why he had used a picture of the Cargo center, when it was not the cyber police station, and why he had written a "concocted" story. "He started abusing my mother and sister and kept up the shouting," Auqib has written. Auqib said he told the SP that the story was based on facts but the picture and headline were written by the editors at Article-14.

"No, this is a fake and baseless story," the SP said, according to Auqib. However, Cyber Police refuted all these charges. In a press statement regarding the incident, the cyber police said, "the allegation of excesses by Police officials/officer published subsequently by Article-14 and other social media handles are misleading and factually incorrect, hence refuted."

"Javeed has committed a mistake of using the wrong picture and when Cyber Police conveyed this to him, he called his editor and re-moved the picture from the story," the press release added. But response poured on Twitter in support of the journalist from various politicians and journalists.

Assault on Journalist Draws Instant Response Peoples Conference chief, Sajjad Lone, called the act as "pure savagery" which is aimed at humiliation. Iltija Mufti, daughter of former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, also tweeted from her mother's account in support of Auqib.

Human Rights activist Khurram Parvez tweeted about it saying that it is a "very serious allegation".

Journalist Athar Parvaiz also came forward in support of Javeed and tweeted that questions asked by him should be answered.

Journalist Ahmer Khan described Javeed's experience as a "harrowing experience". Akash Banerjee who runs a Political & Social Satire platform, Desh-Bhakt, tweeted, "The Kashmir Cyber police says this article is 'mis-leading'.... One certainly hopes so, otherwise, this is a wake-up call on how dissent on social media will be closely monitored for all in the near future."

Founding Editor of The Wire, Siddharth Varadarajan questioned the Cyber Police in a tweet: "So instead of new police building the old building was shown by @Article14live and for this @Tahir.A summons the reporter? @kashmirpolice cyber head can't send an email pointing out this ridiculously trivial matter? Who will buy this drivl, drafted to justify his abuse of power?"

KEG Anguished At Abuse,...

over a story that was published by an on-line news portal in Delhi. The Guild said though the responsibility of the report published rests mostly with the publisher, the raw deal that Auqib Javed got post-summoning does not suit any decision-maker.

Auqib, in his first hand account, published by the website has said that he was slapped and abused. He also said that on the basis of the phone call, from the cyber cell, the website editor did acknowledge certain issues with the report and rectified it right away. Even if there could have been issues with the report, the reporter and the website were morally bound to rectify it, if any.

KEG has maintained throughout that the reporters, per se, lack a direct stake holding in a happening beyond reporting it for the society. Reporters' role and that of the larger media is mostly that of an unbiased postman. However, it is tragic that every time, there is an issue; it is the messenger that is under attack.

Yet again, the KEG is urging the authorities to avoid making media a casualty of a situation in which media lacks a role other than record-keeping.

Kashmir media including the newspapers published in Jammu and Kashmir and the professionals reporting for diverse media within and outside the country are professional, objective and very well experienced. Making media a deliberate victim does not augur well for the larger society and does not suit the democratic polity either.

KPC Demands LG's Intervention

Auqib also mentions that he was abused during this time. According to statement, the KPC feels this behavior towards a journalist is highly condemnable. "Hitting/slapping or abusing a journalist in connection with a story he or she has written cannot be accepted in any society and goes against the freedom of the press."

"We hope the higher ups in the police department thoroughly inquire into this matter", KPC statement read. KPC also urged the LG of J&K to look into these issues of difficulties faced by journalists while performing thier professional duties in Kashmir valley.

"Summons to reporters by the police for their stories has become a routine practice in Kashmir now.The club demands an end to this practice", it said.

"The LG's administration should work out a mechanism so that a conducive atmosphere is available for journalists to deliver their duties without fear and reprisals", the statement said.

‘Print Media Rarely Crosses ...

nothing is required for accessing digital media except a smart phone. This shows its potential spread and its potential to harm the very fabric of any nation. The electronic media would normally have a geographical barrier and would rarely have a global presence. The digital media, on the other hand, has global presence both in terms of content coming from out of India and the content going out from within the country, it said. As against this, there is absolutely no check on the web based digital media. Apart from spreading venomous hatred, deliberate and intended instigation to not only cause violence but even terrorism it is also capable of indulging in tarnishing the image of individuals and institutions. The said practice is, in fact, rampant, the affidavit said. It said any further regulation of electronic and print media by the court, either by way of guidelines or providing for any redressal mechanism, would incentivise broadcasters to use electronic media

less and telecast/ publish the same thing on digital platforms which would remain unregulated despite having wider reach without any corresponding responsibility or obligation.

However, if this court considers it necessary to lay down guidelines for the mainstream electronic and print media (which is not required as pointed out hereinabove), it is the need of the hour that this court starts the said exercise first with web based digital media' which includes web magazines' and web-based news channels' and web-based news-papers' as the same not only has a very wide reach but is completely uncontrolled, it said.

It reiterated that regulation of electronic and print media is substantially occupied by either legislative field or judicial pronouncements. By and large the dividing line - what is freedom of expression and what is not - is also capable of being culled out through various judicial pronouncements. The term hate speech' by its very nature is incapable of being precisely defined except by considering each case depending upon the facts arising therefrom, it said.

It said the court may not widen the scope of the plea by laying down any wider guidelines of general application and may leave the same to the competent legislature to provide the same.

It is also relevant to note that in case of electronic and print media, the security of the nation is also taken care of at the time of the registration and/or grant of license to the company or the organization intending to publish or broadcast either newspaper or a news-channel, it said.

It said that India has about 385 regular news channels which are registered or licensed by the central government under the Uplinking and Downlinking Policy Guidelines.

It said that News Broadcasters Association (NBA) is not the sole association having all broadcasters as its members and as is a non-statutory voluntary body, its membership is also voluntary.

It said another similar association News Broadcasters Federation (NBF) is also a voluntary organisation having several broadcasters including regional channels as its members.

Both these two associations have their own self-regulatory mechanism which is not only robust but can inspire confidence as both such self-regulatory mechanism are headed by a former judge of this court, it said.

It said self-regulatory mechanism for redressal of complaints in case of all the aforesaid organisations are, by and large, effective and ensures impartiality.

It said membership of such organisations does require examination as no broadcaster can be compelled to become a member of any of the voluntary organisations compulsorily.

This question is under examination of the central government as regards the manner and procedure to ensure one statutory umbrella mechanism redressal of grievances while completely ensuring journalistic freedom..., it said.

LG Sinha Calls For Speedy...

other stake holders will have to speed up discussions and implement the National Education Policy 2020 to transform the education scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

The advisor to the LG, K K Sharma, gave a brief presentation on the roadmap for the of implementation of the NEP 2020 in the union territory.

Thin Attendance As Schools...

organizations besides parents who questioned the government's decision alleging lack of proper facilities. Parents said they had to give an undertaking that if their children are infected the schools are not responsible for it which is totally unacceptable.

They further said the number of COVID-19 positive cases and deaths are witnessing daily increase in the valley.

Here in Srinagar, very few students were seen at a number of High and Higher Secondary Schools (HSS).

At Nawakadal in the down town there was hardly any student though teaching staff were present.

However, the situation in Kothi Bagh Girls HSS was a little different as students, some of them in uniforms, could be seen in the schools wearing masks. "We have kept masks so that any student who is not wearing masks could be provided", principal of the school said. Similar reports were received from other parts of the Kashmir valley, where parents questioned the necessity for filing undertaking that school was not responsible if their children got infected. Why the school management and government cannot take responsibility, the parents asked.

Dr Samoon said "schools reopening Monday not for regular classes but consultation" by volunteer secondary students on consent of parents with 50 per cent teachers on roster as per MHA lockdown 4 guidelines and Minister of Health and Family Welfare protocols conveyed by chief secretary and circulated to Deputy Commissioners (DCs) Directors and Chief Education Officers (CEOs).

In reply to a question by a parent that there is no sanitization and no bathroom facilities in government schools, Dr Samoon said all Deputy Commissioners have been directed to monitor the functioning of schools.

Another parent to a question as a father, my child's security is my primary concern and sending her to school could increase the risk of her catching COVID-19. The present pandemic situation and spike in Covid-19 cases in Srinagar is a matter of enormous concern. You should reconsider your decision.

Dr Samoon said please keep her home. "Young kids not to attend schools, he said adding unlock 4 decision is collective and at apex level. He further said anyone's only secondary school children can attend only with parents' consent.

"More than Students , Teachers are much more worried as they are compelled to Join Schools. Everybody is aware about Unlock 4 Guideline. But I believe it's prerogative of Government to take decision and Union Territory (UT) government should be more sensitive towards their students & Teachers", asked another parent.

However, Dr Samoon said no student is compelled; no regular classes, no compulsory attendance; senior students can volunteer to meet their teachers for guidance with parents' consent with face masks, keeping safe distances & to observe all covid protocols.

Dr Samoon said there is no proposal yet to reopen Middle schools. Schools remained closed from March though private schools were providing online classes to students, including minors, in the valley. The private schools charged full tuition fees from students. Online facility was not available for students of government schools who are from lower and lower middle class families (UNI).

Militancy Incidents Down...

After August 5, last year, the minister's reply mentioned, the number of terrorist incidents, stone pelting cases registered, civilians killed and security force personnel martyred in terrorist incidents in J&K reduced significantly because of the government's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism.

The government took various measures such as strengthening of security apparatus, strict enforcement of law against anti-national elements, intensified cordon and search operations to effectively deal with the challenges posed by terrorist organisations.

