

Maximum : 28°C
Minimum : 10°C
Humidity : 32%
SUNSET
Today 06:08 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:29 AM

News Digest

255 UAPA Cases Filed
In J&K In 2019

Srinagar: As many as 255 cases were registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act-1967 in Jammu & Kashmir during 2019, an official report reveals. These details have been laid bare in the report- Crime in India-2019- released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) last week. According to the report, J&K has the third highest number of cases registered under the UAPA after Manipur and Tamil Nadu where respectively 306 and 270 FIRs were lodged under the law. It also means that 20 percent of 1226 cases lodged across India under the law were registered in J&K. The data reveals that not a single case was registered under the law in 11 states and six Union Territories. It was enacted in 1967 to provide for the more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations and for dealing with militancy-related activities and for matters. **● P-02**

SKIMS Paramedics
Protest Three-Tier Shift

Srinagar: Nursing staff of the SK institute of medical sciences Soura here on Monday staged protest against administration for 'forcing' them to follow newly introduced three-tier shift system. Scores of nurses assembled at Press Enclave Srinagar and staged protest against the administration accusing them of preparing duty roster against their will and without their consent, eyewitnesses said. The protesting nursing staff said that they don't agree with the new roster as it will affect them badly. They said they are already overburdened in this pandemic and now to force them to perform duties at a stretch is sheer injustice towards them. The protesters said that they will hit to roads on daily basis in case roster system is not changed. (KNT)

Missing Woman Found
Dead In Reasi

Jammu: A 27-year-old woman was found dead in a stream in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Monday, a day after she had gone missing, police said. The woman had left her home on Sunday morning to appear for an examination but she did not return, a police official said. The body was fished out from a stream near Sair Baba waterfall in Talwara area of the district and was taken to a hospital for post-mortem. Police have initiated inquest proceedings to ascertain the cause of her death, the official said, adding that her body would be handed over to her family on Tuesday after completion of legal formalities.

44 More Test Covid-19
Positive In Ladakh

Leh: Forty-four new cases of coronavirus were detected in Ladakh, taking the infection tally in the Union Territory to 4,521, officials said on Monday. With 39 more patients cured of the contagion, the number of active cases in the region stands at 1,106 773 in Leh district and 333 in Kargil district, the officials said. They said 37 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in Leh district and another seven in Kargil district during the past 24 hours. Ladakh had reported 61 COVID-related deaths, while 3,354 patients had recovered from the infection till Sunday evening. The officials said 33 COVID patients were discharged in Leh and six others in Kargil on Sunday after their treatment.

Minor Girl Goes Missing
In Rajouri

Jammu: A minor girl went missing on Monday after getting separated from her father in a village in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Shahida Kouser, a resident of Bhangai village, was accompanying her father Mohammad Azam when she went missing from Gazali Chowk in Thanamandi area in the morning, a police official said. Efforts are on to trace the girl, the official said, and sought help from people in locating her.

PAGE 1 Anchor Over 90 Percent of People In J&K Do Not Have Health Cover

Swati Joshi

An overwhelming majority of people in Jammu and Kashmir are not covered by any medical expenditure scheme.

It was revealed by National Sample Survey (NSS)'s 75th round of survey conducted—from July 2017 to June 2018—on household consumption related to health titled 'Health in India'.

The objective of the report was to gather quantitative information on various aspects of the health sector like morbidity, profile of ailments including their treatment,

role of government and private facilities in providing healthcare, expenditure on medicines, expenditure on medical consultation and investigation, hospitalization and expenditure thereon, maternity and childbirth, the condition of the aged, etc.

Population with health
expenditure coverage

97.6 percent and 94.6 percent of person's health expenditures in rural and urban areas respectively are not covered by any scheme in Jammu and Kashmir.

Only a meager 0.4 percent (rural) and 0.9 percent (urban)



person's health expenditure is covered by the government-sponsored insurance scheme.

The health expenditure of the government and Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) employees are

covered by their respective departments.

In rural areas, 1.7 percent of the expenditure is covered by government/PSU, while in urban areas, it is 2.7 percent.

Proportion of ailing persons

In the rural area of J&K, 1,331 children aged between 0-5 years and 756 persons aged more than 60 years were surveyed for chronic ailments. 1,447 persons were hospitalized during the last 365 days.

The number of persons surveyed in urban areas was less. 802 children aged between 0-5 years and 580 persons aged more than

60 years were surveyed for chronic ailments. 994 persons were hospitalized during the last 365 days.

According to the report, persons reporting ailment during last 15 days for which they were hospitalized and not hospitalized was 15 and 604 respectively in rural areas and 13 and 639 respectively in urban areas.

Treatment seeking behaviour

A majority of people in urban and rural parts prefer government/public hospitals for treatment. 77 percent of people in the rural area chose government/public hospital for treatment and in urban areas, it was 50.5 percent. **►PAGE 02**

2 CRPF Men Killed, 3 Injured
In Nowgam Militant Attack

Militants first fired upon a paramilitary forces party near Kandizal Bridge on Nowgam bypass.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two motorcycle-borne militants opened indiscriminate fire on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) party in Nowgam area of the city here on Monday, killing two paramilitary and injuring three others, police said.

The injured include an assistant sub-inspector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said. Militants fired upon a security forces party near Kandizal Bridge in Nowgam, Srinagar this afternoon, a police official said.

He said five CRPF personnel, including an ASI, were injured in the firing.

The injured personnel were taken to the Army's 92 base hospital,

Search Operation Launched In Sopore

State forces Monday launched a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in apple township of Sopore in north Kashmir, official sources said.

They said on a tip off about the presence of militants, **● P-02**

Shopian Youth Held With Grenades: Police

A man was arrested with two hand grenades in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Monday, a police officer said. On specific information, a police team conducted checking of a passenger vehicle at Der Ki Gali (DKG) in **● P-02**

where the doctors declared two of them -- Constables Shalinder Pratap Singh and Devendra Kumar Tripathi -- brought dead, the official said. He said the other three person-

nel -- ASI Gorakh Nath, Constable Kirgain and Constable James -- are undergoing treatment and their condition is stated to be stable. The militants fled the **►PAGE 02**

10 More Covid-19
Deaths In J&K, Toll 1255

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least ten more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1255.

While five more people succumbed to the deadly infection in Jammu division, as many, officials said also died of Covid-19 in the Kashmir valley.

Among the victims in the Valley, the officials said included a 60-year-old man from Baramulla, who died at SMHS hospital here;

54 Security
Men Among 632
Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 632 fresh cases of coronavirus, including fifty four army and paramilitary personnel besides thirty-eight travelers and **● P-02**

nine days after he was admitted there after being diagnosed with bilateral community acquire pneumonia and hypertension. **►PAGE 02**

WINTER WOES

Govt Seeks Traffic
Plan For Kashmir
Highway From NHAI

JAMMU: The J&K administration Monday directed the National Highways Authority of India to submit a traffic management plan of agencies to ensure a hassle-free movement on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway during the ensuing winter season.

It asked the NHAI to detail an action plan on how the construction agencies will clear landslides, snow and deal with any other emergency to make sure the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country remains open during the coming winter. **►PAGE 02**

J&K Govt Deputes 54 Employees
To Serve Ladakh Admin

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday deputed over fifty officials from different departments to serve the administration in the Union Territory of Ladakh "in the interest of the administration and as a provisional measure"

In an order issued on Monday by the Jammu and Kashmir government's General Administration Department, 54 government employees have been placed at the disposal of the Union Territory of Ladakh, on deputation basis with immediate effect.

Among those deputed to the newly carved Union Territory in-

clude Assistant Professors, Assistant Executive Engineers, Junior Engineers, Works Supervisor, Lab assistant, Draftsman, Technician, Account cum Store Keeper, senior and junior assistants and at least 14 helpers.

"The deputation of above officers/officials shall be for a period of two years or till final allocation is made in terms of Section 89(2) of J&K Re-Organisation Act, 2019, whichever is earlier," reads the order issued by Commissioner/Secretary to the government, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi

The order further says that the lien and promotion prospects of the officers/officials shall remain with their respective parent departments during the **►PAGE 02**

Indian Army
Officer Killed In
Pakistani Firing

JAMMU: A junior commissioned officer (JCO) of the army was killed in heavy shelling by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

This was the fourth casualty army suffered in the past five days along LOC in Kashmir.

"A JCO was killed in unprovoked Pakistani firing and shelling in Nowshera sector of Rajouri, the officials said, adding that further details were awaited.

According to the reports, the slain officer has been identified as Subedar Sukhdev Singh of army's 16 Grenadiers.

Earlier, a defence spokesperson said Pakistani troops opened fire and shelled mortars in forward areas in two sectors along the LoC in the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region.

Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation in Nowshera sector of Rajouri around 6.30 pm.

The Indian Army retaliated befittingly and the cross-border firing between the two sides continued for quite some time, the spokesperson said.

Later at around 8.20 pm, **● P-02**

India Ready For Two
Front War: IAF Chief

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: IAF chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on Monday said Chinese air power can't get the better of the capabilities of his force in any conflict scenario in eastern Ladakh, asserting India is "very well positioned" to meet any threat from China.

Stressing that the country's sovereignty and interests will be fiercely protected under all circumstances, Bhadauria also said the Indian Air Force (IAF) is fully prepared to deal with any two-front war.

He said the IAF has made "very strong" deployments in all relevant areas in view of the five-month-long border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh, and it is in a firm position to handle any contingency along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The Chief of Air Staff, addressing a press conference here on the eve of the Air Force Day, said China has



its areas of strength and the IAF has evolved plans and strategies to deal with all scenarios.

"Of course we are," he said replying to a question on whether the IAF was fully ready to deal with any challenge from China.

"There is no question of not taking on the threat there (eastern Ladakh). We are very well positioned and there is no question that in any conflict scenario there, China can get the better of us," Bhadauria said. He said "swift and rapid" **►PAGE 02**

IT IS NOT ONLY LADAKH. LADAKH IS a small area. We have some airfields there where we have deployed our assets. That is a very small part of our deployment. We have deployed across all operational locations that are required to access this area (Ladakh),"

Peace In J&K Impossible If August 5
Actions Not Reversed: Farooq

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Monday said the objectives of peace, economic progress and development in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be achieved unless the Centre reverses all the decisions taken on August 5 last year.

Abdullah, who is also the MP from the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, made these comments at a private function here.

The central government had on August 5, 2019 abrogated Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir. It also

Soz Quotes Chomsky To Attack Modi Govt

Says 'Symptoms Of Fascism' Visible, Terms Mehbooba's Detention A 'Revengeful Measure'

Terming the continued detention of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti as a "revengeful measure", senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Prof Saif-ud-din Soz on Monday endorsed **● P-02**

bifurcated the erstwhile state into union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"The goal of inclusive development in J-K can be turbo-powered only by empowering the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the real

sense and by reversing the August 05, 2019 actions," the NC chief said.

"J-K's path to development and economic progress is not possible unless New Delhi doesn't do justice with the people of J-K and reverses all the decisions **►PAGE 02**

J-K'S PATH TO DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS

is not possible unless New Delhi doesn't do justice with the people of J-K and reverses all the decisions taken on the 5th of August, 2019,"



SKIMS nursing staff holding a protest at Srinagar's Press Colony on Monday against the administration's newly introduced three-tier shift. Ko photo Abid Bhat

Srinagar Gets First Organic Vegetable Sale Centre

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department NK Choudhary Monday e-inaugurated first Organic Vegetable Sale Centre here at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi.

Speaking on the occasion, he said organic farming is world-wide acknowledged as a crop production system which can sustain the health of soil, ecosystem and people by combining tradition, innovation and improved farm technology.

Navin said the need of the hour is to broaden the base of such centres for bringing the right product at the right price for the consumers. He emphasized that organic cultivation is emerging as the most lucrative farm activity and needs to be promoted across Jammu and Kashmir.

“The demand for organic products is fast rising as the food quality and safety have gained much attention among general consumers due to health benefits and food safety requirements,” he added. He also recommended setting up such types of markets at district level so that the farmers get better returns and consumers can enjoy fresh and quality vegetables at their doorsteps. These centres will also prove as game changers for providing employment opportunities to the young entrepreneurs, he added.

