

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P4 THINK

REMOTE LEARNING, UNEQUAL REACH

WE are soon going to enter the 16 month of the pandemic and it is showing no signs of receding. The virus seems to be growing more virulent with all the new variants that have emerged. The pandemic has disrupted our lives in several ways...

P5 THINK

NEW GEO-POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Outside my hotel in southern Beirut, there's a petrol queue more than a mile long. Emotions run high in the burning heat of the day. Many drivers have no petrol left. Every time the queue edges forward, they get out and push. Other cars sometimes try to barge in. That's when angry confrontations and



P8 SPORTS

VIRAT KOHLI GOES PAST 10,000 RUNS IN T20 CRICKET

India captain Virat Kohli on Sunday reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise) during his...



Widom Quote!

Mistakes are proof that you are trying
- Jennifer Lim

NEWS DIGEST

Ex- Militant Held After 20-Year Hunt

JAMMU: A former Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant on the run for 20 years was arrested Sunday in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Bashir Ahmad alias Jaffar Khan, a resident of Nowgam village, was wanted in a 2001 abduction and murder case in the jurisdiction of police station Marwah, a police. **More On P7**

Youth Dies Of Electrocution In Rajouri

JAMMU: An 18-year-old youth died of electrocution after he came in contact with live wire in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Sunday, officials said. The death of Mohammad Shohb triggered protests against the Power Development Department (PDD) by people in. **More On P7**

Two Drug Peddlers Held With Heroin

JAMMU: The police arrested two men from Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Sunday and recovered heroin from the possession, officials said. Tabrez Hussain and Sajjad Ahmad were found moving in a suspicious way in Talwara area and their search led to the recovery of some quantity of heroin, a police spokesperson said. **More On P7**

Active Cases In Ladakh Decline To 157

LEH: One person tested positive for COVID-19 in Ladakh, taking the overall infection tally to 20,778, officials said on Sunday. They said the active cases in the Union Territory dropped to 157 after the recovery of nine more patients from the disease. Ladakh has registered 207 Covid-related deaths -- 149 in.

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2 Militants Killed In Encounter

Slain Militants Were Involved in Murder Of BJP Leader, His Two Kin

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants were killed on Sunday in an encounter with the security forces in Bandipora district, police said.

Police had received information about the presence of militants in Watrina village of north Kashmir's Bandipora on Saturday evening, a spokesperson said.

Following this, a cordon and search operation was launched in the area by the police, the 14 Rashtriya Rifles, and the Central Reserve Police Force, he said, adding,

"Contact with the hiding terrorists was established on Sunday morning."

The holed-up militants were given multiple opportunities to surrender to which they did not pay any heed and fired indiscriminately at the joint search party. The security forces retaliated leading to the encounter, the police spokesperson said.

He said the two militants, identified as Azad Ahmad Shah and Abid Rashid Dar alias Haqani, were killed in the exchange of fire and their bodies retrieved. Arms and ammunition, including two AK-47 rifles. **More On P7**

TRF Militant Held In Jammu, Attack Foiled

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Sunday arrested a militant affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba near the Jammu Railway station, foiling a plan by the ultras to carry out an attack in the city. Sheikh Sunain Yousuf alias Raja alias Sultan, a resident of Gadapora village of south Kashmir's Shopian, was arrested and a pistol and seven rounds were recovered from him. **More On P7**

Mehbooba Calls Airshow 'Normalcy Acrobatics'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Alleging that the local administration has been reduced to being a "PR and propaganda machinery" instead of alleviating people's misery, former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday said she is amused that the Centre has continued its normalcy acrobatics in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mehbooba, president of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), said there are back to back ministerial visits followed by "PR antics" such as air show in Srinagar to showcase normalcy in the state.

"Amused that GOI continues its normalcy acrobatics in J&K. Back to back ministerial visits followed by PR antics such as Air Show in Srinagar to showcase normalcy when J&Ks shattered. **More On P7**

Except For 10th, 12th Standard, Schools To Remain Shut

Cap On Gathering Restricted To 25, Only Vaccinated People To Visit Parks

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday extended closure of schools barring 10th and 12th standards in the Union Territory, while allowing 25 persons in indoor or outdoor gatherings and 50 people in Banquet Halls in districts with lesser coronavirus cases.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary A K Mehta. Besides schools, the government has retained all the



COVID-19 containment guidelines, including night curfew. "Classes for 12th standard

shall be permitted with limited in-person teaching not exceeding 50% on a. **More On P7**

J&K Logs 127 Cases, 1 Corona Death

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Sunday 127 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while one more person succumbed to the virus in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to the officials, 104 new cases of coronavirus were reported from Kashmir Valley and 23 from the winter capital, raising the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 329008. In Valley, the officials said, Srinagar reported highest 56 cases followed by Baramulla with 13. **More On P7**



Will Restore 'Durbar Move' If Apni Party Comes To Power: Bukhari

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Describing the stopping of 'durbar move' as an unfortunate decision, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Sunday said his party would restore the age-old practice if it comes to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

The administration led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha discontinued the 'durbar move', a 149-year-old practice of rotating the seat of governance between the twin capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu on six-monthly basis, to save Rs 200 crore each year.

The decision to do away with the practice was taken after the administration completed the transition to e-office, which allowed the Civil Secretariat -- the seat of J&K government -- and other 'move' offices to function normally in both



Jammu and Srinagar. It would be our first decision on forming the government to restore the practice of durbar move, Bukhari said on the sidelines of a party function here. In an apparent reference to the traders' strike in Jammu on September 22 that among other things demanded continuation of the durbar move, the Apni Party leader said, Stopping. **More On P7**

Truce Breaks: India, Pak Trade Fire Along LoC In Kupwara

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The fragile peace along the Line of Control (LoC) was shattered on Sunday, as India and Pakistani troops traded gunfire in Teetwal sector, breaking the ceasefire agreement signed by the armies of the two neighbouring countries in February this year.

"Around 6:55 am, Pakistani troops opened fire towards Indian army positions in Teetwal sector. The soldiers returned the fire," a senior army official told Kashmir Observer on Sunday.

The officer, who wished not to be named, said that there's a high possibility that Pakistani troops violated ceasefire in a bid to push infiltrators across the LoC. He further said that the exchange of fire between the

two armies lasted for nearly ten minutes.

Pertinently, the cross-LoC firing comes six days after a senior army commander said that there has been no ceasefire violation along the LoC in Kashmir since the reiteration of the agreement between the armies of India and Pakistan in February this year.

"The ceasefire violations have not increased. This year there has been none (ceasefire violation). At least in the Kashmir Valley, there has been zero," the General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps, Lt Gen D P Pandey told reporters on the sidelines of a function here on Monday.

Pandey had said while there has been no instigation from Pakistan, the Indian Army was totally alert. **More On P7**

Woman, 2 Others Booked For 'Forging' DC's Signature

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police have filed a case and started a probe against three people, including a woman for allegedly forging signatures of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar and Joint Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) over the allotment of a shop.

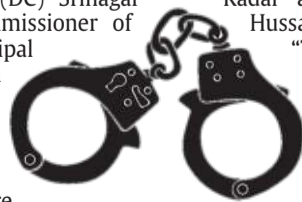
"Three individuals were caught with illegal and forged documents in the premises of SMC. Forged documents including allotment letters, rent deeds and lists with forged signatures of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and Joint Commissioner SMC were recovered," SMC

spokesperson said in a statement issued here on Sunday.

The official further said that an FIR was lodged at the Police Station, Shaheed Gunj against the trio identified as Fozia of Qamarwari, Muneer of Safa Kadal and Muhammad Hussain of Buchpora.

"They were handed over to the police for further investigation. SMC has made it clear that there would be zero tolerance to any such acts of criminal forgery or corruption," the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, a police officer said that the three accused have not been detained so far as the investigations in the case have been initiated.



IAF Mega Air Show Over Dal Lake Left Audiences Spellbound Pix Abid Bhat



A NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON SUNDAY WITNESSED THE ARIEL DISPLAY BY IAF as a part of the ongoing celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Fighter aircrafts of IAF executed perfect maneuvers for the large crowd gathered at Dal Lake and SKICC lawns. Pic/Abid Bhat

Apple Authorised Service Centre In Srinagar 'Duping' customers

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Apple users from Kashmir have accused its service centre in Srinagar of cheating them and charging them hefty amounts for a repair that is sometimes only a software bug.

Infahs Cybernetics Pvt Ltd in Karan Nagar Srinagar have been accused of malpractice for years by Apple users from Kashmir.

"The Apple service centre in Karan Nagar, Srinagar, duped me twice. My products were under warranty, and I was asked to



pay for the service, despite Apple's policy of providing free service and replacement. I refused to pay and was forced to send my products to an Apple service centre in Delhi, where they were replaced for free according to Apple policy," Umar Dewani from Chana-

pura Srinagar said.

He said that his MacBook malfunctioned and was in warranty, and this Centre refused to give free repair service. "My iPhone and iPad had minor glitches and both were in warranty. They said that it will come under paid service. I was asked to pay a hefty amount for the service. I googled the glitches and fixed it myself," he added.

