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News Digest

Pak Shells LoC In Rajouri: Army

Jammu: The Pakistani army resorted to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward areas along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Thursday, officials said. "At about 1745 hours today, Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along LoC in Nowshera sector", a defence spokesman said. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, he said. Pakistan army violated ceasefire 38 times this month. An army personnel was

● P-02

Biker Dies In Budgam Mishap

Srinagar: A biker was killed in a road mishap in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday. 30-year-old Mohammad Yousuf Mir of Waterwani was critically injured when his bike was hit by a tipper (JK13 -5911) near Mirgund on Thursday, reports said. He was immediately shifted to nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to SMHS hospital, where he died after battling with life for several hours, reports said. Meanwhile police has taken the cognizance of the accident

● P-02

Bear Mauls Woman In Tangmarg

Srinagar: An elderly woman was attacked and killed by a bear in Tangmarg area of Baramulla district, reports said Thursday. 55-year-old Zoon Begum, wife of Haji Muhammad Akbar Malik was walking in a field in Tumbherama village of Tangmarg when a bear appeared there and attacked her. The woman sustained serious injuries in the attack by bear. She rushed to hospital where doctors declared her brought dead, news agency KNT reported.

BJP Member From Budgam Resigns

Srinagar: A Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) member from central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday resigned from the party, a day after a Block Development Chairman was shot dead by suspected militants in the district. Abdul Rashid Bandy from Habbler Drang area of Budgam, who unsuccessfully contested assembly elections on BJP ticket in 2014, announced his disassociation from BJP today, news agency KNT reported. Bandy's resignation comes a day after a BDC Chairman from Khag-Bhupinder Singh was shot dead by militants on Wednesday evening.

Labourer Killed, 7 Hurt In Kupwara Accident

Srinagar: A labourer was killed, while seven others, including three soldiers were injured on when an army vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in Kupwara district of north Kashmir. Official sources said that the accident took place near Bari Baihka, some 25 kilometers from main town of Kupwara, at around 1:30 pm. A labourer identified as Daulat Hussain son of Amirdeen of Marsari was killed and seven other persons including three soldiers and four labourers were injured. The soldiers were identified as Subedar N S Nimbalkar, havildar Hav-S P Sanap and Sepoy Sule Chandrakant of 216 Med. Regiment

● P-02

Lawyer, TV Penalist Babar Qadri Assassinated



KO PhotoBhat

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Unidentified gunmen on Thursday shot dead a prominent lawyer and a well-known television debater inside his home in Srinagar, sending shock waves in this capital city. Around 6:15 pm on Thursday, unidentified gunmen, believed to be two in number entered Hawal residence of Advocate



Babar Qadri and fired shots at him from point blank range, a police official said. Qadri sustained critical injuries in the attack while the gunmen managed to flee from the spot.

The official said that Qadri was removed by his family and neighbors to nearby SK Institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) for treatment. However, the doctors there pronounced him dead

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THE BULLET HAD HIT HIS NECK, HEAD AND ARM. HE was brought dead to hospital," SKIMS Medical Superintendent Dr Farooq Jan told Kashmir Observer.

Militants Kill CRPF Officer In Chadoora, Snatch His Rifle

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Thursday shot dead a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer and decamped with his service rifle in Chadoora area of Budgam district. Unknown bike borne militants appeared in Kaisarmulla village of Chadoora this morning and opened fire upon an officer of CRPF 117 battalion, reports said. The officer identified as Assistant Sub-Inspector N C Badole collapsed on the ground in a pool of blood while the militants managed to flee from the spot along with his rifle.

According to the reports, the injured CRPF officer was removed

Militant Killed In Tral Encounter

A local militant on Thursday was killed in an encounter with government forces in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said. Acting on specific input, army's 42 RR, police and the personnel of CRPF 180 battalion carried out a

● P-02

to army's 92 base hospital here for treatment. However, he succumbed to grave gunshot wounds. The deceased officer was a resident of Maharashtra. ►PAGE 02

Another Soldier 'Detained' With 2 Girls At Srinagar Airport

SRINAGAR: Tourist police Thursday detained two girls from north Kashmir's Kupwara district along with an Army man when they were roaming under suspicious circumstances at the Srinagar Airport.

Sources said that they were detained and handed them over to police station Humhama adding that the girls and the army soldier were being questioned at police station, reported news agency KNT. The army soldier in question has been identified as Sepoy Roshan Kumar of 17 Bihar Regiment. Both the girls are from Teetwal Kupwara and the soldier in ques-



File Photo

tion is also posted at Teetwal. Pertinently, on Sep 12 this month, Lance Naik Ashok Kumar Paul son of Rajander Pal, a resident of Uttar Pradesh who deputised at Ajas Bandipora with 13 Rashtriya Rifles was arrested with two Bandipora girls. A police official said that it was not an issue at all. He said ►PAGE 02

Pak To Hold Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Polls

India Objects, Says Elections In 'Militarily-Occupied' Region Illegal

ISLAMABAD- Pakistan has announced that the once-postponed election for the legislative assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan will be held on November 15, amidst India's objection to Islamabad's moves in the strategically-located region.

President Dr Arif Alvi issued an official notification on Wednesday to fix the date of the elections in Gilgit-Baltistan.

"The president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to announce Sunday, the 15th November 2020, as the poll day for the general elections to the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Legislative Assembly in

● P-02

RSF Condemns Harassment of Journalist

SRINAGAR: Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on Thursday condemned the assault on Kashmiri journalist Auqib Javeed by police last week, and termed the behavior of cyber police akin to "authoritarian regimes and unworthy of Indian democracy".

In a statement, Paris based media watchdog, said that RSF condemns the threats and violence, including being

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British MPs Relaunch Kashmir Campaign

Agencies

LONDON: A group of seven Tory MPs have relaunched a group named 'The Conservative Friends of Kashmir', which is aimed at campaigning for 'self-determination' in Kashmir, sparking outrage among Tory-supporting British Indians.

The group recently tweeted, "We have relaunched the Conservatives Friends of Kashmir. We campaign for self-determination and an end to human rights abuses in Kashmir and Jammu. There is growing support for our cause amongst Conservative MPs and activists. Follow us and our work!"

The move has unnerved the Conservative Friends of India (CFI), which promotes the party

among British Indians.

Earlier this week, the group retweeted a tweet from Pakistan controlled Kashmir (PCK) President Masood Khan's Twitter handle, which said, "We are immensely grateful to you for re-launching the Conservatives Friends of Kashmir. Your voices shine like a ray of hope for the wounded Kashmiris in their darkest hour. Besieged, battered, disenfranchised -- they look towards you and your allies for justice."

The Tory MPs in the group include Paul Bristow (Peterborough), James Daly (Bury North), Jack Brereton (Stoke on Trent South) and Steve Baker (Wycombe), all representing constituencies with significant

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24 More Deaths Take Covid-19 Toll In J&K To 1088

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as twenty four people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the number of fatalities due to virus in the Union Territory to 1088.

While fourteen more Covid-19 deaths were reported from Jammu division, the remaining ten were confirmed by the officials in Kashmir valley.

According to officials, a 70-year-old woman from Bemina, a 65-year-old woman from Chana-pora and a 72-year-old man from Nishat died at the Chest Diseases hospital here, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients.

Seven of the deaths were reported at SKIMS Soura and included a 46-year-old man from Batmaloo, a 60-year-old woman from Malabagh Srinagar, a 68-year-old man from

Fateh Kadal, an 80-year-old from Noorpora, Tral, a 70-year-old from Tangmarg and a 60-year-old from Bandipora.

Among others, the deaths from Jammu division include a 78-year-old man from Samba, a 60-year-old woman from Nanak Nagar, a 62-year-old man from Satwari, a 66-year-old woman from Vijaypur, a 38-year-old from Khada Mana Samba, a 70-year-old from Gorkha Nagar, a 54-year-old from Jammu and a 30-year-old from Majalta Udhampur, a 22-year-old youth from Flora Nagbani in Jammu and 25-year-old from Sindira in Doda, a 38-year-old woman from Darhal and 64-year-old man from Jabba Nowshera.

With these deaths, 1088 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir—804 from Kashmir Valley and 284 in Jammu. (With GNS inputs)

New 1104 Cases Include 102 Security Men

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 1104 new cases of coronavirus, including at least 102 security personnel, 25 travelers and three minors, taking the total number of people in the Union Territory infected by the virus to 68614. While 624 fresh cases were confirmed from

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Arms Drops Via Drones Will Foil Pakistan Designs: DGP

SRINAGAR: State forces are alert to Pakistani efforts of dropping consignments of weapons and narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir along the border and they will give a befitting reply to these attempts, Director General of Police Dillbag Singh said here on Thursday.

The DGP, talking to reporters after the wreath laying function for a slain CRPF officer, was replying to a question about drones being used from across the

● P-02

2 Cops Suspended Over Sopore 'Custodial Killing'

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday suspended two cops in connection with the alleged custodial killing of a youth in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

On Wednesday last, protests broke out at Sidiq-Colony area of Sopore after news spread that a youth Irfan Ahmad Dar, arrested by police a day earlier, has been found dead under mysterious circumstances.

While the family charged police of killing the youth in custody, the latter claimed that Dar was an OGW and his body was recovered near Stone Quarry of Tuijar-Sharief, hours after

● P-02

Ladakh Councillor Granted Bail Over Video Clip Against PM, Army

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The High Court on Thursday granted bail to a councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil Zakir Husain who was arrested on June 19 for his "highly objectionable" audio clip mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Army in the wake of the face-off between India and China.

The councillor from Shakar constituency in Kargil district, Zakir had submitted a public apology over his remarks but case FIR No.34 of 2020 for offences under Section 124A (sedition), 153A, 153B, 505(2) and 188 of IPC) was registered with Police Station, Kargil.

Zakir, a long time Congress activist was expelled by the party on the issue, soon after his arrest on June 19.

"The challan in the case has been

filed, which means that the investigation of the case is complete. The petitioner (Zakir) is not alleged to have committed an offence which carries capital punishment, as such, the rigor of Section 437(1)(i) of the Code of Criminal Procedure is not attracted to the instant case," bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said while granting bail to Zakir on furnishing personal bond with one surety of Rs.50,000.

The court said that Zakir is also elected representative of LAHDC having deep roots in the community as such the chances of his fleeing from justice are very remote.

The court also asked him to appear on each and every date of hearing before the trial court and not tamper with prosecution witnesses and not to leave the territorial limits of Ladakh without prior permission of

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In FOCUS New Language Bill Sparks Mixed Reactions In J&K

Swati Joshi

Introduction of Kashmiri, Dogri, and Hindi as official languages of Jammu and Kashmir has strong political connotations, said Mir Tariq Rasool, former Secretary J&K Adbe Markaz Kamraz (AMK) and Patron Kashmir Literary and philosophical foundation.

According to him, the new language bill has disseminated respect to the sense of identity among Hindi/Dogri-speaking people, but for Kashmiri-speaking people "it is nothing but a political trick", as the government, he said, is trying to introduce Devanagari script for

Kashmiri language instead of Nastaliq (a style of Islamic calligraphy).

"The second aspect of the bill is a linguistic divide of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding, "a huge chunk of Gujar and Pahari speaking people who are fighting for the official position of their languages have been left out again."

Notably, on September 23, the J&K Official Language Bill, 2020 was passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. According to Minister of State G Kishan Reddy, the inclusion of Kashmiri, Dogri, and Hindi as official languages has been a long-standing demand of the people in J&K. He also mentioned that the government would also encourage



Image for representation

other local languages like Punjabi, Gojari and Pahari in the region.

Around 74 percent of people in J&K speak Kashmiri and Dogri

languages, he said. The minister also mentioned "the findings of the Census 2011" which, according to him, stated that "only 0.16 per-

cent population in J&K spoke Urdu while 2.3 percent spoke Hindi".

However, the decision was criticized by Member Parliament from Anantnag, Hasnain Masoodi.

The retired justice argued that the Bill is against the constitutional propriety because the law is a consequence of the J&K State Reorganization Bill which is under the judicial scrutiny of the Supreme Court of India.

"The constitutional propriety demands that the J&K Official Languages Bill be taken back as a mark of respect for the country's judiciary and principles of parliamentary democracy," he said, according to National

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India And China Going Through "Unprecedented" Situation: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI: India and China are going through an "unprecedented" situation, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday, referring to the prolonged border standoff between the two countries in eastern Ladakh.

Speaking at a virtual conference of the World Economic Forum, the external affairs minister, at the same time, said the border row happens to be one part of the larger issue of how India and China adjust to each other when both are rising.

The remarks by Jaishankar on

the four-and-a-half-month long border standoff are his first after he and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi reached a five-point agreement to resolve the issue at their meeting on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conclave in Moscow on September 10.

Replying to a question on how the ties between the two Asian giants will move forward, Jaishankar said it is important for India and China to understand the need to accommodate each other's rise.

"We are going through, in a

sense, an unprecedented situation. But if one looks at it from a somewhat longer-term, I would say this is one facet of a larger phenomenon for which both India and China have to sit down and find a solution."

Jaishankar said the challenge for the diplomacy of the two countries would be on how to adjust to each other's rise.

"It is important that they (India and China) understand the need to accommodate each other's rise; clearly they will have some common interests and many interests which are more



individual, nationally-centred and that process of how to adjust to each other when both of them are rising to my mind is one of

the big issues in the diplomacy of both the countries," he added.

"The border issue happens to be one part of that problem," Jaishankar said.

On Monday, Corps commanders of the two sides held a crucial round of talks following which both sides announced a series of decisions including to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further complicate matters.

