

Futhe study indicated that 99.8 per cent of the workforce lack at least one of the qualities.

News *Digest*

Soldier Injured In Cross-LoC Firing

Poonch- An army man was injured in cross-border firing in Poonch district of Jammu region, Official said on Saturday. A soldier namely Sepoy Rajesh Reddy of 12 Madras sustained splinter injury in the shelling near LoC in Kerni and Mendhar sectors last night, reported news agency GNS. Reddy was immediately shifted to a hospital in Rajouri for treatment, they said. "On 11 Apr 2020 at about 0950 hours, Pak initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms & intense shelling with Mortars along LoC in Kirni sector,

Militants Flee After Gunfight In Kulgam

Srinagar- The militants managed to escape after a brief gunfight with State forces in Nandimarg in the Damhal Hanjipora area of the south Kashmir's Kulgam district, a police official said on Saturday. A cordon and search operation was launched by the state forces in Nandimarg in the Damhal Hanjipora area during the night, the official said. He said the forces launched the operation after receiving information about the presence of militants

Father Dies of Electric Shock, Son Injured

Srinagar: An elderly man on Saturday was electrocuted to death while his son was injured in Binner area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. According to reports, 65-year-old Abdur Rehm an Sheikh suffered electric shock at his home in Binner area today when he was trying to repair an electric water pump. Sheikh's son Ashiq sustained injuries when he rushed to save his father from electrocution. He was removed to hospital for treatment,

Alleged Jaish OGW Held In Jammu

Jammu- An alleged overground worker (OGW) of Jaish-e-

Lockdown Set To Be Extended As Cases Cross 8000 Mark In India

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The nationwide lockdown to contain the deadly coronavirus looks set to be extended by two more weeks till April-end after a consensus emerged among states on Saturday for continuing the curbs amid the tally of confirmed infections crossing 8,000 with a record increase of over 1,000 cases within 24 hours. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked state governments to take steps to curb the lockdown violations and ensure adherence to social distancing, he also announced a shift in focus from 'Jaan hai to jahaan hai' (health is wealth) to 'Jaan bhi, jahaan bhi' (lives as well as livelihoods), which many saw as indications towards relaxations for certain economic activities, including for

industrial and agriculture sector. The next 3-4 weeks would be critical to determine the impact of steps taken till now to curb the virus spread, Modi told the chief ministers.

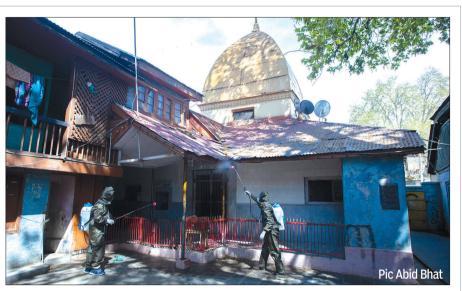
During their interaction, several chief ministers demanded financial and fiscal relief from the Centre to fight the pandemic, while Modi suggested measures to incentivise direct marketing of farm produce to help farmers, among other steps to help the country remain healthy and to prosper too. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the states have demanded Rs 10 lakh crore package. Modi also said the crisis is an opportu-

nity to become self-reliant and turn the nation into an economic powerhouse. Maharashtra, which became the third state to announce an extension in

the lockdown after Odisha and Punjab even before an official extension to the nationwide lockdown, was **PAGE 02**

Medics Taken Hostage At Budgam Village

SRINAGAR: A medical team was on Saturday was taken hostage by locals in a vi llage in Central mir's Budgam district. A medical team from Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Chadoora went to Sheikhpora village for screening of a person but the team was kept hostage inside the house, news agency KNO reported today. An official from SDH Chadoora said that "as soon our **PAGE 02**



LOCAL VOLUNTEERS FUMIGATING A TEMPLE in Maisuma locality of Srinagar on Saturday.

Grannies Of Covid-19 Patient Among 17 New Cases, J&K Tally At 224

and 12 from Kashmir. Total

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two grannies of a positive cases now 224. young Covid-19 patient from Kupwara are among the fresh 17 cases recorded across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the count of infected persons across the Union Territory to 224, officials said.

