

mrow 05:33 AM

Maximum: 29°c Minmum :17°c Humidity: 57%





www.kashmirobserver.net ●twitter.com / kashmirobserver ● facebook.com/kashmirobserver ● Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-201

News Digest

LG Visits Kupwara, **Reviews Works**

SRINAGAR, JULY 18: People's participation and empowerment of grass root institutions are prerequisite for the sustainable development of any region. Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu made these remarks during his visit to the frontier district Kupwara where he held a Public Outreach programme and interacted with around 20 public delegations to take stock of the local issues and developmental needs of the area. The Lt Governor observed that the UT Government is implementing the best practices in people centric governance with progressively increasing people's participation and improved public service delivery system through transparent, accountable and citizen-friendly administration.

Clashes During CASO In Anchar Area

Member Parliament, ● P-02

Srinagar: Clashes erupted in Anchar area of Soura here in Srinagar outskirts after combined forces cordoned off area and started conducting searches Sources said that Forces cordoned off Anchar area after receiving inputs about the presence of militants. The search operation was launched during early Saturday morning. Sources added that as the searches were conducted, people, mostly, youth hit to roads and hurled stones on Forces personnel. In retaliation Forces fired tear-smoke shells. Locals said that Forces personnel damaged various parked vehicles. One of the vehicles belonged to a Journalist. Police, however, said that windshields of some vehicles were damaged, as stone-throwers targeted them.

One-Way Traffic On **Srinagar-Leh Highway**

Ganderbal: A day after massive landslide at Bunibagh area of Kangan in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, one-way traffic was restored on Srinagar-Leh national highway on Saturday. The highway was blocked on Friday due to a landslide in which a residential house and at least a dozen shops were damaged. An official said that men and machinery were pressed into service to clear the debris on the road to restore traffic movement on the highway. "With the efforts of local administration, SDRF, army, BRO and police debris was removed and one-way traffic movement was restored on the highway," he said. SDM Kangan, Hakeem Tanveer Ahmad said that the highway was restored for one-way traffic in the • P-02

Driver Dies After Tractor Turns Turtle

Anantnag: A tractor driver died on spot in South Kashmir's Budgam district on Saturday after his tractor turned turtle. The incident occurred at Kandiwara Kokarnag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district, Po lice sources said that driver lost control over tractor while it was surmounting a slope and turned turtle. The driver came beneath the tractor and died on spot. Police sources identified the victim as Rouf Ahmed Bhat son of Abdul Razak, a resident of Kandiwara Kokarnag.

'Vital Drug' Remdesivir's Unavailability **Leaving Kashmir 'Breathless'**

Auqib Javeed

senior Hurleader and president Anjumane-Sharie Shiayan lately felt suffocated, doctors at Sheri Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) prescribed Remdesivir injection, a "vital drug" for the COVID-19 positive patients.

But when his attendants approached the hospital administration, they were told that the "muchneeded" drug is not available.

"We checked every medical shop in Srinagar but we didn't get it," Syed Baqir, the ailing leader's attendant, told Kashmir Observer.

According to top health officials-most of whom are declining to share their name for comments gag order-the valley still lacks the vital drug stock

"Remdesivir injection was made recently and it'll take some time to be available in Kashmir," a top



WHEN I WAS RUNNING AFTER DOCTORS FOR MY MOTHER'S LIFE, I WAS TOLD THAT

the hospital lacks Remdesivir supply and stock," Tanveer Syed, a Srinagar resident who recently broadcasted his

health official from SKIMS told Kashmir Observer.

"While we aren't sure whether the drug will work or not, but our purchase section is already procuring the stock."

If Remdesivir's effectiveness is owing to some new administrative still doubtful, then why're doctors prescribing it? "Well," the health official said,

"we're looking into it." **Drug Drive**

have already activated their social media handles to place requests for the drug. Some are even sharing their nightmarish experiences related to it.

Lately, two Kashmiri brothers who lost their mother to COVID at SKIMS narrated a harrowing treatment towards their late mother on social media.

"When I was running after doctors for my mother's life, I was told Despite doubts, some people that the hospital lacks Remdesivir

supply and stock," Tanveer Syed, a Srinagar resident who recently broadcasted his hospital ordeal on social media, told Kashmir Ob-

"With the help of my well-placed contacts, I could get the drug immediately, but what about

Notably, with the surging Covidgraph, Kashmir's dependence on Remdesivir is only growing. Even doctors are increasingly prescribing it for COVID patients today.

Keeping its significance in mind, a senior Kashmiri journalist lately shared a patient's appeal for the drug on his social media handle.

But as the valley is yet to stockpile the 'wonder drug', many Kashmiri doctors practicing abroad have come forward to help their anxious brethren back home.

But Does It Help? According to Medscape, a website providing access to medical information for clinicians, the broadspectrum antiviral >> PAGE 02

Youth Held

For Uploading

Obscene Video

by police on Saturday.

CHADOORA: A youth accused

of uploading an obscene video

on social media was arrested

two days, an obscene video

of a boy and girl was making

rounds on social media net-

working sites. The youth iden-

tified in the video, Junaid Fayaz

Bhat of Rangar Chadoora was

nabbed by police on Saturday.

Police sources said that af-

regard. He said prima facie it

seems that the youth in • P-02

Sources said that from past

441 More Test Covid-19 Positive

J&K Records 5 More Deaths, Toll 236

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Saturday recorded 441 new cases that include 55 travellers, taking the total number of positive cases to over 13000 mark.

With 441 new cases, the tally of positive cases in J&K has reached to 13198 including 10511 from Kashmir and 2687 from

Jammu. Among 441 new cases, 398 belong to Kashmir division while as 43 are from Jammu division, officials said, adding that

the total number of positive Pulwama, 41 from Budgam, 05 cases in Kashmir division has reached to 10511 including 5456 recoveries and 218 deaths while as total number of positive cases in Jammu division have reached to 2687 including 1709 recoveries and 18 deaths.

The officials that total number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 5797 including 4837 from Kashmir division and 960 from Jammu division.

With 607 more recoveries, the tally of total recoveries in Jammu and Kashmir has reached to 7165 which is 54.28 percent of the total cases which was over 63 percent few days be-

> "Cases tested positive in J&K include 124 from Srinagar, 25 from Kulgam, 63 from Baramul-ዀ la, 27 from Shopian, 47 from Anantnag, 02

from Kupwara, 48 from from Bandipora and 16 from Ganderbal in Kashmir division while as 43 from Jammu division include 15 from Jammu, 02 from Udhampur, 03 from Kuthua 06 from Rajouri 12 from Samba, 04 from Doda → PAGE 02

EGARDING A CASE FROM Budgam, an official said that lady from Khansahib Budgam who was admitted on July 03 died at SMHS on Saturday and she was suffering from bilateral pneumonia.



Doctors again struck work on Saturday demanding security.

3 Militants Killed In Fresh Shopian Encounter has reached to 136 in J&K. Further-**Observer News Service**

hospital ordeal on social media, told Kashmir Observer.

SHOPIAN: Three militants were killed in an encounter that started between the militants and security forces in Amshipora village of South Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday.

An official said that a joint team an encounter. of Police, army's 62 RR and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation on specific information about tification is being ascertained," the the presence of militants in the area. official said, adding that that arms

of forces approached towards ered from the encounter site. the suspected spot, the hidwhich was retaliated triggering militants killed in ongoing year of all the killed three »PAGE 02

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR Defence Minister Ra-

jnath Singh, Chief of Defence

Staff General Bipin Rawat and

Army Chief General MM Nara-

vane offered prayers at Amarnath

cave shrine in South Kashmir

The Defence Minister is on a two-

day visit to Ladakh and Jammu and

Kashmir. He will take stock of the

situation at both the Line of Actual

Control (LAC) and the Line of Con-

On the first day of his visit,

the Defence Minister interacted

with the troops in Lukung, La-

dakh along with Chief of De-

fence Staff General Bipin Rawat

and Army Chief General MM

mountains on Saturday.



"During exchange of fire, three militants were killed whose iden-He said that as the joint team and ammunition were also recov-

Pertinently with the killing of ing militants fired upon them three more militants, the toll of the police statement said. "Bodies

more as a precautionary measure, internet services were snapped in Shopian district

Meanwhile, J&K police in a statement said that on a specific input by 62RR about presence of militants in village Amshipora area of District Shopian, an operation was launched by them in the said area.

"During search militants fired upon Army personnel and encounter started. Later on police and CRPF also joined, they said while adding that during encounter three unidentified militants were killed.

ter the outcry police took the cognisance of the matter and arrested the Bhat. A police official said that a case has been registered in this

DURING EXCHANGE OF FIRE, THREE MILITANTS WERE killed whose identification is being ascertained," the official said, adding that that arms and ammunition were also recovered from the encounter site.

Rajnath Singh, Top Army Brass

Pray at Amarnath Cave Shrine

Woman Tests Positive: Family 'Escapes To Safety'

SRINAGAR: Health officials faced a peculiar situation in Hazratbal area on Saturday when family members of a Covid-19 positive patient gave them a slip to avoid being shifted to a quarantine centre.

Three of the primary contacts of a COVID-19 positive patient from Dhobi Ghat area of Hazratbal on the outskirts of Srinagar escaped after officials with full bandobast arrived there to take them to a quarantine centre. The 'escape' sparked panic among the residents of the area, reports said.

Officials, however, said they (family members) will be put under quarantine once traced. Action warranted under law will be initiated against ● P-02

Chaos In SMHS: Doctors Face 'Wrath' Of Enraged Attendants

Difficult To Work In Such Atmosphere,

Say Protesting Doctors **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Hours after doctors and other paramedical staff called-off their strike; the resident doctors on Saturday evening 'fled from the hospital to save their lives' after two of their colleagues and a security man were assaulted by the attendants at the cardiology ward.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Mir, Senior said that a resident doctor who was treating a very ill patient at him. Here one has >> PAGE 02

cardiology ward was beaten by some attendants.

He said the resident doctor suffered grave injury on his shoulder and has been shifted to Bone and Joint Hospital Bar-

Furthermore, he added that soon after a security man deployed there tried to intervene he too was beaten up. He too has suffered injury, the doctor said.

Many people attending on patients have been complaining of inadequate facilities and lack of medical care in the hospital.

"Once a patient is admitted in Resident General Medicine, a hospital its doctors and para medics who should look after

CONCE A PATIENT IS ADMITTED IN a

nospital its doctors and para medics who should look after him. Here one has to virtually beg doctors to attend to their patients".

PRIs To Get Mining Rights Through Short Term Permits

PRIs Exempted From Payment Of Advance Royalty, Will Remove Shortage Of Construction Material

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, G C Murmu, approved the amendment of Jammu and Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016.

The amendment will enable grant of Short Term Permits to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on land up to 1 hectare, till 30th September, 2021. It also exempts PRIs from payment of advance royalty to Geology and Mining Department before commencing mining.

The Administrative Council further allowed Department of ▶PAGE 02

PRIs, ULBs, To Get **Life Insurance Cover Decision Aimed At Providing**

A Sense Of Security To **Elected Representatives**

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, G C Murmu, approved life insurance cover of Rs. 25 lakhs to all elected BDC Chairmen, Sarpanchs, Panchs and all elected members of Municipal Bodies of Jammu and Kashmir in case of death due to a militancy related incident. • P-02

'Why Is My Family Being Shamed For Revealing We Got Covid' down a bit. After all, getting Covid

Hirra Sultan

guarantee. I can assure you, not

one inch of our land can be tak-

"Talks are underway to resolve he said referring to India-China

personnel at Lukung

Emphasising on finding a dip-

the border dispute but to what standoff while he interacted

extent it can be resolved I cannot with the Indian Army and ITBP

en by any power in the world," lomatic solution to the »PAGE

T ALL started with a Facebook post. An unfortunate Facebook post.

I had recently been talking to a friend whose father is admitted in SKIMS. While waiting for the Covid test reports, there was a lot of dilly dallying. When he confronted the officials at the test center, they revealed that a lot of people start panicking once they know that their patient is positive, and behave as if the person is already dead; hence the delay in revealing the reports.