A group of customers alleged that this Centre is running a third party Centre next to their shop and is sending customers there for repair. "They

more often send customers to a nearby service centre in order to make more money. They are not only deceiving customers, but they are also tarnishing Apple's image," a customer stated.

The consumers who demanded the closure of this Centre and called for strict action against them. "If this service centre doesn't provide us quality service, it should be shut down," another customer said.

When contacted, the officials at the service centre claimed that they completely adhere to the apple policy.

Demand Grows for Shifting of JD Information Office at Rambagh

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Joint Director Information office at Rambagh which operates from a rented building lacks all basic facilities and employees are demanding the office be shifted to a better place.

The employees say they have no access to even basic facilities like drinking water and there is no hassle free power supply even though most of the staff has to stay overtime as their work demands.

The office of Joint Director Information, which looks after Kashmir Division was shifted from Govt Press Complex located close to Srinagar Press Enclave to a private building in Rambagh a few years back for unknown reasons.

"A short circuit triggered panic among the employees due to unscheduled and improper

electricity supply some time back and ever since the power supply has not been fully restored to the office", an employee said.

In this digital era where everything depends on hassle free power supply, the employees of this office are suffering due to acute shortage of power supply.

The accessibility has become extremely difficult for the journalists too as the office falls far away from the city centre where most of the newspaper and other media houses are located.

Under this scenario, shifting of the office from Rambagh to some other place remains the only option, according to the employees.

When contacted Joint Director Information, Inam Ul Haq said that the matter has been taken up with the higher authorities.

KU professor thanks LG for acknowledging his suggestion during Radio Programme

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Prof. Geer Mohammad Ishaq, a Kashmir University professor has expressed his gratitude to Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha for mentioning his suggestion on reforming education post COVID-19 scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to LG Sinha for acknowledging my suggestions on improving school education in J&K during

his monthly programme Awaaz Ki Awaaz," said Prof Ishaq, who is Professor of Pharmacology at Kashmir University.

In his monthly Radio programme that was broadcast on September 19, the Lt Governor Sinha has termed Prof Ishaq's suggestions as the most thought-provoking steps related to reforms in school education.

The Lt Governor had underlined the indispensable need for inculcating the problem-solving skills, logical, creative

and scientific temper in the children in the realm of education in post covid scenario.

"He (Prof Ishaq) also outlined the efforts of the Department of School Education which is working continuously on the lines of the New National Education Policy," Sinha had said about Prof Ishaq's suggestions.

Prof Ishaq said that the keen interest shown by Lieutenant Governor in his suggestions and his elaborate response bears testimony to the fact that

education and governance is in safe hands in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

"This goes to show your statesmanship, in-depth understanding and stewardship in leading the UT towards a bright future," he said.

"I have been serving in the University of Kashmir over the last twenty years and at present am holding the additional charge of Director, Centre for Career Planning and Counselling (CCPC), University of Kashmir," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN
 e-mail:- rmbdivisonshopian@gmail.com (Phone / Fax No: 01933-260226)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
 Fresh to NIT 117 Sr 2, 4, & 5

NIT No: F/ 127/8113-22/ SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2021-22 Dated:- 25-09-2021

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

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion (In days)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	AAA No / Dt	TS No / Dt
1	Upgradation of Hajipora Chotigam Kharwara road by way of Providing and laying RBM, WBM-G-II and construction of cement Concrete Drain and B-Wall at Spots. (Balance Work)	D/Sector Roads	6.50	DEE/CEE	25 working days	300/-	80-DDCS of 2021. Dt:- 20-03-2021.	81/R&B/Div/Spn/2021-22. Dated:- 24-07-2021.
2	Repairment of Pathwar Khana Shopian.	4059-NFB D/Sector	2.00	DEE	25 working days	200/-	282-DDCS of 2021. Dated:- 11-09-2021.	113/R&B/Div/Spn/2021-22. Dated:- 15-09-2021.
3	Repair/ Renovation of Tehsil Office Shopian/ Fencing around Tehsil Office Shopian	4059-NFB D/Sector	4.00	DEE	25 working days	200/-	282-DDCS of 2021. Dated:- 11-09-2021.	113/R&B/Div/Spn/2021-22. Dated:- 15-09-2021.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-09-2021
2	Document downloading Start Date.	26-09-2021 From 10.00 A.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	01-10-2021 upto 4:00 P.M
4	Bid submission Start Date.	26-09-2021 From 10.00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	01-10-2021 upto 4:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05-10-2021 at 11:00 A.M

Bidders must upload the requisite cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan/Treasury Challan Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority). (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).

- All the Bidders have to upload / submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" enclosed).
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR within 03 Days before fixation of Contract.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).
- All other terms and conditions are as per PWD form-25 (Double agreement form)

No. : NIT/e-Tendering/8123-25
 Dated:- 25-09-2021
 DIPK-9469/21

Executive Engineer
 PW(R&B) Division Shopian

DIPR organises Mehfil Mushaira, Musical programme at Doodpathri

KO NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: The Cultural Unit Srinagar of DIPR in collaboration with Markaz e Adab wa Saqafat organised an impressive literary event at famous tourist resort Doodpathri, here.

On the occasion a scintillating music and cultural programme was presented, besides, poetry collection of Baba Ab.Khalig and revised edition of Nunposh by noted poet and writer Prof. Mohd.Zaman Azurda were also released.

A Mehfil Mushaira was also conducted during which the luminaries of Kashmiri

literature presented their poetic masterpieces.

The literary event was graced by a galaxy of poets and writers of Kashmir including President Abdi Markaz Kamraz, M Amin Bhat, Prof Mohd.Zaman Azurda, Prof. Shad Ramzan, Prof. Farooq Fayaz, Mushtaq Mehram, Inayat Gul, Yunus Waheed, Ali Ahsan, Syed Shakeel Shan etc.

Speakers presented thought provoking papers on the critical appreciation of the books released during the programme. Ways means for promotion and preservation of Kashmiri language and literature.

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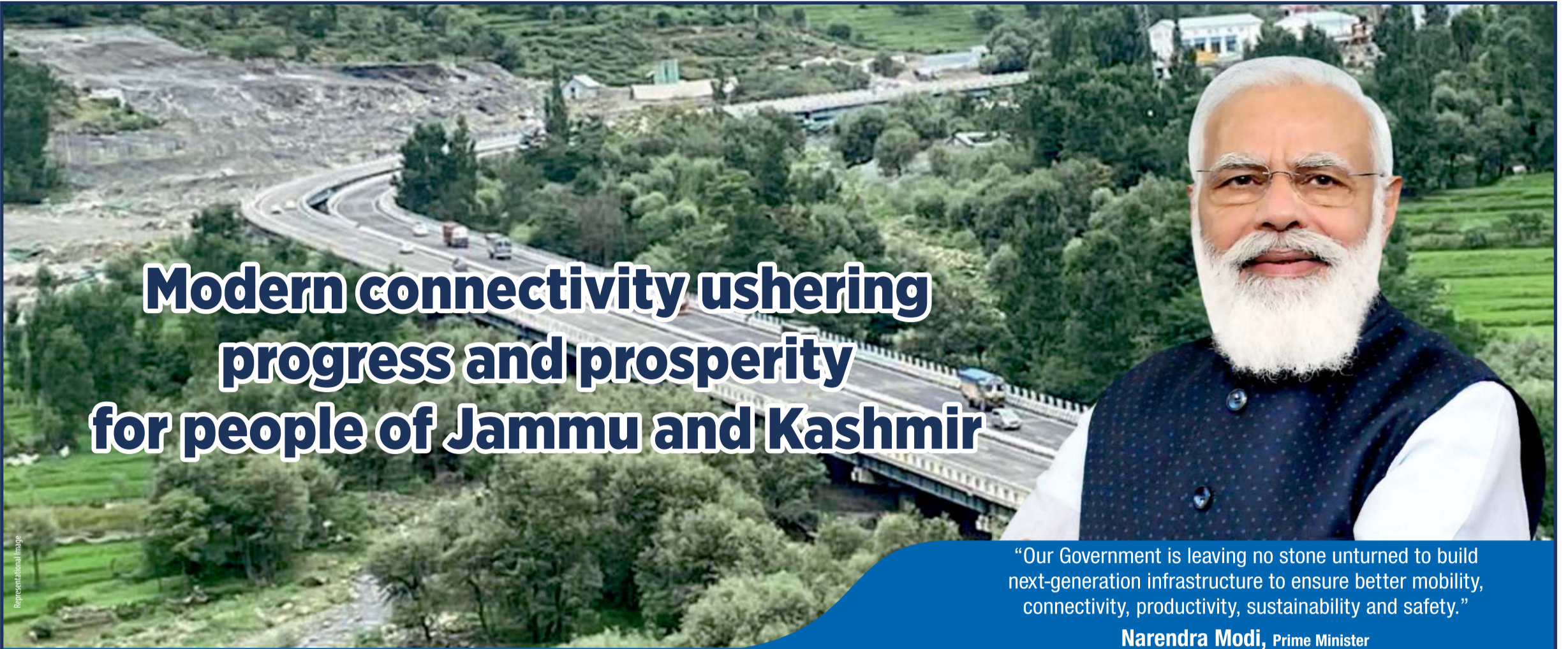
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“Our Government is leaving no stone unturned to build next-generation infrastructure to ensure better mobility, connectivity, productivity, sustainability and safety.”