While elaborating the organic sector success in the valley, Director Agriculture Altaf Aijaz Andrabi said that organic vegetables are becoming an integral part of regular food consumption here, for which the department is taking various initiatives. Providing space to the growers and further expansion of these markets to district level is one such handholding step, he added.

Andrabi said that 5 PGS registered vegetable clusters of District Srinagar, Baramulla, Pulwama, Bandipora and Ganderbal have been linked up with the centre at Lalmandi to provide fresh and quality vegetables to the consumers.

Private doctors rank second as a preference for treatment amongst rural (20.2 percent) and urban (45 percent) persons. The report also throws light on the fact that the rural people do not trust Charitable/Trust/NGO for treating ailments whereas in urban areas only 1.7 percent prefers treatment from them.

Nature of Treatment

98.3 percent of people in J&K—both urban and rural—chose allopathy as the nature of treatment. Other options surveyed include the Indian system of medicine (1.6 percent), homeopathy (0), Yoga and naturopathy (0.1 percent) and other sources (0).

Percentage of persons treated as in-patient any time during 365 days

The number of female in-patients in both rural (28) and urban areas (33 percent) is more as compared to male in-patients (18 percent in rural and 24 percent in urban).

Overall 24 percent of persons are treated as in-patient, out of which 29 percent are females and 19 percent are males.

Most of the in-patients are in the age group of 60 and above in both rural (64 percent) and urban regions (83 percent).

Average medical expenditure per hospitalization case (excluding childbirth)

The expenditure incurred in government hospitals is far less as compared to private hospitals.

As per the report, there is a difference of Rs 45,323 and Rs 30,515 between government and private hospital expenditure in rural and urban areas respectively.

The average private hospital expenditure in urban areas (Rs 39,718) is less than in rural areas (Rs 50,043) whereas the government medical expenditure has an opposite trajectory.

A different trend is seen in the medical expenditure of males and females (in-patients) in rural and urban regions.

In urban regions, the average medical expenditure at government hospitals is more for females (Rs 10,638) than males (Rs. 7,686) whereas in rural areas the opposite is true.

Distribution of childbirth

Most of the childbirths in the urban and rural areas are done in public hospitals.

However, the number of deliveries in the rural area (94.3 percent) is more in public hospitals than in urban areas (75.9 percent).

The number of people opting for a private hospital for child delivery is more in urban areas (21.5 percent).

A majority of people going for non-institutional delivery choose unskilled personnel over skilled personnel.

Most of the non-institutional deliveries are attended by unskilled personnel in rural (2.8 percent) and urban areas (2.5 percent).

Economic independence of the aged person

Only 3 percent of aged females are independent in rural regions as compared to 55 percent aged independent males.

In urban areas, the condition is even worse.

85 percent of aged women are fully dependent on others whereas in rural areas the figure is 79 percent.

A majority of aged persons are financially dependent on their children in rural (69 percent) and urban areas (75 percent).

Immunization of children in the age group 0-5 years

A child who has received BCG, OPV-1, OPV-2, OPV-3, DPT-1, DPT-2, DPT-3, and measles vaccine is referred to as fully immunized.

64 percent of children in rural areas are fully immunized and in urban areas, the count is slightly more (66.8 percent).

In rural areas most of the children receive immunization from Primary Health Centre/dispensary/Community Health Centre/mobile medical unit whereas in urban areas parents prefer government/public hospitals.

2 CRPF Men Killed, 3 Injured...

spot after the attack. Soon after the incident, the area was cordoned off and a manhunt was launched to nab the attackers. Senior officials also rushed to the spot.

Speaking to reporters, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the attack was carried out by two LeT militants who have been identified.

"Two militants from Lashkar-e-Taiba came on a motorbike and fired indiscriminately on the CRPF Road Opening Party using AK-47. The forces retaliated and there was heavy cross-firing. The militants were successful in escaping, but we have identified them and will soon neutralise them," the IGP said.

He said one of the militants has been identified as Saifullah, a Pakistani militant, and the other is a local.

"Saifullah was involved in an attack on CRPF in Chadoora in which an ASI was martyred. He was also involved in firing in Nowgam. This is his third attack and we will neutralise him soon," Kumar said.

He said that militants find it easy to target security forces on the highway.

"The national highway is a target and a vulnerable place but because many civilian vehicles pass every day, our forces face difficulty in retaliating. If we retaliate and fire indiscriminately too, there will be civilian casualties. So we have to take preventive measures," the IGP said.

Kumar said the militants were using guerrilla warfare tactics to attack the security forces.

"Militants do not announce that they are coming for an attack, they come by concealing their weapons, come close and then fire. They attack like guerrilla warfare, but we have a solution to this and we will soon neutralise them in an encounter," he said.

About another exchange of fire between militants and state forces at Parinad area of Awantipore, he said: "There was an initial exchange of fire but then no contact was established thereafter."

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha condemned the killing

J&K Congress Chief Calls For Immediate Steps To Meet Covid-19 Challenge

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) chief G A Mir on Monday criticised the Union Territory administration over its response to the prevailing COVID-19 situation and demanded necessary steps to restore confidence of people in the health system.

He also took a dig at the administration for launching the third phase of back-to-village (B2V) programme at the time of COVID-19 crisis and claimed that the exercise was meant to benefit the members of the ruling party.

"The UT and the central government failed to create the required facilities during six months of ongoing COVID-19 situation to deal with the worsening situation (following surge in positive cases over the past one month)," Mir said addressing a meeting of district presidents of Jammu province at the party headquarters here.

The meeting was convened to discuss the problems being faced by people, including the worsening COVID-19 situation and the alleged failure of the government to provide required medical facilities to patients, a party release said.

Mir said the reported shortage of oxygen and non-functional ventilators in Jammu hospitals have caused a panic situation and reflect mismanagement and mishandling on the part of the administration.

"There is a need for immediate necessary steps on war footing to augment the facilities, besides a detailed statement of facts about the crises to assure the people about the facilities to deal with the emerging scenario," he said.

The Congress leader said it is the duty of the government to take extra measures in view of the surge in COVID-19 positive cases over the past one month.

Referring to the ongoing third phase of the B2V programme launched by the administration to reach out to the people at their doorsteps to mitigate their problems, he said the programme at this juncture had "disturbed" the entire machinery and the public.

"It (the exercise) is to accommodate the ruling party workers, especially in those panchayats where no elections could be held and whose number is over 13,000 seats," he said and claimed that not a single work was done in any panchayat during the previous B2V programmes.

Mir also lashed out at the government for not restoring the 4G mobile internet services and causing hardships to the people, especially students.

He asked the government not to play with the career and lives of children and ensure early restoration of the 4G mobile internet services.

Mir also accused the government of paying no heed to the safety of the people and said they are being kept in queues to get domicile certificates, which could have avoided had the government conceded the genuine request of the permanent resident certificate (PRC) holders to treat the same as domicile.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress (JKPCC) chief directed the district presidents to gear up the entire cadre of the party at the grassroots level and raise the issues of public concern in a befitting manner.

"Combined with upgraded capabilities of our current fighter fleet, it(Rafale) gives us the ability to shoot first and strike deep and hard, even in contested airspace," he said.

The Chief of Air Staff said the matrix of threat facing India is complex as it ranges from aspirational adversaries with huge investments in military arsenal, to those collusively fronted by non-state actors, apart from sub-conventional threats emanating from terrorism and cyber space.

He said the disruptive technologies and low cost options like drones is making the threat picture even more complex, particularly in the sub-conventional domain.

"The emerging security scenario in our neighbourhood and beyond mandates a need to have a robust capability to fight across the entire spectrum of warfare. We conduct bilateral and multilateral exercises with leading Air Forces of the world and let me share with you with confidence that operationally we are amongst the best," he added.

He also used the occasion to reaffirm the IAF's "commitment and sacred resolve" to safeguard the country's sovereignty and interests in "all circumstances".

Asked about any indications of the US in helping India deal with any security challenge, the IAF chief said the US deployments are based on their perspective and that when India plans about dealing with security challenges, it does not think about support from others.

"We will do whatever is required. Nobody is going to fight our war," he said.

10 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K...

They said a 95-year-old man from Rambhage here, admitted with T2DM, COPD, HTN with bilateral CAP on October 2, also died at SMHS hospital.

An 86-year-old woman from Safapora Ganderbal, who was admitted on September 26 also died at SMHS hospital, officials said.

A 72-year-old woman from Habak Srinagar, they said, died a day after she was admitted to SKIMS Soura and tested positive for Covid-19.

Regarding the victims from Jammu division, the officials said included a 70-year-old woman from Behramgala, presently putting up at Rajouri died in the GMC Rajouri.

Also, a 71-year-old man from Marah Surankote, presently putting up near Radio Station Poonch died at the GMC Jammu, they said.

An 86-year-old man from Kishtwar presently putting up at Janipura Jammu, who was suffering from CAP died at the GMC Jammu where he was admitted for nearly three weeks. (With GNS inputs)

54 Security Men Among 632 ...

six minors, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 79738.

While Jammu division reported 346 new cases of Covid-19, the remaining 286 were confirmed by the officials from the Kashmir Valley.

Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 119 cases, Budgam 39, Baramulla 28, Pulwama 15, Kupwara 23, Anantnag 20, Bandipora 15, Ganderbal 19, Kulgam 4, Shopian 4, Jammu 173, Rajouri 35, Udhampur 33, Doda 26, Kathua 7, Poonch 25, Samba 10, Ramban 2, Kishtwar 31 and Reasi 4.

A number of these cases were confirmed at CD and SKIMS diagnostic laboratories and includes cases from 30 CRPF, 19 from BB Cantonment, three from BSF, two from an army's RR Camp and six minors.

Moreover, officials said, 1386 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals— 936 from Jammu Division and 450 from Kashmir Valley.

Govt Seeks Traffic Plan...

The direction was passed by Public Works Department Principal Secretary Shailender Kumar after conducting an extensive tour of Ramban district and inspecting the pace of work on the ongoing four-laning project of the highway from Nashri to Banihal stretch, besides reviewing the winter traffic management plan, an official spokesman said.

Kumar directed construction companies to submit the detail of planned maintenance activity at all vulnerable spots including Nashri, Dhalwas, Chanderkot, Mehar, Seri, Marog, Monkey Morh, Panthyal and Hingini along with the list of machinery stationed and manpower deployed there to clear landslides and snow.

The 270-km road witnesses frequent traffic disruptions during winter due to landslides and avalanches triggered by heavy snowfall and rains. Kumar also directed the NHAI to expedite the pace of construction work, the spokesman said.

The Principal Secretary also reviewed section wise progress on the four-laning of the highway including the Nashri-Ramban and Ramban-Banihal sections.

During a meeting which was attended by senior officers of NHAI among others, the spokesman said traffic management and NH-44 alignment issues were also discussed in detail.

Keeping in view decreasing temperature in mountainous areas, agencies were directed to start blacktopping from Jawahar tunnel towards Makerkote on Banihal stretch while Police and district administration was directed to ensure implementation of decisions taken in the meeting and take legal action against the contractor (or) agencies, which violate terms and conditions set by the government, the spokesman said.

Kumar also directed the district administration to complete assessment of damaged houses at Dhalwas following a landslide in the recent past.

Peace In J&K Impossible If...

taken on the 5th of August, 2019," he added.

Currently, Abdullah said, the development scenario in Jammu and Kashmir is very depressing.

"Until recently feted for topping various human development indices, the development scenario in J-K currently is very depressing. The

Jamia MilliaIslamia Researchers Develop Saliva-Based Covid-19 Testing Kit

NEW DELHI: Researchers at the Jamia MilliaIslamia (JMI) have developed a saliva-based testing kit to detect COVID-19 which can display results within an hour, a statement from the varsity said on Monday.

The team of scientists from Multidisciplinary Centre for Advanced Research and Studies (MCARS) at JMI along with experts from other institutes have developed a RNA extraction free saliva-based detection technology for COVID-19, it said.