The agreement reached between Jaishankar and Wang was

the basis for the talks.

In his address at the WEF event, Jaishankar also delved on a host of other contemporary global issues including key challenges facing the world.

"We need to revise our sense of what globalisation is. The world is more nationalistic now. It was already heading that way. It has become more so," he said, adding the world economy will be more knowledge-driven in the future.

"We are looking at a more knowledge driven economy. We need to think about the world as a much more integrated workplace

then we have done typically."

The external affairs minister also said that reform in the multilateral organisations must not be blocked on the pretext of not having consensus.

He said it is important to strictly follow international rules for the world order to work properly.

"We are the largest democracy and very proud to be a democracy. But I accept that there are many countries in the world which are not democracies. One fundamental which we all should observe is rule of law," he said, without naming any country.

Lawyer, TV Penalist Babar...

on arrival. "The bullet had hit his arm, neck and head and he was brought dead to hospital," SKIMS Medical Superintendent Dr Farooq Jan told Kashmir Observer. Srinagar Superintendent of Police Haseeb Mughal said police teams had been sent to the location where the attack took place and a manhunt launched to find the assailants.

According to the reports, police and CRPF laid a siege around Zahidpora, Madin Sahab and adjoining localities of Hawal after the attack. Qadri, originally from Tangmarg in Baramulla district, had been practicing law at Kashmir High Court for more than a decade. Besides an advocate, Qadri was a vocal panelist and TV debater. He is survived by his parents, three siblings, wife and two daughters.

Qadri, who was a student activist, became well-known for taking up cases of juveniles booked under various laws, including the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA).

He was often seen on national channels debating Kashmir. He was vocal on Kashmir affairs and often at loggerheads with other panelists. Three days earlier, he had in his last Tweet urged the police in Jammu to register an FIR against a Facebook user for launching a "wrong campaign" against him.

Just hours before his death, the lawyer, during a Facebook live, had said that he had been receiving intimidating messages.

Hundreds of people participated in the funeral prayers of Qadri on Thursday evening amidst pro-Islam sloganeering. Amid sobs and cries, his body was taken to his ancestral graveyard in Tangmarg. Meanwhile, former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir and National Conference (NC) vice president, Omar Abdullah in a tweet condemned his killing and termed it as tragic. He said that the sense of tragedy is all the more because he warned of the threat.

"Sadly his warning was his last tweet," Omar tweeted. Former minister and Peoples Conference president, Sajad Gani Lone in a tweet said that one more Kashmiri falls to bullets.

"Sad news. Advocate Babar Qadri assassinated. One more Kashmiri falls to bullets. Yet another victim of conflict. My thoughts with the family," Lone Tweeted.

The People Democratic Party (PDP) also took to Twitter to condemn the killing.

"Mournings are a constant feature in every Kashmiris life. Vehemently condemn the assassination of Babar Qadri,"

Noted Human rights activists Khurram Parvez also expressed his grief and sorrow over the assassination of young lawyer.

"In this hour of grief, we at @apdp_jkccs & @jkccs_stand by the family of Adv. Babar Qadri. Tragic times refuse to end for Kashmiri families," Parvez Tweeted.

Apni Party vice president Ghulam Hassan Mir also condemned the killing.

"The killing of a young and promising lawyer who represented members of the poorest, most marginalized parts of Kashmir at all the forums available to him, including many of the victims of conflict and their families, has a devastating impact on access to justice in Kashmir," he said in a statement.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) strongly condemned the killing of Qadri and urged the government to ascertain the identity of killers for exemplary punishment.

Describing the killing of Qadri as an unfortunate, shocking and cowardly act, JKPCC spokesperson has expressed anguish over this unfortunate and highly condemnable incident and urged the government to take effective measures to put an end to the bloodshed in Kashmir.

Pak To Hold Gilgit-Baltistan...

terms of Section 57(1) of the Elections Act 2017, the statement said. The polls in Gilgit-Baltistan were to be held on August 18, but the Election Commission on July 11 postponed them due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Polling would be held on 24 general seats of the legislative assembly. The five-year term of the previous assembly had ended on June 24, bringing an end to the five-year rule of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

There are a total of 33 seats, but six are reserved for technocrats and three for women. The special seats are filled from nominations by the parties winning the polls according to their representation.

The election date has been announced amidst reported consultations to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan's status to that of a full-fledged province. The issue was discussed in a meeting between the Opposition leaders and Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on September 16. Meanwhile, India came down heavily on Pakistan for its decision to hold general elections in Gilgit-Baltistan and said any action to alter the status of the "militarily-occupied" region has no legal basis.

"Any action by Pakistan to alter the status of the militarily-occupied so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan' has no legal basis whatsoever and is totally void ab-initio," Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Anurag Srivastava said at virtual media briefing. Referring to statements by the Pakistani leadership on the issue, he said Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on India's internal matters.

"Our position has always been clear and consistent. The entire territories of the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been and are an integral part of India and would remain so," Srivastava said. India also clearly conveyed to Pakistan that the entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of the country.

RSF Condemns Harassment...

slapped in the face, to which Kashmiri journalist Aaqib Javeed was subjected during a five-hour interrogation by cyber-police in Srinagar after writing about their intimidation of Twitter users.

"Such behaviour is unacceptable in a democracy," RSF said.

Aaqib, an accredited journalist with Kashmir Observer, was verbally summoned by the Cyber Police station on September 18 over his story titled, 'The Real Cyberbully: Police in Kashmir Question Twitter Users' which appeared in 'Article 14' a Bangalore based web portal.

According to Aaqib, he was slapped twice by a masked cop outside the room of Superintendent of Police of the Cyber Wing, Tahir Ashraf Bhatti when he was on way to meet the officer on Saturday. The SP, he said had also hurled choicest abuses at him.

"It is absolutely unacceptable that members of the police manhandled, threatened and intimidated a journalist who just did his job," said Daniel Bastard, the head of RSF's Asia-Pacific desk.

"The behaviour of the Srinagar cyber-police is typical of authoritarian regimes and unworthy of Indian democracy. We call on the federal authorities to punish those responsible for the violence against Aaqib Javeed," he added.

Quoting Aaqib, the RSF statement said that he was still in a state of shock when he spoke to RSF on 21 September and, earlier that day, he had written about his brutal treatment by the police two days before. "I fear for my life now," Javeed told RSF. "I believe that the authorities could go to any lengths to silence me and could arrest me on an fabricated charge."

RSF said that it was not the first time Aaqib has been subjected to in-

timidation in connection with his work. The global media watchdog said that the National Investigation Agency, India's counter-terrorism police, interrogated him for three hours in July 2018 for interviewing a Kashmiri separatist leader.

"His phone was also taken and never returned," the RSF said.

RSF said that last week it condemned police "violence" against three other journalists in Kashmir.

"While covering an exchange of shots between separatists and government forces on 15 September, Newswick photographer Kamran Yousef and reporters Faisal Bashir and Reshi Irshad were beaten by several policemen, one of them with a baton," the RSF added. India is ranked 140th out of 180 countries in RSF's 2020 World Press Freedom Index.

New 1104 Cases Include 102...

Jammu division, the remaining 480 were reported from Kashmir Valley. Among the cases, Srinagar reported 194, Budgam 49, Baramulla 72, Pulwama 33, Anantnag 24, Bandipora 20, Kupwara 42, Ganderbal 28, Kulgam 11, Shopian 7, Jammu 242, Rajouri 49, Udhampur 49, Kathua 36, Doda 54, Samba 37, Poonch 44, Ramban 38, Reasi 36 and Kishtwar 39. Meanwhile, 1549 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—960 from Jammu Division and 589 from Kashmir Valley. (GNS)

Militants Kill CRPF Officer...

Soon after the attack, government forces carried out a cordon and search operation in the area to nab the assailants. News agency KNT reported that two people, including a tailor were detained by the state forces for questioning.

Pertinently, the attack on CRPF officer comes barely a day after suspected militants shot dead a block development council (BDC) member in the central Kashmir district on Wednesday evening.

Bhupinder Singh, a member of the block development council of Khag block in Budgam district, was shot at by the militants in his ancestral village Dalwash. He died on the spot.

Militant Killed In Tral Encounter

cordon and search operation in Machama area of Awantipora this morning, a police spokesperson said. The militant, he said turned down surrender offer and instead opened fire upon the search party.

"The joint team returned the fire triggering off an encounter. In the exchange of fire, the militant was killed. His body was also retrieved from the encounter site," the police spokesperson said.

Police identified the killed militant as Irfan-ul-Haq Dar of Gadikhal village in Awantipora associated with Al-Badr.

Dar, according to police was involved in a grenade attack on police station Awantipora in April last year. He was arrested by police and sent to Kot Balwal Jail.

"After his release in April 2020, Irfan-ul-Haq was secretly involved in militant activities which include Al-Badr related recruitment in Awantipora & Tral areas. He was an important motivator and influenced young minds for joining militant ranks," the police spokesperson said. Earlier in 2016, the police spokesperson said Dar was involved in a stone pelting/arson case of Police Station Awantipora.

"Keeping in view the prevailing pandemic due to COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of people from inherent risk of contracting the infection, the body of the killed militant shall be sent to Handwara for burial after completion of all medico-legal formalities. The nearest family members of the killed militant shall be allowed to participate in the last rites at Handwara," he said.

The police spokesperson said that incriminating materials including arms, ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. He said all the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe his complicity in other crimes.

"In this connection a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated," the police spokesperson said. "People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

British MPs Relaunch Kashmir...

Pakistani populations. Brereton, Daly and Bristow also sit on the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir (APPGK), which is chaired by Labour MP Debbie Abrahams, who was deported to Dubai on February 17 after being informed at the Delhi airport that her e-visa was not valid. The following day she flew to Pakistan and met Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Kuldeep Shekhawat, president of the Overseas Friends of BJP (UK), plans to draft a letter and send it to the co-chairs of the Conservative party, which he claimed more than 200 PIO activists will sign.

"We are not happy with this kind of anti-India move by the Conservative team. Britain has no right to interfere in India's internal matters," he said. Lord Rami Ranger, a patron of the Conservative Friends of India, has written a letter to Bristow and Daly, appealing them not to undo the work he has done.

"Kashmir is dividing the Conservatives," Ranger said.

"This is a fringe group created by a few MPs to support their Mirpuri constituents. Pakistan will be behind this. They take these MPs out and wine and dine with them. This could severely damage the reputation of Tories among British Indians.

"Not only will they stop voting, they will also stop giving donations to the party once they hear about this. The UK is trying to negotiate an FTA with the largest democracy in the world. This is hardly going to go down well," Ranger added.

India Slams Pak For Raising...

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), an intergovernmental forum of 27 countries.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India at the meeting. The MEA said Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on internal affairs of India, asserting that the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been and will remain an integral part of the country.

"Pakistan's remarks today constitute gross interference in India's internal affairs, sovereignty and territorial integrity which is inconsistent with the CICA Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States of September 1999," the MEA said, in response to remarks by Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. It said Pakistan is the "global epicentre" of terrorism and continues to be the source of terrorist activities in India.

"We advise Pakistan to cease its sponsorship and overt and covert support to terrorism against India. This will enable the two countries to engage and address issues bilaterally rather than distract this important forum from its agenda," the MEA said.

In his address at the CICA meeting, Jaishankar called for greater collective efforts to counter terrorism and its sponsors.

Will Foil Pakistan Designs: DGP

border to send in weapons for militants operating in Jammu and

Kashmir. "This is the latest evil deed that is happening along the border. Earlier it used to happen on the Punjab border. We will give a befitting reply to this as well...

"So far we have tracked many drone consignments of weapons and narcotics and arrested all those involved in those modules. This is another evil design (of Pakistan) and we are alert to it," Singh said. He said underground tunnels and hideouts made by militants were a cause of concern as they posed a threat to the civilian population and peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Tunnels are mostly old, but now the intelligence network is strong and we are destroying these hideouts whether in forests or built up areas," he added.

The DGP said that while there were two attacks by militants within the past 24 hours, the government forces had conducted successful operations during the same period.

"While we have had these two incidents in the last 24 hours, you must appreciate that we had a successful operation this morning at Tral in which one hardcore militant has been neutralised. Just couple of days back, many successful operations have been carried out," he said.

Singh said in the current scenario in which Pakistan and its agencies are "sponsoring militancy in the state and are promoting it by all means", the effort of the security grid is to see that every such effort is foiled. "We have been successful and we will be successful. Anyone who is involved in militancy will be brought to justice," he added.

Assistant Sub-Inspector N C Badoley was killed in a militant attack in the Kaisermulla area of Budgam district on Thursday morning.

Director General CRPF A P Maheshwari led the security forces in paying homage to the fallen officer.

Maheshwari said such incidents would not deter the force.

"We are in complete synergy with J-K police and we will continue our mission to neutralise the militants who have been operating in the area. This does not deter us and reinforces our resolve. I assure that we will be soon eliminating the militants who are operating in this area," he said.

2 Cops Suspended Over Sopore...

he escaped from the police taking cover of darkness and terrain during a search operation. The alleged custodial killing prompted the district administration to order a magisterial inquiry.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, local news agency GNS quoting sources reported that police has suspended two cops who were escorting Dar at the time of incident.

The sources, however declined to comment further, saying investigation is still underway, GNS reported.

NIA Conducts Fresh Raids...

Awantipora in Pulwama. "Several digital devices and incriminating documents have been seized," the official said, adding that further investigation in the case was underway. The Cross-LoC trade between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-controlled-Kashmir (PcK) was stopped by Centre in March 2019.

Disengagement Requires...