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Foundation Stone Laying and Commencement of work for 4 National Highway Projects of Total Length 121 KM with an Investment of ₹ 3612 Cr.

on 27th September, 2021 (Monday) | Time: 10.30 AM | Venue: SKICC, Boulevard Road, Srinagar

Foundation Stone Laying of

Strengthening and Upgradation of existing carriageway on Baramulla-Gulmarg Section of NH-701A

Total Length: 43 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 146 Cr.

Construction of new 2 Lane bypass from Donipawa via Ashajipora to connecting NH-244 & NH-44

Total Length: 8 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 261 Cr.

Construction & Upgradation to 2 Lane/4 Lane from Vailoo to Donipawa on Khellani Khanabal Section of NH-244 (Package-VI)

Total Length: 28 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 285 Cr.

Commencement of Work

Construction of 4 Lane Ring Road/Bypass around Srinagar city (Phase-I)

Total Length: 42 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 2920 Cr.

Benefits of Projects

- Baramulla Gulmarg road connects major tourist destinations in J&K
- NH 244 will provide all weather connectivity between Jammu & Srinagar
- The ring road will connect all major roads leading to various district headquarters
- NH-44 & NH-244 bypass road will reduce the traffic congestion at Anantnag town
- Strategically important for swift movement of defence forces
- Boost to agricultural, industrial & socio-economic progress of the region
- Projects will facilitate health care & emergency service to the remotest areas
- Generation of employment & self-employment opportunities

By

Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways

In the august presence of

General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd)

Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways

Manoj Sinha

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir

Dr. Farooq Abdullah

Member of Parliament (LS), Srinagar

Mohammad Akbar Lone

Member of Parliament (LS), Baramulla

Hasnain Masoodi

Member of Parliament (LS), Anantnag



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Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Government of India

BHARATMALA ROAD TO PROSPERITY

NHAI

MIDCL BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE - BUILDING THE NATION

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



"Sunday should officially be declared as a "Visit a Private Clinic Day" in #Kashmir. Over crowded private clinics & diagnostic centres are a symbol of a deficient public health care system"

@Habeellqbal

"CDC and FDA approve booster Pfizer COVID-19 shots for health-care workers, nursing home staff, grocery store employees, prison personnel, teachers, anyone who works in a close congregate setting, and those who are 65 and older or who have immune-compromising conditions"

Parvaiz Koul

"Do boys understand that not being questioned by your parents on your every move is such a privilege? Not hearing a no when you tell your parents something as simple as going out with friends. I hate being a girl. And I hate being a daughter"

@maryammsk

Set the Record
Straight



The Centre has adopted an opaque approach to the Pegasus revelations. In Parliament, the new information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnav's defence rested on the fact that there has been no illegal interception. Responding to a written question, the ministry of defence said it had not procured any such software — thus washing its hands of the affair, but this left open the question of whether other government departments and agencies had done so. Another ministry cried off a question claiming the matter was sub judice. And with the Centre avoiding a discussion on the issue as demanded by the Opposition, the entire monsoon session was disrupted.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, on behalf of the Centre, then used the national security argument, pleading that any public disclosure on whether or not the software was used would harm the security of the State, enable terrorists to take preventive steps, and said that the government was willing to divulge details to a committee. The court has issued a notice to the Centre and will take up the matter in 10 days again.

In the Supreme Court, which is hearing a bunch of petitions on the matter, the Centre denied the allegations in the petitions, saying they were based on "conjectures, surmises, unsubstantiated media reports or incomplete or uncorroborated material". It also offered to set up a committee of experts to go into all aspects of the issue. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, on behalf of the Centre, then used the national security argument, pleading that any public disclosure on whether or not the software was used would harm the security of the State, enable terrorists to take preventive steps, and said that the government was willing to divulge details to a committee. The court has issued a notice to the Centre and will take up the matter in 10 days again.

has issued a notice to the Centre and will take up the matter in 10 days again.

The Centre is tying itself up in knots to evade the central question in this case — did the government of India procure Pegasus, and did it authorise its use? To suggest that disclosing this will help terrorists isn't a smart argument, for they probably already operate based on the assumption that the Indian State has this technology. More importantly, the State owes an answer to citizens, who do not constitute a threat to it, about whether there has been an invasion of privacy, a fundamental right. The government must shed the ambiguity even if the answer is an uncomfortable one.

The article first appeared in The Hindustan Times



Remote Learning,
Unequal Reach

Virtual learning during pandemic which is responsible for keeping kids out of school has affected the poor disproportionately

Dania Sheikh

WE are soon going to enter the 16 month of the pandemic and it is showing no signs of receding. The virus seems to be growing more virulent with all the new variants that have emerged. The pandemic has disrupted our lives in several ways. One sector which has been one of the hardest hit is the education sector. With the anticipation that the third wave is going to target children as most of the adult population has already been infected, the possibility of reopening of schools seems to be out of the question.

The impact of the closure of schools for such a prolonged period has been tremendous. There has been an uptick in mental health issues among children because of the uncertainty induced by the pandemic. The suspension of physical classes

has not only taken a blow at student's education but also their physical, emotional, and mental well being.

In the case of children belonging to the marginalized sections, they have also faced nutritional inadequacies because of the non-availability of mid-day meals. This section of our society has suffered disproportionately. Lack of adequate resources and internet facilities has inhibited them from continuing their education. According to an India sped report, only 15% of rural households have access to internet facilities and this figure drops down further in the case of Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims, and women. Their education has taken a nosedive but this isn't their only concern, they have more pressing issues to deal with.

The pandemic has not only brought their education to a standstill but has also posed a threat to their lives. A UNESCO report states that children belonging to

In the case of children belonging to the marginalized sections, they have also faced nutritional inadequacies because of the non-availability of mid-day meals. This section of our society has suffered disproportionately

marginalized families are at an increased risk of infection due to the lack of access to water and soap and the impossibility of physical distancing. The economic hit back suffered by the marginalized section has brought a change in their priorities, their primary concern during these desperate times is to sustain themselves, and they're doing everything in their capacity to make ends meet. A Brut India

report showed that many children, children as young as 4 are being pushed into child labor and child trafficking by their parents to bring food to the table. The report reveals that children are being pushed into sexual labor for something as basic as 2kg of atta/flour. This tells us a lot about the plight of the impoverished in our country.

The government has several policies in place to address the needs of the marginalized sections but the stories that are emerging on social media show that there has been a failure of the execution of these well-intended policies.

The ramifications of the setback of the education sector are not transient, even after the pandemic gets over and schools reopen, there'll be many who won't return to schools, especially girls. This is because of the sexist parochial notion which prevails predominantly in rural areas. Many surveys reveal that there has been an upsurge in child marriages. As the old saying goes, a stitch in time saves 9; it is high time that the government gets alert and takes the necessary steps to ensure that education is not disrupted because if this continues unabated, it is going to create other problems which will be difficult to resolve.

Education is the antidote for most of the problems that we are encountering, neglecting it will take us in a downhill spiral. It is well established that a lower literacy rate heightens the crime rate and other social evils in the society. Moreover, turning a blind eye to the catastrophe suffered by the marginalized sections is not only inhumane but against the utilitarian principle (maximum happiness of the maximum number) that the world operates by, it will reverse the progress that our country has made over the past 70 years. It is appalling that at a time when there should have been an increase in the budget allotted to the educational sector, we have witnessed that it has been reduced. There is an urgent need to ameliorate the education sector by spending adequately, bridging the digital divide is crucial to deliver justice to millions of children who are excluded because of being situated in the lower socio-economic strata, the welfare system has to be bolstered to develop human capital. A country that has been founded on socialist principles must assume its duty, carry out the constitutional mandate and make the necessary intervention to ensure social justice.

On September 21, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson met with US President Joe Biden at the White House. The talks were nothing short of a diplomatic coup for London.

They came right after the announcement of the so-called AUKUS, a three-way partnership between the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. Under its terms, the government in Canberra agreed to procure American nuclear-propelled submarines with the aim of modernising the Australian navy.

The UK joined in, turning the defence deal into a security pact focused on the Indo-Pacific region. All of this came to the detriment of France whose \$38.6bn contract with Australia to build 12 diesel submarines was scrapped.

For Johnson, this whole story feels like a vindication of Global Britain, the mantra positing that post-Brexit UK, liberated from Europe's shackles, is free to assume a larger role in world affairs, diversifying its foreign policy partnerships. The free trade agreement signed recently with Australia and the hosting of COP26, the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, are two more feathers in the British prime minister's cap — although he is yet to secure a much-wanted signal from Washington that a trade deal with the UK is a priority for the US.

