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Minimum : 04°C
Humidity : 35%

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SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:46 AM

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News Digest

3 BJP Workers Detained In City Centre

Srinagar- Three people, claiming to be BJP workers from Kupwara district of north Kashmir, were on Monday detained while trying to hoist the tricolour at the historic clock tower near the city centre here, officials said. Three people tried to hoist the tricolour at 'Ghanta Ghar' (clock tower) in the commercial hub of Lal Chowk here early Monday morning, the officials said. They said the trio, claiming to be BJP workers from Kupwara district of north Kashmir, raised slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and in favour of the party. P-02

Minor Dies Of Drowning In Bijbehara

Srinagar: A four-year-old boy drowned to death on Monday evening in Panjpora area of Bijbehara in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Muzamil Ahmad Sheikh, son of Ghulam Hassan Sheikh of Asthan Mohalla Panjpora accidentally fell into a spring when he was riding his bicycle on the road. Soon after the incident took place, the family and neighbors of the boy started a rescue operation and removed him to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Bijbehara where doctors declared him brought dead. Medical Superintendent SDH Bijbehara Dr. B S Tulla also confirmed the death of the minor boy—(KNO)

500-Bed Children Hospital In J&K Soon

Jammu: The first-state-of-the-art hospital dedicated to children with a 500-bed capacity is coming up in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. There has been a lot of focus on maternal and child health in Jammu and Kashmir, which is evident through the declining maternal mortality rate (MMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR) in the Union Territory in recent years, they said. "First-state-of-the-art dedicated 500-bed government children hospital coming up in Jammu and Kashmir soon," Financial Commissioner Health and P-02

CRPF Man Posted In Pak HC Shoots Self

New Delhi: A CRPF trooper, posted for the security of Pakistan High Commission here, allegedly shot himself with his service weapon on Monday afternoon, police said. D. Rambabu, who hails from Andhra Pradesh, was rushed to AIIMS trauma centre in a critical condition. "Around 3.30 p.m., an incident of a CRPF jawan shooting himself with his service weapon was reported near the Pakistan High Commission. P-02

Man Held With Cannabis In Samba

Jammu: An alleged narcotics smuggler was arrested on Monday with eight kilograms of cannabis in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. A police party while performing patrolling duty noticed a truck that was wrongly parked near SIDCO Chowk in Samba, they said. When the patrolling party was about to approach the truck, the driver of the vehicle accelerated and tried to escape from the spot, they said. The alert cops intercepted the truck a few metres ahead. P-02

BJP Workers in Jammu Storm PDP Office, Hoist Tiranga

JAMMU: A high voltage political drama continued at the PDP's Jammu office on Monday with dozens of right wing activists assembling there and hoisting tricolour on the building. Police intervened after repeated attempts by the activists to hoist the flag there were made for the second day running.

Videos have emerged where BJP workers can be seen chanting "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" while hoisting the flag.

A controversy had erupted after a recent statement by PDP President Mehbooba Mufti, who stated that she wouldn't touch the Tricolour till the state flag of erstwhile J&K state is restored.

Earlier, on Sunday, a right wing activist Amandeep Singh Boparai accompanied by hundreds of his supporters reached the PDP office where they hoisted the national flag after a scuffle with PDP leaders.

A group of Akhil Bharatiya Vishwa Parishad (ABVP) activists on Sunday evening also reached the PDP office and hoisted national flags besides throwing green ink on the poster of Mehbooba Mufti.

"Mehbooba Mufti has stated that no one will hold Tiranga. We ask her to visit Jammu and to see that everyone holds a Tiranga in



The J&K unit of BJP on Monday took out 'Tiranga Rally' to celebrate accession day. Pic Abid Bhat

3 PDP Leaders From Jammu Quit Party

People's Democratic Party (PDP) suffered a setback after three of its Jammu leaders, including a former MP, on Monday announced P-02

Those Insulting Tricolour Will Be Pushed To Pak: BJP

Every inch of Indian land that is occupied by Pakistan and China will be taken back, even if it means using military might, Jammu and Kashmir P-02

their hands," said Boparai. PDP spokesman and former MLC, Firdous Tak on the other hand accused BJP of trying to cash-in on the situation to regain

its lost ground. "This is part of cheap politics as BJP is left with no answer to public queries and is now trying to do such acts," P-02

Militant Killed, Aide Captured In Tral

SRINAGAR: An unidentified militant on Monday was killed while another laid down his arms before the government forces during an encounter in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Acting on an input about the presence of militants, police, army's, army's 42 RR and CRPF laid a siege around Noorpora village of Tral on Monday evening and launched cordon and search operation, a police official said.

He said the trapped militants opened fire upon the search team when they tried to make advances.

"The joint team returned the fire triggering off an encounter. In the exchange of fire, P-02

CRPF Man Dies 12 Days After Shooting Self

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man, who fired at himself with his service rifle on October 12, succumbed to his injuries at SMHS hospital in Srinagar, officials said on Monday.

They said that a CRPF man, who was under treatment at Srinagar's SMHS hospital since October 12, succumbed to injuries on Sunday night after his condition deteriorated. The deceased belonged to D-Coy 141 battalion CRPF P-02

Delimitation Of District Councils Completed

Election Authority Notifies 280 Segments In J&K UT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Jammu & Kashmir have completed the process of delimitation of territorial constituencies of District Development Councils (DDCs).

The Election Authority, notified by the Jammu & Kashmir government under the Panchayati Raj Act-1989, on Monday evening notified 280 territorial constituencies of DDCs after considering the objections and suggestions submitted by different quarters.

"..... After incorporating all the changes in respect of the objections/recommendations which have been accepted, the Election Authority hereby notifies the delimitation of District Development Councils in terms of Rule 108-B,"



comprising deputy district election officer, assistant commissioner development, assistant commissioner revenue and district panchayat officer in each district was constituted by the election authority for examining the objections.

"Whereas, a number of objections/ recommendations were found to be devoid of merit and thus not accepted. However, some objections/ recommendations have been found reasoned and in consonance with provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989 and Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules 1996 and it has been found necessary to modify to the proposed delimitation of the district P-02

"..... AFTER INCORPORATING ALL THE changes in respect of the objections/recommendations which have been accepted, the Election Authority hereby notifies the delimitation of District Development Councils in terms of Rule 108-B,"

BJP Retains Power in LAHDC Leh; Wins 15 Seats

Congress Bags 9 Seats; Independents 2

Press Trust Of India

LEH: Retaining power, the BJP on Monday won the election to the 26-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Leh by bagging 15 seats, while the Congress got nine seats.

Independents won two seats in the election, the first since Ladakh was made a Union Territory in August last year.

BJP president J P Nadda termed the party's victory in the Thursday vote as historic. "Gratitude to the people of Ladakh for their faith in



BJP," he tweeted and congratulated party leaders and workers.

The party had won 17 seats in the 2015 election. The Congress had won four, the National Conference had two seats and the Independents had three. P-02

Army Conference To Discuss Ladakh Stand-Off Today

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Top commanders of the Army on Monday held extensive deliberations on a plethora of issues relating to human resource management in the 1.3 million-strong force, on the opening day of a four-day conference, official sources said.

On Tuesday, the commanders are likely to carry out a comprehensive review of India's combat readiness in eastern Ladakh as well as other sensitive areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

The sources said the commanders held detailed deliberations on ways to bring further efficiency in

shaping up young talents, matters relating to promotion and meeting aspirations of all rank and file of the Army personnel.

In the course of the conference, the commanders will also deliberate on a slew of long-pending reform measures like cutting down on ceremonial practices and non-military activities to ensure a rational distribution of resources, the sources said.

The Army Commanders' Conference (ACC), which is an apex level biannual event that formulates important policy decisions through a collegiate system of deliberation, is being attended by all commanders, Principal Staff Officers (PSOs) P-02

Covid-19 Claims Doctor, Four Others In J&K, Toll 1445

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Five more people, including a young doctor succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of Covid-19 fatalities across the Union Territory to 1445.

Kashmir valley reported three more coronavirus deaths, while two more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Jammu division, officials said. In Valley, two of the victims hailed from Baramulla while one was a resident of Srinagar.

Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) headed by Dr Suhail Naik said that one doctor, Dr Rajat died of Covid-19.

"He was working as Post Graduate (PG) scholar in Department of Radiology at Govt Medical College (GMC) Jammu."

Dr Naik said: "Dr Rajat was a front line Covid warrior who contracted Covid 19 while on duty and was admitted in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of GMC Jammu as he could not maintain oxygen saturation due P-02

364 More Test Covid-19 Positive

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 364 fresh Covid-19 cases, including 29 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory to 92225.

Among the fresh cases, officials said that 147 were reported from Jammu Division and 217 from P-02

Cross-Border Firing Damages Houses In Kathua

JAMMU: Some houses were damaged as Pakistan Rangers heavily shelled forward hamlets and border outposts (BoPs) along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, official sources said on Monday.

Pakistan Rangers resorted to heavy mortar shelling and firing on BoPs and hamlets in Londi, Manyari, Karol Matra, Check Changa areas in the Samba-Hiranagar sector, they said.

In the shelling, some houses were damaged, triggering panic among residents. P-02

Petrol, Diesel To Cost More As Centre May Raise Tax

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent pressure on revenues may again push the Centre to raise excise duty on petrol and diesel.

Sources indicated that another Rs 3-6 per litre increase in excise duty on petrol and diesel may come soon if the government felt the need to mobilise more resources to finance additional economic recovery packages to fight Covid-19 related disruptions.

This level of increase could provide government additional revenue

to the tune of Rs 60,000 for full year. In the balance period, about Rs 30,000 crore could be mobilised.

An internal examination to look at duty structure on the two products is on and exact timing of the announcement may be finalised soon, sources indicated.

Government wants that any duty hike on petrol and diesel should not result in an increase in the retail price of the two products as it would not be popular with the consumers besides the increase could have inflationary implications on the economy.

Experts said that current juncture would be ideal for an excise duty on petrol hike as P-02

ACB Files Charges Against Corrupt Cop

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday filed a charge sheet against a policeman for accepting a bribe of Rs 59,000 for the release of an arrested person in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, the agency's spokesperson said.

The charge sheet was filed against Head Constable Khurseed Ahmad, presently posted at District Police Lines, Poonch, before the court of special judge anti-corruption Rajouri, the spokesperson said.

The instant case was registered on August 11, 2016 on the outcome of a verification conducted into allegations that Ahmed, as investigating officer of P-02

Case Filed Against Lawyer Deepika

JAMMU- Jammu and Kashmir Police confirmed on Monday that they have booked an advocate for hurting the religious sentiments of a community.

Police sources said advocate Deepika Singh Rajawat has been booked under sections 295A and 505 (b) (2) of the IPC for creating enmity and hatred between different classes of people.

The Jammu based advocate had on last Tuesday tweeted a cartoon which was objected to by members of the Hindu community who alleged that Rajawat had made the social media P-02

In FOCUS / In Kashmir Meadows, Tribal Boy Maroof Awaits Seasonal—Suspended—School

Umer Ahmad

HIRPUR, Shopian – Spending most of his time rearing livestock in the sprawling south Kashmir sanctuary, Maroof is missing his school friends.

Apart from his friends, this Class 5th student of a Gujjar-Bakarwal tribe every day waits for his teachers in the meadows of Hirpur wild-life sanctuary to resume his seasonal school. But his wait only lingers on.

The teenager has not been to school since August 2019 when New Delhi scrapped Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state.

Before schools would become shut shops in Kashmir last year, Maroof had found a new direction—"an aim in life"—changing his focus towards studies and life.

"I was unsure about things before teaching started appealing me last year," says the barely 13-year-old boy. "I want to take teaching as my profession so that I can guide children of my community."

Every year, Maroof along with his Gujjar-Bakarwal tribe follow the centuries-old tradition of summer migration in the valley. The tribe starts from their winter habitat in Jammu, on the first week of April, and reach their summer destination in a span of 40-45 days on foot journey.

As the caravan of gypsies reach the valley, their children begin their seasonal—mobile—schooling.

These schools were first started in 1953, when the government opened them in Rajpora Kashmir, and Samba district of Jammu.

The motive behind such schools was to sustain education of the tribal children even during their migration period.

Till 1980, almost 800 seasonal schools were functional in J&K. In 2000, under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA), 1500 seasonal schools run by 2000 teachers were further initiated in the erstwhile state. Nearly about 33504 tribal students were getting their education in



these seasonal schools.

However, to Maroof's chagrin, seasonal schools for the tribal children have not opened this year.

like online classes or private tuitions.

"Every year teachers used to come to this place and teach the children of nomads, but this year, no mobile school was arranged," says Baidullah, one of the community members living in the meadows of Hirpur. "How can our children compete with other children in this state of apathy?"

Apart from the situational distress, most of the mobile school teachers are being accused for dereliction of duties.

"Teachers who're assigned to these seasonal schools have a nexus with the higher authorities," Zahid Parveez Chowdhary, a tribal activist, told Kashmir Observer. "Despite

raising the issue with higher authorities, these teachers are yet to put these schools in order."

The disparity exists even as Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha already announced a separate budget to provide mobile phones for the tribal students, the activist says.

"Nothing has been done so far," he says. "They only talk big and give us false hopes."

Notably, the promise of mobile phone was made to keep the tribal community connected. As part of their lifestyle, these tribals migrate to the 'no-network zone' hinterlands of Kashmir.

Meanwhile, in absence of seasonal schooling, Maroof calls P-02

From Front page...

Higher Qualification Doesn't Confer Right For Exemption From Training: HC

Dismisses Erstwhile RReTs Plea Against IMPACT Training Course

SRINAGAR: Observing that possessing of higher qualification does not confer any right upon an employee to seek exception from the capacity building programme(s), the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has dismissed a petition by the erstwhile RReTs, regarding 'Integrated Multidisciplinary Professional Advancement Course for Teachers' ('IMPACT').

The erstwhile RReTs had alleged discrimination in subjecting them to undergo the IMPACT training course, contending that are trained and qualified Grade-II and Grade-III Teachers having years of experience at their end.

They submitted that by directing them to undergo the IMPACT training course, the government has bifurcated the Teacher community into two groups as trained and untrained without any criteria, thereby resulting in

violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

They submitted that the very object for which the IMPACT training course has been developed is to impart training to untrained Grade-II and Grade-III elementary level Teachers so as to improve their teaching abilities and to bring them at par with the trained Grade-II and Grade-III elementary level Teachers.

"The respondents (officials) have included the petitioners in the group of untrained Grade-II and Grade-III Teachers."

On the other hand, the government said that the training course has been designed by the NCERT to address the gaps in the teaching skills of Grade-II and Grade-III elementary level Teachers.

After hearing both the sides, a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey observed that the sole purpose of the IMPACT

Training Course is to enhance the professional skills of Gradell and Grade-III elementary level Teachers.

"Ordinarily, no Teacher is even expected to seek exemption from this capacity building programme/ course designed to improve the teaching method with a view to have better learning outcomes of our students, let alone challenge his/ her appearance in the Training Course before a Court of law," the court said as per Global News Service.

The court said that the skill development and professional improvement is a lifelong process, irrespective of the fact whether an individual or employee is qualified or not.

"Besides, possessing of higher qualification does not confer any right upon an employee to seek exception from the capacity building programme(s), moreso,

when the course is designed to address the vital aspects concerning the teaching/ learning process."

The court said that the competent authorities are well within their rights to take all steps for ensuring enhancement of the professional skills of its employees, including the Gradell and Grade-III Teachers for the benefit of public at large in general, and the student community in particular "with the passage of time and advent of new, modern methods, techniques of administration, technology, teaching etc."

The court said it was unable to find any fault in the action of the authorities in directing these Grade-II and Grade-III Teachers to undergo the IMPACT training course designed only to provide quality education to the student community by improving the pedagogical skills of these Teachers. (GNS)

Kashmiris Presence In Bureaucracy At Its Lowest: NC

SRINAGAR: National Conference General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar on Monday said August 5 measures last year have disenfranchised Kashmiris economically, politically, asserting vanishing presence of Kashmiris from bureaucracy and other decision making bodies is alarming.

August 05 move was aimed to scuttle the political voice of the people of J&K in general and the people of Kashmir in particular, Sagar said adding that the misgivings that the people of Kashmir had have come forth in wake of the sharp decline of Kashmiris from all important decision making bodies within the administration. "In civil, police and other arms of governance, Kashmiris are nowhere. It seems that the incumbent central and J&K government is deliberately sidelining Kashmiris. The imbalance in the

system is visible at every place in every department. This has unfortunately alienated Kashmiris in their own land, the feeling of detachment is running high and the situation is getting worse with each passing day," he said.

Sagar said the sidelining of Kashmiris started soon after the State was robbed of its constitutional status last year undemocratically and unilaterally. "Most of the top posts in bureaucracy are held by non locals and officers who have no idea about the local terrain and issues. Understandably, they have miserably failed to redress the issues of the public at every level. There is no visible connection between the officials and the people on ground," he said.

The situation Sagar said has become exact replica of autocratic times when Kashmiris were treated as dumb driven

cattle with no say in civil administration, he said. "The disenfranchisement among Kashmiris is as it has been never before. The void between the administration and people is widening with each passing day," he said.

He said the wanton mistruth mongering by the ruling dispensation at center and its ilk about J&K's status across the country has fallen flat and that the people of the country have lately understood the divisive agenda of the BJP.

He added that the absence of any link between people and the bureaucracy has cost Kashmir its development and administration. "Winters are approaching and the incessant load shedding is already in. Whilst people are hankering for power and drinking water, bureaucrats are busy packing for their winter retreats in Jammu," he said.

BJP Workers in Jammu...