Anurag Srivastava said disengagement is a complex process which would require mutually agreed "reciprocal actions", and the way ahead will be to refrain from making any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo.

Separately, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India and China are going through an "unprecedented" situation, but noted that the border row is one part of the larger issue of how the two countries adjust to each other when both are rising.

Speaking at a virtual conference of the World Economic Forum, he said it is important that China and India understand the need to accommodate each other's rise.

"We are going through, in a sense, an unprecedented situation. But if one looks at it from a somewhat longer-term, I would say this is one facet of a larger phenomenon for which both India and China have to sit down and find a solution," Jaishankar said when asked how ties between the two Asian giants will move forward.

At his media briefing, Srivastava said the next meeting under the framework of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs is likely to take place "soon". It is learnt that the WMCC talks will take place ahead of the next round of the Corps commander-level discussions.

"Even as two sides work towards complete disengagement in all friction areas, it is at the same time also necessary to ensure stability on the ground. The latest senior commanders meeting should be seen in this overall context," he said.

India and China held the sixth round of Corps commander-level talks on Monday following which both sides announced a series of decisions including to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further complicate matters.

The MEA spokesperson referred to the first ever joint press release issued by the two sides on Tuesday after any Corps commander-level meeting during the four-and-a-half-month standoff, adding it reflected their stated commitment to disengage along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"As we have pointed out earlier, disengagement is a complex process that requires redeployment of troops by each side towards their regular posts on their respective sides of the LAC. This would require mutually agreed reciprocal actions," he said.

Srivastava also said the meeting gave the senior commanders an opportunity to have candid and in-depth exchange of views on stabilising the situation along the LAC.

"The way ahead will be to refrain from making any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo, while the two sides continue their discussions to achieve complete disengagement in all friction areas and to ensure full restoration of peace and tranquillity in the border areas," he said.

He also mentioned about the decision of the two sides at the military talks to have the next meeting of the senior commanders at the earliest. "In parallel, the next meeting of the WMCC is also likely to take place soon."

Referring to the military talks, Srivastava said the two sides had decided to strengthen the ground communication to avoid any further misunderstandings and misjudgments, stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, and avoid taking any actions that may complicate the situation.

It was for the first time the Indian army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) announced specific measures to ease tensions in eastern Ladakh where the face-off began in early May.

The situation escalated manifold after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash in Galwan Valley on June 15. The Chinese side too suffered casualties, but it is yet to divulge the details.

The situation further deteriorated following 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.

As the tensions escalated further, the foreign ministers of the two countries held talks on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meet in Moscow on September 10 where they reached a

five-point agreement to defuse the situation in eastern Ladakh.

The agreement was the basis for the sixth round of Corps commander-level talks on Monday which was also attended for the first time by a joint secretary from the MEA.

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.

Another Soldier 'Detained'...

the girls were without tickets. "Nobody was detained and questioned," he said. Sources said that during questioning the girls have revealed that they had come to Airport to see off the soldier as he was their family friend.

Ladakh Councillor Granted...

the trial court. "...from the observations of the Supreme Court, it is clear that mere expression of derogatory or objectionable words may not be a sufficient ground for invoking the provisions contained in Section 124A or 153A of IPC," the court said, adding, "The provisions would apply only when the written or spoken words have the tendency or intention of creating disorder or disturbance of public peace by resort to violence." The court said that it would premature for it to comment on the question whether the alleged conversation made by Zakir and uploaded on the social media has the tendency of creating disorder or disturbance of public peace by resort to violence. "The same has to be considered by the trial court while framing charge against the petitioner, against whom, the challan is stated to have been filed during the pendency of this bail petition," the court said.

The court also said that the 'Case Diary' shows that immediately after commission of alleged offence by the Zakir, he has published a public apology and expressed his regrets. "This conduct of the petitioner subsequent to the commission of alleged offence, lends assurance against repetition of similar offence by (him)."

New Language Bill Sparks...

Conference (NC) spokesperson.

"By bringing such a law the Centre is anticipating the decisions of the Supreme Court. Ideally, the legislature is supposed to respect the judiciary, which unfortunately is not being done here."

Meanwhile, in the valley, the new bill continues to generate the heated debate.

"The bill is nothing but a political tool to drag people of Kashmir in more chaos and confusion linguistically," Mir Tariq Rasool continued. "What can one expect from a parliamentary cabinet where a decision-making body favours slogan of one language, one nation, and one culture," he added.

He argued that the bill is meant to create more trouble within the nation which "is surviving chronic cultural-cum-linguistic ailments for decades".

'A Silent Attack'

Since 1889, Urdu was deemed with official language status, said Zakir Malik, author of 'The Wail of the Woods'. Since then, he said, the records have been scribed in Urdu, in each department.

"The inclusion of Hindi is a silent attack on Kashmir, as it is a step towards legalizing a lesser important language, thereby legalizing the contested rule in Kashmir," he said.

Guftar Ahmed, a political activist from Jammu, said that by adding all these languages the government is trying to erase Urdu from the history of J&K.

"Urdu ko dafan karne ke liye sab kia ja raha hain (Everything is being done to bury Urdu)," he said.

'A Step to Create Friction'

Rao Farman Ali, author of 'Resistance History of Kashmir', told Kashmir Observer that the move by the Centre would act as a divisive step in the region.

In the future, it might create friction than unification in J&K, he added.

"Urdu was a link language between all ethnic groups of Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir," he said. "In the process of finding the link language, people would shift towards English and it would be a new type of anguish towards New Delhi."

'A move towards transparency'

But while a majority of people criticized the Bill, many hailed the inclusion of the three local languages.

Komal Gupta, a Jammu-based writer, argued that the step would lead to an adequate representation of local languages.

"Use of the regional languages in official work will lead to better transparency and accessibility for common masses," she said.

However, she emphasized that in today's time, official languages for any state or UT of India should be the language globally spoken and accepted.

"If Kashmiri, Dogri, and Hindi are kept as the official language, the youth may end up struggling to present themselves at the global level," added Gupta.

'A long Overdue'

J&K always had a rich cultural heritage, said Namrata Sharma, provincial president J&K Apni Party Women Wing, Jammu region.

"Its beauty is reflected in our values and practices, and a major part of it is of great linguistic heritage," she said.

The inclusion of Dogri, Kashmiri, and Hindi is a welcome step and one which had been long due, added Sharma. She believed that this step will certainly bring ease in governance and more efficiency in the administration.

Twitteratis also reacted to the move. Many of them demanded the inclusion of other languages like Gojri, Pahari, and Punjabi in the official language list.

Pak Shells LoC In Rajouri: Army...

killed and two others, including an officer, injured on Tuesday last as Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by using heavy fire and mortar shells along the Line of Control in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district, officials said.

On September 2, one JCO was killed in ceasefire violation by Pakistan army along the Line of Control in Keri sector of Rajouri.

Biker Dies In Budgam Mishap...

and registered a case in this regard and set investigations into motion. (KDC)

Labourer Killed, 7 Hurt In...

The injured soldiers were shifted to Military Hospital Drugmulla, they said. The injured labourers, Naveed Ahmad Khan, Javid Ahmad Khan, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan of MarsariChowkibal, Irshad Ahmad Katarinya of Tumina, have been shifted to Sub District Hospital Kralpora for treatment wherefrom they were referred to District Hospital Handwara for further treatment.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case (FIR no.96/2020) under section 304A, 279 and 337 IPC, a police official told GNS

Efforts On For Seeking UNESCO Heritage Tag For Mughal Gardens: Khan

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan today chaired a meeting here to review the preparation of the nomination dossier for listing Mughal Gardens as UNESCO heritage sites.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Department of Tourism, Commissioner Secretary Department of Floriculture, Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, VC Lakes and Waterways Development Authority, Director Tourism Kashmir, Director Floriculture Kashmir and Chief Town Planner Srinagar.

During the meeting the Advisor directed the concerned to work

in unison and in a coordinated manner so that a well planned dossier is prepared that will be submitted to UNESCO. He said that these gardens are part of our heritage and we have to preserve the same at any cost.

Maintaining that the Mughal gardens have immense historical significance, the Advisor said that their inscription on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites will bring in a much needed international attention and appreciation to these gardens. He directed that all departments should renew its efforts to secure a spot for these celebrated gardens in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list.

The Jammu and Kashmir admin-

istration along with a consultation team is making efforts to bring the famous Mughal Gardens on the map of UNESCO world heritage site. The Advisor said that it will be good for the people here if Mughal garden gets UNESCO's consideration which would boost tourism sector considerably.

During the meeting a detailed presentation was given about the preservation and promotion of heritage sites of Shalimar, Nishat, Pari Mahal, Achabal and Verinag in Kashmir.

During the meeting, elaborate discussions were held on the preparation of dossier and various suggestions were taken from various departments so that a better dossier is prepared.

Doctors, Paramedics On Strike in Tanghdar

Kupwara: A doctor was allegedly beaten up by miscreants inside the hospital in Tangdar area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The victim doctor has been identified as Dr Bashir who is posted at Sub-District Hospital Dildar Tanghdar as Surgeon Specialist.

The incident sparked protest from hospital fraternity while Doctors Association Kashmir condemned it in strong words.

Sources said that at least six persons from Dilgar village thrashed the doctor when he was proceeding to look after the Covid-19 positive patient in village Bhatpora and Dildar.

Block Medical Officer Tangdar in this regard shot a letter to Sub-Divisional Magistrate Karanah seeking action against the culprits.

Doctors and Para-medical staff of Sub-District Hospital Tanghdar observed a pen down strike, however emergency services ran as usual.

The doctors have threatened to stop the emergency services as well if action is not initiated against the culprits.

Expressing outrage, President DAK Kupwara said this brutal act of hooliganism against doctors is unacceptable.

Back to Village Phase III Govt orders deployment of officers

SRINAGAR : In connection with the "Third Phase of Back to Village (B2V3)" Programme being held from 2nd to 12th of October 2020, the government has ordered deployment of officers assigning them their districts of operation.

An order in this regard issued here today by the GAD stated that the exact location of the Panchayats where the Officer will be conducting the programme shall be communicated by the concerned Deputy Commissioners.

Rizvi reviews functioning of DRCC's

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: To review the functioning of District Red Cross Committees (DRCC's) of Kashmir Division, a meeting of Chairmen of District Red Cross Committees was held here today.

The meeting was chaired by Kifayat H. Rizvi, Honorary General Secretary, IRCS-J&K UT Branch and Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADC's) of all districts represented Chairmen in the meeting.

At the outset, Honorary General Secretary praised the District Committees of IRCS for their excellent relief work during the COVID-19 pandemic terming the distribution of masks, sanitizers, soaps, food kits, bed sheets and other material to COVID Centers as hallmark of the relief works.

The District Committees in addition to relief out of their own resources, distributed 44870 pcs of 3-ply masks, 9700 pcs of cloth masks, 11756 pairs of hand gloves, 29000 pcs of soaps and 240 PPE Kits to general public sent by IRCS, J&K UT Headquarters.

The Honorary General Secretary said that to make District Committees more vibrant, the constitution of the District Executive Committee with full membership and participation of the Civil Society is need of the hour. He said though District Red Cross Committees are doing commendable jobs but other aspects of Red Cross Movement viz. Junior and Youth Red Cross is being ignored at District and Regional Level in J&K hence District Committees were asked to prioritize these, so that youth and students fully participate in the Socio-Economic activities at District and Regional Level.

'Reduce the gap between Industries and Institutes' Takes stock of preparedness of centrally sponsored STRIVE project

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary School Education and Skill Development, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon today said that Skill Development Institutions needs recalibration with the Industrial requirements.

The Principal Secretary made these remarks while chairing the meeting of UT screening committee for 'Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)' project.

Sajad Hussain Ganai, Director Skill Development, J&K; Vinit Saksena, Deputy Director Regional, Directorate of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Gol and other officers and officials of Skill development

department were present in the meeting.

Representatives of industrial sector from Srinagar and Jammu also are members of the steering committee and participated in today's meeting.

The objective of the project is to improve the relevance and efficiency of skills training provided through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and apprenticeships.

Dr Samoon directed the officers to introduce modern machinery and training in ITIs so that the output of these Institutions have required a set of skills to serve in industrial units having latest machinery. He emphasized that the manpower generated

from such institutions should be market oriented so that they are in demand and earn handsomely.

Dr Samoon urged that the need of time is to introduce specialties in our technical institutions instead of only increasing the number of courses offered by them.

The Principal Secretary was informed that under the centrally sponsored STRIVE project each ITI selected would be provided Rs 2 crore for improving their performance to be monitored on the basis of performance indicators like increase in female enrolment rate, on the job training and number of pass-outs from these Institutes.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Division Pulwama Kashmir

Subject: - Extension Notice to e-NIT Nos. **O&M/Pul/18 of 2020-21 dated 16.09.2020.**

- O&M/Pul/22 of 2020-21 dated 16.09.2020**
- O&M/Pul/23 of 2020-21 dated 16.09.2020&**
- O&M/Pul/27 of 2020-21 dated 16.09.2020**

In view of poor response to the above subjected e-NIT's, the critical dates of submission of e-bids are extended as per below time line.