While keeping a close watch on persons who attempt to provide sup-

port to terrorists and initiating action against them, other steps by law enforcing agencies include enhanced interaction between police and public at various levels, sharing of intelligence inputs on real-time basis amongst all security forces operating in J&K, intensified area domination of militancy affected areas by deployment of additional 'nakas' and patrolling by security forces.

In order to bring about overall development for the benefit of people of J&K, Reddy informed the House that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also announced a package of Rs 80,068 crore under PMDP-2015. "This package consists of 63 major development projects in road sector, power generation and transmission, health infrastructure, establishment of two AIIMS, IITS, IIIMS and tourism-related projects," he said.

These projects are at various stages of implementation, said Reddy, adding training and employment opportunities for the youth of J&K are also provided under many schemes such as HIMAYAT and PMKVY. In order to mainstream the youth, special emphasis is being given to "Watan Ko Jano" programme, student exchange programme, sports as well as civic action programme of the CAPFs, he informed.

HC Quashes SFC Orders...

their right of being heard."

"An opportunity of being heard is the 'sine-qua-non' of every order/ decision involving disengagement of the services of Government servants, besides, reasons justifying so, while issuing the order, have to be spelt out in detail," the court said. However, in the case on hand, the court said that the principles of natural justice appear to have been violated with impunity. "The defence of the petitioners has been scuttled/ shut by deception and the procedure governing the subject has been given a complete go by."

The courtunderlined that justice was not only law and its administration, but is, in most cases, above law and is done to safeguard an individual from whatever he or she seeks protection. "Our country aims at the goal of achieving a welfare State where everyone is/ has to be, as far as possible, looked after. The principles of natural justice are imbibed from the Constitution itself," the court said.

The reason for disengaging the petitioners, the court said was that the Corporation was of the view that their services are no longer required. "The rules relating to reasonableness, good faith, justice, equity and good conscience, which are a part of law and relate to administration of justice and fairness, have been followed in breach and, resultantly, it has caused miscarriage of justice," the court said.

The services of the petitioners were regularized with the approval of the Chairman of the Corporation after passing of the 'performance test' on their part, the court said. "The corporation, all of a sudden, could not have unilaterally issued the disengagement orders of the petitioners solely on the ground that the services of the petitioners are no longer required," the court said and underlined that corporation was obliged under law to give adequate time to the petitioners for seeking their response before disengaging them.

"Given the above circumstances, both these petitions are allowed and, by a 'Writ of Certiorari', the impugned orders, viz., SFC Order No. 62 of 2012 dated 24th of February, 2012 and SFC Order No. 63 of 2012 dated 24th of February, 2012 are quashed," the court said and directed the Corporation to allow the petitioners to continue discharging their services. (GNS)

Pak Shells LoC In Poonch,...

Later, they opened fire and shelled areas at Sunderbani sector, the spokesperson said.

There was no report of any casualty in the cross-border shelling, which was continuing when last reports were received, he added.

NC Slams Govt's Response...

cases in the country have surpassed Brazil and now stands second to USA in spite of the stringent lockdown in the world.

"The lock down which was put in place at three hours notice forced millions into hunger and poverty, but failed to control the sprawl of the new infections. The crises induced by COVID-19 unleashed a dramatic economic collapse and humanitarian catastrophe in India, the most destructive being the trajectory of the disease due to the ill-conceived decisions and mismanagement of the situation by the incumbent government," he said.

"COVID-19 knocked the door of the country in early february this year. Unfortunately the government retort to the disease was non-chalant and slothful. No attention was paid to the augmentation of medical equipment and hospital infrastructure. On the contrary the government invested into the program like Namaste Trump and similar other insignificant programmes, turning volt face to the emerging storm," he added.

Drawing attention of the government towards the dearth of facilities and infrastructure in J&K, Masoodi said, "As far as J&K is concerned the region has already been under a stringent clampdown and curfew post unconstitutional abrogation of Articles 370, 35-A. The subsequent COVID-19 induced lock down compounded the miseries of the people. Our laborers were stuck across north Indian states. Many of them got infected due to the slack attitude of the government. On their arrival they were kept in primary schools and PanchayatChar which lacked basic facilities."

"The frontline staff, and numerous health workers including doctors, nurses have been working day in, day out notwithstanding the deficiency of necessary life saving gear. The local administration had also failed to give a bump to the required infrastructure at the very onset. On my behalf I released Rs 1.50 Cr from my MPLAD Funds in Anantnag constituency to enable the local administration to increase their efforts to combat the crises effectively. However the dearth of ventilators, ambulances is still felt in every district of J&K. So far nearly 14 lakh tests have been done, but the process needs to be amplified. The local frontline workers are still devoid of necessary masks and other live saving kits including PPE, masks etc," he said.

He urged the government to ensure necessary economic support to the J & K administration to address the exigencies that have arisen in wake of humanity's biggest ever public health crises. He also expressed dismay over the continuous gags on 4G internet connectivity in the state saying the measure has affected lakhs of our students and medical staff to work effectively during the ongoing COVID-19 induced crises. He impressed upon the GOI to restore full speed internet connectivity in the region.

On the recently announced economic revival package for J&K, Masoodi said the compensation announced was just 10% of the total losses suffered by J&K. "Every single sector of J&K is bleeding ranging from Horticulture to Manufacturing. The businesses are not able to pay their over dues to different banks. Many units are on the verge of bankruptcy, if the situation continues, it won't take time for the local business to turn into NPAs. The recompense which is being given out is too less to pay off the losses incurred by J&K economy," he added.

Minor Dies Of Strangulation...

revelation will come to fore after proper investigations. The officer said body has been handed over to family after conduct of medico-legal formalities.

He also said that case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation under Sec 174 CrPC taken up.

NEP-2020 in J&K

LG Inaugurates Brainstorming Conference

“It is my dream to make J&K an oasis of talents, having abundant wealth of knowledge, enterprise and skilled youth”: Lt Governor

JAMMU : Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha inaugurated a Second Conference on the Implementation of National Education Policy (NEP-2020) at Zorawar Singh Auditorium of Jammu University here today. The conference was jointly organised by the Jammu University and the Department of Higher Education.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG said that Jammu & Kashmir is gifted with, not only scenic beauty, but with brilliant minds. ‘I have a strong conviction that the New Education Policy will have far reaching effects in the Union Territory. Only education can help bring about a brighter future for J&K. It is my dream to make Jammu & Kashmir an oasis of talent having abundant wealth of knowledge, enterprise and skilled youth’, he said.

Assuring the Government’s commitment towards the Education sector, the LG remarked that Rs 300 crore have been released for creation of new as well as completion of under-construction colleges in J&K. Similarly, Rs 2392 crores have been released for the school and higher education sector of the UT. Centre has released additional fund of Rs 500 crore for Health & Medical Education which will give boost to existing resources of the UT, informed the LG. In context of the ongoing Covid pandemic, the Lt Governor identified the immediate need to intensify research on Epi-

demiology, Virology and Infectious Diseases across universities to equip the nation to face similar unfortunate events in future.

Quoting famous American writer philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson, the Lt Governor said, ‘The Secret of Education Lies In Respecting The Students’. As such there is a need to incorporate students’ feedback culture into our education system with emphasis on processing the feedback acquired for scientific assessment for the benefit of the system. Feedback of each individual student is crucial regardless of anything, he maintained.

Highlighting the key benefits of the New Education Policy, the LG said that the New Education Policy, aims to overhaul the entire pedagogy, in schools as well as institutions of higher education. He observed that the New Education Policy would ensure local empowerment while creating global talent.

Addressing the teachers’ fraternity, the Lt Governor called for orienting themselves to the changing dynamics of the education ecosystem which, according to him, is imperative to give shape to NEP-2020 on ground.

‘The New Education Policy will not only enable us to harvest the true potential of technology, but help us achieve equitable and inclusive education. It also focuses on faculty and institutional autonomy’, said the Lt Governor.

Addressing education institutions, the LG said that emphasis be laid on community development and tie up with corporates, philanthropists and top education experts from diverse fields, to ensure that students from disadvantaged and underprivileged backgrounds get equal opportunity through scholarships.

‘There is a need to bring all education institutions in line with the New Education Policy. There is need to incorporate new skill sets, innovative activities, new research programmes, scholarships, e-learning modules and vocational training into updated syllabus’, said the LG.

The work on setting up incubation centres and technology centres in Jammu should be expedited while ensuring a greater industry-academic relationship. Innovation be promoted through competitions and similar activities, remarked the LG. I am a firm believer in knowledge exchange which not only has its impact on the local community but also influences the talent pool at the global scale.

Discussion is redundant unless we have sincere communication, said the LG. Similarly, he said, free exchange of ideas is crucial for thriving education institutions and breakthrough innovations.

Highlighting skill development, the LG remarked that Jammu has a rich heritage of art and craft including silverware, weaving,

wood crafting and phulkari. According to the LG, the students be given internship in such skills and technology could be used to give branding and marketing to local artisans. He also called upon the students of Jammu to enthusiastically take up research according to their interests.

Appreciating the youth of J&K, the Lt Governor said that the nation requires talented individuals, who adapt to the changing global scenario and help make Jammu & Kashmir a fountainhead of knowledge, innovation, prosperity. I believe that the New Education Policy fulfills aspirations of J&K youth and helps create a Dynamic Knowledge Society in the region, he concluded.

Advisor to Lt Governor, KK Sharma said it is basically multi-disciplinary approach where the students coming from the rural area i.e. Socio-economically Disadvantaged Students will be benefitted.