A person can put their saliva sample into the kit and within an hour, it will display the results. The researchers are also planning to link it to a mobile application so that if the person is not able to infer the results on the kit, then the app will alert him with the results, researchers said.

The technology is named MI-SEHAT (Mobile Integrated Sensitive Estimation and High- specificity Application for Testing) and can be used as point of care (POC) device for COVID-19 detection in the field with a provision for at-home testing, the statement said.

Dr Mohan C Joshi, an expert who is part of the team, claimed that the smartphone-enabled POC prototype has been developed and validated using synthetic SARS-CoV-2 RNA, which displays results within an hour without the intervention of a technical expert.

He said in such a difficult time when the rapid diagnosis of COVID-19 remains the effective measure to contain and manage the viral spread, cost-effective rapid testing of SARS-CoV-2 RNA remains the gold standard.

"The available standalone integrated PCR-based detection kit remains confined to the sophisticated instrumental diagnostic laboratory setup and takes minimum two to three hours in providing the result with the need for error-prone RNA extraction step," he said. PhD students, MD IqbalAzmi and Md Imam Faizan at MCARS, JMI have benchmarked all the experiments in the laboratory which has helped the team to develop the prototype.

JMI Vice Chancellor Professor NajmaAkhtar said being a user-friendly technology, MI-SEHAT will encourage home testing and thus will restrict interaction and movement of COVID-19 positive patients outside the home.

private sector in J-K particularly has suffered major reverses on one account or the other since the 5th of August, 2019.

"Despite being very stunted, the private sector in J-K used to provide jobs to scores of well-qualified and skilled youth. Regrettably, the successive clampdown down and lockdown since August last year have pushed the already ailing businesses to the wall," he said.

Abdullah said it is the stupendous challenge of fast-tracking all-round development which has been at the receiving end in Jammu and Kashmir since the "unilateral, unconstitutional and undemocratic" abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A.

"A catch-up to the pre-crisis situation is a far cry under the present situation with no active fiscal support coming from the government," he said.

The pervasive unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir is a direct consequence of the measures undertaken by the government of India last year, he alleged.

Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir provides numerous opportunities in agriculture, handicrafts, food processing, and other untapped resources in the services and hospitality sectors.

Fostering entrepreneurship activities, however, requires a conducive atmosphere for businesses to thrive. Budding entrepreneurs continue to suffer due to the lack of support from government and financial institutions, he said.

Soz Quotes Chomsky To Attack...

famous intellectual, Noam Chomsky's purported statement that Kashmir was a "prison" and the 'symptoms of fascism' under the BJP government were already visible.

In a hard hitting statement released to media here, the senior Congress leader said that he has a feeling that Chomsky was correct when he reiterated recently that "Kashmir was a prison and there were symptoms of fascism under the BJP government already visible."

"I agree with world-famous intellectual, Noam Chomsky that Kashmir is a prison and symptoms of fascism are already visible, I also see Mehbooba Mufti's incarceration as a 'revengeful measure,' Soz said.

"His conclusion was that the whole institutional structure of India, plus the great mass of the Hindu population was evidently very supportive of the undermining of Kashmir Autonomy and opening up to India settlement. He also felt that the press in India was muzzled," he added.

He said that the American intellectual also referred to the backlash he faced at the hands of the BJP supporters, when he talked about "Indi-an repression" in Kashmir and was advised to have police protection.

"While one can agree with Chomsky on many things, there is also a hope lurking in the horizon that, apart from Indian National Congress and the left, there were people like Yashwant Sinha, Bharat Bhushan, Kapil Kak, Prashant Bhushan and numerous others, who were spear-heading a movement for preserving India's secular character, liberal ideology and pluralism", Soz said.

Batting for the release of PDP President, he said that there was a wide spread feeling in Kashmir and elsewhere that former Chief Minister of J&K, Mehbooba Mufti's continued incarceration by way of house-arrest, was a "revenge and an onslaught of vindictiveness" on the part of the Union Government.

"A strong plea for releasing Ms. Mehbooba Mufti is gaining ground, by the day," he added.

Panchayat By-Polls Likely...

that polling could be held between November 1 to 29.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the administrative council headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had last month given nod for holding election to 12168 Panch seats and 1089 Sarpanch berths.

The posts were lying vacant since November 2018 when the elections to the local bodies were held. Most of the seats that will go to polls are in the Valley.

According to sources, both the apex and divisional level committees constituted by the government over holding the polls have submitted their reports to the government.

The apex -level committee was mandated to draw a roadmap and detailed schedule for conduct of elections to vacant panchayats and BDCs.

J&K Govt Deputes 54...

period of deputation.

"They shall be entitled to avail incentives as may be made available in due course of time and they shall report to the General Administration Department, Union Territory of Ladakh for further posting," the order adds.

The order of deputing government employees from Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to run the offices of UT Ladakh comes over a year after the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was split into two union territories after special status accorded at the time of accession by the Union of India was revoked by the Modi-led BJP government on August 5.

255 UAPA Cases Filed In J&K...

The law also empowers the Central government to ban organisations and designate individuals as terrorists.

Section 45 (2) of the Act mandates that the sanction for prosecution shall be given only after an authority formed for the purpose makes "an independent review of the evidence gathered in the course of investigation and make a recommendation within such time as may be prescribed to the Central government or, as the case may be, the State government."

Earlier this year, Jammu & Kashmir government also booked two journalists under the law, evoking sharp criticism from different quarters—(KNO)

B2V-3: LG visits frontier Machil area in Kupwara

I Want to Make J&K Atmanirbhar: LG

Announces recruitment rallies in Armed Forces; says Kupwara-Baramulla Rail line a priority

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 05: "I want to create an Ecosystem in J&K, which promotes self-employment, enterprises, manufacturing, industries and also bridges the skill gaps to make rural areas of this Union Territory Atmanirbhar", Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks during his visit to the frontier Machil area in Kupwara, where he participated in the ongoing Back to Village-3 programme.

He observed that there is a need to work on the promotion of local crafts and imparting Traditional Skill Training to generate self-employment. In the last 3 months, 246 local youth, including 122 girls, trained for Village Entrepreneurship. "Kupwara figures in the list of best performing aspirational districts; will be turned into a modern industrial hub for walnut production and processing", he added.

Taking note of the long pending issues of the local population, the Lt Governor announced local recruitment

rallies in Armed Forces for unemployed youngsters. He also issued directions for the immediate installation of 5 mobile towers in the area fulfilling a much-needed demand of the people of the area, who had been ruing for mobile connectivity for the past several decades. He also remarked that Kupwara-Baramulla Rail Line is UT Government's top priority for which the initial survey has already been undertaken.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor inaugurated 33 KV Khumriyal-Machil Line costing Rs 471.80 lakhs which connects the area to the National Grid, BSNL V-Sat for internet, 24 bunkers/alternate secure shelters sheds, Panchayat Assets worth 80.65 lakh created in the last one year. Gram panchayat Action plan 2021-22 of Machil was also unveiled on the occasion.

The Lt Governor also distributed Kisan Credit Cards, Sports Kits, and handed-over financial assistance, various certificates, and sanction letters to

beneficiaries under different departmental schemes.

I believe in action, not announcements; will not rest until all villages of J&K are provided with basic amenities. We do not lack funds, but awareness and planned execution. Rs 200 crore have been allotted for development of village industries in J&K; going to secure investment of more than Rs 25 thousand crores very soon" remarked the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor observed that the District has largely unexploited potential of processing around 50 thousand tones of Walnuts and around 3 lakh tonnes Apples every year.

He congratulated the people of Machil and Keran for getting electricity through National Electricity Grid, ending their 70 years long wait only due to the 'Inclusive Development' mission of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He assured that the efforts are also underway to connect remaining habitations with the Power Grid as well.

CUK starts training workshop on IoT, Machine Learning

Ganderbal: Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir Monday e-inaugurated one week training workshop on "Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine Learning" organised by the Department of Information Technology, School of Engineering and Technology, in collaboration with National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chandigarh. He also launched the IT Department's placement drive on the occasion.

Addressing the participants, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj-ud-Din Mir, said the "Digitization and internet technologies have already become an integral part of human lives including academics even before the Covid-19

outbreak and the pandemic has further established the fact that internet and associated technologies have a major stake and role in the future." He asked the Departments of IT, Media Studies and Law to join hands and provide solutions to the issues confronted by the masses, through technological intervention. Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir encouraged the students to take part in trainings and workshops that will help them to develop employable skills that are in demand. Regarding the placement drive, he said, "The placement cell constituted for the purpose will help our students to launch their careers in the direction they intend to." He also wished success to the students.

سجادہ نقشبندیہ اسیاتہ اور پیریش احمد علی کی وفات پر اظہارِ غم و تہنیت
لوگوں کا تہنیت و اظہارِ غم کے ساتھ اظہارِ غم و تہنیت

سری (ج) 05 اکتوبر 2020ء

نقشبندیہ کے لوگوں نے باطنی اور مصلحانہ طریقے کی جانب سے ہمارے پیریش احمد علی سجادہ نقشبندیہ اسیاتہ اور پیریش احمد علی کی وفات پر گہرے دکھ کا اظہار کیا جا رہا ہے جو تاریخ میں گہری نماز کے دوران ہم سے ملنے والی اہم کو لیکھ کر گئے۔ ہر روز پیریش احمد علی کی اچانک وفات سے ان لوگوں کو صدمہ ہوا جو ان کی بڑے تہنیت و اظہار میں درود و خیر ملتا تھا۔

سجادہ سے دربار اور اس میں شہداء شام آ کر تھے۔

سجادہ نقشبندیہ کو عادیہ عادیہ و خیر میں خراج عقیدت پیش کرتے ہوئے ہوں و تہنیت کے کام سے ان کی وفات پر اسے گہرے دکھ کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ انہیں ایک بے لوث انسان قرار دیتے ہوئے جو بیحد لوگوں کی فلاح و بہبود کے لئے جتنیں چڑھتے تھے لوگوں نے کہا کہ ہر روز احمد علی کو صاف کے بالک تھے اور تہنیت و تہنیت کے کام میں ان کی تہنیتیں دیا جاتیں تھیں کہ وہ ان کی خدمت کی ہے۔

دریں اثناء لوگوں نے سجادہ نقشبندیہ اور پیریش احمد علی کی وفات پر دعا کی ہے کہ ہر روز کی دعا کے ساتھ ان کو اور سجادہ نقشبندیہ پر درشت کرے کی بہت دعا کرے۔

INT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been received from owner.
Shri : Firdous Ahmad Dar S/o: Nazir Ahmad Dar R/o: Danglepora Wathoora Chadoora Budgam as Transferee) & Shri. Harpal Singh S/o Khem Singh R/o Dharamsala Singhan Chadoora Budgam as Transferee)



for transfer of Maxi cab (Tavera) Covering vehicle No. JK04D-1463 As well as HPA Cancellation with M/S J & K State Financial Corp. B/u Budgam. Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said road permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 1577
Dated 05-10-2020

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

CONDOLENCE



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Dr Mohammed Sidiq Bhat S/o Abdul Jabar Bhat of Usmanabad, Umerhair-Buchpora, Srinagar.

There will be a brief Fateha congregation due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic at his resting place, Darul Qaraar graveyard, Akhzar Avenue behind Grid Station Il-lahibagh, Buchpora at 10 A.M on Wednesday.

BEREAVED

Muqadim Raouf Servall (Son)
Servall Dental Art



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.islamicuniversity.edu.in.

NOTICE

The candidates who could not apply for admission to Ph.D programme in Watson & Crick for Molecular Medicine within the stipulated time are allowed to submit their applications online by or before 10-10-2020.

No. IU/ST/20/580
Dated: 05-10-2020

Sd/-
Deputy Registrar, Academics

Auto Wings Launches Special Edition of Endeavour Sport

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ford India launched the special edition of the Ford Endeavour priced at Rs 35.10 lakh at Auto Wings Ford Pvt Ltd, Hyderpora on Monday.