Tak added. Authorities, however have made heavy deployment of police in and around PDP office located in estates quarters area in Gandhi Nagar to keep the situation under control.

3 PDP Leaders From Jammu...

their resignation from the party, days after its president Mehbooba Mufti stoked a controversy by her remarks on the tricolour. In a joint letter to Mehbooba, former MP T S Baija, Ved Mahajan and Hussain Ali Waffa said, "We feel uncomfortable and suffocated, forcing us to take a difficult decision of leaving the party."

Waffa, is a former PDP state secretary, and Mahajan a former ML. In her first press conference after over 14 months of detention, former chief minister and PDP supremo Mehbooba on Friday had said she was not interested in contesting elections or holding the tricolour till the constitutional changes enforced on August 5 last year were rolled back.

The PDP leader had also said that she would hold the tricolour only when the separate flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was restored.

The Centre on August 5 last year had abrogated the erstwhile state's special status and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The trio in their two-page letter said, "We, your party colleagues in Jammu region, most of whom remained associated with the party through every thick and thin, since its formation, are feeling quite uncomfortable over some of your actions and undesirable utterances, especially which hurt patriotic sentiments."

PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had broader objectives behind the formation of the party which included creation of a viable political alternative in Jammu and Kashmir to represent the regional aspirations of the people, the letter read.

Forming the PDP was also meant to channelise dissent, especially among the youth, and prevent them from falling in the trap of anti-India elements in the absence of any credible platform to represent their genuine feelings, besides secularism and broader interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and interest of the nation, it said. These were the underlying principles behind the formation of the PDP, the letter read.

"The party received an overwhelming response to these initiatives and it could emerge as a meaningful political force to attain power in a very short span and formed the government in coalition with Congress which performed very well and delivered in accordance with the set goals, achieving a lot in the direction of restoration of peace, harmony and ensuring equitable development of different regions," it said.

The PDP-Congress was in power in Jammu and Kashmir from 2002 to 2008.

Referring to the last PDP-BJP government, which collapsed after the saffron party pulled out in 2018, the leaders said the party under the leadership of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed took a difficult decision of joining hands with the ideologically opposite BJP but the experiment did not work on the expected lines.

"The sudden death of Sayeed derailed the whole process and the later developments are a history and another phase of the struggle, and test of the leadership started post the August 5 last year development when the Centre abrogated the special status and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two union territories," they said in their letter.

"Despite several undesirable developments and steps, we stood like a rock with the party and the leadership in spite of serious reservations on the handling and response of the party to the challenges of the situation in front of the party," the leaders said.

Instead of overcoming the challenges from within and outside by a process of broader consultations and trust, "some elements within the party started pulling the party and leadership in a particular direction, thus deviating from the basic principles, agenda and philosophy, making it further difficult to face the saner voices in society", the letter read.

"Some of the actions and utterances are unpardonable and unforgettable by the people, for the party to emerge out and move in the direction of its fundamental approach and identity, besides regaining its image as a political alternative to the people," it said.

BJP leaders have hit out at Mehbooba for her remarks, saying seditious statements will not be tolerated.

Over the past two days, the PDP headquarters in Jammu saw repeated attempts by various groups and individuals to hoist tricolour, prompting authorities to deploy police personnel in strength to avoid any untoward incident.

Those Insulting Tricolour...

BJP chief Ravinder Raina said on Monday.

He also attacked former chief minister and PDP supremo Mehbooba Mufti for her remarks on the tricolour, saying that "if such leaders want to stay in India", they have to honour the tricolour flag.

Mehbooba on Friday had said she was not interested in contesting elections or holding the tricolour till the constitutional changes enforced on August 5 last year were rolled back.

The PDP leader had also said that she would hold the tricolour only when the separate flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was restored.

The BJP-led Centre on August 5 last year had abrogated the erstwhile state's special status and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

On Mehbooba's recent remarks, Raina said, "If such leaders want to live in India, they have to honour the tricolour otherwise they will be dragged out of the country and thrown into Pakistan."

The J-K BJP chief, who led a 'Tiranga Rally' from Gandhi Nagar to Maharaja Hari Singh Park here to mark accession day, said Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler, had acceded entire Jammu and Kashmir to India on this day in 1947.

"However, Pakistan-backed tribals attacked and a vast area of our land, including Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Kotli, Bhimbar, Bagh, Plandri, Sudnoti, Deva Btala, Neelam Valley, besides Gilgit and Baltistan, was taken away by force," he said.

Raina added that all these areas are under illegal occupation of Pakistan and China. "These are parts of India and those living there are Indian nationals," he asserted.

Pakistan and China have to vacate the Indian areas they illegally occupy as the accession of Jammu and Kashmir was full and final with India, he said during the rally that was organised by the BJP's youth wing, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM).

"We have heard the people of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir chanting 'Go back Pakistan' and the day is not far away when they will be back in their own country (India)," Raina said, adding "we have taken a pledge at the rally to get back all our areas and unfurl the national flag there".

"We will take every inch of our land, whether in the illegal occupation of Pakistan or China. For that if we have to use our military might, we will not stand back," he said.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir are Indians from the core of their heart, Raina said, adding that it was "Nehru's (former prime minister Jawahar Lal Nehru) blunders that have resulted in the present day situation in Jammu and Kashmir".

Hitting out at Mehbooba, Raina said it is some people's misconception that they can disrespect the tricolour living in India. "We will not tolerate this," he said.

Meanwhile, some youths and a lawyer hoisted the tricolour at the fence of the heavily-guarded PDP headquarters at Gandhi Nagar for the second day on Monday.

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad hoisted tricolour at the iron fence near the main entrance, but their attempt to hoist the same at the main building was foiled by police.

Militant Killed, Aide Captured...

one militant was killed," the police official said. Another holed-up militant laid down the arms after hectic persuasion by the officials from the police and army, a local news agency GNS quoted Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar as saying.

It's pertinent to mention that two newly recruited Al-Badr militants also surrendered before security forces in Sopore last week.

CRPF Man Dies 12 Days...

Confirming the incident to local news agency KNO, a CRPF official said that an in-house investigation has been started to find out the reason as to what forced the trooper to take the extreme step

Delimitation Of District...

development councils to incorporate the same," the notification further reads. As already reported by KNO, the Union Home Ministry earlier this month amended Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act for establishing elected district development councils (DDCs).

Each district will have 14 territorial constituencies, taking the number of these segments to 280 in J&K Union Territory.

BJP Retains Power in LAHDC...

A turnout of 65.07 percent had been recorded in Thursday's election. The Aam Aadmi Party, which had contested for the first time, failed to open its account. The National Conference and the PDP had stayed away.

"Out of 26 seats of whose results were declared today, BJP won 15 seats and Congress bagged nine seats. Two seats were won by Independents", an official said.

BJP candidates won from the last village of Turtuk on the Indo-Pak border but lost in the last hamlet of Chushul on the Sino-India border. The Independents bagged seats of Nyoma and Chushul.

The BJP won Diskit, Tegar, Hundar, Panamik, Tangtse, Kungyam, Marselang, Karzok, Thiksay, Chuchot, Sku-Markha, Lamayouru, Khalte and Lingshet, officials said.

The Congress won Saspol, Igoo, Temisgam, Basgo, Lower Leh, Upper Leh, Phyang, Sakti and Skurbuchan council seats.

Ninety-four candidates were in the fray and over 65 percent electorates had exercised their franchise.

In the election held in 2010, the Congress had 22 seats, while the BJP had four.

The counting of votes for the sixth LAHDC elections was organized at the Amphitheatre of SSK, Tisuru, Leh.

Adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines, all standard safety measures like wearing masks, using sanitizers and following social distancing were sincerely followed at every counting booth.

An electorate of 89,776, including 45,025 women, were eligible to exercise their franchise in 294 polling stations spread over 26 constituencies across Leh.

The LAHDC-Leh has a total of 30 seats, with four of the councilors nominated by the government.

Since the formation of the hill council in 1995, the Congress had swept the polls thrice, while the Ladakh Union Territorial Front had won the elections in 2005.

The BJP wrested control of the council from Congress for the first time in the last election. Kargil district of Ladakh had a separate hill council, which was elected in 2018 for a five-year term.

Covid-19 Claims Doctor, Four ...

to bilateral pneumonia but finally lost the battle of life early morning today".

481 in Jammu region. Srinagar district with 346 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (249), Baramulla (143), Budgam (92), Pulwama (80), Kupwara (71), Anantnag (74), Kulgam (46), Bandipora(45), Rajouri (46), Doda (45), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (32), Kathua (30), Udhampur (29), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Kishtwar(14), Ramban (13), and Reasi (7). (With GNS inputs)

364 More Test Covid-19...

Kashmir Valley.Giving district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 76 cases, Budgam 13, Baramulla 56, Pulwama 15, Kupwara 25, Anantnag 7, Bandipora 5, Ganderbal 13, Kulgam 1, Shopian 6, Jammu 108, Rajouri 0, Udhampur 4, Doda 6, Kathua 5, Poonch 10, Samba 2, Kishtwar 0, Ramban 7 and Reasi 5.

Moreover, they said, 627 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 229 from Jammu Division and 398 from Kashmir Valley.

ACB Files Charges Against...

Dharmal Police Station, had demanded and accepted bribe from a person named Abdul Khaliq who was arrested in a trespassing and theft case in 2013.

"During verification, it was found that the complainant was residing along with his family in a rented accommodation at Kote Kabu, where he had covered some portion of forest area for keeping his goats and sheep.

"The head constable on October 4, 2013 came to the Dera (temporary shed) of Khaliq and took him and his brother Aurangzeb to Dharmal Police Station and kept them in preventive custody," the spokesperson said.

He said the accused policeman asked Khaliq to arrange Rs 40,000 for his release and also contacted his brother-in-law to arrange the money.

"The accused demanded and accepted bribe of Rs 27,000 and Rs 32,000 on October 8 and 15, 2013, respectively, making it a total of Rs 59,000 on two occasions for the release of Khaliq," the spokesperson said.

During investigation, the statement of Khaliq and other material witnesses recorded under section 161 CrPC have established guilt for demand and acceptance of illegal gratification by the accused policeman.

"After completing the investigation of the case, sanction for launching prosecution of the accused was obtained from the competent authority and the charge sheet was filed in the case," the spokesperson said.

He said the next date of hearing in the case has been fixed for December 18.

Case Filed Against Lawyer...

post to stoke communal passions. Last week, Rajawat had sought police help to disperse a small mob of slogan shouting protesters who had gathered outside her house after she made the social media comment.

Police sources said action would be taken after the cyber cell reports on the origin of the tweet and other technical details.

The woman advocate had come into limelight in January 2018 when she represented the family of the 8-year old tribal Bakarwal (Goat-herd) girl who was raped and later murdered in the Rasana village in Jammu's Kathua district.

The case was tried in the district and sessions court in neighbouring Pathankot town of Punjab.

All the accused were subsequently sentenced by the trial court in this heinous crime that shook J&K.

Two of the then BJP Ministers had joined rallies in support of the accused. Both the ministers were later dropped from the then PDP-BJP coalition government headed by Mehbooba Mufti for their support to the accused.

Petrol, Diesel To Cost More...

petrol and diesel prices have not been revised for the past almost a month even though global crude prices have softened and reached about \$ 40 a barrel from a month ago high of over \$ 45 a barrel.

In March, the government had taken Parliamentary approval to raise special additional excise duty on petrol to Rs 18 per litre and on diesel to Rs 12 per litre but did not change the levy then. In May, it raised special additional excise to Rs 12 on petrol and to Rs 9 on diesel. This leaves the government with the space to increase excise duty on petrol by a further Rs 6 per litre and on diesels by Rs 3 per litre. This option is being examined now.

For consumers, any further increase in duty should not impact much as retail prices may be left unchanged or marginally increased as lower oil prices would allow for absorbing any increase in price.

However, a further increase in taxes on fuel would make the product most taxed globally. The current taxes account for close to 70 per cent of the price of petrol and diesel. With any further increase in duty, this could reach 75-80 per cent level.

Higher retail price is not an option for the government at this juncture as it could push inflation.

With increased excise duty on petrol and diesel the government is already set to increase in oil revenue by close to Rs 1.75 lakh crore this year. This is in addition to over Rs 2 lakh crore it collects from petroleum products as annual excise revenue.

The Centre's fiscal situation is stretched this year due to Covid-19 related disruptions and additional commitments to states over GST compensation shortfall. The fiscal deficit is already estimated at a high of 8 percent of GDP for FY21.

Cross-Border Firing Damages...

they said. Sunder Lal of Check Changra, who had a narrow escape after a few shells hit his house, said they were terrified by the blast of the shells hitting houses.

"We narrowly escaped the mortar shell blasts. Our house's roof was damaged," Lal, who along with his wife and two daughters was living

in the house, said. Rattan Chand of Karol Matra said that they are living in the shadow of death as Pakistan Rangers have been shelling forward areas almost every day.

"If such a situation continues, we will be forced to migrate from border hamlets to safer places", Chand said.

Karan Kumar, a block development committee (BDC) chairman, said that several houses and other structures have suffered damages but the government is yet to compensate people.

"Firing and shelling has become a regular feature. The government of India should move back the villagers to safer places and then give a befitting reply so that Pakistan does not dare do any mischief again," he said.

Army Conference To Discuss...

of the Army headquarters and other senior officers. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria will address the commanders on Tuesday afternoon, the sources said.

The Army Commanders will carry out a comprehensive review of the security challenges facing the nation including the situation in eastern Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

There will be a discussion on issues flagged by the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, which is India's only tri-services command.

The Army commanders will also attempt to finalise various reform measures recommended by separate internal committees on the utilisation of limited resources while at the same time focusing on enhancing the operational capability of the force, the sources said.

Some of the proposals to be on the table at the conference include discontinuing or at least bringing down the scale of the Army Day and Territorial Army Day parades, cutting down on various ceremonial practices and reducing the number of officers' mess within individual peace stations, the sources said.

The sources said the last day's agenda of the conference will include a briefing by the Director General of Border Roads on the various infrastructure development projects being undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and allied formations.

They said "automation initiatives" to optimise utilisation of manpower at various levels of the Army will also be discussed.

In Kashmir Meadows, Tribal ...

meadows his new classroom and cattle his new friends. "It has been more than a year I've not been able to attend school and it seems there is no end to it," the boy says. "In absence of school, I keep narrating the rhymes to my cattle that I've read last year at my school, hoping I'll see my friends again and start learning soon."

The boy helps his family rearing livestock and spends most of his time in the meadows. His parents are worried about him as he has become anxious and aloof.

"I can see his dreams fading with every passing day," laments Sha-heena, Marooof's mother.

"Marooof is one of the brightest kids in our community. We were very hopeful about his bright future, but now I'm worried about his life. He often asks me, when is he resuming his school? I just lie every day to assure him: 'Soon, son!'"

3 BJP Workers Detained In...

and tried to hoist the tricolour at the clock tower. However, the police swung into action and took them into custody, they added.

Before being whisked away, one of the three said that he will hoist the tricolour in every part of Kashmir.

Tell this to Mehbooba Mufti that I will hoist the flag in every part of Kashmir, he said, in reference to the PDP president's recent statement that she will not hold the tricolour till the flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was restored.

Jammu and Kashmir had a separate constitution and flag before the Centre revoked its special status in August last year.

500-Bed Children Hospital...

Medical Education Atal Dulloo said. Dulloo said that the health department with the objective to reduce infant mortality rate and child mortality rate to single digits had approved the hospital, which is coming up at Bemina in Srinagar.

The proposed name for the hospital is Institute of Child Health. He said that among the few children hospital in India, this would be the only hospital having a capacity of 500 beds dedicated to paediatric patients only.

"This hospital will be helpful to meet the demands of paediatric patients from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as well as from the Union Territory of Ladakh and other neighbouring states", he said.

Dulloo said that this hospital would be having all the super specialties of paediatrics.

CRPF Man Posted In Pak HC...

Police immediately rushed to the spot and found that Constable Rambabu who reportedly shot himself has already been sent to Al-IMS Trauma Centre by his colleagues," Additional DCP, New Delhi, Deepak Yadav said.

Police is investigating the incident from all angles.

Man Held With Cannabis...

When the vehicle was searched, 8 kg of cannabis was recovered inside it. The accused person was identified as driver Mohammad Iqbal Bhat of Bijbehara area of south Kashmir, who was arrested on the spot.

The contraband was also seized, they added. A case was registered at Samba police station and further investigation is on.



Tiranga Rally: A convoy of cars brought BJP workers from Tagore Hall to Gupkar Road from where workers marched to SKICC
KO Photo Abid

J&K Youth Inherently Talented: LG Says, UT Government committed to provide necessary handholding to facilitate & nurture their capabilities

SRINAGAR: "Youth empowerment is imperative for a better tomorrow. When we empower youth, we empower the future of the Nation. Bringing socio-economic change through youth empowerment is the much-needed practice which requires concerted efforts on the part of all stakeholders to reap the intended benefits and achieve the desired results on ground.

The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks during a meeting he chaired to discuss the modalities for the better implementation of the upcoming Youth Empowerment programme envisioned by the UT Government for Youth Engagement and Employment.

The Lt Governor observed that the youth of J&K are inherently talented. The intended programme will prove to be an institutional mechanism for providing the necessary handholding and support to the youth to facilitate and nurture their capabilities, he added.

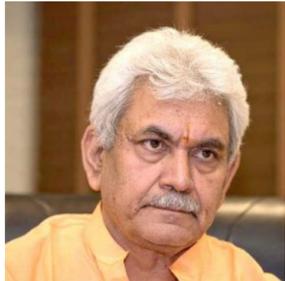
He asked the concerned officers to adopt the best global practices of youth engagement, besides involving business schools for case studies.