Chairman, Draft Committee, NEP, Dr. K Kasturirangan, in his keynote address deliberated upon the elaborate process adopted for the formulation of the NEP 2020. The policy formation has adopted a rigorous process and has taken into consideration more than 2 lakh suggestions received from 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, more than 12,500 local bodies and about 675 districts, he informed.

JKH Corpn to Link Crafts With Showrooms

SRINAGAR : In a bid to revive traditional crafts like pottery, willow wicker, gabba sazi, bamboo work etc and provide support to the livelihood of the artisans involved, the present dispensation of J&K Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation is going to link such crafts with the corporation showrooms.

For this purpose, the corporation has asked a team of officers and officials to visit the artisan community/clusters/societies, self help groups involved in the manufacturing of Pottery, Willow Wicker, Gabba Sozi in the areas like Anchar Soura, Haran, Kachan of Ganderbal district and Kadipora, Anantnag to get in touch with the basic artisans of such crafts.

Corporation is soon inaugurating the remodeled Heri-

tage Showroom on modern lines in the Heritage Emporium Garden that shall carry a galaxy of handicrafts artifacts for display and sale.

In an effort to benefit the artisan community and to market the said products, the corporation is going to procure the artifacts of Pottery, Willow, Gabba on an outright purchase basis directly from the basic artisans thus eliminating the role of middlemen.

It is pertinent to mention that besides these new traditional crafts, the J&K Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation has been providing market support to handicrafts artifacts of various crafts viz Shawl, Pashmina, Carpet, Chain Stitch, Namdah, Paper Mache, Wood Carving, Crewel and Sozni embroidery.

JK Govt Signs MoU with Army for Kishtwar Airstrip

JAMMU: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Army today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for development and operationalization of Airstrip in Kishtwar.

Brig. Vikram Bhan, Commander, 9 Sector RR and Sh. S.Katoch, Commissioner Civil Aviation signed the MoU in the presence of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS PMO, Ministry

of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy, Space, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (through video conferencing) here at the Raj Bhavan.

Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Nitishwar Kumar Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sh. Sanjeev Verma, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Sh. M Raju, Sec-

retary to the Government, Civil Aviation Departments, Sh. Achal Sethi, Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Lt Gen. YK Joshi, GoC-in C Northern Command; Lt Gen. Harsha Gupta, GoC 16 Corps; Col. Rajneesh Giri, and Col. AK Panwar represented the Indian Army.

CJ Opens New Facilities at Central Jail

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21: Chief Justice of J&K High Court, Justice Gita Mittal today inaugurated new facilities at Central Jail Srinagar. These facilities include an interview block which has sound proof cabins, child friendly corners & separate enclosures for female inmates

and a welfare block with Barber shop, Canteen, Gymnasium, Recreation hall, Bakery & Innate calling system.

The CJ-bakery at Central Jail Srinagar shall run on commercial lines with major part of profit accruing to the inmates working in the bakery.

Public Notice

I have lost my driving license bearing NOL JK0540456/ Lab Somewhere. Now I want to apply for hte duplicate of the same . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact Assistant Regional Transport Office Baramulla within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

Sajad Ahmad Lone
S/o Gh Nabi Lone
R/o Kuchwa Makaam Baramulla

ftko

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : M/s P.B.S Construction R/o: Shalina Pampore Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04A-8079 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J & K Bank Ltd. B/U Chadoora Budgam

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1465
Dated 17/09/2020

MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Gh Nabi Daga S/o: Gh Rasool Daga R/o: Maloora Khwaja babh Sgr owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04B-4241 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Rajouri hire Purchase & Finance ltd B/U Jammu.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1466
Dated 17/09/2020

MCB



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

EXTENSION NOTICE

It is notified for information of all the concerned that the last date for submission of online application forms alongwith deposition of application fee for admission to the various programmes advertised vide Admission Notification No. 01 of 2020 dated: 21- 08- 2020 has been extended upto **3rd October, 2020**. The candidates can apply online for the aforesaid academic programmes on University Website at www.islamicuniversity.edu.in. All other Terms & Conditions including eligibility criteria for admission to the advertised programmes shall remain the same. Queries, if any, can be made on (01933) 247954/247955 (Ext: 1109) & can also be mailed on admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in

No: IU/ST/Adad/Admissions/20/563
Dated: 21-09-2020

Sd/-
Deputy Registrar, Academics

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) LANDSCAPING DIVISION KMR.

ENGINEERING COMPLEX, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

TENDER NOTICE

21/LSD/Srinagar/Jammu

tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

Administrative approval:
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantitie terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:

Date of issue of Tender Notice	
Period of downloading of bidding documents	
Deadline for receiving the Hard copy (Original challan or Treasury challan/receipt	Hard copy to be submitted by the successful bidder (L1) only within seven days after Financial
Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	Landscaping Division, Rajbagh

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of challan or Treasury challan/receipt (Non Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR **Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar ender receiving authority).** (The BG validity should be 45 days more

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web

Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)
The Employer can cancel the NT/LO/ALLOTMENT at any stage without any reason.

DIPK-6014/20

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

04 Safar
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 54
ZUHR	12: 24
ASR	4:47
Magrib	6:34
ISHA	7:54

This Day In History

- 1913 - Turkey and Bulgaria sign peace treaty in Constantinople
- 1922 - US President Warren G. Harding signs a joint resolution of approval to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine
- 1938 - Winston Churchill condemns Hitler's annexation of Czechoslovakia
- 1943 - Soviet 13th/61st Army reconquer Chyernigov
- 1955 - Last allied occupying troops leave Austria
- 1964 - Malta becomes independent from the United Kingdom.
- 1970 - Soviet space probe Luna 16 leaves the Moon
- 1979 - Stephen Jay Gould and Richard Lewontin publish influential paper (cited more than 4,000 times) "The Spandrels of San Marco and the panglossian paradigm", introducing idea of "spandrels" into evolutionary biology
- 1982 - STS-5 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1984 - NASA launches Galaxy-C
- 1990 - Reports that US refinery problems will lead to a loss in capacity and aggressive remarks by Saddam Hussein send crude prices to new highs
- 1991 - Armenia votes on whether to remain in Soviet Union
- 2003 - Galileo mission terminated by sending the probe into Jupiter's atmosphere, where it is crushed by the pressure at the lower altitudes
- 2004 - The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) People's War and the Maoist Communist Centre of India merge to form the Communist Party of India (Maoist).
- 2004 - Construction of the Burj Dubai starts
- 2008 - President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa resigns from office, effective September 25
- 2008 - Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel formally resigns from office, effective as soon as his successor Tzipi Livni has successfully assembled a new government.
- 2012 - Japanese Prime Minister, Yoshihiko Noda, wins a leadership ballot
- 2013 - 100 people are killed in a series of attacks across Iraq
- 2013 - 59 people are killed and 175 wounded in a shopping mall gun battle in Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2016 - Three genetic studies published in "Nature" conclude all non-Africans descended from one migration out of Africa 50-80,000 years ago
- 2016 - Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan pledge \$3 billion to medical research to "cure, prevent or manage all diseases by the end of the century"
- 2016 - Migrant boat carrying 450-600 people capsizes off the Egyptian coast, only 163 rescued
- 2016 - Genomic study finding Australian Aboriginal oldest known civilisation on earth published in "Nature"
- 2017 - Discovery of the first brainless animal that sleeps, the jellyfish Cassiopea, research published in "Current Biology" by Caltech scientists

From KO Archives

'India faces pressure to solve Kashmir'

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

ISLAMABAD: The International pressure is increasing on India to resolve its explosive Kashmir dispute with Pakistan, military ruler General Pervez Musharraf said Tuesday.

"As a result of concerted efforts of Pakistan, the international pressure is growing on India to settle this issue", reports quoted him as saying.

Musharraf, who was speaking to reporters at Gilgit in northern Pakistan, accused India of heightening tension along the line of Control (LoC), the unofficial border in Kashmir, which is divided between the two countries.

On Monday, the two sides reported a clash on the LoC, where skirmishes and duels occur routinely.

The military here said Indian troops attacked a Pakistani forward post in the Lipa region of Kashmir, adding that the attack was repelled and three Indian troops were killed and more than 10 wounded.

India's army said it fired on the Pakistani border outpost because of "menacing H movements," and killed six Pakistani soldiers. It denied Indian troops had crossed the LoC. Musharraf blamed Indians for frequent firing on villages close to the dividing line on the Pakistani side of the disputed Himalayan territory. He promised government assistance to the people affected by Indian firing.

(Kashmir Observer, September 22, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Elusive 4G

Centre has once again defended the internet restrictions in Kashmir arguing such curbs are in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India. At the same time, the union government has said that the throttled speeds are enough for digital education and public health services. Speaking in parliament, the minister of state for home GK Reddy said that the high-speed internet was already available in Kashmir on fixed line. He also informed the parliament about lifting of social media restrictions from March onwards.

If anything this shows that the government is in no mood to restore the high speed mobile internet anytime soon. And it doesn't think that the 2G speed hampers the access to online classes. According to Reddy, "E-learning apps and education and e-learning websites of the government are accessible over 2G internet for downloading e-books and other study material". Similarly for the minister "the 2G mobile internet speed is not an impediment in Covid control measures including dissemination of information to general public as well as health workers".

But ask the teachers and pupils in J&K, they would hardly agree with the union government on this. Truth is, it is certainly not feasible to study online with 2G speed. For one, it is challenging to attend the video classes which are a critical component of online education. Such classes enable a direct interaction of the students with their teachers and allows them to ask questions and seek clarifications. On 2G speed, the schools can send only a textual study material to students through mail. And that is as good as studying text books at home.