Since I had also felt the symptoms and a family member was positive, I decided to create a Facebook post so that people can learn from my experience and calm

is not akin to being sentenced to death. The post was quite clean and merely had things that led to awareness, or so I thought. Soon after our phones started to

ring. Mine and of my family's. And the trouble started. The first call I got was from my

brother, who was in hospital with my father at that time, and asked me to edit the fact out that our parents had been to tavizat. Hmm. Okay. I did as he asked, just to calm him down.

The next one blew my mind. This lady is quite close to my mother and even though knowing the scenario and all, questioned my mother as to why I had put this up on Facebook. That all these



the family might be questioned telling her the truth. as to how more than 20 people visited them for condolences. This she said without any thoughts or consideration that my mother was simultaneously wondering whether her critically ill husband

The next day, another relative called my sister-in-law saying, "I am angry. Why did she post it on Facebook?" Many other calls followed. To the point that mother people will be quarantined and was dying and the kids were not band and began thinking of how three kids even fell ill? PAGE 02

all these relatives were behaving; doubting that I had posted something I shouldn't have. And hence might bring about some wrath or something unpleasant for these so-called concerned relatives. At a time when the family was

distressed and our kin and kith should have extended help and support, they were busy in shaming me for putting up our Covid positive status on Facebook. Is being Covid positive such a huge deal?

Five adults at my home fell prey to Covid and only one of them needed medical attention. Should this not relieve people instead of anger them? I recovered without any medication and all others merely took Azithromycin. Should forgot about her critically ill hus- that not bring relief? None of the

Apni Party Demands Restoration Of Statehood To J-K

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) led by former finance minister Syed Altaf Bukhari on Saturday dehood for the union territory and domicile rights over land and jobs for its people.

A party delegation led by Bukhari, who is the JKAP presi- spokesman said. dent, called on Jammu and highlight socio-political and people of J-K, a spokesman of the party said.

tation of the J-K Reorganization Act. 2019.

The meeting was held in an amicable atmosphere and manded the restoration of state- hearing to the delegation and requirement for keeping up rights on land and jobs for the assured all possible support from the government to redress allowing a pluralistic blend to the recent domicile order isof Jammu and Kashmir, the

A memorandum highlighting Kashmir Lieutenant Governor some of the important politi-Girish Chandra Murmu here to cal and socio-economic issues on restoration of statehood order and not a law made by faced by the people of J-K was economic issues faced by the submitted to the Lt Governor,

especially after the implemen- would further solidify the idea of tence in the region.

It is more than essential that restoration of statehood to J-K the Lt Governor gave a patient is considered as an immediate hemently demanding domicile the spirit of coexistence and the issues confronting people continue to shine in this part sued by the union government of the country. We take this opportunity to remind the gov- of J-K on jobs reflects a casual ernment of India through your approach. good office about its promise including establishment of a Parliament, the new gazette Legislative Council and in pro- notification regarding domicile The party leaders demanded seats for socially and economi- mune to any judicial review, the He said the JKAP leaders held restoration of statehood to Jam- cally backward classes, art cul- spokesman said. detailed discussions on various mu and Kashmir, saying an early ture, languages, literature and

pluralism and respectful coexis- also demanded domicile rights tificate should not be asked for over land and jobs for the peo-

> While our party has been vepeople of Jammu and Kashmir, vis- -vis the rights of residents

Being a government-issued viding thereto reservation of rule for J-K residents is not im-

Our demand is that those resi-

The spokesman said the party valid Permanent Resident Cerdomicile certificates both for possession of land and immovable property or for applying to any government jobs, he said.

> The party leaders also demanded security for political activists, the release of detainees, withdrawal of cases against the youth, ensuring J-K Bank's autonomy, support for industry and the manufacturing sector, revival of tourism and restoration of high-speed 4G internet in the UT.

> The delegation was assured that a few of the demands mentioned in the memorandum which are exclusively within the jurisdiction of the union government would be forwarded to the



issues confronting the people, announcement in this regard sports, read the memorandum. dents of J-K who have already a concerned quarters with specific recommendations from the J-K government, the spokesman said.

'Vital Drug' Remdesivir's... agent Remdesivir is a nucleotide analog pro-drug — cleared for

Covid treatment use on May 1, 2020, by the US FDA (Food and Drug Administration).

A phase 1 trial of an inhaled nebulized version was initiated in late June 2020 to determine if the drug can be used on an outpatient basis and at earlier stages of the disease.

"Remdesivir was studied in clinical trials for Ebola virus infections but showed limited benefit," Medscape maintains.

"The drug has been shown to inhibit replication of other human coronaviruses associated with high morbidity in tissue cultures, including severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) in 2003 and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in 2012."

Remdesivir helps in shortening the recovery time in adults hospitalized with Covid-19 and lowers respiratory tract infection, the website said.

Drug Trial in Kashmir

Many health experts in Kashmir believe that the drug is "vital" for its ability to truncate the ailment time.

"It's a vital, and even a life-saving drug for severe COVID-19 patients," said influenza expert, Dr. Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr. Khan Khawar, Registrar General Medicine at SMHS hospital, told Kashmir Observer that the drug is the only antiviral authorized under emergency use in the US

"Studies have shown that it decreases hospital stay from 15 to 11 days," said Dr. Khan. "In some severe cases, it decreased mortality from 11 to 7 percent."

But as the 5-day Remdesivir treatment costs Rs 27,000, many patients and their attendants are finding themselves in a tight

Besides price, its unavailability is equally breeding the concern on the ground.

"Although the drug shortens the hospital stay, the only vital thing is high flow Oxygen and ventilators," Dr. Irtifa, PG Resident Medicine, at SMHS, told Kashmir Observer. "But since, we've nothing else to offer, so doctors prescribe this drug.'

Kashmir Observer sent text queries to Dr Samia Rashid, Principal GMC, Srinagar, regarding the unavailability of the "vital drug" in Kashmir. As and when she responds, this copy will be updated.

Panic in Patients

Meanwhile, the chaos and crisis reports are continuously coming from the Covid-crammed health centres of Kashmir.

On 17 June 2020, the doctors and other paramedical staff went on a strike at SMHS hospital after some attendants assaulted doctors and vandalised the hospital property.

The attendants got angry after learning that the hospital lacks Remdesivir injection.

"Some attendants lost control and resort to violence," said a Covid-designated doctor at SMHS.

However, an attendant told Kashmir Observer that the 'viral' patients have been left to "God's mercy" in hospitals.

"Doctors are prescribing this drug because they believe it's vital for the Covid patients," said an attendant from Kulgam. "But its unavailability, both in hospitals and chemist shops, is

creating an existential crisis for us."

Although influential people like president Anjuman-e-Sharie Shiayan can possibly arrange this vital and costly drug, but what about a commoner in Kashmir, the anxious attendant said.

"So in this scary scenario," he added, "what should a patient

441 More Test Covid-19 Positive

Out 1055 samples tested 79 including a-year-old baby from

Saloora, Ganderbal and three from Sonawari camp Bandipora

were tested positive. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir on Sat-

urday reported five deaths including one each from Kulgam, An-

admitted on 17 July died at SMHS on Saturday. He said that pa-

He further added that an 80-year-old lady from who was admitted on July 11 as a case of hypertension, community acquired

Regarding a case from Budgam, an official said that lady from

A 55-year-old year old patient from Sallar, Pahalgam who was suffering from COPD, diabetes and bilateral pneumonia also

Khansahib Budgam who was admitted on July 03 died at SMHS on Saturday and she was suffering from bilateral pneumonia.

died on Saturday, official added. With fresh five deaths, the total

As per officials figures, 1982 positive cases including 59

deaths and 570 recoveries are from Srinagar, 1527 including 48

deaths and 848 recoveries are from Baramulla, 1140 including

791 recoveries and 24 deaths are from Kulgam, 1082 including 18 deaths and 791 recoveries are from Shopian, 1032 including

18 deaths and 679 recoveries are from Anantnag, 833 including 533 recoveries and 13 deaths are from Kupwara, 842 including

463 recoveries and 11 deaths are from Pulwama, 749 including

388 recoveries and 18 deaths are from Budgam, 428 including 329 recoveries and 05 deaths are from Bandipora, 267 including

In Jammu division, 584 including 394 recoveries and 11

deaths are from Jammu district, 352 including 239 recoveries

and 01 death are from Kathua, 339 including 109 recoveries and

01 death are from Rajouri, 324 including 291 recoveries and 01

death is from Udhampur, 318 including 223 recoveries are from Ramban, 328 including 174 recoveries and 01 death are from Samba, 158 including 02 death and 82 recoveries are from Samba, 158 including 82 recoveries and 02 deaths are from Doda,

152 including 124 recoveries and 01 death is from Poonch and

68 including 28 recoveries are from Kishtwar and 64 including

Jammu and Kashmir are under observation while 38,750 per-

sons have been kept under home quarantine besides that 5797

As per the daily information bulletin, 326,536 persons in

45 recoveries are from Reasi.

111 recoveries and 04 death are from are from Ganderbal.

An official said that a 52-year-old CRPF man Assam who was

and 01 from Reasi," officials disclosed.

antnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Bandipora.

tient was suffering from bilateral pneumonia.

number of people who died have reached to 236.

pneumonia died at SKIMS last night.

According to the bulletin, 238,260 persons have completed surveillance period and 43,480 persons are under home surveillance besides that so far results of 498,007 samples are available. Out of 498,007 the number of samples tested negative stands

persons are in hospital isolation while 13 persons are under hos-

at 484,809 while as 13,198 have been tested positive, among them 5797 are active and 7165 persons have recovered and 236

Chaos In SMHS: Doctors Face...

to virtually beg doctors to attend to their patients", said an enraged attendant who identified himself as Ishtyaq Rasool.

Following the incident the doctors again struck work demanding security from what they described as frequent assaults. "We will resume work only after the authorities ensure a conducive atmosphere in the hospital. Besides, proper security should be given to us so that no one would even dare touch a doctor let alone assault him or her", a protesting doctor said. Many even demanded that such assaults on doctor be made non-bailable

They are also demanding that a minimum number of attendants be allowed in the wards to avoid such incidents.

Principal Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, Dr. Samia Rasheed termed the incident as 'unfortunate'.

She had yesterday supported the doctors after they began

3 Militants Killed In Fresh...

militants were retrieved from the site of encounter and the identification and affiliation of the slain is being ascertained," the statement said.

They said, adding that incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. "All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes." the statement said, adding that the bodies of the killed militants have been sent to Baramulla for their last rites after conducting medico-legal formalities including collection of their DNA and in case any family claims the killed militants to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for their identification and participation in last rites at Baramulla. ""Case FIR No. 42/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Hirpora and investigation has been initiated into the matter," the statement said.

Youth Held For Uploading.

question first made the obscene video with a girl and then shared it with his friends who uploaded it on social media.

Locals meanwhile have appealed police to take stringent action under law against the 'morally degraded' persons. They demanded action against the girl as well, who hails from an adjacent village of Chadoora. (KNT)

Rajnath Singh, Top Army Brass standoff, he further said, "If a solution can be found by talks,

there is nothing better." "Recently what happened between troops of India and China

at PP14, how some of our personnel sacrificed their lives protecting our border. I am happy to meet you all but also saddened because of their loss. I pay my tributes to them," he added.

On Friday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the overall security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir with the top military brass, officials said. He asked the armed forces to give a fitting reply to any "mis-

adventure" by Pakistan. At a high-level meeting, the defence minister had also asked

the armed forces to maintain a strict vigil along the Line of Con-

Woman Tests Positive: Family them for posing grave threat to other residents of the area., of-

Meanwhile, residents of Dhobighat, Hazratbal and its adjoining areas appealed authorities to speed up their efforts in tracing the absconding contacts of Novel Coronavirus.

"Everyone in our locality is worried about their safety. We are in a grip of fear. We appeal authorities to treat the female patient better but at the same time ensure her other family members are traced at the earliest," Rameez Ahmad, a Dhobighat resident was quoted as saying.

PRIs To Get Mining Rights...
Geology and Mining to apply and secure clearances like Mining Plans, Environmental Clearance and Consent to Operate, from the Competent Authorities on behalf of the Panchayats.

The decision is aimed at empowering PRIs to raise funds through mining surpluses and address shortage of key construction material in local market, besides keeping a check on their

PRIs, ULBs, To Get Life...