Build an atmosphere of trust and positivity amongst the youth in the region. Identify gaps and be sensitive towards the problems and needs of the youth and resolve the same through various technological and knowledge-based interventions, he added.

The Lt Governor suggested incorporating the establishment of District Youth Centres in every District. He laid special emphasis on creat-

ing opportunities for youth through Skill-development, education, sports, employment, tourism, Agri and allied sectors.

Youth engagement is about empowering young people and it is important to pave a solid foundation for the development and growth of our younger generation. The UT of Jammu & Kashmir is predominantly young in terms of its population with almost 65 percent of the population under the age of 35 years. The government is aiming to operate youth



engagement programmes in the field of Sports, Livelihood generation, Recreation, Education, Counselling to effectively support and encourage young individuals to shape their future as per their aspirations, observed the Lt Governor.

Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Additional Secretary to the Government, Finance Department and CEO, Mission Youth gave a detailed presentation on the programme and briefed

the Lt Governor about various aspects of youth engagement that can be considered under the youth empowerment programme.

The meeting was informed that the intended programme is conceived as a common platform where all activities on youth development would be carried out for better results.

The main objectives of the programme are to synergize all the efforts for the skill development among the youth; to provide means of institutional social outreach to the young population; to provide an institutional mechanism for psycho-social support to youth on scientific lines and to provide the youth an opportunity of livelihood generation, economic growth, social recognition, and systemic support, as and when required.

BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department; Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department and Information Department; Bishwajit Kumar Singh, Secretary to Government, School Education Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Pandurang K. Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports, Tourism and Culture Departments; Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Additional Secretary to the Government, Finance Department and CEO, Mission Youth, and other senior officers attended the meeting at Raj Bhavan.

Sacked DPS Drivers Stage Protest



SRINAGAR: Scores of drivers and conductors working with Delhi Public School (DPS) Budgam staged a protest on Monday against the retrenchment notice given to them by the school authorities.

Scores of drivers and conductors working with DPS Sheikhpora Budgam assembled outside the school premises and staged a protest against the school management for dismissing them from the services.

Having assembled under the banner of 'Drivers Union DPS Budgam', they raised slogans against the school management for making them jobless.

Protestors said that they have been working as drivers, conductors in the school, for the last 10 to 13 years, but now are being terminated, which according

to them is an injustice. "On 15th September we were intimidated through SMS messages that our services were being terminated and when we approached the management to provide us the reason for our retrenchment, they said that the school is suffering financial losses", said a protestor.

"Even our gratuity has been credited to our accounts, to pave a way for laying us off," he added.

If school goes ahead with its retrenchment plan. Our first counter step will be closing the access road to the school because we have provided land for it in lieu of jobs," they warned.

No official of DPS Budgam was available for a comment. When school management decides to respond the story will be updated.

130 SMC employees get salary after 7 months



SRINAGAR: Seven months after the salaries of the 130 strong staff of the abolished Engineering wing of the Directorate of Urban Local were withheld by Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) over some technical issues, the same has been released.

Bilal Ahmad Napa, the president of the shifted employees from urban local bodies, Kashmir has thanked SMC Commissioner Gazanfar Ali and the Chief Accountant Rafiq Ahmad Shah for solving the problem.

"We were without salary for seven months. It was a tough situation for

our families," said Napa. "The SMC Commissioner and the Chief Accountant took pains to release our salaries".

It was in February this year that the administration changed the "framework for execution of civil works". And to this end the administration abolished the Drainage Division and Engineering Wing of the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies. The staff was transferred to Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Jammu Municipal Corporation. But while those who joined JMC were paid their salary, their counterparts in the Valley were denied.

South Kashmir Limping Back To Normalcy: GOC Asks youth to shun path of militancy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps Lieutenant General BS Raju Monday asserted that the situation in South Kashmir was limping back to normalcy as economical activities have started to accelerate.

"Situation in southern parts of Kashmir including Kulgam, Anantnag, Pulwama and Shopian districts are comprehensively normal. Economic activities have started to take up. Fruit growers are busy sending their crop outside markets. We hope our children will soon join schools if Covid-19 pandemic will not stay more here", the GOC 15 Corps BS Raju said while talking to reporters on the sidelines of Yusmarg festival in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Monday.

To a query he asserted that the overall situation in the valley is peaceful. "The overall situation in Kashmir valley is peaceful. Militancy related activities have de-

clined as compared to the past. Youth have started to concentrate on their future as many have shine in professional examinations recently which is really a good sign of the situation", Srinagar based Army commander said.



GOC appealed to militants to "switch-off" the path of militancy adding "Otherwise whosoever will contest army with weapon in his hand will be dealt hardheartedly".

The army officer however maintained that those who shun the path of militancy and violence will be facilitated to return to their homes.

GOC 15 Corps while continuing appealed local militants to say 'good-bye'

to militancy and start a peaceful and dignified life. "I appeal to youth who are ready to shun militancy to return to their homes as the environment is favorable for them for starting a peaceful and dignified life", he said.

the existing one and will allow local militants to surrender and start a new life.

Termining bloodshed and destruction in Kashmir repercussions of militancy, the GOC 15 Corps BS Raju said that "militancy has devastated the entire Jammu and Kashmir".

While reiterating the assertions of combating infiltration on LoC, the GOC said that this year army has been able to plug the infiltration to a large extent but maintained that ahead of snowfall and winters, the attempts may increase, but our forces are alert and maintaining tight vigil to frustrate the bids.

He said the Army is organizing Yusmarg festival every year aimed to provide a platform to local youth to express their talent. "We have recorded sound participation of people in the festival this year as compared to the past. Several medical experts and NGOs participated in the event and alerted people about the drug menace", he said.

CT scan detects more Covid-19 cases than swab tests: DAK

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday said chest CT scan detects more Covid-19 cases than swab tests. "Chest CT is better at diagnosing Covid-19 than swab tests," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"RT-PCR, which uses swab for the detection of Covid-19 infection has a sensitivity of 60%-70%. That means more than 30% of positive cases may be missed by the test.

Another swab test which is now widely used is rapid antigen test. It has a sensitivity of around 50 percent, which raises the possibility of missing more than half of the positive cases," he said.

"Studies have shown that CT has a greater sensitivity ranging from 86% and 98% for detecting positive cases, while having a lower false negative rate than the lab tests," Dr Nisar said

published in the Journal Radiology, researchers in china found that 88% of the patients showed chest CT findings indicative of Covid-19, while RT-PCR test detected only 59 percent of cases. Among those with negative

swab test results, 75 percent had positive chest CT findings."

He said not only is CT an effective tool for the diagnosis of Covid-19, it can also tell us about the severity of the disease. That will guide treatment and save lives.

"At SMHS hospital, we see many patients who test negative on lab tests, but show CT features consistent with Covid-19 disease," Dr Nisar said. "Many infected patients go

unreported as only RT-PCR positive cases are reported. We have large number of patients who test positive through CT, but are not reported."

"Low sensitivity of swab tests implies that many patients with Covid-19 infection may not be identified and consequently may not be isolated from a healthy population. And these individuals will continue to spread the disease in the community," he said.

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1627 - English assault on French Ile de Ré
- 1644 - Second Battle of Newbury: King Charles I beats parliamentary armies
- 1702 - British troops plunder St Augustine, Florida
- 1795 - Pinckney's Treaty [Treaty of San Lorenzo] signed by Spain and US, establishing the southern boundary of the US and giving Americans right to navigate the Mississippi River
- 1806 - The French Army enters Berlin
- 1810 - United States annexes West Florida from Spain
- 1916 - Battle of Segale: Negus Mikael, marching on the Ethiopian capital in support of his son Emperor Iyasus V, is defeated by Fitawrari abte Giyorgis, securing the throne for Empress Zauditu.
- 1922 - In Italy, Liberal Luigi Facta resigns in the face of threats from Mussolini that 'either the Government will be given to us or we will seize it by marching on Rome'
- 1924 - The Uzbek SSR is founded in the Soviet Union
- 1941 - Nazi's directs gypsy ghetto in Belgrade
- 1942 - 5th day of battle at El Alamein: heavy battles/Australian advance
- 1948 - Israel recaptures Nizzanim in Negev
- 1954 - President Eisenhower offers aid to South Vietnam Prime Minister Ngô inh Di m
- 1957 - Celal Bayar re-elected president of Turkey
- 1958 - General Ayub Khan succeeds Iskander Mirza as President of Pakistan
- 1959 - Rare Pacific hurricane kills 2,000 in Western Mexico
- 1961 - 1st Saturn launch vehicle makes an unmanned flight test
- 1962 - Black Saturday - Russian nuclear missile crisis in Cuba
- 1966 - UN deprives South Africa of Namibia
- 1969 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to John Tinbergen
- 1971 - Republic of Congo-Kinshasa becomes Republic of Zaire
- 1972 - OPEC approves plan providing for 25 percent government ownership of all Western oil interests operating within Kuwait, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia
- 1977 - NASA launches space vehicle S-200
- 1979 - St Vincent & Grenadines becomes independent of UK (National Day)
- 1981 - The Soviet submarine U 137 runs aground on the east coast of Sweden.
- 1982 - China announces its population has reached 1 billion plus people
- 1982 - IBM ROM is capable of EGA graphics
- 1986 - British government deregulates financial markets in a "Big Bang", enhancing London's status as a financial capital while increasing income inequality
- 1990 - Supreme Soviet of Kirghiz SSR chooses Askar Akayev as republic's first president.
- 1995 - Latvia applies for membership in the European Union.
- 1997 - Microsoft argues it should be "free from government interference"
- 2011 - The Royal Australian Navy announces that they discovered the wreck of a World War II submarine in Simpson Harbour, Papua New Guinea during Operation RENDER SAFE- it is likely to be Japanese. 2012 - 46 people are killed and 123 injured in Iraq after a series of attacks and bombs
- 2013 - 38 people are killed in a series of car bombings in Baghdad, Iraq
- 2013 - 18 people are killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan



HIJRI CALENDAR

09

RABI-UL-AWWAL
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR
5:22
ZUHR
12:15
ASR
4:06
MAGRIB
5:47
ISHA
7:08

From KO Archives

'Kashmiri' held with \$71,000 in New Delhi

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Indian army soldiers have been photographing male civilians in some parts of Kashmir to help them identify Muslim separatist militants, residents said Thursday.

In dozens of villages across Kashmir, army soldiers over the past few months have been conducting house-to-house surveys and photographing male members of every family.

"One, copy of the photograph is retained by the army, while the other is given to the family for proper preservation," said Altaf Ahmed of Sanoor kalipora in central Kashmir district of Budgam. "Each family is asked to pay Rs 15 for the photographs." Besides taking photographs, the

soldiers record the men's names and professions. "Such an exercise helps in segregating militants from civilians," said an army officer, requesting anonymity. "We conduct sudden and random raids on houses and if anyone else other than those photographed by us is present in the house he is questioned to establish his identity." "The exercise is yielding guests at the nearest army good results," he said, and camp claimed it was more effective in Kashmir's borders areas adjoining Pakistan.

Locals, however, criticize the army for allegedly harassing them and arresting visiting relatives.

"Last week one of my cousins visited us from Srinagar and he was arrested as a suspected militant. Even nomadic shepherds, who move into mountains with their herds during summer, were photographed, locals said.

"On our return from the mountains the army people make doubly sure that only those return who had gone up," said Naimu-Dm Khan, who had driven his cattle to patrolling security forces," said Sonamarg, closer to the Mushtaq Tantray of northern Kargil region where Indian

Pattan township. "It took us a week to establish that he was not a militant" Residents have been asked to register the names of their month stay.

NYU researchers warn that kid influencers are promoting junk food brands on YouTube

Agencies

Kids with wildly popular YouTube channels are frequently promoting unhealthy food and drinks in their videos, warn researchers at NYU School of Global Public Health and NYU Grossman School of Medicine in a new study.

The findings of this novel study were published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

Food and beverage companies spend \$1.8 billion dollars a year marketing their products to young people. Although television advertising is a major source of food marketing, companies have dramatically increased online advertising in response to consumers' growing social media use.

"Kids already see several thousand food commercials on television every year, and adding these YouTube videos on top of it may make it even more difficult for parents and children to maintain a healthy diet," said Marie Bragg, assistant professor of public health nutrition at NYU School of Global Public Health and assistant professor in the Department of Population Health at NYU Langone. "We need a digital media environment that supports healthy eating instead of discouraging it."

YouTube is the second most visited website in the world and is a popular destination for kids seeking entertainment. More than 80 per cent of parents with a child younger than 12 years old allow their child to watch YouTube, and 35 per cent of parents report that their kid watches YouTube regularly.

"The allure of YouTube may be especially strong in 2020 as many parents are working remotely and have to juggle the challenging task of having young kids at home because of COVID-19," said Bragg, the study's senior author.

When finding videos for young children to watch, millions of par-



advertise or sponsor posts to promote their products before or during videos. In fact, the highest-paid YouTube influencer of the past two years was an 8-year-old who earned \$26 million last year.

"Parents may not realise that kid influencers are often paid by food

companies to promote unhealthy food and beverages in their videos. Our study is the first to quantify the extent to which junk food product placements appear in YouTube videos from kid influencers," said Bragg.

Bragg and her colleagues identi-

fied the five most popular kid influencers on YouTube of 2019--whose ages ranged from 3 to 14 years old--and analyzed their most-watched videos. Focusing on a sample of 418 YouTube videos, they recorded whether food or drinks were shown in the videos, what items

and brands were shown, and assessed their nutritional quality. The researchers found that nearly half of the most popular videos from kid influencers (42.8 per cent) promoted food and drinks. More than 90 per cent of the products shown were unhealthy branded food, drinks, or fast food toys, with fast food as the most frequently featured junk food, followed by candy and soda. Only a few videos featured unhealthy unbranded items like hot dogs (4 per cent), healthy unbranded items like fruit (3 per cent), and healthy branded items like yoghurt brands (2 per cent).

The videos featuring junk food product placements were viewed more than 1 billion times--a staggering level of exposure for food and beverage companies.

"It was concerning to see that kid influencers are promoting a high volume of junk food in their YouTube videos, and that those videos are generating enormous amounts of screen time for these unhealthy products," said Bragg.

While the researchers do not know which food and drink product placements were paid endorsements, they find these videos problematic for public health because they enable food companies to directly--but subtly--promote unhealthy foods to young children and their parents.

Study finds bone density associated with its regular use

Agencies

Washington : A recent study suggested the effect of the lifestyle of an individual, especially women on their bone and bone density.

Researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign have studied a population of women in rural Poland for the past four years to understand how their lifestyle affects their bone density. The age group and lifestyle of these women are often overlooked in such studies.

The study "Bone density and frame size in adult women effects of body size, habitual use, and life history" was published in the *American Journal of Human Biology*.

"My work focuses on

search on premenopausal women, since presumably their bone density and activity predict postmenopausal osteoporosis," said Kathryn Clancy, an associate professor of anthropology at Illinois and a part-time Beckman faculty member.

"We saw that measures such as grip strength and lean mass are associated with the bone density and frame size of these premenopausal women. We also saw that the bone density of the radius, which is the bone at the base of your thumb, is very high compared to an average white woman of European descent," Lee said.

"Interestingly, we don't see this increased bone density in Polish American women. We don't



understanding how our activities shape our skeleton and what it means for the modern population," said Katharine Lee, a recent graduate of the Clancy group, which is affiliated with the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

The study focused on a population of farmers whose lifestyles involve substantial farm and domestic labour, such as growing fruits and vegetables, churning butter, beating rugs, washing windows, and caring for children. "We made some basic body measurements and looked at the physical activity patterns of these women," Lee said. "We also used a bone sonometer, which was provided through Beckman's Biomedical Imaging Center. It is a portable device that can be conveniently used to carry out bone density measurements."

The researchers wanted to focus on women between the ages of 18 and 46, an age group that is not often looked at in bone density studies. "We wondered why there was so little re-

search on premenopausal women, since presumably their bone density and activity predict postmenopausal osteoporosis," said Kathryn Clancy, an associate professor of anthropology at Illinois and a part-time Beckman faculty member.

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Noise may impact brains of adults, cause difficulty in functioning



Agencies

Higher levels of noise may impact the brains of older adults, making it difficult to work without help, suggested a study.

It further suggested that it might also influence individuals' risk of developing dementia later in life.

The study was published in the journal *Alzheimer's & Dementia*.

Researchers studied 5,227 participants of the Chicago Health and Aging Project who were aged 65 years or older, of whom 30 per cent had mild cognitive impairment and 11 per cent had Alzheimer's disease. They found that persons living with 10 decibels more noise near their residences during the daytime had a 36 per cent higher odds of having a mild cognitive impairment and a 30 per cent higher

odds of having Alzheimer's disease.

"These findings suggest that within typical urban communities in the United States, higher levels of noise may impact the brains of older adults and make it harder for them to function without assistance. This is an important finding since millions of Americans are currently impacted by high levels of noise in their communities," said senior author Sara D. Adar, ScD, of the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor.

Professor Adar added, "Although noise has not received a great deal of attention in the United States to date, there is a public health opportunity here as there are interventions that can reduce exposures both at the individual and population level."

Here's the science behind happiness and the evolution of brain size

Agencies

In search of the causes underlying neocortex expansion, researchers at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden, together with colleagues at the University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus Dresden, previously identified a number of molecular players. These players typically act cell-intrinsically in the so-called basal progenitors, the stem cells in the developing neocortex with a pivotal role in its expansion. The researchers now report an additional, novel role of the happiness neurotransmitter serotonin which is known to function in the brain to mediate satisfaction, self-confidence, and optimism - to act cell-extrinsically as a growth factor for basal progenitors in the developing human, but not mouse, neocortex.