It is thus important that the government restores the high speed mobile internet. It is the best solution to lack of physical schooling. Use of communication technology would thus obviate the need for a hurried reopening of schools. But while the government is refusing to restore the high-speed internet, it is taking steps to reopen schools, a fraught decision under the circumstances.

As for the public health, the need for a high-speed mobile internet cannot be overemphasised. In this day and age, when people get most of their information on internet, government could have used 4G to deepen awareness about COVID-19, the disease caused by coronavirus. Information about the disease and its real-time dissemination among people is critical to fighting it. It empowers the people to take precautions and preventive measures on their own. But the government, it seems, doesn't want it. Its approach, as always, remains security centric when the need of the hour is prioritize healthcare and facilitate the online education of our children.

O T H E R O P I N O N

On IPL 2020

The glitzy high of the cricketing season, with its daily share of short bursts of thrills stretched across the summer. Since its launch in 2008, the IPL became a seasonal fix as inevitable as soaring temperatures and the reflexive craving for ice creams. The Twenty20 tournament seemingly brooked no resistance while the purists leant on the classical air that permeated Test cricket. Even in 2009 and 2014, when the Lok Sabha elections clashed with the IPL's schedule, the Board of Control for Cricket in India solved the logistical nightmare.

But 2020 has been a difficult year for humankind with the relentless spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Saturday night's inaugural contest of the IPL's 13th edition at Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Stadium, that pitted defending champion Mumbai Indians and last year's runner-up Chennai Super Kings, dished out a last-over climax with the latter stunning the former.

The lay-off from the game and the attendant rust was evident in the way the rivals fielded while the artificial crowd sound infused into the live telecast, reflects these fraught times of empty stadiums and bio-bubbles. Because of the constraints imposed by the virus and the cancellation of domestic cricket in India for now, the IPL at the Emirates, has turned out to be the season opener for the national players while also offering an opportunity for overseas stars to have a biff in the park. Eight teams playing 60 matches in 53 days across Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah, with a summit clash on November 10, will present its own set of challenges. The organisers have set stringent protocols even as a few tested positive in the lead-up to the championship. The players have to watch their health-parameters while helping cricket find its feet, an endeavour that England did first with remarkable efficiency by hosting the West Indies, Pakistan and Australia. It is a template worth emulating as fans starved of action wait to catch live moving images of M.S. Dhoni, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Steve Smith, Kane Williamson, AB de Villiers and other icons. Cricket in the Indian context has made a start and a lot is at stake as this IPL also offers a stage for Kohli and company to prepare for the coming tour of Australia.

The Hindu

Economy Central

Business Subsistence Package

Relevance, Adequacy and Impact

EJAZ AYOUB

The scale and nature of the twin shocks faced by the J&K economy has been extremely gigantic, the response too, therefore, deserves to be equally sizeable and effective. Neither the businesses nor the Government can afford anything short or anything late.

Soon after the first phase of the unprecedented lockdown, vis-à-vis article 370 abrogation was eased in the month of Dec 2019; the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) started running from pillar to post highlighting the piling up losses on account of irreversible damage sustained by the businesses across the Kashmir economy. From meeting Lieutenant Governor of the newly crafted Union Territory in Raj Bhawan seeking an audience with the Union Finance and Home minister in the North Block, their desperation for survival forced them to leave no stone unturned. Despite consistent and strenuous efforts, there was no tangible response from either the UT or the Union Government for over a year.

However, soon after the appointment of the new LG Mr. Manoj Sinha, things started moving at an accelerated pace. Within only 12 days of his appointment, a high level committee was framed which eventually doled out an economic revival package of Rs. 1353 crore within a short period of only 30 days.

The two aspects, therefore, which deserve to be acknowledged before embarking on the relevance, adequacy and impact of the package is the consistency and grit demonstrated by the KCCI and the swift and forthcoming attitude showcased by the new LG.

There is no denying the fact that the size of the loss incurred by J&K in last 13 months i.e. approximately Rs. 41,000 Crore and the meager volume of the financial response i.e. Rs. 1353 Crore, is beyond comparison. To put things into perspective, J&K's GSDP as per conservative estimates contracted by over 25% in the last 13 months. Compare this colossal contraction to the microscopic relief package, which is just 0.74% of the UT's GSDP.

J&K is not the only UT/State which has announced a state level economic revival package in order to fight Covid-19 lockdown induced economic slump. For example, compare J&K's relief package with a mammoth business revival package of Rs. 20,000 Crore announced by the state of Kerala, which is around 2.28% of its GSDP. The state of Gujarat too announced a substantial Rs. 14,000 Crore Covid-19 economic revival package, which is around 0.90 % of its GSDP. Contrary to other states of India, the fact that J&K has not been incurring losses on account of Covid-19 lockdown alone but also because of the lethal August 2019 shock, makes our paltry fiscal response even more insignificant.

Moreover, the package has been conveniently built around bank loans, ignoring the vast drivers of economy which operate outside the system of bank credit. A major portion of the J&K economy is informal in nature, for which procedural barriers and hassles erected by the banking system act as disincentives for lower strata of businesses in choosing formal credit and banking channels. Almost 80% of the package i.e. Rs. 1089 Crore is aimed at easing the burden of bank interest for the indebted businesses. A part of it i.e. Rs.139.24 Crore is a part of the pendency on account of restructured loan accounts of 2014 floods and 2016 unrest. As per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), J&K's workforce hovers

around 43 Lakh. And as per Reserve Bank of India, there are a total of around 18 lakh borrowers in J&K, of which approximately 42% have exposure towards personal loan products. The remaining 58%, therefore, comprise approx. 10.5 Lakh business loan borrowers. In other words, 80% of the package announced, shall benefit only 24% of the 43 lakh income generators in the economy, leaving a whopping 76% outside the purview of the interest subvention scheme. Factor to it the fact that the ineligibility of Kisan Credit Card borrowers, Artisan Credit card borrowers and the eligibility riders of being standard on July 2019 and March

jecting allocation of Rs.15 crore for bio-digesters as a business revival incentive is absolutely misplaced. It is more of Government's obligation towards ecology rather than a fiscal support to the houseboat owner. Likewise, the insurance premium support announced as a part of the package for transports is a decision in the right direction. It would have been even better if the upper caps would have been raised more magnanimously.

Transporters were expecting relaxation in various taxes like the passenger tax, road tax, GST on insurance and waiver of transport loan EMIs for the last 12 months. None of their expecta-



2020, the net eligible borrowers who shall be able to benefit under the interest subvention scheme is going to shrink even further.

Although the Govt for the first time has acknowledged the chronically turbulent nature of the economic environment within which the businesses in valley operate, however, when it comes to the calculations—there has been a clear mismatch in deeds and words. The calculation of 5% interest subvention, which constitutes over 70% of the package, has been carefully decoupled from the Aug 5, 2019 political shock and the base assumption on which almost the entire response has been crafted, recognizes Covid-19 lockdown from April 2020 as the starting point. This has been a serious letdown.

In addition to the above mentioned points, the sectoral hierarchy of the economic drivers of J&K have been totally ignored and the response has been left to the existing credit exposure distribution patterns of the banking system. The amount of incentives received by respective sectors, therefore, shall be governed by the credit portfolios of banks. By nature of the capital intensive business models in manufacturing and construction, the flow of the package will be skewed accordingly. This might end up leaving comparatively less credit dependant sub sectors of service sectors like hospitality, tourism, trade and social sectors like education and healthcare in lurch. This broad brush approach can be fatal given the fact that Agriculture, Horticulture, Hospitality and Tourism occupy the central axis around which rest of the economy operates in J&K. A sector specific relief measure would have been more effective in optimizing the limited resources available with the fiscally challenged Government coffers.

The incentives of waiving of the water charges is a welcome decision, however, electricity charges waiver have been too miserly designed. This has resulted in more heartburn than relief. Pro-

tions were misplaced given the amount of business this sector has lost in the last 13 months and the amount of damage it has done to all the families associated with it. A remuneration of Rs. 1000 for 6 months, therefore, for these drivers and cleaners associated with buses, mini buses, cabs and autos need to be revisited, both in terms of amount as well as duration.

Other allocations in terms of Rs.1000 monthly income support towards 3100 artists and 19914 workers in the tourism sector deserve an applause, however, here also the duration as well as amount deserve to be revisited. These economically vulnerable sections of the society are the basic elements of demand in the system. Handing over cash directly to them makes not only social but also a lot of economic sense.

The business revival package was a much needed injection of confidence for the rotting economy of J&K. Despite being insufficient in size and not being holistic in direction, the fact that the administration on records has stated that there is more to follow, should give stakeholders even stronger reasons to pursue the demands. Administration at the same time needs to widen its horizon and include more effective response tools like tax rebates, small loan waivers, operational expenses support and above all connectivity, logistical and marketing support to the limping businesses. The scale and nature of the twin shocks faced by the J&K economy has been extremely gigantic, the response too, therefore, deserves to be equally sizeable and effective. Neither the businesses nor the Government can afford anything short or anything late.

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“Addiction” an overused word

The word addiction is used to describe different types of behavior. It has been overused so much that it has lost much of its meaning. The individual who enjoys watching a TV serial or plays PUBG might say that they are addicted to it. The same word will also be used to describe somebody who has lost almost everything to alcohol or drug abuse. It is obvious that in these two examples the word addiction is referring to two different things. The problem seems to be that many people mix up the words passion with addiction.

There are important differences between passion and addiction. The individual who feels passionate about

an activity will experience strong emotions that encourage them to engage in it. This does not mean that they will develop physical or psychological symptoms if they fail to engage in it.