The launching was done by the chief guest Mr Tajam-ul Qadri (branch head J&K Bank Hari Singh High Street) along with Mr Ashiq Hussain Wani (Managing Director Auto Wings Ford Pvt Ltd), Mr Azhar Majid Mir (Director , Auto Wings Ford Pvt Ltd) in presence of top management and a large gathering of customer's and dignitaries.

Speaking at the launch Younis Bashir (General Manager Auto Wings Ford Pvt Ltd) said "We are extremely delighted by the launch of



Ford Endeavour Sport which is special edition of Ford Endeavour and a combination of power pack and style makes a bold statement whether it is your regular commute during the week or your off road adventure during weekend.

Powered by 2.0L Eco blue engine with 10 speed automatic transmission (4*4) and BS-VI engine can put out 170 ps of

peak power and 420Nm peak torque. With black smoked headlamps, black front grill, black roof rails, all black new exterior alloy wheels and dark inserts on the side steps on the door and boot giving it all together a new appealing look.

Also FordPass App connect let's one to remote start the car or check fuel level without getting into an SUV,

locate the vehicle remotely. Other features include Terrain Management System (TMS) with normal, Snow, Mud/ Grass, Sand and Rock preset modes, seven airbags, voice enabled in car connectivity technology SYNC 3 with an eight inch touch screen and Apple Carplay, Google auto compatibility, active noise cancellation, panoramic sunroof and much more. Ford Endeavour Sports edition is offered in three colours; Diamond white, Diffused silver and Absolute black.

We are sure Ford Endeavour Sport will create a new benchmark in A-segment SUV and demonstrate Ford's commitment in offering cutting edge technology features and quality to the customer's, said Younis Bashir.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchcdk@yahoo.in-----

Gist of e-tender (Short-term)

NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/136/e-tendering

Dated:03.10.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered, reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	E/M (Lacs of Rs)	Time (in Days)	Position of AAA/ funds
1	2	3	4	5	6
Providing central heating facility to ward # 6 along with allied works at Govt. SMHS Hospital Srinagar.	5.25	500	11000	10	Available

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 03.10.2020 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 03.10.2020 (18.00 hrs).
2. Uploading:- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 05.10.2020 (10.00 hrs) to 16.10.2020 (15:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
3. Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 17.10.2020 at 14.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

No: MHCHD /TS /

DIPK-6820/20

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the District Social Welfare Officer Srinagar Old Secretariat Srinagar 190001 Phone No. 0194-2478817 email : dswsschl@gmail.com

NOTICE

Pursuant to the circular instructions issued by the Government vide No: SWD/Accts/MISC/70/2019 Dated: 25-08-2020, whereby it has been made mandatory to ensure Adhaar seeding of all the beneficiaries covered under various schemes being implemented by the Social Welfare Department Viz:- SMAS, NFBS Scholarships, RMV; so that the data of sanctioned beneficiaries is uploaded on Public Financial Management system (PFMS) portal.

Accordingly all the beneficiaries of the above mentioned schemes through the medium of this notice are hereby informed to contact the respective Tehsil Social Welfare Officer North, MiskeenBagh, Srinagar and Tehsil Social Welfare Officer South, Beminaalongwith their Adhaar cards. However, in respect of beneficiaries of RMV (OAP/PCP/WID/WOD), NFCH; the concerned shall report to District Social Welfare office, block C, Old secretariat, Srinagar; so that the same is seeded as per the guidelines issued by the Government.

DIPK-6808/20

SD/= District Social Welfare Officer
Srinagar

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
18 Safar
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 06
ZUHR	12: 20
ASR	4:31
Magrib	6:16
ISHA	7:37

This Day In History

- 1762 - British troops occupy Manila, Philippines
- 1783 - Benjamin Hanks patents self-winding clock
- 1861 - Revolt of Russian student shuts down university of Petersburg
- 1863 - Battle at Baxter Springs, Kansas
- 1889 - Thomas Edison shows his 1st motion picture
- 1939 - Adolf Hitler denies he intends to go to war against France and Britain
- 1943 - Battle at Vella Lavella, Solomon Island
- 1944 - Allied aircraft accidentally bomb Fishing, Overijssel
- 1944 - Canadians free Austria
- 1948 - The 1948 Ashgabat earthquake kills 100,000 in the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic
- 1948 - Paleontologist Mary Leakey finds the first partial fossil skull of Proconsul africanus, an ancestor of apes and humans on Rusinga Island, Kenya
- 1956 - Scientist Albert Sabin announces that his oral polio vaccine is ready for testing; it would soon supplant Jonas Salk's vaccine in many parts of the world
- 1959 - Soviet Luna 3, 1st successful photographic spacecraft, impacts Moon
- 1986 - Russian nuclear sub K291 sinks in Atlantic Ocean
- 1987 - Military coup leader Maj-Gen Sitiveni Rabuka declares Fiji a republic
- 1990 - US 67th manned space mission STS 41 (Discovery II) launches into orbit
- 1990 - Solar Polar Orbiter 'Ulysses' launched
- 1995 - 51 Pegasi discovered as the first major star, apart from the Sun, to have a planet orbiting around it
- 2000 - President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milošević resigns
- 2010 - Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger launch Instagram
- 2015 - Nobel prize for Physics awarded to Takaaki Kajita (Japan) and Arthur McDonald (Canada) for work on neutrinos
- 2017 - British writer Kazuo Ishiguro is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 2018 - Khabib Nurmagomedov of Dagestan beats Irishman Conor McGregor by 4th round submission in UFC lightweight title fight in Las Vegas; instantly marred by ugly post-fight brawling incident; belt withheld pending investigation
- 2019 - 99 Iraqis have died and 4,000 injured in protests over 5 days against living conditions, unemployment and corruption according to human rights group
- 2019 - Tens of thousands of Hong Kong protesters march in defiance of a new ban on face masks

From KO Archives

IAS Officer, Others Face Prosecution For Fraud

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Kashmiri officialdom was never very particular about how contemptibly low it stoops to plunder public funds, but it must have required an unusual degree of meanness to cheat backward Gujjars and Bakarwals of their paltry government compensation for losses suffered due to hailstorms and heavy rain. In this 7-year-old case, the then deputy commissioner Pulwama - incidentally, a se-nior IAS officer - S. D. Lone; another deputy commissioner, Muhammed Akram Hajan; the then assistant commissioner, revenue, and presently director, land records, Srinagar, Muhammed Afzal Bhat and the then tehsildar Pulwama, Habibullah Mir, along with nearly half-a-dozen petty of-ficials of the district DCs office have been challaned by the vigilance) organisation misappropriating Rs 15 lakh which the state had sanctioned as relief to the nomads for livestock losses during natural calamities in the hilly areas of Shopy-an and Pulwama. The entire amount had been placed at the disposal of the then DC, who had been charged with the responsibility of disbursing it to the deserving members of the community after proper verification.

Vigilance investigations revealed that the officers named in the case, in collusion with four private persons who have asked been charge sheeted had manipulated records to show that Rs 14,80,940 had been distributed among 652 members of the Gujjar and bakarwaal community.

Sixty-two persons among the supposed beneficiaries selected at random by the VO, denied having received any relief, and the finger impressions on acquaintance rolls did not tally with the fingerprints. Expert established that thumb impressions supposed to be the marks of 181 different recipients were in fact the thumbprints of only a few people repeated over and over on the rolls. The VO also found that recipients who were shown belonging to the Udhampur and Rajoun districts were only fictitious names and that Rs3,75,090 were deposited with Reshi Gas Agency rather than going to a sufferer.

Having prima-facie established the officers' involvement in the fraud; the VO has pressed charges against them under relevant laws before the special anti -corruption court in Srinagar.

(Kashmir Observer, October 06, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
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Hope on Covid-19 front

There has been some drop in the number of daily coronavirus cases in the country over the past few days. Less than 74,000 people were found positive on Saturday. Several states, including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Bihar, have seen their growth rates drop below one per cent a day. The decline has followed the meteoric rise in the cases over the last one month, with daily caseload hovering around one lakh. There is no easy explanation for the reduction in numbers. More so, when there has been no drop in the daily tests. Also, the decline is taking place at a time when the country has entered the Unlock 5 whereby the government has allowed the full range of economic activities to reopen including those that involve large gatherings like movie halls and schools. At the same time, the use of masks and the physical distancing norms are not prevalent among the people to an extent where it could perceptibly affect the daily caseload. Unlock has made people lax towards observance of the SOP.

Meanwhile, the total number of positive cases in the country has reached 66 lakh. But about 84 per cent, which works out more than 55 lakh, have already recovered from the disease. Over 1.1 lakh people have lost their lives.

Be that as it may, the decline in numbers is a positive development. There is hope now that the daily caseload shows a progressive decline. But in the absence of a vaccine, and with Unlock in progress, there is a need to be careful. Government should continue to invest in a world class healthcare infrastructure to increase the capacity of the hospitals and the medical personnel to deal with the pandemic. There is also the need to continue to increase testing. And this has to be done alongside the measures to reopen the economy. Considering the terrible state of economy, the union government can hardly afford to enforce yet another lockdown. The trick is to upgrade healthcare, enforce strict adherence to SOPs in public and running an advertisement blitz to create more awareness about the contagion. This could buy the government time before the vaccine is available. And which could be sooner than later. Health Ministry has asked the state governments to prepare a list of priority groups that would need to be vaccinated first. This list is supposed to be ready by the end of October. India hopes to vaccinate 20-25 crore people by July next year. So the coming few months are crucial. If the government is able to keep the daily caseload low, it would have more or less won half the war against coronavirus.

OTHER OPINION

Until vaccine: On Unlock 5

India's fifth round of unlock regulations for October, allowing a further expansion of public activity mainly in education, entertainment and business conferences, comes at a time when COVID-19 transmission is steady in many cities. Nationally, though, the new infections being added everyday, at about 60,000, represent a decline in recent days, as per Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center data. The stringent March-April lockdown, and the subsequent measures to unlock the economy to prevent an equally debilitating crisis to livelihoods, have made India an uncommon case study. The decision to allow States to consider reopening schools and coaching centres after October 15, for students who wish to optionally attend, will prove a difficult one, considering new research evidence based on data from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh pointing to high prevalence of infection among children who were contacts of virus cases in the same age group. Slowing community spread is bound to become more complicated, since governments blame careless attitudes for continued transmission — notably in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. While essential movement for economic reasons, including use of public transport, is unavoidable, indifference towards safe public behaviour is extracting a heavy social cost. Even in the face of a deadly pandemic, governments are taking a benign view of recalcitrant people who do not wear masks, even on buses and trains, spit in public, and crowd commercial locations. During the monsoon and winter months, and the festive season, polite, persuasive enforcement would be essential to reduce infection rates.

Among the relaxation measures in the October unlock phase is permission for cinemas and multiplexes to open at 50% capacity, but the risk surrounding enclosed spaces and transmission from asymptomatic individuals is real. Viewed against the enhanced risk of environments where masks are removed for eating and drinking, such as cinemas and restaurants, these entertainment options may not have wide appeal in the pre-vaccine phase. While the economy shifts gears in the activity phase, the Centre should be focusing on improving the understanding of the health impacts of COVID-19. Disappointingly, while it has emphasised massive recovery rates from the infection, it has failed to standardise testing and reporting methods among States, and publish fine-grained data on types of tests carried out in each State, anonymised patient histories, post-recovery status for complications and mortality. Repeated emphasis on a large number of recoveries, which were expected anyway, but without the necessary caveats, may be encouraging millions to lower their guard. Every effort to relieve the citizen's fatigue over COVID-19 should be made, but the goal is to preserve health until a medical breakthrough is made.

The Hindu



Making Amends for Amshipora

It should be Army's business to see that this time around justice is done

RIYAZ WANI

One can also ask what is stopping the centre from making necessary modifications in the law that makes the security personnel who commit human rights violations accountable for their actions. Such actions cannot be left entirely to the discretion of the Army.

On Saturday, the bodies of the three young men including a minor -Imtiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohammad Ibrar, - killed recently by the Army in an encounter at Shopian were exhumed at Gantamula in North Kashmir. Men with shovels went to the village to dig into the earth, triggering a deep sense of dejavu.