Due to this new function, placenta-derived serotonin likely contributed to the evolutionary expansion of the human neocortex. The research team of Wieland Huttner at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, who is one of the institute's founding directors, has investigated the cause of the evolutionary expansion of the human neocortex in many studies. A new study from his lab focuses on the role of the neurotransmitter serotonin in this process. Serotonin is often called the happiness neurotransmitter because it transmits



messages between nerve cells that contribute to well-being and happiness. However, a potential role of such neurotransmitters during brain development has not yet been explored in detail.

In the developing embryo, the placenta produces serotonin, which then reaches the brain via blood circulation. This is true for humans as well as mice. Yet, the function of this placenta-derived serotonin in the developing brain has been unknown. The postdoctoral researcher Lei Xing in the Huttner group had studied neurotransmitters during his doctoral work in Canada. When he started his research project in Dresden after that, he was curious to investigate their role in the developing brain. "I exploited datasets generated by the group in the past and found that the serotonin receptor HTR2A was expressed in fetal human, but not embryonic mouse, neocortex. Serotonin needs to bind

to this receptor in order to activate downstream signaling. I asked myself if this receptor could be one of the keys to the question of why humans have a bigger brain," Lei Xing said.

To explore this, the researchers induced the production of the HTR2A receptor in embryonic mouse neocortex. "Indeed, we found that serotonin, by activating this receptor, caused a chain of reactions that resulted in the production of more basal progenitors in the developing brain. More basal progenitors can then increase the production of cortical neurons, which paves the way to a bigger brain," said Lei Xing. "In conclusion, our study uncovers a novel role of serotonin as a growth factor for basal progenitors in highly developed brains, notably human. Our data implicate serotonin in the expansion of the neocortex during development and human evolution," said Wieland Huttner, who supervised the study.

People with type 2 diabetes need not avoid eating potatoes based on glycemic index, finds study

Agencies

New study findings show that people with type 2 diabetes can better maintain overnight glycemic control when high Glycemic Index (GI) potatoes are included in an evening meal versus low GI basmati rice.

People with type 2 diabetes (T2D) are frequently told to avoid eating potatoes, and other high Glycemic Index (GI) foods, because of the longstanding perception that these foods make it difficult to control blood sugar levels. This is especially problematic during the night when blood sugar tends to spike -- a phenomenon that has been associated with cardiovascular disease and endothelial dysfunction. However, for the first time, a rigorously controlled clinical trial, including 24 adults with T2D, demonstrates that GI is not an accurate surrogate for an individual's glycemic response (GR) to food consumed as part of an evening meal.

Specifically, the findings published in *Clinical Nutrition* show that participants had a better "nocturnal" GR when they ate a mixed meal with skinless white potatoes compared to an isoenergetic and macronutrient-matched mixed meal that included a low GI carbohydrate food -- basmati rice.

"Despite its frequent use among nutrition researchers, GI is not an appropriate tool for understanding how a meal impacts glycemic control; it is a very specific measurement for foods consumed in isolation, typically conducted under controlled laboratory conditions," says Dr Brooke Devlin, PhD, the primary investigator, at Australian Catholic University in Melbourne. "It's rare that people eat foods in isolation, and findings from this study demonstrate how other factors, such as the time of day or food pairings, need to be considered when investigating the GR of mixed meals in individuals with T2D."

Participants were provided with the same breakfast and lunch, but they were randomly assigned to one of four dinners, each including either skinless white potatoes (test meal) prepared in three different ways (boiled, roasted, boiled then cooled then reheated) or basmati rice (control meal). Participants repeated the experiment, with a 9-day break in between each trial, to cycle through all test meals and the control. In addition to having blood samples collected regularly (both immediately after the meal and again every 30 minutes, for 2 hours), participants also wore a continuous glucose monitor overnight to



track changes in blood sugar levels while sleeping.

There were no differences between meals in glucose response following the dinner that contained any of the potato dishes or basmati

rice. Moreover, participants' overnight GR was more favourable after eating the evening meal that included any of the high GI potato side dishes compared to low GI basmati rice.

"These findings are contrary to that of ob-

servational research and traditional dietary guidance that has led some to believe potatoes are not an appropriate food choice for people with T2D," added Devlin. "Our study shows high GI foods, like potatoes, can be consumed as part of a healthy evening meal without negatively affecting GR -- and while delivering key nutrients in relatively few calories, which is essential for people with T2D."

This study followed a rigorous methodology by using a randomized crossover design and measuring glucose levels both immediately post-meal and overnight to obtain a better picture of the potatoes' impact on GR. However, the researchers noted a few limitations: study participants' baseline GR was assessed for only one evening meal, the dinner provided was larger than what is typically recommended for people with T2D (but in line with Australian eating patterns, at 40 per cent of an individual's total energy intake), and the potatoes' impact on long-term glycemic control was not assessed.

Despite such limitations, the researchers concluded that "potatoes are a vegetable that is sustainable, affordable and nutrient-dense, and thus, they can play an important role in modern diets irrespective of metabolic health status."

Oxford COVID-19 vaccine trials produce robust immune response in elderly, reports Financial Times

LONDON: The COVID-19 vaccine being developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca produces a robust immune response in elderly people, the newspaper reported, citing results from so-called immunogenicity blood tests.

But the Financial Times cautioned that positive immunogenicity tests did not guarantee that the vaccine would ultimately prove safe and effective in older people.

AstraZeneca, which is developing the vaccine with Oxford University researchers, is seen as a



the finding, encouraging researchers as they seek evidence that it will spare those in later life from serious illness or death from the virus.

Details of the finding are expected to be published shortly in a clinical journal, the Financial Times said, without naming the publication.

The findings echo data released in July, which showed the vaccine generated "robust immune responses" in a group of healthy adults aged

between 18 and 55, the newspaper reported, citing results from so-called immunogenicity blood tests.

But the Financial Times cautioned that positive immunogenicity tests did not guarantee that the vaccine would ultimately prove safe and effective in older people.

AstraZeneca, which is developing the vaccine with Oxford University researchers, is seen as a

frontrunner in the race to produce a vaccine to protect against COVID-19.

Oxford and AstraZeneca did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comments.

One of the world's leading coronavirus vaccine candidates, called AZD1222 or ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, was developed by Oxford University scientists and licensed to AstraZeneca in April, which took on the task of scaling trials and production.

11 migrants drown off Libya; third shipwreck in week: UN



CAIRO: At least 11 migrants trying to reach Europe, including a pregnant woman, drowned Sunday when their boat capsized off the coast of Libya, the UN migration agency said, making it the third migrant shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea in a week.

Safa Msehli, spokeswoman for the International Organization for Migration, said fishermen and the Libyan Coast Guard rescued at least 10 other migrants and returned them to shore.

On Tuesday, at least 15 migrants drowned after their boat capsized off Libya. The IOM said five people also died when their boat capsized Thursday off the coast of Lampedusa, Italy.

This year, some 500 migrants have died trying to cross the Central Mediterranean, according to the IOM's figures, but the organisation warned that there were likely more deaths that had gone uncounted.

Federico Soda, IOM Libya chief of mission, tied the deaths to "the lack of comprehensive sea-rescue operations."

Since 2017, European countries, particularly Italy, have delegated most search-and-rescue responsibility to the Libyan Coast Guard, which intercepts migrant boats before they can reach European waters.

Activists have lamented that European authorities are increasingly blocking the work of nongovernmental rescue organizations that patrol the Mediterranean and seek to disembark at European ports.

In the years since the NATO-backed 2011 uprising that ousted and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, war-torn Libya has emerged as the dominant transit point for migrants hoping to get to Europe from Africa and the Middle East.

Smugglers often pack desperate families into ill-equipped rubber boats that stall and founder along the perilous Central Mediterranean route.



Muslim world condemns Macron, France over treatment of Islam

FRANCE: The backlash over French President Emmanuel Macron's critique of Islam has intensified after Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan questioned his counterpart's mental health, while Muslims in several countries are demanding a boycott of France.

Marking his second sharp criticism against Macron in two days, Erdogan said on Sunday that the French president had "lost his mind", prompting France's foreign minister to recall the country's ambassador in Ankara.

The French debate on Islam was deepened after the beheading of a teacher who had shown caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad - previously published by a satirical magazine - in a class on freedom of expression. Muslims believe that any depiction of the Prophet is blasphemous. On Friday, the cartoons were projected onto government buildings in France. Earlier this month, Macron described Islam as a religion "in crisis" worldwide and vowed to present a bill in December to strengthen a law that officially separated church and state in France.

Since Friday, social media has been awash with criticism of Macron in countries from west to east, including the UK, Kuwait, Qatar, Palestine, Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

People are pouring out their feelings under the English hashtags #BoycottFrenchProducts and #Islam and #NeverTheProphet in Arabic. The social media campaign has led to several Arab trade associations to announce their boycotts of French products.

The spat has drawn in world leaders as people in Muslim-majority countries organise street protests.

A poster decrying French President Emmanuel Macron, reading: 'Clouds are not hurt by the barking of dogs,' in Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank [Mohamad Torokman/Reuters]

Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter: "Muslims are the primary victims of the 'cult of hatred' - empowered by colonial regimes & exported by their own clients. Insulting 1.9B Muslims - & their sanctities - for the abhorrent crimes of such extremists is an opportunistic abuse of freedom of speech. It only fuels extremism."

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry on Monday summoned the French ambassador in Islamabad to complain about Macron's comments.

"The seeds of hate that are being cultivated today will polarise the society and have serious consequences," Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said in a statement. The move comes a day after Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan wrote a

letter to Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg seeking a ban on Islamophobic content, similar to the website's measures against Holocaust deniers.

Qureshi said Pakistan had urged the United Nations "to take notice and action against the hate-based narrative against Islam."

Demonstrators held protests Sunday in regions of war-torn Syria still outside government control during which they burned pictures of Macron, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor.

Men flash the victory sign as they pose next to a poster condemning French President Emmanuel Macron depicting him with a pig snout and ears [Omar Haj Kadour/AFP]

About 70 people protested in Libya's capital Tripoli, an AFP correspondent said. Some set fire to French flags and stamped on pictures of the French president.

"As Muslims, it's our duty to respect all the prophets, so we expect the same from all other religions," housewife Fatima Mahmud, 56, said ahead of the Tripoli protest. "Demonising Islam and Muslims isn't going to keep the social peace in France."

In Deir al-Balah in the Gaza Strip, Palestinians burned portraits of Macron, calling his remarks "an attack and an insult against Islam".

Imran asks Facebook to ban Islamophobic content

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's prime minister has appealed to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to ban Islamophobic content on the site, warning of an increase in radicalisation amongst Muslims, the government said on Sunday.

In a letter, which the Pakistani government posted on Twitter, Imran Khan said that "growing Islamophobia" was encouraging extremism and violence across the world, especially through social media platforms such as Facebook.

"I would ask you to place a similar ban on Islamophobia and hate against Islam for Facebook that you have put in place for the Holocaust," Khan said. Facebook said this month it was updating its hate speech policy to ban any content that denied or distorted the Holocaust.

"One cannot send a message that while hate messages against some are unacceptable, these are acceptable against others," Khan said, adding that this was "reflective of prejudice and bias that will encourage further radicalization."

In response to Khan's appeal, a Facebook spokeswoman told Reuters the company was against all



forms of hate and that it did not allow attacks based on race, ethnicity, national origin or religion.

"We'll remove this hate speech as soon as we become aware of it," the spokeswoman said in an emailed statement, adding that the company had "more work to do".

Khan, in his letter, referred to the situation in France, where, he said, Islam was being associated with terrorism.

Earlier on Sunday, Khan said that French President Emmanuel Macron had "attacked Islam" by encouraging the display of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. Khan's comments came after Macron paid tribute to a French history teacher beheaded by an Islamist radical who wanted to avenge the use of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad in a class on freedom of expression.

Poll: Arabs favour Biden over Trump in US election

WASHINGTON: The November 3 election, in which Trump is fighting to secure a second term, is being closely watched across the Arab world.

Democratic nominee Joe Biden substantially leads his Republican opponent Donald Trump as the Arab world's preferred candidate in next month's US presidential election, an opinion poll indicated on Sunday.

Out of 3,097 people polled across 18 Middle East and North African countries, around 39% favoured Biden while only 12% opted for

In contrast to his predecessor Barack Obama, Trump also staunchly backed Arab rulers, including Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in the face of serious allegations of human rights abuse.

"If the Arab world were choosing the next president, Biden would win by a landslide," YouGov's chief Stephan Shakespeare told AFP.

"But that's partly because they don't know much about Biden -- only half say they have heard of them, while nearly everyone has heard of Trump."



Trump, according to the survey carried out by British pollster YouGov and commissioned by Saudi daily Arab News.

"When asked which candidate would be better for the Arab World if elected president, most believe that neither candidate (49%) would fulfil such a description, yet Biden is still considered a better option to Trump," the survey said.

The November 3 election, in which incumbent Trump is fighting to secure a second term in office, is being closely watched across the Arab world, where the United States plays a key role.

Trump is widely seen as the preferred candidate among a slew of Arab governments, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, for an array of reasons including his tough stance against their regional rival Iran.

Should Biden win, some 58% of Arabs said he "must distance himself from the Obama administration policies."

Biden served as vice president in the Obama administration.

Trump won some support in the poll for scrapping an Obama-era nuclear agreement with Tehran and imposing strict sanctions against the Iranian regime, but only 17% Arabs felt his stance would make the region safer.

The poll suggested Trump's 2017 decision to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem proved overwhelmingly unpopular, with 89% of Arabs opposing it.

The poll listed youth empowerment, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the global coronavirus pandemic among the top three concerns Arabs would like the next US president to focus on.

Palestinian teen dies after West Bank chase by Israeli army



RAMALLAH: An 18-year-old Palestinian died early Sunday after being chased by Israeli troops in the West Bank, but the circumstances of his death remain in dispute.

Relatives of Amer Snobar said that Israeli troops had beaten him to death, while the Israeli army said the man fell and hit his head while troops were chasing him.

The army said it tried to arrest Snobar after receiving reports that Palestinians were throwing stones at vehicles on a West Bank highway near a village north of Ramallah.

When troops arrived, the army said Snobar and a second suspect tried to flee. It said Snobar tripped and

injured himself, while the second suspect got away.

It said troops did not beat him and they unsuccessfully tried to resuscitate him.

Snobar's relatives said they believe he was killed by the troops after they spoke to a witness at the scene.

However, they declined to identify the witness or allow the witness to speak to The Associated Press, fearing the witness would be arrested.

Snobar's body was taken to Ramallah Hospital, where doctors performed an autopsy.

The hospital's director, Dr Ahmed Bitawi, said there were signs of trauma to Snobar's back and head, but also signs on his chest of the resuscitation efforts.

NEWS MAKERS

Dubai introduces facial recognition on public transport

DUBAI: Dubai is introducing a facial recognition system on public transport to beef up security, officials said Sunday, as the emirate prepares to host the global Expo exhibition.

"This technology has proven its effectiveness to identify suspicious and wanted people," said Obaid al-Hathboor, director of Dubai's Transport Security Department.

The emirate already operates a biometric system using facial recognition at its international airport.

Dubai, which sees itself as a leading "smart city" in the Middle East, has ambitions to become a hub for technology and artificial intelligence.

Both sectors will be on show when it opens the multi-billion-dollar Expo fair.

"We aspire to raise our performance by building on our current capabilities, to ensure a high level of security in metro stations and other transport sectors," said Hathboor.

Earlier this week, under the watch of Dubai's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed, the city's police used facial recognition in a simulated scenario to identify gunmen launching an attack on a metro station.

A special police unit, trained in the United States, helped "evacuate" commuters from the station in the mock attack,



before working in tandem with a control centre to apprehend the suspects.

The six-month event was delayed by one year due to coronavirus, and is now set to open in October 2021.

It was expected to attract 15 million visitors before the global economy and transport systems were disrupted by the pandemic.

Jamal Rashed, of Dubai Police's Transport Security

Department, said the facial recognition technology will be rolled out in the coming months in all metro stations.

Other technology already in use to combat the spread of the coronavirus, such as helmets with thermal cameras and smart glasses, will also be used to identify and manage large crowds.

"It took at least five hours to identify a suspect before," said Rashed. "With this technology, it takes less than a minute."

But while the technology to identify individuals has simplified lives, such as being used for unlocking phones, it has also raised concerns over privacy.

Actor Who Accused Anurag Kashyap Of Rape Joins Ramdas Athawale's Party

MUMBAI: An actor who had accused filmmaker Anurag Kashyap of raping her joined Union Minister Ramdas Athawale's Republican Party of India today.

She joined the party in the presence of party chief and Union minister Ramdas Athawale.

The actor was appointed vice president of the women's wing of the party.

Mr Athawale said the entry of the actor and others into the party would strengthen it. He also claimed Kashyap would be arrested soon. The

filmmaker has continuously denied the allegations leveled by the actor.

"I told her RPI(A) is Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's party. It helps all sections of society, be it Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs, villagers, slum dwellers. The RPI will get a good face if you join the party. After I discussed this with her, she was ready to join the party," Mr Athawale said.