The other difference between addiction and passion is that the individual who is addicted, might no longer wish to engage in the substance abuse. They know what they are doing is highly destructive, but they are unable to stop.

Overall, passion benefits a person's life while an addiction puts them into a downward spiral where they could lose everything. Addiction rips the life of the individual apart. It is vital that they quit this behavior as

soon as possible.

Passion can be defined as a strong liking or desire for some activity or object. Those individuals who feel passionate about a hobby or job will be full of enthusiasm for it. They will be willing to put a great deal of effort and time into this activity because they know that they will be rewarded for this. It is this emotion of passion that has encouraged all human advancement and encouragement.

Addiction, on the other hand, can be defined as a physical or psychological dependence on a substance – most usually a psychoactive substance. To say that somebody is physically dependent means that they will become

unwell if they try to abruptly stop using the addictive substance.

What some people mean when they say that a passion has turned into an addiction is that the behavior of the individual has become self-destructive. They have become so obsessed with their passion that it has begun to interfere with their ability to live a normal life.

Passion is a wonderful thing to have, but it should be tempered with a bit of balance. As the saying goes, people should always avoid putting all their eggs in one basket.

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A Year Of Silent Houseboats

It has been a year of longing, a year of waiting, a year of reverie and a year of silent houseboats

MUNEZA RAFIQ

Houseboats used to be like that — lively wooden things reverberating with light, laughter and conversations with a cuppa kehwa to sip. I haven't had any of that for a year now.

It has been a year since I have heard anyone speak in German or in Siamese or even in Marathi. It has been a year of longing, a year of waiting, a year of reverie and a year of silent houseboats — quiet and empty.

At my home, mornings would always be full of activity. Most mornings I would wake up to the smell of omelettes and gentle clatter of knives and forks against china. I would hear my mother talking in broken English, desperately searching for English counterparts of Kashmiri words.

One could see the excitement of heading to Gulmarg or Sonamarg in the early morning rush. Boilers at the back of houseboats would billow smoke; warming the cold water. The roaring engines of Royal Enfields were another hallmark. "Madam main flower wala, flower lega?" or "Memsahab, would you like to see some jewellery?" would say the Shikarawalas.

Tourists wearing *Pherans* would pose for the photographer, excited to take in as much Kashmir as they could. That's how my mornings used to be — a showcase of foreign languages and Kashmir's hospitality.

Evenings were filled with chats in languages I couldn't comprehend. An occasional laughter would burst out from dining rooms. Houseboats used to be like that — lively wooden things reverberating with light, laughter and conversations with a cuppa kehwa to sip.

I haven't had any of that for a year now.

The last time there were any tourists was in July, last year. Since then, houseboats are lying vacant. While much of business is turning around now, however, small houseboats and the people associated with them haven't seen any change. The people associated with houseboats have been watching their boats turn into poor irrelevant things.

As a kid, I would play with children from different places — Mumbai, Pune, Australia, Kerala, and Korea to name a few. We would sneak into a house-

boat (we have three boats at my home) and play hide and seek; hiding under anything — dining table, beds, chairs and couches.

I never felt any different from them and they showered me with lots of love. They looked at me in awe, surprised, at my fair complexion, long nose and certainly my red cheeks. At times, I along with *Dadu*, would go to Gulmarg with them or to the Mughal Gardens.

I never knew life would take a drastic turn and take away the only way of life we have ever known.

Over the years, the number of tourists that come to stay in houseboats has been nothing but dwindling. Beeline of agents and cheap hotels are among the factors responsible for the decline. Nothing can replace the exotic experience that a houseboat of-

to promote and preserve them.

It's been more than a year now without any business. To top it off, the government recently announced the New Houseboat Policy which requires houseboat owners to re-register their boats after fulfilling certain conditions such as having a digester, a sophisticated menu and a modern kitchen. Under this policy, making of new houseboats is strictly prohibited. It encourages houseboat owners to surrender their boats for a meagre compensation. This policy comes at a time when houseboat community is most vulnerable. The policy seeks to relocate houseboats; to where? — Only God knows.

This policy aims at wiping out houseboats in the name of conservation of Dal. At a time when big businesses around the world have been shattered,

Over the years, the number of tourists that come to stay in houseboats has been nothing but dwindling. Beeline of agents and cheap hotels are among the factors responsible for the decline.

fers and maintaining its delicacy is not an easy task. Huge investments go into maintaining a boat. The workers skilled in repairing a houseboat are limited, demanding high wages. Additionally, since a houseboat is solely made of deodar, it becomes a very expensive and cumbersome affair to buy timber when it is needed.

With all the expenses, the price per room of a houseboat has still stayed more or less the same during recent years making it less and less profitable to run a boat. There have been many instances in which a houseboat caught fire charring its wooden dexterity, walnut wood furniture, expensive carpets and wood carving. The losses are massive.

The funny part is there is no policy which compensates houseboat owners when their boats are reduced to ashes or when a houseboat submerges requiring investment in crores (the prices of timber have skyrocketed). What is even worse is the fact that there's no way of insuring houseboats.

Houseboat owners have never been offered any worthy economic stimulus whenever situation turned bad in Kashmir and the administration promotes, "Kashmir's potential for tourism" with houseboats and shikaras printed on banners.

Sometimes due to lack of resources an owner sells his boat and prefers another venture. This is the reason why the number of houseboats in Srinagar's water bodies has gone down from 1500 to a mere 900, as recently reported by The Tribune.

Houseboats are Kashmir's and Kashmiris' heritage and have been an important part of Kashmir's tourism industry. Houseboats are an inseparable part of Kashmir's identity and culture. There was a time when Britishers would come to stay in houseboats because of the luxurious experience that they offer.

Houseboats in the past have attracted film stars and many high-profile guests. International celebrities like the Beatles lead guitarist George Harrison too have stayed in houseboats but unfortunately no step has been taken by subsequent administrations

this policy requires houseboat owners to make massive investments or risk losing their registration.

The haphazard manner in which the policy has been rolled out without logical consideration of rehabilitation and preservation, makes the agenda clear: to take advantage of the helplessness of the houseboat community and snatch their livelihoods by relocating their boats away from the Dal.

The houseboat community has always cooperated in the conservation of Dal. It being their source of livelihood, they will willingly make the necessary amendments to their boats. However, the way in which the policy has been framed, its timing and its aim to separate the two is regrettable.

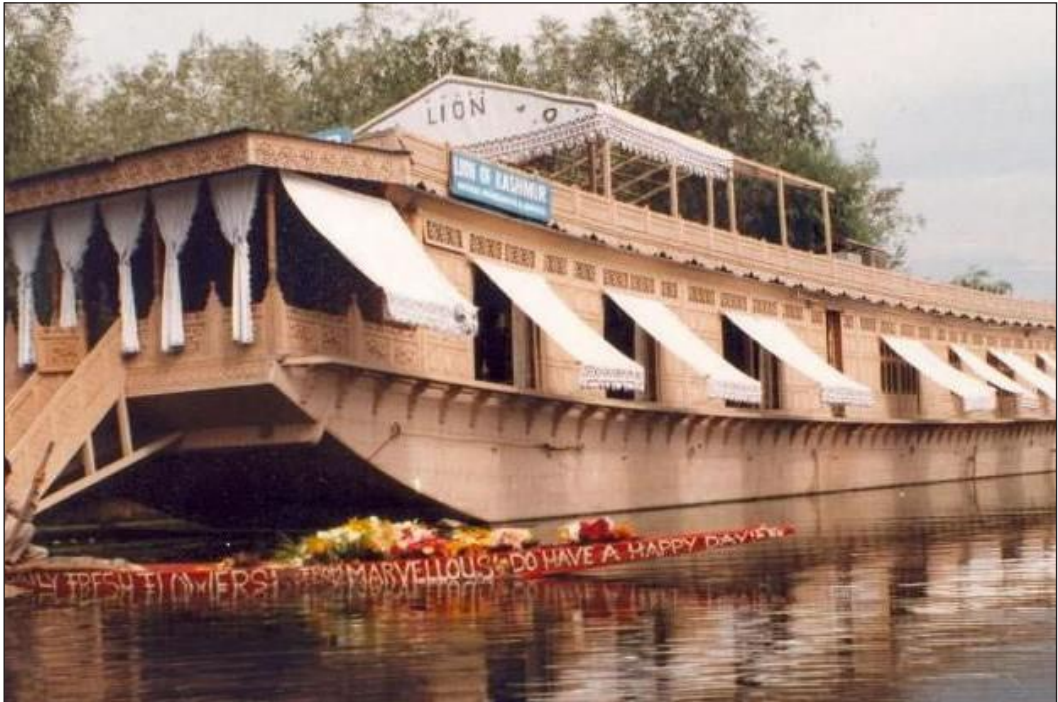
Are only houseboats and Dal dwellers polluting the Dal?

On many occasions I have seen people tossing wrappers and plastic bottles into the lake and going about their lives as if the responsibility to conserve Dal lies solely with the Dal dwellers. But when it comes to taking aesthetic pictures with Dal and Shikaras in the background, the passion with which people do it is hypocritically unparalleled.

The time is not far away when there will be no houseboats lining the waters of Dal and no aesthetic backgrounds. I know many people who are considering selling their boats. It is too painful to see this community losing their boats — for a houseboat owner his boat is his right arm.

Houseboats creak when you walk in them, reminding you to be gentle. They smell of timber and walnut, Lotus and Lilies, Kehwa and Kashmir. As houseboats fade into the background, abandoned, forlorn and forgotten, I may never wake up to find that gentle clatter of knives and forks against china and might never hear my mother speak in broken English — searching desperately for English counterparts of Kashmiri words.