This is not the first time that such exhumations have taken place in Kashmir. Who can forget the killings of similar nature in encounters at Pathribal in South Kashmir in 2000, Ganderbal in central Kashmir in 2007 and Machil along the Line of Control in 2010 or the death of the two young women, Asiya and Neelofar at Shopian in 2009. The bodies of the victims in these incidents were exhumed too. But we also know that justice was done in none of the cases, albeit in Machil case, in which the Army came closest to delivering it but eventually backed out.

The verdict of the court martial in Machil case had showed the way. It had appeared that the Army will after all transcend the safeguards under Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and bring its erring personnel to book. Five army men including two officers convicted in the fake encounter of the three Kashmiri youth were sentenced to life imprisonment. But soon after they were released on bail and their life terms were suspended by the Armed Forces Tribunal. This reversed the public confidence generated by what was seen as a rare punishment.

Pathribal, arguably the most grotesque of such incidents, is a long story though. Five innocent civilians were killed in South Kashmir in 2000 and passed off as terrorists who killed 36 Sikhs at nearby Chittisinghpura. The case was first investigated by Central Bureau of Investigation which concluded that it was "cold-blooded murder" and recommended that "the accused officials deserve to be meted out exemplary punishment". The CBI had pleaded that since the Pathribal fake encounter didn't fall within the line of duty of the accused personnel, they couldn't claim immunity under the AFSPA and hence no sanction was needed to prosecute them.

Deciding the case, the Supreme Court later ruled that the central government's sanction was necessary to prosecute the security

personnel involved in the human rights violations. And in doing so, the apex court upheld a critical feature of the AFSPA whose Section 6 makes the requisite sanction from the central government mandatory for prosecution of erring personnel. However, in regard to Pathribal, the court set a timeline. The army was given eight weeks to decide whether its personnel accused of fake encounter killings in J&K should be tried by court-martial proceedings or by regular criminal courts.

For once, it had almost appeared that the things had begun to head in the right direction. And exactly after the passing of the stipulated period, Army made a choice in favour of the court-martial. But subsequently, Army's decision to give itself the clean chit dashed all

operation.

Earlier on July 18, the Army had claimed to have killed three unidentified militants in an orchard at Amshipora. But once their pictures were published in newspapers and circulated on social media, three families in Rajpouri claimed they were their children and insisted they had had no terror links. According to the families, the trio had gone to Shopian to work as labourers. The Army was quick to order a high-level Court of Inquiry (CoI) into the encounter.

But nobody in Kashmir, even in their wildest imagination, believed that the Army would indict its own soldiers. This is why, when it happened, it came as a pleasant surprise to people. But there are still doubts about the Army's sin-

This is not the first time that such exhumations have taken place in Kashmir. Who can forget the killings of similar nature in encounters at Pathribal in South Kashmir in 2000, Ganderbal in central Kashmir in 2007 and Machil along the LOC in 2010 or the death of Asiya and Neelofar at Shopian. But we also know that justice was done in none, albeit in Machil case, in which the Army came closest to delivering it but eventually backed out.

hopes of justice. If Pathribal with its sordid details a public knowledge could be "prima facie" short of evidence against the accused personnel — more so with the CBI inquiry already nailing their role — there is no due process of Army law, no court martial that can establish the guilt in the case or any other similar case.

Now again, in a rare development of its kind, Army has again chosen to voluntarily dispense justice in a case where its personnel have in the words of Army itself "exceeded" the powers vested under the AFSPA. The Army has confirmed that the three youth killed in an encounter at Amshipora in Shopian were civilians from Rajouri in Jammu. The finding followed an internal probe into the incident.

In a statement issued to the press, the Army said that "the dos and don'ts of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) as approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court have been contravened" in the course of the

cerity to take the probe to its logical conclusion

As the Amshipora case has once again showed, what matters is the accountability of the personnel responsible for gross excesses, not the revocation of the AFSPA per se. Best way out is the willingness among the security agencies to act fairly and speedily in case of rights violations. This is the only pragmatic solution under the circumstances. One can also ask what is stopping the centre from making necessary modifications in the law that makes the security personnel who commit human rights violations accountable for their actions. Such actions cannot be left entirely to the discretion of the Army. There has to be an in-built legal mechanism to punish the erring personnel irrespective of the institutional discretion of the security forces.

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The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

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Can men be Feminists?

Recently, an article appeared in Kashmir Observer, titled, "Why Fear Feminism?" The intent of the article was clear and appreciable. I wish to take the discussion forward.

Any system that seeks to marginalise a community, group or a people has people who are facilitators or benefactors of that very system. For patriarchy, these benefactors are men. Is it then possible for a man, a benefactor, to be a feminist?

In contemporary feminist intersectional debates, it is encouraged

for men to be allies rather than style themselves as feminists. This position is more convincing and ethical because men, by virtue of being benefactors of patriarchy, will always be complicit in women's oppression in overt and covert ways. Additionally, feminist movement is not merely a concept or an idea. It is a political movement at levels of activism, policy making and change in general. This manifesto of change is central to ideologies like feminism as their primary marker is their manifesto for change. This is why the first wave

of feminism was not merely an assertion of rights of women as an awareness but as a movement meant for attaining suffragette.

Even today, feminist movements focus on making changes. If men are allowed to occupy the front lines of these movements as "feminists"; their privilege is bound to get them to usurp and dilute the movement.

This is because of two reasons: men by virtue of being the benefactors of patriarchy will have no way of actually knowing the true impact of patriarchy because they are not

always at the losing end of it. Their privilege can also make them the face of a feminist movement which will in turn jeopardise the enterprise of a feminist movement.

Therefore, men can be feminists but any critically aware man will only call himself an ally. In today's world, men should and must be allies to feminists.

.....
M Hurair
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Parable of Paws and Cruelty of Humans

Haris Bin Ayoub

Even the apologetically redundant religious sermons fail to see the issue of abuse on dogs in Kashmir. And even in the crisis they must be having for their lack of originality, the pressing concern remains still invisible and truly beckons a common Kashmiri to question his or her conscience”

There is a notable parable in which a woman of questionable deeds strives to procure water for a thirsty dog, because of which Allah forgives her. Yet, whenever this incident is iterated, the didactic nature of the story focuses solely on the intention of the human, and never have words been spoken for the dog.

Even the apologetically redundant religious sermons fail to see the issue of abuse on dogs in Kashmir. And even in the crisis they must be having for their lack of originality, the pressing concern remains still invisible and truly beckons a common Kashmiri to question his or her conscience.

There is an aura of fear around us and we don't need a dog's nose to smell it. I was once sitting on the stairs of a mobile shop for about ten minutes, and saw a bitch startling out of her sleep more times than I have in my life. The craziest part being she shouldn't have; here at least the humans were safe but who blames her after the acts of sadism they get from us everyday.

Whether it is a savage kick to their meekly slinking bodies, a maliciously pelted stone by some kid who sees it as nothing else but entertainment with impunity, or the household head obsessed with maintaining dominion even outside his gate or the over-confident driver who is sure he is not going to mash the dog under his car, but doesn't mind delivering a good scare. The cruelty is prolific, showing not even the slightest trace of guilt or pity.

Kind of ironic for the sympathetic entitlement we have confirmed for ourselves. It is definitely a shame for us, Kashmir — people who have been living in habitual terror for decades now — that the issue doesn't register as a pressing concern.

It is frustrating when the meagre number of protestors get scoffed at for their 'unrealistic approach' of kindness. Some of the haters show absolutely no qualms over the prospects of poisoning them. Bear in mind that when the deed is done, people don't want to waste money on a position of the elite class. While the dog does end, in his last moment the misery only escalates. The cheap poison does a cheap job. You will not see the creature (as in a creation of a Creator) rapidly descend into a state of eternal slumber. But the process is rather lethargic.

The dog loses strength, unable to react to any stimulus, tongue hanging out as if perpetually dehydrated. Towards the very end, the colour visibly drains out of its face and it lies on the ground — helpless, eyes trying to pour out its self-deteriorating pain.

On one unfortunate morning, I had the misfortune of witnessing a dog succumb to death in Rajbagh while it howled in extreme pain, as loud as it could. True, it isn't fair to out rightly ignore their obnoxious behaviour, but it far from justifies killing them.

In fact, it is worth noting that the obnoxious behaviour is ingrained by the very brutality we use in our



Babylona Bora

daily treatment towards them. What this means is that a street dog is still a dog, not a pure breed, but still a dog; and dogs are one of man's oldest companions. Therein lies a hope of a better world.

They feed on our refuse, but dumping food to get rid of it is still dumping it, and apparently even a dog isn't going to be fooled by it. I don't need the numbers but at the very least there must be twenty humans to every street dog, and systematically feeding them would considerably efface their rogue behaviour. The change won't be easy and spontaneous, but some (especially the younger ones) might be quickly charmed once fed individually. That would also mitigate their food-grubbing struggle and thus there'd be a lot less of those wild-sprints and menacing roars. This would hopefully result in fewer fights among themselves, and their territorial disputes would also start to lose their importance.

Something seriously needs to be considered by those who find it difficult to deal with incessant barking at night, and lean out of their windows with useless threats, making their contribution to the raucous night. People seem to be missing the idea of rights as far as acquired property is concerned. It does grant you domestic sovereignty, but the right is somewhat limited to

our species. And after annexing too much land than we need, animals can't just be expected to disappear.

Infact, we know the opposite is happening.

As a young teen we discovered new-born puppies outside our home. They were a nuisance, but surely there must be a way of dealing with it. Or so I thought. One of the neighbours poisoned a litter of newborn pups. I watched them die one by one. Getting to confront the person in front of my parents I gave in to an outburst. When I was done, I foolishly expected my parents to be proud of me. That indeed was foolish of me. I got the backhand.

Perhaps they were right, I'm still debating. But I've realized what I felt was right, and children today need to be infused with that kind of sympathetic sensitivity towards other creatures. While you may be comforted in shying away from the realization that a dog in your street is your responsibility, you can try to accept the idea that it most certainly isn't a fearless intruder.

While it is true that nature is beautiful but cruel, the statement is only justified without fatal human intervention.

The author can be reached at mob.jobson@gmail.com

On Virtue Signalling

Karen Stollznaw

Last month, on the centennial of the 19th amendment granting American women the vote, US President Donald Trump announced he would issue a posthumous pardon for Susan B. Anthony. A suffragette, Anthony was convicted of voting illegally as a woman in 1872. The response was mixed. Some applauded the president, others accused him of virtue signalling.

The term has been levelled in recent times at celebrities, politicians, and brands. But what does “virtue signalling” mean?

The Cambridge Dictionary defines it as: *An attempt to show other people that you are a good person, for example by expressing opinions that will be acceptable to them, especially on social media.*

So, virtue signalling is an expression used to call out an individual, company, or organisation - suggesting they are only backing an idea to look good in the eyes of others. The term implies that they don't truly believe in the cause they publicly support. They are acting out of bad faith, because they have an ulterior motive.

The abundance and popularity of similar terms in the social lexicon, like “radical chic”, “bleeding hearts”, “politically correct”, “poseurs” or just plain “posers”, suggests many value honesty and integrity. We're wary of fakes and possible bullshit.

However, like these labels, “virtue signalling” is highly pejorative: often wielded as a sneering insult by those on the right against progressives to dismiss their statements as grandstanding. Some people accused of it may actually believe deeply in the cause they speak of, and back their words with actions.

Looking good

A “virtue” is a trait or quality that is deemed to be moral or good. The word has earlier Christian connotations of theological virtues, including humility, kindness, and charity, in opposition to the “seven deadly sins”.

In the case of Trump, infamous for his misogyny, the symbolic pardon of



The slur of virtue signalling relates to older well-regarded idioms: “do as I say, not as I do”; “all talk, no action”; “talk the talk”; and “walk the walk”.

Anthony was construed by many as disingenuous. In a perceived attempt to garner female voters, he was displaying a virtue he didn't have.

Before an AFL game in June this year, meanwhile, Richmond Tigers and Collingwood Magpies players and umpires knelt down on one knee to show solidarity with Indigenous Australians. It was part of the worldwide Black Lives Matter movement

against racism.