The actor said she joined RPI(A) to do something for the country and thanked Mr Athawale for supporting her in her fight against Kashyap.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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KO VIEW

Reviving The Economy

Though businesses in Kashmir have reopened over the past two months, it will take years for the Kashmir economy to get back to normal. Unlike rest of the country that was closed for a little over two months and as a result cratered by a one-fourth, Kashmir was shut for over a year. First, there was a seven month long security lockdown and communication blockade and then from March onwards there was Covid-19 lockdown for six more months. According to an estimate by the local business bodies, the Valley's economy has so far suffered a loss of around Rs 50,000 crore. Its fallout on the ground has been grim: thousands of people have lost their jobs. Sectors of economy like tourism, handicrafts, hotel industry, IT, transport etc have been crushed. People have been forced to shut down their old unviable businesses and start new ones. In one poignant case, a handicrafts shop on Boulevard was converted into a wazwan outlet. In fact, food outlets have surfaced where used to be proper businesses.

Recently, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Kumar Sinha announced a relief-and-revival package of Rs 1,350 crore to revive the Union Territory's business sector. In addition, there is Rs 1,400 crore package for J&K under the AatmaNirbharAbhiyan, of which Rs 6,000 crore is for power sector reforms etc. This was the first effort since August 5, 2019, to provide relief to the businesses.

The main component of the package is 5 percent interest subvention to all borrowers irrespective of their sizes, that would cost about Rs 950 crore. The interest subvention will be available for six months in the current financial year. Also, the government announced a 50 percent waiver of fixed charges for one year with respect to electricity and water, which would cost Rs 105 crore.

Though considering the egregious loss the businesses have suffered over the past fourteen months, the government stimulus is disproportionately less, the Valley's leaders are happy to get some relief after all. They understand that the Government of India and the J&K government are under tremendous financial crunch because of COVID-19 and present circumstances, So they feel that the government has done its part.

One silver lining for the economy as elsewhere in India is that the government is working to systematically reopen the economy. In Unlock 5, the government has now given green signal to reopening of the schools, cinema halls and religious gatherings subject to observance of Standard Operating Procedures. Only threat to recovery is the reigning uncertainty in Kashmir and the ever present chances of a fresh turmoil in the region. Besides, it will take a long time for the tourism industry, the mainstay of the Kashmir economy, to get back on rails. Here's hoping that the vaccine is available soon and the economy resumes working as before the advent of Covid-19. This will go a long way to restore the economy to its normal operation that in turn will bring back lost livelihoods.

OTHER OPINION

Many lines

A recent report brought out by the Union ministry of rural development claims that poverty should not be measured by the lack of a subsistence level of income alone. Subsistence income is usually estimated by the rupee equivalent of a certain basket of food that guarantees a minimum calorific intake per person per day. Economists are prolific in coming up with alternative measures of poverty. Contending measures thus abound. This particular report emphasizes the importance of including basic education, affordable healthcare, hygienic sanitation and shelter in estimating subsistence. These are issues on which there would hardly be any debate. Measurements would not pose a major headache either as ample statistics are available to include a number of socio-economic factors into a multi-dimensional estimate of poverty. There is nothing novel about this proposal. But there are a couple of important issues that need to be kept in mind regarding a multi-dimensional index.

The first is that political and civil rights and liberties are essential for a decent life and are as important as any material condition of living. This is very much relevant in today's world where liberties and freedoms are being systematically challenged and pushed back by the State. The poor obviously receive the hardest part of the stick, having very little voice and power to be heard. This point has been well-discussed by scholars like John Rawls and Amartya Sen. For instance, the right to practise one's religion of choice is a right that contributes significantly to the notion of well-being. Well-being is the opposite of poverty, destitution and deprivation. This freedom should be granted to all, and particularly ensured for the poorest of the poor. The second aspect of the multi-dimensional poverty index is the need to focus on the distribution of poverty below the cut-off level for the index. The reason is simple. There should be an implicit ordering of the importance of basic goods whose minimum availability defines freedom from poverty. Public policy often distributes scarce resources thinly to people who are just below the cut-off level. When poverty is measured in terms of the ratio of people living below the poverty index, the approach of thinly spread resources among many results in yielding better statistics of success. Yet, the strategy actually worsens the income distribution below the poverty cut-off. It is better to focus on the poorest of the poor even if it does not reduce the headcount of people living in poverty.

Telegraph India

Economy Central Kashmir & Fourth Industrial Revolution

Embracing The Opportunity

EJAZAYOUB

As a matter of unfortunate fact, Kashmir valley's economy has been a victim of sustained political and sometimes even ecological shocks in the past three decades. Thanks to some of the stable drivers of the economy (discussed in the last column), Kashmir has somehow managed to survive the onslaught with tremendous grit & perseverance in the past. However, the intimidating cacophony of the emerging challenges in the form of political instability, pandemic, global slowdown and domestic demand shock, is making the present situation even more precarious.

Unfolding Challenges in Tourism, Export & Foreign remittances:

Take, for example, the tourism industry. For tourism business to thrive, there needs to be a balance in two sides of the equation. One is a safe, peaceful and ecologically fulfilling destination supported with efficient logistics and reliable communication system. The other is a sustainable demand. Unlike previous occasions when the regional unrest used to impact the feasibility of the destination, this time, the other side of the equation i.e market demand, which otherwise used to be stable, has been completely wiped off by the pandemic. The shock is on both sides and the corresponding impact on this industry is extremely painful. Irrespective of being abused as a part of peace promotional narrative, the fact remains that tourism was contributing approximately 7-8% to J&K's GSDP. Tourism is essentially a part of luxury need and depends highly on residual income. With seriously impacted household incomes across India and the fact that Covid-19 infections continue to expand, the probability of this industry coming to senses any time soon is extremely low. Moreover, as this column has been repeatedly highlighting, the export of traditional Kashmiri handicrafts and even fruits experiencing a sizeable contraction amid global slowdown, is another unfolding threat. This is besides the negative impact on foreign remittances flowing from thousands of people working outside J&K.

Chronic manufacturing failure & the recent disruption:

Manufacturing sector which employs around 1.5 lakh people in the region is currently grappling with piled up bank loans, troubled supply chains and choked cash flows. Besides recent disruptions, the sector has been chronically underperforming due to a host of systemic as well as poorly formulated policy induced reasons. Our manufacturing plants are still stuck in 18th century industrial practices figuring out the processes of making high-quality jam from apples. Rest of world is flying and our factories are barely crawling. It won't be wrong in saying that we are the Neanderthals of the present day manufacturing systems. The outputs from these industrial outlets have not been able to even cater to the domestic demand properly. To put things into perspective, with an annual GSDP of around Rs. 1.71 lakh crore, J&K in total and Kashmir valley in particular imports goods worth approximately Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 33,000 crore annually respectively, from other states of India. The additional layers of misery on account of Aug 5 2019 & Covid-19 are on top of the existing chronic issues of geographical & climatic disadvantage, costly logistics, power deprivation, inaccessibility to formal channels of equity financing and dearth of skilled human resource. Despite being pumped with huge capital subsidies, tax rebates, thousands of kanals of land banks and interest remissions, the fact that this sector has not been as effective in contributing to the state economy in terms of productivity and job creation is a stark reality which needs to be acknowledged.

4th Industrial revolution &



emerging opportunities:

With shrieking sounds of imploding economic pillars clearly audible, are there any options left with Kashmir's economy for sustaining these emerging risks?

Interestingly, global economy is at the cusp of the fourth industrial revolution comprising of varied disruptions unfolding simultaneously and exponentially. Fields of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Internet of things, 3-D printing, Biotechnology, Block-chain, Augmented & Virtual reality are putting millions of jobs at risk on one hand and creating new business opportunities and jobs on the other. According to the recent McKinsey Global Institute Report, 375 million jobs will vanish by 2030. Most of these will be in Manufacturing and Service industry.

Contrary to the challenges that Kashmir's manufacturing sector has been facing traditionally, the fourth industrial

The steep rise of the potentially exponential and holistically varied fourth industrial generation can be anticipated with the comparatively linear and solely IT and communication driven third industrial revolution growth registered in India. Pertinently, from FY 2008-09 at USD 66.87 Billion, the Indian IT industry has registered an impressive compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 10% to reach to a whopping USD 191 Billion in FY 2019-20. The revenue is further expected to reach USD 350 billion by 2025. From a microscopic 0.4 percent in FY 1991-92, the IT industry has contributed around 8.4 % in 2019-20 to the Indian GDP. This share is expected to increase to ten percent by 2025. With effective and timely responses and Government support in terms of policy, slicing a chunk from this huge revenue pizza is very much doable for Kashmir economy. With

should be introduced across educational levels. R&D at university level on the fourth industrial revolution should be financially supported as well. This will help in catering to the human resource needs of the industry effectively.

3) Global market outreach: Government has already been spending a fortune annually on sponsoring tourism meets across India and sometimes even outside India. Export promotional events too are a frequent affair. Although support for the existing industry should continue, but, the Govt also needs to widen its horizon and start providing sufficient support to IT industry for market exploration and export of IT services.

4) Establishing a formal equity route for financing: The stringent and inflexible nature of the debt contract and the volatile nature of our economy are logically poles apart. The survival of

Fourth industrial revolution provides us with one such unique opportunity. We are at the crossroads and the collective set of decisions as policy makers and as entrepreneurs we take will determine the shape of our future trajectory. The line passing through the digital divide will be very significant and the path we choose now will determine on which side of the divide we are going to find ourselves in future

revolution, if handled consciously and with effective policy responses, throws open more opportunities than threats. Yes, competing in markets of robotics and biotechnology might sound like wishful thinking for us, but, we have very encouraging examples of green shoots in the software development and offshore technology driven service support sector established in the last two decades. Valley based Information Technology companies like BQE, iQuasar, Lelafe, STC and many small and medium sized IT ventures have not only survived, created jobs but also managed to grow and register profits. Factoring the limited Government support when compared to manufacturing and the frequent internet downtime and power challenges, catering to global audience profitably in a highly competitive market is no mean feat.

By virtue of its intangibility, industries of fourth revolution are mostly immune to logistical challenges and geographical disadvantages – the precise reasons for our manufacturing failure. The industry is also less demanding in terms of capital investment, energy consumption and dependence on migrant workforce. This puts our economy in a very advantageous position in terms of leveraging the unfolding opportunities in this sector. Luckily, this is the trajectory of the tide which the world economy is riding currently and will continue to do so in near future. It's time we start preparing our resources in order to tame this tide effectively.

two decades of significant experience of serving global customers, the Kashmir's IT industry has everything that can transform this tiny segment of our economy into a significant and reliable driver. Four immediate reforms that should therefore guide the Government policy in order to leverage this unfolding economic revolution should revolve around:

1) Revision of IT policy: Besides establishing a favorable business environment and regulations, IT industry in Kashmir needs a written guarantee regarding non-disruptive internet connectivity and power supply. These are the lifelines on which the entire castle of this economic powerhouse rests. Any vulnerability in these two essential bed rocks will ensure failure even before it is started. It can be easily done by demarcating special IT Zones/Parks etc which should be made immune from political & law and order compulsions. In addition to this a subsidy component on installation of IT equipment, proprietary software products and IT export incentives should be liberally introduced in order to attract investment & quality human resource in the sector.

2) Reforming education & skill development institutions: There is a need to align our vocational institutions like the ITI's and Poly-technic institutions towards industry demands. The same needs to be done with engineering and other university programs. Courses on mobile app development, machine learning, block chain and AI

business in this turbulent environment depends largely on its ability to absorb income shocks. Equity financing in once such route that gives the businesses an inherent capacity to mitigate such risks. This route however deserves to be formalized by establishing a small Govt regulated stock exchange for IT and even MSMEs. This can help companies raise funds and improve their risk bearing & even expansionary capacity and it will also give investors an opportunity to be the part of the growth story.

We have been laggards in manufacturing all these years. Although we should continue to endeavor for creating domestic manufacturing capacities but as a policy, we should also look towards diversification of our industry into more profitable, futuristic and importantly those industries where we have the capacity to compete. Fourth industrial revolution provides us with one such unique opportunity. We are at the crossroads and the collective set of decisions as policy makers and as entrepreneurs we take will determine the shape of our future trajectory. The line passing through the digital divide will be very significant and the path we choose now will determine on which side of the divide we are going to find ourselves in future.

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Poor Urban Planning And Urban Floods

Global challenges and trends of India and world have changed considerably in recent years. Our urban areas are developing and expanding posing a great environmental risk. In the recent years, India has witnessed flood challenges in major cities and metros are hardly an exception now.

Environmental threats are increasing because of poor planning, global warming and environmental degradation. However, Urban floods are increas-

ing, owing less to precipitation trends and more to poor town planning. They're different from rural floods in many ways and need a different approach to understand and mitigate them.

Floods are deemed a climatic emergency. Bare lands have no outlets of water flow as a result of which water overflows over the roads instead of getting into drains. We haven't done well in managing well planned cities. Many of us make the error of labelling the scale of every disaster a "natural" calamity without tak-

ing into account our own negligence. Very often, natural disasters' affects are aggravated due to manmade conditions.

This calls for a closer attention to urban planning to reduce the risks to life and property. Flow of rain water should be channelized. Water bodies like canals, riverbeds, lakes, channels, rivulets should be cleaned regularly so that the water doesn't overflow onto the plain surfaces. Proposed buildings or sites should be effectively managed and maintained. Effective sewers man-

agement with regular cleaning should be done regularly. Urban Floods disrupts our daily life and activities.

Scientific hydrology balancing wisdom and experience of farmers must be taken into account. Afforestation, construction of dams, interlinking of major rivers which was the vision of our former president APJ Abdul kalam should be effectively implemented.

MuneerShamee
Muneer.adl@gmail.com

Light After Darkness: Kashmiri Pellet Victim's Fight For Education

As pellets once again returned to haunt Kashmir near a Shopian gunfight site, the victims of the duck-hunting guns continue to grapple with the enforced darkness. But one pellet-affected boy is showing the way by fighting his victimhood with the light of education.

ZEENISH IMROZ, ZAID BIN SHABIR

A young boy walking swiftly, hands in his pockets, eyes fixed on the ground, enters a cafe opposite to the Shalimar garden. Dressed in ripped jeans and dusty-black hoodie with the chain unzipped to the chest, he sits confidently on a chair ready to narrate the horrendous event that changed his life.

Adil insists us to sit beside a stove. A cup of tea is served to each one of us, as he begins narrating his life trajectory.

He expresses his passion for learning mathematics and science. A peculiar student, Adil scored 89.8% in his class 10 board exam. His performance was outstanding considering that he had stopped going to a tuition centre after he was asked to pay the fee. His daily-wager father asked him to wait for a few days till he gets paid by the employer. But the teacher humiliated him in front of other students and he never went to a tuition centre again.

Adil started using his neighbour's slow data connectivity for lessons from Khan Academy which is an online American non-profit educational organisation. The American accent being different, it would sometimes take him 2 hours to fully understand a 5-minute video.

The pursuit of learning compelled him to repetitively watch the same video until he grasped the concept. The routine task gradually decreased the amount of time he needed to understand the topic. His passion for studies and efforts was a positive slope on a line graph. He dreamt of cracking JEE after the 12th Board Exams, a dream that soon shattered into blinding glass pieces.

That evening of 10 September 2016 was all mundane, till 9:00 pm, when news about the killing of Nasir, a school-going boy of Theed, Harwan flared the city. Another summertime bloodshed had already interred 85 civilians till that day and now Nasir, pierced by hundreds of pellets was added to the deadpool.

Massive protests followed his funeral at Shalimar ghat, Harwan and Brein. Government forces fired tear-gas and pellets in retaliation, blinding and maiming people.

Inaam, Adil's neighbour had gone for a walk and heard shots being fired. He saw a boy showing his eye to people present around him, "Something is hurting my eye".

It was Adil. Inaam, shocked to see his neighbourhood boy's swollen face, rushed home to get his car. The numbness from the pellet injury was resisting any pain, but Adil's eyes were bleeding tears.

Inaam along with Adil's friend Muzammil drove around 9kms amidst road blockades to SKIMS, Soura where they were referred to SMHS for the removal of pellets surgically.

A long distance was to be travelled with barbed wires, obstructing the vehicular movement. Being mindful of the risks, Inaam asked Muzammil to hang Adil's legs out from the window as evidence of an injured person being taken to the hospital.

Once reaching the SMHS, Adil's pellet injuries were examined through X-ray and scans, before he was admitted for the surgery. As the upheaval in 2016 was started by the killing of BurhanWani, commander of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, all the pellet victims had registered themselves with the name "Burhan" at the hospital, hiding their identity at the same time to avoid faring on police radars.

Adil's name was standing out in the list.

While his eye was being operated, his family was oblivious of the grave ordeal befallen on their son.

Paying no heed to the routine bangs of pellet cartridges and tear-gas shells, the family was sitting in front of television, watching news about the killing of the 11-year-old.

After a while, as people gathered outside Adil's house, his sister ran towards the house screaming. Her mother thought she was being chased by a dog until she heard the words that wreaked havoc on them, "Something has happened to Adil!"