Muneza Rafiq is a student of Economics





RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Linked To 23 Per Cent Higher Diabetes Risk

THIS FINDING SUPPORTS THE NOTION THAT inflammatory pathways are involved in the pathogenesis of diabetes," said the authors of the study conducted by Zixing Tian and Adrian Heald of University of Manchester in Britain and their colleagues.

Agencies

People suffering from rheumatoid arthritis may be at 23 per cent increased risk of developing Type-2 diabetes, says a new study.

The study, presented at the European Association for the Study

of Diabetes (EASD), being held online this year from September 21-25, may indicate that both diseases—rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes—are linked to the body's inflammatory response.

"This finding supports the notion that inflammatory pathways are involved in the pathogenesis of diabetes," said the authors of the study conducted by Zixing Tian and Adrian Heald of University of Manchester in Britain and their colleagues.

"Agents that reduce systemic inflammatory marker levels may have a role in preventing type 2 diabetes. This may involve focusing on more than one pathway

at a time," the researchers said.

Inflammation has emerged as a key factor in the onset and progression of Type-2 diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune and inflammatory disease.

The team suggests that the systemic inflammation associated with rheumatoid arthritis

might therefore contribute to the risk of an individual developing diabetes in the future.

The researchers conducted a comprehensive search of a range of medical and scientific databases up to March 10, for cohort studies comparing the incidence of diabetes among people with rheumatoid

arthritis to the diabetes risk within the general population.

Statistical analyses were performed to calculate the relative risks. The eligible studies identified comprised a total of 1,629,854 participants.

The authors found that having rheumatoid arthritis was associated

with a 23 per cent higher chance of developing Type-2 diabetes, compared to the diabetes risk within the general population.

"We suggest that more intensive screening and management of diabetes risk factors should be considered in people with rheumatoid arthritis," the researcher said.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER
ANANTNAG

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Gazi Masood S/O Ab Ahad Wagay R/Overinag Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd.No.JK03B-9149(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Showkat Ahmad S/O Ali Mohd Sheikh R/O Bakshiabad Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with N/A.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER
ANANTNAG

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mrs.Hafiza Banoo W/O Mohd Akbar Hajam R/O Shakhipora Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd. No.JK03J-1783(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Mohd Iqbal Mir S/O Bashir Ahmad Mir R/O Malaknag Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with N/A.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

of Jammu & Kashmir
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) LANDSCAPING DIVISION KMR
ENGINEERING COMPLEX, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR
TENDER NOTICE
21/LSD/Srinagar/Jammu

tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

Administrative approval:
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantity Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:

Date of issue of Tender Notice	
Period of downloading of bidding documents	
Deadline for receiving the Hard copy (Original)	Hard copy to be submitted by the successful bidder (L1) only within seven days after Financial
Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of challan or Treasury challan/receipt (Non money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar (T (The BG validity should be 45 days more

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site _____ of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site

Executive Engineer R&B Landscaping Division, Rajbagh, Srinagar

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of

The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:
tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security
Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement

50% of the normal deposits (deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50%

Additional performance security required as per NIT conditions shall be released after virtual completion of the work.
are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)
The Employer can cancel the NIT/LOI/ALLOTMENT at any stage without any reason.

DIPK-6031/20

Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi Srinagar
E-NIT No.27 of 2020-21 Dated 18. 09.2020

For and on behalf of Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar e-tenders (In single cover system) invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors /suppliers Regd. With UTI J&K for each of the following item/work,

S. No	Name of work	Est. cost (Rs in lacs).	Earnest money/ Bid Security (In Rs)	Cost of tender document (in Rs	Time of Completion	Class of contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Restoration and procurement of spares for animal control power fence at RSGC Srinagar	1.90 Lakhs	3800/= in Shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Turf Manager RSGC	200/= Non Refundable in shape of DD in favour Secretary RSGC or Bank Challan SB-12341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar	20 working days	A class Electrical contractor / Suppliers/ Dealers	5452-Toursim

Position of Funds: Demanded
Special conditions: -
1. In case the offered bid is below 60% of the advertised cost or more, such bid / bids will be out rightly rejected.
In case more than one bidder have quoted equal bid amounts or bids are found to a "Tie" 1st lowest will from draw of lots.
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18- 09- 2020 4:00 PM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18-09-2020 to 28-09-2020 (3.00PM)
3.	Bid submission Start Date	18-09-2020 4:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	28-09-2020 4:00 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	29. 09.202011:30 AM in the office of Turf Manager RSGC Srinagar

General Conditions:
1. The successful bidder shall submit original Demand Drafts/CDR and copies of Registration Certificate and PAN//GST No. in person within two days from the opening of the bids failing which proceeding as warranted under rules shall be initiated in the matter.
2. The bidders will provide email ID and complete postal address including cell numbers.
3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Bids

Turf Manager
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar.

DIPK-NB-2465/20
No:- RSGC/TM /2020-21/128-30
Dated:-18-09 .2020.

Oppn parties in Pak launch alliance to oust PM Imran

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: Demanding Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's immediate resignation, the country's major Opposition parties have launched an alliance to hold a countrywide protest movement to oust his government.

A 26-point joint resolution was adopted on Sunday by the



All Parties Conference (APC), which was hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and attended by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Jamaat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) and several other parties.

At a joint press conference after the end of the multi-party meeting, JUI-F chief Mualana Fazl ur Rehman read out the resolution and said that the Opposition parties have agreed to launch an alliance named Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to organise countrywide protests against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government from October.

The resolution alleged that the Khan government has been granted "fake stability by the same establishment" that interfered with the elections to bring

the incumbent rulers to power.

In an obvious reference to the powerful Pakistan Army, the resolution expressed "extreme concern" over the increasing interference of the establishment in the internal affairs of the country and regarded it as a "danger to the nation's stability and institutions".

According to the resolution, the protests would start in phases. In the first phase, the Opposition parties will hold joint rallies in all four provinces in October. The second phase will begin in December during which the Opposition will hold huge rallies across the country.

Finally, a "decisive" long march towards Islamabad would start in January next year to oust the government.

The forum also demanded that elections be held again in a transparent manner and that electoral reforms should be passed in order to ensure free and fair polls.

Terming the Parliament a "rubber stamp", the PDM declared that the opposition will not cooperate with the government in the legislative process.

The Opposition will also enlist lawyers, traders, farmers, students, media as well as members of the civil society in its movement. In order to oust the government, opposition parties will use "every legal and constitutional option in and out of parliament, which include moving no-confidence motions and collective resignations from assemblies at an appropriate time," the resolution stated.



Russia launches Kavkaz-2020 military drills, featuring forces from Iran, China

Agencies

Moscow: The joint military exercises, which started on September 21 and will run through September 26 involve about 80,000 personnel, including officers of the Russian Emergencies Ministry and the Russian Guard, as well as up troops from Iran, Armenia, Belarus, China, Myanmar and Pakistan.

In addition, more representatives from the armed forces of Iran, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka will participate as observers of the military drills. About 12,900 military personnel from the participating countries are going to take part in

activities covered by the 2011 Vienna Document of the Negotiations on Confidence and Security-Building Measures. Most of the action on the ground will be taking place in the Southern Military District.

Up to 250 tanks, 450 infantry fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers and 200 artillery and missile systems will participate. Ships of the Black Sea Fleet and the Caspian flotilla will join the action, too, enjoying the company of the Iranian Navy vessels. About 60 Ilyushin Il-76 military transport planes have been moved to operational airfields as part of the military drills.

Russia's Armed Forces will pay particular attention to combating cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles during the exercise, the Ministry stated.

"The Kavkaz-2020 drills will particularly focus on combating cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles, as well as on fire and electronic warfare activities against entire enemy formations, on training airborne troops' vertical envelopment capability and ways to rapidly shift between military activities," the statement read. The event is led by Chief of the General Staff Army General Valery Gerasimov.

Travel bug hits people, digital skills to boost recovery: Google

Agencies

San Francisco: After living months in isolation during the pandemic, the travel bug has hit millions of people and according to Google, 45 per cent of the top 100 questions related to travel in Search focused on the impact of Covid-19 and the desire to travel as safely and as soon as possible.

Google research, conducted with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), showed that 31 per cent of people hope to plan leisure travel once they feel safe enough to do so, the company said in a blog post on Monday.

"World Tourism day is coming up on September 27, and Search trends show that people have the travel bug. In August, the top queries were related to where and when people can travel 'right now,'" said Pierrick Duthoit, Senior Lead, Google Global Tourism Acceleration Centre.

Where do travellers want to go right now?

Heading to the beach and visiting rural areas or small towns are top of the list, particularly for Italians and the Dutch.

"Our data and analyses, available on our 'Think with Google' site, can help tourism businesses identify new trends in consumer preferences," Duthoit said.

For example, as people increasingly search for local and outdoor tourism, businesses can react to these changing needs by doing marketing campaigns that highlight nature destinations, and they can prepare for an uptick in last-minute bookings.

"We're partnering with government ministries, busi-

'If Sikhs can wear turban, why can't Muslims wear hijab' Singapore debates ban on Islamic veil at workplace



Agencies

Every day before she starts her shift at a government hospital in Singapore, Farah removes her hijab - the Islamic veil she has worn since a teenager.

Although minority Muslim women can freely wear the hijab in most settings in Singapore, some professions bar the headscarf - and a recent case has triggered fresh debate on diversity and discrimination in the workplace.

Now Farah has joined a growing number of Muslims - who account for about 15 per cent of Singapore's four million resident population - calling for the ban to end, with an online petition gathering more than 50,000 signatures.