Many fans interpreted the gesture as an act of support, unity, and respect. Yet some online critics rejected the display as virtue signalling, telling the teams to “stick to football instead of politics”.

Virtue signalling is often an accusation of “jumping on the bandwagon” of a popular cause. At the height of the #BLM protests, companies including McDon-

alds, Starbucks, and Nike were accused of “corporate virtue signaling” — or “woke washing” — for issuing empty statements of support.

In the US, even mask wearing has been branded by some as virtue signalling — signifying to progressives a serious approach to public health but to the right an over-reaction amid political culture wars. Indeed the term can sometimes say more about the

person who wields it than its ostensible target.

Radical chic

The origins of the term “virtue signalling” are disputed. British journalist James Bartholomew is often credited with coining the phrase in a 2015 article in the conservative publication The Spectator. It is more likely he popularised an existing term, as there are older academic references.

The earlier expression “radical chic” — coined by Tom Wolfe in 1970 and celebrating its 50th anniversary — describes association with a fashionable crusade, but without genuine commitment to it. Where radical chic described the adoption of causes by celebrities and socialites, virtue signalling is different because anyone can do it.

The slur of virtue signalling relates to older well-regarded idioms: “do as I say, not as I do”; “all talk, no action”; “talk the talk”; and “walk the walk”.

Claiming the higher ground

“Virtue signalling” joins other right-wing slurs like libtards, bleeding hearts, snowflakes, and social justice warriors.

It is a cousin of accusations of political correctness. In their apparent sermonising and moral outrage against racism, sexual harassment, climate change and more, progressives are viewed as emotional and weak, or accused of being sanctimonious.

Ironically, wielding the term sometimes serves as virtue signalling in itself. By calling out virtue signalling, the speaker publicly claims the moral high ground.

The term is often used as an ad hominem attack — a charge that dismisses an argument based on the character of the presenter, not the argument itself.

Does it matter if an individual or company signals virtue if it's in the name of a good cause? Indeed, it can be argued that signalling a commitment to specific values helps moral discourse.

As the Trump pardon of Susan B. Anthony shows, the same action characterised as virtue signalling by one person can also effect positive change.

By arrangements with The Conversation



"I BELIEVE OUR FINDINGS OFFER A HOPEFUL message. We know that humans can have positive social encounters with others who are different. Now we have the neurobiological basis - our brains have apparently developed a frontal lobe system that helps us deal with diversity."

Study Finds How Brain Helps Us Navigate Social Differences

Agencies

Our brain responds differently if we talk to a person of a different socioeconomic background from our own compared to when we speak to someone whose background is similar, according to a new imaging study by UCL and Yale researchers.

In the study, published in the journal Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, 39 pairs of participants had a conversation with each other while wearing headsets that tracked brain activity.

Researchers found that among pairs of people who had very different socioeconomic backgrounds - calculated according to education level and family income - there was a higher level of activity in an area of the frontal lobe called the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex. The area is associated with speech production and rule-based language as well as cognitive and attentional control.

The findings support previous research suggesting that frontal lobe systems play a role in detecting bias and helping us to

regulate our behaviour to avoid bias expression. The increased activity in the left frontal lobe was observed in both participants and was more alike than the brain responses of participants talking to someone of a similar background. In a questionnaire following their task, participants paired with people of different backgrounds reported a slightly higher level of anxiety and effort during their conversation than those in similar-background pairs.

Professor Joy Hirsch (UCL

Medical Physics & Biomedical Engineering and Yale) said: "For the first time, we have identified the neural mechanisms involved in social interactions between people of different backgrounds.

"I believe our findings offer a hopeful message. We know that humans can have positive social encounters with others who are different. Now we have the neurobiological basis - our brains have apparently developed a frontal lobe system that helps us deal with diversity."

Participants' brain activity was tracked using a new technique

called functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS), which monitors blood flow and blood oxygenation by measuring changes in near-infrared light and involves wearing only a light headset. Previous studies have involved using MRI scans, which require patients to lie down and keep still, making conversation difficult. The conversation task lasted for 12 minutes and involved participants being randomly assigned four subjects on themes such as "What did you do last summer?" and "How do you bake a cake?"

After their conversation task,

participants were asked about the level of education they had completed and their parents' annual income and given a score based on these details. Pairs of participants were classified as either "high-disparity" or "low-disparity" depending on how different their scores were. The two groups - different-background pairs and similar-background pairs - were matched in terms of age, race, and gender, minimising the impact of these variables on the results. The participants were recruited from Yale's home

city of New Haven in Connecticut, both from within the campus and beyond. They ranged in age from 19 to 44 and had a wide variety of socioeconomic backgrounds.

Lead author Olivia Descorbeth, a Yale University graduate who came up with the research proposal while still at school, said: "We wanted to know if the brain responded differently when we talked to others of a different socioeconomic background. Now we know that it does and that humans have neurobiology that helps us navigate social differences."

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.101/1981/MVD/ANG
Date:-03/10/020



NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Mohd Jabar Lone S/O Ab Gani Lone R/O Hawoora Kulgam(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Truck Bearing Regd. No.JK03F-8502(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.333/GC/ANG. and Mr.Arbaz Bashir S/O Bashir Ahmad Katoo R/O Khudwani Anantnag(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Ltd.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

MJA
Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.102/1991/MVD/ANG
Date:-05/10/020



NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Zahoor Ahmad Mir S/O Abdul Rashid Mir R/O Dupatyar Bijbehara Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Santroo Bearing Regd. No.JK03G-4617(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.Nill. and Mr.Javid Ahmad Beigh S/O Mohd Akram Beigh R/O Nasirullahpora Budgam(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation /Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with HDFC Bank Bijbehara.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

MJA
Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

No.102/1992/MVD/ANG
Date:-05/10/020



NOTICE



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Manzoor Ahmad Wani S/O Abdul Gani Wani R/O Nepora Anantnag(Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd. No.JK03B-8032(Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Bilal Ahmad Dar S/O Abdul Sattar Dar R/O Qamarwari Srinagar(Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation / Endorsement of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Mirbazar.Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within(7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

MJA
Assistant Regional
Transport Officer Anantnag

Government OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE Executive Engineer, R&B Sub-Division Magam,
Quotation of 2020-21
Dated. 03/10/2020

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam invites sealed quotation for below mentioned items affixed with Four Rupees revenue Stamps from Authorised /registered dealers which should reach the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Magam on or before 08 -10 -2020 upto 2 PM. The quotation will be opened on the same date or any other date convenient to the quotation opening Authority in presence of the quotationers or their authorised representatives who wish to be present there.

The scope of the work includes the following components using Electric Total station (ETS) for improvement of the college.

S.No	Particular	Qty	Unit	Rates to be quoted
1	Land/Site plan of college premises and contour map incl. road leading to college form Narbal Tangmarg road	1.00	Job	RTQ
2	Identification of boundaries as per the directions of Engineer In-charge	1.00	Job	RTQ
3	Identification of existing roads, building, electric poles and other above surface structures in the college	1.00	Job	RTQ

Terms and conditions:

1. The Surveyor has to accompany the registration certificate duly authenticated by the competent authority and the original registration certificate has to be produced at the time of allotment.

2. The surveyor has to accompany the list of works along with allotments completed in various departments till date.

3. The quotation be submitted in sealed envelopes duly marked" Quotation for above mentioned works and addressed to executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam and should be reach this office on or before 08-10-2020.

4. The rates should be quoted inclusive all taxes without any cutting or over writings & the rates must be written both in words as well as in figures duly covered with transparent tap.

5. The Successful quotationer shall have to execute an agreement with the department in the prescribed formation for successful completion of the contract.

6. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation or a part thereof without assigning any reasons thereof.

7. The payment will be made only after funds will be available with the department.

8. The quotations has to deposit an amount of Rs 2000/= in the shape of CDR along with quotation pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam.

No :- R&B/Divn
Dated: 03 -10-2020

DIPK-6855/20
Executive Engineer
R&B Sub-Division Magam

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN
e-mail:- rnbdivisionshopian@gmail.com
(Phone/Fax No: 01933-260226)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 84/4105-15 /SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2020-21
Dated:- 05/10/2020

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

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion (In days)	Cost of T.Doc. (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Position of A/TS	Position of Funds
1	Providing and laying of RCC Spun pipes on Hajipora Mantribugh road at village Chakoorra	3054-M&R	0.79	DEE	02 working days	200/-	1600/-	Accorded	Available

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

S.No	Particular	Date
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05-10-2020
2	Document downloading Start Date.	06-10-2020
3	Document Downloading End Date.	12-10-2020
4	Bid submission Start Date.	06-10-2020
5	Bid Submission End Date.	12-10-2020
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	13-10-2020 at 11:00 A.M

1. Bidders must upload the requisite cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan / Treasury Challan Receipt / and Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).The Lowest responsive bidder (L1) must submit the original CDR /FDR/ Additional Security deposit to the tender allotting authority before issuance of LOI/formal Allotment of contract.

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).

3. Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the Successful bidder shall have produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR only before award of contract / after opening of price bids as per the following beak-up:-

S.No	Percentage of unbalance bid viz. a viz advertised cost	Additional Performance security
01.	Upto and including 15% below.	Nil
02.	Greater than 15% and upto 20% below.	5% of advertised cost
03.	Greater than 20% and upto 25% below.	10% of advertised cost
04.	Greater than 25% and upto 30% below.	15% of advertised cost
05.	Greater than 30% below.	20% of advertised cost

All other terms and conditions are as per PWD form-25(Double agreement form) and detailed NIT No. 01 of 2020-21.

No. :- NIT/e-Tendering/RnB/Spn/ 4116-19
Dated:- 05 /10/2020

DIPK-6865/20
Executive Engineer,
PW(R&B) Division Shopian

Pakistan police register sedition case against Sharif, other PML-N leaders

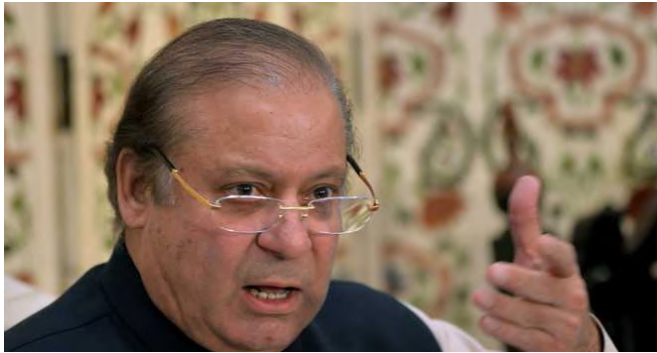
Agencies

Lahore: Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam and other top leaders of the Opposition PML-N party were charged with sedition and other serious cases for allegedly conspiring against the institutions of the Army and the Judiciary, and inciting people against them.

The Lahore police registered an FIR on the complaint of a person on Monday, citing Sharif's two recent speeches made through a video link from London in which the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo made blistering remarks targeting the powerful

prime minister three times, first removed by a president in 1993, then by military ruler Pervez Musharraf in 1999. A court in 2017 ousted him from power over corruption allegations. Imran Khan, a former cricketer, came to power in 2018.

The case was registered under Sections 10 (cyber-terrorism), 120-A (definition of criminal conspiracy), 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against Pakistan), 123-A (condemning the creation of the country and advocating the abolishment of its sovereignty), 124-A (sedition) and 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) of the Paki-



Pakistan Army.

Sharif, who left for London late last year after securing bail for medical treatment in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case and the Al Azizia case, has been targeting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan, as well as many state institutions, including the Judiciary and the military. He served as Pakistan's

stan Electronic Crimes Act (2016) and the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

In his speeches, 70-year-old Sharif alleged that the Pakistan Army had rigged the 2018 vote that brought Khan to power.

The powerful Army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Pakistan ex-president Asif Ali Zardari indicted in Park Lane and Thatta Water cases

Press Trust Of India

Islamabad: An anti-corruption court in Pakistan on Monday indicted former president Asif Ali Zardari in the Park Lane and Thatta Water Supply cases.

Zardari, 63, the co-chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), was present in the Islamabad-based court and pleaded not guilty.