While the Biden administration is embroiled in a fight with France over the submarine sale, it appears the UK — rather than the pesky Europeans — is a partner of choice for the US, as it faces off with China, its principal geopolitical rival.

Reality, as ever, is more complex than what Johnson would like to present it. For starters, neither the UK nor France has the capability to affect the military balance in the Indo-Pacific region. The fact that the Royal Navy has deployed in the region HMS Queen Elizabeth, one of its two aircraft carriers, along with a strike group and two further patrol vessels, changes little. The same goes for the Mission Jeanne d'Arc and Operation Clemenceau 21 carried out by the French or the presence of its military personnel across the area.

What is happening in the region is a strategic game which involves China, on the one hand, and the US with its regional allies and partners, such as Japan, Australia and India (the so-called Quad) as well as South Korea, Vietnam and New Zealand, on the other.

Is NATO in crisis?

The security pact between the US, UK and Australia did not cause a rift within NATO, but it is not helping strengthen the alliance, either.

Dimitar Bechev



For Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, the opportunity to deepen defence ties with the US strengthens Australia's hand against a growingly assertive China. To be fair, there are costs too: the American-built subs will not be operational for a long time to come, while the French contract could have been put into use more speedily, giving the Australian navy a boost. But in truth, the US is the one security player that matters and can offer protection vis-à-vis China.

Will AUKUS upset NATO, putting the UK and France, the two leading European allies, at odds? According to a recent article in Global Times, the mouthpiece of the Chinese government, and some observers, the North Atlantic Alliance is bound to take a hit. Indeed, the sharp exchange of rhetoric, the withdrawal of French ambassadors from Canberra and Washington, and the cancellation of a UK-French ministerial meeting on missile collaboration could create the impression of a deepening crisis.

But this is likely only a temporary spat. There are several reasons why a more serious rift cannot occur. First of all, London and Paris

have clashed on more than one occasion before, notably over the invasion of Iraq in 2003, but none produced a lasting crisis.

Secondly, they have robust bilateral ties in security and defence. This was underscored in 2010 by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister David Cameron signing the so-called Lancaster House Treaties, which cover a number of issues — from cooperation on maintaining nuclear arsenals to setting up a joint expedition force to counter terrorism.

Thirdly, the rest of NATO members, as well as Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, are staying away from the dispute to avoid negative fallout. They would rather wait for the French and the Americans to patch things up and there are already signs this is happening. After a phone call on September 22, presidents Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron issued a conciliatory joint statement. The French ambassador is returning to Washington next week and tete-a-tete between the two leaders is imminent.

But Beijing has a reason to be happy. The AUKUS crisis gives France and perhaps others in the

EU an excuse to distance themselves from the hawkish stance of the Biden administration vis-à-vis China.

What of the EU? France has used the crisis to argue the case for a more robust European foreign policy. The submarine debacle "only heightens the need to raise loud and clear the issue of European strategic autonomy", read a statement by Jean-Yves Le Drian and Florence Parly, the foreign and defence ministers.

The president of the EU Council, Charles Michel, and Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the European Commission, have rallied behind Macron too, accusing Biden of following in the footsteps of Trump and his America First policies.

Yet it is far from clear if this message resounds in EU capitals. Certainly not in Berlin, where the forthcoming federal elections top the agenda. There also is no shortage of sceptics who see the strategic autonomy agenda as undermining the alliance with the US.

Others are wary of being dragged into an unnecessary fight with the Americans because of the French. "What's of concern is that Paris is presenting something which was essentially a bilateral business deal as a blow to the EU as such," an unnamed diplomat from Central Europe told Politico.

Yet France is partly right. With the US growingly focused on China and the Indo-Pacific, Europeans should take care of their own security. That involves standing up to Russia, projecting stability in the Mediterranean region, countering malign interference in domestic affairs, fighting transnational terrorism and crime. Achieving those goals necessitates closer cooperation between France and the EU, on the one hand, and the UK, on the other.

Sadly, the prospects for such cooperation are not very good. There might not be a full-blown rift in the offing between Paris and London, but relations are in a bad shape and unlikely to improve. AUKUS is in no way a turning point for European security, but it does not help either.

The author is Europe's Futures Fellow at the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna. The article was originally published by Al Jazeera

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

New Geo-Political Landscape

From South Asia to Middle East a new architecture is under construction at an astonishing speed.

Peter Osborne

All the drivers in the petrol queue tell me of their utter contempt for the politicians who run their country. With Lebanon facing what the World Bank calls one of the worst economic crises since 1850, one of the most despised men in the country today is Prime Minister Najib Mikati.

Outside my hotel in southern Beirut, there's a petrol queue more than a mile long. Emotions run high in the burning heat of the day.

Many drivers have no petrol left. Every time the queue edges forward, they get out and push. Other cars sometimes try to barge in. That's when angry confrontations and fights occur.

I walk down the queue talking to drivers. Some have lost their jobs. I ask how they plan to feed their families, and to pay for electricity, rent and water. They have no answers.

Even those lucky enough to keep their jobs are desperate. Fouad, a 50-year-old state employee, tells me how the currency crash has destroyed the value of his salary: "Before the crisis, I had \$3,000 a month. It's now \$150."

I ask how he can support his wife and three children, two of whom are in school. He throws his arms up in the air. "I don't know. God help me!"

Fouad has been waiting four hours for petrol, and I'd guess there are another three or so hours to go.

Hopeless future

A prosperous-looking man in a polo shirt accosts me. He says: "I used to eat meat every day. Now I eat meat one day per month."

He's one of the luckier victims of Lebanon's economic disaster. Again and again, I hear the same story: no money, no job, no electricity. A hopeless future. And mounting, burning, inchoate rage against the Saudi- and US-backed government. One man shouts at me: "If I meet a minister, I will kill them."

All the drivers in the petrol queue tell me of their utter contempt for the politicians who run their country. With Lebanon facing what the World Bank calls one of the worst economic crises since 1850, one of the most despised men in the country today is Prime Minister Najib Mikati.

He's barely been in power six weeks, but the appointment of this billionaire businessman - hailed by Forbes as the richest man in Lebanon - was not popular. With Lebanon sinking into an economic and social morass, he's seen as the representative of the morally bankrupt ruling elite who caused the crisis.

Perhaps only one man is disliked more: Riad Salameh, who has served as governor of Lebanon's central bank since 1993, making him one of the world's longest-serving bank governors. Once hailed as a financial magician, he's now blamed by many for the current mess - and with so many losing their savings and their jobs, it's not hard to see why.

With Lebanon in ruins, it's become reasonable to ask whether the Lebanese financial and political model of the post-civil-war years - soft Saudi loans and hard US and European support - can survive. And reasonable to ask what replaces it.



Entrenched corruption

Elections scheduled for next spring may not help much. Lebanon's confessional system, in which high offices of state are reserved for religious groups (the president must be a Maronite Christian, for example, and the prime minister a Sunni Muslim) was invented to avoid sectarian conflict. Today, it simply entrenches corruption and venality.

Karl Marx noted long ago that economics drives politics. If that's correct, then many things must change if complete social and economic collapse is to be avoided in Lebanon.

Whether you like it or not - and many don't - only one organisation has emerged stronger and more respected from the current catastrophe: Hezbollah. And only one major figure: Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah.

With the political system paralysed by the fuel crisis, Nasrallah acted to bring diesel oil into the country from Iran. At first he was mocked, but now the tankers have crossed the border overland from Syria into Lebanon.

The move has been denounced by Mikati as a "violation of Lebanese sovereignty". Not many agree with him.

One man who had lost his job during the crisis told me: "I am Lebanese. I want to eat. I am grateful to anyone who can help."

Worrying for the prime minister, even some sympathisers are saying the same thing. In an interview with Al Mayadeen, Cesar Maalouf, an

MP for the pro-US and pro-Saudi Lebanese Forces party, thanked the "brotherly country" of Iran for "helping the Lebanese people" in their time of trouble. He explained: "We are all going hungry. We are all being humiliated today. If you have a problem with Hezbollah and its weapons, put this problem aside."

New political landscape

Significantly, Maalouf also criticised a promise of fuel from US ambassador Dorothy Shea as "too little, too late".

No wonder. Such is the scale of the crisis that the US has been obliged to give in to Hezbollah. It had no choice; Lebanon is in mortal need.

A new regional architecture is under construction at astonishing speed.

Hezbollah made its disdainful move against the wishes of the Lebanese political establishment and the US. Because the oil was shipped via Syria, the purchase defied the Caesar Act, which sanctions the Syrian government.

Nasrallah's audacity has paid off, presenting fresh evidence of a new political landscape swiftly emerging across the Middle East. Barely a month has passed since Kabul fell to the Taliban - but the consequences across the region are already momentous.

A new regional architecture is under construction at astonishing speed. And the drivers in the petrol queue are at last being offered a glimmer of hope.