"17 new cases reported in Bandipora and Shopian and

70-year-old Detailed bulletin fol-80-year-old Government mothers of a Co-Spokesperson Rohit ⁰ vid-19 patient, a Kansal Tweeted today. 23-year-old youth, The 12 new cases also tested positive to of Covid-19 surfaced in the deadly infection totwin districts of Kupwara and day in Muqam Shahwali area of Kupwara. The third >> PAGE 02

J&K. 5 from Jammu Division Budgam districts of south and

central Kashmir.

Of Quarantined Love, Window Talks, Masked Workforce

lows."



Covid-19: HC Seeks Report On Implications Of "Darbar Move"

Press Trust Of India IAMMU: The Jammu and Kash-

opening of the 'Darbar Move' and offices in summer capital Srinagar on May 4 but said

Sec. 1 16 More **Discharged After** Quarantine

SRINAGAR: The district authorities on Saturday discharged another batch of 16 people who

HC Seeks Status

Report On 4G Services Restoration coronavirus situation. She has

Press Trust Of India been holding regular video-

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has asked for a status report on restoration of 4G services after it was informed that nonavailability of high-speed Internet was hampering studies of students who were confined to their homes because of the lockdown to

conference hearings with all stakeholders involved in the fight against COVID-19. During the video-conference held on Friday, Kohli made a vehement submission that on account of nonavailability of the 4G services, the students in the Union Territories were unable to access the educational courses being

The noted lawyer drew attention of the court that all colleges and schools on the directions of the universities and CBSE were providing study material and classes JK and Ladakh in tackling the union territories **PAGE 02**

THE CBSE, THE KENDRIYA Vidyalaya Sangthan and other school boards and universities have begun holding online classes for its students from earlier this month.

curb coronavirus cases. A division bench headed by sent by institutions. Chief Justice Gita Mittal passed these directions after hearing amicus curiae Monika Kholi on a Public Interest Litigation. Justice Mittal has been regularly reviewing the responses of the administrations of online but students of the two

Mohammad militant outfit was arrested from a village near the International Border here, a police official said on Saturday. Mohammad Muzaffar Beigh (24), a resident of the Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, was arrested during a late night raid on a house in Chakroi, village, he said. The official said the house owner was also taken into custody for questioning.

2 Drug Peddlers Arrested: Police

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two notorious drug peddlers and recovered contraband substance from their possession in Sopore town of Baramulla district. A vehicle with two persons on board was intercepted by police at Warpora and during checking1300 grams of Charas was recovered from the possession of the duo, a police spokesperson said. The accused have been identified as Hilal Ahmad War and Ishafq Ahmad Reshi.

Doda Teacher **Faces Heat Over** Hate Posts

SRINAGAR: A government teacher in Doda has been suspended and a case registered against him for posting objectionable content on social media against a particular community over the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, reports said Saturday. The accused Virender Kumar, president of the local unit of a religious group and a government school teacher in Bhadarwah, **PAGE 02**

Ivotsna Bharti

news, as it appears these days, is about the mental health special-

As surging COVID-19 cases are ists-advising people to hit the sweeping major media attention old routine to keep their sanity in pandemic times, the newsy reintact in the pandemic lockdown. gion of Kashmir is equally trending While in other news, Raj Bhafor other significant happenings. van is acting as a tough head-Some of that unconventional master on the private **PAGE 02**

Asymptomatic Cases Can Infect Others: DAK

Tith more than 70 percent Covid-19 cases in Kashmir valley showing no symptoms, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday said asymptomatic cases of the novelcoronavirus can infect other people and spread the disease. "Asymptomatic cases are silent spreaders of the disease," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan. »PAGE 02

mir High Court on Saturday employees will work on "as is where is" basis. sought a detailed report from

and

grand-

To take a considered opinvarious government departments on how the planned ion as to whether any direction "Darbar Move" will impact the can be passed to postpone the 'Darbar Move' till the outbreak Union Territory's fight against the coronavirus outbreak. is contained, the Bench asked

The Division Bench, com- secretaries of different departprising Chief Justice Gita Mitments to file separate reports tal and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, on the impact of the exercise was hearing through video on the myriad aspects of govconferencing and video calls a ernance and the fight against Public Interest Litigation (PIL) COVID-19, the disease caused pertaining to the spread of the by coronavirus.

coronavirus. The direction has been is-The administration had sued to the Secretary, General on Friday ordered the formal Administration **PAGE 02**

Rs 27 Cr Release Under SDRF To Fight Covid-19

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday released Rs 27 crore under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for COVID-19 relief operation.