The decision aims at strengthening grass roots democracy by providing a sense of security to the elected members of local bodies who are under constant threat from terrorists and mili-

The life insurance cover will act as a guarantee for the sub-

sistence of the family members of the elected representatives who die in militancy related incidents. It will ensure that their families do not face economic distress and poverty in case of any untoward incident and continue to fulfil basic needs of nutrition, education and health in adverse circumstances.

• Why Is My Family Being... Should all parents not be glad to know kids are immune? Why

is my family getting calls and being shamed for revealing we got Covid? Why the taboo? The hush hush around this disease?

It is a shame that we, as a society, have associated stigma with Covid. Is it not like any other disease, only more communicable? Do the affected not need support like other patients? How is it justified that the society shames positive patients and when they themselves fall prey to it, ask for plasma of recovered ones? With what face?

This stigma is what prevents people from getting help at a good time. People avoid getting tested just because of how people would react if they get to know, and hence pay up by losing lives. So many people recently lost their lives because they reached hospital late. Are we, as a society, not responsible for these deaths? Do we really need to stop talking to our neighbours and cover all the heights with polythene and tarpaulin? Does that even help? Is it just on our part to put people through

Unfortunately we live in a place and a society where even a genuine suggestion is taken otherwise. A lady shared her paranoia with her colleagues and one of them suggested her to fumigate her place, just to put her mind to ease. This small suggestion was taken in such a bad taste that it was exaggerated enough to reach higher authorities and almost cost the guy his job. This happened in one of the hospitals in Srinagar. With doctors themselves causing such ruckus and stigma, what can be expected of a layman?

If we all can come together for a marriage ceremony, with 500 people as guests, can we not have at least 5 families who come forward to help these quarantined people?

If we can still go for taziyats, marriages, and visit markets, can we not go and drop essentials at these quarantined homes?

If mohalla committees can take care of funerals, why not of people who cannot move out of their homes to cater to their

And if we aren't ready to shun our bias, our stigma and help these people, then with what face will we ask the recovered to donate plasma? Would we not be ashamed then?

Covid causes extreme bodyaches and headaches and yet the calls from insensitive relatives caused greater distress than what

LG Visits Kupwara,...

Mir Fayaz Ahmad; Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole; IG Kashmir, Vijay Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Anshul Garg; DIG North, Heads of various departments, Chief Engineers and other senior officers accompanied the Lt Gover-

During his visit, the Lt Governor inaugurated seven developmental projects worth Rs 55.33 crore. He also laid foundation stones of five projects worth Rs 170.13 crore including mega projects like 12 MW Karnah Hydel Electric Power Project costing Rs 123.72 cr and Transit Accommodation for Migrants at Kulangam, at a cost of Rs 34.56 cr.

He further took a detailed review of the developmental scenario and COVID-19 containment efforts in the District. He also inspected the Dialysis Centre and CT Scan Facilities recently made operational in the district.

The public delegations representing various sections and areas of the district included delegations from border areas of Karnah, Keran and Machill, Traders Federation Kupwara and Handwara, Contractors Association, Progressive Farmers Association, Fruit Growers Association, Municipal Committee Presidents, BDC Chairpersons, Transporters, NGOs and Civil Society members, Media Persons, ST delegation, Wushu delegation and MGNREGA contractual staff delegation apprised the Lt Governor about their concerning issues and sought his intervention for their timely disposal.

The members of the delegations put forth various issues and demands including augmentation of water supply, power supply, macadamization of roads, all weather connectivity for border areas, special employment drive for district Kupwara especially in border areas, construction of bunkers, Relief package for transporters, upgradation of health facilities, extension of railway network from Baramulla to Kupwara to Chowkibal, four laning of Kupwara-Srinagar National Highway, release of pending payments to the contractors, mobile network for border areas, District Board for Block Development Councils, low interest rate loan facilities to traders, establishment of Press Club, Heli service for border areas during winter, Tourism Development Infrastructure, completion of Lolab-Bandipora road etc.

During the interaction, the Lt Governor assured to address the public issues and developmental needs at the earliest. He urged the people to come forward with the developmental needs of their areas and actively participate in the developmental programmes. The Government is putting all efforts to improve the socio-economic status of the people, especially people living in border and far-flung areas, he added.

On augmenting water supply, he said that the government is upgrading water supply facilities under Centrally Sponsored Jal Jeevan Mission and by the year 2022, every household would be connected with tap drinking water.

Referring to the unemployment issue, the Lt Governor stressed on spreading awareness among the youth, especially in rural areas and encouraging them to participate in the recruitment drive launched by the Government.

He directed for macadamization of all roads in major towns of Kupwara at the earliest and entrusted upon the concerned officers to expedite the execution of developmental works and ensure timely completion so that the benefits of the development percolate down to the ground level.

While interacting with Media delegation, the Lt Governor stressed on taking comprehensive measures to highlight the benefits of the various welfare schemes launched by the government so that the people can avail of maximum benefit of these

The projects inaugurated today included IPD Block at Sub District Hospital costing Rs 24.80 cr; Video Wall at District Administrative Complex costing Rs 23 lakhs; Government Degree College, Tangdar at a cost of Rs 15.50 cr; 6.3MVA (33/11KVA) Receiving Station Teetwal costing Rs 2.49 cr: 6.3MVA (33/11KVA) Receiving Station Keran costing Rs 6.28 cr; 100 Bedded Girls Hostel Zachaldara, completed at a cost of Rs 3.01 cr and Boys ST Hostel at Government Degree College, Handwara costing Rs 3 cr.

The projects for which foundation stones were laid including- Parallel Byepass Road to Lolab Area costing Rs 1.88 crore; 12 MW Karnah Hydel Electric Power Project costing Rs 123.72 cr; Transit Accommodation for Migrants at Kulangam, costing Rs 34.56 cr; 50 Bedded Ayush Hospital at Kulangam worth Rs 7.32 cr and construction of Indoor Sports Complex at Galizoo at a cost of Rs 2.65 cr.

One-Way Traffic On... afternoon today after it was blocked due to a landslide at Boni-

bagh area of Kanga.

He also urged people travelling on Srinagar-Leh to take necessary precautions in order to avoid any untoward incident.

E-mail: tariqbhat72@gmail.com



- > SERVICES PROVIDED: E-FILLING, E TDS, INCOME TAX
- > RETURNS, SALES TAX/ VAT RETURNS, BOOK KEEPING,
- > ALSO SERVICE FOR PAN, TAN AND DIGITAL SIGNATURE
- **CERTIFICATE (DSC) REGISTRATION**

Cell: +91-:9419540025 / 9596020164 / 7006818341

SATHU PAYEEN BAGHWANPORA, BARBARSHAH, SRINAGAR, KMR.

100 New Colleges Sanctioned for Remote Areas 5000 students getting scholarships worth Rs 100 cr under PMSSS: Pervez

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION 1ST, BEMINA, SRINAGAR, 190018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: STD-I/ 02 of 2020 Dated: 14.07.2020

Transmission Division-I, Bemina, Srinagar for year 2020-21 or till next Stage Contract

The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidder/tenderers

may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders

Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details

For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor UT of Jammu and Kashmir , Executive Engineer Sub

Transmission Division-Ist Bemina, Srinagar invites online e-bids for Annual Stage contract for

"Repairs and Maintenance of 33/11 kV Receiving Stations falling under the jurisdiction of Sub

Earnest Money (in

10,000

15.07.2020; 11:00 Hrs

10.08.2020; 15:00 Hrs

13.08.2020 at 14:30 Hrs

STD-Ist Bemina Srinagar, J&K.

Rs.500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only).

Rs.10, 000.00 (Rupees One thousand only).

15.07.2020; 11:15 Hrs to 10.08.2020; 15:00 Hrs

Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified

Soft Copy Electronically in the office of Executive Engineer

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: There are 154 Government Degree Colleges, 208 private colleges and 25 professional colleges affiliated to various universities functioning in J&K and 100 new colleges more will be established to enroll additional 1.5 lakh

Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education, Talat Parvez disclosing this during an online interaction with the first batch of PhD students and 5th Batch of MBA students of IIM Jammu.

"We have 8 Government Universities, 3 Semi Government Universities besides, NIT, IIM, IIT, SKIMS, NIFT, IIMC, 7 autonomous institutions of national importance. Besides, two cluster Universities have been constituted by pooling resources of 10 prestigious colleges of J&K", Pervez said.

He said Kashmir University is one of the top 50 universities on NIRF ranking while Jammu University ranks 52 and SMVDU 83rd in engineering discipline. Both the state universities are A++ while IUST and SMVDU have B++ NAAC ranking, 48 colleges are NAAC accredited, Pervez added.

He disclosed that under RUSA, Rs.500 crore have been made available for two more

Cluster Universities, two Professional Colleges, five Degree Colleges, upgradation of infrastructure in 42 colleges. Besides he said 50% of the grants have been provided to universities for infrastructure and research projects taken up.

Highlighting initiatives by the Government, he said that the government acts as a provider as well as regulator. He said Sarva Shiksha Abyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abyan (RMSA) are two major programmes launched by the Government to lay a strong foundation for primary and secondary education. However, in the sphere of higher education, RUSA aims at improving access, equity and quality education. He said that we must strive to prepare and educate a productive work force through concerted efforts to improve the quality and relevance of higher education to the local, national and global needs and remove inequalities.

Commissioner Secretary informed that Jammu University is in the process of establishing research clusters as Centres of Excellence in Data Science and Artificial Centre, Bio-Technology, Centre for nanotechnology and material science, Centre for climate change and sustainable development and Centre for global corporate governance society

whereas Kashmir University is establishing such centres for advanced instrumentation for research and establishment of centre for interdisciplinary research and innovation (CIRI).

He informed that Rs.30 crore are being spent on starting vocational courses in colleges affiliated to both universities so as to foster employability, innovation and entrepreneurship. Besides, IIM Jammu has been taken as a partner in this area for mentoring and hand-holding for linkages with industries and corporate sectors.

He further informed that 40 girl hostels have been established to accommodate 7000 students for equity participation from hilly and remote regions where girls drop out ratio is significant. Besides, 3.50 lakh students have been enrolled for higher education, GER in J&K is 30.6% which is above the national average of 26% with the peculiarity that girls outnumber boys. Under Technical Education Quality Initiatives (TEQIP), Rs. 40 crore has been provided for professional universities (BGBSU,IUST, SMVDU and GCETs), 54 M.Tech seats in computer, mechanical, electronics and communication for session 20-21.

He informed that under transformation of academic curriculum transaction about 20% of credits have been adopted through online

Description of Work

Annual Stage contract for "Repairs and

Maintenance of 33/11kV Receiving

Date and Time of downloading/Sale

Date & Time of Download/Sale

Commercial/Technical Bid Opening

Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid

Amount of Earnest Money Deposit

(End) of Tender Document

Date & Time of Bid Uploading

(Start/End)

Date & Time

Financial Bid Opening

Cost of e-Bid document

No: STD-I/1073-75.

Dt: 14.07.2020.

(Start) of Tender Document

of Sub Transmission Division-I,

next Stage Contract.

Stations falling under the jurisdiction

Bemina, Srinagar for year 2020-21 or till

Tele/Fax: 0194-2491345,

S.No

iii)

iv)

vi)

vii)

viii)

courses on MOOCS (SWAYAM) to enhance student mobility across the UT universities. Besides, more than 150 employability enhancement skill courses for 16 credits under the new reform and add-on certificate courses as per NSQF framework and AICTE approved curriculum have also been introduced, he added.