The article was originally published by The Middle East Eye

Two weeks after your second COVID-19 vaccine dose, the protective effects of vaccination will be at their highest. At this point, you're fully vaccinated. If you still get COVID-19 after this point, you've suffered a "breakthrough" infection. Broadly speaking, breakthrough infections are similar to regular COVID-19 infections in unvaccinated people - but there are some differences. Here is what to look out for if you've had both jabs.

According to the COVID Symptom Study, the five most common symptoms of a breakthrough infection are a headache, a runny nose, sneezing, a sore throat and loss of smell. Some of these are the same symptoms that people who haven't had a vaccine experience. If you haven't been vaccinated, three of the most common symptoms are also a headache, sore throat and runny nose.

However, the two other most common symptoms in the unvaccinated are fever and a persistent cough. These two "classic" COVID-19 symptoms become much less common once you've had your jabs. One study has found that people with breakthrough infections are 58% less likely to have a fever compared with unvaccinated people. Rather, COVID-19 after vaccination has been described as feeling like a head cold for many.

Vaccinated people are also less likely than unvaccinated people to be hospitalised if they develop COVID-19. They're also likely to have fewer symptoms during the initial stages of the illness and are less likely to develop long COVID.

The reasons for the disease being milder in vaccinated people could be because vaccines, if they don't block infection, seem to lead to infected people having fewer virus particles in their body. However, this has yet to be confirmed.

What raises the risk?

In the UK, research has found that 0.2% of the population - or one person in every 500 - experiences a breakthrough infection once fully vaccinated. But not everyone is at the same risk. Four things appear to contribute to how well you are protected by vaccination.

Four Factors That Increase The Risk Of Vaccinated People Getting Covid

Vassilios Vassiliou | Ciaran Grafton-Clarke | Ranu Baral



1. Vaccine type

The first is the specific vaccine type you received and the relative risk reduction that each type offers. Relative risk reduction is a measure of how much a vaccine reduces the risk of someone developing COVID-19 compared to someone who didn't get vaccinated.

Clinical trials found that the Moderna vaccine reduced a person's risk of developing symptomatic COVID-19 by 94%, while the Pfizer vaccine reduced this risk by 95%. The Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca vaccines performed less well, reducing this risk by about 66% and 70% respectively (though protection offered by the AstraZeneca vaccine appeared to rise to 81% if a longer gap was left between doses).

2. Time since vaccination

But these figures don't paint the complete picture. It's becoming increasingly evident that length of time since vaccination is also important and is one of the reasons why the debate over booster immunisations is growing in intensity.

Early research, still in preprint (and so yet to be reviewed by other scientists), suggests that the Pfizer vaccine's protection wanes over the six months following vaccination. Another preprint from Israel also suggests that this is the case. It's too soon to know what happens to vaccine efficacy beyond six months in the double vaccinated, but it's likely to reduce further.

3. Variants

Another important factor is the variant of the virus that you're facing. The reductions in risk above were calculated largely by testing vaccines against the original form of the coronavirus.

But when facing the alpha variant, data from Public Health England suggests that two doses of the Pfizer vaccine is slightly less protective, reducing the risk of getting COVID-19 symptoms by 93%. Against delta, the level of protection falls even further, to 88%. The AstraZeneca vaccine is also affected this way.

The COVID Symptom Study backs all of this up. Its data suggests in the two to

four weeks after receiving your second Pfizer jab, you're around 87% less likely to get COVID-19 symptoms when facing delta. After four to five months, that figure falls to 77%.

4. Your immune system

It's important to remember that the above figures refer to average risk reduction across a population. Your own risk will depend on your own levels of immunity and other person-specific factors (such as how exposed you are to the virus, which might be determined by your job).

Immune fitness typically reduces with age. Long-term medical conditions may also impair our response to vaccination. Older people or people with compromised immune systems may therefore have lower levels of vaccine-induced protection against COVID-19, or may see their protection wane more quickly.

It's also worth remembering that the most clinically vulnerable received their vaccines first, possibly over eight months ago, which may heighten their risk of experiencing a breakthrough infection due to protection waning.

Do you need to worry?

Vaccines still vastly reduce your chances of getting COVID-19. They also to an even greater degree protect against hospitalisation and death.

However, it's concerning seeing breakthrough infections, and the worry is that they might increase if vaccine protection does, as suspected, fall over time. Hence the UK government is planning to give a booster dose to those most vulnerable, and is also considering whether boosters should be given more widely. Other countries, including France and Germany, are already planning on offering boosters to groups considered to be at higher risk from COVID-19.

But even boosters end up being used, this shouldn't be interpreted as vaccines not working. And in the meantime, it's essential to promote vaccination to all those eligible who have not yet been vaccinated.

The article is being reproduced here by arrangements with The Conversation



Top Fruit For Diabetics And Why They're Good For You

AGENCIES

Eating fruits is one of the most satisfying ways to tackle sweet-tooth cravings while meeting your nutritional needs. Despite many studies and research on fruit consumption in diabetes, there are a lot of speculations on the right kind of fruit consumption and its relation to blood sugar levels.

Eating seasonal and locally available fruit has many health benefits—ranging from reducing sugar and inflammation levels to fighting high blood pressure—thanks to their abundant vitamins and mineral presence! They are a powerhouse of antioxidants like vitamins A, B, C, E, and minerals like iron, calcium, magnesium, and fiber.

The fruits listed below are not just diabetic-friendly but are loaded with fiber and water content which can slow down the sugar spikes and sugar absorption rate.

Apples are not just nutritious and filling; according to a study, they are significantly associated with a lower risk of type 2 diabetes if consumed in

moderation. Turns out there is a truth in the old saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away", after all! Avocados are a great source of healthy fats and more than 20 vitamins and minerals. They are high in fibers as well, and have been linked with lowering the risk of diabetes.

Berries: Adding berries is one of the best ways to add a variety to your diabetes-friendly diet. You can choose from blackberries, blueberries, or strawberries because all of them are power-packed with antioxidants, vitamins, and fibers.

Papaya is rich in natural oxidants, which makes it a perfect pick for people with diabetes. It reduces the chances of future cell damage.

Star fruit: This sweet and sour fruit is rich in dietary fiber and vitamin C. It also positively impacts anti-inflammatory processes and can help repair cell damage, and it has minimal fruit sugars as well.

Kiwi fruit is an excellent source of Vitamin E, K, and potassium, and they are low in fruit sugars as well, which makes it a perfect diabetic-friendly fruit.

Melons (Musk melon and watermelon): Powerful hydrating fruits like cantaloupe and melons are recommended for people with diabetes, and people with the risk of developing diabetes. Eat-in moderation for multiple nutritional benefits like fiber, potassium, magnesium, vitamin B, and C.

Dragon fruit is full of dietary fibers, vital vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.

Pear are nutrient-rich, and they are known to fight inflammation and improve digestion. Studies also suggest that consuming pears along with a healthy diet reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes.

Orange: This citrus fruit is full of fiber that helps slow down sugar absorption into the bloodstream, and its vitamin C component helps improve immunity levels.

Add fruit to your salads to enjoy their goodness with a sprinkle of cinnamon, it tastes better and reduces sugar spikes. Add nuts like walnuts and almonds to complement your fruit snack.

Study Finds High-Fat Diet Disturbs Body Clock

AGENCIES

A new study has found that when rats are fed a high-fat diet, this disturbs the body clock in their brain that normally controls satiety, leading to over-eating and obesity.

The findings of the study were published in 'The Journal of Physiology'.

The number of people with obesity has nearly tripled worldwide since 1975. In England alone, 28 per cent of adults are obese and another 36 per cent are overweight.

Obesity can lead to several other diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and some types of cancer.

This new research may be a cornerstone for future clinical studies that could restore the proper functioning of the body clock in the brain, to avoid overeating.

Historically, it was believed that the master body clock was only located in a part of the brain called the hypothalamus.

However, further research over the years has clarified that some control of our body's daily rhythms (hormone levels, appetite etc.) lies in several other parts of the brain and body, including a group of neurons in the evolutionary ancient brainstem, called the dorsal vagal complex (DVC).

Specifically, the DVC has been shown to control food intake by inducing satiety.

Research has also shown that in obesity, daily rhythms in food intake and



the release of hormones related to eating, are blunted or eliminated.

However, it has not been clear if the malfunctioning of brain centres controlling appetite is a cause or the result of obesity.

This new research conducted at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow in collaboration with the University of Bristol found that high-fat diet-fed rats before they started to gain weight, showed changes in the DVC's daily neuronal rhythms and the response of these neurons to appetite hormones.

Thus, the researchers propose that disturbance in the DVC's timekeeping leads to obesity, rather than being the result of excessive body weight.

The research was performed on two groups of rats: those fed a well-balanced control diet (10 per cent kcal from fat) and a high-fat diet (70 per cent kcal from fat).

To mimic the impact

of an unhealthy diet on humans, the researchers introduced the new diet to adolescent rats (4-week-old) and monitored their food intake across 24 hours for four consecutive weeks.

Electrophysiological recordings were performed to measure how DVC neuronal activity changes across 24h.

The use of multi-electrode arrays allowed for simultaneous monitoring of around a hundred DVC neurons from each brainstem slice. This enabled the researchers to assess circadian changes of neuronal activity as well as neuronal responses to metabolically relevant hormones in each of the diet groups.