Immediately, the sound of all the pellet guns and



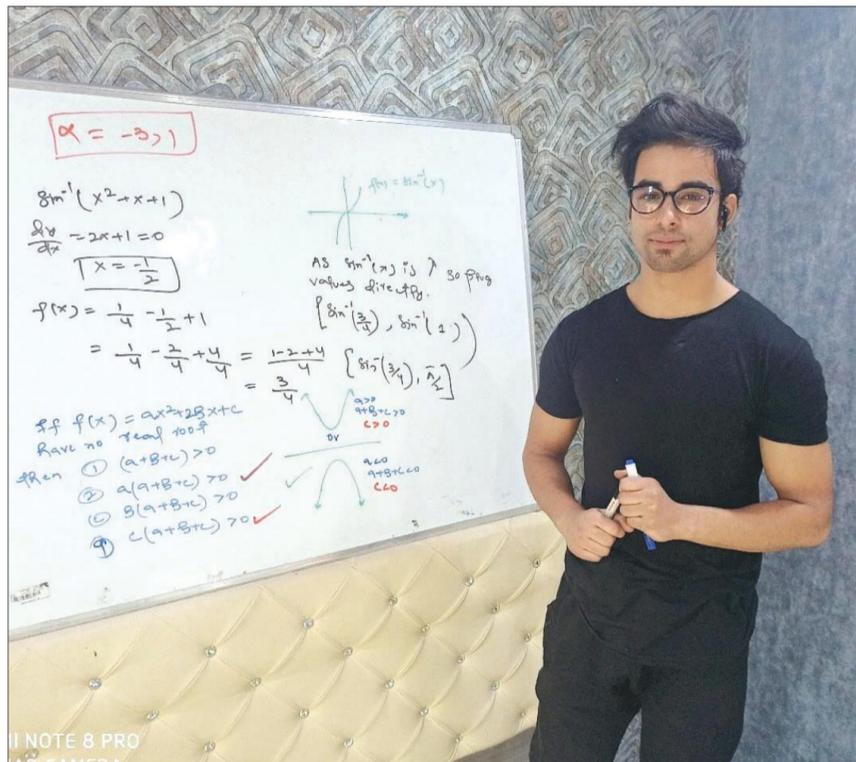
tear-gas shells that had been fired made sense.

Adil's mother's chest filled with remorse for not searching for her son like she used to do every time there were clashes. A witness to the incident, her cousin informed her that he saw Inaam taking Adil to the hospital.

While his family was losing heart, Adil was in the theatre bearing the brunt of being a Kashmiri.

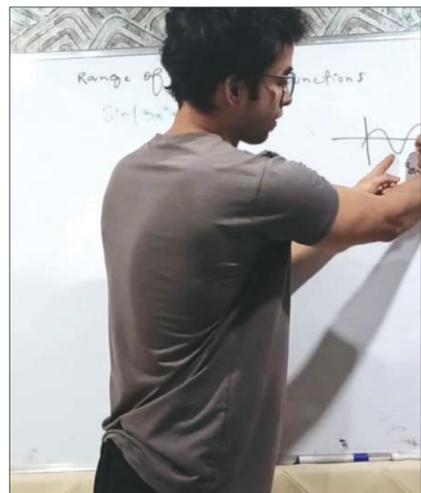
The anesthetist wrongly injected him four times in the eye which is one of the most sensitive parts of human body. The fifth time he made it through.

The surgery was started with a machine that stopped working in the middle of the operation. The effect of anesthesia began diminishing. The impaired machine worked again and the doctor continued operating Adil's left eye. The boy was feeling it now: The instru-



ments being inserted in his eye. He was crying out of the sharp pain.

"The pain was so intense that I would rather opt being blinded than resist the unbearable ache," Adil recalls



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Adil's father, since his injury, would cry often and after 4 months of sorrow, in the month of February 2017, he breathed his last. Adil blames himself for the beloved loss.

Now, he was bound to step into the shoes of his mason father to provide for his two sisters and a mother. He had attained around 70 per cent in class 12, even though the pellet injury curtailed his long-routine study. Eventually, the responsibility of his grief-torn family obligated him to drop his dream of cracking JEE and study further.

Struggling for his family, Adil was being eaten up by guilt inside. Waking up to the panic attacks at night, hopelessness grabbed hold of him. Despaired about his future studies, suicidal thoughts overwhelmed him. Everything felt meaningless, even the basic needs of life. "When I ate something, I would think to myself, why am I eating," says Adil.

The cynicism started when Adil was waiting outside the hospital for Inaam to get home. Meanwhile an unknown man on a bike asked him if the injury was from a pellet as he saw him wearing sunshades. The man told him, "It will never heal completely." Those words left an imprint on his mind and changed his outlook towards life. Muzammil joins the conversation and speaks about the night when Adil was staying at his home, abruptly his heart started pounding fast.

"I got frightened, trying different techniques to calm his condition. I thought he was going to die, such was his condition. It lasted for about 15 mins," he recalls.

This was the one time Muzammil had witnessed one of Adil's terrible nights, his family being oblivious of his condition. "I would wake up to the trembling panic attacks at night and think whether I am dead or alive and if I am alive! What am I doing and why!," says Adil with a wry smile.

Forced by his deteriorating mental condition, he went to a psychiatrist for consultation and was prescribed medicine which he refused to take.

"They would tell me it is a storm, sit with your arms wrapped around your body, it will pass. I would say, 'What if it never goes away?'" a gust of air followed by a smile as if it was the storm that he had engulfed.

"They would say, it will! It will!" says Adil in a hopeless tone as if they couldn't understand his suffering.

His family never knew about his mental struggle but the change in his attitude made them realise that he was changing into a pessimist.

"If someone asks me to pay Rs. 50,000 for one minute of my sight being restored, I will not give it a thought," says Adil stressing on the phrase: "Just One minute!"

Silence followed his words and suddenly the noise from the group of children on the next table veiled the sound of nothingness.

The next meeting was scheduled at his house in winter where his mother explains the financial problems she had to face with time as she enters the room of her house reserved for guests.



Adil's sister brings a blanket to shield us from the low temperature. The bare windows covered with thin curtains could hardly stop any gust of cold air.

Gasping for air, Adil's mother sits beside us, breathless with back pain.

"The thought of my young children and many responsibilities that Adil has to endure keeps me up at night," says Adil's sobbing mother.

Financial pressure added to the miseries of broken Adil. His 24-year-old sister is working at a clinic and another sister, 20, goes to IIT centre for fashion designing.

Adil after his father's death had applied for many jobs, but was rejected as he had no experience. The only job Adil got was as an assistant to a tourist photographer, whose daily abusive behaviour, soon made him quit.

He was expecting his relatives' support in the harsh time of his life but according to him they turned their back at him. "Maybe they thought that they might have to help me monetarily and therefore backed off. No one supported us in the harshest times," says Adil.

But after being persuaded by Inaam, he realized the best thing he was good at was math and science. So, one day, he decided to give home tuitions to students in the locality and started pursuing his studies through a distance mode.

Though the tuition didn't make much difference to the financial condition of his home, he is trying his best to help his family.

After the coronavirus lockdown, he has shifted to online teaching. Somewhere he's content with his work now, but the void left by the pellets can never be filled. His dreams that could never become a reality, the guilt of his father's death and the liabilities from his family could never be compensated.

Adil struggles with trauma to this day, the trauma from that one pellet in his eye. One pellet that changed the course of his life!



functioning but Adil's life-changing incident broke him emotionally and physically leaving him bedridden.

Resist the blackmail: French companies brace for Arab boycott

FRANCE: French President Emmanuel Macron has vowed to take the fight to Islamic radicals after the October 16 beheading of a history teacher who had shown cartoons of the Prophet Mohamed to pupils in a class discussion on free speech.

But his comments triggered protests in Muslim-majority countries at the weekend, with people burning pictures of Macron in Syria and setting fire to French flags in the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Boycotts of French goods are under way in supermarkets in Qa-

and which Paty showed to his class.

Macron hailed Paty as a "hero" for representing the secular, free-thinking values of the French republic, which include a long-cherished right to mock religion.

Also read - Macron comments provoke Mideast ire, boycotts of French goods

"He was killed because Islamists want to take our future," Macron said at a memorial for Paty. "They will never have it."

Several suspected Islamic radicals have been arrested in dozens of raids since the murder,



tar and Kuwait, with further calls to spurn French products in Jordan and other states.

On Monday, the head of France's MEDEF employers' federation said the boycott, which he described as "foolishness," was clearly bad news for companies already hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

He said MEDEF supported the government's stance and urged companies "to resist this blackmail and, unfortunately, to endure this boycott", which he said remained "fairly localised" for now.

After teacher Samuel Paty's gruesome murder by a Chechen extremist in the name of avenging the Prophet Mohamed, Macron vowed that France would never give up cartoons such as those which in 2015 triggered a deadly attack on the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine

and about 50 organizations with alleged links to such individuals have been earmarked for closure by the government.

Earlier this month, Macron unveiled a plan to defend France's secular values against a trend of "Islamist separatism", and described Islam as a religion "in crisis."

France has in recent years been forced to take a hard look at its core values, perceived by many to be threatened by Islam following a string of jihadist attacks that have killed over 240 people since 2015.

But Macron's stance has fuelled tension between France and the Muslim world, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan telling his counterpart to undergo "mental checks" for treating "millions of members from different faith groups this way."

RuPay card users can avail up to 65% discount on various purchases: NPCI

NEW DELHI: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Monday unveiled discounts up to 65 per cent on purchase of various branded items using RuPay card.

The 'RuPay Festive Carnival' will provide compelling benefits and attractive discounts to RuPay users, aimed at encouraging safe, contactless and cashless payments, NPCI said in a release.

RuPay cardholders can revel in celebrations by availing attractive offers from not only categories such as health, fitness, education, e-commerce — which are most relevant and significant amid current scenarios — but also from dining and food delivery, shopping, entertainment, wellness, pharmacy and others. Customers will be able to avail discounts ranging from 10-65 per cent on top brands, including Amazon, Swiggy, Samsung, among others. "We hope Carnival's attractive benefits and discounts will augment the festive joy among customers in a new way and at the same time drive the adoption of digital and contactless payments on their festive purchases," Kunal Kalawatia, Chief of Marketing, NPCI said.

There is a constant endeavour at NPCI for making RuPay the most preferred card among Indian households for all their shopping and day-to-day purchases, he said. — PTI



Compound interest waiver: 75 pc borrowers to benefit, to cost govt Rs 7,500 cr, says report

MUMBAI: Over 40 per cent of the system credit and 75 per cent of the borrowers will benefit from the interest-on-interest concession for small loans which will cost the government around Rs 7,500 crore, says a report.

Last Friday, the government informed the Supreme Court that it will reimburse the banks the compound interest on small loans under Rs 2 crore irrespective of whether these borrowers had availed of the moratorium or not, provided the loan was standard as of end-February.

"Such loans account for over 40 per cent of the systemic credit and 75 per cent of borrowers, and the impact on the exchequer is around Rs 7,500 crore," Crisil said in a note on Monday.

The cost to the exchequer would be halved if the waiver is allowed only where moratorium, extended due to the pandemic, was availed of, it added.

To ensure effective and timely implementation, the government has asked lenders to credit the amount to eligible borrowers latest by November 5. This will be the difference between compound interest and simple interest over the six months of the moratorium period.

While lenders have to apply for reimbursement by December 15, the timelines for receipt of funds from the government are yet to be notified.

According to the agency, a complete interest waiver, including interest on interest, for the eligible loans up to Rs 2 crore would have meant a

Rs 1.5-lakh-crore impact and could have posed significant challenges for the government as well as the financial sector.

From a borrower's perspective, the benefit is relatively higher for those who had availed of higher-yielding loans and thus borrowers of unsecured, micro and gold loans will benefit more than those who had taken home loans.

Loan segments eligible for waiver are MSMEs, education, housing, consumer durables, credit cards, automobile, personal, professional and consumption.

According to Crisil, around 60 per cent of eligible loans were under moratorium as of end April, and the same is estimated to have come down to around 30 per cent as of end-August.



Modalities Finalized for Launch of Apple MIS in J&K

SRINAGAR: Director Horticulture Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today chaired a meeting of concerned officers, officers of the line departments, CA Stores Owners Association and fruit growers to finalise the modalities regarding preparations for launch of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), by Lt. Governor, UT of J&K Manoj Sinha on 28th of October here.

The Director informed that launching of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) by the Government will provide an effective marketing platform to apple growers and will ensure remunerative prices of apples resulting in avoiding any kind

of distress sales thereof.

During the meeting, the Director informed that the procurement of the Apple fruit will be made in five notified mandies at Jابلپورا-Anantnag, Parimpora-Srinagar, Shopian, Kulgam, & Sopore.

He said however on the demand from growers and its formal recommendations from Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, the venue of procurement centre Fruit Mandi Sopore has been shifted to Kanispora Baramulla.

In connection with the procurement process, the orchardists in the catchment area of the procurement centers will register online for pro-

urement of apples through Central Procurement Agency, NAFED on the official Horticulture website i.e., <http://hortikashmir.gov.in>.

It was further informed that the registration link has been established and the orchardists can get access from the home page of the official website from mid night of 26th October 2020 besides, the orchardist can also register by visiting designated notified mandies for registration.

The Director instructed all Chief Horticulture Officers and designated Market Inspectors to provide necessary assistance to fruit growers for their registration.

Kotak Mahindra Plans Takeover Of Smaller Rival IndusInd Bank: Report

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., backed by Asia's richest banker, is exploring a takeover of smaller Indian rival IndusInd Bank Ltd., people with knowledge of the matter said, a move that would create the nation's eighth-largest financial firm by assets.

Uday Kotak, founder and chief executive officer of Kotak Mahindra, is looking at the possibility of an all-

over of a lender in India. Deliberations are at an early stage and talks could fall through, the people said.

Kotak Mahindra's spokesman declined to comment. IndusInd "completely denies the said rumor and considers it malicious, untrue and baseless," the bank's external spokesman said in an email, adding the founders "reiterate their full support to IndusInd Bank,



stock acquisition, one of the people said, asking not to be identified as the talks are private. Uday Kotak and the Hinduja family have held initial talks over the proposal in which the founders of IndusInd Bank could retain a stake in the lender after a deal, another person said.

A deal would cement Kotak Mahindra's position as one of India's leading private banks, boosting its assets by about 83%. It would also throw a lifeline to IndusInd, which has seen its market value drop 60% to \$6 billion this year after being hit by concerns over worsening asset quality and an erosion of low-cost deposits. Kotak in 2014 acquired the local unit of ING Groep NV for 150 billion rupees (\$2 billion) in the largest take-

now and always." The U.K.-based Hinduja family began discussions for selling control of the Mumbai-based lender following a dispute between the four brothers over the future of the family's \$11.2 billion fortune, one of the people said.

India's central bank earlier this year pushed back on the Hinduja brothers' plan to raise stake in IndusInd, people with knowledge of the matter said in June.

IndusInd's shares have fallen 64% in the past year as investors fretted over the founders borrowing money against its shares, worsening asset quality, and erosion of low-cost deposits. The brothers have since repaid the loan backed by shares of the bank.

Sand Extraction from Nallah Sindh Hits Trout Farming

GANDERBAL: Taking advantage of present situation in the Kashmir Valley, the practice of extraction of sand and bajri and other material from Nallah Sindh is going on unabated in various places of Ganderbal district, while the concerned authorities are watching as mute spectators.

Sources said that despite the imposition of a blanket ban on the extraction of sand, bajri and boulders from the Nallah Sindh by the J&K High Court, illegal

stretch of river Sindh from Wail to Sarbal Sonamarg, a large number of tippers and tractors could be seen loading sand and other construction material extracted from the nallah. Locals further said that the prized trout fish has declined due to illegal mining, due to which the boundary walls of the nallah have caved in at many spots, which are meant to prevent floods.

Sources said that some persons are taking advantage of the prevailing pan-

FILE PIC



and extensive round the clock extraction of such materials is going on in Nallah Sindh from Wail to Sarbal Sonamarg.

"It is surprising that concerned authorities are not looking into this vandalisation of the resources," alleged the locals.

They said that materials like bajri and sand which are illegally extracted from Sindh are sold to the contractors of other areas, at much higher rates.

The trout fish production of Nallah Sindh is under a serious threat due to this illegal extraction, they said. They said that on the long

demic situation in Kashmir and are using JCBs and heavy machinery during the night hours to do the dirty job.

The practice has been continuing unabated, particularly in Sarbal area of Sonamarg, while officials of Flood Control, Fisheries and Geology Mining departments are watching this vandalism helplessly.

Such illegal activities of extraction of construction material, including illegal constructions are a great threat to the trout fish production in Nallah Sindh as it is considered to be the most important habitat for such species.

NEWS MAKERS

Employs of Wool Dev Board face pay disparity

SRINAGAR: Mohammad Shafi (name changed) is working in the Wool Development Board for more than 20-years. Shafi is now nearing his retirement. He is one among 85 employees of Wool Development Board who are on deputation to Sheep Husbandry Department since 2005. However, they are not entitled to benefits at par with employees of the Sheep Husbandry Department. "We do work like employees of Sheep Husbandry Department despite that we are not provided any benefit which employees of Sheep Husbandry Department or other departments get as per service rules,"

he said. It is becoming difficult for him to manage things at home.

"There are eight members dependent on me in my family. It becomes difficult for me to even pay fees to my three children on a meager salary. Most of employees of Wool Development Board are suffering from depression because of discrimination with us by the government," he said in a dejected voice. It was during Ghulam Nabi Azad's tenure as chief minister of erstwhile state that these employees were sent to Sheep Husbandry Department on deputation. Since then they are not getting benefits as per service rules like em-

ployees of other departments. "We see our future very bleak. Despite working in the Sheep Husbandry Department for the last 15-years and our service records have also been sent there, we are still facing pay disparity around Rs 20,000," he added. Another employee said that when they were sent on deputation they were told that the Wool Development Board will be merged with the Sheep Husbandry Department. "During Azad's tenure, a file was also forwarded to the Finance Department for approval. However, since then there has been no action," he said.

He said the nature of job for employees of Wool Development Board and Sheep Husbandry Department is the same. "Then why discrimination with us? A lower rank employee from Sheep Husbandry Department is getting a Rs 40,000 salary and we are still stuck at less than Rs 25,000 per month salary."

The employees said after the fall of Azad's government, the file was shelved. "Naveen Chowdhary when he was Principal Secretary Finance Department made a progress before he was transferred and then the file remained pending," he said.