He apprised that LOCF for all courses has

been adopted from current academic year under which 26 IG programmes and 40 honours programme have been offered in premier colleges, SWAYAM and National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) courses being used by the teachers and students. Also, 50,000 electronic tablets are being provided to bridge the digital divide and enable transaction for e-learning. He said that about 50 colleges of Valley have been connected on internet with Kashmir University to extend National Knowledge Network connectivity of 2 GBPs. Besides, all universities in the UT have at least 1 GB connectivity to support academic and research programmes, he added. Also, 300 class rooms have already been upgraded as digital class rooms and the remaining 1200 would be upgraded this year under 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' initiative, launched by Government of India post COVID-19 and college campuses being enabled with wi-fi facility.

email: XENSTD1@gmail.com

500.00

Last Date of

Submission

10.08.2020:

03:00PM

Executive Engineer

Bemina Srinagar

Sub Transmission Division-Ist

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

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

AIRPORTS

RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259



ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507

OAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 3:53 **ZUHR** 12: 37 **ASR** 5:34 7:44 Magrib 9:20

27 Zu al-Qa'dah ISHA 1441

This Day In History

1850 - Airship Elizabeth leaves in storm for Fire Island, crashes (42 die) 1860 - 1st railroad reaches Kansas

1863 - Battle of Buffington's Island (St George Creek), Ohio 1864 - Third Battle of Winchester, VA (Stephenson's Depot) 1870 - France declares war on Prussia; Franco-Prussian war begins

1912 - A meteorite of estimated 190kg mass explodes over Holbrook in Navajo County, Arizona, causing approximately 16,000 pieces of debris to rain down on the town

1918 - World War I: German armies retreat across Marne River in France 1963 - NASA civilian Test pilot Joe Walker in X-15 reaches 105 km 1967 - US launches Explorer 35 for lunar orbit (800/7400 km)

1969 - Apollo 11 goes into Moon orbit

1974 - Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 14 lands back on earth 1975 - Apollo & Soyuz linked in orbit for 2 days, separate

1979 - 2 supertankers collide off Tobago-260,000 tons of oil spill 1989 - United Airlines DC-10 crashes at Sioux City Iowa, kills 112 1994 - Bomb explosion in Alas Airlines at Colon Panama, 21 killed 2001 - Michael Brunet discovers the skull of Sahelanthropus tchaden-

sis in the Djurab Desert, Chad. One of the oldest known species in the human family tree. 6-7 million years ago years old 2015 - World Health Organization puts world's Ebola death toll at

11,284 2017 - US scientists calculate total amount plastic ever produced - 8.3 million tonnes, equal to weight of 1 billion elephants.

2017 - Archaeological dig in Kakadu National Park extends Aboriginal peoples time in Australia to 65,000 to 80,000 years ago 2017 - BBC publishes salaries of its top-earning journalists and presenters, two-thirds male, Chris Evans highest at over £2.2 million 2017 - Investigators using DNA identify 16 year-old James Byron Haakenson as a victim of serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 41 years after his

From KO Archives

First ever Hurriyat-KP meeting today

Srinagar - The moderate Hurriyat Conference, led by Mirwaiz Omar Farooq, will hold its first ever meeting with the leaders of the migrant Kashmiri Pandits here tomorrow to discuss among other issues their safe return to the Valley.

The meeting will deliberate on the ways and means to efforts to resolve the Kashmir, issue besides other problems faced by the members of both the communities.

A deputation of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits had called on Mirwaiz Farooq on July 5 and agreed to meet on July 19.

The meeting is expected to be attended by senior leaders of various Kashmiri Pandit organisations. However, the move suffered an initial setback when few prominent Kashmiri Pandit outfits, including the Panun

Kashmir and the All State Kashmiri Pandit Conference. refused to attend the meeting. The Panun Kashmir described the move as a 'trap' laid by the Hurriyat Conference for the Kashmiri' Pandits. At a joint news conference in Jammu on Saturday, heads

of various Kashmiri Pandit organisations said the Hurriyat Conference has not mentioned the agenda, meeting points and limitations of the dialogue process.

Talking to reporters here recently, Mirwaiz Farooq said, "It is an important development. Kashmiri Pandits are part and parcel of Kashmir... its culture and tradition. We will also sit and discuss the ways and means to efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue besides other problems faced by us." The return of the Kashmiri Pandits is a humanitarian issue, the Mirwaiz said, adding the Hurriyat Conference has always favoured their return to their homes in Kashmir.

Senior Hurriyat leader Prof Abdul Ghani Bhat said meeting will also discuss the ongoing peace initiatives and the Hurriyat standpoint for the eventual resolution of the

The resolution of the Kashmir issue is very important, the settlement of the Kashmir issue will serve the interests of all sections of the society be-sides India and Pakistan; 'he added. "Problem-free people live a comfortable life and make faster progress, Prof Bhat said During the last 16 years, there has hardly been any contact on the collective level between Hurrivat and the Kashmiri Pandits in exile, Salim Gilani, Hurriyat's coordinator for the meet said adding the meeting was aimed at creating goodwill between the two communities.

Describing as "unfortunate" the exodus of Pundits in the wake of militancy, Gilani said it is a "sincere beginning of dialogue process for return of uprooted people from their native places." Gilani said he had held several meetings with various Kashmiri Pandit organisations and prominent people of its community in Jammu and Delhi over the last few months and based on a postive response from them, it had organised the conference tomorrow. 'A larger interact ion with the Pundits was scheduled to be organised in Jammu next month, he said admitting that all the Kashmiri Pundit I organisations would not be represented at the Tuesday conference.

(Kashmir Observer, 19 July, 2005)

Son dies, father in hospital after slab collapse in Budgam

Budgam: A man and his son came under a concrete slab in Central Kashmir's Budgam district resulting in the death of his young son.

Police said while constructing a garage at Warasangam village of Budgam, the slab caved in over the father son duo.

Abdul Hamid Bhat (50) and his 17 year old son Ajaz Hamid Bhat were shifted to District Hospital where Ajaz succumbed to his injuries

A medico said that the son died on the way

while father is undergoing treatment. while the father was undergoing treatment.

Govt, of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Chief Education Officer Pulwama **TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are Invited from the registered Advertising agencies for procurement of School Pledge Boards as per specification given below. The tenders shall be supported with CDR for Rs. 5,000/= pledged to chief Education Officer Pulwama.

S.No.	Item	Specification
01		PVC boards with iron hinges 2X3 feet (Portrait)

The tenders shall reach this office within 07 days from the date of publication of this tender notice in local dailies. The rates are quoted "FOR" and inclusive of all taxes.

The Details to be printed on the school safety pledge boards can be obtained from the Samagra Section of the Chief Education Office Pulwama within 4 days after publication of the tender notice from 10:30AM to 4PM.

No.: CEO/Pul/SmS/20/2365 Dated: 14/07/020

DIPK-3096/20

Chief Education Officer Pulwama

J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. Lal Mandi Srinagar.

GIST of NIT NO: -AGRO/DM/PSK/01 DATED:-14-07-2020.

For and on behalf of the Corporation, Union Territory of J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited tenders are invited from Registered Principal Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers/Suppliers having valid license/ Registration for annual rate contract for supply of different Agriculture machinery items as per details below:-

	In Rs.	ments (non- re- fundable) In Rs.
Supply of Power Sprayers. (Brand Greaves) with 100ft. spray pipe	15000/-	1000/-
Supply of Irrigation Pump Set (Brand Greaves) GSP-80, GSP90 and GSP-50, electric irrigation pump set (Greaves) with suction hose pipe.	15000/-	1000/-
Supply of Brush Cutter CGS-30. (Brand Greaves)	15000/-	1000/-
Supply of Power Weeders, (Brand Greaves) 9HP Self start/9HP non self and 5HP	15000/-	1000/-
Supply of Power Tiller GS-15 DIL (Brand Greaves)	15000/-	1000/-
Supply of Reaper (Brand Greaves)	15000/-	1000/-
Supply of Paddy Transplanter Greaves	15000/-	1000/-
Knap Sack Battery Operated Greaves	15000/-	1000/-
	with 100ft. spray pipe Supply of Irrigation Pump Set (Brand Greaves) GSP-80, GSP90 and GSP-50, electric irrigation pump set (Greaves) with suction hose pipe. Supply of Brush Cutter CGS-30. (Brand Greaves) Supply of Power Weeders, (Brand Greaves) 9HP Self start/9HP non self and 5HP Supply of Power Tiller GS-15 DIL (Brand Greaves) Supply of Reaper (Brand Greaves) Supply of Paddy Transplanter Greaves	with 100ft. spray pipe Supply of Irrigation Pump Set (Brand Greaves) GSP-80, GSP90 and GSP-50, electric irrigation pump set (Greaves) with suction hose pipe. Supply of Brush Cutter CGS-30. (Brand Greaves) Supply of Power Weeders, (Brand Greaves) 9HP Self start/ 9HP non self and 5HP Supply of Power Tiller GS-15 DIL (Brand Greaves) Supply of Reaper (Brand Greaves) Supply of Reaper (Brand Greaves) Supply of Paddy Transplanter Greaves

	Critical Dates: -	
1	Date of Issue of NIT	14-07-2020
2	Document download start date	15-07-2020
J	Bid submission Start date	16-07-2020
4	Bid submission End date	05-08-2020
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	06-08-2020

The Bidding Document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, Specification, set of terms and condition of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given above.

NO: Agro/DM/P&S/2020-21/970-73

Dated: 14-07-2020

DIPK-NB-1448/20

Mir Aijaz Hassan Divisional Manager (P&S) J&K Agro Ind. Dev. Corpn.Ltd. Procurement & Sales Division, Kashmir

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation,

DIPK-NB-1419/20

Government of India Invites applications for the post of Chief Statistician of India Position and responsibility: The Chief Statistician of India (CSI) is a senior level

appointment in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. CSI besides discharging the functions of the Secretary to Government of India in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation will be the head of the National Statistical Organisation and Secretary of the National Statistical Commission.

Qualifications: The applicants shall be Indian Nationals with proven statistical and managerial experience in a large statistical organization. He or she should not be more than 55 years of age as on the last date for application to the position.

Conditions of service: CSI will have a tenure of three years extendable by a further period of two years, i.e. a total of five years or till he / she attains the age of superannuation, whichever is earlier and will be eligible for reappointment. CSI will be entitled to the salary and allowances and other facilities like Government accommodation as admissible to a Secretary

Selection procedure: A Search Committee constituted by the Government of India will recommend a panel of names for filling the vacancy from amongst the applicants. Besides the applicants, the Search Committee may also recommend names of other persons considered suitable for the position. The competent authority also reserves the right to suitably relax the eligibility criteria given above, if considered necessary.

Candidates should send their applications along with their Curriculum Vitae including details of professional experiences and publications to Dy. Director General, NSC Secretariat, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Room No. 305, 3rd Floor, C-Wing, Pushpa Bhawan, Saket, New Delhi-110062 either by post or by E-mail at nscsecretariat@nic.in so as to reach her by 17:30 hours on or before 17th August 2020. Those who are serving in Government or Public Sector undertakings or Autonomous bodies should send their applications through their employer along with character and integrity certificates.

For more details on the terms and conditions of service, please log on to www.mospi.gov.in Dated the 17 July 2020

Deputy Director General National Statistical Commission Secretariat F.No 1/NSC/2020(Pt.II)

DAVP: 39101/11/0001/2021

OBSERVER 1

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the

Kashmir Observer LLP

Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001

Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.

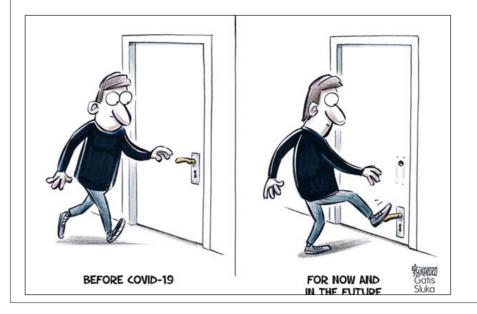
RNI Registration No: 69503/98

Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16

Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja Switchboard: (0194) 2106304 Editorial: (0194) 2502327

Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

NO **HOLDS** BARRED



Iranian, Chinese and Russian negotiators will meet next month to discuss terms of military cooperation among the top three nodes of Eurasia integration.

Lg Is Here To Stay

Thecurrent J&K administration's rule is not subject to any temporal restrictions

SIKANDAR HAYAT KHAN

There is no constitutional or statutory mechanism that necessitates the holding of an election in a time bound manner in J&K. As things stand, it is the sole discretion of the Centre

he one-year anniversary of the Central Government's move to 'integrate' the state of Jammu & Kashmir with the Indian mainland is just around the corner. Some Constitutional Amendments, legislations and other orders later, a question that takes the centerstage, is, when will the Union Territory of J&K see the light of the election day? The answer to this question takes one down a rather complicated road, which I seek to simplify through this article.