E Nit No. and date	Tender ID	Date of down load of tender document (Extended)	Last date of uploadingebids (extended)	Date of opening of technical bids (Extended)
O&M/Pul/18 of 2020-21 dated 16.09.2020	2020_PDD_104531_1	Up to 28.09.2020 (14:00 hrs)	Up to 28.09.2020 (14:00 hrs)	29.09.2020 (15:00 hrs) or as convenient to tender opening authority
O&M/Pul/22 of 2020-21 dated 16.09.2020	2020_PDD_104545_1	Up to 28.09.2020 (14:00 hrs)	Up to 28.09.2020 (14:00 hrs)	29.09.2020 (15:00 hrs) or as convenient to tender opening authority
O&M/Pul/23 of 2020-21 dated 16.09.2020	2020_PDD_104556_1	Up to 28.09.2020 (14:00 hrs)	Up to 28.09.2020 (14:00 hrs)	29.09.2020 (15:00 hrs) or as convenient to tender opening authority
O&M/Pul/27 of 2020-21 dated 16.09.2020	2020_PDD_104560_1	Up to 28.09.2020 (14:00 hrs)	Up to 28.09.2020 (14:00 hrs)	29.09.2020 (15:00 hrs) or as convenient to tender opening authority

DIPK-NB-2566/20

No. **O&M/Pul/** Dated **23.09.2020**

--sd--
Executive Engineer
O&M Division Pulwama

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
J&K Services Selection Board
Zum Zum Building Rambagh, Srinagar (www.ikssb.nic.in)
Notice for getting withheld recommendation released.

Whereas, J&K Services Selection Board issued final select list of candidates for the post of "Junior Staff Nurse (GMC)" Baramulla Divisional Cadre Kashmir pursuant to Advertisement Notification No. 08 of 2019, item No. 002 and forwarded the same to the indenting department for further course of action; and

Whereas, recommendation of some candidates were kept withheld with regard to some deficiencies which the candidates were required to furnish the same within 30 days from the date of publication of select list; and

Whereas, such candidates are required to be recommended to the indenting department for appointment subject to production of requisite documents as indicated in the remarks at annexure "A" which they have not furnished till date; and

Now, therefore, the candidates as per details given in annexure "A" to this notice are hereby informed through the medium of this notice to submit their requisite documents within a period of 21 days in the Central office of J&K Services Selection Board, Zum Zum Building Rambagh, Srinagar failing which they will forfeit their right being recommended and their candidature shall be cancelled forthwith.

No.SSB/Secy/Sel/43/2020/K/3423-25
DIPK-6237/20

Dated. 22.09.2020.

(Ranjeet Singh) KAS
Secretary,
J&K Services Selection Board, Jammu

Annexure "A"

S. No.	"sel. S.No. candidate"	Paentage	Address	Date of birth	Remarks
1	8 SABREENA GULL	MOHD ABDULLAH SHAH	BOTINGOO SOPORE ZAINGAIR SIDIQIA COLONY BOTINGOO BOTINGOO SOPORE Dangarpora Baramulla	15-02-93	Recommendation withheld subject to production of unmarried certificate as on cut off date
2	31 SAFIYA	GHULAM NABI GILOO	SOURASOURA NEARJENAB SAHIB SHRINE CITY Eidgah Srinagar	05-01-92	Recommendation with held subject to production of unmarried certificate as on cut off date
3	3 MEHRUN NISA	AB REHMAN WANI	QAZIGUND KULGAM NEAR ZIYARATSHARIEF 902432 Devsar Kulgam	01-03-90	Recommendation withheld subject to production of bonafide certificate of degree & unmarried certificate as on cut off date

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
J&K Services Selection Board
Zum Zum Building Rambagh, Srinagar (www.ikssb.nic.in)
Notice for getting withheld recommendation released.

Whereas, J&K Services Selection Board issued final select list of candidates for the post of "Junior Staff Nurse (GMC)" Anantnag Divisional Cadre Kashmir pursuant to Advertisement Notification No. 08 of 2019, item No. 001 andforwarded the same to the indenting department for further course of action; and

Whereas, recommendation of some candidates were kept withheld with regard to some deficiencies which the candidates were required to furnish the same within 30 days from the date of publication of select list; and

Whereas, such candidates are required to be recommended to the indenting department for appointment subject to production of requisite documents as indicated in the remarks at annexure "A" which they have not furnished till date; and


Now, therefore, the candidates as per details given in annexure "A" to this notice are hereby informed through the medium of this notice to submit their requisite documents within a period of 21 days in the Central office of J&K Services Selection Board, Zum Zum Building Rambagh, Srinagar failing which they will forfeit their right being recommended and their candidature shall be cancelled forthwith.

No.SSB/Secy/Sel/44/2020/K/ 3429-31
Dated. 22.09.2020.

(Ranjeet Singh) KAS
Secretary,
J&K Services Selection Board, Jammu

s. No.	Sel. S.No.	Name of candidate	Parentage	Annexure "A" Address	Date of birth	Remarks
1	4	AASIA RASOOL	GH RASOOL SHEIKH	ACHABALTRAHPOO ACHABALTRAHPOO Anantnag	01-01-96	Recommendation withheld subject to production of date of declaration of result of B.Sc Ivth year and date of completion of degree and production of bonafide certificate of degree duly counter signed by competent authority
2	10	SABREENA GULL	MOHD ABDULLAH SHAH	BOTINGOO SOPORE ZAINGAIR SIDIQIA COLONY BOTINGOO BOTINGOO SOPORE Dangarpora Baramulla	15-02-93	Recommendation withheld subject to production of unmarried certificate as on cut-off date
3	14	UZMA IQBAL	MOHD IQBAL WAGAY	ASHMUJI MOOMIN ABADA Kulgam Kulgam	10-02-94	Recommendation withheld subject to production of degree
4	34	SAFIYA	GHULAM NABI GILOO	SOURA SOURA NEAR JENAB SAHIB SHRINE CITY Eidgah Srinagar	05-01-92	Recommendation withheld subject to production of bonafide certificate of degree and 10+2 qualification certificate
5	5/ Waiting	YASEEN HASSAN	GH HASSAN GANIE	PARIPORA MAGAM Magam Budgam	06-12-94	Recommendation withheld subject to production of bonafide certificate of degree and 10+2 qualification certificate
6	5	MEHRUN NISA	AB REHMAN WANI	QAZIGUND KULGAM NEAR ZIYARAT SHARIEF 902432 Devsar Kulgam	01-03-90	Recommendation withheld subject to production of bonafide certificate of degree & unmarried certificate as on cut-off date
7	3/ Waiting	RAFEYA RAMZAN	MOHAMMAD RAMZAN MIR	DIALGAM NEAR MASJID Anantnag	12-05-96	Recommendation withheld subject to production of valid within date RBA Category certificate and degree
8	11/ Waiting	HEENA YASEEN	MOHAMMAD YASEEN SHAH	HAIJIPORA SHOPIAN HAIJIPORA HAIJIPORA Hermain Shopian	18-04-94	Recommendation withheld subject to production of all original documents

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
- BIJHERA: 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**
07 Safar
1442

PRAYERS
FAJR 4: 57
ZUHR 12: 23
ASR 4:42
Magrib 6:28
ISHA 7:48

This Day In History

- 1066 - Battle of Stamford Bridge; English army under King Harold Godwinson defeat invading Norwegians led by King Harald Hardrada and Harold's brother Tostig, who were both killed
- 1340 - England & France sign disarmament treaty
- 1396 - Battle of Nicopolis: Sultan Bajezid I defeats Crusades armies
- 1493 - Columbus sails with 17 ships on 2nd voyage to the Americas
- 1513 - Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa crosses the Panama Isthmus becoming first European to see the Pacific Ocean
- 1597 - Amiens surrenders to French King Henri IV
- 1639 - First printing press in America
- 1639 - Suzuki Shosan, Samurai monk of Zen Buddhism, found awakening
- 1654 - England & Denmark sign trade agreement
- 1663 - Austrian Fort Neuhausl surrenders to invading Turkish army
- 1690 - Public Occurrences, first newspaper in the American colonies (Boston), publishes first & last edition
- 1777 - British general William Howe conquers Philadelphia
- 1780 - Benedict Arnold joins the British
- 1804 - 12th amendment to US constitution, regulating judicial power
- 1820 - French Physicist Francois Arago announces electromagnetism in his discovery that a copper wire between the poles of a voltaic cell could laterally attract iron filings to itself
- 1846 - US troops under Gen Taylor occupies Monterey Mexico
- 1857 - Relief of Lucknow by Havelock & Outram begins
- 1911 - French battleship Liberté explodes at Toulon Harbor, 285 killed.
- 1912 - Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism is founded in New York, New York.
- 1915 - Battle of Loos commenced, lasted until 14th October. Chlorine gas deployed by the British was blown back into their own trenches: 59,000 British & 26,000 German casualties.
- 1915 - The Second Battle of Champagne begins.
- 1937 - Battle of of Ping-hsin-kuan Wutai Mountain.
- 1939 - German Luftwaffe strikes Warsaw with (fire)bombs.
- 1939 - Andorra and Germany sign a treaty ending WW I, as Versailles Peace Treaty forgot to include Andorra.
- 1943 - Russian troops liberate Smolensk.
- 1956 - First transatlantic telephone cable goes into operation from Newfoundland to Oban.
- 1957 Great Britain performs nuclear test at Maralinga, Australia
- 1957 - Soviet 7 year plan (1959-1965) announced.
- 1972 - Norway votes to join European common market.
- 1974 - Scientists first report that freon gases from aerosol sprays are destroying the ozone layer.
- 1980 - The first congress of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan held in Kabul.
- 1984 - Egypt & Jordan regain diplomatic relations.
- 1989 - Archaeologists open Titus of Rhine grave in Amsterdam.
- 1990 - Saddam Hussein warns that US will repeat Vietnam experience.
- 1990 - UN Security Council vote 14-1 to impose air embargo against Iraq.
- 1997 - STS 86 (Atlantis 20) launches into orbit
- 2008 - China launches the spacecraft Shenzhou 7.
- 2008 - The "Celtic Tiger" slides into recession for the first time in over two decades, recording a 0.5% fall in second quarter GDP, following a 0.3% decline in the first quarter; its last recession in 1983 saw thousands of people leave Ireland to seek work overseas.
- 2012 - 50 Taiwanese ships clash with the Japan Coast Guard in waters off the Senkaku Islands.
- 2015 - Singapore closes

From KO Archives

1100 militants active in Jammu division: Army

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: About 1100 militants, 50 percent of them foreigners are operating in Jammu division, a senior army official has said. The militants strength has increased from 600 to 1100 in Doda, Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur and Kathua districts of Jammu division since 1997-98, the GoC of Jammu Corps, Lt.General A.S. Khanna told reporters at the 16 Corps headquarters in Nagrota yesterday.

Of these, 50 percent are operating in Doda district alone, while the remaining in Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur districts, he said, adding that over 50 percent of militants belong to Hizb-ul-Mujahideen.

He said as many as 549 militants 'were killed in different operations in Jammu division this year. Of these, 164 militants were killed in Poonch, followed by 15.7 in Rajouri, 94 in Udhampur, 75 in Doda, 41 in Jammu and 18 in Kathua districts since January this year.

Last year as many as 458 militants were killed in the division. Similarly, troops killed 115 militants along Jammu border during 77 unsuccessful infiltration bids, while 62 militants were killed in 54 bids last year. Besides, 52 civilians were killed by militants this year. Of these, 43 civilians were killed by militants and nine civilians were killed in blast caused by same period, he said.

(Kashmir Observer, September 25, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Hope on
Indo-China front

In the latest agreement, India and China have agreed not to send troops to the frontline in Ladakh. This was agreed at a meeting of the Indian and Chinese senior military commanders that met on Monday to discuss stabilizing tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Both sides have agreed to reinforce communication on the ground to remove the possibility of a misunderstanding or action that may further complicate the situation. They also agreed that there shall be no unilateral action that would alter the situation on the ground. The two sides are meeting again to build upon the current understanding.

In another positive development, Chinese premier Xi Jinping has said that China doesn't want either hot or cold war against any country. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly, Jinping said that China will never seek hegemony or pursue expansionist policies.

However, on ground in Ladakh, the situation remains tense. Indian and Chinese armies remain in an eye-ball to eye-ball position along the LAC. Despite several meetings between the armed forces of the two countries and later on between defence and foreign ministers of the two countries that have led to agreements to disengage and de-escalate the situation, little has altered on the ground. At times, actions by the Chinese side have pushed the situation to the brink. On June 15, twenty Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese soldiers were killed in a skirmish in Galwan Valley. And recently, there was also a shooting incident between the two armies, the first of its kind in decades.

India wants China to go back to status quo ante as it existed in April but Beijing is in no mood to do so. On the contrary, the People's Liberation Army has enhanced its military profile on the border by deploying thousands of its soldiers and equipment. In recent years China has reportedly more than doubled its total number of air bases, air defence positions and heliports near the Indian border.

This has now become a high stakes war of nerves between the two countries. More so, for India that can hardly afford to be distracted at a time when the number of the Covid-19 positive cases has crossed 56 lakh. What is more, the number of the daily cases has shown an exponential rise at times reaching close to one lakh. Besides, the depleting economy hit hard by the badly implemented nationwide lockdown hardly affords the government any space for hostilities. China, on the other hand, has successfully tackled the pandemic, despite being the country of origin of the deadly contagion.

A pragmatic way out to resolve the lingering stand-off is through negotiations, even if it takes time. With winter approaching it will be in the interest of both the countries to reach an understanding that also holds on the ground. But this can only happen if Beijing approaches the dialogue seriously.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Fallen warriors

For how long can an illusion affecting the lives of millions be kept up before it collapses? The Indian Medical Association seems to have found an answer to the question when it called out the Centre's "hypocrisy" for extolling Covid-19 frontline healthcare workers as "warriors" while, at the same time, not bothering to keep track of those among them who have lost their lives to the virus. That it fell to the IMA to point out that 382 doctors have died from Covid-19 is telling, as is the fact that the Union health ministry insisted, at the time of a national-level health crisis, that health is a state subject. That the Centre has suddenly remembered to invoke the principle of federalism suggests that it will pounce on every opportunity to pass the buck to conceal its own dereliction of duty. This is not surprising. The BharatiyaJanata Party-led Central government's willingness to maintain data depends on the nature of the information. So the Centre has expressed its inability to collate data on, say, the deaths of migrant workers during the lockdown or on farmer suicides. Yet, in Uttar Pradesh, where the BJP is in power, data collection — surveillance? — has been facilitated by tracking the call records of Covid-19 patients, ostensibly for effective contact tracing.