Sensex plunges 540 points; Nifty sheds 162.60 points

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark Sensex plunged 540 points on Monday, tracking heavy losses in index majors Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank amid negative cues from global markets.

After tanking 737 points during the day, the 30-share BSE index recovered some lost ground to end 540 points or 1.33 per cent lower at 40,145.50.

The broader NSE Nifty tumbled 162.60 points or 1.36 per cent to 11,767.75.

Bajaj Auto was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, tumbling around 6 per cent, followed by M&M, Reliance Industries (RIL), Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, SBI, Axis

Bank and ICICI Bank.

Shares of RIL sank around 4 per cent after Amazon.com Inc won an interim arbitration award against its partner Future Group for selling its retail business to Reliance Industries for Rs 24,713 crore. On the other hand, Nestle India, Kotak Bank, IndusInd Bank, PowerGrid and HUL were among the gainers.

The Indian market opened on a subdued note following mixed global cues as coronavirus cases in the Europe surged and several countries considered re-imposing strict lockdown measures, said Narender Solanki, Head - Equity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rathi.

Continued from yesterday

Office of the Tehsildar Budgam

Annexure B

List of the beneficiaries approved by the empowered committee in respect of ownership rights in who have not deposited the amount into treasury

42	GH Hussain S/o Gh Rasool R/o Aram-pora	DO	833	1-11/2	Kawoosa Jagger	DO	157-50	153 20-7-11	---	--	---	DO	DO
43	Gh Mohd Wani S/o Ali R/o Machimur	DO	2589	5-12	DO	DO	560-00	149 DO	---	--	---	DO	DO
44	Mala Razaq S/o Mala Khazir, Mala Ahmad S/o Mala Sona, Mala Rasool S/o Mal Fatah R/o Hardu Malpora	DO	541/227	0-13-3, 0-13-3, 0-13-3	Mall Machihama	DO	66-50 66-50 67-00	148DO	---	--	---	DO	DO
45	Ab Rashid, Ab Hamid Ss/o Sultan (One Share) Ahad, Gh Nabi Ss/o Rahman (Two Shares) (11K-11M) Ali Mohd, Ab Majeed Sons two shares, Mst Raja D/o Abdullah one Share (5K-16M) R/o Mall Machihama	DO	277	17K-7M 5K-6M	Mall Machihama	DO	1735-00	150 / 20-1-11 154 / 20-7-11	---	--	---	DO	DO
46	Ali Dar S/o Qadir R/o Hiripora	DO	688	1-3	Hiripora	DO	115-00	791 / 4-4-8	---	--	---	DO	DO
47	Lasa Rashi S/o Habib R/o Dragger	DO	224	4-3	Check Dewan	DO	415-00	415/ --	---	--	---	DO	DO
48	Reshi Dar S/o Gaffar R/o Mirepora	DO	302	2-1 1/2	do		208-00	862/ 4-4-8	---	--	---	DO	DO
49	Aziz, Gh Ahmad Ss/o Ali Bhat 1K - 8M, Gaffar Sheikh S/o Amir 12 M	DO	464/90	2-0	Charangam	DO	200-00	---	---	--	---	DO	DO
50	Akbar Sofi S/o Ahmad	DO	86	1-	Najloo	DO	100-00	---	---	--	---	do	DO
51	Gh Nabi Khan S/o Mohd Akbar R/o SK Pora	DO	7	0-8-	SK Pora		40-00	789/ 4-4-8	---	--	---	do	5 Yrs
52	Mst Fatima Bano W/o Ab Aziz Shah R/o Beerwa	DO	1986, 1975, 1509	1-3	Beerwa	DO	115-00	152/ 14-9-9	---	--	---	do	4 yrs
53	Assad S/o Mohda Mir R/o Magam	DO	712 MIN	2-11, 1-6	Magam	DO	130-00	-	---	--	---	DO	DO
54	Mohd Maqbool Rather S/o Assad R/o Narbal	DO	149 Min	0-9-1	Narbal		460-00	--	---	--	---	DO	DO
55	Nazir Ahmad Parray S/o Sultan	DO		0-02-	Russu	100	10-00	--	---	--	---	DO	DO

Office of the Tehsildar Khag Showing the statement of Roshni residential approved cases

S.No	Name of applicant	Residence	Quantum Of Land		Received Stamped Rate	Current Rate Kanal	Value Of State Land Approved By Committee
01	Aziz Dar S/o Sultan Dar	Khag	01	07	505390/Kanal	505390 /Kanal	1,62000
02	Gh Hassan Sheikh S/o Akram Sheikh	Khag		09	DO	DO	59000
03	Ab Rahman Dar S/o Mohd Dar	Khag		10	Do	Do	60000
		Total	2	3			

Submitted in original with the remarks that despite notices served on the beneficiaries amount raised against land in question has not been deposited deserves to be evicted

Tehsildar Khag

Office of the Tehsildar Khag

Assami-wise statement of applicants in whose favour ownership rights in respect of occupied state land was approved

S.No	Name of applicant with parentage	Residence	Khaara no.	Area under occupation of soil	Kind of soil	State of land	Date since when under occupation	Date since when under occupation	No. & Date of land which sanctioned	Venue of land decided by committee	Mutation no.	Cost actually deposited by the applicant	Tr. No. and date	Nam. of treas.	Stage of rebate allowed
1	GH AHMAD SHAH S/O AHAD SHAH	KHA3	2151/1304	0	18	Abi Soom	04.04.08	04.04.08	DCB/SQIR/635/Khag/04.04.08	3494/20.11.12	90	5,03.08	T.V.01	Budgam	do
2	Ahmad Lone S/o Aziz Lone	do	2058/1339	3	2	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/631/Khag/04.04.09	33477/20.12.11	310	28.02.08	T.V.04	do	do
3	Rizyzer Mohd s/o Wazib Malik	do	5470/1368	2	10	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/727/Khag/04.04.10	3375	250	5,03.08	T.V.01	do	do
4	Rasool Mir S/o Ramzan Mir	do	3317/1303	0	18	1/2	do	do	DCB/SQIR/654/Khag/04.04.11	3359	32	28.02.08	T.V.04	do	do
5	Habib S/o Ramzan Mir	do	3317/1303	0	18	1/2	do	do	DCB/SQIR/653/Khag/04.04.12	3360	32	do	do	do	do
6	Ali Mohd S/o Ramzan Mir	do	3317/1303	0	18	1/2	do	do	DCB/SQIR/652/Khag/04.04.13	3439/20.12.11	32	do	do	do	do
7	Mohiuddin Mir S/o Ahmad Mir	do	2448/1339	0	11	1/2	do	do	DCB/SQIR/634/Khag/04.04.14	3475	57	do	do	do	do
8	Aziz Mir S/o Ahmad Mir	do	2448/1339	0	11	1/2	do	do	DCB/SQIR/633/Khag/04.04.15	3474	57	do	do	do	do
9	Farooq Mir S/o Ahmad Mir	do	2464/1339	0	11	1/2	do	do	DCB/SQIR/635/Khag/04.04.16	3473	57	do	do	do	do
10	Ahmad Wani S/o Jamal Wani	do	2017/1305	2	10	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/658/Khag/04.04.17	336/20.6.10	210	do	do	do	do
11	Assad Wani S/o Jamal Wani	do	2017/1305	2	10	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/659/Khag/04.04.18	3363/14.5.10	210	do	do	do	do
12	Farooq Reshi S/o Ahmad Reshi	do	20490/1332	1	9	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/665/Khag/04.04.19	3481/2012.11	145	do	do	do	do
13	Gh Ahmad S/o Mohd. Ramzan Malik	do	2179/1369	0	7	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/721/Khag/04.04.20	3513/23.1.11	35	do	do	do	do
14	Bashir Ahmad Malik	do	2181/1368	0	7	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/723/Khag/04.04.21	3512/22.1.11	35	do	do	do	do
15	Mohd Akbar Khan S/o Rahim Khan	do	3952/1368	3	5	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/651/Khag/04.04.22	3384/24.12.11	429	5.3.08	T.V.01	do	do
16	Basharat Ahmad S/o Gh. Mohd	do	2157/1304	0	11	1/2	do	do	DCB/SQIR/649/Khag/04.04.23	3471/20.12.11	47	5.28.02.08	T.V.04	do	do
17	Gh. Mohd Reshi S/o Gh. Ahmad Reshi	do	20490/1332	1	9	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/663/Khag/04.04.24	3497	145	do	do	do	do
18	Hamid Reshi S/o Ahmad Reshi	do	20490/1332	1	9	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/664/Khag/04.04.25	3480/20.12.11	45	do	do	do	do
19	Mehboob Khan S/o Fatah Khan	do	2178/1368	2	19	Labroo	do	do	DCB/SQIR/720/Khag/04.04.26	3455/20.12.11	295	do	do	do	do
20	Ab. Gani S/o Ramzan Bhat	do	2182/1368	1	4	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/719/Khag/04.04.27	3456/1.11.12	120	do	do	do	do
21	Mohammad Dar S/o Samad Dar	do	1339	1	0	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/701/Khag/04.04.27	3460/1.11.12	do	do	do	do	do
22	Rashi Ganale S/o Fatah Ganale	do	30632/1332	3	1	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/670/Khag/04.04.28	3457/1.11.12	305	do	do	do	do
23	Aziz Bhat S/o Qadir Bhat	do	2177/1368	3	0	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/721/Khag/04.04.30	3469/20.12.11	300	do	do	do	do

24	Ab. Rahman S/o Aziz Malik	do	3950/1368	1	0	Madani	do	do	DCB/SQIR/370/Khag/04.04.31	3449/20.12.11	145	do	do	do	do
25	Sonallah Mir S/o Ahmad Mir	do	2464/1339	0	11	1/2	do	do	DCB/SQIR/632/Khag/04.04.32	3476/20.12.11	57.5	do	do	do	do
26	Gh. Hassan Malik S/o Gh. Mohd. Malik	do	1368	6	7	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/664/Khag/04.04.33	3435/3.1.11	635	do	do	do	do
27	Khaliq Naik S/o Mohd. Naik	do	2502/1339	3	5	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/644/Khag/04.04.34	3466/20.12.11	325	do	do	do	do
28	Hassan Dar S/o Akbar Dar	do	20477/1339	1	0	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/666/Khag/04.04.35	3463/1.11.12	100	do	do	do	do
29	Bashir Ahmad S/o Ahmad Reshi	do	20490/1332	1	9	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/667/Khag/04.04.36	3478/20.12.11	145	do	do	do	do
30	Gh. Nabi Sofi S/o Mohd. Akbar Sofi	do	1368	4	3	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/700/Khag/04.04.37	3423	415	do	do	do	do
31	Khazir Mohd. S/o Ramzan Mir	do	3317/1305	0	18	1/2	do	do	DCB/SQIR/651/Khag/04.04.38	3441	22.5	28.02.08	T.V.04	do	do
32	Habibullah Sheikh S/o Ali Sheikh	do	1339	2	0	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/668/Khag/04.04.39	3511/22.1.11	285	do	do	do	do
33	Qadir Bhat S/o Mohd. Bhat	do	4106/1368	0	12	Labroo	do	do	DCB/SQIR/645/Khag/04.04.40	3462/1.11.12	30	do	do	do	do
34	Mohd. Akbar S/o Rahim Khan	do	2183/1368	1	6	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/711/Khag/04.04.41	3371/14.6.9	130	do	do	do	do
35	Farooq Khan S/o Fatah Khan	do	2178/1368	1	18	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/725/Khag/04.04.42	3467	190	do	do	do	do
36	Sonallah Dar S/o Abdullah Dar	do	3318/1332	0	7	Madani	do	do	DCB/SQIR/641/Khag/04.04.43	3465/1.11.12	35	do	do	do	do
37	Nizam-ud-din S/o Abdullah Shah	do	2185/1368	2	7	Labroo	do	do	DCB/SQIR/726/Khag/04.04.44	3468	236	do	do	do	do
38	Rizay Ahmad S/o Gh. Mohd	do	20157/1304	0	11	1/2	Madani	do	DCB/SQIR/648/Khag/04.04.45	3470	57.5	do	do	do	do
39	Rafiq Ahmad S/o Habib Malik	do	3470/1368	2	10	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/728/Khag/04.04.46	3352	250	do	do	do	do
40	Gh. Mohd. Shah S/o Ahad Shah	do	2151/1304	0	18	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/637/Khag/04.04.47	3493/20.12.11	90	do	do	do	do
41	Gh. Ahmad S/o Ab. Aziz Dar	do	1339	2	3	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/640/Khag/04.04.48	3463	215	do	do	do	do
42	Mohd. Saleem S/o Bahadur Khan	do	4087/1339	4	3	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/615/Khag/04.04.49	3389/14.5.10	415	do	do	do	do
43	Khaliq Bhat S/o Rahim Bhat	do	20149/1305	0	14	Labroo	do	do	DCB/SQIR/656/Khag/04.04.50	3358	20	do	do	do	do
44	Ab. Ahad Sheikh S/o Gh. Qadir Sheikh	do	3902/288	12	18	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/610/Khag/04.04.51	3516	1290	do	do	do	do
45	Gh. Nabi S/o Gh. Ahmad Sheikh	do	2460/1339	6	7	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/126/Khag/04.04.52	3517	635	do	do	do	do
46	Habib Mir S/o Karim Mir	do	1339	2	13	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/124/Khag/04.04.53	3454/1	285	do	do	do	do
47	Mohd Akram S/o Ahmad Sheikh	do	2507/339	4	6	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/618/Khag/04.04.54	3438	430	5.3.08	T.V.01	do	do
48	Haliz-e-din S/o Mohada Shah	do	1368	3	14	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/619/Khag/04.04.55	3459	370	do	do	do	do
49	Mohd. Akbar Mir S/o Abdullah Mir	do	1305	7	0	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/618/Khag/04.04.56	3458/1.11.12	700	do	do	do	do
50	Mohd Ashraf Malik S/o Ab. Gani Malik	do	2181/1361	3	5	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/731/Khag/04.04.57	3445/3.1.11	525	do	do	do	do
51	Ab. Ahad Shah S/o Syed Yaseen Shah	do	2125/1339	3	10	Madani	do	do	DCB/SQIR/691/Khag/04.04.58	3510/22.1.11	350	do	do	do	do
52	Mohd Aslam Khan S/o Shahzaman	Kokerba	4105/1368	1	3	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/639/Khag/04.04.59	3/48	115	do	do	do	do
53	Ab. Rahman S/o Assadullah Dar	do	3318/1332	0	7	do	do	do	DCB/SQIR/630/Khag/04.04.60	3568	35	do	do	do	do

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Continued from previous page

35.	Zalwah	Gh Rasool S/o Gh Hassan Telli R/o Gopal Pora	555, 469, 556 Min	04	19	do	do	do	do	do	2500000	495/-	17	20/02/08	21-01
36.	Do	Gh Mohd-ud-Din S/o Gh Hassan Telli R/o Gopal Pora	555, 469, 556min	04	19	do	do	do	do	do	2500000	495/-	17	20/02/08	Do
37.	Do	Mohd Sultan S/o Gh Hassan Telli R/o Gopal Pora	555, 469, 556min	04	19	do	do	do	do	do	2500000	495/-	17	20/02/08	Do
38.	Do	Lassa Bhat S/o Mohd Bhat R/o Gopal Pora	551, 553	05	08	do	do	do	do	do	540000	540/-	17	20/02/08	21-01
39.	Rakh Shalina	Bashir Ah S/o Mohd Sultan Telli R/o Rakh Shalina	1482	01	04	do	do	do	do	do	2400000	120/-	11	26/02/08	42-18-01
40.	Do	Gh Mohd S/o Gh Telli R/o Rakh Shalina	1482	01	03	do	do	do	do	do	2300000	115/-	11	26/02/08	44-21-01
41.	Gopal Pora	Mohd Amin S/o Ali Mohd R/o Gopal Pora	22min	00	17	do	do	do	do	do	900000	85/-	18	28/02/08	Do
42.	Do	Mohd Shafi S/o Ali Mohd R/o Gopal Pora	22min	00	17	do	do	do	do	do	900000	85/-	18	28/02/08	Do
43.	Zalwah	Mohd Shaaban S/o Ab Ahad Rather R/o Zalwah	566	01	08	do	do	do	do	do	700000	140/-	17	20/02/08	Do
44.	Gopal Pora	Anna S/o Ab Rihad Wani R/o Gopal Pora	78 min	00	13	do	do	do	do	do	2650000	265/-	18	28/02/08	20-02
45.	Zalwa	Farooq Ah S/o Ali	468min	02	00	do	do	do	do	do	200000	200/-	17	20/02/08	19-01