Beyond the magnum opus of August 5 i.e. Constitution Order 272, which effectively put an end to Article 370, the Centre also introduced, what is now the Reorganization Act, 2019. While the former put an end to the state's special status, the latter divided the state into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh respectively. Article 239A of the Indian Constitution (which provides for a legislature in a UT) has been extended only to the UT of J&K through section 13 of the Reorganization Act. This means, that J&K will welcome the electoral process after a two-year hiatus. The focal aspect is, when?

As of today, J&K is under the Lieutenant Governor's rule. It is pertinent to highlight that LG's rule is distinct from both President's rule as well as Governor's rule. In 2018, when the PDP-BJP coalition dismantled, what was imposed is known as the Governor's rule. Since Kashmir had its special status then, section 92 of the now dysfunctional Constitution of J&K provided that for a period of six months after the failure of the governmental machinery, the Governor rules the state. It is only on lapse of six months that the President's rule is imposed.



On reorganization, J&K was made a UT and a new designation of a Lieutenant Governor was created. In October 2019, the President vide a notification, formally revoked his rule over the UT but the Central rule has since continued in the form of LG's rule. This is the difference in the three terminologies.

Had the state not been turned into a UT, in line with Article 356 of the Constitution of India, President's rule would have to make way for compulsory elections after 3 years of imposition. However, currently, the position is governed by section 73 of the aforementioned Reorganization Act. The section

states that "if the President, on receipt of a report from the Lieutenant Governor of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, or otherwise, is satisfied,—(a) that a situation has arisen in which the administration of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or (b) that for the proper administration of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir it is necessary or expedient to do so, the President may, by order, suspend the operation of all or any of the provisions of this Act for such period as he thinks fit and make such incidental and consequential provisions as may appear to him to be necessary or expedient for administering the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the provisions of this Act."

On a simple reading of this provision, it can be ascertained that the power of the LG to impose his/her rule over the UT of J&K is not subject to any temporal (time-based) restrictions as the case would have been if the J&K had been left a state without special status. Therefore, on receipt of a report of LG or even otherwise, Central rule through LG may continue as per the discretion of the President. Notwithstanding the legality of these laws, the current position is amply clear. There is no constitutional or statutory mechanism that necessitates the holding of an election in a time bound manner in J&K.As things stand, it is the sole discretion of the Centre. Furthermore, even upon the installation of a democratically elected government, the Centre through LG retains the power to topple the government, if 'situations' warranting such toppling arise.

Iran-China Pact Turbocharges New Silk Roads

China will invest \$400 billion in Iran's energy and infrastructure but nothing in the strategic pact allows for a Chinese troop presence or island handover

Pepe Escobar

WO of the US's top 'strategic threats' are getting closer and closer within the scope of the New Silk Roads — the leading 21st century project of economic integration across Eurasia. The Deep State will not be amused.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi blasted as 'lies' a series of rumours about the 'transparent roadmap' inbuilt in the evolving Iran-China strategic partnership.

That was complemented by president Rouhani's chief of staff, Mahmoud Vezi, who said that 'a destructive line of propaganda has been initiated and directed from outside Iran against the expansion of Iran's relations with neighbours and especially (with) China and Russia.'

Vezi added, 'this roadmap in which a path is defined for expansion of relations between governments and the private sectors is signed and will continue to be signed between many countries.'

tinue to be signed between many countries.'

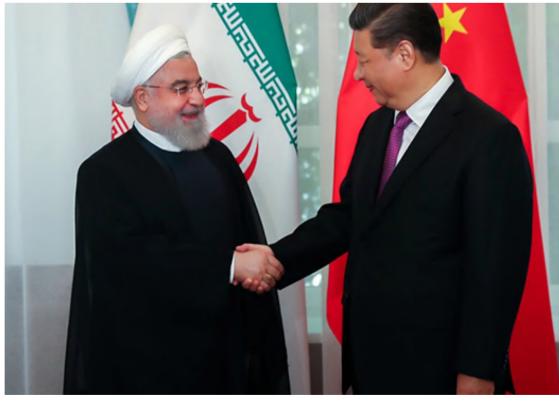
To a great extent, both Mousavi and Vezi were referring to a sensationalist report which did not add anything that was not already known about the strategic partnership, but predictably dog-whistled a major red alert about the military alliance.

The Iran-China strategic partnership was officially established in 2016, when president Xi visited Tehran. These are the guidelines.

Two articles among the 20 listed in the agreement are particularly relevant.

Item 7 defines the scope of the partnership within the New Silk Roads vision of Eurasia integration: 'The Iranian side welcomes "the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road" initiative introduced by China. Relying on their respective strengths and advantages as well as the opportunities provided through the signing of documents such as the "MOU on Jointly Promoting the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road" and "MOU on Reinforcement of Industrial and Mineral Capacities and Investment", both sides shall expand cooperation and mutual investments in various areas including transportation, railway, ports, energy, industry, commerce and services.'

And item 10 praises Iran's membership of the AIIB: "The Chinese side appreciates Iran's participation as a "Founding Member" of the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank. Both sides are willing to strengthen their cooperation in the relevant areas



and join their efforts towards the progress and pros-

So what's the deal?

THE core of the Iran-China strategic partnership — no secret whatsoever since at least last year — revolves around a \$400 billion Chinese investment in Iran's energy and infrastructure for the next 25 years. It's all about securing a matter of supreme Chinese national interest: a steady supply of oil and gas, bypassing the dangerous bottleneck of the Strait of Malacca, secured with a median 18 per cent discount, and paid in yuan or in a basket of currencies bypassing the US dollar.

Beijing will also invest roughly \$228 billion in Iranian infrastructure — that's where the AIIB comes in — over 25 years, but especially up to 2025. That ranges from building factories to badly needed energy industry renovation, all the way to the already in progress construction of the 900 kilometres-

long electric rail from Tehran to Mashhad.

Tehran, Qom and Isfahan will also be linked by high-speed rail — and there will be an extension to Tabriz, an important oil, gas and petrochemical node and the starting point of the Tabriz-Ankara gas pipeline.

All of the above makes total sense in New Silk Road terms, as Iran is a key Eurasian crossroads. High-speed rail traversing Iran will connect Urumqi in Xinjiang to Tehran, via four of the Central Asian 'stans' (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) all the way to West Asia, across Iraq and Turkey, and further on to Europe: a techno revival of the Ancient Silk Roads, where the main language of trade between East and West across the heartland was Persian.

The terms of aerial and naval military cooperation between Iran and China and also Russia are still not finalised — as Iranian sources told me. And no one has had access to the details. What Mousavi said, in a tweet, was that 'there is nothing (in the agree-

ment) about delivering Iranian islands to China, nothing about the presence of military forces, and other falsehoods.'

The same applies to — totally unsubstantiated — speculations that the People's Liberation Army would be granted bases in Iran and be allowed to station troops in Iranian territory.

Last Sunday, foreign minister Mohammad JavadZarif stressed that Iran and China had been negotiating 'with confidence and conviction' and there was 'nothing secret' about the agreement.

Iranian, Chinese and Russian negotiators will meet next month to discuss terms of military cooperation among the top three nodes of Eurasia integration. Closer collaboration is scheduled to start by November

Geopolitically and geoeconomically, the key take away is that the US's relentless blockade of the Iranian economy, featuring hardcore weaponised sanctions, is impotent to do anything about the wideranging Iran-China deal. Here is a decent expose of some of the factors in play.

The Iran-China strategic partnership is yet another graphic demonstration of what could be deconstructed as the Chinese brand of exceptionalism: a collective mentality and enough organised planning capable of establishing a wide-ranging, win-win, economic, political and military partnership.

It's quite instructive to place the whole process within the context of what state councillor and foreign minister Wang Yi stressed at a recent China-US Think Tanks meeting, attended, among others, by Henry Kiesinger.

Henry Kissinger:
 'One particular view has been floating around in recent years, alleging that the success of China's path will be a blow and threat to the Western system and path. This claim is inconsistent with facts, and we do not agree with it. Aggression and expansion are never in the genes of the Chinese nation throughout its 5,000 years of history. China does not replicate any model of other countries, nor does it export its own to others. We never ask other countries to copy what we do. More than 2,500 years ago, our forefathers advocated that "All living things can grow in harmony without hurting one another, and different ways can run in parallel without interfering with one another".'

(Pepe Escobar is the author of Globalistan: How the Globalised World is Dissolving into Liquid War and Obama does Globalistan. He writes for Asia Times Online)

5 Kashmiri Women Self-Starters **Whose Resolve Became Their Brand Identity**

Swati Joshi

-Namada is a traditional carpet made by rolling and pressing wool. In the past, it was widely used by Kashmiris in their drawing rooms during winters. But the sale of Namada declined due to the advent of a new variety of fashionable carpets in the market.

ANDEMIC might've already paralysed many dream ventures and economic units, but resilience to rise above one's adversities makes Kashmir's new-age self-starters inspiration for educated youth who want to become employer than employee in their life.

It was the same resolve which made a young Kashmiri woman to infuse a new lease of life in traditional Kashmiri dead rug called Namada.

The same steely resolve motivated a young Kashmiri bride to step into her late father-in-law's shoes to become a prominent bat-maker in town.

With pandemic still locking people in their home, a young Kashmiri self-starter has come forward to

make mandatory masks for masses. And then there's a moving story of an educated and empowered Kashmiri girl who not only became

pashmina shawls. Besides resolve, the ability to take risks equally fuels these stirring stories.

When a young Kashmiri florist left her government job for her passion, she received brickbats for throwing the "secure income" out of the window.

A resolve to take risks makes these young Kashmiri self-starters an inspirational class for the strife-torn society. Kashmir Observer compiles the spirited stories of five such self-starters who dared to dream differently.

Arifa Jan always wanted to be an independent self-starter, but knew that it wouldn't be a walk in the park for her. But her resolve eventually made her to set up three manufacturing units to revive the traditional Kashmiri rug called Namada.

She went on to employ 25 Kashmiri artisans and trained more than 100 Kashmiri women. Arifa also increased the wages of the artisans from Rs 175 to Rs

Namada is a traditional carpet made by rolling and pressing wool. In the past, it was widely used by Kashmiris in their drawing rooms during winters. But the sale of Namada declined due to the advent of a new variety of fashionable carpets in the market.

Arifa pursued two-year Craft Management and Entrepreneurial Leadership program at Craft Development Institute (CDI) after completing her graduation from Kashmir University

Unable to pay the fees for the leadership program, she was granted a scholarship by CDI and went to Kyrgyzstan for specialized training.

After Masters, she started working on the Namada revival project, setting up her first business unit at Srinagar's Sekidafar locality in 2012.

She was awarded US Citizenship Eligibility Certificate in 2014 by the United States State Department for Women Entrepreneurship Programme.

After returning from the US, she opened two more units in Srinagar's Noorbagh and Nawa Kadal localities.

It was Riffat Masoodi's father-in-law, Ghulam Rasool Masoodi, who had started a cricket bat manufacturing factory in south Kashmir's Pampore town in

After his demise, the shut shop bankrupted the once prosperous family.

But when going got tough, the daughter-in-law decided to revive the defunct unit.

The 40-year-old mother of two children restarted the factory and became Kashmir's only woman crick-



Sustaining ventures amidst restrictions and lockdowns might be a challenging task, but some Kashmiri women have grown resilient enough to rise above their hardships. Not only have they succeeded in their endeavour, but also inspired others to become their own boss.

et bat-maker.

Today, as head of Masoodi Arts and Sports firm, Riffat is an inspiring story for many.

A graduate from Srinagar's Vishwa Bharati College of Education, Riffat has managed to handle her business amidst the turmoil in the valley and set up manufacturing units in Awantipora, Anantnag, and Pampore. The self-starter's unit produces thousands of bats per month which are transported to many Indian states.

Shaheena Akhtar

Daughter of a coppersmith, Shaheena Akhtar had to give up her dream of higher studies to tackle her family's financial crisis. Her five siblings are school dropouts, and were job strugglers before she became the family support.

After completing a month-long entrepreneurship training program, she wrote a business proposal and submitted it to Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

She wanted to weave Pashmina shawls, besides doing novel embroidery works on them.