The Centre's plaintive cries about the absence of data on the deaths of frontline health workers have several implications. The most troubling is its use of lofty rhetoric in place of meaningful interventions. The prime minister goaded the nation to honour Covid warriors by raising a frightful din with pots and pans; more recently, and on a serious note, a bill has been passed by Parliament to protect frontline workers and doctors from physical assault. But several other crippling dimensions of the crisis remain unaddressed. For instance, how serious is the shortage of protective equipment? Doctors in Bihar — the BJP is eyeing the state in the forthcoming polls — are on record saying that one of the chief reasons for deaths in the fraternity is the supply of substandard protective equipment. There have been other irregularities as well. Several hundred fake ventilators were allegedly installed in hospitals across Gujarat — the prime minister's home state — without any regulatory assessment of the faulty equipment, seriously undermining concerns of public health. Meanwhile, personnel in the lower rungs of India's Covid Warrior Force continue to labour with minimal resources. Theatrics can do little to mask the stench of death in the trenches.

The Telegraph India



In February, when the anti NRC –CAB issue was at its peak, not only were processions taken out, but slogans were also shouted out against the state's proposed legislations. One of the popular slogans that never failed to elicit a response was: Hum kyachahtay: Azaadi (What do we want? Liberty). Then the sloganeer would go on to list the various oppressive structures like poverty, and casteism from which the protests demanded liberty. For a Kashmiri, the slogan seems all too familiar.

Any study of cultures of dissent and resistance must take into account the immense importance and pervasiveness of slogans. Unlike poetry of resistance, which demands a sophisticated understanding of the operations of metaphor and familiarity with idiom; a slogan makes no demands on exclusivity. Rather, its existence relies on its iterability – its ability to be repeated, which presumes it must be easy to comprehend and memorize, and thus avoid every claim to complexity. The necessity of memorizing arises from the fact that unlike poetry, a slogan is seldom written (If it is written, it is usually post its recital), nor claimed to be the intellectual property of a particular person, rather exists in the collective memory as a common property of sorts. This naturally entails that the slogan must rely on brevity in order to be memorized and recalled by the collective.

A slogan is inherently a public act. It achieves meaning and power only when it is performed in a public place. A slogan is a way of indicating that the public space which is regulated by the state, will be re-configured and reimagined as the protestors seek to reclaim control of the space. By participating in the slogan and answering to the slogan, the sloganeers recognize their capacity to appropriate space, and defy discipline imposed by the state. A slogan allows the protestors to modify the meanings of a public place.

A road, for example, becomes not a geography of conveyance but a space charged with emotional meanings, a place where competing and dissenting vectors of desire can exist in violation of the state will. The protestors' actions prove that symbolic signs are tied to specific objects and geographies in arbitrary ways, not as facts, as the state would have them believe through regulation of spaces, mapping and closing of spaces. A slogan is attestation of the fact that human actions can variously alter the meanings and form of places, a

Of Slogans

HUZAIFA PANDIT

possibility the state is perpetually wary of. It implies that the power to nominate and determine meaning and accessibility has transferred from the state to the people.

That the act of sloganeering is conducted in public, is an attestation of the fact that symbolic associations with public places especially conspicuous places like Ghantaghar or Clock Tower or the UN office get built over time, and acquire a narrative infallibility that is impossible to erase. As Edelman notes, "The conspicuousness of public structures, together with their emptiness of explicit meaning, enablesthem to serve as symbolic reaffirmations of many levels of perceptions and beliefs." A slogan is therefore at once an act of historicizing, an act of dissent, and an act of reclamation. It serves as an agent of translation where the collective dissent is translated into a

say seencha/Woh Kashmir humarahai (The Kashmir you have watered with blood/ That Kashmir is ours). The slogan was conceived during the Plebiscite movement started by Afzal Beg – the trusted lieutenant of Sheikh Abdullah – the then Prime Minister of Kashmir who was summarily dismissed first for losing the confidence of his cabinet, and arrested on charges of conspiring against the country. The slogan sought to reiterate the heavy price Kashmir had to pay for opposing Dogra rule invoking the various massacres like the Zaldagar Massacre the horror of gilgitbegaar (forcible labour to carry supplies to Gilgitcantonement that routinely left the coolies dead, disabled, or traumatized) and the partition horrors in Jammu against Muslims to press the demand that people of Kashmir must be allowed to decide their political destiny.

The National Conference Flag and the flag of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was a red cloth with a white plough on it. This relic of Abdullah's flirtation with Nehruvian socialism evoked the plough as a symbol of the disenfranchised tiller, invariably a Kashmiri Muslim, crushed under agrarian debt, and a hostile Hindu state

renewal or familiarization with an integration into a particular ideological position (of being part of, or against a collective).While the state relies on increasing the distance between the subjects, if necessary by use of coercion (a curfew or tear gas shelling is meant to scatter the protestors), sloganeering achieves the opposite effect by reducing the distance between the participants. It unites the protestors as voices are synchronized, order followed and replies coordinated impromptu; establishing them as a collective unit rather than a collection of disparate individuals.

Having established the dynamics of performativity of the slogan, it now follows that one must examine the operation of the slogan itself – why the slogan is what it is, and how does it work? I propose to illustrate this by taking up a case study of a slogan, and analyzing its working. The slogan I have selected for this analysis is Jis Kashmir koKhoon

The operative word in the slogan first is the demonstrative 'jis' (That) implying therein that there are multiple Kashmirs. The plural evokes the multiple imaginations of Kashmir – as a paradisiacal bower, a war zone, an atootang and a shah-rag (Integral part for India, and the jugular vein for Pakistan), as well as the MaejKasheer (Mother Kashmir) for its locals. The demonstrative 'jis' then evokes a Kashmir, which is the real Kashmir and not its fantastical representations. The slogan, however, works first due to the emotive force of the verb 'seencha', which can mean both plough and irrigate. 'Plough' evokes the pervasive violence that inscribes and unsettles the soft surface of the earth evoking the imaginaries of incision, engraving and etching into the flesh, a painful process and thereby an appropriate reminder of the pain of Kashmir. Visceral experiences are the primary and first experiences in an individual's

life, and therefore the evocation of a memory etched in flesh is a reminder of the permanence and severity of the trauma of Kashmir. Hence, one of the common ways to indicate severe grief, especially in Kashmir, is to suggest that it is inscribed on the heart (the heart being a repository of emotions). The land and people become fused, as the earth becomes a metaphor for the heart and flesh– the emotive collective and collective memory of Kashmir.

Moreover, since the land is ploughed by blood, the land and people are further fused as blood spilled leaves a trail of destruction and grief on the Kashmiri heart. However, it can be read in an another way too – blood as fertilizer and land as the fruit. The National Conference Flag and the flag of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was a red cloth with a white plough on it. This relic of Abdullah's flirtation with Nehruvian socialism evoked the plough as a symbol of the disenfranchised tiller, invariably a Kashmiri Muslim, crushed under agrarian debt, and a hostile Hindu state. The colour red – both the colour of blood, and revolution indicated a 'Naya Kashmir' (New Kashmir) – one premised on equality and liberty. The verb 'seencha' thus evokes this whole paradigm of historical memory, and the hope of finally reclaiming the land. The assertion of 'Woh Kashmir humarahai' serves as a reminder that the process is yet incomplete. This tracing of the land through blood is a reminder of the imaginaries in which a nation is conceived – sacrifice and bloodshed. As the grandmother in Amitav Ghosh's Shadow Lines points out that the character Ila has no right to live in England. She says:

"She doesn't belong there. It took these people a long time to build that country... years of war and bloodshed. Everyone who lives there has earned his right to be there with their blood: with their brother's blood and their father's blood and their son's blood."

The nation, therefore, is conceived through the rite of blood, and the slogan is a reminder of this rite.I leave it to the reader to reflect on how the slogan still stays as relevant in the post-370 context, as it was when it was conceived five decades ago – five decades of stagnation, and grief.

Huzaifa Pandit is the author of the recently published Green is the Colour of Memory, which won the first edition of Rhythm Divine Poets Chapbook Contest 2017. He holds a PhD on poetry of resistance from University of Kashmir.



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Rise and risks of unemployment

In May 2019, the government confirmed that India's unemployment rate rose to 6.1 percent in 2017-18 which was at a 45 years high. As per the National statistical office (NSO) report, India's April-June quarter GDP contracted by 23.9 , the first contraction in more than 40 years. The number of unemployed people are likely to grow not just because people are failing to find Jobs, but also because several already employed are likely to lose their jobs, because of the recession in economy and unplanned lockdown imposed due to

covid-19.

According to the Center for Monitoring Indian economy (CMIE's) data, the monthly unemployment rate in April stood at 23.52% up from March's 8.74%. CMIE's also indicated that the urban unemployment rate in urban India in the week ending 6th Sept 2020 was at 8.32 percent.

Recently, the J&K service selection board (JKSSB) released online notifications to recruit class IV and account assistant posts which were 8575 & 1889 respectively. Around 6 lakh candidates applied for these post,

indicative of the abysmal state of employment rate in Kashmir.

On Sept 17th2020, PM Modi's birthday was celebrated as the national unemployment day by several individual and political parties with the trending hashtag "National Unemployment Day". It marked a protest against the high unemployment rates in the country and sought to highlight Government's failure to create jobs and provide employment.

Unemployment is the root cause of many problems. It doesn't merely affects an individual, but has the poten-

tial to harm the economic, social and mental health of a community. There are a number of problems which are overtly or covertly related to unemployment. These are not limited to severe financial hardship or debt only but also lead to family tension, alienation, shame, stigma, stress, depression and even suicide. It's a high time we come together and fight for better employment opportunities.

...
Faizan Ashraf
faizanashraf2012a@gmail.com

Kashmiri Scholar in Wilderness: Where’s Hilal?

Part -II

100 days after he went missing in the woods of Naranag, a Kashmiri scholar’s case remains an unsolved mystery.

SANIKA ATHAVALLE

Neither has there been any public announcement of his suspected recruitment to militant ranks nor have the police found a single alibi from their network of information yet.

He Dreamed Of Writing Books

The false information about Hilal’s death in the Zadibal encounter of June 21 had shifted the focus from the manipulative harshness of encounters to the juicy update on the whereabouts of the ‘lost’ PhD scholar who dreamed of writing books.

Having lost his mother in 2014 and father in 2018, Hilal lived in Malviya Nagar, New Delhi working as a Process Associate for Admiral Group plc, headquartered in Cardiff, Wales. He was a BBA graduate from Islamia College and had even completed his MBA degree from Kashmir University (KU). He had applied for a PhD in Management Studies while he was on the job. His last conversations with his friends were about prospective job offers and career opportunities.

“Our parents raised us with passion, surviving many difficult times. Our mother dreamed of Hilal as a professor and so did he,” Yasir said.

Before he disappeared, he left New Delhi for Kashmir on March 23, just before ‘the world’s strictest lockdown’ was declared. He was working, quarantined in his quarters, when his uncle called him back home in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Obedient, as he had always been, Hilal came home after trying to protest a little.

“He argued that if anything were to happen to him, Delhi was a much better place to be, healthcare services-wise. But we were adamant. We had called all the children of the house back during the world-wide scare of coronavirus,” Sadiq disclosed.

And so, complying as per culture, the bird flew back to his nest to be ‘safe’. He came back to his old room, unoccupied since two years, and refurbished it in his own style with paint. He installed a Jio Fiber connection – familiar in a sans-Internet Kashmir – to work.

The evening before he disappeared, Hilal had worked for 10 hours. He had shared that evening’s supper with his brother and had told him that he had to “bring juice” for others in the trekking group.

At dawn, the following day, June 14, he had also updated his Facebook status and WhatsApp story individually, with information about the planned activity.

“It hurts when they speak like that. With such carelessness. He was no militant. He was barely even a political person,” Hilal’s brother stated.

At 10:15 am, when the Four were indeed drinking tea, Mehraj also saw Hilal retract with his phone.

It was to send a text message to Yasir.

“After that, he lost connectivity and we have been searching for him since,” Sadiq cried.

“Please help us,” he said, “The police had told us a month and a half before Eid-ul-Adha that they were getting a ‘lead’ in Shopian. But they just kept repeating that for more than a month, not divulging anything more about what it exactly was. It turned out to be a phone number that they had to trace but there was no progress there. So I took the name and address of the ‘lead’ from the police and went to find out for myself. It was just a boy from Hilal’s college who he had called to discuss academics.”

Danish, the ‘lead’ from Shopian, studied in Islamia College with Hilal. “Yes, that is true. Hilal was barely my friend, just an old college-mate. Ten days before he disappeared, the forms for the *Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students* had been released. He called regarding some doubts he had about that scholarship. My roommate, a resident of Kangan, is studying Commerce so Hilal asked me to connect them. My roommate also knew him from college,” the ‘lead’ stated.

Danish believes that his conversation was singled out because of Shopian’s infamy and his from-Kangan roommate. “I was called in for questioning and I submitted my phone to the Deputy Superintendent of Police. Eventually they found out that we had only spoken about academics.”

Even though he said that he ‘hardly knows Hilal’, Danish does not think that the scholar would ever lift the gun.