While the human and mouse brainstem share common features, the major limitation of the study for its immediate translation to humans is that it was performed on nocturnal animals (rats).

The peak of the DVC activity was observed at the

end of the day, which is the rest phase for rodents, but an active phase for people. Thus, it remains to be established if the phase of the brainstem clock is set to day and night, or whether it depends on patterns of rest and activity.

This study opens new research opportunities for trying to establish the strategy how to restore body clock function of the DVC and therefore help tackle obesity.

Dr Lukasz Chrobok, the first author of the study said, "I'm really excited about this research because of the possibilities it opens up to tackle the growing health issue of obesity. We still do not know what are the time cues which are able to reset or synchronise the brainstem clock."

Dr Chrobok concluded, "Hopefully, the restoration of daily rhythms in this satiety centre before or after the onset of obesity may provide new therapeutic opportunities."

Study Finds Loneliness Associated With Reduced Trust

AGENCIES

Researchers from the Universities of Bonn, Haifa (Israel) and Oldenburg have discovered how loneliness is associated with reduced trust.

This is reflected in changes in the activity and interaction of various brain structures, especially the insular cortex.

The results of the study were published in the journal 'Advanced Science'. The results provide clues for therapeutic options.

Everyone knows what loneliness feels like. Behind this feeling is the perceived discrepancy of the need for social relationships not being met to the desired degree.

As with hunger that wants to be satisfied, feelings of loneliness can also provide the motivation to connect with other people.

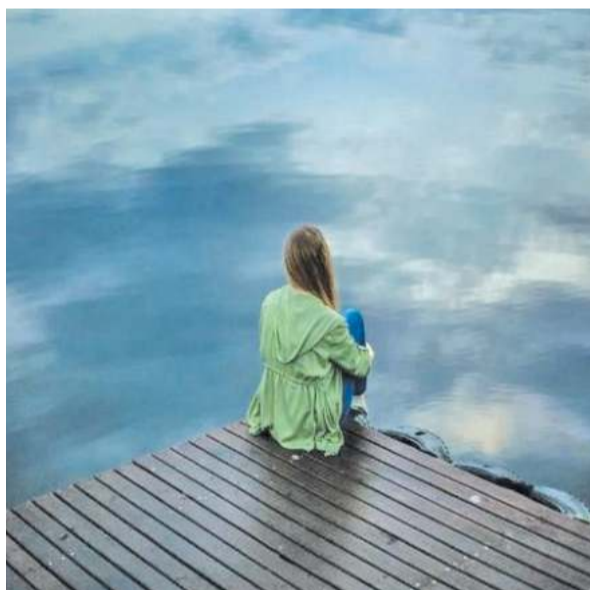
However, some people are affected by persistent loneliness.

Such cases can increase the risk of developing a mental illness, such as depression or anxiety disorders.

"One reason for this keenly felt loneliness may be a lack of trust in fellow human beings," said Dr Dirk Scheele from the Research Section Medical Psychology at Bonn University Hospital, referring to initial study evidence.

Together with Professor Dr Simone G. Shamay-Tsoory from the University of Haifa (Israel) and Professor Dr Rene Hurlmann from the University of Oldenburg, Dr Scheele's team, therefore, investigated the relationship between trust and loneliness in more detail.

Using an online questionnaire, the researchers selected 42 people from 3678 adults who were affected by severe loneliness but did not suffer from a mental illness or were receiving psychotherapy.



The control group consisted of 40 people who did not suffer from persistent loneliness.

"It was important to us that our findings could be attributed to the loneliness experienced and that any influence of mental illness could be ruled out as far as possible," explained lead author Jana Lieberz from Scheele's team.

In the brain scanner: How great is the willingness to share?

Participants first completed tasks in the brain scanner. Among other things, they played a trust game.

Here they were given ten euros in start-up capital. Based on portrait photos displayed on a screen, they were asked to decide how much of the money they were willing to share with each of the people shown.

They knew that making a profit beyond their start-up capital was only possible if they shared their start-up capital with others.

At the same time, however, they had to trust that their gambling partners would not keep the money they had staked for themselves.

loneliness shared less with others than the control group. We interpret that as a lower level of trust," Scheele explained.

The researchers also found processing deviations in brain areas involved in trust formation compared to the control group.

This was particularly evident in the anterior insular cortex, which was less active in lonely individuals and did not connect as prominently with other brain areas.

"An important function of the insular cortex is to perceive and interpret one's own body signals, such as the heartbeat," Lieberz said.

"It also helps to correctly interpret other people's reactions, such as facial expressions or mood -- or trustworthiness," Lieberz added.

After the trust game, the experimenters also simulated a standardised conversation situation with the respective participant, which dealt with emotionally positive content: What would you do with a lottery win? What are your hobbies?

Afterwards, the team asked the participants about their mood.

The researchers also

collected blood and saliva samples to examine, among other things, an increase in the bonding hormone oxytocin in response to the conversation and measured the distance in centimetres that the subjects maintained from the experimenter.

It was found that those affected by severe loneliness were in a less positive mood after small talk than the control group.

Levels of the bonding hormone oxytocin also changed less.

Furthermore, lonely people maintained a spatial distance from the experimenter that was about ten centimetres greater than that of those hardly affected by loneliness.

"Overall, the results show across tasks that chronic loneliness is associated with reduced trust in fellow human beings," said Scheele, summarising the most important finding.

"This can mean that interactions with others are experienced as less positive, which makes it harder to connect with others and exacerbates the loneliness spiral," added Scheele.

Starting points for therapies

The research team also sees these findings as starting points for interventions.

"The reduced trust of lonely people could be given greater focus in therapies by making it a topic of discussion and thus making those affected aware of it," Lieberz added.

It would then also be possible to look at strategies on how affected individuals can strengthen their trust in other people.

In a study currently underway at Bonn University Hospital, the researchers, together with colleagues from Haifa and Oldenburg, are investigating whether psychotherapeutic group interventions can reduce these negative mental biases.



THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

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Subject: Provisional Merit List (PML) of NEET MDS -2021 candidates belonging to UTs of J&K/Ladakh.

Reference:

- Notification No. 076-BOPEE of 2021 dated 16-08-2021.
- Notice No. 064-BOPEE of 2021 dated 25-08-2021.
- Notice No. 065-BOPEE of 2021 dated 29-08-2021.
- Notice No. 066-BOPEE of 2021 dated 06-09-2021.
- SC/NEET-MDS/6500-508 dated 14-09-2021.
- Notification No. 091-BOPEE dated 16-09-2021.

**NOTIFICATION NO. 094-BOPEE OF 2021
DATED: 25-09-2021.**

Whereas, the Board Notified the Roll No. Wise list of NEET MDS 2021, candidates with their cut off score vide Notification No. 076-BOPEE of 2021, dated 16-08-2021 and also advised such candidates who had appeared in the said NEET-MDS Test under All India Quota and whose roll numbers did not figure in the Annexure "A" to the said notification but actually belonged to the UTs of J&K & Ladakh to submit an undertaking to the effect that they will not opt for All India Quota Seats for the purpose of inclusion their name / details in the provisional merit list.

Whereas, the Board vide Notice No. 064-BOPEE of 2021 dated 25-08-2021, notified the cut-off score fixed by NBE for NEET MDS 2021 candidates; Whereas, the Board vide Notice No. 065-BOPEE of 2021 dated 29-08-2021, advised the eligible NEET-MDS 2021 candidates to make online registration and upload the requisite documents for preparation of provisional merit list thereof, and the Board vide Notice No. 066-BOPEE of 2021 dated 06-09-2021, extended the date of registration from 06-09-2020 to 09-09-2021;

Whereas, the Board, vide Notification No. 091-BOPEE of 2021 dated 16-09-2021 notified the list of candidates under Sports Category and under Difficult Area Service etc. under SRO 201 of 2006 dated 15 dated 30-01-2018, read with SRO 48 of 2018 dated 30-01-2018. The candidates were also afforded an opportunity to make representation(s), if any, for belonging to above mentioned categories before the Board up to 20-09-2021 (upto 02:00 P.M)

Whereas, the Board has not received any representation / complaint(s) against the list notified vide Notification No. 091-BOPEE of 2021 dated 16-09-2021 uploaded on official website/leading newspapers till date i.e. 20-09-2021 and;

Whereas, online Registration Forms and the uploaded documents have been scrutinized by Examination section of the Board and inter-alia, it has been found as under:

- Some of the candidates who had not qualified as per the result declared by the NBE but had submitted their documents online, their candidature devoid of any merits is rejected. Few candidates had filled up the preliminary registration form only but had not upload their documents at the time of registration, their candidature is out rightly rejected being non fulfillment of statutory declarations/ conditions,
- Some candidates whose forms are deficient due to non-issuance/availability of one or two document(s) from head of respective/concerned departments, due to the Lock down announced by Government in connection with COVID-19 situation, have been provisionally approved,
- Some candidates claiming benefit, under reserved categories, who have failed to produce the certificates issued by the competent authority or have failed to upload the valid certificate(s) were afforded an opportunity to do so but failed and have been considered under open merit category in case they are otherwise eligible under OM candidates.
- Further, the candidates who failed to produce valid Difficult Area Certificate in terms of SRO 201 of 2006 dated 15-6-2006 read with SRO 48 of 2018 dated 30-01-2018 have been considered under OM Category provided that they are eligible within cut-off of merit score. However, the Difficult Area Marks have been considered subject to being eligible in accordance with the rules (SRO 48 of 2018 dated 30-01-2018 read with SRO 201 of 2006 dated 15-06-2006) on the subject and added to the score obtained by the candidates;
- Any other candidate figuring in the Provisional Merit List, but not eligible in terms of SRO 8 of 2005 read with SRO 48 of 2018, shall not be eligible and shall be liable to further action as per Law for concealment of the material facts before the Board.