30-07 3035/-

46.	Zalwan	Ab Kashir S/o Lassi Mir R/o Gopal Pora	437	04	18	do	do	do	do	do	1450000	290/-	17	28/02/08	208
47.	Gopalpora	Haji Ambir S/o Ab Ramzan Bhat R/o Gopal Pora	28 33min	01	17	do	do	do	do	do	1850000	185/-	18	28/02/08	Do
48.	Zalwa	Gh Mohd S/o Habib-ullah Sheikh R/o Gopal Pora	560, 562	05	01	do	do	do	do	do	5500000	505/-	17	28/02/08	Do
49.	Gopal Pora	Farooq Ah S/o Ali ohd Bhat R/o Gopal Pora	12	01	06	do	do	do	do	do	1360000	130/-	18	28/02/08	Do
50.	Do	Nazir Ah S/o Ali Mohd Bhat R/o Gopal Pora	12	01	06	do	do	do	do	do	1360000	130/-	18	28/02/08	4-Do
51.	Do	Zahoor Ah S/o Ali Mohd Bhat R/o Gopal Pora	12	01	06	do	do	do	do	do	1360000	130/-	18	28/02/08	5-Do
52.	Wadipora	Salam Chopan S/o Amma Choupan R/o Bharampora	242min	04	08	do	do	do	do	do	440000	440/-	4	25/02/08	17
53.	Do	Mohd Akbar S/o Ab Rahim Wani R/o Wadipora	754, 208	00	13	do	do	do	do	do	65000	65/-	4	25/02/08	22
54.	Tarazikhud	Ab Gani S/o Jalla Sheikh R/o Kenihama	1, 2, 3	02	4	do	do	do	do	do	225000	222/-	13	26/02/08	26-13
55.	Tarazikhud	Rafiq D/o Ab Gani Sheikh R/o Kenihama	1, 2, 3	02	4	do	do	do	do	do	225000	222/-	13	26/02/08	26-13
56.	Wadipora	Jalal-ud-Din S/o Qadir Sheikh R/o Wadipora	742min	09	08	do	do	do	do	do	1000000	940/-	4	25/02/08	19
57.	Do	Ab Gaffar S/o R/o Wadipora	307	00	9	do	do	do	do	do	50000	47/-	4	25/02/08	6

3366/-

58.	R/o Wadipora	Ab Salam S/o Marwar Wani R/o Wadipora	307, 522	00	9	do	do	do	do	do	50000	47/-	4	25/02/08	17-03-1
59.	Do	Khalid S/o Ramzan Wani R/o Wadipora	307, 522	00	19	do	do	do	do	do	100000	95/-	4	25/02/08	12-Do
60.	Do	Ahmed & Behman S/o Ab Ahad Wani R/o R/o Wadipora	307, 522	00	19	do	do	do	do	do	100000	95/-	4	25/02/08	13-Do
61.	Gopal Pora	Ab Aziz S/o Gh Mohd-ud-din R/o Wadipora	139, 40, 149 min	08	13	do	do	do	do	do	4650000	865/-	18	28/02/08	21-01-02
62.	Wadipora	Ab Ahad S/o Noora Hajar R/o Wadipora	243 min	02	18	do	do	do	do	do	290000	290/-	4	25/02/08	18-17-03-02
63.	Rakh Shalina	Alli Mohd S/o Gh Hassan Wani R/o Rakh Shalina	1514	01	16	do	do	do	do	do	360000	180/-	11	26/02/08	40-18-01-02
64.	Do	Mohd Yusuf S/o Rasool Bhat R/o Rakh Shalina	14, 901, 491	00	18	do	do	do	do	do	180000	90/-	11	26/02/08	109
65.	Do	Mohd Yaseen S/o Rasool Bhat R/o Rakh Shalina	14, 901, 491	00	18	do	do	do	do	do	180000	90/-	11	26/02/08	108
66.	Do	Peroo Ah S/o Rasool Bhat R/o Rakh Shalina	14, 901, 491	00	18	do	do	do	do	do	180000	90/-	11	26/02/08	106
67.	Do	Ache Hassan S/o Rasool Bhat R/o Rakh Shalina	14, 901, 491	00	18	do	do	do	do	do	180000	90/-	11	26/02/08	107
68.	Do	Met Naseema D/o Rasool Bhat R/o Rakh Shalina	14, 901, 491	00	17	do	do	do	do	do	170000	85/-	11	26/02/08	104

20-03-2

20,72/-

69.	Rakh Shalina	Mst. Zubeda D/o Rasool Bhat R/o Rakh Shalina	14, 901, 491	00	17	do	do	do	do	do	170000	85/-	11	26/02/08	103
70.	Do	Mst. Firdousa D/o Rasool Bhat R/o Rakh Shalina	14, 901, 491	00	17	do	do	do	do	do	170000	85/-	11	26/02/08	102
71.	Do	Mst. Zeba D/o Rasool Bhat R/o Rakh Shalina	14, 901, 491	00	18	do	do	do	do	do	180000	90/-	11	26/02/08	105
72.	Do	Mohammad S/o Ab Rahim R/o Rakh Shalina	1514	03	08	do	do	do	do	do	680000	340/-	11	26/02/08	10-01
73.	Gopalpora	Barkat Ah S/o Gh Mohammad Bhat R/o Gopal Pora	78 min	02	13	do	do	do	do	do	2650000	265/-	18	28/02/08	20-0
74.	Do	Gh Ab S/o Gh Mohd Bhat R/o Gopal Pora	78 min	02	13	do	do	do	do	do	2650000	265/-	18	28/02/08	Do
75.	Do	Amnat Jan D/o Gh Mohammad Bhat	78 min	01	10	do	do	do	do	do	1500000	150/-	18	28/02/08	Do

76.	Sumberbagh	Mohammad Bhat S/o Mohd Sadiq Bhat R/o Sumberbagh	34, 350	03	19	do	do	do	do	do	1190000	395/-	15	26/02/08	8-02
77.	Bagh Hyder	Met Mugl D/o Amma Ganai R/o Sumberbagh	306	06	18	do	do	do	do	do	2085000	692/-	9	26/02/08	16-01
78.	Do	Gh Mohd-ud-din S/o Amma Ganai R/o Bagh Hyder	306	06	18	do	do	do	do	do	2085000	692/-	9	26/02/08	15-02-1

79.	Do	Gh Ahmed S/o Suman R/o Bagh Hyder	187	08	18	do	do	do	do	do	2570000	257/-	9	26/02/08	6-2
80.	Do	Ab Rahim S/o Mohd Murad R/o Hyatpora	224, 225	06	00	do	do	do	do	do	1800000	600/-	9	26/02/08	10-10
81.	Do	Qadir S/o Aziz Mansoor R/o Hyatpora	224, 225	03	10	do	do	do	do	do	1050000	350/-	9	26/02/08	4-1
82.	Do	Ahsan S/o Ahad Mir R/o Bagh Hyder	180	03	18	do	do	do	do	do	1170000	390/-	9	26/02/08	4-2-1
83.	Bagh Hyder	Ab Rahim S/o Sultan Mir R/o Bagh Hyder	45, 166	17	00	do	do	do	do	do	5100000	1700/-	9	26/02/08	17
84.	Do	Alli Mohammad S/o Rastak Nader R/o Hyatpora	234, 235, 244	11	11	do	do	do	do	do	3465000	1155/-	9	26/02/08	3-15
85.	Do	Ab Rashid S/o Hassan Mir R/o Bagh Hyder	121, 182	08	17	do	do	do	do	do	2655000	885/-	9	26/02/08	2-8
86.	Do	Bashir Ah S/o Hassan Mir R/o Hyatpora	131, 187	05	00	do	do	do	do	do	1500000	500/-	9	26/02/08	4
87.	Do	Gh Nadeem S/o Ahad Dar R/o Hyatpora	217, 247, 234, 235	07	09	do	do	do	do	do	2300000	730/-	9	26/02/08	17
88.	Do	Mohammad Ayub S/o Ahad Dar R/o Hyatpora	217, 247, 234, 235	07	09	do	do	do	do	do	2300000	730/-	9	26/02/08	Do
89.	Do	Mohammad Subhan S/o Ahad Dar R/o Hyatpora	217, 247, 234, 235	07	09	do	do	do	do	do	2300000	730/-	9	26/02/08	Do
90.	Do	Ab Salam S/o Noor Mir R/o Bagh Hyder	171	06	03	do	do	do	do	do	1908000	636/-	9	26/02/08	2-6
91.	Do	Habb S/o	171	06	03	do	do	do	do	do	1908000	636/-	9	26/02/08	5-2-8

99.79

99.25/-

92.	Kenihama	Ahsan S/o Satar Mir R/o Bagh Hyder	305	00	10	do	do	do	do	do	150000	50/-	9	26/02/08	9-2
93.	Do	Gulla S/o Ahad Yattoo R/o Hyatpora	241 min	05	10	do	do	do	do	do	1050000	550/-	9	26/02/08	7-15
94.	Do	Gulla Yattoo S/o Ahad Sheikh R/o Kenihama	1151	02	01	do	do	do	do	do	2025000	2025/-	13	26/02/08	26
95.	Zalwah	Gh Mohd S/o Gh Rasool Shah R/o Gopal Pora	252	02	07	do	do	do	do	do	800000	200/-	3	23/02/08	58-Do
96.	Pahroo	Noor-ud-Din S/o Habib Shah R/o Pahroo	1734	02	00	do	do	do	do	do	1015000	202/-	13	26/02/08	2-1
97.	Kenihama	Alli Mohd S/o Rustum Sheikh R/o Kenihama	1133	02	01	do	do	do	do	do	1015000	202/-	13	26/02/08	4
98.	Do	Bashir Ah S/o Rustum Saheikh R/o Kenihama	1133	02	01	do	do	do	do	do	1700000	850/-	2	25/02/08	6
99.	Brarigund	Fayaz Ah S/o Gani Shah R/o Brarigund	258	08	10	do	do	do	do	do	3450000	575/-	17	28/02/08	212-24
100.	Zalwah	Mohammad Hayat S/o Ab Gani Rather R/o Doonival	563	05	15	do	do	do	do	do	1180000	390/-	7	26/02/08	2-2
101.	Tarazikhud	Ab Gani S/o Mohamad Wani R/o Kenihama	42	05	10	do	do	do	do	do	570000	95/-	17	28/02/08	10
102.	Zalwah	Gh Rasool S/o Rahman Sheikh R/o	579	00	19	do	do	do	do	do	570000	95/-	17	28/02/08	37-4/-

37.11

37.4/-

103.	Rakh Shalina	Alli Mohd S/o Gh Ahmed R/o Rakh Shalina	1145	00	03	do	do	do	do	do	50000	15/-	11	26/02/08	39-20-06
104.	Do	Mohamad Yusuf S/o Gh Ahmed R/o Rakh Shalina	1145	00	03	do	do	do	do	do	50000	15/-	11	26/02/08	45-Do
105.	Do	Fayaz Ah S/o Gh Ahmed R/o Rakh Shalina	1145	00	03	do	do	do	do	do	50000	15/-	11	26/02/08	44-Do
106.	Do	Mohammad Ishaq S/o Gh Ahmed R/o Rakh Shalina	1145	00	03	do	do	do	do	do	45000	15/-	11	26/02/08	40-Do
107.	Pahroo	Gh Nabi S/o Amma Chanday R/o Pahroo	1920, 1938	00	04	do	do	do	do	do	129000	202/-	3	23/02/08	31-03-02
108.	Do	Mehraj S/o Assad Chanday R/o Pahroo	1920, 1938	00	04	do	do	do	do	do	129000	202/-	3	23/02/08	Do
109.	Do	Bashir Ahmed S/o Rasool Chanday R/o Pahroo	1920, 1938	00	04	do	do	do	do	do	120000	202/-	3	23/02/08	Do
110.	Do	Mohd Shafi S/o Rasool Chanday R/o Pahroo	1920, 1938	00	04	do	do	do	do	do	118000	202/-	3	23/02/08	Do
111.	Chattergam	Mohd Ibrahim S/o Abdallah Dar R/o Suthoo Kallan	2051	00	17	do	do	do	do	do	513000	85/-	1	25/02/08	18-2-06
112.	Do	Gh Mohd S/o Rehman Bhat R/o Chattergam	1328	00	01	do	do	do	do	do	68000	5/-	1	25/02/08	190-23-03-02
113.	Do	Nazir Ah S/o Rehman Bhat	1328	00	01	do	do	do	do	do	68000	5/-	1	25/02/08	191-Do

02.07

235/-

Campaign Ends For First Phase Of Bihar Assembly Election



PATNA: Curtain came down on Monday over campaign for 71 assembly segments of Bihar which go to polls on October 28, in the first phase of elections.

Leading the NDA charge, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew down to address as many as three rallies where he urged the voters to vote Chief Minister Nitish Kumar back to power.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, whose party is contesting the elections in alliance with Lalu Prasad RJD and three Left parties, also chipped in with two rallies.

The BJP's quest for dominance over the states political scene, evident from a seat-sharing deal as part of which it clinched nearly as many constituencies as the JD(U) its senior partner so far resonated during the election campaign.

Modi, as also other BJP star campaigners like Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and party president Jagat Prakash Nadda repeatedly cited Ram temple at Ayodhya, scrapping of Article 370 and law against triple talaq as achievements of the government at the Centre and attacked the opposition for opposing these.

The 69 years old Chief Minister, who is also the JD(U) president and is seeking a fourth term in power, carried out a strenuous campaign which began with a series of virtual rallies and has been followed by dozens of election meetings where he has been physically present, including two where he shared the stage with the Prime Minister.

The normally unflappable Nitish Kumar made news on more than one occasion for losing his cool and snapping at protesters from the opposition camp who turned up at his rallies raising slogans.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, who has been named by his party as its Chief Ministerial candidate, also ran an inde-

fatigable campaign which comprised rallies, video messages relayed through the social media and press conferences.

Massive turnouts and enthusiastic response from the crowds at his rallies have been a surprise for political observers who have underscored that the ambience spoke more of the anti-incumbency than the appeal of the former Deputy CM.

Another huge draw has been Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan who stunned all with his decision to go solo in the assembly polls.

The 37 years old began campaigning actively rather late, only after the customary mourning after the death of his father Ram Vilas Paswan was over on October 20.

The LJP chief has, thereafter, hit the streets with a vengeance canvassing for his candidates, a sizeable chunk of whom happen to be rebels from the BJP and the JD(U) which he has vowed to dislodge from power in the state while proclaiming loyalty towards the saffron party.

Other prominent leaders who have campaigned in the state so far include Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Smriti Irani, Congress leaders Raj Babbar and Shatrughan Sinha, BSP supremo Mayawati and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi.

CPI rising star Kanhaiya Kumar also joined the campaign, mainly for candidates of the Left parties.

Besides, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman flew down to release the BJP manifesto which promised, among other things, free corona vaccination.

Many prominent leaders fell prey to the contagion while campaigning, which saw them among large numbers of people without necessary vaccinations. These included Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and former Union ministers Rajiv Pratap Rudy and Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain.

Altogether 1066 candidates are in the fray for the first phase of elections, 114 of them females.



MINERAL MINING: Sand excavators loading boats and tippers with sand in Jhelum in the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo abid Bhat

Pompeo In India For Talks On China Threats

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in New Delhi on Monday, kicking off a four-country Asia tour that he has said will focus on the "threats" posed by China.

Joined by Defense Secretary Mark Esper for the two-day visit, Pompeo will hold top-level talks following a spike in tensions between India and China since a deadly border clash in June.

India has sought US cold weather equipment as the showdown goes into the freezing Himalayan winter and officials said this could be raised when Pompeo and Esper meet India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The world's two biggest democracies are expected to sign an agreement on sharing geo-spatial intelligence, paving the way for the United States to ship sophisticated



missile technology, officials said.

Esper will also be discussing ways to increase cooperation between the two countries' military forces.

This could include intelligence sharing, stepping up joint exercises, and arms sales -- including possibly US F-18 fighter jets.

Pompeo will go on from India to Sri

Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia, all of which have a key role in Indian Ocean maritime traffic where China has cast a greater shadow.

The secretary of state said ahead of the trip that his meetings would "include discussions on how free nations can work together to thwart threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party."

THE WORLD'S TWO BIGGEST DEMOCRACIES ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN an agreement on sharing geo-spatial intelligence, paving the way for the United States to ship sophisticated missile technology, officials said.

Modi Has Set Date For War With China, Pakistan: BJP Leader

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a date for war with Pakistan and China, according to a senior official of the Bharatiya Janata Party quoted by the Press Trust of India on Sunday.

The news agency said the BJP's Uttar Pradesh chief, Swatantra Dev Singh, told a meeting of party functionaries that Mr Modi had decided when the country would be at war with Pakistan and China.

The remarks were made on Friday amid tensions at the Line of Actual Control between India and China.

According to the report, quoted by several news outfits including NDTV and Indian Express, the BJP leader linked his claim to the beginning of construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya following a Supreme Court judgement and the abro-



gation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the constitution.

"Like the decisions on Ram Mandir and Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided when there would be war with Pakistan and China," he is heard saying in a video clip on social media.

"Sambandhit tihi tay hai (the date has been decided)," he said in Hindi.

Mr Singh was speaking at an event at the home of BJP MLA Sanjay Yadav, who released the video.

In his address, Mr Singh compared Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party workers with "terrorists".

Indian, Pakistani Women Diagnosed With More Aggressive Breast Cancer At Younger Age

HOUSTON: Indian and Pakistani women are diagnosed with breast cancer, including more aggressive forms, at a younger age, according to a study that provides an insight into understanding the risk factors influencing the disease.

The study, published in the International Journal of Cancer, examined the characteristics of breast cancer among Indian and Pakistani-American and non-Hispanic white women in the US using data from the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program.

Both, Indian and Pakistani women are diagnosed with more aggressive forms of the disease, at a younger age, according to the researchers.

The researchers, who are part of the Rutgers School of Public Health and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, reviewed incidence data among Indian and Pakistani women between

1990 and 2014.

"Our results provide an insight into breast cancer in Indian and Pakistani women, suggesting several hypotheses to guide future scientific studies to better understand the risk factors influencing disease etiology and prognosis," said Jaya M Satagopan, lead author and director of the Center for South Asian Quantitative Health and Education at the Rutgers School of Public Health.

South Asians are the fastest-growing major ethnic group in the United States with breast cancer rates increasing within the population, but little is known about the disease in this socio-culturally unique population, according to the study.

The researchers also reviewed the disease characteristics, treatment and survival data between 2000 and 2016 for 4,900 Indian and Pakistani women and 482,250 non-Hispanic white women with breast cancer.

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