An order issued by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) said, "The funds to the extent of Rs 27 crore have been released **PAGE 02**

completed mandatory two-week quarantine period in this capital city upon their arrival in the Valley last month.

The group was under thorough medical supervision throughout their quarantine period and was discharged after clearance from doctors and health **PAGE 02**



Violators Held In City

SRINAGAR: Police said on Saturday that three alleged lockdown violators were arrested from many parts of this capital city.

Manzoor Ahmad Tantray, Javaid Ahmad Mir and Ghulam Mohd Rah were arrested by police in the areas falling under police post Chanpora for violating prohibitory orders imposed under Section 144 CrPC to contain spread of coronavirus, an official spokesperson said. Accordingly, cases vide >> PAGE 02

Keran Encounter: Does It Signal A New Phase Of Kashmir Militancy

Riyaz Wani

At a time when J&K and the counthe COVID-19 pandemic, five solhilly terrain, still heavily snow- the number of militants. bound, making it initially difficult

to track the militants down.

a long time. Also, the encounter has that are crossing over are highly taken place at a time when mili- trained and battle-hardened, contry are pre-occupied with fighting tancy in Kashmir had been giving sidering the fact that they killed all indications of being in retreat. four paratroopers who are alleged diers and five militants lost their According to police estimate there to have participated in Septemlives in a hand to hand combat in are around 250 active militants in ber 2016 surgical strike against Operation Randori Behak in Keran Kashmir, of which around forty Pakistan. What is also important sector near Line of Control. On have been killed since January. is that the two of the militants are receiving the information about Besides, recent months have witan infiltrating group of militants, nessed a drop in Kashmiri youth gam and Shopian in South Kash-Army flew its soldiers to the spot taking to arms that was expected to mir. In fact, three families in South to take them on. It was a difficult lead to a progressive dwindling of But Keran encounter has turned

these calculations on their head. It wards after identifying them from The operation is the biggest in has made it clear that the militan-Kashmir since the revocation of Ar- cy is here to stay as the infiltration ticle 370 in Kashmir in August last. remains an ongoing phenomenon, miri youth are once again cross-Security forces haven't suffered the hi-tech border fencing not-

such a huge loss in an encounter in withstanding. And the militants alleged to be Kashmiris from Kul-Kashmir have claimed three of the five militants, saying police had informed them that they were their their dairies or identity cards.

If that be so, it shows that Kashing the border for arms training



in Pakistan or Pakistan Occupied tancy and train locally. But these Kashmir, a phenomenon that had armed youth have had little more all but stopped over the past de- than a symbolic value as their rucade. The youth would join mili- dimentary training often **PAGE 02**

Srinagar-Leh Highway **Reopens After Four Months**

Press Trust Of India

KARGIL: The 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway, considered as the lifeline of the Union Territory of Ladakh, was reopened on Saturday to ferry essential commodities after remaining closed for over four months owing to heavy snowfall along the Zojila Pass.

In view of the coronavirus outbreak, the Ladakh administration on Friday had decided to only allow limited traffic, including trucks and oil tankers, to replenish essential supplies in the cold desert which usually remains cut off from the outside world during the winter months.

The strategic highway, the only road connecting Ladakh with Jammu and Kashmir, was reopened to carry ing, Keeping that in mind, a team of essential commodities to Ladakh



region. The highway was closed in December last year due to incessant snowfall at 11,500 feet high Zojila Pass, an official of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) said.

As per the directions from Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh, Sau-

gat Biswas, there was an emergent need to carry essential commodities to Ladakh UT, the official said, addproject Beacon cleared **PAGE 02**

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