His roommate of two years, Umar, called Hilal a ‘quiet type’ who slept a lot. He informed that Hilal had invited their common friend, Qadri, to the trek after learning about it. “Since Qadri’s leg/hand was



Mehraj’s click with his friend walking in front. Three from the trekking group, excluding Hilal and Sahil, are visible ahead.

hurt, he declined the offer. But feels terribly guilty now,” Umar mentioned.

When the police asked him if Hilal had any romantic inclinations, Umar said that having a girlfriend was never his priority. Hilal was immersed in his ambitions and would never miss a night’s work. He worked in the graveyard shift at Admiral Group plc. “Hilal would always manage to almost-miss the cab because of his love for sleep,” he chuckled.

Umar painted from his memory the picture of a notebook the scholar kept at Malviya Nagar. On one of its pages, Hilal had craftily written about His Dreams that one of their flatmates had caught a glimpse of.

“Our parents raised us with passion, surviving many difficult times. Our mother dreamed of Hilal as a professor and so did he,” Yasir said.

This titibit was boisterously shared among the flatmates as it reminded them of children’s expression corners created on the backs of school notebooks.

He also vaguely remembered e-meeting Tabish when Hilal added him to their PUBG-team. “Hilal had friends, a decent social life. He was not lonely or facing any mental health issues. Our last conversation was about our plan to apply for jobs at the J&K Bank. He even sent me some online books to study for the same,” he added.

Hilal was not cut out to be a militant, the roommate stressed.

“A funny type,” he said, “Hilal would not follow anyone on Instagram. We once argued about that too and I had teasingly unfollowed him.”

But @hilal_abdulbasit follows one person and there is no way to know ‘who’ for anyone who is not an existing follower. His uncle said that he had reason to believe there was a clue hidden there. “I do not know if the follower was added after his disappearance and I have appealed to the police to employ their ethical hackers to check. What if he is trying to tell us that he is alive? We need to know.”

Unfortunately, the police have not checked or responded to his appeal. Yet.

“There is no case of militancy here. The child has always been studious and an excellent performer. He has won so many recognitions and was even setting his sail to Dubai after his best friend got a job there but we stopped him so that he was easily reachable,” Sadiq said stressfully but excitedly.

What Has Been Done To Find Him?

The investigating officer at Kangan Police Station said that there was no reason that necessitated tracing Hilal’s phone. “He was out of coverage when he ‘stopped’ and was ‘lost’. Assuming that he has ‘crossed the border’, his SIM card won’t work and hence is untraceable,” Sub-Inspector Rashid declared.

But there is no evidence that the scholar has crossed the border. Yet.

Still.

“We have scaled the mountain 10-15 times to find him,” the cop informed. “Recently, on August 24, a large group of police officers, SHO and DSP included, stayed near the lake for four days. We checked every obvious and non-obvious spot but have found nothing.”

He maintained that they have been on their toes, at their best, desperately looking for a solid clue.

Has he left with a purpose or is a captive somewhere?

An Unfamiliar Disappearance

Neither has there been any public announcement of his suspected recruitment to militant ranks nor have the police found a single alibi from their network of information. Yet.

And the Four regret their trek. The siblings said in bitter sarcasm that they committed a mistake going for the hike that day. Now, every turn they take, they are followed by punishing looks and mistrusting faces. Their families only mourn their sons’ ill-timed adventure and pity their luck.

Hilal’s brother and family said that they have

been failed by hollow promises and sympathetic words. The system’s uncooperativeness, they said, has broken their family.

“Every act is insincere and every appeal is unheard. We wander alone, sometimes with people who wish to help, to look for a sign or some direction that will lead us to him,” Yasir sobbed.

He said this as he was reaching the Kangan town looking for newly-arrived Bakarwals who were just in time for their seasonal visit, hopeful of extracting some noteworthy information about his scholar sibling.

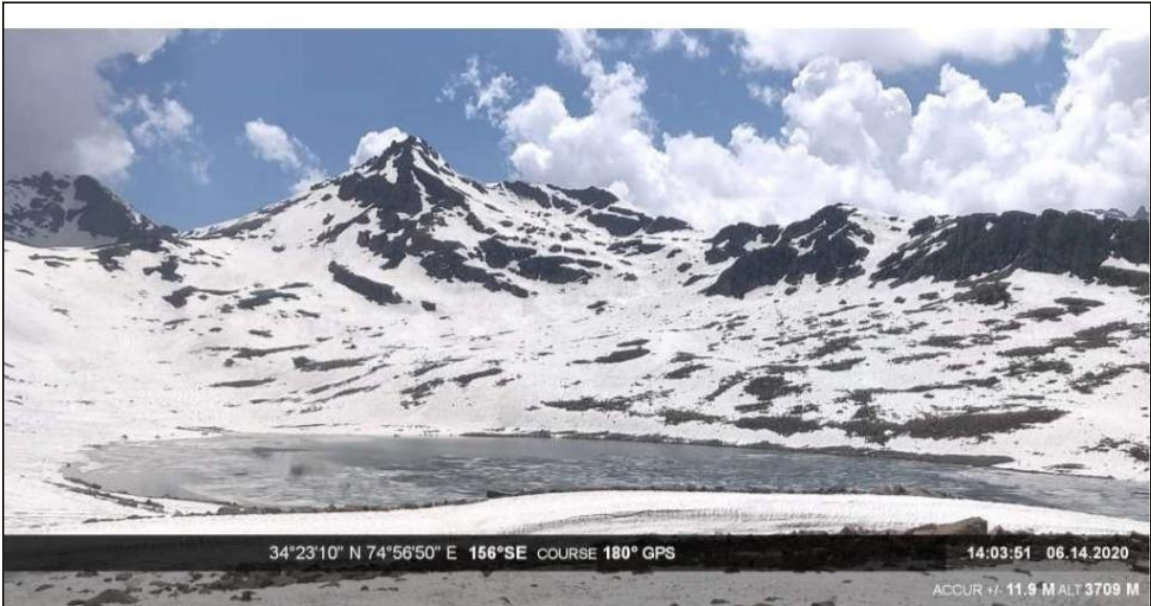
Three months since he disappeared in a set of events – unfamiliar to Kashmir’s (simulated) peace – every byte of intelligence about him has led to a very hard question.

Has he (too) disappeared like the thousands? “Abhi kuch bol nahi sakte,” the investigating officer sighed in response.

(Nothing can be said right now)



Sahil with Hilal in the attire the scholar was last seen in.



The Kolsar Lake as captured by Tabish “on reaching the spot”.

RESEARCHERS FIND NATURE

Conservation, Tourism Can Coexist Despite Conflicts

CREATING MORE JOBS, PREVENTING environmental harm, guaranteeing the satisfaction of tourists, and operating within the local cultural and social frameworks all constitute part of sustainable tourism. All of these aspects should be developed equally."

Agencies

The concept of sustainable nature tourism plays a key role in mediating conflicts between tourism and nature conservation, a new study from the University of Eastern Finland shows.

The study takes a geo-historical approach to analyse the environmental conflict surrounding the founding of Koli National Park in Finland, where the idea of sustainable nature tourism was used as a way out of the conflict. In Koli National Park, sustainable nature tourism has proven to be a useful concept for conflict resolution.

"Adopting the principles of sustainable

nature tourism helped the national park's management to reach nature conservation goals. Moreover, the hopes and wishes of local residents and companies on how to develop tourism and the economy were also taken into consideration as part of sustainability, and this fostered a positive attitude towards the national park among locals," Researcher Jani Karhu from the University of Eastern Finland says.

The study was published in Tourism Geographies. The researchers interviewed managers and designers of Koli National Park, and they also analysed local newspaper articles.

National parks are a key instrument of nature conservation and one of the most recognised institutions in nature tourism worldwide. Koli National Park was founded in 1991. The founding of the park was preceded by the heated debate over whether the area should be developed into a modern resort for mass tourism, or whether its unique national landscape and nature should be protected. In Koli, the approach to solving the conflict was through sustainable nature tourism.

"Creating more jobs, preventing environmental harm, guaranteeing the satisfaction of tourists, and operating within the local cultural and social frameworks all constitute part of sustainable tourism. All of these aspects should be developed equally."

"Emphasis on economy fuels new conflicts

In the early 2000s, the concept of sustainable nature tourism was largely accepted as a principle that guided the planning and management of Finnish national parks. Nowadays, this principle is widely accepted also among tourism developers. However, there are also indications that the concept of sustainable nature tourism is used for greenwashing extensive tourism projects. In Koli, too, the past few years have witnessed the revival of large projects that have failed in the past.

"These economy-driven ideas of a sustainability push the idea of sustainable nature tourism away from nature itself, and serve as fuel for new conflicts," Karhu points out.

"History awareness and cultural heritage are becoming part of nature tourism

Funded by Kone Foundation, the study


constitutes part of the geo-historical research project Lively Border: The Nature Tourism and History Politics in the Finnish-Russian-Norwegian Border Region focused on the historical sites and conservation areas within the Finnish-Russian-Norwegian border region. In the Fennoscandian Green Belt, history awareness and cultural heritage are only now becoming part of an eco-friendly tourism concept that is based on natural heritage.

"In the future, we may have large Green Parks, a new type of conservation area, which doesn't push people away but rather highlights coexistence with nature, interaction with other people, and well-being," says Professor Maria Lahteenmaki, the project's Principal Investigator.

CONDOLANCE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved father, Haji Asgar Mir, S/o Jaffar Mir, R/o Labertal Budgam. The deceased left for heavenly abode on Tuesday, 22 September 2020. May Allah grant him highest place in Heaven.

The Chaharum (Fateh Khani) will be held today, 25th September 2020.



Bereaved Family:
Mohammad Safdar Mir.
Bashir Ahmah Mir.
Ali Mohd Mir.
Mohammad Qasim Mir and other family members.

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‘Greater Father Involvement In Infant Parenting Is Beneficial For Paternal Mental Health’

Agencies

A father's involvement in the parenting of an infant is associated to a lower risk of experiencing paternal depressive symptoms during the first year of the child's life, according to a study. The study was published in the open-access journal Frontiers in Psychiatry. The investigators in the larger study conducted home interviews with 881 low-income ethnically and racially diverse fathers from 5 different sites in the US, one month after the birth of a child and controlling for social and demographic variables, they examined the three parenting indicators: father time spent with the infant, parenting self-efficacy and material support for the infant. They also assessed paternal depressive symptoms at regular intervals (1, 6 and 12 months after birth) using the Edinburgh Postpartum Depression Scale.

The authors found that all three indicators - the greater amount of time fathers spent with their newborn, parenting self-efficacy and ability to provide material support - predicted lower rates of depressive symptoms in the fathers during the following year. The authors also found that only parenting self-efficacy was associated to a higher risk of clinical depression, with the percentage of fathers with symptoms indicating clinical depression being 10% after 1 month, 15% after 6 months and 12% after 12 months. "We found that fathers who were more involved with their infants shortly after their birth were less likely to be depressed a year later," says Dr Olajide N. Bamishigbin Jr., Assistant Professor of Psychology at California State University, Long Beach, USA, and first author of the paper. "In our paper, we suggest a few reasons that greater father involvement in parenting would lead to less depression in fathers. For example, fathers who are more involved during infancy may feel more competent as parents and be more



satisfied in their role as parents over time, and this could contribute to lower depressive symptoms."

The present study is one of the first to focus on a larger community sample of low-income fathers from diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds and is paving the way for more research into specifically paternal well-being after the birth of a child. While previous research has focused on paternal involvement as an outcome or a predictor of mother- and child-focused outcomes, this is the first study to examine the link between early paternal involvement with the

infant and later paternal depressive symptoms during the first year after a child is born. "Family researchers are recognizing, more and more, the vital roles fathers play in the lives of their children and the functioning of the entire family unit," said Bamishigbin. "As researchers who care deeply about paternal health, we are excited to be a part of this growing field."

The findings of this study have important implications for future research on the contributors to father involvement, the effects of early involvement, the link between parental self-efficacy and depression, and the relationship between paternal and maternal depression. The authors emphasise that a deeper understanding of these and related variables might be helpful in designing interventions for expecting fathers and shaping public policies. "In our study, greater early involvement was related to less depression later on. This is very important because, it suggests that, if fathers are involved with their infants early and often, their mental health, and the health of the entire family unit, may fare better," said Bamishigbin. "This is why we suggest that paid paternal leave policies which can allow fathers the opportunity to be more involved with their kids and gain confidence as a parent early on in their lives, without having to worry about their economic security, and may help allow fathers more opportunities to be involved with their kids and be part of shaping healthier and thriving future generations. In turn, this may improve the well-being of the entire family."

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Regional Transport Officer,
Budgam

Study Reveals Physical, Cognitive Function Have Improved Meaningfully In 30 Years

Agencies

The functional ability of older people is nowadays better when it is compared to that of people at the same age three decades ago, suggest the findings of a new study conducted at the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

The study compared the physical and cognitive performance of people nowadays between the ages of 75 and 80 with that of the same-aged people in the 1990s.

"Performance-based mea-

surements describe how older people manage in their daily life, and at the same time, the measurements reflect one's functional age," says the principal investigator of the study, Professor Taina Rantanen.

Among men and women between the ages of 75 and 80, muscle strength, walking speed, reaction speed, verbal fluency, reasoning, and working memory are nowadays significantly better than they were in people of the same age born earlier. In lung function tests, however, differences between cohorts were not observed.

India is 'proud' to endorse US initiative on universal human rights

Agencies

New Delhi: India on Wednesday said it is "proud" to endorse the US initiative on a joint statement on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that recognises the many differences in national traditions and yet reaffirms fundamental freedoms and rights for all.