Now therefore: -

- The Provisional Merit List (PML) of the candidates forming Annexure "A" to this Notification in respect of the candidates of MDS courses 2021 respectively is hereby notified for information of the candidates which is inclusive of Difficult Area Marks as already notified vide Notification No. 091-BOPEE of 2021 dated 16-09-2021 along with their deficiencies marked against their names.
- The following documents shall be required to be produced in the Board/Institution along with such other documents as may be felt necessary: -
 - Completion of internship by the candidates by or before 31-07-2021 and production of documentary evidence with regard to same in the Board office immediately after its completion;
 - Degree completion certificates issued by the competent institution/ authorities wherever provisional certificates have been submitted by the candidates;
 - Submission of registration with the State/UT Dental Council in respect of candidates possessing certificates of other State/UT Councils;
 - 'NOC in respect of in-service candidates including NHM candidates who are otherwise bound by Terms of Contract with the employer/ competent authority.
 - Other documents as notified from time to time or additional documents if any, as may be required;
- Mere figuring in the Provisional Merit List shall not confer any right to any of the candidate(s) to participate in the admission process Online / offline filling up of preferences or allotment of seat(s) but shall be on the basis of eligibility of the candidates and the number of candidates as may be allowed to participate in the admission process in accordance with the conditions contained in the Information Brochure notified by the Board. Any candidate(s) found ineligible at any stage of admission process will be debarred from the process without any opportunity/notice whatsoever may be the reasons.

NOTE

- The candidates, in their own interest, are advised to remain in touch with the BOPEE web site www.jkbopee.gov.in regularly as the counselling schedule for allotment of seats shall be notified at a short notice. The candidates are also advised to go through the Information Brochure carefully and the procedures contained therein for filling up of preferences, etc.
- An operative seat matrix shall also be notified along with the notification for counselling of allotment of seats in due course of time.
- Any candidate(s) who desires to make the representation against the position assigned to them in the Merit List may do so upto 28-09-2021 (02:00 PM) and submit the same physically at BOPEE office Jammu / Srinagar through email: helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com. The representation(s) received after the prescribed date and time will not be entertained under any circumstances.
- The Reserve Category certificate including EWS of any candidate, if expired, such candidates are hereby provided an opportunity to submit the renewed certificate in the Board Office at Jammu / Srinagar physically by or before 28-09-2021 (02.00 PM) positively, otherwise, such candidate(s) shall be treated as open merit candidate(s). No certificate / document shall be entertained after the prescribed date under any circumstances.
- The Provisional Merit List shall be without prejudice to the outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before any competent Court of Law.

**Annexure "A", to this Notification is available on BOPEE website www.jkbopee.gov.in. only.
E&OE.**

No: BOPEE/Exam-18/2021.
Dated:-25-09-2021.
DIPK-NB-3809/21

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

Ready to agitate for 10 years, but won't allow farm laws to be implemented: Rakesh Tikait

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH: Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Sunday said farmers protesting against the central farm laws for the last 10 months are ready to agitate for 10 years, but will not allow the black legislations to be implemented. Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, have been sitting at Delhi's borders for the past 10 months demanding that the farm laws, enacted in September last year, be scrapped. It has been 10 months of this agitation. The government must listen with open ears that even if we have to agitate for 10

years we are ready, said Tikait, while addressing a well-attended Kissan Mahapanchayat in Panipat. The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader said that the Centre will have to repeal these laws. Indicating that farmers were ready to intensify their stir if their demands are not met, Tikait asked farmers "to keep their tractors ready", saying "these may be required anytime (to move towards) in Delhi". The mahapanchayat came a day ahead of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha's "Bharat Bandh" call for September 27 against the Centre's three contentious farm laws, marking completion of 10 months of the ongoing agitation.

Tikait also said that if the present government does not roll back these laws then future governments will have to take it back. Those who have to rule in this country, they will have to repeal these laws, he asserted, while adding that we will not allow these laws to be implemented, we will continue our agitation. Tikait said that if farmers have not returned to their homes for 10 months, they will continue to agitate for 10 years, but will not allow the laws to be implemented. Attacking the central government, Tikait said, they have taken cudgels at wrong place. Had they sensed the mood of these

farmers (protesting against the farm laws), they would not have brought these black laws. These farmers will force this government to bow. Tikait urged young farmers to make full use of social media to strengthen the ongoing agitation against the laws, saying there is a big responsibility on their shoulders to counter the propaganda which is sometimes unleashed to defame the stir. He said the government earlier had tried to project this agitation as limited to Punjab only. Then farmers were branded with various names and later it was also projected as if the stir was only of big farmers, Tikait said. The BKU leader thanked

farmers of Haryana, saying a good number of them participated in the Muzaffarnagar 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' in Uttar Pradesh earlier this month. The Muzaffarnagar mahapanchayat came just months ahead of the crucial Uttar Pradesh assembly polls. With polls also due early next year in Uttarakhand and Punjab, Tikait said similar meetings like the one at Muzaffarnagar will be held in these states too. Talking to reporters in Panipat after the event, Haryana BKU (Chaduni) chief Gurnam Singh Chaduni said that if the government does not listen to their demands, they will have to intensify their stir.

Delhi Police intensifies patrolling, deploys extra personnel in view of 'Bharat Bandh' on Sep 27

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has intensified patrolling and deployed extra personnel at pickets in border areas of national capital ahead of the 'Bharat Bandh' called by farmer unions on September 27 to protest the Centre's three farm laws, officials said on Sunday. Samyukta Kisan Morcha, the umbrella body of over 40 farm unions spearheading the farmers' agitation, had earlier appealed to the people to join the bandh. Patrolling has been intensified, extra personnel have been deployed at the pickets especially across the border areas and every vehicle entering the national capital is

being thoroughly checked, according to the police. A senior police officer said in view of bandh, adequate security arrangements will be made to maintain the law and order situation in the national capital on Monday. No protestor will be allowed to enter Delhi from the three protest sites at the city's borders, the official said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav said, "In view of Bharat Bandh, adequate security arrangements have been made as a precautionary measure. Pickets at the border areas have been strengthened and all vital installations, including India Gate and Vijay Chowk will have adequate deployment."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

2 Militants Killed

and a pistol, and incriminating materials have been seized from the encounter site, he said. The two slain militants were affiliated with the LeT. Dar was a Pakistan-trained militant who had crossed over the Wagah Border in April 2018 and had infiltrated back in 2019, the police spokesperson said. "Police records show that both the terrorists were involved in planning and executing terror attacks on security establishments and killing civilians. Dar was instrumental in recruiting gullible youth in north Kashmir into LeT," he added. According to the spokesperson, both of them, along with foreign militants Usman and Sajad, were involved in the killing of BJP district president Waseem Bari, his brother and father in July last year. Usman and Sajad were killed in an encounter at Kreeeri in August last year. "Therefore, all the four terrorists involved in the... killing of the BJP leader and his family have been eliminated," the spokesperson said. Inspector-General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar appreciated the police and security forces for conducting a successful operation without any collateral damage.