During the hearing, the court indicted 19 others accused in the Park Lane case and 15 others in the Thatta water supply case.

The court last week had indicted Zardari, his sister Faryal Talpur in a mega money laundering case.

In the Park Lane case, Zardari and his son Bilawal Ali Zardari are accused of purchasing 2,460 kanals of prime property in Islamabad at extremely depreciated rates using frontmen.

In the Thatta water supply case, a private contractor was illegally awarded project contracts. In the money laundering case, it is alleged fake accounts were used by the

former president and other accused to park and launder ill-gotten wealth.

The court has rejected Zardari's plea seeking acquittal in all three cases.

The husband of the country's first woman prime min-



ister Benazir Bhutto was arrested last year by the National Accountability Bureau and probed for months before being released in December on medical grounds.

Zardari has maintained the allegations against him are a vilification campaign by Prime Minister Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. PTI



Azerbaijan Demands Armenian Timetable To Withdraw From Nagorno-Karabakh

Agencies

Baku: Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev demanded on Sunday that Armenia set a timetable for withdrawing from the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding Azeri territories, and said Azerbaijan would not cease military action until that happened.

Aliyev, in a televised address, said Azerbaijan had waited 30 years to recover its lands. "Nagorno-Karabakh is Azeri territory. We must return and we will return," he said. — Reuters

Each side accused the other of targeting civilian areas, as the conflict widened a week after heavy fighting broke out in the decades-old dispute over the ethnic-Armenian region.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have resisted international calls for a ceasefire and clashes have intensified in recent days, with both sides claiming victories on the front and saying they are inflicting heavy losses.

In a fiery address to the nation, Azerbaijani President Aliyev said Azeri forces were advancing in a week-long offensive to retake lands that they lost to ethnic Armenians in the 1990s.

He said that Armenian forces "must leave our territories,

not in words but in deeds," provide a timetable for a full withdrawal, and recognise the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

He said the international community had failed for three decades to enforce UN resolutions or put pressure on Armenia to return Azeri territories.

The content and tone of Aliyev's message made clear that Azerbaijan would not entertain calls for an immediate ceasefire, as Russia, the United States and European Union have urged.

Speaking immediately after Aliyev's speech, Armenian Defence Ministry official Artsrun Hovhannisyan said: "I don't think that there is any risk for Yerevan (the Armenian capital), but anyway we are in war."

The clashes are the worst since the 1990s, when some 30,000 people were killed and are spreading beyond the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. They have raised international concern about stability in the South Caucasus, where pipelines carry Azeri oil and gas to world markets.

The conflict threatens to drag in other regional powers as Azerbaijan is supported by Turkey, while Armenia has a defence pact with Russia.

Hundreds of people have been killed in the past week of

fighting between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces, including more than 40 civilians.

Earlier on Sunday, Azerbaijan said Armenian forces had fired rockets at its second city of Ganja, killing one civilian and wounding 32, and also launched a missile attack on the Azeri industrial city of Mingachevir. Azerbaijan threatened to retaliate by destroying military targets inside Armenia.

Both Armenia's and the breakaway region's defence ministries said they denied the Azeri claim of the Armenian attack on Mingachevir in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's ally Turkey accused Armenia of "targeting civilians" in Ganja and reiterated support for its fellow Turkic and Muslim country as "one nation, two states".

Turkey's Foreign Ministry said: "The attacks of Armenia targeting the civilians in Ganja...are a new manifestation of Armenia's unlawful attitude. We condemn these attacks."

Armenia denied it had directed fire "of any kind" towards Azerbaijan. The leader of Nagorno-Karabakh said his forces had targeted a military airbase in Ganja but later stopped firing in order to avoid civilian casualties.

Trump's condition was worse than revealed: WH

Agencies

Washington: White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows revealed that President Donald Trump's condition on Friday was far worse than officials had made public, saying doctors recommended Trump go to the hospital after seeing he had a fever and his blood oxygen level dropped rapidly.

Meadows made the comments in an interview with a media outlet. "I can tell you this the biggest thing we see is with no fever now, and with him doing really well with his oxygen saturation levels," Meadows said.

"Yesterday morning, we were really concerned by that. He had a fever, and his oxygen level had dropped rapidly. Yet in typical style, this president

was up and walking around." White House officials including Meadows said on Friday



that Trump was experiencing "mild symptoms" and continuing to work.

"The President has made unbelievable improvements since yesterday morning," he added. — Reuters

Beirut explosion among most powerful non-nuclear blasts in history: Study

Agencies

London: The explosion that happened in August in the Port of Beirut was one of the most powerful non-nuclear blasts in history — releasing enough energy in a matter of milliseconds to power over 100 homes for a year — according to a new assessment of the disaster in the Lebanese capital by researchers.

The researchers from the University of Sheffield in the UK hope that the new assessment can be used to provide policymakers and the public with more accurate information on the blast, as well as help first responders prepare for future disasters and save lives.

The August 4 explosion killed more than 190 people, injured around 6,500 and damaged thousands of buildings in Beirut.

After analysing videos of the explosion posted on social media, the team was able to estimate the power of the blast by tracking how the explosion's shockwave spread through the city.

The assessment, published in the journal Shock Waves, found that the size of the explosion was the equivalent of between 500-1100 tonnes of TNT — around 1/20th of the size of the atomic



bomb that was used on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

The explosion also released — in a matter of milliseconds — the equivalent of around 1GWh of energy, equal to the hourly energy generated by three million solar panels or 400 wind turbines, the researchers said.

They hope that by releasing a more accurate assessment of the blast, including an insight into how the shockwave travelled, it could be used to help with future disaster response planning.

The data could be used by first responders to help predict the likely injuries and structural damage at various distances from a blast in future emergency situations.

"The disaster that hit Beirut this summer was devastating and we hope that nothing like that ever happens again," said Sam Rigby, Senior Lecturer at the University of Sheffield.

"This was an unprecedented event because never before has such a large explosion been so well documented," Rigby said.

After seeing the events unfold, the researchers wanted to use their expertise in blast engineering to help understand what had happened in Beirut and provide data that could be used to help prepare for, and save lives in such events should they ever happen again.

WHO: 1 in 10 people may have contracted COVID-19

Agencies

Geneva: The head of emergencies at the World Health Organisation says its best estimates indicate that roughly one in 10 people worldwide may have been infected by the coronavirus.

Dr Michael Ryan, speaking Monday to a meeting of the WHO's 34-member executive board focusing on COVID-19, said the figures vary from urban to rural, and between different



groups, but that ultimately it means the vast majority of the world remains at risk.

The estimate, which

would amount to more than 760 million people based on the current world population of about 7.6 billion, far outstrips the number of confirmed cases as tallied by both WHO and Johns Hopkins University, now more than 35 million worldwide.

Experts have long said that the number of confirmed cases greatly underestimates the true figure.

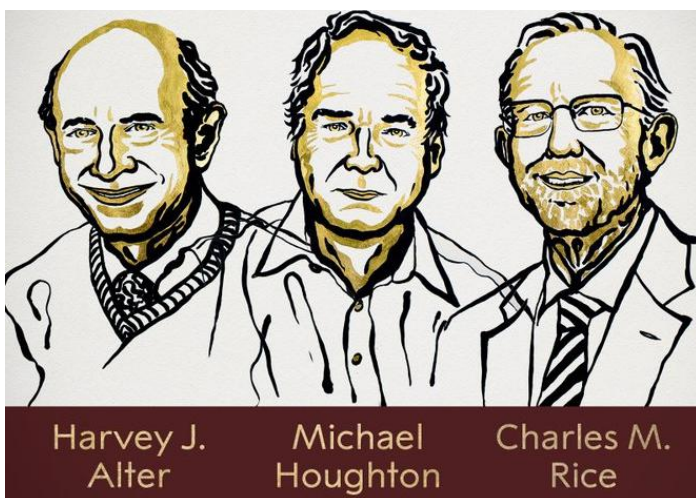
3 win Nobel medicine award for hepatitis C virus discovery

Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice, and British scientist Michael Houghton were awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology on Monday for the discovery of the hepatitis C virus.

The head of the Nobel Committee, Thomas Perlmann, announced the winners in Stockholm.

The World Health Organisation estimates there are over 70 million cases of hepatitis worldwide and 400,000 deaths each year. The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver inflammation and cancer.

The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and prize money of 10 million Swedish kronor (over \$1,118,000), courtesy of a bequest left 124 years ago by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel.



Harvey J. Alter

Michael Houghton

Charles M. Rice

The medicine prize carried particular significance this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has highlighted the importance that medical research has for societies and economies around the world.

The award is the first of six prizes being announced through October 12. The other prizes are for outstanding work in the fields of physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics. —AP

Netflix Releases 3 Episodes Of "Bad Boy Billionaires" Amid Legal Tussle

Mumbai: Netflix has partially released its much-awaited series on four Indian tycoons facing fraud allegations after a state court lifted an injunction over the weekend, a lawyer representing Netflix said on Monday.

The "Bad Boy Billionaires: India" documentary series about liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, Subrata Roy of the Sahara group, IT executive Ramalinga Raju and jeweller Nirav Modi was set for release last month.

Netflix, the world's largest streaming service, suspended the show's release after an order from the Araria district court in Bihar where the Sahara group argued it would damage Roy's reputation.

Late on Saturday, the court lifted the injunction, said Amit Shrivastava, a lawyer for Netflix. He declined to comment further and it was not immediately clear why the court overturned its previous order. The official order is yet to be released.

Netflix did not respond to a request for comment.

A spokesman for Sahara also did not respond. Roy is currently on bail,

having been ordered by a court to repay billions of dollars to investors in a scheme which was found to be illegal. Roy denied wrongdoing in the case and his counsel has said he already has repaid investors.

Some Netflix shows in India have faced court challenges and police complaints for obscenity or for hurting religious sentiments.

The ongoing legal spat is among the most high-profile ones Netflix has faced in India, one of its key growth markets.

The streaming company had argued that halting the show's release "freezes free speech" and hurts the company financially, Reuters has reported.

On Monday, Netflix made three of the four episodes in the series available on its app for viewers in India. The episode focusing on Raju was unavailable.

Raju, who was accused of a \$1 billion accounting fraud more than a decade ago, has obtained a separate injunction on its telecast from a court in south India. The case would be heard later on Monday, A Venkatesh, a lawyer for Raju, told Reuters.

Twitter suspends account of Iran's Hispan TV

Twitter has suspended the account of the Spanish-language Hispan TV, which is a news channel operated by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

The Hispan TV account has not been working since September 30. Its blockage raises the possibility that it has been added to the black list of the American online microblogging and social networking service.

Hispan TV seeking to know why it was blocked sent an email to Twitter's official account, but the email was not replied to.

Twitter has already suspended the Persian-language accounts of some Iranian news agencies as well as accounts of Press TV, the English-language channel based in Tehran.

American social media giants often target Iranian media outlets.

Last month, Google targeted Press TV, blocking access to its official YouTube account of the international news network, citing "violations of export laws."

N E W S M A K E R S

Google Delays India Payment Rules As Startups Plan Joint Fightback



Google is delaying planned changes to its in-app payment rules in India by six months, backing down after some of the country's largest developers and startups threatened to band against the U.S. search giant.

Alphabet Inc.'s Google said in a blog post on Monday it will give developers until March 2022 to integrate with its Google Play billing services, compared with an earlier deadline of September 2021 announced last week. That declaration irked local app developers who saw it as a move to exert control over the country's startup ecosystem. Paytm, India's most valuable startup, unveiled Monday an Android Mini App Store that will give local developers free distribution of their apps and offer payment options at a 0% fee.

Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma was among the most vociferous in opposing Google's payment rules at a meeting held by dozens of startup executives last week. The 56 founders gathered to challenge the Mountain View, California-based company --whose Android mobile operating system has over nine-tenths of India's market share -- after it announced that it will require all developers to adopt its billing system and accompanying 30% cut of transactions. It will also start charging newer categories of online services like education and

online dating the same fee. "We are setting up listening sessions with leading Indian startups to understand their concerns more deeply," Google wrote on its blog. "And we're also extending the time for developers in India to integrate with the Play billing system, to ensure they have enough time to implement the UPI for subscription payment option that will be made available on Google Play."