A joint statement, issued by the US, on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) said, "On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, We, the above listed signatories of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, established and adopted in 1948, recommit ourselves today to the Declaration and its foundational ideal that certain principles are so fundamental as to apply to all human beings, everywhere, at all times."

"India is proud to endorse the US initiative on the Joint Statement on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," India's Permanent Mission to the UN tweeted. Other nations joining the US on the statement include Bahrain, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Maldives, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab

Emirates.

"We recognise the many differences in our cultural, political, legal, religious, and other traditions, yet reaffirm fundamental freedoms and rights for all, and reassert our commitment to honouring the dignity of all persons that is the basis for our commitments under the UDHR, the joint statement said.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a "milestone document" in the history of human rights.

Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in Paris in December 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It set out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. The contribution of Indian reformer and educator Hansa Jivraj Mehta in ensuring a more gender sensitive language in the landmark Universal Declaration of Human Rights is widely lauded. But for Mehta's insistence, it could very well have been that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights may have been only the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man.



'Are people to be left to die?' Vaccine pleas fill UN summit

Agencies

United Nations: If the United Nations was created from the ashes of World War II, what will be born from the global crisis of Covid-19?

Many world leaders at this week's virtual UN summit hope it will be a vaccine made available and affordable to all countries, rich and poor. But with the US, China and Russia opting out of a collaborative effort to develop and distribute a vaccine, and some rich nations striking deals with pharmaceutical companies to secure millions of potential doses, the UN pleas are plentiful but likely in vain.

"Are people to be left to die?" Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, a Covid-19 survivor, said of the uncertain way forward. More than 150 countries have joined Covax, in which richer countries agree to buy into potential vaccines and help finance access for poorer ones.

But the absence of Washington, Beijing and Moscow means the response to a health crisis unlike any other in the UN's 75 years is short of truly being global. Instead, the three powers have made vague pledges of sharing any vaccine they develop, likely after helping their own citizens first.

This week's UN gathering could serve as a wake-up call, said Gayle Smith, president of the ONE Campaign, a nonprofit fighting preventable disease that's developing scorecards to measure how the world's most powerful nations are contributing to vaccine equity. "It's not enough for only some G20 countries to realize that an equitable vaccine is the key to ending this virus and reopening the global economy," she said. With weeks remaining before a deadline for countries to join Covax, which is co-led by the UN's World Health Organisation, many heads of state are using the UN meeting as a

high-profile chance to whee Ghana's president, Nana Akufo-Addo, pointed out the illusory nature of borders and wealth: "The virus has taught us that we are all at risk, and there is no special protection for the rich or a particular class."

The president of the Covid-free Pacific island nation of Palau, Tommy Remengesau Jr., warned against selfishness: "Vaccine hoarding will harm us all."

And Rwanda's president, Paul Kagame, appealed to the universal desire for a return to normal: "Ensuring equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics will speed up the end of the pandemic for everyone."

Just two days into nearly 200 speeches by world leaders, it was clear the urgent need for a vaccine would be mentioned by almost everyone. Considering the mind-popping challenges ahead, that's no surprise.

Chelsea owner donated over \$100m to Israeli settler group

Agencies

Moscow: Russian billionaire and Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich donated more than \$100m to a far-right Israeli organisation that has been accused of displacing Palestinian families from Jerusalem, bank documents claim.

The documents were part of a 22,000-page cache of reports sent to US authorities by banks between 2000 and 2017 that were leaked to BuzzFeed news. They show that over the last 15 years, four companies run by Abramovich donated \$100m to Elad, a right-wing Israeli settler organisation dedicated to "strengthening Israel's current and historic connection to Jerusalem".

The organisation has been responsible for scores of Palestinian evictions and has in some cases fought several expensive, decades-long legal battles to do so, particularly in Silwan, a town annexed by Israel in 1967 that houses some 55,000 Palestinians.

The four companies Abramovich used to fund Elad - all located in the British Virgin Islands and registered on the same day in 2003 - funded more than half of the organisation's work between 2005 and 2018.

While Abramovich was suspected to have links to Elad, having been frequently present at their events, the extent of the football club owner's involvement was



not revealed until a set of bank reports - known as the "FinCEN Files" - about financial transactions and ownership of the companies were leaked, BBC News Arabic reported.

The documents, submitted to the US Treasury Department by the American branch of Deutsche Bank, showed that the oligarch is the ultimate beneficial owner of three of the companies and controls the fourth.

Abramovich, who became an Israeli citizen in 2018, has a fortune estimated to be between \$12bn and \$13bn, according to Israeli newspaper Haaretz, and in recent years has purchased several luxury properties in Israel.

Israel's so-called "Transparency Bill", passed in 2015 to the objection of Israel's left-leaning blocs, requires non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide details of their funding activities. But until now, Elad's funding had been elusive, with the name of the Virgin Island companies listed but not their owner.

Trump Won't Commit To 'Peaceful Transfer Of Power' If He Loses

Agencies

Washington: President Donald Trump on Wednesday refused to clearly guarantee a peaceful transfer of power should he lose the upcoming US election in November to Joe Biden.

"Well, we're going to have to see what happens," Trump responded when asked at a White House press conference whether he is committed to the most basic tenet of democratic rule in the United States.

Trump, who is currently behind in the polls against Democratic challenger Joe Biden, then resumed his near daily complaint about the way the election is being organized.

Apparently referring to the increased use of mail-in ballots - due to the coronavirus pandemic - he said: "You know that I've been complaining very strongly about the ballots and the ballots are a disaster."



Trump frequently claims that mail-in ballots are vulnerable to mass fraud and are being encouraged by Democrats to rig the election. However, there is no evidence that ballots sent through the postal service have ever led to significant fraud in US elections.

At the press conference, Trump seemed to suggest annulling what are expected to be the huge numbers of mailed-in ballots, saying that in such a scenario, he would remain in power.

"Get rid of the ballots and you'll have a very peaceful - there won't be a transfer, frankly. There'll be a continuation," he said.

Trump's latest insistence that there cannot be a fair presidential election on November 3 came as pressure mounts over his plan to put a new, right-leaning justice on the Supreme Court.

Trump is set to nominate a replacement on Saturday for the late liberal-leaning justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. His Republican Party, which has a majority in the Senate, is then expected to quickly confirm the nominee.

If they succeed, the nine-justice court would then likely have a strongly pro-conservative bent for years to come.

Democrats are crying foul, saying that the process should wait until the results of the election are known, allowing the winner to shape the Supreme Court.

Growing Cooperation With India Vital To Free, Open Indo-Pacific: US

Agencies

Washington: Underlining that the scope of India and the United States partnership continues to expand, US State Department on Wednesday (local time) said that Washington's growing security and diplomatic cooperation with New Delhi is vital to a free, open, and inclusive Indian-Pacific region.

"The pace and scope of the #USIndia partnership continues to expand! Whether it's at @UN or with Quad partners, our growing security and diplomatic cooperation with India is vital to a free, open, and inclusive #IndoPacific," tweeted State Department for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA).

Indian-Pacific region is largely viewed as an area comprising the Indian Ocean and the western and central Pacific Ocean, including the South China Sea.

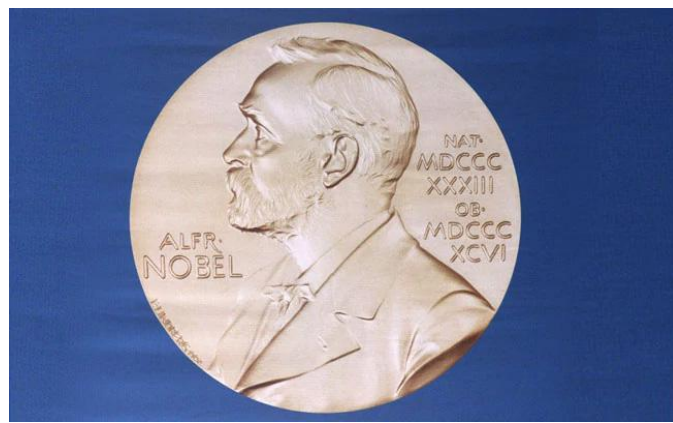
China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and its efforts to advance into the Indian Ocean are seen to have challenged the established rules-based system.

Amid China's growing assertiveness in the Indian-Pacific region, foreign ministers of Quad - India, Japan, the US and Australia - are planning to hold a meeting in Tokyo next month.

The officials are likely to affirm their countries' cooperation to realise the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" vision upheld by Japan and the United



Nobel Prize Cash Raised To \$1.1 Million



Agencies

Stockholm, Sweden: The cash envelope that accompanies each Nobel prize will be increased this year from nine to 10 million kronor (\$1.1 million), the Nobel Foundation said Thursday.

"The work done in recent years to strengthen the Nobel Foundation's financial standing has made it possible to increase the prize sum," the foundation said in a statement. This year's prizes in the fields of medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics will be announced during the week of October 5.

The prize sum was reduced from 10 to eight million Swedish kronor in 2011, when the foundation launched a programme to improve its finances.

Since the beginning of 2012, its investment capital has risen from just under three billion kronor to 4.6 billion, while the return has been close to nine percent per year

thanks to a generally good market performance and good results from the foundation's own asset management, it said.

Prize creator Alfred Nobel, an inventor and scholar who made a vast fortune from his invention of dynamite in 1866, decreed in his 1895 will that the bulk of his estate - about 31.5 million Swedish kronor, equivalent today to about 2.2 billion kronor (\$222 million, 203 million euros) - be invested to fund the prizes.

The Nobel Foundation has previously announced that the traditional award ceremony and banquet in Stockholm have been cancelled this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, replaced by a televised event with laureates receiving their prizes in their home countries.

The Peace Prize ceremony, which takes place in Oslo, will go ahead albeit in a scaled-back version - with the traditional banquet cancelled.

NEWS MAKERS

Netanyahu Brings His Dirty Laundry To White House, Literally: Officials

Most politicians go to great lengths to conceal their dirty laundry.

And then there's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Over the years, the Israeli leader has developed a reputation among the staff at the U.S. president's guesthouse for bringing special cargo on his trips to Washington: bags and suitcases full of dirty laundry, according to U.S. officials familiar with the matter.

The clothes are cleaned for the prime minister free of charge by the U.S. staff, a perk that is available to all foreign leaders but sparingly taken advantage of given the short stays of busy heads of state.

"The Netanyahu's are the only ones who bring actual suitcases of dirty laundry for us to clean," said one U.S. official, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity to



discuss the details of a foreign leader's visits. "After multiple trips, it became clear this was intentional."

Israeli officials denied that Netanyahu overuses his American hosts' laundry services, calling the allegations "absurd," but they acknowledged that he has been the target of laundry-related accusations in the past.

In 2016, Netanyahu sued his own office and Israel's attorney general in an effort to prevent the release of his laundry bills under the country's freedom

of information act. The judge sided with Netanyahu, and the details of his laundry bills remain secret.

The relatively minor accusation joins a longer list of corruption allegations that have threatened the 70-year-old leader's hold on power and triggered protests in Israel this month. Netanyahu was indicted in November in a corruption trial involving gifts from wealthy friends and allegations that he sought regulatory benefits for media magnates in return for positive coverage. He is accused of accepting nearly \$200,000 worth of gifts from business executives including cases of champagne and boxes of cigars. The trial opened in May and is scheduled to resume in January.

The Israeli Embassy in Washington issued a statement saying the laundry accusation was an attempt to overshadow

9-Year-Old Boy Kills Aunt In Pakistan In Suspected Dishonour Killing: Police

Lahore: In a suspected case of dishonour killing, a nine-year-old boy shot dead his aunt after being told by his family to commit the crime in a village in Pakistan's Punjab province, the police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday in Chak 104-SB village in Sargodha, some 200 km from Lahore.

According to police, the boy was trained by his family to operate the weapon to kill his paternal aunt.

The 30-year-old victim had married a man of her choice some 10 years ago against the will of her family. However, the family had later reconciled with the woman, they said.

On Tuesday, the woman - a mother of three - visited the house of her maternal uncle to attend a family function. During the function, her nine-year-old nephew opened fire on her, killing her on the spot, the police said.

"After the incident, the boy and his family fled the spot," a police official said. "The boy's father had trained him

to operate the weapon. It seems that the boy have been told by his family members to open fire on her aunt," he said.

The boy's father and other family members have been charged for abetment to the crime, the official said.

Dishonour killings are common in Pakistan. According to Human

"The boy's father had trained him to operate the weapon. It seems that the boy have been told by his family members to open fire on her aunt"

Rights Watch, over 1,000 women are killed annually in Pakistan in the name of "dishonour" - "unacceptable" amorous relationships, defiance of physical or cyber-gendered spaces, brazenness in dressing and language or perceived immorality.

Teen Party Delays US School Reopening

When a police cruiser rolled up to a house party in Sudbury, Mass., earlier this month, teens sprinted into the woods, chucking beer cans as they fled. In the basement, police found dozens more underage drinkers, all breaking pandemic rules by packing together in a basement with no masks.

Now, police have charged two parents and their teenager for hosting the huge party, which forced the local high school to cancel its in-person reopening so the entire student body could quarantine for 14 days.

So much vitriol has flowed at the couple, who weren't identified by police, that authorities are urging locals to accept that family will now face some justice in court.

"We encourage residents to refrain from making any more volatile comments on social media regarding this incident as we are holding those responsible for providing the venue accountable," Sudbury Police Chief Scott Nix said in a statement Tuesday.