Pashmina shawls are made from the soft and fine cashmere wool from the Changthangi goats found in the higher altitudes of Ladakh.

She received a grant of Rs 8.5 lakhs from JKEDI, with which the entrepreneur expanded her business. Shaheena's unit also produces Kani shawls — wowith special wooden needles called Kanils in Kash-

mir. The expensive shawls are made on demand. Akhtar received the Exemplary Entrepreneurship Award in Handicrafts sector from the then chief minister Omar Abdullah in 2014 for her outstanding work.

Nusrat Jahan Ara

It takes courage to quit a government job in Kashmir and start an enterprise in which no women have entered. Ara is one of those women welcoming risk with a smiling face.

Hailing from Dadoora village of Kashmir's Pulwama district, Ara was castigated when she decided to quit her 'secure' job for the cut-flower profession.

The florist had no investors when she started her business. She started growing flowers in her backyards and selling them. After using all her savings, Ara worked with the vendors on a credit basis and took a loan to convert her idea into reality.

The computer graduate also runs Kashmir Essences, a brand of personal care and home care products under a company called Himalayan Agro Farms.

The brand uses natural Kashmir produce like saffron, almond, cherry, walnut, apple, and other organic products to make organic eatables and beauty products.

These days Mufti Sadia is busy in stitching face masks and personal protective equipment (PPE). With her designer resolve, the self-starter has joined the battle against coronavirus.

Sadia started her brand called 'Hangers and Closet' in 2014 at the age of 24. A pinch of western style to the traditional Kashmiri wear has been the idea behind the boutique. But being a trendsetter didn't come easy for her

She quitted her human resource manager job in order to become an independent self-starter. She also faced family resistance and drew flak for her career choice.

Sadia, however, never backed out, and worked hard to fulfill her dream and eventually became an inspiration for many in the society.

The Path Less Travelled Could Lead To Success

Humanities are relegated to the lowest rung on the ladder of perceived mental ability

Navanita Varadpande

Gulf News

re you serious? He's chosen what?" These words were soaked in shocked consternation, as if I had just touched my aunt with a coronavirus infected sneeze! I replied, "Yes, you heard right, my son has opted for commerce!"

Sudden gloom had set in, the news hadn't been received with much positivity. The reason being, the boy has selected the "pariah" of streams, as per what most Indians believe. And god save those who decide to take on humanities. They are relegated to the lowest category on the ladder of perceived men-

Minakshi has literally pushed her daughter off the cliff into taking science despite the fact that the girl was most inclined towards liberal arts. The mother's plaintive cry being, "What will our relatives say?" Even though the school where the girl used to study counselled her into opting for humanities, because that's where her aptitude lay, her parents were adamant. They tried to arm-twist their way into the science stream and when that wasn't possible, they shifted the daughter to another school.

The ambition of many parents is to see the child get into the most prestigious engineering college in India called 'IIT'.

Mr. Nair even threatened the school authorities that if his son was not offered 'science' then he would sue them. "If my son doesn't become an engineer I can never ever go back to my hometown with my

head held high!" Jina, who was my student in primary school, called me the other day and lamented, "Ma'am I have always maintained 'social-distancing' from all things 'bloody' and 'creepy'. I detest biology and my folks want me to study medicine. When do I tell



them, I won't be able to even dissect a cockroach

they ignore my pleas."

Her parents apparently had thrown her into a swimming pool when she was small and was terrified of water, that's how she learnt to swim in spite of all the howling and fear, so the argument that they put forth is that, "These kids have to be pushed into it, they will automatically learn to swim their way through." What if they 'drown'? Drown into the next miserable 40 years of doing something that they

were never happy about.

I marvel at Mrs. Kohli's forthrightness, "Oh, I always thought your son was an intelligent student, then why commerce? We told our Guddu, whatever you want to do, do after you get an engineering degree. The degree is as important for us as my Jimmy Choo shoes, my LV bags and our new Audi 'gaddi'

Obsession with 'engineering'

Well, the mindless rat race actually begins way before. The ambition of many parents is to see the child get into the most prestigious engineering college in India called 'IIT'. The training begins when the child is 13 years old. They are brainwashed into thinking that it's either 'IIT" or it is a "dead end". Even if you have to become a stand-up comedian after four gruelling years at an engineering college ...

Now, the societal obsession with 'engineering' can be said to be a colonial hangover. In the process of 'modernising' the umpteen backward kingdoms and princely states that made up what we now call India, the British began building railway routes, dams, roads, cities and more, in order to make governance and trade simpler processes. Engineers were responsible for this refurbishing of the country. Most of them were British and they enjoyed all the benefits given to administrative officers.

Naturally, the Indians too were drawn to this new occupation with endless opportunities for employment. When these educated Indian engineers prospered, it gave the profession a respectful tag which with time became an obsession, a one-stop solution to all of life's problems.

The first day of the online classes in Grade 11, the first session with his accountancy teacher, immediately did away with the wee-bit of self-doubt that my son had about treading the path less travelled. As the days go by, he seems more confident, his teachers further strengthen his resolve with positive affirmations. Today he reads out one of the quotes that he has collected, by Rick Warren, "Those who follow the crowd usually get lost in it." And I believe that the pot holes and bumpy phases of the ride through life dissolve when you love what you do!

> — Navanita Varadpande is a writer based in Dubai. Twitter: @VpNavanita



Press Trust Of India

cientists have developed a surface coating which when painted on common objects, such as

that may help stop the spread of the pandemic.

The research, published in the journal ACS Applied Materials & door knobs, light switches, and hour on coated glass or stainless shopping carts can inactivate steel, levels of the virus reduced a pandemic like doorknobs. the novel coronavirus which by about 99.9 per cent on average,

causes COVID-19, an innovation compared to the uncoated sample. land on a solid object, the virus withcluding those from Virginia Tech said William Ducker, a co-author of in the US, the coating adheres the study from Virginia Tech. well to glass and stainless steel, Interfaces, noted that after one as well as everyday items that people may fear to touch during

"The idea is when the droplets

According to the scientists, in- in the droplets will be inactivated,"

"One hour is the shortest period that we have tested so far, and tests at shorter periods are ongoing," Ducker said.

The scientists hope to inacti-

vate the virus in minutes.

coating is robust, they said, addbeing slashed with a razor blade.

It also retains its ability to inactiof being exposed to the virus, and

submerged in water for a week, the place other safety measures that Results have shown that the researchers said based on the tests. "Everybody is worried about

ing that it does not peel off after touching objects that may have the coronavirus," said Ducker, adding that the invention "would vate the virus after multiple rounds help people to relax a little bit."

people should take to stop the spread of the coronavirus, such as handwashing, physical distancing, and wearing a mask.

Even so, "people won't have to worry as much about touching The scientists however cau- objects. It will be both practical then disinfection, or after being tioned that the film doesn't re- and reducing fear," Ducker said.

Study Predicts India's Population May Peak To 1.6 Bn In 2048, Decline In 2100 To 1.

Press Trust Of India

cientists have predicted that the India's population may peak to about 1.6 billion in 2048, and decline by 32 per cent to around 1.09 billion in 2100, when it is also expected to be the world's most populous country.

The analysis, published in the journal The Lancet, used data from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017, and applied novel models to project future global, regional, and national population for 183 countries, including India, US, China, and Japan, and their mortality, fertility, and migration rates.

cluding those from the University of the US the dominant powers. Washington in the US, there may be dramatic declines in working agepopulations in countries such as India day," the scientists noted. and China, which they said may hamper economic growth and lead to shifts bers of working-age adults in India to protect its working-age popula- quality of past data.



According to the researchers, in-century, with India, Nigeria, China, and

"This will truly be a new world, one we should be preparing for to-

in global powers. They said the world is projected to fall from 762 milcould be multipolar at the end of this lion in 2017 to around 578 million in 2100, compared to that of China where numbers of workers are es- graphic change," Murray said timated to decline from 950 million

in 2017 to 357 million in 2100. According to the study, the num- few -- if only -- major power in Asia constrained by the quantity and

tion over the century.
"It is expected to surpass China's workforce population in the mid-2020s, rising up the GDP rankings from 7th to 3rd," the scientists noted in a statement to the press.

Commenting on the research, Christopher Murray from the University of Washington, who led the research, said continued global population growth through the century s no longer the most likely trai

tory for the world's population. "This study provides governments of all countries an opportunity to start rethinking their policies on migration, workforces and economic development to address the challenges presented by demo-

Citing the study's limitations, the scientists said while they used the It said India may be one of the best available data, predictions are

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

Email id:- std2rajbagh@yahoo.in Fax No. 0194-2310042

Extension Notice No-3

Due to poor response, the date of submission of bid in respect of e-NIT No. STD-II / 01 of 2020-21 Dated:-12-06-2020 issued vide this office endorsement No.:STD-II/219-22/Ts Dated:- 12-06-2020 having tender ID 2020_PDD_98207_1 for "Expression of interest for empanelment of contractors for the financial year 2020-21 for execution of various works pertaining to emergency restoration, preventive maintenance and other allied works in Sub Transmission Division-II, Rajbagh falling in District Srinagar and District Budgam on as and when required basis as per the necessity of the system is hereby extended with the details enumerated below:-

Name of the Work	Expression of interest for empanelment of contractors for the financial year 2020-21 for execution of various works pertaining to emergency restoration, preventive maintenance and other allied works of Sub Transmission Division-II,Rajbagh falling in District Srinagar and District Budgam as and when required as per the necessity of the system				
Cost of Tender document	Rs. 500.00				
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 50,000.00				
Last Date of sale of Tender Document (Extended)	27-07-2020; 2:30pm				
Date of receipt of Tenders online (Extended)	27-07-2020; 2:30pm				
Bid Opening Date	29-07-2020; 2:30pm				
Class of Contractor	"A" class Electrical contractor / Self Help Groups				

DIPK-NB-1464/20

No.:STD-II/580-83/Ts

Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar. Dated: - 18-07-2020

New Antiplatelet Drug Shows Promise For Treating Heart Attack

Agencies

esearchers have developed a new drug that prevents blood clots without causing an increased risk of bleeding, a common side effect of all antiplatelet medications currently available.

The study, published in the journal Science Translational Medicine, described the drug and its delivery mechanisms and shows that the drug is also an effective treatment for heart attack in animal models. "Unfortunately, current anti-platelet medications prevent the blood clotting that causes heart attack and stroke but also disrupt platelets' ability to stop bleeding if a blood vessel is torn," said study researcher Xiaoping Du

from the University of Illinois in the US. "The magic of this new drug is it prevents clots but does not make people prone to bleeding, which other drugs have failed to do," Du added. In a previous study, the research team identified a signalling mechanism that is important in the blood clotting process but not required for platelets' ability to adhere to a wound and prevent bleeding. Based on this finding, the researchers derived a peptide to target the signalling mechanism and designed a nanoparticle that successfully delivered the peptide into platelets. The peptide-derived nanoparticle drug -- called M3mP6 high-loading peptide nanoparticle, of HLPN -- was then tested in mice as a possible treatment for heart attacks.Du said a heart attack can cause heart failure and death in two different ways. One, from the initial damage caused by the clot, which blocks blood flow and reduces oxygen supply.

Scholarships This Week

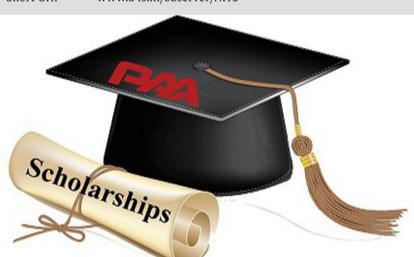
Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: NIT Rourkela Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2020

Description: The National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela invites applications for NIT Rourkela Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2020 from MTech degree holders. The fellowship is a temporary post for project titled, "Development of a low power video compression and enhancement module using TI's DaVinci board along with its FPGA realization".