Less than 3% of developers with apps on the Play store sold digital goods over the last 12 months and about 97% of those developers already use Google Play's billing system, according to the company.

Paytm is launching its Mini App Store with the aim of driving a self-sufficient India and retain consumer spending within the country, the startup said in a statement Monday. Pioneered by Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s WeChat, mini apps are custom-built, low-cost software for basic mobile phones that offer users an app-like experience without the need to download full versions. Domino's Pizza, Decathlon, ride hailing service Ola and online pharmacy Netmeds are some of the brands already available on the beta version of Mini App Store, which had 12 million visits from beta testers in September.

The backlash in India marks growing global opposition to the 30% fee-structure imposed by Google and rival Apple Inc., which has come into focus this year after Fortnite-maker Epic Games Inc. filed a lawsuit in the U.S. against the two companies' app store rules.

Foreign Secretary, Army Chief Meet Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi To Discuss Bilateral Issues

NAYPYIDAW: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and Army Chief General MM Naravane on Monday called on Myanmar State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Naypyidaw and discussed "important bilateral issues". "Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane and @harshvshringla, Foreign Secretary along with @AmbSaurabhKumar called on State Counsellor H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi @MyanmarSC at @MOFAMyanmar Nay-PyiTaw on October 5, 2020. They discussed important bilateral issues," India in Myanmar wrote on Twitter.

Mr Naravane and Mr Shringla are on a two-day visit to Myanmar to "take stock of the existing bilateral ties



and strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest". "Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, few direct exchanges have taken place between the two sides. This visit will provide an opportunity to take stock of the existing bilateral ties and strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest," a Ministry of External Affairs release had said. India attaches high priority to its relationship with Myanmar in accordance with its 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East' policies, the MEA said.



SEARCH AFTER STRIKE: After two CRPF men were killed in a militant attack in Saffron town Pampore, forces heightened vigil on highway on Monday. KO Photo Abid Bhat

RBI Affirms Currency Notes Potential Corona Carriers: CAIT

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Sunday said that the RBI had affirmed the possibility of currency notes as potential carriers of novel coronavirus and demanded government incentives for digital payments.

The development comes after CAIT wrote a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on March 9, 2020 seeking clarification whether or not currency notes are carriers of bacteria and viruses.

However, the letter was forwarded to the Reserve Bank of India, which replied to CAIT and hinted that currency notes could be carriers of bacteria and viruses, including coronavirus, and therefore more and more usage of digital payments should be done to avoid handling of currency, the confederation said in a statement.

The RBI further stated that "in order to limit the coronavirus pandemic, the public can make payments by sitting at homes through various online digital channels like mobile and



Internet banking, credit and debit cards etc and avoid using or withdrawing cash to the extent possible".

According to CAIT National President BC Bhartia and Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal, the RBI's reply indicates that the currency notes do carry viruses and bacteria and, therefore, the maximum use of digital payments to avoid handling of currency notes was advised by them.

Furthermore, the CAIT urged Sitharaman to introduce an 'incentive

scheme for acceptance and adoption of digital payments.

"Bank charges levied for digital transactions should be waived and the government should give subsidy directly to the banks in lieu of bank charges," the statement said.

"In due course, such subsidy will not be a financial burden on the government; on the other hand, it will minimise the expenses incurred on printing of bank notes."

In addition, the CAIT pointed out that the RBI in its annual report released on August 29, 2019 had mentioned that "the value and volume of notes in circulation increased by 17 per cent and 6.2 per cent to Rs 21,109 billion and 108,759 million pieces respectively during 2018-19".

"In value terms, the share of Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 notes, which had together accounted for 80.2 per cent of the total value of notes in circulation at the end of March 2018 had increased to 82.2 per cent by the end of March 2019."

Tejaswi Yadav Is Bihar Grand Alliance's CM Face, RJD To Contest 144 Seats

PATNA: RJD's Tejashwi Yadav will be the chief ministerial candidate of the oOpposition Grand Alliance in Bihar as it announced a seat-sharing formula on Saturday for the upcoming Assembly polls under which his party will contest 144 of a total 243 seats.

But the multi-party alliance suffered a jolt when a minor constituent Vikashheel Insaan Party (VIP) floated by Mukesh Sahani, a former Bollywood set designer, announced a dramatic exit alleging betrayal.

At a press conference here, 30-year-old Yadav, son of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, announced the number of seats allocated to the Congress, the CPI(ML), the CPI(M) and the CPI, and said his party will contest from 144 assembly constituencies.



Congress was given 70 seats, far more than it had contested in the 2015 assembly polls in alliance with the RJD and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U).

The Congress will also be fielding its candidate in Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha seat where by-poll will be held on November 7.

Among the Left parties, the CPI(ML) was given 19 seats, followed by CPI (six) and four seats to CPI(M).

After Gandhis Visit Hathras Family, Case Against 500 Congress Workers

NOIDA: The Gautam Buddha Nagar Police has filed an FIR against over 500 Congress workers, charging them with unlawful assembly two days ago at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border in Noida amid the COVID-19 outbreak, officials said on Monday.

The FIR has been registered against Congress' Gautam Buddha Nagar unit president Manoj Chaudhary, Noida unit chief Shahabuddin and 500 unnamed party workers, the police officials said.

Hundreds of Congress workers and leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were on their way to Hathras on Saturday afternoon to meet the family of a woman who died after an alleged gangrape.

There were scuffles involving Congress workers and the Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) Police at the DND toll plaza during which police personnel had baton charged the crowd. Some party leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi, were manhandled, while some policemen were also hurt.

According to the FIR lodged a little earlier before



midnight on October 3, the Congress workers have been booked under relevant sections of the IPC and under section 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act.

The FIR has been lodged on a complaint by Rakesh Kumar Singh, the SHO of the Sector 20 police station.

On October 2 also, the Gautam Buddha Nagar Police had lodged an FIR against around 200 Congress workers and leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, under the Epidemic Diseases Act for not maintaining social distancing and not wearing face masks.

The party workers were detained while they were on foot on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida in a bid to go to Hathras.

Gautam Buddha Nagar is currently under CrPc section 144, which restricts assembly of more than four people, in view of the pandemic.

"Politicians, Channels Which Bark Like Dogs...": Sena After AIIMS Report



MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA): With the AIIMS report ruling out murder in actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, the Shiv Sena on Monday said politicians and news channels which "defamed" Mumbai Police in connection with the case should apologise to Maharashtra.

In an editorial of its mouthpiece Saamana, the Shiv Sena said truth finally prevailed in the actor's death case, and alleged that it was a conspiracy to malign Maharashtra's image using the episode.

It also said the Maharashtra government should file a defamation case against those who were part of the conspiracy.

The medical board of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) last week ruled out murder in Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

Referring to it, the Sena publication said, "Are the blind devotees going to reject the report of AIIMS in connection with Sushant's death? It has been 110 days since Sushant's unfortunate death."

"The politicians and news channels which bark like dogs, who defamed the

Mumbai Police and questioned its probe, must apologise to Maharashtra now," the editorial said. Without naming anyone or any party, it said those who remained tight-lipped in connection with the alleged gang-rape incident in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras should not test the manliness of Maharashtra.

he Mumbai Police observed ethics and maintained secrecy during its probe to see one is not defamed after Sushant Singh Rajput's death, but the CBI dug out the actors drugs episode within 24 hours of its investigation, it said.

It also accused Nitish Kumar and other Bihar politicians of raising the issue since they allegedly lacked campaign issues for the upcoming Assembly polls there.

Those who had pitched for a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into Sushant Singh Rajput's death case have not questioned the central agency what it has been doing over the past 40 to 50 days, the Marathi publication said.

It also asked where the actress who made capital out of Sushant Singh Rajput's death and likened Mumbai to Pakistan is hiding now -- an apparent reference to film star Kangana Ranaut.

BOTTOM

Covid-19 Pandemic: KIIT & KISS Reach The Unreached

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted and devastated the normal life and livelihood of people all over the world. Odisha too has been hit hard by the pandemic. Many organizations and individuals have come forward to supplement the Government's efforts to deal with the emergent situation. Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar and its sister institution Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), under the leadership of its Founder Prof. Achyuta Samanta, have also taken a series of initiative right from the outbreak of the disease and have been at the forefront of Odisha's war against the coronavirus.

Some humanitarian actions of KIIT & KISS stand out as they have significantly bolstered the health care infrastructure of the State, greatly reduced the suffering of people and touched the lives of the most marginalized and overlooked sections.

In one of the most significant measures in Odisha's war against Covid-19, Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), a constituent of KIIT Deemed to be University, set up four ultramodern dedicated Covid hospitals with the support of the Govt. of Odisha, located in Bhubaneswar and three tribal-



dominated districts of Odisha. The hospitals have a combined bed capacity of 1200. KIMS Covid Hospital in Bhubaneswar, a 500-bedded state-of-the-art facility including 50 critical care beds, is India's first standalone Covid hospital. The quick turnaround time in setting up the Covid Hospitals has saved thousands of lives.

The Covid-19 pandemic is not only a global health emergency, it has also caused a grave humanitarian crisis due to prolonged lockdowns and loss of livelihoods for millions. In a

mammoth community service response, KIIT & KISS reached out to various groups facing hardship due to the extended lockdown. The intervention included the distribution of food materials and other essentials to over 3 lakh pandemic-hit people, including the disadvantaged people living in various slums, stranded migrant labourers, who were also provided temporary shelter, and people living in containment zones.

Community outreach activities of KIIT & KISS strived to reach the hardest-hit and

commonly overlooked people -- transgenders, sportspersons, physically challenged, sex workers, etc. They were provided with allowances to cope with the prolonged lockdown. Food materials and cash to meet other expenses for three months were given to priests and other workers of several spiritual centres in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri and nearby towns. The two institutions are providing groceries and cash for miscellaneous expenses to over 40 orphanages, old age homes and leprosy centres in Kandhamal district.

The student community is one of the worst affected groups in the Covid-19 pandemic. KISS is a home for 30,000 tribal students from interior districts of Odisha pursuing their studies from Standard-I to PG/Ph.D. level. Days before the outbreak of the pandemic, they were sent to their respective homes in various districts of Odisha. As the students are in their respective homes, KISS has been sending study materials, dress and generous amount of dry foods at the doorsteps every month since April. The monthly materials also contain sanitary



napkins for the adolescent girl students. This will continue until reopening of KISS.

KISS has taken a series of measures to keep its students safe and healthy as well as ensuring that they remain connected to the studies. Prof. Samanta, who has always put the education of these tribal students above everything else, arranged for the textbooks, study materials and dried food items to be provided at the students' doorsteps at the start of the new academic year. KISS was one of the early institutes to begin online classes

and has been maintaining the academic schedule perfectly for students of all levels.

Inspired by the Prime Minister's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-reliant India), KISS has revved up its vocational skill centre during the Covid-19 pandemic. The centre has been scaled up to become a medium-size industry and is now making 25 different types of vocational products. These products are marketed through well developed distribution channel, besides fulfilling the in-house requirements of KIIT & KISS. The

sale proceeds from the centre are expected to make KISS self-reliant in the coming years.

In a unique humanitarian gesture, KIIT Deemed to be University has decided to provide free education to the children of the Covid deceased in Odisha. The facility will be available for two academic years: 2020-21 and 2021-22.

The first six months of the ongoing pandemic has made many children orphans. Such children, particularly those belonging to the poorer sections, are suffering an untold tragedy. They are vulnerable to become victims of child abuse and human trafficking. KIIT & KISS have adopted and are taking care of about 100 such orphans and providing them monthly allowance ranging from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000, depending upon the family size.

As and when the academic institutions reopen, they will be provided with free education and subsequently complete higher education in KIIT & KISS.

Support to orphans and children of the Covid-deceased has been possible due to its Founder, Prof. Achyuta Samanta's personal childhood experience of hunger and poverty that he had to suffer after he lost his father at the tender age of four. He has always been striving to ensure that no child is deprived of quality education because of untimely death of parents or poverty.