Over 200 Educationists, Filmmakers And Authors Demand Release Of Umar Khalid



NEW DELHI: More than 200 educationists, filmmakers and authors, including Noam Chomsky and Mira Nair, issued a joint statement on Wednesday demanding the Centre free Umar Khalid arrested in connection with the northeast Delhi riots.

Besides Chomsky and Nair, the signatories include actor Ratna Pathak Shah, authors Amitav Ghosh, Salman Rushdie and Arundhati Roy, and journalist P Sainath.

"We call on the Government of India to free Umar Khalid and all those falsely implicated and unjustly incarcerated for protesting against the CAA-NRC that denies equal citizenship rights and to ensure that the Delhi Police investigates the Delhi riots with impartiality under the oath they took as public servants bound by the Constitution of India," the statement read.

Khalid has been arrested under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a case related to the communal violence in northeast Delhi in February this year.

"We stand in solidarity and outrage, with the brave young scholar and activist Umar Khalid, arrested in New Delhi on September 14, 2020, under fabricated charges of engineering the Delhi riots in February 2020," the statement said.

The statement said that Khalid "used the passion of his

commitment to his country, marshalled his education and his voice to join the movement for equal citizenship, against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)" which introduced religion as a criterion for citizenship, and has no place in a secular nation.

The Delhi Police had on September 13 said it is investigating the role of all individuals who took part in the February riots and were behind the larger conspiracy of organising violence and inciting communal passion amongst communities.

Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava had last week said the force has collected documentary evidence, including scientific evidence, to support its case in connection with the riots.

He said the police have so far arrested 1,571 people irrespective of their caste or religion and they are almost equally distributed among both communities.

Responding to former IPS officer Julio Ribeiro's letter in which he had questioned the Delhi police's investigation, Shrivastava had said there are several entities who have their reasons to weave a "web of deception" and push a "false narrative of bias and insensitivity" on the part of the police.

He said police investigations in criminal cases are guided by facts and evidence, not by reputations and personalities.

"Delhi Police are serving the oath and the Constitution with conviction, integrity and sensitivity, without fear of any self-proclaimed 'true patriots' or favour towards any class, creed or community," Shrivastava had said in an email reply to Ribeiro.

Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after violence between those supporting the citizenship law and those opposing it spiralled out of control, leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured. — PTI

DELHI POLICE ARE SERVING THE oath and the Constitution with conviction, integrity and sensitivity, without fear of any self-proclaimed "true patriots" or favour towards any class, creed or community,"

Man Arrested With Foreign Currency Worth Over 11 Lakh At Delhi Airport

NEW DELHI: A man has been arrested by customs officials for allegedly trying to smuggle out forex worth 11.54 lakh at Indira Gandhi International airport in New Delhi, an official statement said on Thursday.

The accused was intercepted on Wednesday when he was proceeding to board a flight to Dubai.

"The customs officers recovered the foreign currency, i.e. Saudi Riyals -32,500 and Dirham- 27,500, equivalent to 11.54 lakh, which was found to be concealed inside a grey colour stroller bag," said the statement issued by



the customs department.

The passenger admitted that he had smuggled foreign currency and commercial goods worth approximately 38 lakh in his previous five visits in the last one year, it said.



IN A SUNNY September day, a woman washing clothes near a community tap in the outskirts of Srinagar.

"Gross Interference:" India Slams Pakistan's Remarks On Kashmir At Meeting

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday hit out at Pakistan for raising the Kashmir issue at a virtual meeting of multilateral grouping CICA, and advised Islamabad to cease its "overt and covert" support to cross-border terrorism.

In a sharp reaction, the Ministry of External Affairs said Pakistan has misused another forum by continuing its "spurious narrative" about India.

Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue at the ministerial meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), an intergovernmental forum of 27 countries.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India at the meeting. The MEA said Pakistan has no locus



standi to comment on internal affairs of India, asserting that the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been and will remain an integral part of the country.

"Pakistan's remarks today constitute gross interference in India's internal affairs, sovereignty and territorial integrity which is inconsistent with the CICA Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States of September 1999," the MEA said, in response to remarks by Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

It said Pakistan is the "global epicentre" of terrorism and continues to be the source of terrorist activities in India.

"We advise Pakistan to cease its sponsorship and overt and covert support to terrorism against India. This will enable the two countries to engage and address issues bilaterally rather than distract this important forum from its agenda," the MEA said.

In his address at the CICA meeting, S Jaishankar called for greater collective efforts to counter terrorism and its sponsors.

New Russian Do-It-All Tech Giant Sberbank To Rival Google, Facebook, Amazon

NEW DELHI/ MOSCOW: Russia's biggest bank Sberbank on Thursday announced a major makeover to transform itself into a technology giant with the launch of a host of products and services in the digital space which will be first rolled out in its home market and taken abroad later, including to India.

However, the expansion would depend on the success of the new offerings in Russia and on regulatory and other compliance requirements in foreign countries.

The new offerings announced by Sberbank include SmartMarket platform, which will be available for external partners for creating apps on the lines of Apple's AppStore and Google Play; virtual assistant Salute; TV streaming device SberBox; and SberPortal, Russia's first multimedia smart display device that will go on sale in late 2020.

It also launched SberPrime that will offer subscriptions for films, TV series and songs in addition to grocery delivery service. Similar services are offered in various countries by global tech giant Amazon.

The 179-year-old bank, which commands a market valuation of USD 67 billion and is majority-owned by the Russian government, is present in 17 other countries, including in India through branches, subsidiary banks and representative offices.



It has nearly 30 lakh customers outside Russia and its stated business goal is to make "Sberbank one of the best finance and technology companies in the world". Its customer base in Russia is almost 10 crore.

Sber's financial services for individuals will now be united under the SberBank brand, while it will work with small businesses and self-employed under the SberBusiness brand.

Professional solutions for corporations and the public sector have been united under the SberPro brand, while the SberInvestments brand would include all retail investment products.

The main brand of the group would change to 'Sber' which it said reflects "a whole universe of services for hu-

man life and businesses, which helps us accomplish our mission".

"Only yesterday Sber was just a bank, while today we are becoming an assistant helping people deal with their vital tasks, every day. And that is why our widely known motto 'Sber. Always there for you!' is relevant more than ever," it said announcing the new brand.

Underlining the need for the transformation, Sberbank said, "To stay close and useful, we need to do more than just respond to people's current needs. We want to go where new needs arise. So that something that is not obvious today could become a daily habit tomorrow. And that is why we are entering new industries."

SC Notice To UPSC, Centre On Plea Seeking Postponement Of Exams

The Supreme Court Thursday sought response from the Centre and the Union Public Service Commission on a plea seeking postponement of civil services 2020 examinations in view of alarming spurt of COVID-19 pandemic and floods.

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna issued notices to UPSC, Centre and posted the matter for hearing on September 28, 2020.



The petitioners have sought postponement of the Civil Services Exam for two to three months, so that the flood/incessant rains go away and COVID-19 curve flattens.

The plea filed by Vasireddy Govardhana Sai Prakash and others submitted that the decision of the UPSC to conduct the exam in accordance with the Revised Calendar, violates the rights of the petitioners and those similarly situated, under Article 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution to practice their chosen profession/occupation of serving the public.

The plea has been filed by 20 UPSC aspirants through advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava against conducting of the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination on October 4.

According to the plea this seven hours long Offline exam, will be taken by approximately six lakh aspirants at test centres in 72 cities across the country.

"Conducting the aforesaid examination across India at such perilous time, is nothing else but putting lives of lakhs of young students (including Petitioners herein) at utmost risk and danger of disease and death. Also, the natural calamities like flood, incessant rain, landslides etc. are likely to directly affect the life and health of the

Petitioners and many similarly situated students.

"Hence, the impugned Revised Calendar is utterly arbitrary, unreasonable, whimsical and patently violative of the "Right to Health" and "Right to Life" of the Petitioners herein and lakhs of similarly situated students, under Article 21," the petition stated.

The plea said the Civil Services Exam, being a recruitment examination, is altogether different from an academic examination and in the event of its postponement, there would not be any question of delay or loss of any academic session.

It said that due to non-availability of exam centres in their hometowns, many aspirants are facing "unimaginable" hardship due to non-availability of or unsafe health conditions in, the PG accommodation/ hostels/ hotels etc., where they are forced to stay with their family members, once they are travelling to an outstation Examination Centre.

"It is pertinent to mention here that despite alarming spurt in COVID-19 pandemic, UPSC did not increase the number of Examination Centres, resulting into a situation where many candidates from rural areas will be forced to travel for around 300-400 Kilometres, in order to reach to their Examination Centres and there will be high probability of such aspirants, getting affected while using public transportation for such travel," the plea said.

Top Court Surprised Over Grant Of Bail To Lawyer Accused Of Raping Junior



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Thursday expressed surprise over interim bail granted by the Allahabad High Court to a former Uttar Pradesh government counsel, accused of raping a junior lawyer, despite the dismissal of a similar plea by it earlier.

The Lucknow bench of the high court on September 3 had granted interim bail to former additional chief standing counsel Shailendra Singh Chauhan in the rape case on the ground that he was an advocate with the standing of 29 years.

Setting aside the high court order, a bench headed by Justice R F Nariman noted the bail was granted despite the fact that it had on August 5 stayed an earlier bail order of the division bench of the high court in the same matter.

"By an interim order dated September 3, a Single Judge of the Allahabad High Court,

Lucknow Bench, has granted interim bail on a bond being given until the next date of hearing. The reasons given are that the petitioner is a reputed Advocate of 29 years and there are no criminal antecedents.

"We are surprised that the High Court should act in the teeth of our order dated August 05. This is a very serious case which must be investigated properly so that the truth ultimately will come out," said the bench, also comprising Justices Navin Sinha and Indira Banerjee.

The order came on the plea of the complainant lawyer filed through advocate Utkarsh Singh.

After the decision of the top court, the accused lawyer had moved the anticipatory bail plea before the lower court which rejected it on August 19.

A single judge bench of Justice C D Singh of the high court had granted interim bail to Chauhan in the rape case which irked the top court.

The high court had directed the Uttar Pradesh police on July 31 not to arrest Chauhan.

NEWS MAKERS

Cops Deployed Outside Deepika Padukone's Residence

MUMBAI: Police personnel have been deployed outside the residence of Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone, who is expected to arrive here from Goa on Thursday ahead of her appearance before the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), an official said.

The NCB, which is probing an alleged Bollywood-drugs nexus, has summoned Padukone on Friday to record her statement.

A team from the Dadar police station has been deployed outside 'Beau-monde Towers' in Prabhadevi, where the 34-year-old actor owns an apartment, as a precautionary measure, the official said.

The NCB, which began the probe after a drugs angle came to light in connection with actor Sushant Singh Rajput's alleged suicide, has now widened its investigation and asked a



clutch of Bollywood celebrities to "join the probe".

Earlier, Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash was summoned to join the investigation, but she sought time due to ill-health and has been exempted from appearance till Friday, an official had said on Wednesday.

Prakash's WhatsApp chats included conversations about drugs with one 'D', NCB sources said, adding the central agency wanted to find out who this person was. PTI

Woman Murdered For Refusing To Convert In UP: Police

SONBHADRA: A 23-year-old woman was murdered as she allegedly refused to convert after marriage, police said here on Thursday.

Police have arrested her husband and one other person in this regard.

SP Ashish Srivastava said the woman's beheaded body was found in a forest area near Preet Nagar under the Chopan police station area on Monday.

Police tried to know her identity through social media.

The SP said on Tuesday, one Laxminarayan from Preet Nagar identified her as his daughter Priya Soni from her shoes and clothes.

He told police that Priya had married one Ejaz Ahmed against the wishes of the family about a month and half ago. He alleged that Ejaz was pressuring her to convert, to which she did not agree.

Ejaz had made an arrangement for



her stay at a lodge in the Obra area while continuously pressuring her to convert, the SP said.

Angry over her refusal, Ejaz with the help of his friend Shoaib took her to the forest area and killed her, he said.

Police had deployed teams to trace the accused and they were nabbed from Baggha Nala Pul early Thursday morning, the SP said. He said on information provided by them, the mobile phone of the deceased and a knife, iron rod and car were also recovered.

The National Security Act will also be invoked against them, the SP added. PTI

I Never Wear A Face Mask: Madhya Pradesh Home Minister

INDORE: Amid rising COVID-19 cases in Madhya Pradesh, state home minister and BJP leader Narottam Mishra on Wednesday caused a flutter saying he doesn't wear a face mask in any programme.

However, as the Congress attacked him, the minister later tempered his remarks, saying he cannot continue to wear a face mask for a long time due to a medical condition.

"I don't wear a mask in any programmes. 'Isme kya hota hai?' (so what)," the home minister told reporters when they asked him why he was not wearing a mask at a function in Indore.

Mr Mishra was in Indore to participate in a programme for distribution of assistance under



the state government's Sambal Yojana, which provides social security cover to the poor and the SC and ST communities.

However, Mr Mishra's cabinet colleagues Tulsiram Silawat and other BJP leaders, who also attended the event, were wearing masks.

The Congress launched a pointed attack, asking are COVID-19 norms meant only for

the common people.

"Is there anyone who has the courage to take action against him (Mr Mishra). Are rules only for common people?" Madhya Pradesh Congress spokesman Narendra Saluja tweeted.

As his remarks drew fire, the home minister told reporters in Bhopal, "I normally wear a mask but I can't sport it for a long time, as I am suffering from Polypus and if I wear a mask it leads to suffocation".

Indore is among the worst-hit districts in Madhya Pradesh which has reported 20,834 COVID-19 cases and 516 fatalities so far.

An Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) official said the civic body penalises people without masks with 200 fine.