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates who hold an MTech in Electronics and Communication Engineering/ Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering/ VLSI etc. **Prizes & Rewards:** Fellowship up to INR 35,000 per month

Last Date to Apply: 20-07-2020 Via email only Application mode: Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NIT3



Scholarship Name 2: DRDE Junior Research Fellowship in Biological Stream 2020

Description: Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Gwalior invites applications for DRDE Junior Research Fellowship in Biological Stream 2020 from MSc in Biological stream

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 28 years of age who hold an MSc in Biological stream in Life Science/ Zoology/ Biotechnology/ Molecular Biology/ Biochemistry/ Microbiology/ Immunology.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 plus HRA and medical facilities

Last Date to Apply: 28-07-2020 Application mode: Instead of applying for this fellowship, the candidates will have to appear in the Defense Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Jhansi Road, Gwalior on 28 July 2020.

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RDO7

Scholarship Name 3: DRDO Junior Research Fellowship in **Biological Stream 2020**

Description: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) invites applications for DRDO Junior Research Fellowship in Biological Stream 2020 from MSc in Biological stream students.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 28 years of age who hold an MSc degree in Biological stream in Life Science/ Zoology/ Biotechnology/ Molecular Biology/ Biochemistry/ Microbiology/ Immunology. They must be CSIR-UGC NET & GATE qualified.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 31,000 plus HRA and medical facilities

Last Date to Apply: 28-07-2020

Application mode: Instead of applying for this fellowship, the candidates will have to appear in the Defense Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Jhansi

Road, Gwalior on 28 July 2020. Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/DRD4

Scientists Identify 6 Distinct

have

Scientists

claimed that there are six dis-

tinct "types" of COVID-19, each

distinguished by a particular

cluster of symptoms in patients,

findings, if validated, can help

physicians better diagnose and

monitor those infected with the

viewed study, published in the

medRxiv preprint platform,

used a machine learning algo-

rithm to analyse data from a

The yet-to-be peer re-

novel coronavirus.

Iran Seizes Back Oil Tanker Hit By US Sanctions; Vessel **Anchored Off Iranian Coast**

Tehran: The Dominica-flagged MT Gulf Sky was seized back on July 5 off the coast of the United Arab Emirates. Satellite pictures showed it is now moored in Iranian waters, according to Tanker-Trackers com

David Hammond, the CEO of the United Kingdom-based group Human Rights at Sea, told the Associated Press that he took a witness statement from the captain of the MT Gulf Sky, confirming the ship had been recovered.

Hammond added that 26 of the Indian sailors on board had made it back to India, while two remained in Tehran, without elaborating.

"We are delighted to hear that the crew are safe and well which has been our fundamental concern from the outset," he said.

In May, the US Justice Department filed criminal charges against two Iranians, accusing them of attempts to purchase the tanker, then named the MT Nautica. The vessel then took on Iranian oil from Kharg Island to sell abroad.

The report comes amid tensions between Iran and the United States, after President Donald Trump on May 8, 2018 officially announced Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the landmark 2015 nuclear deal officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Following its withdrawal, the US unleashed the so-called maximum pressure campaign against Iran and targeted the Iranian nation with the "toughest ever" economic sanctions.

Back on July 19 last year, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) naval forces seized the 30,000-tonne UK-flagged tanker Stena Impero, when the vessel ignored distress calls as it collided with a fishing boat on its route.

IRGC said the ship had also used a wrong path to enter the Strait of Hormuz.

A day after the seizure of the Stena Impero, Iran released footage showing Iranian speedboats cruising near the tanker as a military helicopter hovered over the vessel.

An Iranian marine could be heard communicating with the command center in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

On September 27, 2019, the British-flagged oil tanker finally set sail and left Iranian waters for Dubai in the UAE.

Tensions between Iran and the UK began in early July last year, when British naval forces seized an Iranian oil tanker in Gibraltar under the pretext that it was carrying oil to Syria in violation of European Union sanctions against the Arab country. Iran strongly denied the claim

The great Twitter scam handiwork of 4 young hackers

Agencies

San Francisco: The worst cyber attack in the history of social media in which over 130 high-profile Twitter accounts were compromised using internal company tools this week is not the handiwork of nation-state bad actors but the brainchild of four young hackers, the media reported.

The New York Times reported on Friday that the Twitter crypto scam can be traced back to a group of hackers who congregate online at OGusers. com, a username-swapping community where people buy and sell coveted online handles.

Two users, identified by the online monikers "lol" and ""ever so anxious," came into contact

with someone called "Kirk." "Kirk did have access to Twitter's most sensitive tools, which allowed him to take control of almost any Twitter account, including those of former President Barack Obama, Joseph R. Biden Jr., Elon Musk and many other celebrities," said the report.

Twitter was yet to make it public who were behind the cyber attack, saying the investigation was on.

"But four people who participated in the scheme spoke with The Times and shared numerous logs and screenshots of the conversations they had on Tuesday and Wednesday, demonstrating their involvement both before and after the hack became public".



How Hot Could Us-China 'Cold War' Get?

Washington: Tensions are mounting by the day between the United States and China, leading to talk of a new Cold War. Experts see important historical differences but believe the two powers are entering dangerous territory.

US President Donald Trump's administration has increasingly gone global against China, pushing other nations to reject its strings-attached aid and telecom titan Huawei, and siding unreservedly with Beijing's rivals in the dispute-rife South China Sea.

Trump has made China a major campaign issue as he heads into the November election, but the relationship looks unlikely to change in more than tone if he loses to Joe Biden, who has accused the president of not being tough

Stephen Walt, a professor of international affairs at Harvard University, said the world's two largest economic powers were engaged in a long-term competition over "incompatible strategic visions", including China's desire to dominate Asia.

China sees Trump as a "weak and error-prone leader" and likely believes the "disastrous" US response to the coronavirus pandemic presented opportunities to

press its advantage, he said. "It resembles the US-Soviet

'Cold War' in certain respects, but it is not yet as dangerous as that earlier rivalry," Walt said.

"One key difference is that the two states are still closely connected economically, although that relationship is now under considerable strain.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is taking stern warnings about Beijing around the world, did not reject the Cold War comparison in a recent radio

He also noted that the US was never as economically intertwined with the Soviet Union — and said the West, therefore, needed to separate from China, especially its technology, which Washington fears will be used for espionage

Chance of 'hot war'

Oriana Skylar Mastro, an assistant professor at Georgetown University and resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, said it was dangerous to speak of a Cold War with China.

"The situation with China is nothing like the Cold War," she

"On the positive side, we have extensive engagement. On the negative, there is a real possibility of a hot war between the two sides to a degree that never existed with the Soviet Union.'

She said that using a Cold

subset of around 1,600 users in the UK and US with confirmed cases of COVID-19, who had regularly logged their symptoms using the app in March and April

War lens leads to ineffective re-

sponses, including Washington

incorrectly seeing Beijing as an

plenty of options to alleviate US

concerns, such as pulling back

weapons systems in the South

cause it fundamentally misunder-

stands the drivers of US policy. It

will lash out," she said.

Sharp hardening

for de-escalation

tank event.

Mastro said that China had

"But Beijing won't do this be-

"So there is no impetus to

how it attempts to achieve them.

the US, could lead us into a war."

they see as rampant theft of intel-

he learned as US defence attache in

Beijing that China responded to "de-

monstrable and tangible action".

David Stilwell, the top State De-

ideological threat.

China Sea.

Agencies

London:

It analysed that if particular symptoms appeared together, and how this was related to the progression of the disease.

According to the scientists, led by those from King's College London in the UK, the findings have major implications for the clinical management of COVID-19 patients.

"These findings have important implications for care and monitoring of people who are most vulnerable to severe COVID-19," said Claire Steves, a co-author of the study from King's College London.

They said the research can also help doctors predict

Symptom Clusters In COVIDPatients who is most at risk and likely to need hospital care in a second wave of coronavirus infec-

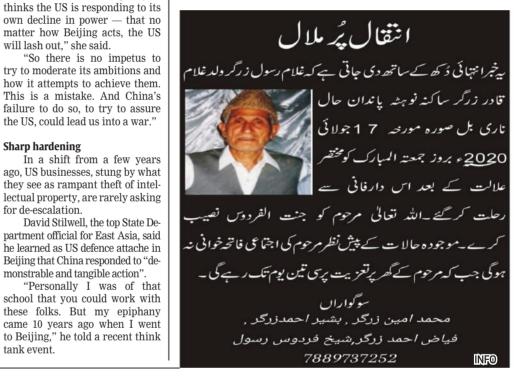
> The study noted that patient symptoms can fall under one of the six following categories: 'flu-like' with no fever, 'flu-like' with fever, gastrointestinal, severe level one with fatigue, severe level two with confusion, and severe level three accompanied by abdominal and respiratory pain.

> In the first category of patients who reported 'flu-like' symptoms with no fever, the scientists said the manifesta-



tions included loss of smell. muscle pains, cough, sore throat, chest pain, but no fever.

According to their analysis, those in the second category had headache, loss of smell, cough, sore throat, hoarseness, fever, and loss of appetite, and those in the gastrointestinal symptoms cluster had a combination of headache, loss of smell, loss of appetite, diarrhea, sore throat, chest pain, but no cough.



Covid-19 Cannot be Transmitted from Mosquitoes to Humans, Says Study

novel coronavirus and can they transmit Covid-19 to humans? Maybe not. In a new study, the researchers have confirmed that Covid-19 virus cannot be transmitted to people by mosquitoes.

The findings, published in the journal Scientific Reports, provide the first experimental investigation on the capacity of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19 disease, to infect and be

Replacement of broken glass panes and

other necessary allied civil works in Mortuary (Department of Forensic

transmitted by mosquitoes.

While the World Health Organisation (WHO) has definitively stated that mosquitoes cannot transmit the virus, our study is the first to provide conclusive data supporting the theory," said study researcher Stephen Higgs from Kansas State University in the US.

For the results, three widely distributed species of mosquito -- Aedes aegypti, Aedes albopictus and Culex

eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following

((Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir)) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B CONSTR. DIV. NO. IST SGR

quinquefasciatus -- representing the two most significant genera of arbovirus vectors that infect people, were tested.

Also, all three of the species are present in China, the country of origin of the novel coronavirus.

The study found that the virus is unable to replicate in three common and widely distributed species of mosquitoes and therefore cannot be transmitted to humans.

Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Ananntag

(Name of Authority Inviting Bids)

NIT NO: 02/EE/PMGSY/ANG OF 2020

Executive Engineer on the behalf of Lt. Governor UT of J & K the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads ander Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the el with J&K State Government, CPWD Railways and other State Government

	Restoration of riding surface of by way of Semi dense Bituminious			
	Restoration of riding surface of			
	Restoration of riding surface of			

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e procurement: 18/07/2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission

available online and bid should be submitted online on website The bidder would be required to register in the web site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to ignature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained th and password for participating in e tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can

registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities

Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) Original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid doc

ovisions of Clausé 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Anantnag K.P road Anantna

address and details of office where to be submitted), on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through

DIPK-3120/20

Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted

The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11.00 AM authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids wi next working day at the same time.

The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indica Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities

The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bi ay bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this a contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resc

of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failur will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by $the \ bidder. \ It is the \ bidders' \ responsibility \ to \ verify \ the \ website \ for \ the \ latest \ information \ related \ to \ the \ tender.$

> **Executive Engineer PMGSY** (JKRRDA) Division Anantnag

Wedicine and Toxicology) at Govt.			1			1		1
		1	l	I		L		1
	Date of Issue of Tender Notice							1
-	Period of downloading of bidding documents							
Date & time of opening of Bids			Co	in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar.				
details c	ding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility in an be seen/downloaded from the departmental website. The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the see Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashr	e NIT carefully	ations, Drawin before upload	gs, bill of quantiti <i>led softcopy any</i> :	es (B.O.Q), S short fall fo	et of terms and condi und in the soft copy		
Copies of bids immediately after submission of E tenders is dispensed with . The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared								
c) Similar allottii Bids mus	st of tenders should be collected by introducing ly, instead of insisting on actual Call Deposit Receipt, a copy ng the work or issuing the supply order, the original CDR shoulo the accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape the inviting authority I and earnest mone / Bid security in shape	of same duly po be obtained an of Treasury Ch	ledged to the d kept on reco allan in favo	concerned depart rd our of Executive	ment should Engineer (R	&B) Construction D	ivision No.	
	The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Construction Division No. Ist Srina The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of							
	valid for a period of 120 days from	the date of op	ening of bids					
Failure Failure	The earnest money shall be forfeited, If: dder/ tendere withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bi of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance securie of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days dditional performance security shall be released	ty within the sp	ecified time liı	nit.		tions of the bid.	o defect	
Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on web								
To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Ac								
	The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic form	nat with digital	Signature.					
No bid wi	ll be accepted in physical form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule me Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all		ments with the	e bid.				