TRF Militant

A hunt has been launched to nab two of his associates who provided support to him for reconnaissance, a police spokesman said. On the basis of credible inputs about the movement of Kashmir-based militants to Jammu for a specific task to create "terror" in the area, he said Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) Jammu laid ambushes at different locations in Jammu city. During checking near railway station Jammu, a two-wheeler driver dropped a pillion rider about 50-60 metres behind the check point and sped away, the spokesman said. He said the suspected person, carrying a bag, started moving fast towards a nearby bylane but was chased by police and overpowered at some distance. The search of the suspect led to the recovery of a pistol loaded with seven cartridges, the spokesman said, adding he was put under sustained questioning on the spot by officials of SOG Jammu which revealed that he is an active militant of TRF and had come to Jammu for a specific task. However, he said the task was not yet conveyed to him by his handlers. He had come to Jammu on directions of handler Ahmed Khalid alias Hamza alias Haqparast, a Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) based active handler of the TRF outfit, the spokesman said. He said the militant was also in touch with valley-based handlers through telegram and signal apps. The questioning of the arrested militant is going on. A hunt has been launched to nab two of his associates who provided support to him for reconnaissance, the spokesman said, adding more arrests and recoveries are expected at his disclosure. A case under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Arms Act was registered in Bahu Fort police station and further investigation is on, the spokesman said. PTI

Srinagar Air Show

team members opened their parachutes and displayed various formations, the Indian national flag, the IAF flag, and the Akash Ganga flag rippled in the sky. The team, which has various national and international records to its name, also formed a three-man tricolour formation in air. After the skydiving team, it was the turn of three Sukhoi Su-30 MKI jets to claim the sky. People were mesmerized to see the jets smoking and roaring in the sky in "Trishul" formations and tumbling, rolling, and spinning over the Dal Lake. The aircraft displayed complex but sophisticated heroics including flying in reverse-gear and rolling right and left even as the bowl was small with hills on both sides. Showing its grace, poise, and power, the jets turned quickly at low speeds over the lake. With a loop-tumble-yaw and then a vertical Charlie manoeuvre, the jets danced in sky firing flares before disappearing over the mountains. Later, it was time to paint the sky red and white as a nine-aircraft Suryakiran Aerobatic Display team ripped through it performing synchronous aerobic maneuvers for 15 minutes straight. Their arrow formation, diamond formation, Gaganyan formation, fulcrum formation, and barrel roll enthralled the audience which kept its eyes peeled to the sky. The team has carried over 500 displays in 75 cities across the country. In the second part of their performance, the team brought thrill closer to the ground — only 30 metres above it and performed manoeuvres

that gave the audience goosebumps. Towards the end, they made a heart-shaped formation with a smoke-trail that got a huge round of applause from the people. Then it was the turn of the mighty twin-engine Boeing Chinook CH-47 heavy-lift helicopters. They were the showstoppers of the event as they flew over the "Char-Chinar" — the four famous Chinars in the middle of the Dal Lake. The mighty military helicopters came close to the ground near the audience, and saluted the dais while the water below in the lake was fomented with the brute force of the two rotors. The audience was left captivated watching the water dance below the helicopters as they pulled curtains to the over-an-hour-long show. Elaborate arrangements, including those related to security, were put in place for the smooth conduct of the air show. An IAF symphony orchestra display and motivational photo exhibition on the history of the IAF were also part of the show.

LG Calls Upon

scientific and technological knowledge are the key drivers to move ahead on the path of development. "Under the able guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we are making headways in establishing India as a Knowledge Economy and preparing our youth to meet the challenges of the future world," the LG said. "Besides inculcating the spirit of nationalism, peace, and communal harmony, the air show has also made the youth of the region acquainted with the new technological advancements achieved by the Indian Air Force," he added. Terming women's role as imperative in J&K's socio-economic development, the LG, as per official spokesperson said that women empowerment will bring revolutionary changes in the society. "From education to entrepreneurship, we are laying a solid platform for them so that they achieve new heights of success," Sinha said. "Our girls are leading by an example in every field. Mawya Sudan, the first woman fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF) from Rajouri district, and Tahira Rehman from Rajouri who has been selected as flying officer in IAF are inspiring other young girls of J&K to follow in their footsteps," he added. According to the official spokesperson, the LG also congratulated the youth from J&K who have qualified the UPSC exam, 2020. Later, the LG and other dignitaries went around the Photo-exhibition depicting the history of IAF organized to mark the occasion. "This is the first-of-its-kind aerial display conducted by IAF after a gap of 13 years in Srinagar," the official spokesperson said.

Mehbooba Calls

economy has suffered losses worth Rs 40,000 crores since 2019," Mehbooba wrote on micro-blogging site twitter. At a time when youth are committing suicide and unemployment rate is 17.8 per cent the local admin has become a PR and propaganda machinery instead of alleviating people's misery. Governance has been reduced to PR exercises and covering up the truth, she said. No concern whatsoever for the people of J&K, she added.

Except For 10th

given day for vaccinated students and staff. Consent shall be obtained from the parents of all students who are willing to attend the school. The school premises should be thoroughly sanitized. Proper screening regarding vaccination should be done on the school gate," reads the order. Limited in-person teaching of students of 10th class, not exceeding 50% on any given day and after ensuring compliance with Covid Appropriate Behaviour by the school authorities, can be permitted by concerned Deputy Commissioners after due screening through 100% Rapid Antigen Test or RT-PCR, it said. "The schools, except for relaxations as provided above for students of 12th and 10th classes, shall continue to remain closed for on-site / in-person teaching." Coaching Centres for Civil Services/ Engineering/NEET shall be permitted with limited in-person teaching, for fully vaccinated staff and student, subject to condition that the Head of the centre shall ensure that the guidelines related to social distancing and Covid protocols are adhered to. "All other Coaching Centres shall continue to remain closed for onsite / in-person teaching." Higher educational institutions shall be permitted to commence limited in-person teaching subject to 100% vaccination of staff and students and specific permission of concerned Deputy Commissioners. "Such institutions can organize special vaccination camps in consultation with district

administration. The Head of these institutions must ensure that the guidelines related to social distancing and Covid protocols are adhered to." Educational institutions shall be permitted to attend any indoor/ outdoor gathering shall be strictly restricted to 25, it said. However, in Banquet Halls in districts with positivity rate below 0.2 and weekly case load below 250, gathering shall be permitted up to enhanced limit of 50, for vaccinated persons/ persons with verifiable RT-PCR or RAT not older than 72 hours. "All District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police shall ensure compliance." "There shall be no Weekend Curfew in any district." "Night Curfew shall continue to remain in force in all districts from 8 pm to 7 am but for those districts with positivity rate below 0.2 and weekly case load below 250 where it would be from 10 pm to 6 am." All Deputy Commissioners shall intensify testing by making optimum use of available RT-PCR and RAT capacities. There shall be no drop in testing levels. "The District Magistrates shall strictly ensure that there is full compliance to COVID appropriate behaviour and defaulters are firmly dealt with under relevant sections of the Disaster Management Act and the Indian Penal Code," the order reads, adding, "The District Magistrates shall constitute joint teams of Police and Executive Magistrates for intensifying enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour."

J&K Logs 127

Pulwama 12, Budgam 8, Ganderbal 7, Bandipora and Anantnag four each. No fresh case was reported from Kupwara and the twin south Kashmir districts of Kulgam and Shopian. In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu and Doda districts reported six new cases each, Rajouri 4, Kathua 3 and one each new case was detected in Udhampur, Samba, Ramban and Reasi 1. Kishtwar and Poonch districts reported no case of virus on Sunday. Also, the officials said that 175 more patients have recovered—39 from Jammu Division and 136 from Kashmir. Meanwhile, the deadly infection claimed one more life in Kashmir Valley, taking fatality count to 4422—2173 in Jammu and 2249 in Kashmir.

Will Restore 'Durbar

of durbar move practice is one of the biggest issues being faced by Jammu." It was an unfortunate decision and I want to assure the people of Jammu that we stand with them and their demand for resumption of durbar move practice, he said, adding the practice has an emotional connection with the people of Jammu as well as Kashmir regions that has been continuing for centuries. I am not able to understand why the durbar move practice was stopped. The practice was an emotional connection between the people of two regions... It was our tradition but unfortunately the administration does not know the importance of the durbar move, he said and criticised the administration for their one-sided decisions which has affected Jammu. Meanwhile, he congratulated the J&K youth who have cracked the prestigious civil services exams conducted by the

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). We are proud of our young generation for their remarkable achievement. With their selection, they have shown that they can compete at any level. This is our youth power. They are not less intelligent than others, he added.

Truce Breaks: India

and prepared to respond appropriately to any ceasefire violation. "We are totally prepared for ceasefire violations, if anything happens, we are all set to respond appropriately. But, frankly, there has been no instigation from across the border, he had said. India and Pakistan had agreed to the strict observance of all agreements, understandings and ceasefire along the Line of Control and all other sectors with effect from the February 24-25 midnight 2021.

Ex- Militant Held

Ahmad becomes the fourth absconding militant arrested by police in the district since September 15. Before him, Nazir Ahmad, who was absconding for 12 years, was arrested on September 15. Two days later, police had arrested Abdul Gani alias Mavia who was on the run for 19 years. Dulla alias Jameel was arrested on September 25 after a long 20-year hunt. The spokesman said police, acting on specific information, arrested Bashir Ahmad after raiding suspected locations in the Marwah area. A local court has sent him to judicial custody, he said.

Youth Dies Of

Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. A total of 4,789 persons were tested for COVID-19 in the twin districts on Saturday and the reports of one of them returned positive in Kargil, the officials said. They said nine COVID-19 patients were discharged from Leh, taking the tally of cured patients to 20,414, they said. With this, the total number of active cases in Ladakh has come down to 157, including 153 in Leh and four in Kargil.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Watch to know more in this episode of **Inkishaf** on **Kashmir Observer** YouTube Channel

<https://youtube.com/c/kobserver>

INKISHAF
by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Unbearable Toothache At Dental College

Why patients landing at Govt Dental College Srinagar complain about a painful procedure due to the campus administration's inability to repair the flood-ravaged oral health equipment?