"They told me I can't work here if I wear the tudung," said Farah, using the local Malay term for hijab, as she recounts her job interview two years ago for a physiotherapist position.

"I felt a sense of helplessness, it's unfair. Why has the tudung become a barrier for us to look for jobs?" asked the 27-year-old, who used a pseudonym for fear of reprisals at work.

She accepted the job eventually but has to remove her headscarf whenever she is at work.

Farah's case is not an oddity. There was outcry last

month when a woman was asked to remove her hijab to work as a promoter at a local department store.

Halimah Yacob, the country's first female president who herself wears the hijab, said there is "no place" for discrimination when asked her view of the case.

store reversed its policy, but many took to social media pointing out restrictions remain on wearing the hijab for some civil servants, including policewomen and nurses.

LIVELIHOOD

The debate surrounding the hijab is not new in Singapore, a modern city-state which takes pride in its multicultural and multiracial background. The country is predominantly ethnic Chinese, many of whom follow Buddhism or Christianity.

In 2013, then Muslim affairs minister Yaacob Ibrahim said wearing a hijab at the workplace would be "very problematic" for some professions that require a uniform.

The following year, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said the hijab issue was about "what sort of society do we want to build in Singapore", according to local media reports.

FinCEN files: Big banks let \$2 trillion 'dirty money' move around world

Agencies

New Delhi: The FinCEN files show that the world's biggest banks have allowed criminals to move "dirty money" around the globe. In total, these reports flagged more than \$2 trillion in transactions, according to BuzzFeed News.

The BBC reported that Russian oligarchs used banks to avoid sanctions and moved their money into the West.

It is the latest in a string of leaks over the past five years that have exposed secret deals, money laundering and financial crime, a BBC report said.

The FinCEN files are more than 2,500 documents, most of which were files that banks sent to the US authorities between 2000 and 2017.

These documents are some of the international banking system's most-closely guarded secrets. Banks use them to report suspicious behaviour but they are not proof of wrongdoing or crime.

They were leaked to Buzzfeed News and shared with a group that brings together investigative journalists from around the world, which distributed them to 108 news organisations in 88 countries, including the BBC's Panorama programme.

FinCEN is the US Financial Crimes Investigation Network. Concerns about transac-

tions made in US dollars need to be sent to FinCEN, even if they took place outside the US.

Suspicious activity reports, or SARs, are an example of how those concerns are recorded. A bank must fill in one of these reports if it is worried one of its clients might be up to no good. The report is sent to the authorities, BBC said.

It has been revealed through these documents that HSBC allowed fraudsters to move millions of dollars even after it learned from US investigators that the scheme was a scam.

JP Morgan allowed a company to move more than \$1 billion through a London account without knowing who owned it. The bank later discovered the company might be owned by a mobster on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list.

There is also evidence that one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest associates used Barclays Bank in London to avoid sanctions meant to stop him.

According to BBC, the UK is called a "higher risk jurisdiction" like Cyprus, according to the intelligence Division of FinCEN. That's because of the number of UK registered companies that appear in the SARs. Over 3,000 UK companies are named in the FinCEN files — more than any other country.

Agencies

Tehran, Iran: Iran said Sunday its arch-foe the United States was "isolated" after a US unilateral declaration that UN sanctions are back in force against the Islamic republic was dismissed by other major powers.

The Trump administration



said the so-called "snapback" of the sanctions was in effect and threatened to "impose consequences" on any UN member state that fails to comply.

"The United States is very, very isolated in its claims," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said. "The whole world is saying nothing has changed."

The sanctions in question were lifted in 2015 when Iran and six world powers -- Brit-

ain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US -- reached a landmark nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

But US President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, saying the deal -- negotiated by his predecessor Barack Obama -- was insufficient. He also renewed



and even strengthened Washington's own sanctions.

The US insists it is still a participant in the agreement that it walked out of, but only so it can activate the snapback option, which it announced on August 20.

Virtually every other Security Council member disputes Washington's ability to execute this legal pirouette, and the UN body has not taken the measure any further.

Erdogan files complaint over Greek newspaper's insulting headline

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has lodged a criminal complaint against four senior staff employed by a Greek newspaper about an insulting headline, according to Turkish media.

The state-run Anadolu Agency reported that the president's lawyer, Huseyin Aydin, filed the complaint on Monday about the headline run in Dimokratia, a right-wing paper, on September 18.

The headline "Siktir Git Mr. Erdogan", which means "F*** off Mr. Erdogan" in Turkish, appeared next to a photo of the president, and included the English translation.

In the complaint submitted to the Ankara prosecutor's office, Aydin described as "suspects" the four people



involved - Manolis Kotakis, the author of the article, editors Andreas Kapsampelis and Yorgos Giatroudakis, and editor-in-chief Dimitris Rizoulis.

Following the complaint, the prosecutors in the capital launched an investigation against the newspaper.

"Considering the silence of the Greek public, it is understood that this moral collapse is not limited

to marginal segments," the complaint said, according to Anadolu.

Swearing is the language of those who do not have a word to say, or those who have a word to say but are incapable of speaking in a proper language, it added.

Turkey's foreign ministry had already summoned Greece's ambassador about the headline in, which was also published on the newspaper's website.

'Freedom of expression protected' The Greek foreign ministry had said on Friday that freedom of expression was fully protected in the EU member country, but added: "The use of offensive language is contrary to our country's political culture and can only be condemned."

Woman Suspected Of Sending Package Containing Poison To Trump Arrested

Washington: Authorities have arrested a person suspected of sending the deadly poison ricin in an envelope addressed to the White House but intercepted before it could be delivered there, a law enforcement source said on Sunday.

In response to a Reuters query seeking confirmation of media reports that a woman accused of mailing the ricin-tainted letter had been taken into custody at the U.S.-Canadian border, the FBI field office in Washington issued a statement saying: "An arrest was made of an individual allegedly responsible for sending a suspicious letter."

The statement added: "The investigation is ongoing."

The law enforcement source, familiar with the case but speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters the "suspicious letter" referred to in the FBI statement was the same as the envelope found to have contained ricin.

The source also said the person arrested was a woman of Canadian citizenship.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said on Saturday that it had received a request for assistance from the FBI in the investigation and that the suspicious letter in question appeared to have been sent from Canada.

The RCMP further stated that an FBI analysis of a substance inside the envelope detected "the presence of ricin," a highly toxic agent derived from castor beans.

While naturally occurring, the toxin requires a deliberate act to convert it into a biological weapon, with exposure to an amount as small as a pinhead capable of causing death within 36 to 72 hours. No known antidote exists.

Initially asked about the incident on Saturday, the FBI said it had joined the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in the investigation of "a suspicious letter received at a U.S. government mail facility."

Hydrogen-powered Plane by 2035

Paris: Airbus is aiming to put the world's first hydrogen-powered commercial plane into service by 2035, the European aircraft maker's boss said in remarks published Monday.

Hydrogen is a clean fuel, emitting only steam, but whether it is green depends on the carbon footprint of the fuels used to produce it. France and other European countries are investing billions of euros in the development of green hydrogen, with the highly polluting transport industry a prime area for its intended use.

"It is our ambition to become the first aircraft maker to enter such a plane into service in 2035," Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury told Le Parisien newspaper. The development of decarbonised hydrogen fuel is a "priority axis of development" for Airbus, he said.

The manufacturer has already been using hydrogen technology to power its satellites and the Ariane rocket.

N E W S M A K E R S

Modi Govt Sometimes Blames God, Sometimes People, But Not Its ‘Misrule’: Rahul



NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday attacked the Centre over Union Minister Harsh Vardhan's remarks that people's "irresponsible behaviour" has resulted in a surge in COVID-19 spread, saying the Modi government's "blind arrogance" sometimes blames god, sometimes people, but not its own "misrule".

Gandhi's attack on the government came a day after Health Minister Vardhan, while replying to a special

discussion on the coronavirus pandemic in Lok Sabha, said that there is a surge in the spread of COVID-19 in the country due to societal "irresponsible behaviour".

Tagging a media report on Vardhan's remarks, Gandhi tweeted, "The blind arrogance of the Modi government sometimes blames god, sometimes people for the plight of the country, but not its own misrule and wrong policies."

"How many more 'Act Of Modi' will the country bear?" he said in the tweet in Hindi.

Gandhi has been critical of the government over the handling of the COVID-19 crisis and accused it of failing to tackle the situation. The government has dismissed all such claims in the past. — PTI

Over 1,300 Central Bureau Of Investigation Posts Vacant: Centre Tells Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI: Over 1,300 posts are lying vacant in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against its total sanctioned strength of 7,273, the government told Parliament on Monday.

Of the sanctioned strength, 5,944 posts are filled and 1,329 vacant in the CBI, according to data shared by Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

Giving category-wise details, he said out of the sanctioned strength of 5,000 of executive ranks, 4,198 is the actual strength, as on August 31, 2020.

Of the 370 posts of legal ranks, 285 were filled and 66 out of 166 posts meant for technical ranks were occupied, according to the reply.

As many as 1,368 and 27 posts of ministerial ranks and canteen staff were occupied against the sanctioned strength of 1,671 and 70 respectively, the data showed.



Mr Singh said proactive efforts are made to ensure vacancies are filled at all ranks speedily.

"All Central Police Organisations (CPOs)/State Police/Banks etc. are regularly requested to send the nomination of officers/officials for deputation in CBI," he said.

The minister said the CBI requests various organisations, including public sector banks, Ministry of Home Affairs for sponsoring names for the posts of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and inspector on deputation in the agency.