Ex-Army Havildar Shoots

Himself Dead In Poonch

POONCH: A former Army Havildar who had subse-

vice Corps (DSC) shot him-

self dead with his service

weapon at Mendhar area of

this district on Saturday, of-

They said that the 45-year-old, former Havildar of 4

JAKLI, Bashir Ahmad, was

shifted to hospital soon af-

ter he was found in a pool of

blood at the place of posting

ficials said.

LG Urges Religious Leaders To Spread Awareness About COVID-19

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Gov- ease, he added. ernor, Girish Chandra Murmu leaders to play the crucial role in bringing about a consciamong their followers regarding importance of wearing face masks, social distancing and adherence of guidelines and advisories related to the prevention of COVID-19.

acting with the religious leaders and heads of various religious faiths and organizations from across the Kashmir Division here at the Auditorium Complex, Raj Bhavan.

Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole; besides religious leaders and heads of various religious organizations were present on the occasion.

Taking note of the spike in the positive cases during the relaxations, the Lt Governor underlined the importance of taking strict and effective measures to ensure the safety of the people amid the crisis.

heads to facilitate awareary measures and follow the SOP's issued by the Governmission of the deadly dis- from the deadly disease.

The Lt Governor advised today urged the religious them to utilize the potent media tools like social media, print and electronic entious behavioural change media to spread awareness messages in this regard.

Stressing on broader community participation for generating awareness, the Lt Governor sought their cooperation for achieving better results in The Lt Governor was inter- the fight against the deadly virus as they have a greater impact on their followers.

He further asked them to encourage the public to participate and cooperate with the government, take immu-Advisor to the Lieutenant nity boosters for self care and install Aarogya Setu App, besides adopting the practice of 'Stay at Home-Pray at Home' during the COVID-19 crisis.

The religious leaders assured their full support to the Government in its efforts to prevent and contain this pandemic.

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan said that the religious leaders are already playing a constructive and positive role in generating awareness among He asked the religious the people against COVID-19. He further appealed to the ness and encourage people religious heads to encourage to take all the precaution- the people to inculcate healthy practices in day to day life, besides adopting a behaviour ment to prevent the trans- change to protect themselves

Distribution Of Passports Soon: JK Hajj Committee



SRINAGAR: It is for the information of all the intending Pandemic, the Haj Commit-Hajj Pilgrims of Hajj-2020 that J&K Haj Committee has received the Passports from Hajj Committee of India, Mumbai for onward distribution among the concerned pilgrims.

As per the statement issued here, it was informed that because of the present be issued.

situation due to COVID-19 tee is not in a position to distribute the passports.

However, it has been decided that the process of distribution of Passports shall be reviewed after Ist August 2020 provided the on-going situation permits for which a separate notification shall



AN ELDERLY KASHMIRI peasant returning home after days toil in central Kashmir- KO Photo Abid Bhat

HC Gives DG Mines 6 Weeks for Compliance

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir difficult situation on account of the mining activity by the mine owners over non-compliance.

"Despite grant of final opportunity hearing," the court said and ordered and imposition of costs in terms of order of this Court dated 18.03.2020 (them)," a bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Sanjay Dhar said.

The court had granted four weeks to pay payment of costs of Rs.25000. filed nor there is any representabenefit to these respondents of the rights of the labourers employed for this Court," the court had observed.

der the chairmanship of Lieutenant

Be Set Up At Jammu

Council (AC), which met here un-residential complex.

Governor, G C Murmu, approved lotted to NCB on lease basis for 40

allotment and transfer of land up years. The decision has been taken

cotics Control Bureau (NCB), at of the Board of Directors of Jammu

High Court has granted Director Gen- COVID-19 pandemic," the court said eral of Mines Safety, Government of and issued notice to them to ensure India, Director of Mines Safety and compliance with the court's order Regional Controller of Mines, Indian dated March 18 this year within six had observed, are unable to inform Bureau of Mines, six weeks time to weeks. "In case the respondents fail comply with its orders in a Public to comply with this order, we shall Interest Litigation and warned them be constrained to pass adverse orders in the matter on the next date of

listing of the case on August 17.

The Public Interest Litigation was there is no appearance on behalf of filed in 2016 in respect of various and the (J&K) Authorities. "serious matters" regarding the working of the Mines Act, 1952; Mines and Minerals Development time to them for filing a response to Regulations Act 1957; the Metallifthe PIL, failing which they were liable erous Mines Regulations 1961, the court had observed in one of the 'Neither counter affidavit has been previous hearings. "Several violations by all mine owners and failure tion on their behalf. We will give the to ensure the safety protection and

Narcotics Control Bureau Office To

SRINAGAR: The Administrative construction of office building and rence of Department of Law, Justice

to 13 kanals 5 marlas to the Nar- on the basis of recommendations Headquarter and assist in effective

village Majeen, Sidhra, Jammu, for Development Authority and concurtivities in the region.

The said parcel of land will be al-

have been noticed," the court had

The concerned authorities, court the about the measures which are in place to ensure the safety and security of the workers in the mines as well as the compliances with the statute, rules and regulations. "There is no clarity even on the issues as to what are the responsibilities of the Centre

The petitioner has also complained of environmental degradation and the adverse impact on the ecology, landscape and the habitation because of the indiscriminate and illegal mining activity.

"The matter raised petition is of very serious concern as is manifested from the several orders passed by

& Parliamentary Affairs and Revenue

The decision will facilitate setting

up of an independent NCB Zonal

control of Narco-terror related ac-

Department.

reported on Saturday, days after her husband and father-in-law were admitted. Rai's father-in-law Amitabh Bachchan and husband

Abhishek Bachchan, also major Bollywood celebrities, were admitted to Mumbai's Nanavati Hospital early this week, becoming the highest-profile patients the pan-

been in home quarantine.

A resident of Salani Mendhar, Bashir was declared quently joined Defence Ser- brought dead by the doctors who attended him. SHO Mendhar Manzoor

Kohli confirmed the incident and said that investigations have been launched in this regard. Meanwhile, the wife of the deceased demanded a probe, claiming that her husband had been "murdered". "There should be a probe into it. My husband cannot commit suicide," she said. (GNS)

Aishwarya Rai And Daughter Aaradhya, Hospitalised For **Covid-19 Treatment**



ndian actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her daughter were hospitalised for COVID-19 treatment, the Times of India

demic sweeping India.

At the same time, Aishwarya Rai, a former Miss World who regularly appears on most beautiful lists, and her eight-year-old daughter, Aaradhya Bachchan, tested positive for the coronavirus that causes CO-VID-19, but they have since

"After Amitabh Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her daughter Aaradhya have the virus.

been shifted to Nanavati hospital," the newspaper said, adding that they were admitted to the top Mumbai private hospital on Friday.

A spokeswoman for Aishwarya Rai did not respond to text messages and calls seeking comment.

Fans across India prayed this week for the celebrity family as the virus continued its rapid spread without any sign of a peak.

Aishwarya Rai, 46, has worked on several Bollywood and Hollywood films. She is a brand ambassador for some multinational companies, including L'Oreal.

India, which has registered over a million coronavirus cases, has the world's third-highest number of infections, and more than 26,000 people have died of COVID-19. Partial lockdowns have been re-imposed in some densely populated areas to control the spread of

D-19 Pandemic: KIIT & KISS Rise To







Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and its sister institution Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), moved by the compassionate vision of its Founder, Prof. Achyuta Samanta, have always responded swiftly to reduce the suffering of people at the time of natural calamities. This time also, right from the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, it has been doing its bit to reach out to the worst-affected, touching the lives of patients, stranded migrant workers, people living in containment areas and even starving animals. Predicting the challenges that lay ahead,

KIIT & KISS initiated an action plan to help the worst-hit sections of the society. It was the first mover in creating awareness on the disease even before the State reported its first coronavirus case. Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), the medical wing of KIIT, organized a lecture on 'Corona Virus - A Global Threat' on 1st February, 2020 in which standard infection control strategies to prevent the spread of coronavirus was discussed. Subsequently, Kalinga Institute of Nursing Sciences (KINS) and KIIT School of Public Health also joined the awareness effort.

The student community is one of the worst examinations also. Similarly, 30,000 tribal

affected groups in the present crisis. Examinations, admissions and academic sessions all remain disrupted. KIIT Deemed to be University, which has been recognized as an Institution of Eminence by the Govt. of India, has 30,000 students from all parts of India and over 50 countries. Another 30,000 underprivileged students study in KISS, the world's largest fully-free fullyresidential institute exclusively for tribal students. Anticipating the problem early, all the students of KIIT and KISS were safely sent back to their homes well before India declared the nationwide lockdown.

But for KIIT and KISS students, being away from the campus did not mean academic loss. KIIT is the first University to have begun online classes for 30,000 students. Encouragingly, about 95% of the students are attending the online classes, conducted through Zoom, regularly. Not only online classes, but there is good participation in the one-day academic seminars conducted online, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from the students. As such, KIIT has been able to maintain the academic calendar perfectly so far. If the crisis persists for a longer time, KIIT has made all preparations to conduct online

students of KISS are in constant touch with their teachers through WhatsApp groups. KISS has taken initiative to start e-Learning

classes for them through Kalinga TV. While in their homes in various districts of Odisha, KISS students are actively engaged in creating awareness on social distancing and respiratory hygiene in their areas. Involving the students of the institute, KISS launched 'Project Uday', a massive awareness campaign on social distancing, proper use of mask, hand washing and respiratory hygiene in six aspirational districts of Odisha: Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput, Kandhamal, Balangir, and Gajapati. Under Project Uday, students are carrying out door-to-door campaigning and organizing awareness camps at market places. More than 500 volunteers are involved in the project covering 220 villages.

In one of the most significant measure in Odisha's war against Covid-19, KIMS set up India's first standalone COVID-19 hospital, a 500-bedded ultramodern facility including 50 critical care beds, with the support of the Govt. of Odisha. This Covid Hospital is functioning from a dedicated block of KIMS

quick turnaround time in setting up of the state-of-the-art dedicated Covid Hospital received much praise. Today, KIMS is the goto hospital for any suspected coronavirus patient in the capital city of Bhubaneswar. The vision of Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha in tackling the pandemic has been proactive and ahead of any other Indian state. The MoU with KIMS takes that vision one step further. KIMS will definitely put in all possible effort to justify the Chief Minister's faith and fulfill his vision, and serve the people of the state in a better and bigger way. I hope that this partnership will bear fruit and we can soon have a COVID-19 free Odisha", said Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS.

In anticipation of the possible spike in positive cases in districts, KIIT has also set up three 200-bedded COVID-19 hospitals, one each in Kandhamal, Balangir and Mayurbhanj districts, with the support of the respective district administration. In Balangir and Mayurbhanj, the facility functions from the satellite campuses of KISS, which were inaugurated recently. All three District COVID-19 Hospitals, already with an exclusive team of doctors, nurses, operational from the mid of April, are paramedics and housekeeping staff. The managed by KIMS and provides round the and a few other districts of Odisha.

clock services following WHO and ICMR guidelines. The Covid Hospital in Kandhamal, a district having no railway connectivity, is a boon for the local people, who are yet to be exposed to the world of high speed internet connectivity. Besides Covid Hospital, KIIT & KISS are providing groceries and cash for miscellaneous expenses to over 40 orphanages, old age homes and leprosy centres in Kandhamal district.

Another constituent of KIIT, KIIT-Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI) under KIIT School of Biotechnology, has been recognised as a Centre for Augmenting War with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, along with other eminent institutes in India, including IITs. KIIT-TBI is responsible for implementing

this program in East & NE. Reaching the unreached, KIIT & KISS extended a helping hand to the red light areas in Bhubaneswar. Groceries and other essentials were provided to the needy. KIIT, KISS, Sakha and Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives came together to distribute ration and essential items for the transgender community in Bhubaneswar, Rayagada