"Proposals are sent to Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for induction of suitable officers in various technical ranks in CBI," Mr Singh said.

Family Of Soldier, Killed 18 Years Ago, Wants To Return His Gallantry Award

SHIMLA: The family of a Kirti Chakra awardee soldier, who died 18 years ago, from Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh reached the Raj Bhavan in Shimla today to return the gallantry award to the Governor as they blamed successive state governments for failing to honour his death.

Kirti Chakra is the second-highest peacetime military award given for gallantry. Ashoka Chakra is the highest honour in the category.

Before meeting Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, the soldier's mother Raj Kumari said her son Anil Chauhan died when he was just 23-years-old during "Operation Rhino" in Assam.

A resident of Jaisinghpur in Kangra district, Raj Kumari said the state government failed to fulfil its promises including naming

the school after Anil Chauhan and building a gate in the village in his memory.

She, along with other family members, reached the governor's building to return the award saying that the promises have not been fulfilled even 18 years after her son's death.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur reached Raj Bhavan to meet the family outside the Raj Bhavan and assured them that the demands will be fulfilled.

He said he recently came to know that the promises made by the then state government 18 years ago were not fulfilled.

The Chief Minister asked the family to come to his office for immediate redressal of their grievances. The family said they would visit his office after meeting the Governor.



FUN WHEEL: A kid playing with a tyre in Kashmir countryside on Monday.

WHO Endorses Protocol For Coronavirus Herbal Medicine Trials

BRAZZAVILLE, CONGO: The World Health Organization endorsed Saturday a protocol for testing African herbal medicines as potential treatments for the coronavirus and other epidemics.

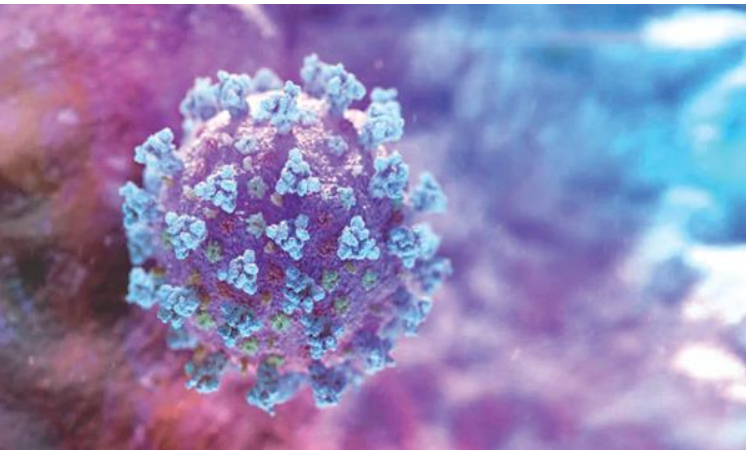
Covid-19 has raised the issue of using traditional medicines to battle contemporary diseases, and the endorsement clearly encouraged testing with criteria similar to those used for molecules developed by labs in Asia, Europe or the Americas.

It came months after a bid by the president of Madagascar to promote a drink based on artemisia, a plant with proven efficacy in malaria treatment, was met with widespread scorn.

On Saturday, WHO experts and colleagues from two other organisations "endorsed a protocol for phase III clinical trials of herbal medicine for Covid-19 as well as a charter and terms of reference for the establishment of a data and safety monitoring board for herbal medicine clinical trials," a statement said.

"Phase III clinical trials are pivotal in fully assessing the safety and efficacy of a new medical product," it noted.

"If a traditional medicine product is found to be safe, efficacious and quality-assured, WHO will recommend (it) for a fast-tracked, large-scale local manufacturing," Prosper



Tumusiime, a regional WHO director, was quoted as saying.

WHO's partners are the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and the African Union Commission for Social Affairs.

"The onset of Covid-19, like the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, has highlighted the need for strengthened health systems and accelerated research and development programmes, including on traditional medicines," Tumusiime said.

He did not refer specifically to the Madagascar drink Covid-Organics, also called CVO, that President Andry Rajoelina has pitched as a cure

for the virus, however.

It has has been widely distributed in Madagascar and sold to several other countries, mainly in Africa.

In May, WHO Africa Director Matshidiso Moeti told media that African governments had committed in 2000 to taking "traditional therapies" through the same clinical trials as other medication.

"I can understand the need, the drive to find something that can help," Moeti said. "But we would very much like to encourage this scientific process in which the governments themselves made a commitment."

I CAN UNDERSTAND THE NEED, THE DRIVE TO FIND SOMETHING THAT can help," Moeti said. "But we would very much like to encourage this scientific process in which the governments themselves made a commitment."

Centre Blames Tablighi Jamaat For COVID-19 Spread

The Union home ministry on Monday said the Tablighi Jamaat gathering in Delhi's Nizamuddin locality in March led to the coronavirus infection spreading to "many persons".

Union Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy also said in the Rajya Sabha that Delhi Police arrested 233 Tablighi Jamaat members and 2,361 people have been evacuated from the organisation's headquarters since March 29.

"However, regarding Jamaat Chief Maulana Mohd Saad, the investigation is underway," he said in a written reply.

As reported by Delhi Police, despite guidelines and orders issued by various authorities in pursu-



ance of the outbreak of COVID-19, a huge gathering assembled inside a closed premises over a protracted period of time and without any semblance of social distancing or provision of masks and sanitisers.

"This also caused the spread of coronavirus infection amongst many persons," the minister said.

Lok Sabha Passes Bill Making Aadhaar Mandatory For NGOs To Receive Foreign Funds

Lok Sabha passed a bill on Monday to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act that seeks to make it mandatory for the office-bearers of an NGO to provide their Aadhaar numbers during registration.

Amid concerns raised by various Opposition members about The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the legislation was not against any religion or NGO.

The bill was passed after a debate.

Replying to the debate, Rai asserted the bill will help in curbing misuse of foreign funds and was necessary for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

Among other provisions, the bill proposes to enable the Centre to allow an NGO or association to surrender its FCRA certificate.

Participating in the debate, Congress MP Anto Antony said an attempt was being made to "suffocate the NGOs" through this bill.

He, however, said action should definitely be taken if an NGO is found involved in anti-national activities. But in some cases it has been seen that due to technical reasons licences get can-



celled "which is an attack on the minority".

Stating that the amendments to the bill was "ill-conceived", he made a plea to the government to not be in a hurry with the legislation.

BJP's Satya Pal Singh said many organisations receiving foreign contributions were not spending the money on the work it was meant for. He said money received as foreign contribution cannot be spent on terrorist activities.

Sougata Roy of the Trinamool Congress said there was "no need" for the bill, stressing that when the Supreme Court has said Aadhaar is not compulsory then why is the government making it mandatory for registration of NGOs.

YSRCP's Bellana Chandra Sekhar supported the bill, saying it is "much needed." Shrirang Appa Barne of the Shiv Sena also supported the bill and said that there is a need to come out with a strict law to stop religious conversion.

Kaushalendra Kumar of the Janata Dal (United) said the bill would boost transparency.

BJP'S SATYA PAL SINGH SAID MANY Organisations receiving foreign contributions were not spending the money on the work it was meant for. He said money received as foreign contribution cannot be spent on terrorist activities.

9,488 Pilots Required In Next Five Years: Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri



NEW DELHI: An estimated 9,488 pilots will be required in India in the next five years, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Monday.

"The total number of pilots employed in the country with scheduled airlines at present is 9,073," Puri said in a written

reply in Rajya Sabha.

He said 700-800 commercial pilot licences (CPLs) are issued by the aviation regulator DGCA in a year.

Of these, 30 per cent CPLs are given to those who have undergone training in a foreign organisation, Puri added.

The aviation sector has been hit hugely by the coronavirus pandemic.

Therefore, all domestic carriers have instituted various cost-cutting measures like pay cuts, layoffs or leave without pay in the past few months. PTI

NEWS MAKERS

Tortured, Denied Food, Water In Mathura Jail: Kafeel Khan To UN Human Rights Experts

GORAKHPUR: In a letter to a group of UN human rights experts, paediatrician Kafeel Khan has alleged that he was "tortured" in the Mathura jail, where he was lodged after being charged under the National Security Act (NSA) for allegedly delivering provocative speeches in Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) during the anti-CAA stir in December 2019.

"I was tortured mentally as well as physically, denied food and water for many days, and treated inhumanely during months of incarceration in a congested, overcrowded Mathura prison," he wrote to the United Nations human rights experts.



Kafeel Khan, who is now out on bail, wrote to the UN human rights group of experts on September 17 with reference to their June 26 letter, in which they had urged

the Indian government to release him.

The human rights group comprises independent experts, not the UN staff.


"The use of stringent na-

tional security laws / UAPA against political dissenters, in the absence of any appeal, is something to be condemned in all cases," Dr Khan told news agency PTI.

Earlier, when he was in jail, his wife Shabistan Khan had written to the UN human rights expert group alleging unlawful detention of her husband.

Dr Khan, a Gorakhpur-based paediatrician, was also arrested earlier and lodged in Gorakhpur jail as one of the nine accused in BRD Medical college case relating to the death of over 60 children in August 2017 allegedly due to the shortage of oxygen cylinders in the hospital.

Be Aware of e-SIM SWAP Fraud




Changing from Physical SIM to e-SIM Better to be careful than being a VICTIM

Never forward e-mails or e-SIM activation requests on the directions of any unknown person




Never share your bank details on Google Forms


Be vigilant and read the messages from Network service providers

In case you feel you have fallen prey to such a scam, you should immediately send "NO SIM" to Customer Care Number of Network service Provider.



CYBER POLICE KASHMIR

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